

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joyce Bourne  
Christa Domchek  
Mike Phelan  
Sandra Stirling  
Leslie Wakelyn

## STAFF

Erica Janes (on maternity leave)  
Jennifer Morin  
Karley Ziegler

## NEWSLETTER LAYOUT

Jennifer Luckay  
(jenluckay@theedge.ca)

## MAIL OUTS

The Cash Family

## CPAWS-NWT

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CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES CHAPTER  
[www.cpawsnwt.org](http://www.cpawsnwt.org)

## Volunteers Needed

Contact the CPAWS office for more information or check out the website to fill out a volunteer application form.

## Staff changes:

After more than two years with CPAWS-NWT, Daryl Sexsmith has left the position of Executive Director. Daryl applied his financial and administrative skills to bring better organization to the Chapter. We would like to thank him for his dedication to the Chapter and wish him the best with his future endeavors.

Jennifer Morin will serve as Interim Executive Director during this transition period. Jennifer has worked with the Chapter since 2002 and will be returning from her maternity leave at the end of August. She will continue to work closely with Karley Ziegler, Conservation Coordinator, who will be returning to CPAWS-NWT in September.

Darha Phillpot, Conservation Coordinator (maternity backfill for Erica Janes), is moving to the big city at the end of August to start her Master's project in resource management and planning with the University of British Columbia. Darha did a fabulous job in the short eight months with CPAWS-NWT! She truly went above and beyond the call of duty in the last few weeks leading up to her departure. She will be missed a great deal but we hope she will be back soon. We wish you a lot of fun with your new move inbetween all the hard school work.

## Member/Donation Form

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

Made payable by:  cheque  VISA  M/C

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

• All contributions of \$10 or more are fully receipted for tax purposes (#10686 5272RR)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Terr/Prov: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail, fax or drop off at the YK Office:

4921 - 49th Street, Box 1934

Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P5

P: (867) 873-9893 F: (867) 873-9593

Please don't share my name and contact information with other organizations

# NAHENDEH notes

CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY-NWT CHAPTER

SUMMER/FALL 2007, NEWSLETTER #21



## Some things should last forever.

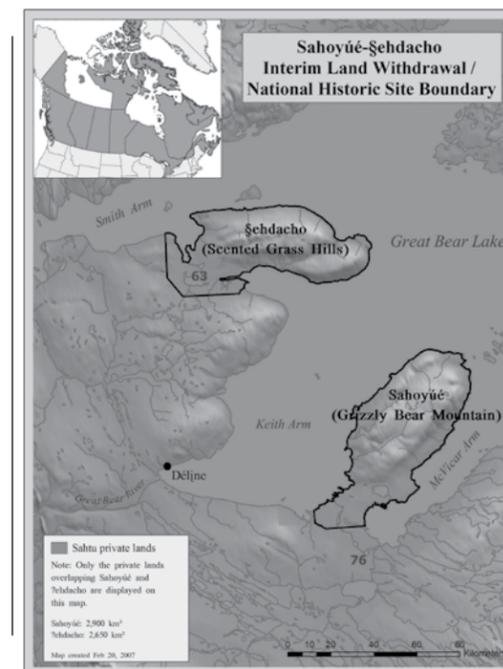


PROUD DISPLAY OF THE SIGNED MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BY (L TO R) RAYMOND TANITON (CHIEF NEGOTIATOR), CHARLIE NEYELLE (CHIEF), JOHN BAIRD (ENVIRONMENT MINISTER), LEROY ANDRE (LAND CORPORATION PRESIDENT), AND JOE HANDLEY (NWT PREMIER). PHOTO BY J. MORIN, CPAWS-NWT.

## CPAWS NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

The Northwest Territories Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS-NWT) is part of a national non-profit conservation organization dedicated to protecting Canada's wilderness.

  
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES CHAPTER



## Protection Success: Sahoyué - Şhdacho

March 11th, 2007 was a big day for conservation in the NWT. About 100 people packed into the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly in Yellowknife to witness and celebrate the signing of an historic agreement between the Parks Canada and the community of Deline to permanently protect Sahoyué - Şhdacho.

(Article continues on pg 6 & 7)

# THREE RIVERS NATIONAL TOUR HITS YELLOWKNIFE

by Claudia Haas, Organizing Committee Member

Undeniably one of the most successful CPAWS-NWT events of the year, the CPAWS National Tour "Journey to the Yukon's Three Rivers" stopped in Yellowknife on May 15th 2007. Northern United Place was packed with close to 150 environmentalists, artists, canoeists and government officials in attendance.

For those not familiar with the area, the Three Rivers (Snake, Wind and Bonnet Plume) are part of the Peel River Watershed in the Yukon. The Peel River also runs through the Gwich'in Settlement Area in the NWT and eventually drains into the Mackenzie River. CPAWS-Yukon is working to protect these vast wilderness areas as part of the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative. The area is one of the last intact carnivore guilds in North America; an area where all major mammal species that traditionally lived in the area still reside. These include woodland caribou and large carnivores such as grizzly bears and wolverines.

It did not take long for the audience to gain an appreciation for the Three Rivers due to the enthusiasm of guest speaker, Jure Peepre, from CPAWS-Yukon. Juri described the region with so much passion, appreciation and obvious love. These same sentiments were expressed by the two other speakers and long time residents of the region, James Andre and the Honourable David Krutko, MLA from the Mackenzie Delta. James Andre, member of the Tetlit Gwich'in, spoke of a community vision for the Peel Watershed and David

Krutko spoke of this region as more spectacular than Banff or Jasper because it was an untouched, undeveloped region that was sustaining natural ecological processes.

Juri then spoke of a trip when eight Canadian artists journeyed down the Three Rivers, as they searched for artistic inspiration from this beautiful land. Prints of some of the art produced during this journey were on display at the event.

As a final tribute to the Three Rivers, all in attendance were encouraged to sign a scroll to support protection of this wild place. The scroll, already signed by attendees from the first 10 cities of the National Tour, would end its travels in Whitehorse two nights later. Additionally, CPAWS-Yukon and the Three Rivers Project got an extra boost when the Three Rivers project was awarded the silver medal in the conservation category for the prestigious annual Canadian Environment Awards in early June.

The National Tour was a success in all 12 cities it visited. We hope that this interest results in good news for conservation efforts of the Three Rivers.

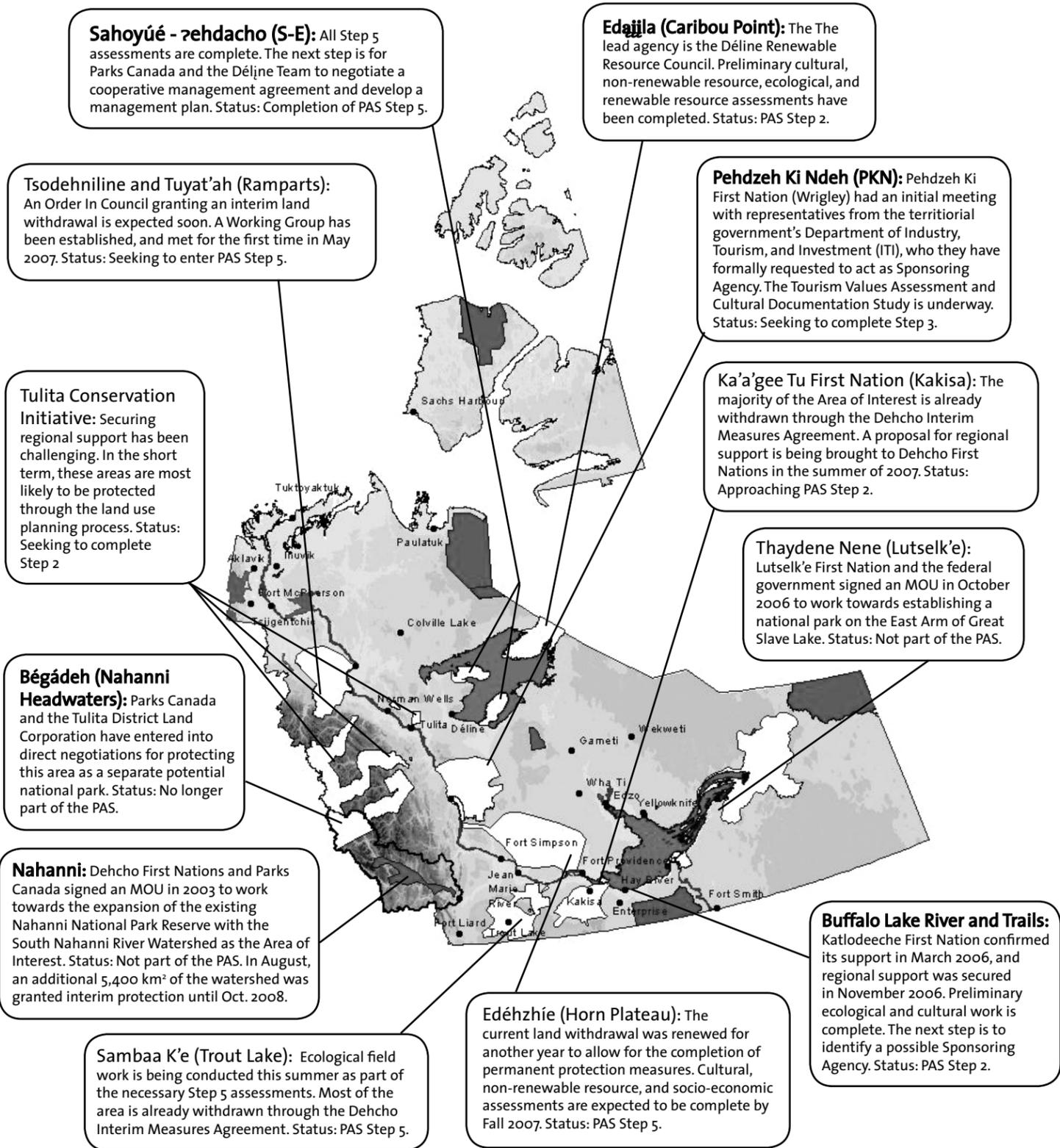


THE THREE RIVERS YELLOWKNIFE CROWD. ELISE MALTIN TAKES IN THE EVENT. JURI PEEPRE AND GUEST TALK ABOUT THE ARTWORK PRODUCED FROM THE TRIP. PHOTOS BY KARLEY ZIEGLER, CPAWS-NWT.

# PROTECTED AREA BRIEFS

(Conservation files that are **bolded** are ones that CPAWS-NWT is actively engaged in)

Karley Ziegler, Conservation Coordinator





GLEN DAVIS (FAR RIGHT WITH HAT) RAFTING THE BONNET PLUME RIVER IN THE YUKON. PHOTO BY JURI PEEPRE

## CPAWS-NWT'S NEW TEAM

Keri Barringer, CPAWS-NWT Volunteer

### Tracey Williams

Tracey is passionate about conservation initiatives in the NWT and the significance of these efforts at the national and global levels. There are many economic developments planned for the NWT and she does not want to see the landscape compromised for future generations because we did not consider better conservation efforts now. Through her work, Tracey is exploring how resource management and traditional knowledge can complement each other in the land withdrawal process. She has lived with her husband in Lutsek'e, on and off for eight years and became a new mom last year. Tracey is looking forward to working with like-minded people on the CPAWS-NWT Board and seeing how each others' skills and strengths can benefit the organization. She also would like to support CPAWS efforts in continuing to work on the Mackenzie Valley Action Plan.

### Sandra Stirling

Sandra is an avid outdoor enthusiast and has been living in the north since 1976. Her earlier career days were spent working for the federal government in various departments. Sandra and her husband opened the successful sporting goods store, Overlander Sports. She has now been operating the store for just over 23 years. Sandra has acted in a variety of volunteer capacities with Ecology North, the Yellowknife Ski Club and the Bahai's of Yellowknife. She found that she had some time to commit to something she cares deeply about—the northern wilderness. While on the Board, Sandra wants to be involved with protecting the Nahanni Watershed. She would also like to assist the Board in procuring more regular funding sources.

### Joyce Bourne

Joyce has traveled the world but has been living in the north for 10 years. She loves the beauty of the north and enjoys pursuing outdoor interests such as canoeing, hiking and kayaking. As a new Board member, one of Joyce is interested in learning more about and providing support for the Chapter's boreal forest protection efforts through the Protected Areas Strategy. She is concerned about non-renewable resource development at a cost to species and special areas. Joyce views Canada and in particular the NWT, as being in a unique position to not only protect land and water but also to benefit through sustainable development. In particular, she would like to see ecotourism further developed.



## IN HONOUR OF GLEN DAVIS

CPAWS-NWT was saddened to hear of the death of Glen Davis on May 18, 2007. Glen had been a faithful supporter of conservation work in Canada for several years. He had a particular passion for conservation in the north and he gave generously to support the conservation efforts of a number of organizations including CPAWS-NWT. Glen was a personable and informal donor as he enjoyed investing directly in conservation staff.

Glen traveled regularly to the wilderness areas that he was committed to protecting. CPAWS-NWT recognizes Glen's outstanding contribution to conservation in Canada's north and we extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

## Federal Budget a Step Forward for Northern Conservation

Alison Woodley,  
Northern Conservation Manager  
(Ottawa)

On March 19th federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty released the 2007-08 federal budget, which committed \$10 million over two years to create or expand protected areas in the Northwest Territories. CPAWS, as part of the Green Budget Coalition, worked hard to secure this funding for NWT protected areas and land use planning over the preceding months, including making a presentation to the Finance Minister. The Green Budget Coalition is comprised of 20 national environmental groups whose goal is to “green” the federal budget,

This funding will support the establishment of protected areas in the NWT including:

- Sahoyúé - ʔehdacho National Historic Site (for which the federal government announced long term funding on March 11th);
- Ts’ude niline Tu’eyeta (Ramparts River and Wetlands);
- Edézhie (Horn Plateau); and
- other important ecological and cultural sites.

CPAWS will be looking for continued progress on protected areas and land use planning in the NWT in the coming months, and will continue to work to secure long-term federal funding to support conservation in the north.

## Annual General Meeting Announcement

Wednesday September 26th  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Yellowknife Library Meeting Room



PHOTO BY JENNIFER MOORE



## EVE PETERSEN : Volunteer Profile

Karley Ziegler, Conservation Coordinator

Originally from Sydney, Australia, Eve Petersen has been in Canada for 28 years because of a passion for wilderness. In fact, she and husband Kevin came to Yellowknife two years ago because of a job ad that noted we have “Wilderness: five minutes in each direction.”

Eve believes strongly in the value of national parks and protected areas as mitigation for the effects of industrial development. “I’m a balanced development person,” she says. Growing up with a professional forester as a father, Eve understood from an early age the value of managing resources for sustainability. She thought about becoming a forester herself, but instead married one; Kevin was a student in the Faculty of Forestry at UBC.

Eve came to North America as a tourist with two goals in mind: to see art galleries and national parks. Kevin offered to take her on a canoe trip to the Canadian wilderness, by way of the Rideau Canal. Although they never actually made it out of the Ottawa suburbs on that trip, they have since spent a lot of time in the Canadian wilderness, camping across the country in national parks with their two children. Eve’s favorite national park is Pukaskwa, on Lake Superior in northern Ontario.

Eve works as a legal secretary for the GNWT, but she is a librarian by profession. In addition to her help organizing events like the Three Rivers Journey, we hope to put her skills to use in organizing our photo and map database.

Thank you Eve!

## Cross-Canada Canoe Quest

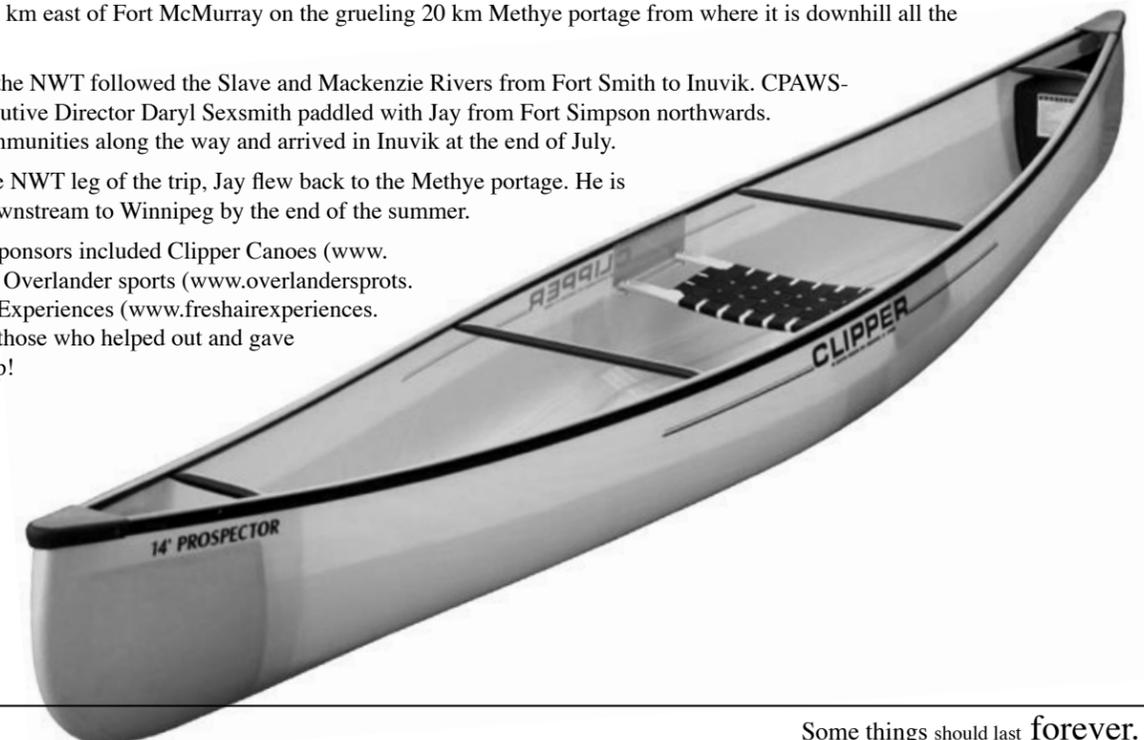
CPAWS National Trustee, Jay Morrison, arrived in the Northwest Territories by canoe on June 8, 2007 as a part of a two year trip across the country. The goal of the trip is to raise awareness of CPAWS’ conservation efforts across Canada’s boreal forest.

Last summer, Jay paddled 3,000 km from the Gulf of St. Lawrence in Quebec to Winnipeg. This spring he began his adventure about 100 km east of Fort McMurray on the grueling 20 km Methye portage from where it is downhill all the way to Inuvik.

Jay’s route through the NWT followed the Slave and Mackenzie Rivers from Fort Smith to Inuvik. CPAWS-NWT’s former Executive Director Daryl Sexsmith paddled with Jay from Fort Simpson northwards. They stopped in communities along the way and arrived in Inuvik at the end of July.

After completing the NWT leg of the trip, Jay flew back to the Methye portage. He is aiming to paddle downstream to Winnipeg by the end of the summer.

Daryl’s equipment sponsors included Clipper Canoes ([www.clippercanoes.com](http://www.clippercanoes.com)), Overlander sports ([www.overlandersports.com](http://www.overlandersports.com)) and Fresh Air Experiences ([www.freshairexperiences.com](http://www.freshairexperiences.com)). Thanks to all those who helped out and gave donations for the trip!



# Notes from the National Board Meeting

Leslie Wakelyn, NWT Chapter Representative, CPAWS National Board of Trustees

The spring 2007 meeting of the National Board of Trustees was held outside Ottawa at the beginning of June. Below are conservation, governance, communications and financial highlights from the meeting.

## Conservation Decisions and Directions

Many decisions and new directions were made concerning conservation issues, including:

- A new push to promote conservation in the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation, with CPAWS taking a lead in advocating for wilderness conservation as one means to address climate change issues;
- Plans for development of a new position statement on oil and gas exploration and development issues, to update and clarify the previous national policy; and
- Acceptance of a policy on partnerships and collaboration between CPAWS and other organizations.

## Financial Update

The 2006-07 national financial results produced a small net surplus, which was better than expected and resulted from very careful management. The 2007-08 fiscal year will have a very tight budget with national staff working hard to increase revenues. Lastly, the national accounting staffing was reduced (following a departure) as a cost-cutting measure.

## Communications Highlights

With communications being an essential part of CPAWS' work, three highlights from the meeting included:

- Initiation and piloting of the Big Wild, a collaboration of Mountain Equipment Co-op and CPAWS "to create a movement of people who believe in protecting Canada's wilderness." First steps include encouraging CPAWS members taking wilderness trips to sign up for the Big Wild Challenge ([www.thebigwild.ca](http://www.thebigwild.ca)).
- The Three Rivers tour was a very successful promotional event, reaching an audience of close to 3,000 in 12 cities across the country, with newspaper ads delivered to about 1.7 million readers, 15,000 website visitors and generation of more than 20 media stories.
- A committee is hard at work developing conservation messages for the federal election.

## Governance Changes

Much of the Board meeting was focused on the new organizational governance model which is currently under development. One objective of this re-organization is to provide greater capacity on the National Board for committee work and other board-related tasks. Many details remain to be worked out by the Governance Committee over the summer for presentation to Trustees at the fall National Board meeting. A decision made that will immediately affect CPAWS Chapters, including the NWT Chapter, is that representatives to the National Board will no longer be appointed by Chapters. Effective as of the 2007 Annual General Meeting, the CPAWS National Board will consist entirely of trustees elected by CPAWS members or appointed by the National Board (to fill vacancies that arise between AGMs).

As the first step in setting up the new governance structure, all Chapters and Elected Trustees have been asked to nominate several candidates for membership on the National Board. CPAWS-NWT was pleased to nominate Tracey Williams as a candidate for election at the 2007 AGM. Tracey has extensive experience working with various environmental non-government organizations and Aboriginal communities on conservation, land use planning, and protected areas planning initiatives. Much of her recent work has been in the context of northern mineral exploration and mining. We are confident that Tracey will represent northern issues capably and will be an asset to the National Board, if given the opportunity.

The 2007 Annual General Meeting and fall meeting of the National Board will be held November 23-25 just outside of Ottawa. In addition, a ceremony will be held November 21st to present the Harkin Conservation Award, by which CPAWS honours individuals who have made a significant contribution to the conservation of Canada's parks and wilderness.

# Winter Road Permitted into Nahanni Wilderness

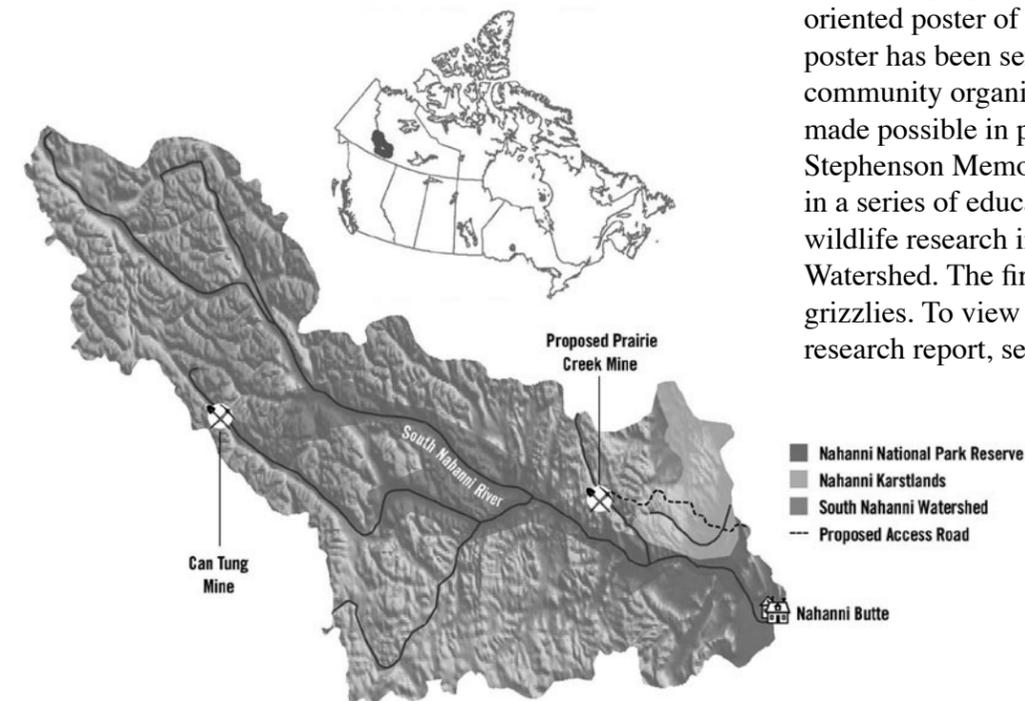
Karley Ziegler, Conservation Coordinator

In April the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board issued a land use permit to the Canadian Zinc Corporation to allow reconstruction of a 170 km winter road to the Prairie Creek mine site. The road permit application was never subject to an environmental assessment due to a legal loophole that respects old, expired permits. In a 2004 court challenge, CPAWS and the Dehcho First Nations argued that an environmental assessment should be conducted. However, Canadian Zinc successfully argued that the permit should be grandfathered from environmental assessment because the previous owner had a permit for the road in the early 1980s.

The area the road crosses has been identified as being important to include in the expanded Nahanni National Park and World Heritage Site. Scientists has warned that the globally significant limestone karst area north of the current park boundary is prone to groundwater contamination and sensitive to disturbance. To date, there has yet to be a comprehensive environmental assessment to assess the impact of the road, let alone the proposed mine.

Since receiving their land use permit for the winter road in April, the company is now applying for a water license and Fisheries Authorization to rebuild part of the road closest to the mine site to all-weather road standards. The company now admits that parts of the road are actually fish habitat (ie. the road bed is in the creek). CPAWS submitted a letter arguing that the all-weather road sections should not be grandfathered.

We have also asked our members to write politicians and regulatory authorities to express concern and to get on with the Park Expansion. Please visit the action centre on [www.cpaws.org](http://www.cpaws.org) if you have not already sent in a letter.



## NAHANNI INTERIM PROTECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

Details of the additional 5,400 km<sup>2</sup> land granted interim protection until 2008 will be in the next issue of Nahendeh notes. If you can't wait, see [www.cpaws.org/nahanni](http://www.cpaws.org/nahanni).

## HOLY BATS MAN: NAHANNI BAT POSTER NOW ONLINE

Darha Phillpot, Conservation Coordinator

In the summer of 2006, CPAWS-NWT partnered with Mountain Equipment Co-op and Parks Canada to carry out a bat survey along the South Nahanni River and the Nahanni karstlands. An important component of the project was to get the message out to the public. This included developing a plain language community-oriented poster of the survey results. The poster has been sent to various schools and community organizations. The poster was made possible in part through the Cathy Stephenson Memorial Fund. It is the second in a series of education posters featuring wildlife research in the South Nahanni Watershed. The first poster featured Nahanni grizzlies. To view the poster and full research report, see [www.cpawsnwt.org](http://www.cpawsnwt.org).



CAPTIONS FOR PHOTOS (L TO R): OPENING DRUM PRAYER AT THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. RAYMOND TANITON (CHIEF NEGOTIATOR), CHARLIE NEYELLE (CHIEF), JOHN BAIRD (ENVIRONMENT MINISTER), LEROY ANDRE (LAND CORPORATION PRESIDENT), AND JOE HANDLEY (NWT PREMIER). DÉJĪNE DRUMMERS. JOHN BAIRD (ENVIRONMENT MINISTER) AND NORMAN YAKELEYA (SAHTU MLA). DÉJĪNE RESIDENTS AND MINISTER BAIRD AND MLA NORMAN YAKELEYA. ALL PHOTOS BY J. MORIN, CPAWS-NWT.

# CPAWS-NWT and Partners Celebrate Major Conservation Success

Erica Janes, Conservation Coordinator (on maternity leave)

The community of DéjĪne has been working for well over a decade years to protect these two peninsulas on Great Bear Lake. The oral histories and traditions of the Sahtugot'ine (the Dene of Great Bear Lake) are inextricably intertwined with the landscapes of Sahoyúé and ʔehdacho, making them extremely important places for cultural teaching and learning. In the words of Deline elder Lisa Blondin, “when we talk about Sahoyúé and ʔehdacho and Great Bear Lake, I know it is my land... we do not want to destroy it. We want to take good care of it.”

Dozens of DéjĪne residents attended the event, along with NWT Protected Areas Strategy staff, and members of the public. Premier Joe Handley welcomed the establishment of a cooperative management committee to finalize protection of Sahoyúé - ʔehdacho, and told federal Environment Minister John Baird that he hoped this would be the first of a series of announcements about NWT protected areas.

Minister Baird told us he was delighted to be “signing a landmark agreement that will ensure the protection of one of Canada’s most significant cultural landscapes”, as well as ensure the balance of development with land protection. The federal government has committed \$5 million over five years, and sustained annual funding of \$700,000 thereafter, to manage the fully protected

National Historic Site.

DéjĪne Chief Charlie Neyelle spoke of the value of Sahoyúé - ʔehdacho, and his community’s long-lived commitment to protecting these areas. He thanked all the people over the years who have worked on protecting Sahoyúé - ʔehdacho. DéjĪne Land Corporation President and former Sahoyúé - ʔehdacho Coordinator, Leroy Andre, also spoke about the importance of the day not only for the people of DéjĪne but for all Canadians, with whom the Sahtugot'ine have always wanted to share their knowledge and relationship with the land.

Following the speeches, the agreement was signed, and gifts of paintings and beadwork were exchanged between both governments and the community of DéjĪne. After lots of photos, everyone joined in the spiralling drum dance to the sounds of the DéjĪne drummers, dressed in their finest beaded moosehide vests.

Both Premier Handley and Minister Baird made reference to continuing to work towards balancing development with land conservation, and additional future NWT conservation announcements. With a federal commitment to protecting Sahoyúé - ʔehdacho finally made, CPAWS-NWT and our partners are celebrating our achievements, and looking forward to continuing our work towards protecting the natural and cultural values of our Territory.

## Quick Facts

- **Name:** Sahoyúé (Grizzly Bear Mountain) - ʔehdacho (Scented Grass Hills)
- **Location:** Two western peninsulas on Great Bear Lake (largest lake wholly contained in Canada, 9th largest lake in the world); closest community is DéjĪne, Sahtu Region of the NWT.
- **Size:** 5,900 km<sup>2</sup>
- **Ecoregion Representation:** Taiga (level I), Taiga Plains (level II), and Great Bear Plains Low Subarctic and Northern Great Bear Plains High Subarctic (both level III)
- **Timeline:** 1991 (research and protection efforts begin); 1998 (National Historic Site Designation); 2001 (Interim protection granted, detailed studies begin); 2007 (Memorandum of Agreement signed and funding secured for final protection).
- **Next Steps:** Develop and complete a Cooperative Management Agreement and Plan and then apply for final land withdrawal.

## Ottawa Visit Gets Results

At the end of January, delegates from DéjĪne, on the shores of Great Bear Lake, and from Fort Good Hope on the Mackenzie River, travelled to Ottawa to urge federal officials to move quickly to protect Sahoyúé - ʔehdacho and the Ramparts wetlands (Ts'ude niline Tu'eyetah). The delegates met with Environment Minister John Baird; Speaker of the House, Peter Milliken; Senator Nick Sibbeston; NDP leader Jack Layton; MP Dennis Bevington; Liberal leader Stéphane Dion; Yukon MP Larry Bagnell; and other federal decision-makers.

Chief Charlie Neyelle from DéjĪne and Acting Chief Lucy Jackson from Fort Good Hope spoke eloquently about the importance to their communities of protecting these lands.

At a Parliament Hill reception hosted by the Canadian Boreal Initiative, Minister Baird committed to taking the next steps towards protecting a suite of NWT sites, including Sahoyúé-ʔehdacho, the Ramparts, the Nahanni expansion, EdézhzĪe (Horn Plateau), and a national park on the East Arm of Great Slave Lake.