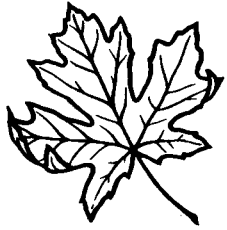


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Canadian  
Council on  
Ecological  
Areas

Conseil  
canadien  
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écologiques

**CANADIAN COUNCIL ON**

**ECOLOGICAL AREAS**

**NEWSLETTER No. 6**

**July, 1990**

# THE CANADIAN COUNCIL ON ECOLOGICAL AREAS

The Canadian Council on Ecological Areas is an incorporated, non-profit, independent national forum established in 1982 to encourage the selection, protection and stewardship of a comprehensive system of ecological areas in Canada. It draws its membership from federal, provincial and territorial governments, non-government organizations, universities and private citizens. CCEA will work toward completing a Canadian system of ecological areas by providing a forum for communication between interested agencies and individuals. To this end, issues of concern and interest to Council are reported in a regularly distributed newsletter, this being the sixth issue.

## COUNCIL NEWS

### Council inputs into Green Plan discussions

CCEA made an input into the national Green Plan discussions through a contribution prepared by the Chairman. Highlights of the input are recommendations that:

- Canada pass a "federal" Ecological Reserves Act. Such legislation would have particular relevance to marine areas and to international fresh waters. It could also be used to provide added recognition and protection to land areas under title to HMQ Canada, such as national parks.
- There be a "federal" Endangered Species Act to assist in nationwide protection of species and populations considered to be at risk by COSEWIC.

- Considerable attention be given to improved integration of and linkages between programs, activities, organization and legislation. For instance, what linkages are being put in place between the Environment Act and the pending Canada Oceans Act, how can water programs and wetlands be linked, what complementarity can be built into a nationwide system of protected wetlands and water programs?

These recommendations were related to the nature of the Canadian Federal governmental system and their potential to strengthen the partnership perspective which is vital to successful federal-provincial interaction.

Copies of the input may be obtained from Council's Secretariat by contacting Ed Wiken, Environment Canada, Ottawa, K1A 0H3, or from Ross Thomasson, c/o Manitoba Natural Resources, Box 38, 1495 St. James Street, Winnipeg, MB, R3H 0W9.

### Council "gets more widely known"

In June, 1989, a group of Council members participated in the American Natural Areas Association (NAA) annual conference. The NAA was kind enough to schedule a Canadian session where five Canadian papers were presented. One paper described CCEA, its aims and activities. This paper has been published in the most recent issue of the Natural Areas Journal, thus spreading important information about CCEA to a number of professional and lay people interested in natural areas throughout the United States and in other countries.

Members interested in reading the paper should consult the April, 1990 issue of the Journal. Reprints will be available from the Secretariat and from the Chairman in the future.

## NEW ECOLOGICAL AREAS

### Newfoundland

On March 16, 1990, the Minister of Environment and Lands, the Honourable O.P.J. Kelland, announced that the provisional wilderness reserve in the Bay du Nord area is now a full status Wilderness Reserve.

This Reserve encompasses about 2895 sq. km of forests, peatlands and river systems representative of wild Newfoundland. The area is representative of both provincial and national ecoregion categories.

The Reserve will be protected by the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act. This means that logging, mining, hydro and other similar types of development will not be permitted. Cottages and the use of ATVs are also prohibited, however, hunting, fishing and outfitting are allowed.

The following provisional and full status ecological reserves have been designated in the past year:

#### TABLE POINT RESERVE

This 1.1 sq. km reserve protects the impressions of various marine creatures that lived several hundred million years ago.

#### FORTUNE HEAD PROVISIONAL RESERVE

This reserve is approximately 2.5 sq. km in size and also protects marine fossils.

#### WEST BROOK PROVISIONAL RESERVE

This area was considered to protect representatives of the few remaining red pine (*Pinus resinosa*) stands in the province.

### HAWKE HILL PROVISIONAL RESERVE

This reserve is 2.1 sq. km in size and protects samples of Arctic tundra plants rarely found as far south as Newfoundland.

The designation of these Reserves brings the total number of areas protected as wilderness and ecological reserves in the province to 15, or 4063 sq. km. When these Reserves are added to other protected areas (provincial and national parks), the total percentage of protected lands in the province stands at 2%.

During this coming year, it is anticipated that several new areas will be made reserves and Labrador will be targeted for reserve establishment. For further information, please contact Bob Halfyard, Department of Environment and Lands, P.O. Box 8700, St. John's, Newfoundland A1B 4J6 (709) 576-1930.

### British Columbia

Parks Minister Ivan Messmer announced six new ecological reserves for British Columbia, three on the coast and three in the Interior.

New ecological reserves has been created for Galiano Island in the Gulf Islands, Trial Islands near Victoria, Klaskish River on northern Vancouver Island, Mahoney Lake south of Okanagan Falls, Stoyoma Creek near Boston Barr and Big Creek west of Williams Lake.

"These six areas have all been thoroughly studied, and it is clear they should be preserved as permanent sanctuaries," said Messmer.

#### TRAIL ISLANDS ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

At 23 ha, this site was established to protect several rare and endangered plant species, including Macoun's meadow foam, Carolina meadow foxtail and rosy owl-clover. There are more rare species here than at any other location in B.C. A special combination of a maritime and dry climate attracts many plant species more commonly found in Oregon and California.

#### **GALIANO ISLAND ECOLOGICAL RESERVE**

Galiano Island Reserve, at 30 ha, has an undisturbed peat bog ecosystem, very rare in a dry Douglas fir zone and also rare in British Columbia due to agricultural and urban expansion.

#### **KLASKISH RIVER ECOLOGICAL RESERVE**

At 132 ha, this site contains one of very few undisturbed estuaries on Vancouver Island, with productive rearing territory for small fry and juvenile salmon and with smooth-shelled native oysters, now rare in British Columbia. Roosevelt eels are also found here.

#### **MAHONEY LAKE RESERVE**

Mahoney Lake Reserve, at 29 ha, a blood-red southern interior saline lake, is a unique area for scientific studies and the first southern interior lake of its kind to become an ecological reserve.

#### **STOYSMA CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE**

At 76 ha, this site is an ideal site for scientific seed collection as it is the meeting place for three biological, geographic and climatic zones.

#### **BIG CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE**

Big Creek Reserve, at 257 ha, is a well preserved, pristine grassland, once very common but now a rarity in British Columbia.

For further information, contact Dr. Hans Roemer, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division, Ministry of Environment and Parks, 4000 Seymour Place, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X5 (604) 387-4596.

## **Seventeenth Annual Natural Areas Conference; Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Natural Areas Association**

The Seventeenth Annual Natural Areas Conference will be held in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Yosemite National Park, October 15-19, 1990, in the San Francisco Bay area of California.

The theme for the meeting will be "Natural Areas and Resource Management: Prospects for the Future." Conference sessions will review our past efforts at park and preserve protection and discuss prospects for protecting biological diversity.

On October 13-14, the weekend before the meeting, lectures, field trips and ceremonies will be held at Yosemite National Park. A panel discussion and keynote presentation, sponsored by the California Commonwealth Club, will close the conference. This final session will provide a global perspective and will be broadcast throughout the United States via National Public Radio.

For further information, contact Steve Nicola, California Department of Fish and Game, 1416 Ninth Street, 12th Floor, Sacramento, California 95814, or call (916) 322-6469.

## **Nova Scotia**

The Minister of Education for the Province of Nova Scotia recently announced the designation of two new ecological reserves, as follows:

#### **SPORTING LAKE NATURE RESERVE**

Sporting Lake Nature Reserve is an old-growth hemlock-pine forest covering about 25 ha on three islands in west-central Nova Scotia. It is the IBP site to be protected under the Special Places Protection Act.

#### **INDIAN MAN LAKE NATURE RESERVE**

Indian Man Lake Nature Reserve covers over 125 ha of the eastern mainland. This site features an unusual red oak-white pine forest on a drumlin, surrounded by spruce-larch stands and bogs.

Both sites are on Crown land, with the latter being removed from the cutting license of Stora Forests Industries Ltd. with the cooperation of the company and the Department of Lands and Forests. For further information, contact Dr. R. Ogilvie, Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3A6.

## **Alberta**

On July 14, 1990, the Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, the Honourable LeRoy Fjordbotten, announced the formal establishment of the following seven Natural Areas totalling 5353 ha.

## WHITE EARTH VALLEY

This 2055 ha site north of Edmonton is a rugged valley protecting meadows, wetlands and forested areas.

## CANMORE FLATS

This 590 ha site in Alberta's Eastern Slopes region is a complex terrain of wetlands, river channels, springs and forests, and is a critical spawning area for trout.

## CARIBOU RIVER

This 195 ha area in northern Alberta preserves a segment of grasslands, aspen groves and shrubland. Many of these areas elsewhere in northern Alberta have been altered by cultivation.

## SCALP CREEK

This 323 ha site in the alpine/subalpine region of Alberta's Eastern Slopes contains a unique hummocky terrain resulting from permafrost activity. This Natural Area is very scenic and serves as important wildlife habitat.

## LA SALINE

Along the Athabasca River in northern Alberta, this 292 ha site contains mineral springs with regionally important "tufa" deposits. The Natural Area also contains Saline Lake, an important waterfowl staging area.

## McGREGOR LAKE

McGregor Lake Natural Area, at 923 ha, is in Alberta's foothills, and contains representative and rare features.

## FOURTH CREEK

This 975 ha site is on the Peace River, and contains scenic vistas, a waterfall, sandstone outcrops and ungrazed grasslands.

There are now 119 formally established Natural Areas in Alberta.

For further information contact Peter Lee, Natural and Protected Areas, Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, 4th Floor, Petroleum Plaza South Tower, 9915-108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2C9 (403) 427-5209.

## WORKSHOP INVITATION

### **The Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora: Toward a North American Conservation Strategy**

**September 13-14, 1990**

**Mount Saint Vincent University**

**Halifax, Nova Scotia**

**This two day workshop is intended to bring scientific experts on the endangered Atlantic coastal plain flora together with representatives from conservation bodies and governments. The coastal plain communities across North America are being degraded or eliminated since much of the habitat is coincident with heavily urbanized regions along the eastern seaboard. This workshop will draw up conservation and research priorities on a continental scale.**

**For further information contact Irene Wisheu (613 564-2360), Department of Biology, University of Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6N5, Fax 613 564-5014.**

British Columbia Parks Minister Ivan Messmer has reopened studies on 19 areas previously identified as potential ecological reserves.

Specifically, 12 study areas which are important because they contain stands of old-growth forests have been referred to the government's Old Growth Strategy Committee. Slim Creek near McBride, Molly Creek near Grand Forks and Jack Swart Creek near Merritt are among the study areas which will be examined by the interagency committee.

An additional seven study areas, including Akunam Creek near Radium, Mandalay Creek near Prince George and Punt Lake near Williams Lake, will be submitted to other government agencies for review.

Messmer also announced that six other areas which have been under study as ecological reserves will continue to be protected under the Park Act instead, receiving "special area" zoning to recognize their ecological significance. These are: Kitchie Creek in the Kakwa Recreation Area, Dewar Creek in the Purcells Wilderness Conservancy, Calvert Island in the Hakai Recreation Area, Gitnadoix in the Gitnadoix Recreation Area, and Nemo Creek and Wee Sandy Creek in the Valhalla Provincial Park.

"The Park Act ensures these special areas will be protected," said Messmer. "This legislation gives ultimate authority to the Ministry of Parks to protect and manage areas. We will manage these areas in the same way as we manage areas protected under the Ecological Reserves Act. They will not be open to recreation."

B.C. has the largest and most significant system of ecological reserves in Canada. To celebrate this program, BC Parks produced a poster highlighting the Duke of Edinburgh Ecological Reserve.

As the poster indicates, this reserve protects important seabird nesting sites. B.C.'s ecological reserves protect 3.5 million of the five million seabirds along Canada's Pacific Coast.

The *Endangered Spaces* campaign reached an important milestone in December, 1989, with the pledge by then Federal Environment Minister, Lucien Bouchard to complete the national parks system by the year 2000.

The commitment, announced in a letter to Monte Hummel, President of World Wildlife Fund Canada and a Director of the CCEA, forms an integral part of the federal government's *Greenplan* For Canada.

"The Minister's historic commitment demonstrates clear federal leadership in our campaign to protect Canadian wilderness areas," Mr. Hummel said. "It has the wholehearted support of the more than 100 groups now co-operating in the *Endangered Spaces* campaign across Canada. We see it as the essential first step in securing similar commitments on the part of provincial and territorial jurisdictions."

With the federal commitment in place, the *Endangered Spaces* campaign is now focusing on securing follow-up action to establish national parks, and obtaining support and action for similar goals by provincial and territorial jurisdictions. "The national park system, when complete, will likely account for about one-third of the area to be protected, leaving the majority of the work to be done by the provinces and territories through completion of their own park plans," Mr. Hummel said.

Mr. Bouchard's commitment coincided with the distribution of the book *Endangered Spaces: The Future for Canada's Wilderness* to all federal Members of Parliament. The book, edited by Monte Hummel, draws together contributions from 21 leading conservationists and 40 nature photographers from across the country, and provides a compelling statement of the urgent need to protect Canadian wilderness while the opportunity still exists.

Currently, WWF Canada states that only 4.0% of Canada is protected as true wilderness, free from resources extraction, whereas the Brundtland Commission (World Commission on Environment and Economy) advocates a target of 12%. In his 1989 report, the Auditor

General for Canada charged that the Canadian Parks Service is in danger of failing its mandate to complete the national park system because it has not set a timetable for action. Mr. Bouchard's commitment, on behalf of the Government of Canada, demonstrates a timely response to this concern.

For further information on the *Endangered Spaces* campaign or the World Wildlife Fund contact Arlin Hackman, World Wildlife Fund Canada, 60 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1N7.

### **Prince Edward Island - Rails to Trails**

CN Railways has terminated its rail service on Prince Edward Island and wants to abandon all of its rights-of-way. While this is greeted with gloom by those who favour the use of rails for passenger and cargo transport, there is a silver lining in the cloud. An opportunity has been created to have the rail lines become recreational trails that stretch the length of the Island. In a province where 90% of the land is privately owned, this represents a golden opportunity, the like of which we are unlikely to see again. Due to the lack of wilderness and publicly accessible land, recreationists have been quick to recommend to the provincial government that the rail lines be kept for public use. These would service resident recreational use as well as become a major tourist attraction. Link-ups could be made with scenic heritage roads, provincial parks and designated natural areas.

While the Prince Edward Island Chapter of Rails to Trails and other recreationists have been able to make a good case for recreational use of the rail lines, it has not been without some opposition from vested interests. Some adjacent landowners wish to acquire the land and they express the same negative arguments as have been used elsewhere in North America. These include rowdyism, vandalism, litter, fencing costs and annoyance of livestock. However, the majority of landowners either favour or are neutral to the idea of public use of the rail lines.

While it is the newest conservation/recreation group on Prince Edward Island, the Rails to Trails chapter has gained membership rapidly and has citizen support throughout the province, resulting in a high public profile. The next move rests with the provincial government as it will decide whether the rights-of-way will be used as public trails or be turned over to adjacent landowners.

### **Manitoba Update**

The last few months have been a busy time in Manitoba. We have seen passage of an Endangered Species Act which can be used to protect organisms and their habitats once they are designated by Order-in-Council as rare or threatened. The Act applies to both Crown and private lands and carries stiff penalties for infractions.

Current implementation efforts are focusing on establishment of an Endangered Species Advisory Committee to offer well researched advice to the Minister of Natural Resources who is responsible for the Act. Once the committee is established, it is expected that species considered to be at risk by COSEWIC will receive early attention. Amendments have also been made to Manitoba's Ecological Reserves Act to tighten the Act and remove some areas of duplication. Of particular interest is the amendment which requires that public notice be given of any intent to do away with an ecological reserve.

The Voluntary Protection aspect of the program continues to be active. Six new landowners were recently presented with plaques and certificates as they were welcomed into the program by the Honourable Harry Enns, Minister of Natural Resources.

Fire plans for all 12 ecological reserves have been prepared and distributed to fire suppression personnel. These plans, each about two pages long, are intended to help District staff respond in a sensitive way to fire starting in or threatening ecological reserves, thus include a brief statement of the intent of the reserves. The plans have a number of common elements, but are specific to each reserve, noting the

significance of the reserve as well as putting each into the appropriate local context.

Work continues to identify potential ecological reserves with several, including a bat cave hibernaculum, under active consideration.

### **Alberta - Ecological Reserves and Natural Areas**

The intent to establish the candidate Rumsey Ecological Reserve, a 3400 ha area in Alberta's aspen parkland region, was announced in June, 1990, by Dr. Stephen C. West, Minister of Alberta Recreation and Parks. If established, Rumsey will be Alberta's 12th Ecological Reserve.

Alberta's Natural Areas program held its first Volunteer Steward conference in April, 1990. The conference objectives were to: provide an opportunity for volunteer stewards to meet each other and form working relationships; encouraging sharing of information and resources between stewards and agency staff; provide opportunities for stewards to improve their skills and knowledge of stewardship; promote and recognize accomplishments of the stewards and of the Natural Areas program, and; inform stewards about, and involve them in, the future plans for the Natural Areas program. There are presently 233 individuals in the Volunteer Steward program.

For further information about Alberta's Ecological Reserves contact Wayne Nordstrom, Alberta Recreation and Parks, 6th Floor, Standard Life Building, 10405 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3N4 (403) 427-8758. For further information on Alberta's Natural Areas contact Peter Lee, Natural and Protected Areas, Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, 4th Flor, Petroleum Plaza South Tower, 9915 108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2C9 (403) 427-5209.

More than four thousand kilometres of eighteen rivers have now been nominated to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. The latest addition to the System is the Grand River in Ontario which was nominated at the 13th meeting of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board this year. This river represents a new challenge for the System as it is located in one of the most densely populated and industrialized parts of Canada. For further information contact The Secretary, Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, c/o Canada Parks Service, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3

### **Canada Committee on Ecological Land Classification (CCELC)**

The CCELC was formed in 1976 to encourage the development of both a uniform national ecological approach to land/natural ecosystem classification, and secondly to encourage a sound application of this approach to environmentally sustainable resource management and land use planning.

Since its formation, the CCELC has strived to achieve these goals through various mechanisms, such as:

- the exchange of technical information and the organization of problem-oriented working groups and workshops;
- the development of methods of ecological land classification and evaluation as well as the distribution of the resulting guidelines;
- the promotion of an active dialogue with users and the general public on alternatives on the presentation and uses of ecological data bases;
- the provision of recommendations and advice to governmental and private agencies on feasibility, costs/benefits, and uses of ecological land surveys.



The current objective of the CCELC centres on the encouragement of the use/application of an ecological approach to the inventory and environmentally sustainable management of natural resources.

The CCELC has prepared a report titled Achievements (1976 - 1989) and Long-Term Plan, which can be obtained from Secretariat, Canada Committee on Ecological Land Classification, Ecological Applications Research Division, Sustainable Development, Corporate Policy Group, Environment Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H3..

## JOB INTERCHANGE

The following resolution was approved at Council's Annual Meeting last year in Edmonton:

*Whereas: It is desirable to obtain greater exchange of information and expertise in ecological areas management, therefore,*

*Be It Resolved: That the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas encourage job interchanges between academic institutions, governments and non-government organizations.*

As interested CCEA members may wish to take appropriate actions as opportunities present themselves regarding job exchanges, Peter Lee as Director of the Information and Education Committee, will maintain a file on job interchange opportunities from which members could provide and obtain information. Please contact Peter Lee at Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, 4th Floor, Petroleum Plaza South, 9915 108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C9 (403 427-5209; FAX = 404 422-4244).

*Future newsletter submissions should be sent to: Mr. Peter Lee, Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, 4th Floor, Petroleum Plaza South Tower, 9915 108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2C9 (403) 427-5209.*

## CANADIAN COUNCIL ON ECOLOGICAL AREAS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Chairman:** Mr Ross Thomasson, Chief, Land Use Planning, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 38, 1495 St. James Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0W9 (204) 945-6661

#### Vice-Chairman:

**Secretariat:** c/o Mr. E Wiken, Sustainable Development Branch, Environment Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3

**Co-ordinator, Scientific Committee:** Dr. Paul Keddy, Department of Biology, University of Ottawa, 30 Somerset Street East, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6N5 (613) 564- 3447

**Co-ordinator, Management and Administration Committee:** Mr. Tom Beechey, Parks and Recreation Areas, Ministry of Natural Resources, Whitney Block, Queen's Park, Room 3301, Wellesley Street West, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3 (416) 965-2745

**Co-ordinator, Information and Education Committee:** Mr. Peter Lee, Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, 4th Floor, Petroleum Plaza South Tower, 9915 108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2C9 (403) 427-5209

**Treasurer:** Mr. Monte Hummel, World Wildlife Fund, Suite 201, 60 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1N5 (416) 923-8173

**Director:** Mr. Tom Beck. 422-33rd Avenue NW, Calgary, Alberta T2K 0B4

**Director:** Dr. D Gagnon, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Quebec, C.P. 8888, Succursale "A", Montreal, Quebec, H3C 3P8