



CPAWS Celebrates 50 years!

For over 50 years, CPAWS has been a key player in protecting more than half a million square kilometres of Canada's wilderness – more land and water than the entire Yukon Territory! For decades, we've also led efforts to ensure that our parks are managed to high standards, and our oceans are conserved. Here in the NWT, we've been working since 1996 with communities, all levels of government, and other organizations to conserve the land, water and wildlife for current and future generations. The entire CPAWS family has had a lot to celebrate this fall, and so have we at CPAWS-NWT, with several new protected areas established in the last five years (Saoyú-?ehdacho National Historic Site, the Nahanni Expansion and Nááts'ihch'oh), and more to come!



On October 2nd, forty CPAWS staff, board and volunteers assembled for our third annual Lobby Day on Parliament Hill. Meetings were held with 54 Members of Parliament and Senators to discuss critical conservation issues. Priority discussions included completing Canada's system of National Parks; ramping up federal commitments to maintain ecological integrity in our protected areas; implementing rather than changing Canada's Species at Risk Act, and creating a national system of marine protected areas.



CPAWS-NWT Executive Director Kris Brekke (seen here in back row) joined staff and National Trustees from across Canada to celebrate CPAWS 50th anniversary and our many conservation successes at a "Nature Nocturne" event at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa. Check out our special 50th Anniversary website and read about the many conservation successes CPAWS has had over the years: www.cpaaws.org/about/celebrating-fifty-years!

Happy 50th!

NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) Update

Kris Brekke, CPAWS-NWT Executive Director

Recently renewed Interim Land Withdrawals have confirmed government commitments to establishing protected areas in the Dehcho, Sahtu and Tlicho regions:

- Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta (Ramparts River Watershed, Sahtu) - In April 2013, the K'asho Got'ine District Land Corporation, on behalf of the K'asho Got'ine Dene Band and Métis, made an official request to Environment Canada to establish Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta as a National Wildlife Area. This critical wetland filters millions of gallons of water per day. The wetlands provide excellent nesting and rearing habitat for ducks, geese and loons. Six species at risk – peregrine falcon, grizzly bear, mountain caribou, wolverine, short-eared owl, and boreal woodland caribou – are also found within the area. The current interim land withdrawal has recently been extended to November 2015.
- Dinàgà Wek'èhodì (North Arm, Great Slave Lake) - Identified for protection by the Tlicho Government in 2010. The area is home to several species at risk, including boreal woodland caribou, wood bison, wolverine, rusty blackbird, short-eared owl, common nighthawk and barn swallow. It is a key migratory bird site and has been designated federally as an Important Bird Area. Assessments of this area's ecological, cultural and economic values are in progress. An two-year interim land withdrawal (surface and subsurface) was put in place by Order in Council in October 2013.
- Edézhíe (Horn Plateau, Dehcho) – A formal request has been made to Environment Canada to designate this area as a National Wildlife Area. In June 2013 an Order in Council granted

interim land withdrawal of surface and subsurface rights for two years, based on the boundary recommended by the Edézhíe Working Group.

- Sambaa K'e (Trout Lake, Dehcho) - Sambaa K'e is rich in wildlife and fish and is important for subsistence harvesting. Moose, wolverine, many species of waterfowl, and some species at risk (boreal woodland caribou, olive-sided flycatcher and rusty blackbird) are found throughout the area. This area is temporarily protected through the Dehcho Interim Measures Agreement interim surface and subsurface land withdrawal, which expires in November 2015. Further progress on this site may depend on consultations related to the overlap of Sambaa K'e Dene and Acho Dene Koe land interests.
- Ka'a'gee Tu (Kakisa, Dehcho) - The community of Kakisa selected these lands for permanent protection to balance the preservation of their cultural heritage, and the ecosystems that support them, with the need for economic security and growth. Areas of known high non-renewable resource potential were purposely excluded. Moose, beaver, fish, and large numbers of waterfowl are found throughout the area. A number of species at risk, such as woodland caribou and rusty blackbirds, along with some rare plant species, are also found within Ka'a'gee Tu. All field work and assessments are completed. Much of the Ka'a'gee Tu Candidate Area is temporarily protected under the Dehcho Area interim surface and subsurface land withdrawal, which expires in November 2015.

Read more at www.nwtpas.ca.

An **interim land withdrawal** is a tool used by government to protect land from development and other activities for a period of time. In the PAS the purpose of the withdrawal is to ensure that the natural and cultural values of the study area are not compromised during the protected area planning process. The interim withdrawal provides

temporary protection for the land by preventing the establishment of new surface or subsurface interests. Existing rights such as leases are respected. The withdrawal does not affect Aboriginal rights, and hunting, fishing, trapping and other traditional or recreational activities are not affected by an interim land withdrawal.

CPAWS-NWT invites you to Get Outside and Get Active this winter!

James Hodson, CPAWS-NWT Board Chair

Looking for opportunities to beat the winter blues and reconnect with the natural world? Starting in January 2014, CPAWS-NWT and Ecology North will be teaming up to host three free outdoor activities in Yellowknife and Hay River, thanks to funding from the NWT Recreation and Parks Association's Get Active program.

Excursions will include:

- an interpretive hike to learn how to identify wildlife tracks and sign,
- a demonstration of winter camping skills, such as how to build a quinzee

• a guided "get to know your territorial parks in winter" ski or snowshoe day trip.

As part of our Love the Land work, we will continue to host outings throughout the year to celebrate the land in all its seasons. These events will be a great opportunity to connect with other CPAWS members and to learn more about the natural world right outside our doors. Events are open to all ages. Stay tuned for more details about dates, times and locations by joining our e-news mailing list (www.cpawsnwt.org) or following us on Facebook.



LOVE the LAND

This year's Love the Land Photo Contest received nearly 100 entries from across the NWT and Canada. A huge thanks to all of the photographers who shared their experiences of our spectacular land and waters. By the time this newsletter reaches you, the beautiful and inspiring 2014 Calendar will be on the shelves in Yellowknife, and for sale online at www.gowildgifts.org. We'd like to suggest giving a copy or two to your favourite outdoor enthusiast for the holidays, or using it to lure friends or family up to the NWT to experience this incredible home of ours for themselves! Stay tuned for next year's contest, and get ready to sort through your photos and capture your adventures for the 2015 Love the Land Calendar.



Calendar Cover: From Above by Riley Veldhuizen



April: Peering into the Past (Alexandra Falls) by Richard McIntosh



September: Mmm! Char Delight! (Ulukhaktok) by Peggy Jay

Photo Contest Winners:

Malcolm Campbell	Kevin Klingbeil	Girish Nayer
Cynthia Clark	Tee Lim	Hanna Retallack
Martha Drake	Victor Liu	Tanis Simpson
Brad Heath	Tina Locke-Setter	Janice Stein
Peggy Jay	Richard McIntosh	Riley Veldhuizen
Brian Kinzie	Carole Musialek	Dan Wong

Thank you to all of the local businesses and individuals who donated prizes for our winning photographers; to Javaroma and Marino Casebeer for hosting our calendar launch and displaying the winning photos; to our local calendar sellers (*), and to Kopykat North for helping us with printing.

Arctic Harvest
Crosscurrent Associates Ltd.
Kris Brekke
Northern Frontier
Visitor Centre*

Old Town Glassworks
Overlander Sports*
Trek Restaurant
Yellowknife BookCellar*

Thaidene Nene Update

Erica Janes, Conservation Outreach Coordinator

Over the past year, we've reached out to the public in Yellowknife and south of 60 with conversations and public events to help spread the word about the importance of establishing Thaidene Nene. Hosting Canadian Olympian Clara Hughes in Yellowknife last spring, and accompanying her on a winter adventure in Thaidene Nene was a huge highlight.

The Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation and Parks Canada have now initialed a draft establishment agreement, signalling the negotiators' agreement on most matters related to establishment, and discussions with the GNWT are moving forward. CPAWS-NWT will continue to provide information to the public about how protection will benefit the LKDFN and all Northerners with its made-in-the-north approach.

In the coming months, we will be collecting detailed information from NWT residents about what they know and what they would like to know about Thaidene Nene. This will help us to focus our outreach, and continue to build support for this incredible opportunity for the NWT and for Canada. Stay tuned!

If you haven't watched the series of short videos about Thaidene Nene that Clara helped us create, check them out at <http://landoftheancestors.ca/gallery.html>



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Thank you for supporting conservation in the NWT!

CPAWS-NWT is a non-profit organization registered under the NWT Societies Act, with a national charitable number.

Over the past year, our Chapter has received charitable donations of more than \$5,000 from each of the following organizations:

- Wilburforce Foundation
- Campion Foundation
- 444S Foundation

Stay in touch with CPAWS-NWT by signing up for our monthly e-news at www.cpawsnwt.org, and follow us on Facebook.

JOIN THE CPAWS-NWT BOARD!

We are seeking Chapter board members who love the land and are able to volunteer their time and contribute their skills to help guide our work. Contact us for more information.

We're going paperless as much as possible! If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please send us an email at nwtadmin@cpaws.org.

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NEWSLETTER LAYOUT

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CPAWS-NWT Member/Donation Form

DONATE ONLINE: www.cpawsnwt.org (click the red 'donate now' button)

Here is my contribution of: \$35 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$ other

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• As a member, you will be kept up-to-date on our wilderness work through regular national and chapter newsletters.

• All contributions of \$20 or more are fully receipted for tax purposes (#10686 5272RR)

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