
Nunavut

Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment

*Nunavut Parks and
Special Places Division*

Program Development and Planning

The Government of Nunavut (GN), Department of Environment's (DoE), Nunavut Parks and Special Places (NP&SP) Division continues to make progress in redefining its core program and planning tools. Included in this is the advancement of a new NP&SP Program and finalizing new frameworks for park management plans, master plans and inventories of park resources. Revisions to the *Territorial Parks Act* and its *Regulations* to reflect the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, as well as review of the Territorial Parks System Plan, are also underway.

In keeping with the Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for Territorial Parks, the GN represented by DoE, remains committed to working with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and each of the three Regional Inuit Associations in the joint planning, management and establishment of impact and benefit measures related to protected areas in Nunavut. The parties continue to focus on implementing the IIBA and negotiate funding of its 17 Articles with the federal government.

Continued Support for National Protected Area Initiatives

DoE, with NP&SP acting as the lead, has provided support for many federal protected area initiatives in Nunavut. DoE has supported feasibility studies for Ukkusiksalik National Park of Canada and Qausuittuq, the proposed national park on northern Bathurst Island. The department has also supported the feasibility study and development of Parks Canada's proposed Lancaster Sound marine conservation area. DoE's involvement at the federal level also includes support for a national marine conservation area framework through work with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Territorial Park Feasibility Studies and New Park Initiatives

Based on attraction development projects initiated in 2001, DoE's mandate under the *Territorial Parks Act* and existing land use, community and economic development plans, NP&SP continues to work with Clyde River and Kugaaruk to advance proposed park projects in these areas. Furthermore, within the context of the development of the Nunavut Parks Program, NP&SP is also working with local communities to study three additional locations in Nunavut, including Napartulik/Axel Heiberg Island, the Belcher Islands (Sanikiluaq), and the area surrounding Arviat in the Oikiqtaaluk and Kivalliq regions. The focus is on protecting and preserving these areas' natural and cultural heritage, and enhancing opportunities for recreation, tourism and economic development.

Aggutinni – proposed Territorial Park

Clyde River sits in the midst of a spectacular fiord landscape on the east coast of Baffin Island. Each fiord has its own unique sculpted rock

walls with dramatic formations, like the monumental cliffs at the junction of Sam Ford Fiord and Walker Arm and the high vertical cliffs of the meandering China wall. The area around Clyde River includes open-ocean, deep inlets, icebergs, sheer mountain walls, glaciers, rivers, valleys and tundra. Wildlife includes polar bears, seals, narwhal, bowhead whales, caribou, hare, arctic fox, and numerous species of birds. The rolling hills of the Barnes Plateau, found at the end of the fiords, continue to be important caribou hunting grounds for Nunavummiut.

DoE has been working with the community of Clyde River, the Oikiqtani Inuit Association (OIA) and various stakeholders toward advancing a new territorial park in the region. Key community representatives from the Clyde River Hunters and Trappers Organization, Hamlet Council, Community Lands and Resources Committee, Elders Council and Youth Council led the feasibility process. In December 2012, Nunavut's Cabinet gave approval to proceed to the master planning phase of the territorial park establishment process.

DoE will commence work on the



Sam Ford Fiord.

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Kugaaruk Stone Church Site.

master plan in close co-operation with the community of Clyde River, the OIA and relevant stakeholders in keeping with the Umbrella IIBA for Territorial Parks and the territorial park establishment process.

Kugaaruk

The community of Kugaaruk and NP&SP staff have worked together for many years toward a proposed territorial park in the Pelly Bay region. In 2010/11, the Hamlet of Kugaaruk and the Park Advisory Committee endorsed a final feasibility study and recommended park concept for a proposed park on the east and west sides of Pelly Bay. Following discussions between the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, DoE and the community in 2011/12, an alternative proposed park concept was recommended by the community. The alternative concept proposes a two-phased approach to park establishment be pursued, with immediate focus on the Kugaaruk stone church site, Kugaaruk River Valley and St. Peter Bay Islands.

DoE will continue to work with the community of Kugaaruk and relevant stakeholders toward the establishment of a proposed territorial park in keeping with the Territorial Parks IIBA and the territorial park establishment process.

Napartulik / Axel Heiberg Island Fossil Forest Sites

Napartulik is on uninhabited Axel Heiberg Island, Canada’s seventh-largest and second-most northern island. It is located in the Qikiqtaaluk Region approximately 385 km north of Grise Fiord, Canada’s northernmost community, about 1,895 km from Iqaluit and an amazing 3,860 km north of Ottawa. This makes Axel Heiberg closer to the capitals of Norway and Iceland than Canada’s capital. It is also relatively close to Quttinirpaaq National Park of Canada.

The fossil forests of Napartulik are approximately 45 million years old, yet their remains – stumps,

leaves, branches, trunks and cones – are still clearly visible on the surface of the high arctic soil. Even more intriguing is the fact that the abundant plant material is not fossilized but perfectly preserved in a mummified state. Napartulik is an extremely rare site with only two or three similar places known to exist in the world, but none that boast such an ancient or well-preserved collection of plant life. In addition to mummified plants, Napartulik is also known for several major fossil animal discoveries. It may also hold the key to understanding one of the most ancient and devastating global extinction events in Earth’s history.

DoE finalized a background study in late 2011 that collected information in support of a feasibility determination for a territorial park at Napartulik to help preserve these astounding and globally significant fossils and its sensitive natural environment. Inuit, Government and stakeholder review of the background study, and consultations to determine how best to proceed, are in progress.

Sanikiluaq (Belcher Islands)

Nunavut Parks is currently working to collect information and explore options for a territorial park or special place development in this area. A final background study, coupled with a community supported park option, will flow from this process to help guide the determination for a potential park or special place.

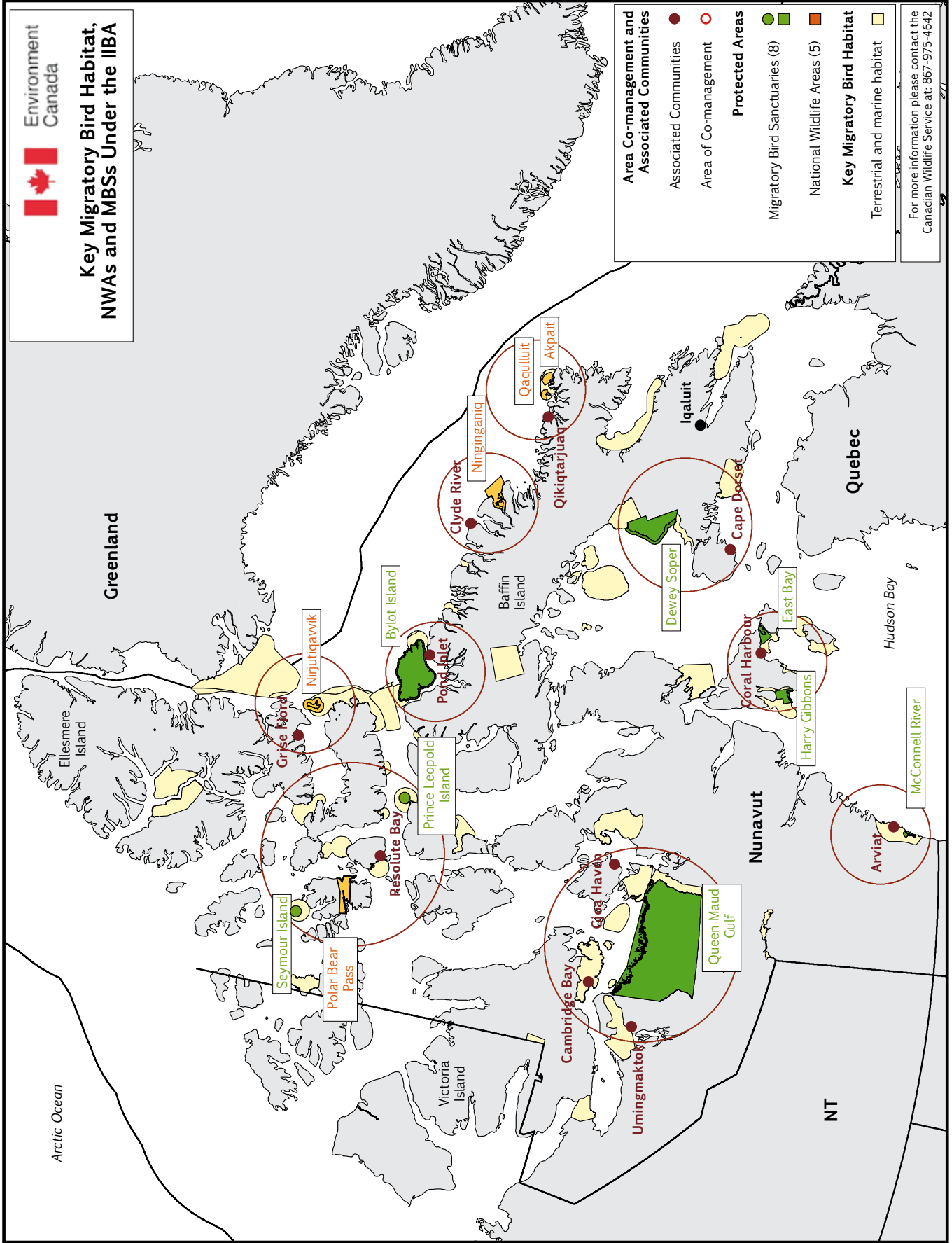


Sanikiluaq, NU.



Environment
Canada

Key Migratory Bird Habitat, NWAs and MBSs Under the IBA



Area Co-management and Associated Communities

- Associated Communities (Red dot)
- Area of Co-management (Red circle)

Protected Areas

- Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (8) (Green square)
- National Wildlife Areas (5) (Orange square)

Key Migratory Bird Habitat

- Terrestrial and marine habitat (Yellow square)

For more information please contact the
Canadian Wildlife Service at: 867-975-4642.

The community of Sanikiluaq and the surrounding islands, located 150 kms from mainland Quebec in the south eastern part of Hudson Bay, represents a unique marine/coastal landscape that is not currently represented in the Nunavut Parks Program. Consisting of over 1,500 islands with a total land area of over 1,300 km², this distinct location offers one of the most southerly extensions for many high arctic species making it an important area for further study and future protection.

Breeding bird populations, including ptarmigan and eider duck, and seasonal species such as harbour seal, beluga and white whale are prominent among the islands. Outstanding scenic features of waterfalls, distinct geological formations, sandy beaches, twisting inlets and bays make the islands a prime location for water-based recreation and attraction-based tourism development. The islands also feature an abundance of historic and cultural resources. Over 67 documented archaeological sites dating back to the Dorset have been identified. Park or special place establishment would allow for the preservation of these cultural resources while offering opportunities for interpretation and heritage appreciation by residents and visitors alike.

Arviat

Arviat is the second-most southern community in Nunavut, located in the Kivalliq Region approximately 260 km north of Churchill, MB and about 100 km away from the tree line. Arviat is located in close proximity to the McConnell Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Arvia'juaq and Oikiqtaarjuk National Historic Sites of Canada, and is surrounded by a number of rivers that wind through the open tundra.

DoE and the community of Arviat are nearing completion on a protected area background study that gathered information about the area and developed park concepts in keeping with the goals and objectives of the community and Nunavut Parks Program.



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New Pavilion at Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga Territorial Park.

Progress In Our Existing Territorial Parks

Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga Territorial Park

Just inland from the west coast of Hudson Bay, about eight kilometres northwest of the community of Rankin Inlet, sits Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga (the land around the river of little fishes) Territorial Park. The most outstanding feature is the historic site Qamaviniqtalik (place of ancient sod houses) and its interpretive walking trail located on the flood plains of the Meliadine River. Numerous archaeological features at Qamaviniqtalik are representative of the transition from the Thule culture to the historic Caribou Inuit culture.

Park development has been ongoing since the summer of 2003 and the summer of 2012 saw the construction of a new park pavilion. The pavilion will not only

be available for use by community Elders free of charge, but will also be available to community members and groups for special events for a reasonable fee. Now completed, a grand opening is planned for the 2013 summer season.

Kugluk (Bloody Falls) Territorial Park

Kugluk (Bloody Falls) Park is located 15 km southwest of the community of Kugluktuk, on the lower, Canadian Heritage River nominated, Coppermine River. The 10 hectare area contains remnants of Thule winter houses used more than 500 years ago, archaeological evidence of caribou hunting camps of more than 1,500 years ago, Pre-Dorset use of the site more than 3,500 years ago, and a rich history of fishing and Arctic exploration.

Due to the local proximity of the park to the community of Kugluktuk, local use of the area is increasing. Issues such as trail erosion,



© Government of Nunavut, 2012

Student workshop during Cultural Landscape Inventory Collection, Kugluktuk TP.

increased ATV use, archaeological site disturbance and willow tree management have emerged. In response, DoE, in partnership with community of Kugluktuk and the Park Advisory Committee, have undertaken visitor surveys, inventory, trail signage, and site and interpretive planning measures to minimize harm to the park resources; maximize human movement through the park; manage future uses and impacts; and increase the interpretive potential. This work remains ongoing in 2013.

Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park

Located one kilometre from the heart of Iqaluit, Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park provides an opportunity for many visitors and residents to easily access an Arctic landscape. The park provides visitors with a chance to see a variety of Arctic plants, mammals and birds. Cultural heritage in the park area includes traditional fishing sites



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Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park – New Trail Development.

at the Sylvia Grinnell River rapids, stone cairns and Thule ruins. A recent recreation study in Iqaluit found demand and use has made Sylvia Grinnell Iqaluit's number one recreation site.

DoE continues to work on the development of camping sites and access roads within the park. New walking trails and adjacent parking stalls were completed in 2011 and work continues into 2012/13.

Northwest Territories

Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency
National Parks

Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve of Canada

Canada's 44th national park, Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve was announced by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Norman Wells on August 22nd, 2012. The ceremony took place on the banks of the Mackenzie River with over a hundred people in attendance. Distinguished guests included approximately 45 individuals representing Tulita and Norman Wells Sahtu Dene and Métis, Members of Parliament, Government of the NWT Premier and Members of the Legislative Assembly, Parks Canada Agency (PCA) officials and numerous Norman Wells community leaders and members. Prime Minister Harper, Premier Bob McLeod, The Honourable Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for Parks Canada, Rick

Hardy, Sahtu Dene and Métis Chief Negotiator for the Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve Impact and Benefit Plan (IBP), and Sahtu Grand Chief Frank Andrew spoke at the event. In his speech, the Prime Minister said, "Any day there's a park announcement is a good day."

The Prime Minister also unveiled a plaque which will be placed at the base of the mountain, Nááts'ihch'oh. The plaque commemorates the Sahtu Dene and Métis Elders of the Tulita District who considered their cultural and spiritual roots in deciding on the name for the new park and the iconic mountain that is its namesake.

Nááts'ihch'oh
NATIONAL PARK RESERVE OF CANADA
Commemoration Statement

"Nááts'ihch'oh" is the name chosen for the National Park Reserve by the following Elders: Gabriel Horassi, David Yaltee Senior, Maurice Mendo, Frederick Clement Senior, Frank Yaltee, John Hott, John B. Hitchinelle, James Bavard, Norman Andrew and Leon Andrew. Parks Canada acknowledges the contribution of these Elders to the creation of Naats'ihch'oh National Park Reserve of Canada and thanks them – Mahsi Cho.

"Nááts'ihch'oh" is the Shúhtagot'ine language description of this mountain and it refers to its unique shape, which is sharp and pointed on the top like a porcupine quill.

The Shúhtagot'ine believe that "Nááts'ihch'oh" is a place of strong spiritual power, which can be bestowed on newborn children. This location is believed to be the area where the ancestors of the Shúhtagot'ine would camp while travelling with moose skin boats to see Nááteho, the Nahanni prophet.

This Commemoration Statement was placed here by Parks Canada and Elders from Tulita and Norman Wells to celebrate the creation of Naats'ihch'oh National Park Reserve of Canada.

RÉSERVE DE PARC NATIONAL DU CANADA

Nááts'ihch'oh

Énoncé de commémoration

Nááts'ihch'oh
NATIONAL PARK RESERVE OF CANADA
Kenats'odi Gha Keda Hóli

Nááts'ihch'oh s'ij la ng hek'áodi gha rghda ke ékanéht'e dahxaré bezi beghót'g: Gabriel Horassi, David Yaltee Senior, Maurice Mendo, Frederick Clement Senior, Frank Yaltee, John Hott, John B. Hitchinelle, James Bavard, Norman Andrew há Leon Andrew. Parks Canada s'ij edro rghda ékanéht'e s'ij godahxaré Nááts'ihch'oh ng hek'áodi gha hóli s'ij ghó suré máhsi gogenj'whe.

Nááts'ihch'oh s'ij la Shúhtagot'ine gokedó K'g yegéni g't'a. Eyi s'ij la shúhtah, shúhngne ch'árot'e há belp kwah K'a K'och'ige K'g béora' gots'g goti ch'oh bech'oh lájt'e t'a sá kanj yegéni.

Shúhtagot'ine edodjng agenj'wé dahwáre Nááts'ihch'oh s'ij la suré yedi náste gots'g hólá haredi. 7éhtare ts'odame alé beghúhé s'ij bet's'g náoredi ghá ndé eyi ng ts'g sá yet'a edagoredi gha asij beghót'a. Yahnjí ts'g dene Náátahó héradí, Nahranj gogha nakwánáareze h'ólé s'ij Shúhtagot'ine ke yets'g y'is'ewé zéla t'a nageréni ndé, eyi sá réla tángogh'wá dahk'g gogj'wá haredi.

Parks Canada há Tulit'a hó gots'g T'heghghí gots'g rghda ke Nááts'ihch'oh, National Park Reserve of Canada hóli t'a kenats'odi gonats'ij gha keda hóli nj't'e g't'e.

Parks Canada Parcs Canada



Plaque unveiling on the shores of the Mackenzie River, Norman Wells, NWT (l-r) Robert Kent, Field Unit Superintendent, SWNWT Field Unit; Gordon Hamre (ret.), Senior Advisor, Parks Establishment; the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada; Lee Montgomery, Manager, Northern National Parks Establishment; Alan Latourelle, CEO, Parks Canada.

The day before the announcement, a small party accompanied the Prime Minister on an overflight of the park reserve. They landed on the Moose Ponds where they hiked around the area and relaxed in a small clearing overlooking the Moose Ponds with the majesty of Nááts'ihch'oh facing them.

Measuring 4,850 km², Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve adjoins the northern boundary of Nahanni National Park Reserve and reaches the Yukon boundary to the west. This area has been travelled and valued for hunting, trading and its spiritual importance by the Shúhtagot'ine (Mountain Dene) of the Tulita District for many generations. The mountain from which the park takes its name is credited with great spiritual powers.

Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve will serve as a launching area for visitors wanting to experience the spectacular landscapes of the upper reaches of the world-famous South Nahanni River, and to hike, canoe, raft and climb in the new Nááts'ihch'oh

History and Archaeology in the Selwyn and Mackenzie Mountains

In the summer of 2012, an archaeological team from the University of Alberta and the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC), and Shúhtagot'ine Dene worked in the remote Selwyn Mountains of the NWT near the northern edge of the recently created Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve of Canada. Our goals are to learn more about the ancient caribou hunting, fishing and resource use in alpine habitats by the Shúhtagot'ine Dene and their ancestors. Archaeological work involved surveys of O'Grady Lake and neighbouring ice patches, which have yielded amazingly well-preserved arrows and darts dropped by alpine caribou hunters thousands of years ago. This project is part of on-going research in the area by the PWHNC.

The 2012 crew found eight new prehistoric sites with stone tools and animal bones and these sites will be returned to in 2013 for further excavation. The field season revealed tantalizing evidence of First Nations heritage, including a possible dwelling, cooking areas, and stone tool raw materials that had been traded or carried for hundreds of kilometres. The archaeological finds will be supplemented by oral history research, traditional knowledge interviews with Shúhtagot'ine Elders and DNA analyses of ice patch animal remains.

Permafrost river slumps at the inlet of O'Grady Lake in 2012 created large sedimentary profiles spanning the last 8,000 years. The profiles were cleaned and sampled for plant remains and volcanic ash that blanketed the landscape around 1,200 years ago. Radiocarbon samples collected from the profile will be analysed, along with the record of vegetation change, to reveal the environmental conditions that ancient people adapted to over the millennia. An additional goal of the project is to learn how archaeological information can be shared with the First Nation community of Tulita, NWT, in respectful and meaningful ways, including the use of illustrations and digital storytelling. To learn more about the project, please contact Todd Kristensen at toddk@ualberta.ca



Excavation site at O'Grady Lake, summer 2012.

Todd Kristensen is a PhD Student at the Department of Anthropology, University of Alberta, and this work will form the basis of his PhD.

and recently expanded Nahanni National Park Reserves. Within the park reserves, habitat for mountain woodland caribou, grizzly bears, Dall's sheep, mountain goats and Trumpeter swans will be preserved.

The signing of the IBP was also officially announced on August 22nd. This agreement between PCA and the Sahtu Dene and Métis of the Tulita District covers aspects of the economic, employment and park management relationships that will guide the park operations. Two financial grants were provided to the Tulita District Benefit Corporation (TDBC); one provides for negotiations of PCA offices and facilities and the second provides for a scholarship program. The IBP has provisions for TDBC to construct an office building in which PCA will eventually be a long-term lease holder.

The Sahtu Dene and Métis Land Corporations and Renewable Resources Councils (RRC) of the Tulita District and PCA have begun to implement the IBP. The RRC and the Minister responsible for PCA have appointed their membership to the Nááts'ihch'oh Management Committee which has met three times to begin management actions. Hiring for the new park reserve will begin in 2013, along with the opening of the temporary park offices.

National Historic Sites

Saoyú-?ehdacho National Historic Site of Canada

Through a PCA contribution agreement, the Délne Land Corporation organized and held the annual community cultural camp on Saoyú in July 2012 at Tih?ehdá or Dog Point (Cloud Bay on English maps). Up to 75 people took part, including 17 youth and additional little ones, 12 Elders and most of the Co-operative Management Board, including the new Western Arctic Field Unit Superintendent, Diane Wilson, and a PCA New Media Officer. Hunters shot ducks and two moose and netted fish. Elders showed young people how to properly prepare and smoke the



© PCA, July 2012

Mary Ann Vital cleans a lake trout in preparation for smoking.

fish and meat - including the moose heads - and how to pluck, singe and roast ducks. Elder women also showed girls how to collect spruce pitch and boil it over the fire to make medicine. The youth were provided with five video cameras and asked to record the experience from their perspective. This was a great success, encouraging interactions between Elders and youth. There was much celebration when the Rangers arrived in camp for the last evening, on their way back from a training exercise, and the camp closed with a Feeding of the Fire ceremony.

The Management Board consistently emphasizes that developing capacity in the community is critical, particularly in the documentation of heritage. In response, PCA ran an intensive five-day video workshop in Délne following the cultural camp. With direction from Neil Ingroville, PCA New Media Officer, Morris Neyelle, Candice F. Baton, and Felix Kargegie used raw video footage from the Saoyú cultural camp to create a short video that expresses the essence of the camp. The keen students stayed late some evenings to ensure that

they learned all the steps in making a video product. The ultimate goal is to post the video to the Saoyú-?ehdacho website and the PCA YouTube channel.

The parties to the Saoyú-?ehdacho Management Agreement committed to using traditional Sahtu?ot'ine names whenever possible. PCA is aiming to exceed this basic requirement on the Saoyú-?ehdacho website, which is scheduled to go live in early 2013. The site will feature North Slavey text on both the English and French sites and it is planned that in the future visitors will have the option to listen to North Slavey audio as well.

Saoyú-?ehdacho National Historic Site (SENHS) is now in the Conservation Areas Reporting and Tracking System (CARTS) database as a Category VI protected area and will be included in future protected areas status reports. Following the Management Board's approval in spring 2012, PCA submitted the site for inclusion in the CARTS database, the authoritative collection of protected areas in Canada. The database provides a single web site (http://www.ccea.org/en_carts.html) where people can view all Canadian protected areas. To be included, an area must meet the definition of protected area developed by the IUCN.

"A clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values."

In Category VI, the emphasis is on sustainable use of natural resources through activities such as hunting, as well as the protection of natural ecosystems and ecological processes. SENHS is the first national historic site administered by PCA that is IUCN-designated. The CARTS project is being managed by the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas, a non-profit organization with members from federal, provincial and territorial governments.

Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy

Protecting Important Places in the Northwest Territories

“The land takes care of us, we take care of the land.”

This is the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) motto, and it gets to the heart of what we are trying to do together. The land, the wildlife and the water in the NWT are special, and we all rely on them. One way the people of the NWT are making sure their special places are preserved for the next generation is by working together to create protected areas.

Protected Areas Strategy: A Partnership

The NWT PAS is a community-based process to establish a network of protected areas across the NWT. That means that the inspiration for protecting an area comes from the people who live there and are connected with that place. The PAS process works with communities to help them choose the type of area designations that match their values, vision, and cultural and economic needs. For example, a designation may allow outfitting while preserving certain values to meet the desires of the community, or perhaps another designation protects different values or needs and allows other commercial ventures that would be a better fit. Communities may consider combinations of territorial, federal and regional designations, depending on the type and degree of protection desired.

Protected Areas Strategy: The Goals

One of the goals of the PAS is to protect core representative areas within each of the NWT ecoregions. These core areas have no industrial development and capture a range of different landforms, vegetation and wildlife to help protect biodiversity of the region. Core representative areas are needed because:

- they are a critical element in maintaining healthy lands, waters and wildlife into the future;

- they help some species adapt to climate change;
- they can be used as monitoring areas to help measure the effects of development; and
- they are an ‘insurance policy’ as people learn more about the land and human impacts on it.

Core areas have long-term, year-round protection; are ecologically intact, primarily for the protection of nature; and are effectively managed. A systematic planning approach is necessary to identify core areas.

To date the PAS has used the ecoregions of the 1996 Ecological Framework for Canada to measure success in meeting the goal of protecting core representative areas in each ecoregion of the NWT. Over the past several years, the Government of the NWT (GNWT) has reviewed and updated these ecoregion boundaries. The map (see page 12) shows the revised boundaries along with candidate protected areas in the NWT.

The other goal of the PAS is to protect special natural and cultural areas in the NWT. Depending on their designation, these areas may be core areas or include ‘conservation lands’ having less stringent protection than core areas. Conservation lands still have conservation value and contribute to the maintenance of ecosystems, species and the protection of important traditional and cultural areas. Industrial development could occur in conservation lands, but only if it does not compromise the values being protected.

There are several mechanisms (e.g. legislation, policy, land use planning) that can be used to establish core or conservation lands.

Edézhzié National Wildlife Area

Edézhzié was the first candidate protected area in the NWT and it is the closest to being established as a National Wildlife Area (NWA) under the *Canada Wildlife Act*. The area includes the Horn Plateau, Mills Lake and Willowlake River, and provides important habitat for boreal woodland caribou, wood bison, migratory waterfowl and waterbirds. The Dehcho First Nation and Tłı̨chǫ Government have actively pursued

Edézhzié’s establishment. Edézhzié is a step closer to final establishment, with the Dehcho First Nation winning assurances from the federal and territorial governments that work will proceed to protect Edézhzié as an NWA under the *Canada Wildlife Act*.

“Edézhzié is very good water... pure water,” said Edwin Sabourin from Fort Providence. “This is our survival in the future. That is very important thing to our community, that water up there.”

The choice of NWA protection for Edézhzié is suited to its importance as both a site of traditional harvesting activities and scientific research. Edézhzié would be open to and welcome to all visitors, though no visitor facilities are anticipated. Activities like hunting (outfitted or sport) may be allowed in the NWA, but a permit is required from Environment Canada (EC). Aboriginal harvesting rights, including subsistence hunting and trapping are respected in an NWA.

Establishing protected areas like NWAs are a way of conserving land so people can continue to hunt for generations.

EC would administer the surface lands of the NWA, while subsurface lands would be administered by another agency, currently the Government of Canada, Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. Withdrawal of subsurface rights under the *Territorial Lands Act* is an option to prevent industrial development, such as oil and gas activities or mining.

EC’s Canadian Wildlife Service works with its partners to prepare management plans for each NWA. The management plan provides details on the activities allowed in the NWA: activities that will help reach or maintain the NWA’s goals are allowed, activities that will harm the wildlife or damage the land are usually not allowed. Management plans respect Aboriginal rights and practices.

Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut

Yukon

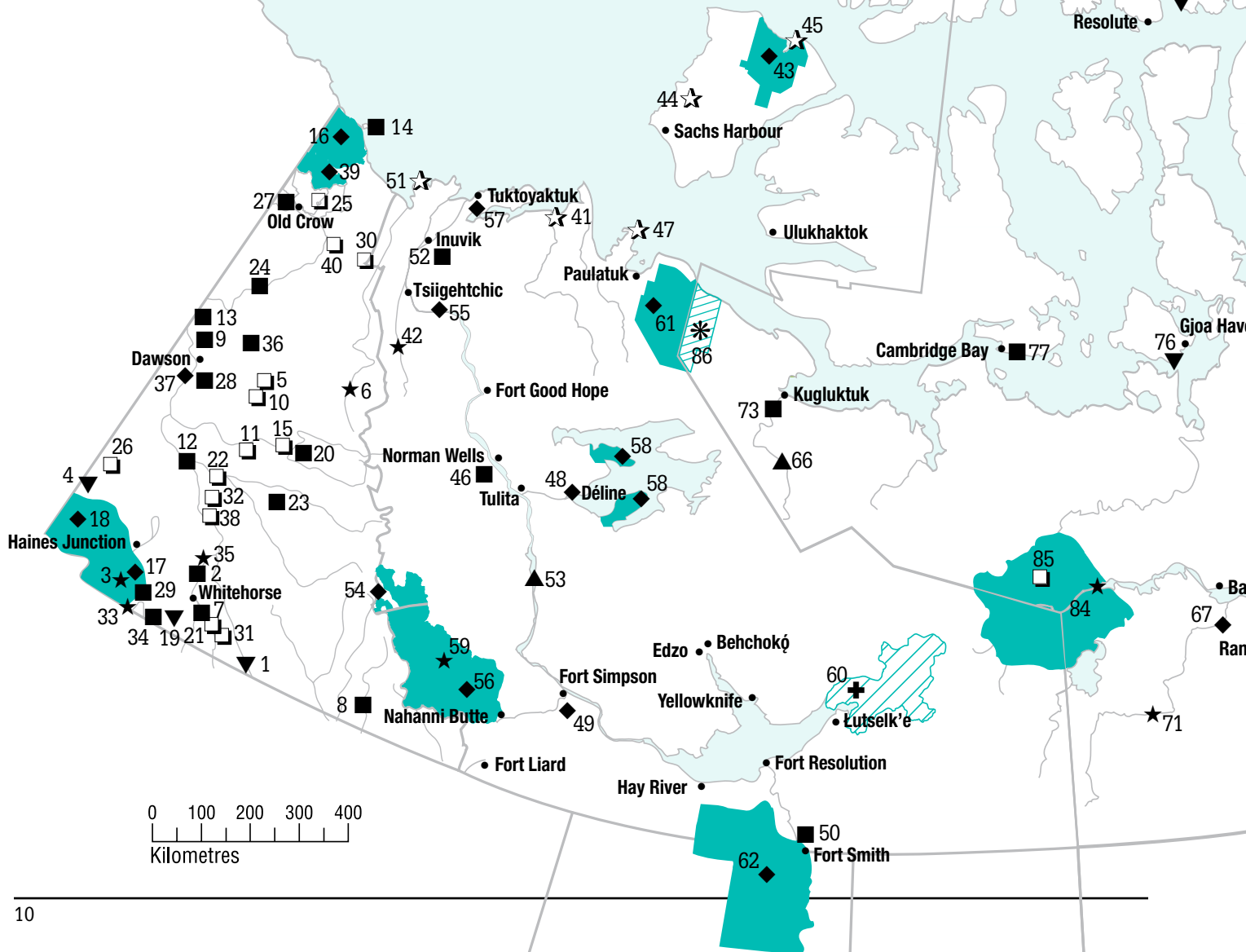
01. Agay Mene (proposed TP)
02. *AJ Goddard* Shipwreck (Lake Laberge) THS
03. Alsek CHR
04. Asi Keyi (proposed TP)
05. Big Island HPA
06. Bonnet Plume CHR
07. Canyon City THS
08. Coal River Springs TP
09. Dawson City Telegraph Office; Yukon Sawmill Company Office THS
10. Devil's Elbow HPA
11. Ddhaw Ghro HPA
12. Fort Selkirk THS
13. Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy & Fort Constantine THS
14. Herschel Island-Oikiqtaruk TP
15. Horseshoe Slough HPA
16. Ivvavik NP
17. Kluane NP
18. Kluane NPR
19. Kusawa (proposed TP)
20. Lansing Post THS
21. Lewes Marsh (proposed HPA)
22. L'hutsaw Wetlands HPA
23. Mabel McIntyre House, Mayo Legion Hall THS

24. Ni'inlii' Njik (Fishing Branch) TP
25. Old Crow Flats (Van Tat K'atr'anahtii) HPA
26. Pickhandle Lakes (proposed HPA)
27. Rampart House THS
28. Ridge Road Heritage Trail
29. Shāwshe THS
30. Summit Lake/Bell River (proposed TP)
31. Tagish Narrows (proposed HPA)
32. Ta'tla Mun SMA
33. Tatshenshini CHR
34. The Caribou Hotel (Carcross) THS
35. Thirty Mile (Yukon River) CHR
36. Tombstone TP
37. Tr'ochëk NHS
38. Tsāwnjik Chu (Nordenskiöld) HPA
39. Vuntut NP
40. Whitefish Wetlands (proposed HPA)

50. Fort Smith Mission TP
51. Kendall Island MBS
52. Kitigaryuit NHS
53. Mackenzie River (or portions thereof) (proposed CHR)
54. Nááts'ihch'oh (proposed NPR)
55. Nagwichoonjik NHS
56. Nahanni NPR
57. Pingo Canadian Landmark
58. Saoyü / ?ehdacho NHS
59. South Nahanni CHR
60. Thaidene Nene (proposed NPR)
61. Tuklut Nogait NP
62. Wood Buffalo NP

NWT (see also NWT PAS map on page 12)

41. Anderson River Delta MBS
42. Arctic Red River CHR
43. Aulavik NP
44. Banks Island No. 1 MBS
45. Banks Island No. 2 MBS
46. Canol Trail/Dodo Canyon TP
47. Cape Parry MBS
48. Déline Fishery & Fort Franklin NHS
49. Ehdaa NHS



Nunavut (also see CWS map on page 4)

- 63. Arvia'juaq NHS
- 64. Auyuittuq NP
- 65. Beechey Island TP
- 66. Coppermine River CHR
- 67. Fall Caribou Crossing NHS
- 68. Fossil Creek Trail/Alikivik TP
- 69. Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga TP
- 70. Katannilik TP
- 71. Kazan River CHR
- 72. Kekerten TP
- 73. Kugluk/Bloody Falls TP
- 74. Lancaster Sound NMCA (proposed NMCA)

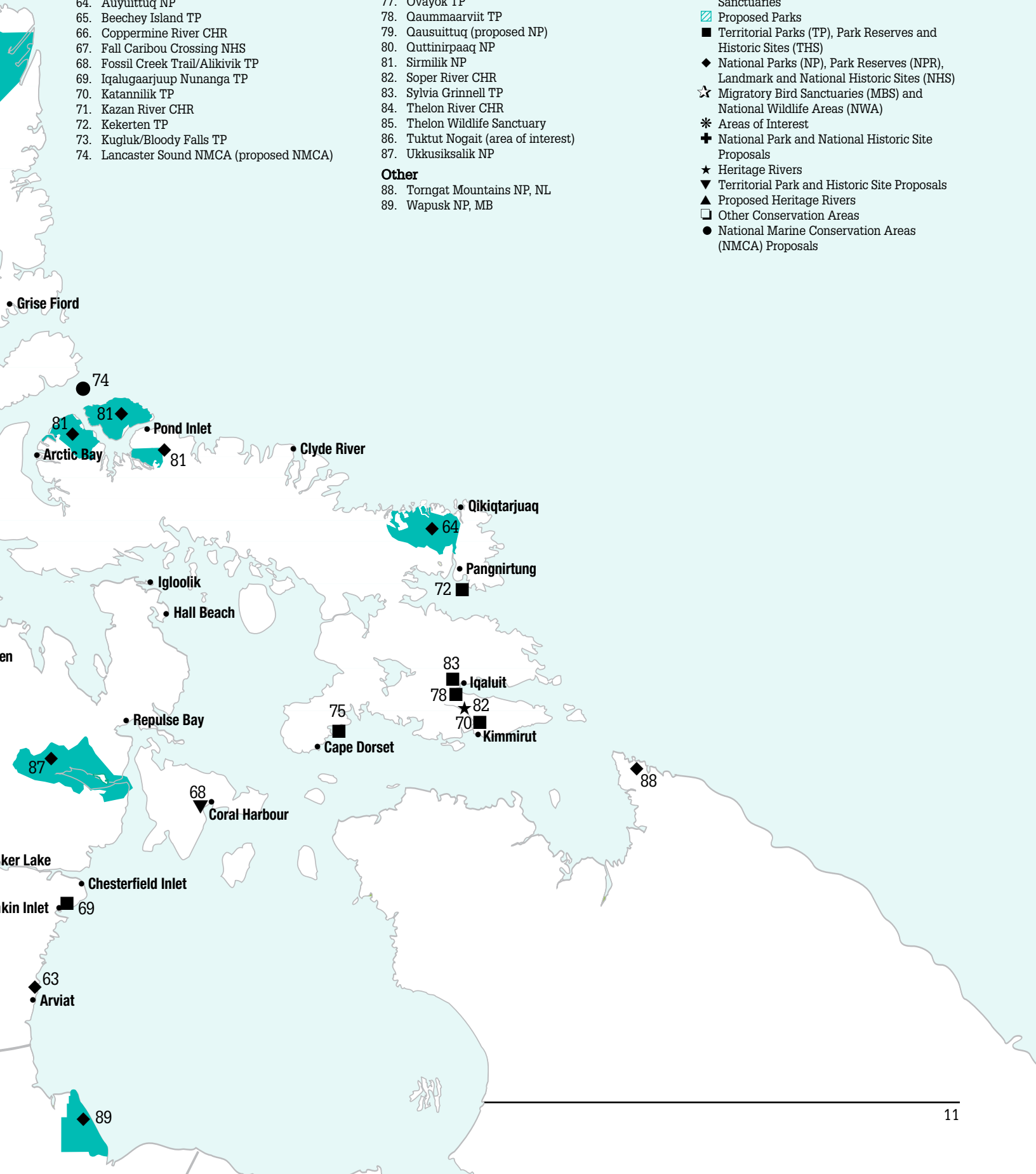
- 75. Mallikjuaq TP
- 76. Northwest Passage Trail TP
- 77. Owayok TP
- 78. Qaummaarviit TP
- 79. Qausuittuq (proposed NP)
- 80. Quttinirpaaq NP
- 81. Sirmilik NP
- 82. Soper River CHR
- 83. Sylvia Grinnell TP
- 84. Thelon River CHR
- 85. Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary
- 86. Tuklut Nogait (area of interest)
- 87. Ukkusiksalik NP

Other

- 88. Torngat Mountains NP, NL
- 89. Wapusk NP, MB

Legend

- Existing Parks, Park Reserves, and Sanctuaries
- ▨ Proposed Parks
- Territorial Parks (TP), Park Reserves and Historic Sites (THS)
- ◆ National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), Landmark and National Historic Sites (NHS)
- ☆ Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) and National Wildlife Areas (NWA)
- * Areas of Interest
- ⊕ National Park and National Historic Site Proposals
- ★ Heritage Rivers
- ▼ Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals
- ▲ Proposed Heritage Rivers
- Other Conservation Areas
- National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCA) Proposals

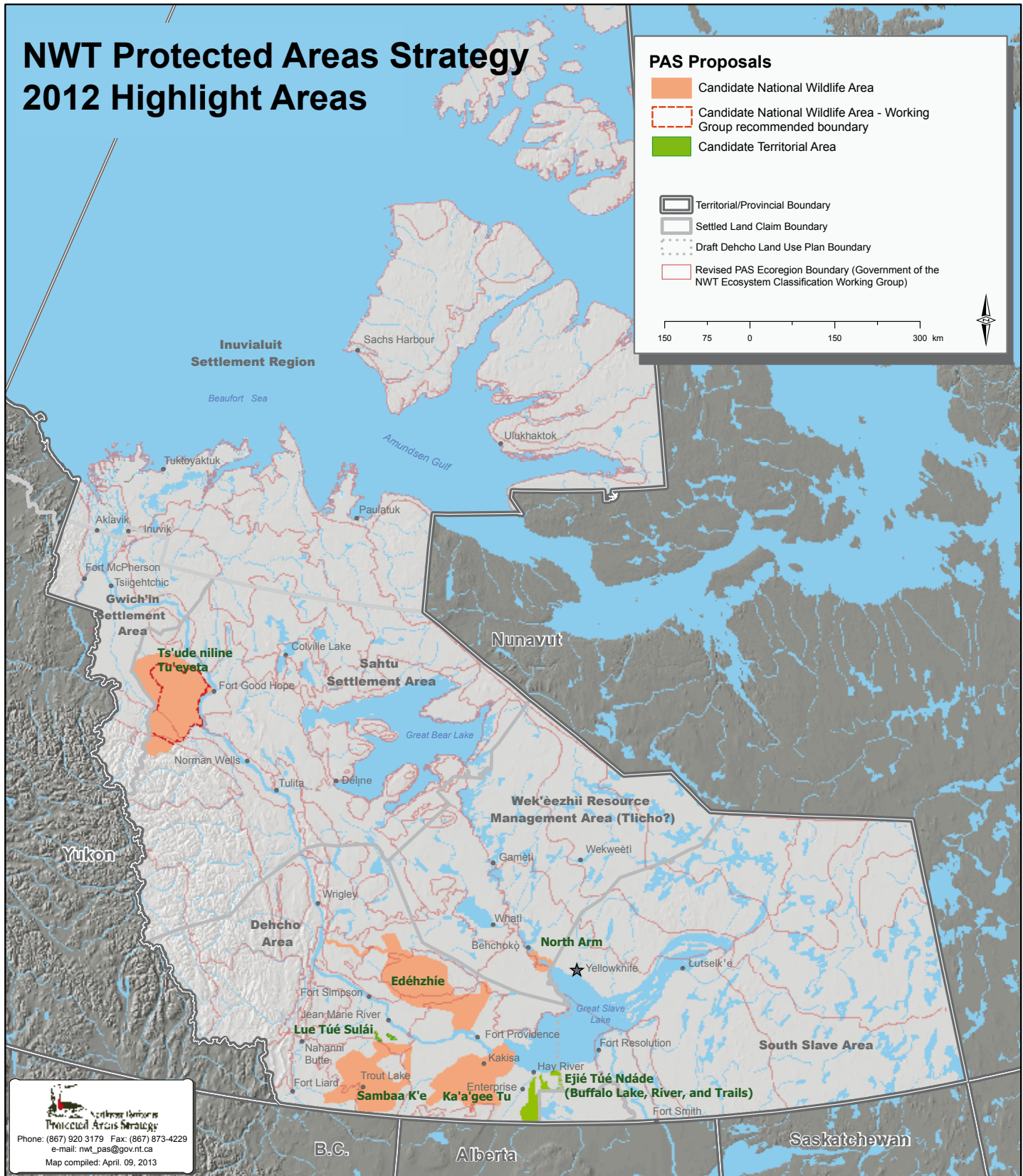


NWT Protected Areas Strategy 2012 Highlight Areas

PAS Proposals

- Candidate National Wildlife Area
- Candidate National Wildlife Area - Working Group recommended boundary
- Candidate Territorial Area
- Territorial/Provincial Boundary
- Settled Land Claim Boundary
- Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan Boundary
- Revised PAS Ecoregion Boundary (Government of the NWT Ecosystem Classification Working Group)

150 75 0 150 300 km



 Northwest Territories
Protected Areas Strategy
Phone: (867) 920 3179 Fax: (867) 873-4229
e-mail: nwt_pas@gov.nt.ca
Map compiled: April 09, 2013

Other Areas

There are several other areas communities have proposed for conservation or protection. These areas have gone through various stages of the PAS process. After Edézhíe, the working group for Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta (Ramparts River and Wetlands) has completed their recommendation report, now being considered by surrounding communities in the Sahtu region. Working groups for Ka'a'gee Tu, Sambaa K'e, and the North Arm in the southern part of the NWT are also preparing to issue their reports. The smaller areas of Lue Túé Sulái (Five Fish Lakes) and Ejié Túé Ndáde (Buffalo Lake, River and Trails) are also being considered under territorial legislation.

In light of the pending devolution final agreement, the GNWT is evaluating its emerging role for the management of lands and resources in the NWT. As a result, the GNWT is now in a better position to define its approach to land use and management, specifically in relation

to the PAS. The GNWT is committed to the PAS and land use planning post-devolution. In the interim, the GNWT has proposed to Canada that no additional commitments for NWAs be made until after devolution.

The GNWT will actively promote the use of northern tools as complements or alternatives for these and future candidate areas. The impending devolution of lands and resources to the GNWT will necessitate the evolution of northern tools. In addition to legislation currently found in the territorial parks and wildlife acts, land use planning will be one such instrument the GNWT is proposing to employ to meet the conservation goals of these proposed protected areas. The GNWT will continue to support the extension of interim land withdrawals for candidate areas until final decisions are made post-devolution.

Get Involved

The PAS is a joint effort between many organizations. The

Steering Committee is made up of eight Aboriginal groups and governments, two industry groups, two environmental non-government groups, and the federal and territorial governments.

Akaiicho Territory Government
Dehcho First Nations
Gwich'in Tribal Council
Inuvialuit
North Slave Métis Alliance
Northwest Territory Métis Nation
Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
Tłı̨chǫ Government
Canadian Association of
Petroleum Producers
NWT and Nunavut Chamber of
Mines
Canadian Parks and Wilderness
Society – NWT Chapter
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Government of Canada
Government of the NWT

If you would like more details, have an opinion or some information that you would like to share, contact the NWT PAS Secretariat in Yellowknife at (867) 920-3179 or by e-mail at nwt_pas@gov.nt.ca.

Yukon

Government of Yukon – Tourism and Heritage *Cultural Services Branch*

Thirty Mile (Yukon) Heritage River

The Thirty Mile River is one of the most scenic and historic sections of the upper Yukon River, and was designated a Canadian Heritage River (CHR) in 1991. It was also the most challenging part for navigators, which the presence of many sternwheeler wrecks will attest to. There are several settlements along this part of the river, including Lower Laberge and Hootalinqua. Shipyard Island hosts the impressive remains of the *S.S. Evelyn/Norcom*. (also see article on page 16)

At Lower Laberge, the first stage of structural stabilization of the Telegraph Building began with the delivery of foundation logs to the site.



Lower Laberge Roadhouse, Thirty Mile River.

© YG 2012

A Yukon River Survey was initiated, with questionnaires available at Lower Laberge and Fort Selkirk. The goal of this survey is to determine the nature of visitors to Yukon River historic sites, and to learn about their experience on the river. For those who have travelled the Yukon River, the questionnaire is available online:

www.yukonhistoricplaces.ca

Fort Selkirk Historic Site

Fort Selkirk is viewed by many as the crown jewel of Yukon heritage. The site has been used by people for thousands of years and its over 40 standing structures, dating from as far back as 1892, represent a meeting place and home for two cultures.

The restoration and interpretation program at Fort Selkirk was initiated 25 years ago, and the Selkirk First Nation / Government of Yukon (YG) partnership realized numerous accomplishments at the site in 2012.

The Joe Roberts Cabin was recipient of a new foundation, floor, log gable ends and roof. The roof had become structurally unstable so had to be dismantled to permit this work. To enhance the longevity of this and other buildings traditionally fitted with sod-covered pole roofs, an impermeable synthetic rubber membrane is now being used between the poles and the sod. The T&D Stable, which is associated



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Forty Mile Aerial, looking west, Fortymile River at left.

with Fort Selkirk's role as the terminus of the Dalton Trail, is currently the major storage structure for building materials. The building had deteriorated to the point where near total reconstruction was required.

This is being done in two phases: the south half of the building walls have been rebuilt, and the north half will be completed this summer, assisted by a wintertime log acquisition project.

Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site

This site, established in 1886, is famous for being Yukon's first gold mining community, having the first

Northwest Mounted Police post and mission school, and being the location where the first Klondike Gold Rush claims were registered. There is evidence of human activity at the site 2,000 years prior to the gold prospector's arrival.

Numerous activities occurred at Forty Mile in 2012. The Roadhouse, which was stabilized in 2011, has been fitted with interior improvements to allow for its use as maintenance workers' accommodations. Wall tents over wood and plywood frames have been installed for interpreters' housing and for wet weather visitors' shelters. Access to the site is being improved with the upgrade of the pedestrian footbridge over a seasonally flooded slough. As well, the landing at the end of the access road, about one kilometre from the historic site, has been upgraded, with a thorough cleanup, directional signage, and repairs to the kitchen shelter.

Rampart and Lapierre House Historic Sites

Rampart House Historic Site, located near the mouth of Boundary Creek (Shanàghan K'òhnjik) at the boundary between the United States and Canada, was an important gathering place for Gwich'in living along the Porcupine River. It was one of the earliest Yukon places where Gwich'in met and interacted with fur traders, missionaries, police, and



© YG 2012

View from Anglican Schoolhouse, Fort Selkirk.



© YG 2012

Rampart House, Cadzow House at left.

government officials. It was home to several Gwich'in families and continues to be visited regularly by Gwich'in from Yukon and Alaska.

Work on the Anglican Rectory continued in 2012, with replacement of the foundation and lower rounds of the log walls, installation of the floor joists and precutting roof rafters. The work was carried out by Vuntut Gwitchin workers: Kibbe Tetlich as site supervisor, Harvey Kassi, Joseph Bruce and Wilfred Josie as log workers, Devyn Kassi as assistant and Faye Elias and Saniz Catholique as cooks.

A team composed of YG and Vuntut Gwitchin staff visited Lapierre House to inspect the site and start planning for the installation of visitor facilities, including interpretive signage, boardwalks and an outhouse.

Herschel Island Territorial Park

Herschel Island - Oikiqtaruk (island in Inuvialuit) is Yukon's only island in the Beaufort Sea. It has been occupied for at least 1,000 years by Inuvialuit and their ancestors, and came to prominence during the late 19th century commercial whaling boom. Its first European settlement was by whalers who overwintered with their ships at Pauline Cove. Anglican missionaries, fur traders and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) arrived soon thereafter. The site declined with the end of

It Takes a Village to Raise a House on Herschel Island

In summer 2012, Yukon Parks Branch undertook a challenging and unique construction project: building new living quarters for Park Rangers at Herschel Island – Oikiqtaruk Territorial Park. Designing and building a house involves a considerable amount of work under normal circumstances. Imagine meeting modern building codes and historical and archaeological requirements for a construction project on a remote island in the Beaufort Sea.

In April a chartered DC-3 made three flights from Inuvik to Herschel to position lumber and building materials, which accounted for over half of the total budget. A work crew of three arrived on July 18 and with the assistance of Park Rangers, researchers and others, construction was completed on August 9.

The 20 x 24 building has a small footprint and was carefully designed to meet historical design considerations. The new structure is sited on a dry spot within the existing cluster of buildings at Pauline Cove, and it was built on elevated bracing to allow for relocation.

To minimize disturbance, planners also factored in Herschel's wildlife and human visitors. In addition to being a staging area for migratory birds, the immediate area around the buildings is frequently used by ducks for nesting. Polar bears also frequent the island. During the summer cruise ships visit Herschel. Parks Branch worked with the Aklavik Hunters and

Trappers Committee, and available data, to schedule construction around all of the various visitors.

The project involved many partners including Yukon Historic Sites Unit, Herschel Island – Oikiqtaruk Territorial Park Rangers, staff from Yukon Parks in Whitehorse, Yukon Parks Klondike Region, as well as Environment Information Management & Technology.



© YG, August 2012

Herschel Island – Oikiqtaruk Building Crew.

whaling, and the closing of the RCMP detachment left the MacKenzie family as the last year-round Inuvialuit residents. Herschel Island Territorial Park was created under the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*, which gave Yukon Historic Sites responsibility for the historic settlement at Pauline Cove. Conservation and interpretation have been carried out on these resources since the mid-1980s.

A new Interpretive Plan has been created for the historic component of Herschel Island, and two projects have been undertaken under the plan. A DVD is being produced for distribution on the cruise ships that will introduce the island and its resources to the visitors, and describe the etiquette expected from visitors. This should save much time for the Park Rangers who have had to do this onboard prior to people debarking for the island. As well, a new system of rail based hangers is being installed in the Community House, where visitor interpretation is conducted, to permit interpretive posters to be displayed in a more coherent way without creating a multitude of holes in the historic wall panels.

Major building conservation work focussed on the Community House in 2012. This building sits on wood sills, which are permanently frozen to the ground year-round. After 120 years these sills are starting to rot and are gradually being replaced. The kitchen window was modified so it could open to assist with lowering moisture levels in the building and to allow the smell of cooking muktuk to escape. The other buildings received minor conservation projects including partial floor replacement in the Northern Whaling & Trading Co. Shed and door hardware upgrades in other buildings.

Environment Yukon *Parks and Conservation*

By virtue of permanent withdrawal status, 11.3% of Yukon's land area is protected for conservation purposes. More protected areas will come in the future as a consequence of regional land use planning mandated by Yukon First Nation land claims. Four waterways have also been



© YG 2009

Paddling the Bonnet Plume.

designated as CHRs. Progress was made in several areas over the course of 2012.

Canadian Heritage Rivers

The Tatshenshini River, the Thirty-Mile section of the Yukon River, the Alsek River and the Bonnet Plume River are designated CHRs. The Parks Branch of Environment Yukon monitors industrial use (e.g., mineral exploration activities) on the Tatshenshini, Bonnet Plume and Thirty-Mile. Parks Canada has the mandate to manage the Alsek River as a CHR.

Initial results from the second Backcountry Recreational Impact Monitoring (BRIM) program on the Thirty Mile section of the Yukon River indicate some overuse of the campsites. Further research using the 2006 and 2011 BRIM results determined the overall impacts. A mandatory 20-year monitoring report is now being prepared which will outline actions needed to protect the river in future. The monitoring report will also present a review of how the management plan for the Thirty Mile has been implemented since 1990, when the CHR designation was made. The report will be submitted to the CHR Board in 2013 and,

once accepted, be available on the Environment Yukon website (www.env.gov.yk.ca). (also see article on page 13)

The Bonnet Plume River lies in the Peel River watershed and is remote even by Yukon standards. A public review of the final recommended *Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan* generated significant public debate in 2012. The YG will make a decision once it reviews all the feedback received by the February 25, 2013, deadline on how to proceed to finalize the land use planning process for the Peel Watershed Region. The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation and Gwich'in Tribal Council are also involved with finalizing the plan.

Special Management Areas

Many Yukon First Nation final agreements provide for the creation of Special Management Areas (SMAs) to support the preservation of ecological values as well as traditional First Nation use. SMAs can protect First Nations' settlement lands, territorial lands and/or federal lands. SMAs can acquire additional protection through designation as a Habitat Protection Area (HPA) under



© YG 2010

Summit Lake.

the territory's *Wildlife Act* or as a territorial park under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*.

Summit Lake – Bell River

The *North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan* calls for protecting the pristine Bell River and Summit Lake area, by the Yukon-NWT border. This area contains some of the highest wildlife, fish, cultural, and heritage values in the region, including important concentrated use areas for the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

The Summit Lake-Bell River area also has high wilderness tourism and recreation value and potential. It is an important subsistence and cultural use area for Vuntut Gwitchin, Tetlit Gwich'in and Inuvialuit residents. The YG and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation are working together to determine the boundary for the SMA and how it should be designated, e.g., Ecological Reserve.

Parks

Environment Yukon manages four territorial parks: Tombstone, Herschel Island - Qikiqtaruk, Ni'iinlii Njik (Fishing Branch) and Coal River Springs.

Yukon First Nation Final Agreements call for three additional territorial parks to be established: Kusawa, Agay Mene, and Asi Keyi. Each will have a park management plan which must consider natural and heritage resource protection, park management structures, and existing recreational use.

Tombstone Territorial Park

The Tombstone Interpretive Centre's third full year of operations saw more than 12,000 visitors, of which 15% were part of organized tours by licensed wilderness tourism operators.



© YG 2006

Primrose Narrows at Kusawa Lake.



Lewes Marsh.

The park management plan provides for employment and economic opportunities for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens and directs activities in the park. The YG – Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Management Committee is undertaking a review of the three-year-old plan, to be completed in 2013, which will include public participation.

Tombstone's 2,100 km² of diverse landscape, spectacular scenery and cultural history make it a popular destination for hikers and other travelers. Backcountry campsites can be reserved at Grizzly, Divide and Talus lakes. The park also has a 36-site campground for road travelers.

Habitat Protection Areas

An HPA is an area identified as requiring special protection under Yukon's *Wildlife Act*. HPA designations are used to manage areas where a wildlife species is concentrated at certain times of year, a habitat type is rare in the Yukon, or a site is particularly fragile.

Seven HPAs have been designated in Yukon to date, protecting about 5,770 km² of exceptional habitat. Four more will be designated in future: Ddhaw Ghro, Lewes Marsh, Pickhandle Lakes and Tagish Narrows. Most HPAs were called for in First Nation Final Agreements. Detailed information about Yukon

HPAs is available at www.env.gov.yk.ca/hpa.

Pickhandle Lakes

A steering committee of Kluane First Nation, White River First Nation and YG members continued the management planning process for the 51 km² HPA in 2012. The Pickhandle Lakes, located along the Alaska flyway, are an important waterfowl nesting and staging area that also supports healthy populations of furbearers and moose. The *Kluane First Nation Final Agreement* called for an HPA here. For more information visit www.yfwcm.ca/pickhandle.

Whitefish Wetlands

The *North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan* recommended that the 468 km² Whitefish Wetlands be protected. The wetlands are an important subsistence and cultural use area for the Vuntut Gwitchin and Tetlit Gwich'in First Nations. This area includes Vuntut Gwitchin settlement lands. The YG and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation will begin the planning process in 2013/14.

Regional Land Use Planning

The Yukon and First Nations governments use regional land use planning in order to ensure that use of lands and resources is consistent with social, cultural, economic and environmental values, as well as to prevent land use and resource conflicts. Yukon First Nation Final Agreements set out the process, which includes building upon the traditional knowledge and experience of the residents of each region.

There are eight regional planning regions in Yukon, with boundaries that generally reflect the boundaries of First Nation traditional territories. The North Yukon Land Use Plan was approved in 2009. In 2012, YG launched a public review of the *Final Recommended Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan* (www.peelconsultation.ca). Work continued on the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan (www.dawson.planyukon.ca).

The regional land use process can be used to establish parks, HPAs and other protected areas not directly called for in First Nation Final Agreements. A good example of this is the North Yukon Plan, which recommends the Bell River – Summit Lake area and Whitefish Wetlands be protected. For more information about regional land use planning in Yukon visit www.planyukon.ca.

For More Information

Additional information on the initiatives described in *New Parks North* can be obtained from the following offices:

Nunavut Parks and Special Places

Department of Environment
Government of Nunavut
Box 1000, Station 1340
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
www.nunavutparks.com
Attention: Nick Burnaby
Park Planner
phone: (867) 975-7753
fax: (867) 975-7747
e-mail: nburnaby@gov.nu.ca

NU Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife Areas

Environment Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
Box 1714
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
www.mb.ec.gc.ca
Attention: Siu-Ling Han
Head, Eastern Arctic
phone: (867) 975-4633
fax: (867) 975-4645
e-mail: siu-ling.han@ec.gc.ca

Yukon Territorial Parks and Heritage Rivers

Environment Yukon
Box 2703 (V-4)
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6
www.env.gov.yk.ca
Attention: Dave Ladret
Special Projects Officer
phone: (867) 667-3595
fax: (867) 393-6223
toll free: 1-800-661-0408
e-mail: dave.ladret@gov.yk.ca

Yukon Historic Sites

Department of Tourism and Culture
Historic Sites Unit
Government of Yukon
Box 2703 (L-2)
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6
www.tc.gov.yk/historicsites or
www.yukonhistoricplaces.ca
Attention: Bruce Barrett
Historic Sites Project
Officer
phone: (867) 667-3463
fax: (867) 667-8023
e-mail: bruce.barrett@gov.yk.ca

NWT Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife Areas

Environment Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
Box 2310 (#401, 5019 52nd Street)
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7
www.mb.ec.gc.ca
Attention: Bruce MacDonald
Manager, Northern
Conservation Section
phone: (867) 669-4779
fax: (867) 873-6776
e-mail: brucea.macdonald@ec.gc.ca

NWT Protected Areas Strategy

Environment and Natural
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Attention: Darin Bagshaw
Protected Areas
Strategy Secretariat
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fax: (867) 873-0293
e-mail: nwt_pas@gov.nt.ca

National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservation Areas

Parks Canada
Box 1166
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www.pc.gc.ca
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fax: (867) 766-8466
e-mail: newparksnorth.info@pc.gc.ca

All of the agencies listed here have contributed to this publication over the years. Our goal has been to provide a single, annual publication of interest to everyone following northern natural and cultural heritage conservation issues in a convenient and economical medium. Your comments are welcome, addressed to the Editor at the National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservations Areas address above.

