



# Newsletter

1993

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome to the 1993 edition of the CCEA Newsletter. In this issue we present the various reports from the CCEA's jurisdictional partners across the nation. As well, there are news items which you should find informative and interesting.

### Report of the Biennium 1991-1993

This will be the fourth biennium report released by the Council. The 1991-1993 report will be available in time for the 1993 AGM and will contain a summary of CCEA activities over the past two years. Watch for it!

### Meeting Notice! 1993 Annual General Meeting "Caring for Southern Remnants: Special Species, Special Spaces"

The 12th annual general meeting of the CCEA will be held this year in Carolinian Canada. Ecological areas in the southern landscapes of Canada is the focus for the annual general meeting of the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas being planned for August 11-15, 1993 in Windsor, Ontario. With the theme, "Caring

for Southern Remnants: Special Species, Special Spaces", the 1993 meeting will

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explore the unique needs and adaptive approaches required to maintain Canada's southernmost endangered spaces. The meeting also will provide CCEA delegates an opportunity to celebrate the centennial of Ontario's Provincial Park System, which originated with the creation of Algonquin Provincial Park in 1893 and Rondeau Provincial Park in 1894.

"Caring for Southern Remnants" will feature keynote presentations on endangered spaces and biodiversity, a symposium dealing with challenges posed by southern settings, and workshops with papers and poster sessions on selecting, protecting and managing ecological areas. Field trips will feature visits to Ojibway Prairie Nature Reserve, and Carolinian forests in Rondeau Provincial Park and Point Pelee National Park. Post-meeting trips to visit outstanding prairies and savannas in Wadpole Island Indian Reserve and Carolinian Nature Reserves on Pelee

Island may be arranged if there is sufficient interest.

For information on registration, please contact:

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### **Executive Committee Changes**

**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 8th issue.

## **A FOND FAREWELL TO ROSS THOMASSON**

At the 1992 AGM held in St. John's, Newfoundland the outgoing Chairman, Ross Thomasson, was given a real Newfoundland-style farewell. Bedecked with Screech bottles, Ross was paid tribute by his colleagues for the years on the Executive Committee as Chairman of Council. Ross will be remembered most for his devotion to the operational organization of the CCEA and his eloquence in promoting the aims of the Council. Ross you will be missed!

## **A NEW EXECUTIVE**



The CCEA has a new Chairperson

and Vice Chairperson. These positions were ratified at the 1992 AGM. Tom Beck takes over as Chairman and Louise Goulet is the new Vice Chairperson. Tom has been a CCEA board member for several years before assuming the chair. Tom has a distinguished career in nature protection especially as a private consultant working with native groups in Canada's north. He lives and works out of Calgary. Louise Goulet is currently employed with the B.C. government, Parks Branch. Louise has been a valuable contributor to CCEA meetings and publications in the past. Congratulations to you both and enjoy your tenure on the Executive.

## **CCEA VIDEO NOW AVAILABLE**

The CCEA has produced a video promoting nature preservation. Titled "Canada's Ecological Areas - Our Legacy", the fourteen minute video on VHS cassette documents the role ecological areas play in the preservation of biodiversity. The video also explains the progress being made across the nation in establishing ecological areas. Containing many spectacular photographs and interviews with prominent environmentalists, this video is a must for government agencies and other organizations involved in the protection of sensitive places. It will also serve as an "eye opener" for industry and resource users.

Copies are available by contacting the CCEA Newsletter editor. A cost recovery duplication fee will be charged. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

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## NOTES

### Newfoundland

#### 1. New Ecological Reserves

Two new ecological reserves were recently designated under the Provincial Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act. Fortune Head Ecological Reserve is located near the Town of Fortune on the south coast of Newfoundland. The 225 hectare reserve protects marine fossils dating back more than 530 million years. The Reserve was recently declared a global stratotype representing the boundary between the Precambrian and Cambrian eras by the International Union of Geological Scientists (IUGS). The Reserve also protects coastal barrens and scenery. The other Reserve designated protects representative Alpine Barrens habitat and associated geomorphological "pattern ground" areas. Known locally as Hawke Hill, the Reserve has a history of educational use. Both new Reserves will be managed by the Parks Division of the Department of Tourism and Culture.

#### 2. Research and Monitoring Conducted by Parks Division Staff in Parks and Reserves

- seabird nesting plot monitoring at Witless Bay and Cape St. Mary's Seabird Ecological Reserves.
- tern population census at Hare Bay Islands Seabird Ecological Reserve.
- field inventory of selected IBP sites.
- vegetation inventory and mapping at Butter Pot Provincial Park.

-field assessment of potential seabird reserves on the Labrador coast.

In addition, the Parks Division compiled various reports dealing with ecoregional representation assessment of the existing Parks and Reserves system.

#### 3. Nomination of the Bay du Nord River to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS)

In July, 1992 the Bay du Nord River, located in southern Newfoundland, was nominated to the CHRS. The 75 km. long nominated section flows through the Bay du Nord Wilderness Reserve where its riparian habitats and natural resources are protected from exploitation.

### Prince Edward Island

#### Designations of Natural Areas Reach a New High

In 1988, Prince Edward Island created the Natural Areas Protection Act. this new legislation allows for the protection of natural areas by both private landowners and the province. Private landowners can apply a restrictive covenant to their property, perpetually protecting it and then agreeing to designations by agreement with the Minister of the Environment.

The Island Nature Trust has been working with private landowners since 1985 to protect natural areas and has had some success. The Nature Trust owns five properties and leases three others, all of which are designated. Combined with the other privately owned lands this protects 240 ha. of woodland, offshore

islands, and wetlands.

The Natural Areas Protection Act Technical Advisory Committee (NAPATAC) has been pivotal in the creation of management plans, identification of Crown properties for designation, and many other roles associated with the protection of natural areas. Through the work of this diverse committee and energetic and efficient provincial staff members, a grand total of 65 properties totalling 2,624 ha. have been designated under NAPA as of November 17th, 1992. These sites fall into two categories, educational and biological. Educational sites are chosen not only for their biological attributes, but for accessibility, educational opportunities, and lower sensitivity to visitation by groups. Biological sites have rare or unusual species, uncommon plant or animal associations, or are quite sensitive to human disturbance.

A total of 94 sites are to be included in this program. To date, 37 of these sites have designated properties within their boundaries. Of these 94 areas, 13.8% of the total identified areas (19,000 ha.) has now been designated. Protection of natural areas will continue as management plans are completed and private stewardship programs continue.

## Alberta

Alberta's Ecological Reserve Program has experienced a number of changes and advances over the past year. One notable

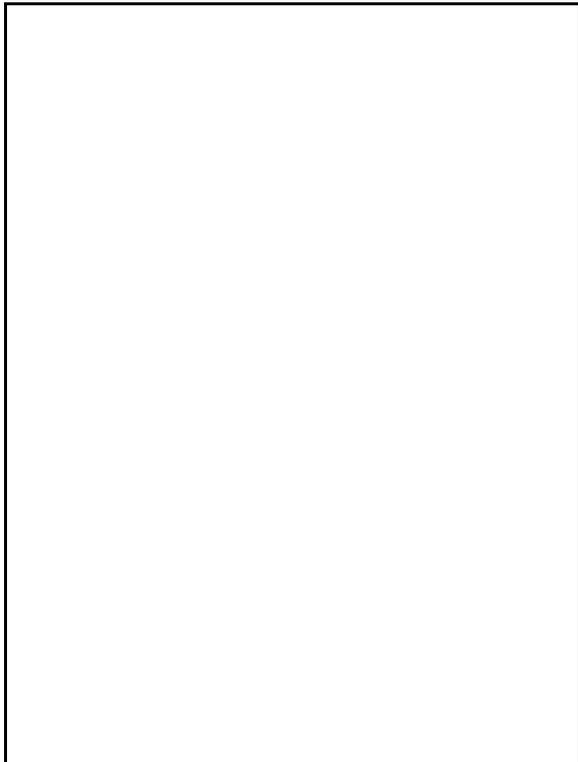
change has been the retirement this past September of Mr. Donn Cline who has served in various capacities within the department and the Alberta Parks Service. Donn was also very active in the Ecological Reserves Program, serving as Chairman of several senior level committees which were responsible for directing various initiatives of the program. During his tenure in the program, Donn was involved in the establishment of all of Alberta's ecological reserves, now totalling 14. Replacing Donn is Mr. Dave Chabillon, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Alberta Parks Service. Dave will continue the work with which Donn was involved as well as moving the program forward to new challenges and accomplishments.

On October 15, 1992 the Alberta government established Egg Island as the province's 14th ecological reserve. This reserve, a small island located in Lake Athabasca in northern Alberta, contains one of the two breeding colonies of Caspian Terns known to exist in the province. The other colony is located at lake Newell in southern Alberta. The National Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) lists the Caspian Tern as a "vulnerable" species. It is believed that this species has nested on Egg Island since the turn of the century. Up to 100 Caspian Tern nests have been recorded on the island during the peak nesting period.

The Operational Management Plan for the Milk River Natural Area and Kennedy Coulee Ecological Reserve was



officially approved this past September. The Honourable Don Sparrow, Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation, and the Honourable Leroy Fjordbotten, Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife signed the plan during a brief ceremony in Medicine Hat on September 24th. This plan is the first one that has been officially approved for an ecological reserve in the province and represents a significant step in the continuing endeavour to ensure the long term protection of the area.



Negotiations are progressing on the establishment of Ross Lake and Prairie Coulees Ecological Reserve. These two sites have been under consideration for some time and their establishment would contribute significantly to the protected areas system in the province. If established, the Ross Lake site would be the first representative ecological reserve located within the Foothills Fescue Sub-region of Alberta; the Prairie Coulees site

would make a significant contribution to the protection of valley and coulee ecosystems found in the Mixed-grass Sub-region.

On November 24, 1992 Alberta released a foundations document that sets the stage for completing Alberta's Endangered Spaces Network by the year 2000. *Special Places 2000: Alberta's Natural Heritage* outlines a vision, framework and strategy for getting on with the task of completing the system. Although Alberta has a larger protected land base than other jurisdictions, it is recognized that many of the province's diverse landscapes are not well represented in the system. The natural regions framework for the province has been updated and all existing protected areas have been evaluated against this framework. Gaps in the system can now be readily identified.

Existing protected area legislation is considered adequate to complete the task. A variety of designations including Provincial Parks, Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Natural Areas and Historic Sites will be used as appropriate. Where practical, lands will be added to existing protected areas to encompass additional natural values and to improve overall ecological integrity.

Partnership with all government agencies, industry and non-government organizations are seen as crucial to the success of the initiative. There will be effective involvement of the public, industry and non-government organizations in all aspects including the setting of targets, the selection of sites and the development of management plans.

## **British Columbia**

### **Protected Areas Strategy**

The provincial government has

announced its intent to develop a Protected Areas Strategy for the province which would result in the doubling of the existing protected area system by the year 2000. The Protected Areas Strategy initiative has embarked the province on a new direction in protected area planning, one of developing an integrated and coordinated overall strategy for protected areas. The Protected Areas Strategy is intended to:

- integrate and coordinate all existing protected area programs operating in the province;
- provide a clear and common vision of protected areas' goals, principles and selection criteria;
- develop and maintain a comprehensive information base to aid land use decision-making processes; and
- help stabilize the investment and development climate by contributing to certainty about present and future land use allocations.

The first stages in the development of the strategy were laid out in *Towards a Protected Areas Strategy for B.C.*, released in May 1992. This release identified an initial list of 184 study areas and a timetable for their resolution. These study areas are a starting point only and further study areas will be added over time.

Gap analysis studies, at both the fine and coarse filter levels, have been initiated to determine deficiencies in the existing network of protected areas and to assist in the identification and selection of study areas.

A report outlining the vision, selection criteria, the process for identifying study areas and a process for legislative renewal is expected to be released in the spring of 1993.

#### **Johnstone Strait Killer Whale Committee**

#### **Report: Further Protection for Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve**

Western Johnstone Strait has one of the world's highest concentrations of killer whales in an accessible location. More than 190 whales may use Johnstone Strait each summer, primarily to feed on migrating salmon. Daily predictability of whale sightings and occasional "super-pods" of 50 - 100 whales in these sheltered waters offer unequalled opportunities for research and wildlife viewing of these complex and visually impressive animals. More than 90 percent of the killer whales that enter Johnstone Strait each summer also frequent the Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve to socialize, rest and rub on pebble beaches. Rubbing behaviours have been rarely seen elsewhere and nowhere else have these behaviours been observed with such frequency or involving such large numbers of whales. Recently, concerns have arisen that human activities such as whale watching, forest harvesting, and commercial fishing cumulatively threaten the whales' continued use of the area, particularly of the rubbing beaches.

In May 1990, the BC Minister of Parks and the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans jointly appointed the Johnstone Strait Killer Whale Committee to examine the impacts of all human activities on killer whales in the Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve, and to assess the impacts of whale watching in other areas of Johnstone Strait.

In June 1992, the Committee's report was released, containing 27 recommendations aimed at protecting unique killer whale habitats and providing new measures for managing killer whale research and viewing off the northeast coast of Vancouver Island. Among these recommendations are:

-BC Parks should manage Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve as a sanctuary for killer whales.

-The Department of Fisheries and Oceans

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**... intent to develop a Protected Areas Strategy for the province which would result in the doubling of the existing protected area system by the year 2000.**

(DFO) should immediately designate a Special Management Zone in the killer whale core area of western Johnstone Strait.

-BC Parks should expand the land portion of the ecological reserve to further limit access and provide a better buffer for the rubbing beaches; as well as expand the marine portion of the reserve.

-BC Parks should close Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve to all access by land, except by permit.

-DFO should immediately enact regulations to close Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve to all vessels, except by permit, or as required for safety reasons.

-The Ministry of Forests should immediately declare a five-year moratorium on all forest harvesting

activities in the lower Tsitika drainage below Catherine Creek and in the entire Schmidt Creek drainage to allow completion of the sedimentation study and additional research on killer whales and their habitat.

-BC Parks should create a land-based whale watching park in the western Johnstone Strait area, away from Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve.

-BC Parks, DFO, BC Ministry of Tourism and others should undertake a variety of educational initiatives to provide information on killer whales, acceptable whale watching practices and appropriate behaviour around killer whales by other user groups such as commercial fishers.

A new Joint Management Committee on Killer Whales has been struck to determine a schedule for implementation of the recommendations and to oversee their implementation.

### **Khutzeymateen**

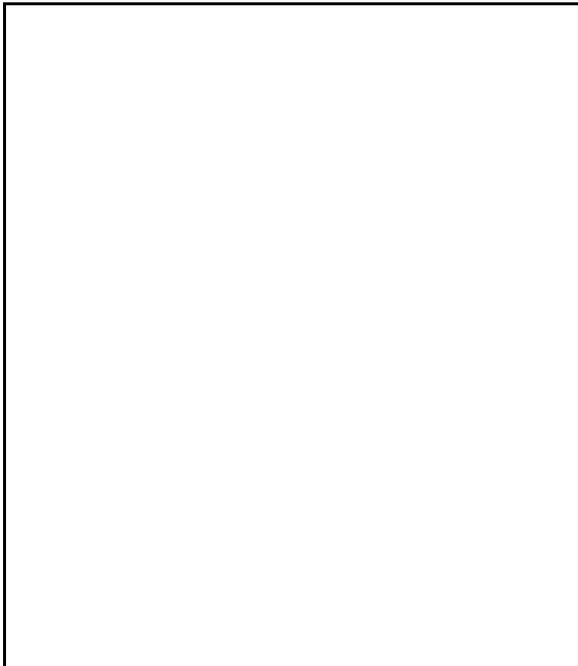
On June 4, 1992 the provincial government announced that the Khutzeymateen area would be established as the first grizzly bear sanctuary in Canada. The Khutzeymateen drainage, located in the northwestern part of the province about 45 km northeast of Prince Rupert, covers 443 sq. km. The Khutzeymateen Valley has diverse topography consisting of glaciers, avalanche chutes, bogs, flood plains, a large estuary and extensive areas of old-growth forests. Approximately 50 grizzly bears frequent this rich area, along with a variety of other diverse wildlife, including black bear, mountain goat, marmot, beaver, seal, wolf, wolverine and otter.

The river system supports important runs of chinook, coho, chum and pink salmon.

Since the 1970s, the Khutzeymateen has been the focus of a major resource allocation conflict - protecting the grizzly bears and their habitat and timber harvesting. In 1986, the Khutzeymateen was included on a list of wilderness areas to be reviewed by the Wilderness Advisory Committee. The committee recognized the importance of the area to grizzly bears and recommended that timber harvesting be permitted only if: sufficient studies were completed; the studies' conclusions were incorporated into timber harvesting plans; and timber harvesting plans were monitored.

In June 1988, the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks and the Forest Service initiated a joint study of the Khutzeymateen to assess the potential impact of timber harvesting in the valley on grizzly bears and their habitat. The major findings of this study were:

-that the Khutzeymateen is unique in its importance to grizzly bears in



coastal British Columbia

-it is impossible to harvest timber from the Khutzeymateen without substantial risk to the grizzly bears

-unregulated public access into the Khutzeymateen could have tragic results for both people and bears

Based on the study recommendations, in June 1992 the provincial government announced that the entire Khutzeymateen Valley will be protected as grizzly bear habitat and that no timber harvesting will be permitted in this area. Evaluations to determine the most appropriate protected area designation for the area, which affords adequate protection to the grizzly bears and their habitat and that recognizes the traditional uses of the Gitsees, are currently underway. Possible designations include an ecological reserve, Class "A" provincial park, wilderness area or wildlife management area. A decision on designation is expected later this year.

### **Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park**

In May 1992, Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park was established. The park consists of two components: a 11,243 ha Class "A" provincial park and a 6,440 ha recreation area where mineral evaluation will be permitted.

Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park is a joint venture of the Nisga'a Tribal Council and BC Parks, and is without prejudice to the Nisga'a land claim. The park is established with the agreement of the six traditional title holders whose territories are included.

Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park is located 100 kilometres north of Terrace in northwestern B.C. The park encompasses one of the most recent and most accessible lava flows in the province. It

includes the craters from which the lava erupted, and the lava plain in the Nass Valley. A variety of lava features are found in the park - aa (rough) and pahoehoe (smooth) lava, pressure ridges, lava tubes or caves, moulds of trees destroyed by the flow and subterranean streams. The park also includes Lava Lake, whose waters are held back by a dam formed by the lava, and the alpine meadows and ridges of Mt. Hoeft and Mt. Priestly.

It also incorporates significant cultural resources. The park commemorates the destruction of two Nisga'a villages by the flow and the deaths of 2,000 Nisga'a ancestors. The park will provide an excellent opportunity for the Nisga'a people to present their history and cultures.

### **New Marine Parks**

On September 21, 1992, eight new marine parks were established and one existing marine park expanded. Together, these establishments add 18,040 hectares (3,204 ha upland; 14,836 ha foreshore) to the provincial park system. These areas possess a variety of significant conservation, cultural heritage, recreation and tourism values. Three, in particular, have significant natural heritage values:

Broughton Archipelago Marine Park - 11,679 ha (10,034 ha foreshore; 1,645 ha upland)

The park, situated at the south end of Queen Charlotte Strait, contains more than 300 small islands and abundant marine and bird life. The park protects the habitat of resident and transient marine species, including salmon and killer whales. There are also nesting and resident seabird colonies.

Cormorant Channel Provincial Park - 743

ha (505 ha foreshore; 238 ha upland)

The park protects the Pearse and Plumper group of islands, including the world-renowned Stubbs Island, a diving destination off Telegraph Cove. The park offers excellent opportunities to view marine life, including Minke whales, Dall porpoises, seals and sea lions, as well as wintering sea birds.

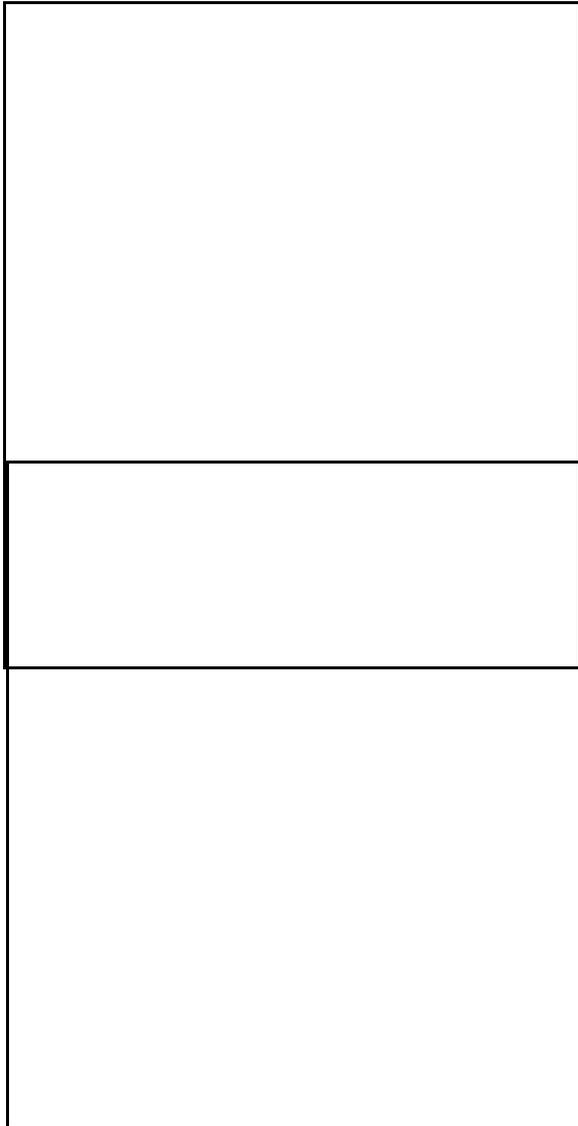
Addition to Helliwell Provincial Park - 2,803 ha (all foreshore)

This addition provides excellent diving and viewing opportunities, and is important for education and marine life interpretation. Six-gill sharks, normally a deep water shark, are rarely found in shallow waters in Canada. This addition, in Lambert Channel south of Hornby Island, offers the rare opportunity to observe this species in shallow depths at various times of the year. Divers can also enjoy several underwater caves and a rich rock and reef ecosystem.

### **Race Rocks Ecological Reserve: Canadian Underwater Safari**

Race Rocks Ecological Reserve, established in 1980, is located in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, 17 km southwest of Victoria, 1.5 km off the extreme southern tip of Vancouver Island. The 220 hectare reserve is almost entirely subtidal, but includes seven or eight islets comprising, in total, less than one hectare.

An unusually rich and diverse marine life is found in the ecological reserve as a result of its unique combination of location and substrate. Intertidal and subtidal zones have substrates primarily of continuous rock and rugged topography which includes cliffs,



chasms, benches and surge channels. Twice daily the ebb tide funnels water through the area mostly from the Strait of Georgia basin, into which coastal rivers and tidal marshes flow. Flood tides, also

twice daily, bring in water from the open Pacific Ocean. The impedence to tidal flow as it surges past the rugged topography results in "racing" currents, eddies and turbulence. Energy and nutrient inputs attributable to the nearly continuous currents are large, and light penetration in these shallow, clear waters is excellent. These factors result in a high production of algae and invertebrates, while the varied topography promotes ecological diversity.

Race Rocks provided the setting for the Canadian Underwater Safari, a multi-media educational experience, from October 19-24, 1992. The Safari linked students around North America through television via a satellite link. The Safari consisted of four one-hour programs on each of the six days, broadcast on the Anik E2 satellite. The United Nations picked up the signal one day and broadcast throughout the world as part of a conference on the environment. CNN also picked up the signal for one day.

The Safari was intended as an introduction to the wide ranging world of marine sciences, providing its audiences with glimpses of the intricate world beneath the surface of the Pacific Ocean. An important message the Safari imparted to its viewers was the necessity of protecting the marine environment, alerting them to the stresses and threats that it faces and possible means of conserving it for future generations.

The project provided students with the opportunity to interact with scientists and divers at the Race Rocks broadcast site through means of a two-way video. Scientific and educational activities in which students were involved included:

- students exploring the marine life through the "eyes" of an underwater robot
- divers taking students into the coastal

environment in search of the Giant Pacific octopus, wolf eels and other marine life

- on the surface, scientists and students examining a variety of microscopic sea life
- mapping the currents and tides around Race Rocks

The Canadian Underwater Safari was produced by the Friends of the Royal B.C. Museum with support from numerous government, private and corporate sponsors, including BC Parks.

## **Ontario**

### **Tri-Council Commitment to Protect Canada's Natural Heritage**

On November 25, at the Tri-Council meeting of Parks, Wildlife and Environment Ministers, Ontario's Minister of Natural Resources, Bud Wildman, announced that Ontario will proceed with an action plan to protect endangered spaces and a strategy to conserve biodiversity. These initiatives highlight Ontario's support of the federal-provincial statement of commitment to protect Canada's natural heritage and the federal government's ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Conservation of Biodiversity.

The *Endangered Spaces Action Plan* was developed by a team, which includes MNR staff and representatives of Aboriginal groups. The plan commits action on three fronts:

- proceeding, by 1993, with public consultation and announcing new provincial parks or other protected areas in at least five of Ontario's 65 site districts;

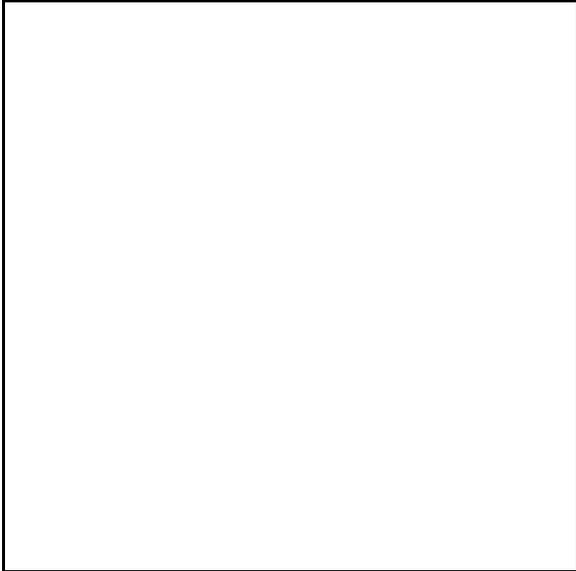
- preparing, by 1994, a long-range strategy, for completing a network of provincial parks and protected areas by the year 2000; and,

- designing a process for meaningful consultation with Aboriginal groups and the general public in 1993 and beyond.

The provincial strategy for biodiversity conservation will build upon a draft statement to conserve biodiversity also released at the Tri-Council meeting. The final strategy will be developed by a team, to be led by MNR, with representatives from other ministries, Aboriginal groups and the public. The recommended strategy will be presented to the Minister of Natural Resources by December 1993 and it will address such topics as:

- statements of definition, importance, goals, objectives, and principles for conserving biodiversity in Ontario;
- Ontario's contribution to the national strategy being developed by the federal government and any needed coordination with other jurisdictions;
- identification of critical gaps in research and priorities for biodiversity conservation; and,
- requirements for monitoring and evaluation efforts.

Copies of the *Endangered Spaces Action Plan* are available from Mr. Bob Davidson, Provincial Parks and Natural Heritage Policy Branch, 380 Armour Road, Peterborough, Ontario K9H 7L7.



Copies of the draft statement on biodiversity conservation are available from Mr. Dave Gordon, Corporate Policy and Planning Secretariat, Ministry of Natural Resources, 99 Wellesley Street, Toronto M7A 1W3.

### **The 1992 Natural Heritage League Annual Meeting**

On November 26, 1992, delegates representing many of the 38 member organizations of the Natural Heritage League (NHL) met in Toronto at the tenth annual meeting of the League. The one day meeting featured presentations to celebrate notable achievements of the League in its first decade of operation including initiatives on landowner contact, Carolinian Canada, securement of key natural areas, fund-raising efforts and funding initiatives. The afternoon session

featured presentations on future challenges and new conservation initiatives including proposals for income tax reforms, progress on nature trusts and a report of the Ontario Commission on Planning and Development Reform chaired by Mr. John Sewell.

### **Ontario Establishes Natural Heritage Information Centre**

A highlight of the NHL meeting was the announcement of the new Natural Heritage Information Centre being installed in the Ministry of Natural Resources. The centre joins with others operating across the United States, Latin America, Quebec, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan, in utilizing the Biological and Conservation Data (BCD) software package developed by the Nature Conservancy (U.S.) to document species and spaces critical for conservation. The NHL meeting featured the signing of a memorandum of agreement among the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Natural Heritage League, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and The Nature Conservancy (U.S.) to guide the development and operation of the centre over its initial two years. Funding for the centre over this period amounts to \$900,000.00, half of which was provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources to match contributions from other sources. The centre will provide data management capability for the provincial initiatives on Endangered Spaces and Biodiversity, and other conservation efforts.

### **Forestry Canada**

#### **Finally, a strategy**

The Green Plan Ecological Reserves working group assembled in Toronto in

April to develop a Strategic Plan for this initiative. We were guided by representatives from most provinces and several NGO's, including World Wildlife Fund Canada and the CCEA. In summary, our plan is to select an appropriate forested protected area ("model ecological reserve") within or adjacent to each of Forestry Canada's ten Model Forests, where three issues will be tackled in pilot studies.

First, it is widely recognized that management of protected areas is complicated, and requires incorporation of scientific and technical information into decision making. Our task is to identify what information is required, and to determine how we collect and transfer that information.

Secondly, the National Conservation Area Data Base (NCADB), run by State of the Environment Reporting, requires much biological and resource information on its 3000 accessions (protected areas). We have set ourselves the task of enhancing the NCADB, but it raises the same questions. What information is needed, what is available and how do we get it?

Thirdly, the establishment of a protected areas system, representative of Canada's diversity of forest ecosystems, requires support from the forest sector at large. Model Forests present a unique opportunity for advocacy and information transfer to this end.

### **Linking with Model Forests**

The above work will be done in collaboration with partners who are directly responsible for the protected area in question, and with Model Forest partners. A preliminary report, "Ecological Reserves in Model Forests", listing protected areas in or around Model Forests, was prepared for a Model Forest Network meeting at Hinton, November 16-

18. Lists were compiled from digitized maps of Model Forests overlaid on the National Conservation Area Data Base. The ten Model Forests contain a total of approximately 95 protected areas of one kind or another (we classified by Ecoregion and IUCN Category). A further 88 lie adjacent or close to the Model Forests.

The information is intended primarily to provide an overview of the geographical relationship between Model Forests in this respect. Copies of the unpublished report are available from Doug Pollard.

### **It Pays to Advertize**

We made some progress in promoting protected areas programs. The venerable Hotel Vancouver, September 1992, was the venue of our first major exposure to Canada's forest sector. Surprisingly, this was the first time the Canadian of Forestry/Institute Forestier du Canada had held a poster session at an annual meeting. Ours was a four-panel display, summarizing our activities and how we might work in partnership with the CIF/IFC. The session was well attended and our display drew keen interest from a number of people, including our own Deputy Minister, Jean-Claude Mercier. In May we presented a poster at the European Workshop on Forested Ecological Reserves, in Wageningen, the Netherlands; and we featured our project in a panel display at Demo 92, a major exhibition of the forest industry held in Kelowna, B.C. in September.

### **The Peterson Report**

Western Ecological Services Ltd. was awarded a contract to condense their CCEA report, "A first approximation of principles and criteria to make Canada's protected area systems representative of the nations ecological diversity". The

updated and shorter report is pitched at the forestry community and will be submitted the Forestry Chronicle early this year.

## **Environment Canada**

### **North Baffin Island**

Region 37, NWT - Consultations have been underway for several years with the communities of Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet and with the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, regarding a national park to represent the Eastern Arctic Lowlands. The withdrawal of 22,200 square kilometres of land in February 1992 for national park purposes, under the Territorial Lands Act, represents a significant step towards the creation of a new park on north Baffin Island. The next step is to negotiate an Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement (IIBA), aiming towards establishment of the park by 1996. (Note: This was reported in the Annual Report submitted in July 1992.)

### **Banks Island**

Region 36; NWT - The park establishment negotiations are complete, and the Federal Minister of the Environment signed the park agreement on August 7, 1992, along with representatives of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Inuvialuit Game Council, and the Government of the Northwest Territories. The park is called Aulavik National Park.

### **Feasibility Study Torngat Mountains**

A joint study of the feasibility of establishing a new national park in the Torngat Mountains area of northern Labrador was formally announced on

November 23, by Minister of State for the Environment Pauline Browes, Newfoundland and Labrador Minister of Tourism and Culture, James Walsh, and Labrador Inuit Association President, William Anderson III. The study will be conducted by the two governments and the Labrador Inuit Association and will examine both the potential benefits of and constraints on national park establishment. Results of the study will determine whether or not to proceed with negotiations to establish a new national park.

### **Draft Action Plan for Completing Canada's National Park System**

Over the past year CPS has been developing and refining an Action Plan to describe the work and schedules necessary to achieve the Green Plan goal of establishing at least 5 new national parks by 1996, and negotiating agreements for the remaining 13 parks by 2000. The first draft was prepared in 1991 in consultation with the provinces and territories affected by new park proposals. Early in 1992 the draft was sent to all provincial and territorial Parks Ministers and to federal departments affected by new park establishment. The draft Action Plan was subsequently revised to address the comments received. In November the Plan was updated to reflect progress with park proposals, and it was tabled for information at the November 25 Tricouncil meeting as a tangible indication of the federal government's commitment to the protected areas initiative.

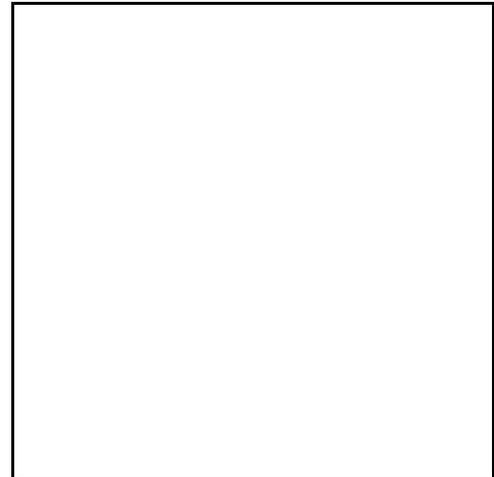
### **Tri-Council Meeting**

On November 25, Canada's Parks, Wildlife and Environment Ministers made a formal commitment to complete the country's networks of Protected Natural Areas. Federal Minister of State

(Environment) Pauline Browes, on behalf of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, Manitoba's Minister of Natural Resources, Harry J. Enns, on behalf of the Council of Federal Provincial Parks Ministers, and Northwest Territories' Minister of the Wildlife Ministers Council of Canada, endorsed a public Statement of Commitment to Complete Canada's Networks of Protected Areas at the first ever joint meeting of the three councils. The statement calls on provinces, territories and the federal government to:

- complete networks of protected areas representative of Canada's land based natural regions by the year 2000 and accelerate the protection of areas representative of Canada's marine natural regions;
- accelerate the identification and protection of critical wildlife habitat;
- adopt frameworks, strategies and time-frames for the completion of protected areas networks;
- continue to cooperate in the protection of ecosystems, landscapes and wildlife habitat;
- ensure that protected areas are integral components of all sustainable development strategies.

At this meeting the federal Department of the Environment also tabled its Action Plans for Completing the National Parks System and for Wildlife Habitat Conservation. Several provinces also tabled their Action Plans.



### **Speaker's Forum on Canadian Wildlands**

On December 7-8, the Speaker's office, the Canadian Nature Federation and the Department of the Environment sponsored a Forum to build on the political commitment which was made at the November Tricouncil Meeting to complete Canada's Networks of Protected Areas. The one and a half day workshop provided representatives of government, ENGO groups, industry and business an opportunity to examine and debate issues associated with the completion of protected networks and to recommend strategies to strengthen progress towards the "12%" protected areas goal.

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## OTHER NEWS

### Atlantic Region Protected Areas Working Group

An informal working group of employees from Environment Canada and Forestry Canada and the Committee of Regional Executives has been established in response to the priority the federal government places on the protected area issues. Our goal is to foster co-operation and improve communication among the various groups and individuals in the region working in the protected spaces field. Our partnerships with government and non-government

organizations are already strong - and they continue to grow.

We have special discussion sessions for Atlantic Region participants at both the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture Stewardship Workshop and the Canada Council on Ecological Areas annual meeting. We have also met

with the directors of Parks and Wildlife throughout the region to discuss opportunities for co-operation.

At the present time we are updating and revising the National Conservation Areas Database for Atlantic Canada and will also be producing the material for a regional protected areas report that will complement the national Spaces and Species Primer.

In addition, we are establishing, on a trial basis, an electronic massaging network for those working in the field and are producing and distributing a regular bulletin to interested individuals and groups. We are also working on the production of maps and GIS analysis reflective of our region's many and varied ecoregions.

Our ultimate goal however, is not to work solely as a group of federal government employees. We would like to see the Working Group expanded to become a regional protected areas network with representation from all levels of government, conservation organizations

and interested individuals. In late May we will be sponsoring the region's first protected areas workshop in Fredericton, N.B. Topics to be discussed at the workshop include system planning, ecological integrity, private stewardship and research priorities.

If you would like more information on this workshop, or on the Atlantic Region Areas Working Group, please call Eric Hundert at (902)425-1535.

### International Centre for Protected Landscapes

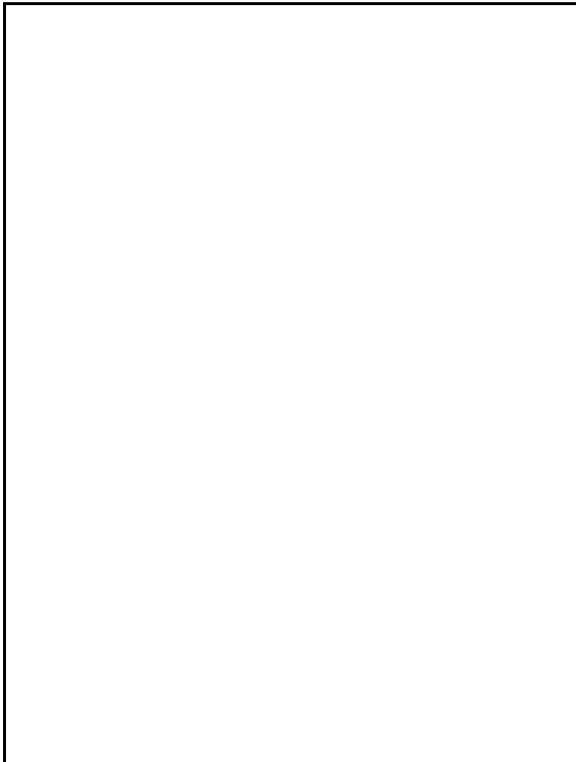
The ICPL has recently finished its second newsletter. The centre is a relatively new organization of only eighteen months. Since its founding it has built linkages with protected landscape agencies in more than seventy countries.

The newsletter reaches over eight hundred organizations worldwide.

The newsletter reports on current initiatives of the ICPL and on new protected landscapes concepts and applications throughout the world. ICPL participated in a workshop titled "New Perspectives in Environmental Management" that was held by the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Technology Management (CCGTM) in Malta. This group hopes to build on the historical, linguistic and cultural ties of member countries to develop a common evaluation and resolution of many environmental problems.

Another initiative of the ICPL that is discussed in the newsletter is that of a joint effort with the government of Malta to establish an environmental audit capacity. The island of Gozo is being set up as a pilot study area for this purpose.

The ICPL hopes to establish a



centre whereby protected landscape managers can access information and analytic systems which enable them to evaluate their group's organization and policies. This process has become known as an environmental audit. This centre would compliment an existing and expanding resource base. The ICPL is keen to receive all sorts of information from groups worldwide. Management Plans for individual sites are especially welcome.

These are only a few of the issues that are mentioned in the newsletter which is only a summary of the organizations activities. For more information on ICPL or for a copy of the newsletter please contact:

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#### **Model Forest Programs Approved Nationwide**

On June 25, 1992, the Honourable Frank Oberle, Ministry of Forestry, announced the location of ten proposed forest sites to make up Canada's Model Forest Network. The network is the core of the federal government's Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests initiative, part of the government's environmental action plan, the Green Plan.

The sites forming the Model Forest Network are;

Model Forest	Province	Forest Region
1. Western NFLD Model Forest	Newfoundland	Boreal
2. Fundy Model Forest	New Brunswick	Acadian
3. An Inhabited Forest	Quebec	St. Lawr.
4. Eastern Ontario Model Forest	Ontario	Great Lakes
5. Lake Abitibi Model Forest	Ontario	Boreal
6. Manitou Abi Model Forest	Manitoba	Boreal
7. Prince Albert Model Forest	Saskatchewan	Boreal
8. Foothills Model Forest Subalpine	Alberta	
9. McGregor Model Forest	British Columbia	Montane
10. Long Beach Model Forest	British Columbia	Coast

The Model Forest sites were selected through a competitive process. An advisory committee, supported by a technical review sub-committee, reviewed and made recommendations on their selection.

**Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests**



The issue of whether or not Canada's forests are being managed, utilized and protected in a fully sustainable manner has been and continues to be raised by many advocacy groups, professional biologists, ecologists, foresters, public administrators and the Canadian public.

In line with Canada's goal to shift the management of our forests from sustained yield to sustainable development, the federal government developed a sustainable forestry initiative as part of its Green Plan. In forestry, sustainable development refers to our ability to manage our forest resource without prejudice to its future productivity, ecological diversity and capacity for regeneration. The Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests program focuses on specific strategies and technologies for better management of the forest resource to meet this goal.

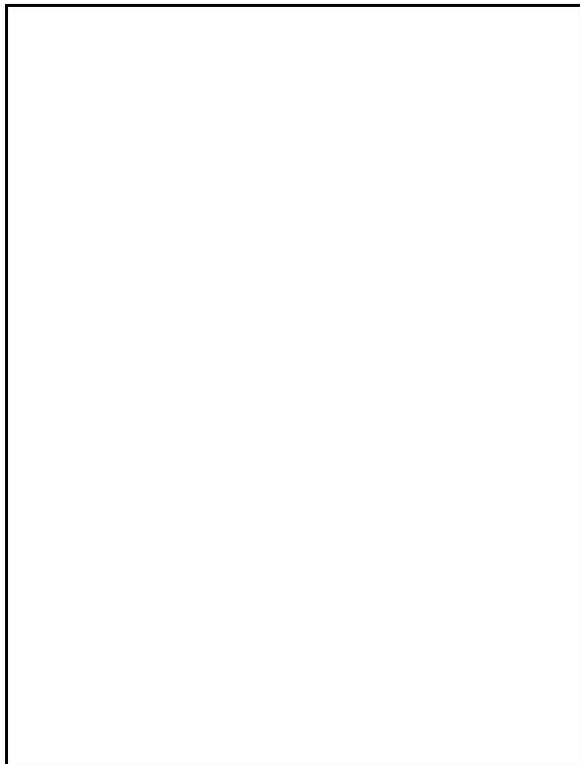
The Model Forest Network will be made up of 10 large scale productive sites, representing six of Canada's eight major forest regions. These major forest regions are classified as follows: boreal, subalpine, montane, coast, Columbia, deciduous, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence and Acadian.

The Model Forest Network also represents the many forest values such as wildlife, habitat conservation, recreation, culture as well as its traditional value as a source of timber and fibre. The network will provide Canadians across the country with living, hands-on demonstrations of how environmentally sustainable, integrated forest management practises can be put to work.

The Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests program represents a federal response to the commitment of the

Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) to achieve sustainable development of Canada's forests. Forest Ministers from across the Canada endorsed the importance of sustainable forest development during the CCFM Forum held in Halifax in 1990.

In March 1992, at the National Forest Congress in Ottawa, they made a commitment to make it a reality. This resolve was further confirmed by the signing of the first Canada Forest Accord. Canada is the only major forest nation to achieve such a broad commitment to the practise of sustainable development in forestry. Green Plan programs such as Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests are a showcase for other countries of what government, industry, environmentalists and individuals can do through partnership to achieve a single goal.



## **Guest Articles Welcome**

Articles, news items and other submissions from CCEA membership and other readers are welcome. All submissions must be typed and preferably sent on computer disk. Send submissions to the Newsletter editor.

## **How to Contact the CCEA**

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