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# Heritage Riverscapes

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Canadian Heritage Rivers System, Spring 1999



## The Upper Restigouche, New Brunswick: Domain of the Atlantic salmon

One of the world's best known destinations for Atlantic salmon fishing was officially welcomed into the CHRS with a plaque unveiling ceremony on Canada Day, 1998. This was the culmination of a week-long Restigouche River Festival held in Kedgwick River, N.B. and surrounding communities.

Despite steady rain, more than 300 people made their way to the riverbank at the Echo Restigouche tourism facility. Among the government representatives, volunteers and local residents were two elders representing the Micmac Nation. Margaret LaBillois from Eel River Bar and Don Caplin from Listiguj added some beautifully moving words to the occasion. "The Micmac people are part of this river and we urge everyone to work together to protect and cherish it," Mr. Caplin told the crowd. "Everyone should be in harmony with nature, otherwise all that we will have to leave to our grandchildren, who aren't even born, is a dirty river." Mrs. LaBillois said a prayer in Micmac, then in English, asking the Creator "for wisdom, for our hands to respect the things that surround us, for our ears to hear the Creator's words, that we may walk appreciating beauty."

Representing Parks Canada at the ceremony was Gilles Babin, the Field Unit Superintendent from Kouchibouguac National Park. Jean-Paul Savoie, MLA for Restigouche West and Minister of Regional Development Corporation and Northern Development was on hand to represent the New Brunswick government.



Anyone who has had the good fortune to paddle this river can certainly appreciate its beauty. The size of the salmon that jump out of it is truly astounding. And the ones that don't actually jump out have the appearance of some monster from a Scottish loch as their silvery backs break the surface before disappearing again.

This second New Brunswick river to join the CHRS is fast becoming a prime canoe tripping destination. Combined with its already well-known value as a salmon fishing river and the beauty of the surrounding countryside, the Upper Restigouche is a welcome addition to the family of Canadian Heritage Rivers. The enthusiasm and dedication of local communities will help ensure that the Restigouche and other Canadian Heritage rivers are protected into the future.

### MAY

By Larry Everson

There are those who are most alive  
Around some river bend  
In spring the young ones call my name  
But I am gone again

Ghosts and dreams and desperate  
schemes  
Considered – and forgot  
Cornered in the alley, yes  
But never, never caught

I've done my time at my desk  
Pretending to be me  
I am in truth on river bends  
Fierce and fine and free

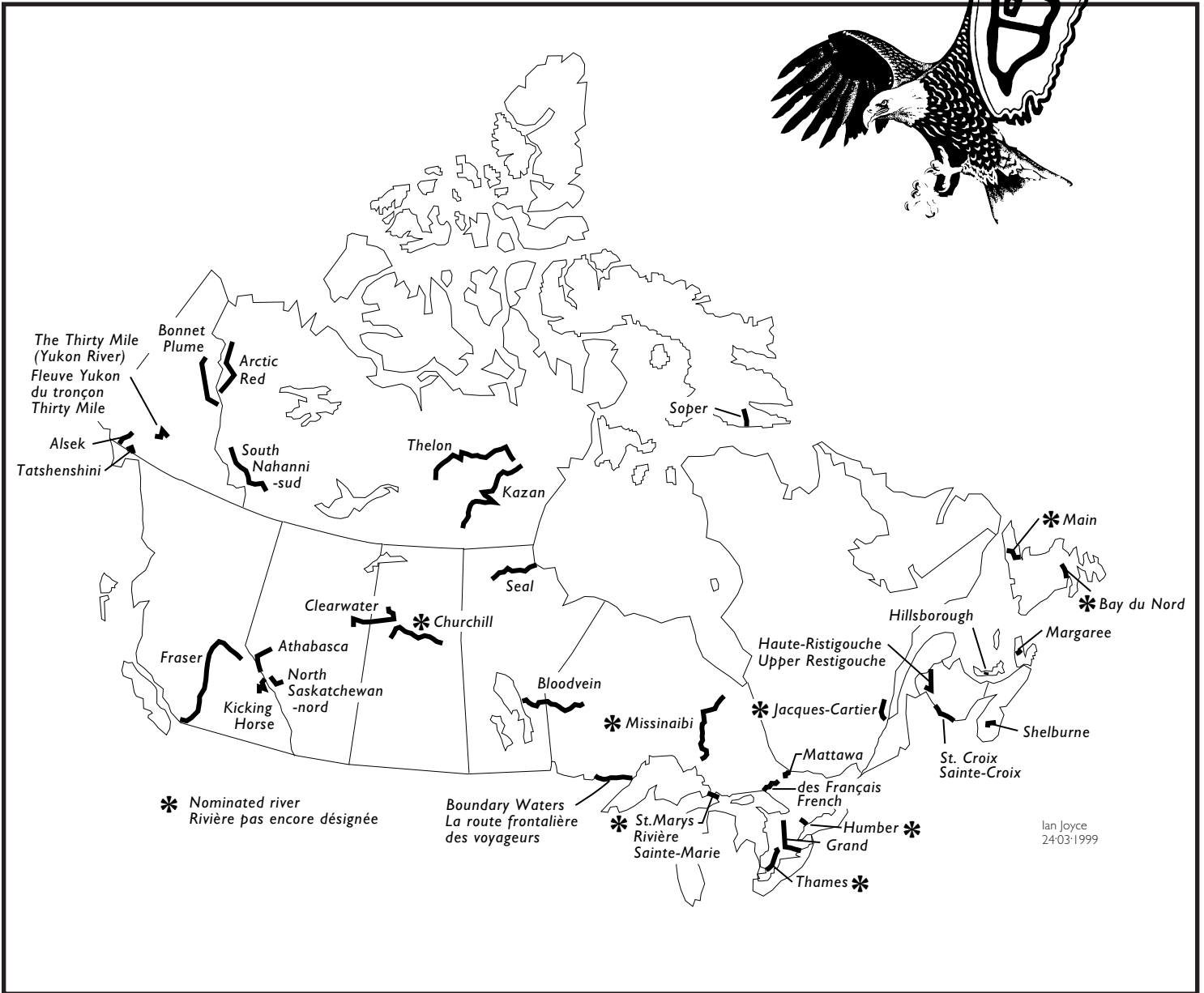
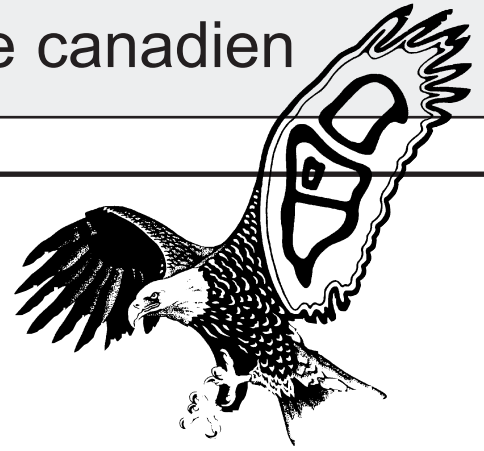
A flash of paddle on the lake  
A dancer on the creeks  
In May the old men call my name  
But only distance speaks

From *Twelve Months and a Canoe*  
An Illustrated Set of Poems about  
Canoeing

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# Canadian Heritage Rivers System Réseau de rivières du patrimoine canadien



**CHRS RIVERS 33**

**DESIGNATED**  
(since May 1998)

**NOMINATED**  
(since May 1998)

Designated 25  
Nominated 8  
Kms of river 8170

Fraser, BC  
Margaree, Nova Scotia  
Bloodvein, Ontario section

Tatshenshini, Yukon section

# New Designations

Since May, 1998, three designations to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System have been approved by the appropriate Ministers responsible for the program. The rivers are British Columbia's Fraser, Nova Scotia's Margaree, and the Ontario section of the Bloodvein.

## Fraser River - Where the Salmon is King

The Fraser River - the largest river in British Columbia, the longest river in the CHRS, the greatest salmon river in the world - is a river of superlatives. The Fraser's journey of 1375 kms begins in Mount Robson Provincial Park, in the shadow of the highest mountain in the Rockies. It ends in Vancouver, where it merges with the Pacific Ocean among vast wetlands, internationally recognized as an important staging and nesting area for shorebirds and waterfowl. Its rapids and canyons, once cursed by Simon Fraser, the first European to travel its tumultuous waters, are now favourites with whitewater enthusiasts.

The management plan for the Fraser was tabled at the June, 1998 CHR Board meeting in Victoria, B.C. Entitled "Managing the Fraser as a Canadian Heritage River: A Living Strategy" the plan outlines a vision for the Fraser - one where all interests work together toward conservation and protection of natural and human heritage values, recreational opportunities, and river integrity.

## Bloodvein River - Deep in the Heart of the Land

Named perhaps for the red granite running through the bedrock, the Bloodvein slashes through the Canadian Shield over 100 sets of rapids on its journey to Lake Winnipeg. Endless forests of jack pine, bald eagles, walleye and northern pike all await the intrepid wilderness canoeist. Red ochre pictographs of bison, human figures, hands and power symbols grace overhanging rock faces.

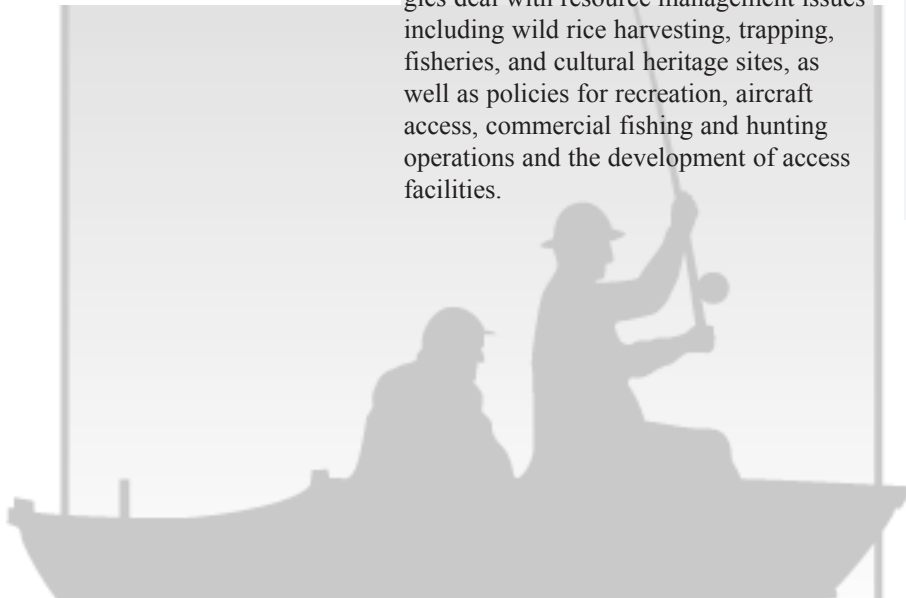
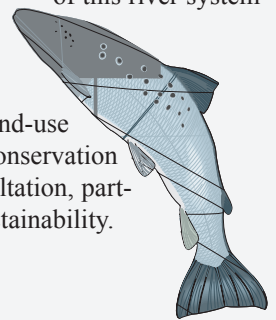
The Ontario portion of the Bloodvein falls almost entirely within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, a wilderness class park in the Ontario Parks System. The plan defines the management area, a 200-metre corridor along each river bank, as well as the lake shorelines along the main river channel. The objectives of the management plan are to conserve and protect the natural and cultural values of the Bloodvein, and to provide opportunities to experience the river and interpret its natural and cultural heritage values. The plan also promotes and encourages cooperation between the governments of Ontario and Manitoba in developing transboundary strategies for the management of this Canadian Heritage River. Specific strategies deal with resource management issues including wild rice harvesting, trapping, fisheries, and cultural heritage sites, as well as policies for recreation, aircraft access, commercial fishing and hunting operations and the development of access facilities.

## Margaree River - Secret Pools and Tranquil Glades

The Margaree slips out of Lake Ainslie, Cape Breton Island, over rapids and waterfalls, through deep salmon pools and still marshes, past tranquil forests, on its way to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The icy clear waters of the wild upper reaches are a mecca for spawning Atlantic salmon and trout. Downstream, fertile farms, weirs and villages rich in Acadian and Scottish heritage are framed by maple ridges that provide vibrant autumn vistas.

The management plan for the Margaree-Lake Ainslie River System, entitled "A Partnership Strategy", is an ongoing process of consultation and study, resulting in the identification of priority actions needed for the conservation, interpretation and appreciation of its heritage values and features. Key to this process is community and government co-operation. The Margaree was one of the first rivers nominated to the CHRS that passes through a landscape that is predominantly settled and privately owned. Management of this river system

required new and innovative approaches to resource and land-use planning and conservation based on consultation, partnership and sustainability.



## New Nominations

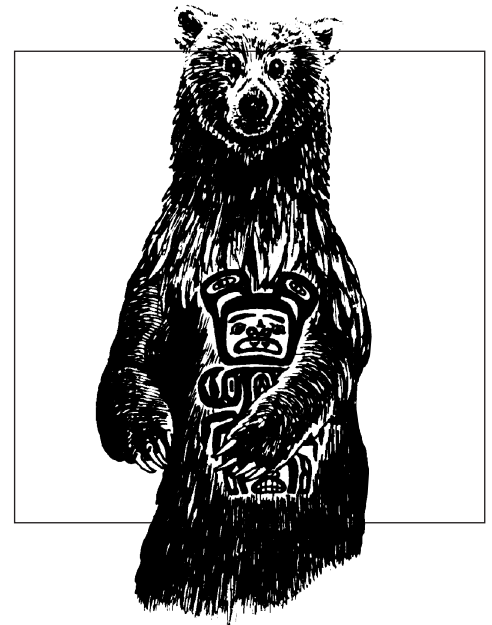
### Tatshenshini River (Yukon) - River of Dreams

The nomination of the 45 km Yukon section of the Tatshenshini was accepted at the June, 1998 CHR Board meeting, held in Victoria, B.C. Exhilarating rapids, canyons, soaring mountains, and unequalled opportunities to view big game - all combine to make the Tatshenshini a



river of dreams. The river supports an unusually large population of grizzly bears, both in number and size. Other big game includes mountain goats, Dall's sheep, woodland

caribou and moose. Peregrine falcons, bald eagles, golden eagles, and goshawks are also a common sight. The Tatshenshini is an important salmon spawning river, providing food for grizzlies, and for people. The Champagne and Aishihik peoples traditionally harvested salmon along the Tatshenshini, and at the village of Klukshu, visitors can learn about the importance of salmon to their way of life. Today, the Tatshenshini is considered to be one of the top river trips in the world for rafters and kayakers.

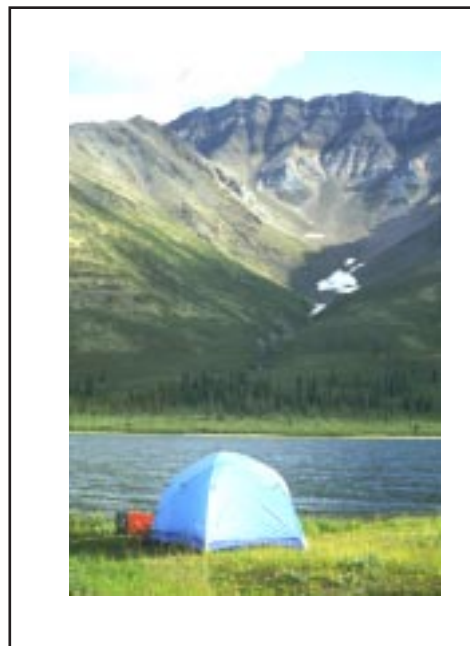


## CHRS Ceremonies

### Bonnet Plume River, Yukon

A CHRS plaque unveiling ceremony to commemorate the designation of the Bonnet Plume River took place at Mayo, Yukon on July 18, 1998. The ceremony was hosted by the Yukon government and DIAND, in conjunction with the Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation and the Mayo Renewable Resources Council. Dignitaries in attendance included the Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources, the Honourable Eric Fairclough; the acting Chief of the Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation, Barb Buyck; the Chair of the Mayo Renewable Resources Council, Frank Patterson and Yukon's Director General of DIAND, Terry Sewell. Parks Canada was represented at the event by Shelley Gellatly, Acting Field Unit Superintendent for Yukon.

Media coverage of the ceremony included CBC television and radio and the Yukon News. A six minute feature on the Bonnet Plume designation was later broadcast on CBC television, Northern Service.



Camping on the Bonnet Plume

### Fraser River, British Columbia

Over 300 people attended a CHRS plaque unveiling ceremony for the Fraser River which was held in New Westminster, British Columbia on September 27, 1998. The plaque was unveiled by B.C.'s Minister of Small Business, Tourism and Culture, the Honourable Ian Waddell, and by the federal MP for Port Moody-Coquitlam- Port Coquitlam, Lou Sekora. Other dignitaries in attendance were Gail Sparrow, Chief of the Musqueam First Nation, Helen Sparkes, Mayor of New Westminster and Darlene Marzari, Director of the Fraser Basin Council.

The ceremony took place on B.C. Rivers Day, a province wide celebration of over 100 events involving 25,000 people and numerous communities across the province. The objective of Rivers Day is to raise public awareness and appreciation of local rivers. The Fraser River plaque unveiling was a key event in the 1998 B.C. Rivers Day as it gave national recognition to one of Canada's most important rivers.

## Grand Accomplishments

### Five years as a Heritage River

by Barbara Veale

The cultural diversity, natural beauty and excellent recreational opportunities associated with the Grand River were recognized in 1994 with its designation as a Canadian Heritage River. This national status not only applies to the Grand, but also to its major tributaries, the Nith, Conestogo, Eramosa, and Speed Rivers.

The designation of the Grand River as a Canadian Heritage River has raised its profile as an important Canadian river. It has fostered increased awareness of the river's heritage assets, prompted residents to explore and enjoy its many natural and cultural resources, raised the level of concern for the way it is treated, and resulted in many community-based and collaborative efforts to improve river health and heritage conservation. Many of the communities along the Grand and its tributaries are now regarding the river as a focal point for tourism and economic development. Grand River experiences in "Grand River Country", are being promoted jointly by tourism promotion organizations.

The designation has motivated people to work together - to define a vision, goals and objectives, and actions to resolve resource issues and maximize resource opportunities in the watershed. This collaborative effort is being facilitated by the Grand River Conservation Authority and is called "The Grand Strategy". Over 200 individuals representing watershed municipalities, Six Nations, community groups, businesses, schools, and others directly participate in this process.

One example of this shared approach is the development of a watershed-wide fisheries management plan. The Grand River system is well on its way to becoming an angler's dream. It is within an easy two-hour drive for six million people, and provides some of the best

smallmouth bass fishing in Ontario. It has also been recognized in the national and international press as a "world class" brown trout fishery. With the pressures of increased recreational use, municipal growth, and changes in the land use, comes the responsibility for managing and improving fishery resources to

ensure their sustainability. To address this need, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Grand River Conservation Authority initiated a cooperative fisheries management plan. Partners included the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Six Nations, Brantford Steelheaders, Caledonia Bait and Tackle, Dunnville District Anglers and Hunters, Ontario Streams, Friends of the Grand River, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Trout Unlimited Canada, Izaak Walton Fly Fishing Club and the University of Waterloo.

In developing the plan, the partners hosted public meetings throughout the watershed. Using the information collected, a draft plan was developed and reviewed by the public. The final plan includes seven subwatershed component areas, and provides solid guidelines for fisheries management, rehabilitation projects and

controlling pollution from many sources. Two implementation committees have been formed. One will drive the "marketing" and advertising efforts to attract corporate funding and sponsorship for projects. The second committee will be "action oriented", coordinating stream rehabilitation efforts and keeping volunteer

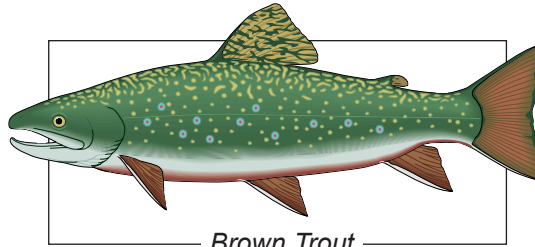
groups focussed around the needs of the plan.

To launch this effort, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has provided \$50,000 for work to improve the brown trout habitat on the Grand River below Elora. The Ministry has also approved

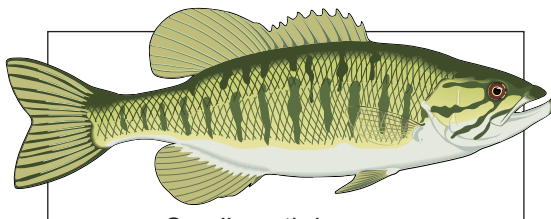
changes to the fishing regulations for the Grand River which will result in increased recreational use and business opportunities while improving protection for the fishery.

This effort represents a small portion of the energy, enthusiasm and support for The Grand Strategy that has been demonstrated over the past five years. Partner commitment and participation has been the mainstay of the Grand's success. This fifth anniversary of the Grand River as a Canadian Heritage River gives residents of the Grand an opportunity to reflect on their shared achievements and renew their efforts to make the Grand River valley "an ever better place in which to live, work and play".

For more information about The Grand Strategy contact Barbara Veale, Coordinator of Strategic Planning and Partnerships, Grand River Conservation Authority, 400 Clyde Road, Box 729, Cambridge, Ontario N1R 5W6. Phone: (519) 621-2761 ext. 274 Fax: (519) 621-4844 E-mail: [bveale@grandriver.on.ca](mailto:bveale@grandriver.on.ca)



Brown Trout



Smallmouth bass

## Conferences and Awards

### North American Lake Management Society Conference

A CHRS exhibit was displayed at the 18th international symposium of the North American Lake Management Society held November 10-13, 1998 in Banff, Alberta. In total, 7,500 delegates viewed the exhibit. Staff from the Living by Water Project shared the exhibit space and provided volunteer assistance to the CHRS display. (See Page 7).

### North American Water Trails Conference (NAWT)

NAWT held its Third Biennial Conference in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, October 11-13, 1998. NAWT is a coalition of organizations and individuals from the U.S. and Canada interested in promoting the sustainable development and enjoyment of North America's recreational river, lake and coastal waterways. Over 100 participants including government officials, community leaders, land trust members, and recreation and tourism interests shared their views on the future of water trails in North America. They also discussed how to encourage thoughtful use and volunteer stewardship of water and waterside resources.

The conference reaffirmed that NAWT should continue to support water trail organizations. These organizations work cooperatively with public land managers and private land interests to develop and maintain safe and enjoyable water trails for kayakers, canoeists and other small boaters. They also seek to strengthen public knowledge and appreciation of water trails.

For more information contact: North American Water Trails, Inc., 56 Pease Town Road, Appleton, Maine, U.S.A. 04862-6455. Publications include a brochure promoting water trails and a manual, *Modern Water Trails: A guide to establishing and maintaining recreational waterways on fresh and salt water* (2nd edition) which is an invaluable resource for new water trail groups.

### Second Canada's River Heritage Conference

The Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia, in collaboration with the CHR Board, hosted the second Canada's River Heritage Conference, May 3-5, 1998 in Richmond, B.C. Over 200 delegates representing a diverse range of interests attended this national event. The conference included some of North America's most renowned river advocates, professional river managers, national ENGO's,

representatives of all levels of government, First Nations, academics, scientists and the general public.

The third Canada's River Heritage Conference will be held in Fredericton, New Brunswick in June 2001. Look for more information in the next newsletter.

### National River Conservation Awards



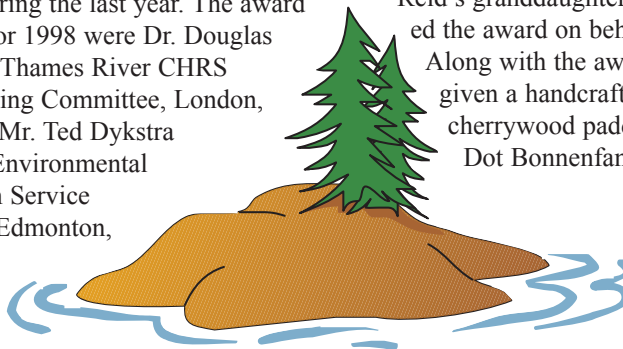
Left to right:  
Iona Campagnola, Doug Bocking,  
Ted Dykstra and David Marshall.

Four national river conservation awards were presented by Ms. Iona Campagnola, Chair of the Fraser Basin Council at the second Canada's River Heritage Conference. The first three presentations were National River Conservation Awards of Merit. These awards honour individuals or organizations that have made a significant contribution to a specific heritage river project, or the national system as a whole, during the last year. The award winners for 1998 were Dr. Douglas Bocking (Thames River CHRS Coordinating Committee, London, Ontario); Mr. Ted Dykstra (Alberta Environmental Protection Service [retired], Edmonton, Alberta)

and Mr. David Marshall (Fraser Basin Council, Vancouver, British Columbia).

The Bill Mason National River Conservation Award is presented every three years to a Canadian citizen who has made an outstanding contribution to canoeing heritage and river conservation in Canada. This award was presented posthumously to the internationally renowned Haida artist and sculptor, Bill Reid. Mr. Reid's granddaughter, Nika Brown, accepted the award on behalf of her grandfather.

Along with the award, Ms. Brown was given a handcrafted, woodburned, cherrywood paddle by paddle-artist Dot Bonnenfant of Ottawa.



## Publications

### 1999-2000 Federal telephone directory

The CHRS program is being profiled on the 1999-2000 federal telephone directories. This directory highlights the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the CHRS program in 1984. In total, 20,000 copies of the directory will be produced for distribution to federal agencies and departments across Canada. Copies can be purchased by the public through the Canadian Government Publishing Centre for \$29.95 plus taxes and shipping. You can place an order by phone at (819) 956-4800, toll free at 1-800-635-7943 (Canada and the US) or e-mail at [publications@pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:publications@pwgsc.gc.ca)

### Living by Water Project

A new national program, the Living by Water Project, is a non-governmental initiative targeted to waterfront residents across Canada. The goal of the project is

to increase waterfront stewardship activities done by residents such as increasing wildlife habitat, improving wastewater management, and changing lifestyles to be more environment-friendly.

The CHRS Board supports the program objectives of the Living by Water Project and is working cooperatively with them on projects of mutual interest. For more information contact Clive Callaway or Sarah Kipp at (250) 832-7405 or at [lbywater@jetstream.net](mailto:lbywater@jetstream.net). Visit their Web Site at [www.livingbywater.bc.ca](http://www.livingbywater.bc.ca).

A special insert in the May/June 1999 edition of *Canadian Geographic* entitled, "Ribbons of Life", was developed by the magazine in collaboration with the Living by Water Project and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. The insert, which was sponsored by Canada Trust, highlights the importance of Canada's shorelines.

## River Trips

### Retracing the Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route: Part II

Over the summer of 1998, Max Finkelstein of the CHRS Secretariat continued his journey across Canada, following Alexander Mackenzie's historic explorations. At the end of May, he left Bella Coola, on the Pacific Coast of British Columbia, backpacking over the Coast Ranges ("the most wonderful walk I've ever been on") to the headwaters of the Blackwater (West Road) River. From here, he paddled down the Blackwater ("the most exciting part of the entire trip"), up the Fraser ("Never, ever, will I do that again"), over the Continental Divide, and down the Peace River ("I thought it would be boring, but it was incredibly beautiful, and peaceful") to Fort Chipewyan on Lake Athabasca.

This is the route that Mackenzie followed in 1793, on his way to becoming the first European to reach the Pacific Ocean by land. Except, of course, Mackenzie went there and back. The trip took Max 55 days, Mackenzie's return trip took 33 days. Max's route can be followed vicariously by visiting his website ([www.voyageur.carleton.ca](http://www.voyageur.carleton.ca)).

The Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur route embodies a wellspring of Canadian history and heritage. For Max, his two summers travelling the route have been a pilgrimage to being Canadian. Information on the Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur route is available from the Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route Association at (250)762-3002 or at [www.amvr.org](http://www.amvr.org)

## Downstream

### Heritage Canoe Festival

May 7-9, 1999  
Peterborough Lift Lock Visitor Centre  
A celebration of Canada's canoeing heritage.  
Call Kevin Callan at (705) 748-9984.

### Canadian Canoe Symposium

August 20, 21 & 22, 1999  
Merrickville, Ontario  
Features hands-on workshops, paddling skills, expert presentations, and Canadian canoe heritage. A children's program includes a Voyageur Canoe Camp and arts and crafts. Call the CRCA at (613) 269-2910 or visit them at [www.crc.ca](http://www.crc.ca).

### Future Ceremonies

Plaque unveiling ceremonies for the Margaree River, Nova Scotia and the Bloodvein and Humber Rivers in Ontario are tentatively planned for August and September, 1999.

### Our New Web Site - [www.chrs.ca](http://www.chrs.ca)

Look for our updated and redesigned web site in June at the same address as our current site. The new site will include updated fact sheets, information on all CHRS publications and two new sections. The Photo Gallery will present a selection of our best heritage river shots. River Stories will feature personal experiences and adventures on Canadian Heritage Rivers. If you have a heritage river story to tell, contact Max Finkelstein at: (819) 997-4930 or e-mail him at [Max\\_Finkelstein@pch.gc.ca](mailto:Max_Finkelstein@pch.gc.ca)

### Available this summer

*Further up the Creek*  
A Paddler's Guide to the Rivers of Ontario and Quebec  
By Kevin Callan,  
Boston Mills Press, 1999  
In this latest book, Kevin Callan beckons us "further up the creek" on a journey begun in his previous canoe book, *Up the Creek*. This highly entertaining collection takes us on 20 river trips through Ontario and Quebec. Look for it at bookstores and outfitters this summer.

## CHRS Board of Directors 1999-2000

The Board consists of representatives from the federal, provincial and territorial governments.  
The Chairperson for 1999-2000 is Mark Angelo, Board Member for British Columbia.

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