The New Brunswick government released a map of proposed protected natural areas in early October. There are 190 candidate sites totaling 143,000 hectares scattered throughout the province. The government intends to select only 122,000 hectares to permanently protect. CPAWS believes this is a good step towards a protected areas network. However, much more is needed to truly protect New Brunswick’s wilderness heritage.

The candidate protected areas were chosen because they are intact old forests, headwaters of significant salmon streams, or sensitive wildlife habitats. Natural areas on the list, such as those along the Dungarvon River, the Restigouche, the Magaguadavic, and Turtle Creek, are all important. CPAWS recommended that government should simply protect all the candidates. There is no need to choose amongst them.

These potential protected areas will move us from having 3% of the province protected to having about 4.7% protected. The average amount protected by other provinces is nearly 9%. New Brunswick would still be 2nd to last in Canada in the proportion of our land that is permanently protected from development.

We are concerned that most are too small and too far apart to protect our wilderness, which remains threatened by mining, forestry, oil and gas, and other forms of development. We’ll need to protect all of these areas, and many more, if we’re going to do our fair share to protect the wilderness and wildlife that is so important to our culture, tourism, and regional economies.

CPAWS NB is providing links to the maps and background information about the proposed protected areas on our website www.cpawsnb.org.

Photo: Kedgwick River (Roberta Clowater photo)
Energizing People for Bay of Fundy Marine Conservation

By Kyla Tanner, CPAWS NB Intern

The race to get public support for a National Marine Conservation Area in the Bay of Fundy is on! Volunteer Emily McQualter and I have been out in full force since September to try to get the Dare to be Deep petition signed by as many New Brunswickers as possible.

Our journey began at the University of New Brunswick’s Volunteer Fair, where our table with CPAWS staff member Steve Reid attracted several students and we left with 30 more signatures.

In the following weeks, Emily and I stopped into both St. Thomas University and the University of New Brunswick to set up tables asking for signatures. We ventured out to the cafeterias at lunchtime, engaging with students and trying to get our message out. We were met with a great response and gained another 250 names for the cause.

We made some posters and put them up in downtown Fredericton businesses. They have small envelopes to leave the signed cards in and have slowly been drawing more attention. We hope that in the coming weeks more people will take the time to read the poster and sign the cards.

In early November we had some fun with the crowd at Boyce Farmers Market – although our hands started to get a little cold! We set up a table at Regent Mall later in the week – a little warmer. Next stop is a visit the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design to reach out to a new group.

We’ve been happy with the amount of support shown for better conservation in our beloved Bay. Right now we have 400 signatures and still counting.

Spreading the word through social media like Facebook and Twitter has also contributed to our success.

We are getting closer to reaching our goal of 1,000 signatures by mid-December. If you have already signed, make sure to tell your friends and family about it and have them sign too! We need to ensure that a part of the Bay of Fundy is protected from the industrial uses happening and being proposed for the Bay. Animals like the endangered North Atlantic Right Whale, cold-water corals that are home to thousands of fish, and the seabirds that flock to the area must have at least some space free from human development. A National Marine Conservation Area would give them this sanctuary. ▼

Photo: Kyla Tanner and Emily McQualter
Great Canadian Backyard Campout

In August, CPAWS staff and new Board member, Sue McAdam, participated in a Great Canadian Backyard Campout event at Centennial Park in Moncton. Parks Canada staff from Kouchibouguac and Fundy National Parks organized a family weekend to introduce people to the joys and basic skills of camping. We were excited to be part of the fun! Looking forward to being even more involved in a similar event next summer – please contact us if you would like to help.

CPAWS Researcher Steve Reid chats in the rain with some of the campers. (R. Clowater photo)

Fundy National Park interpreter Isabelle Spencer leads a nature walk with CPAWS and campers. (S. Reid photo)

We need help spreading our news!

CPAWS NB would like to have our newsletter dropped off at locations where people might pick it up to take home, or read it on the spot. If you can help distribute copies to community centres, universities, art centres, or friendly businesses anywhere in New Brunswick, please get in touch with us. We appreciate the help!
Meeting on the Restigouche River

As part of our effort to Keep the Restigouche Wild, we decided to organize a “meeting on the river” in July to bring some of New Brunswick’s political leaders to the Restigouche for informal talks about conservation. We were excited to host Trevor Holder, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Healthy Living, Martine Coulombe, MLA Restigouche-La-Vallée and then Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour, and Jim Balcombe, EA to Minister of Natural Resources Bruce Northrup.

There were smiles all around as we were greeted by total sunshine and hot weather upon arrival at Arpin Canoe Restigouche. Not only did we all have a great wilderness experience under the blue Restigouche skies, we had interesting chats about river conservation, old forests, ecotourism and economic development. There is nothing like being there – it really inspires new approaches and a refreshing change of perspective. - RC

45 CPAWS staff and Board members from across Canada converged on Ottawa on November 8 to meet with MPs and senators to discuss national parks, marine conservation and the federal Species at Risk Act. Here are CPAWS NB’s Executive Director, Roberta Clowater (center), with Acadie-Bathurst MP Yvon Godin (left) and CPAWS Quebec Executive Director Patrick Nadeau (right), after their meeting.
Fundy National Park Closed for the Season – Budget Cuts

Parks Canada has been hit hard by funding cuts, causing loss of over 600 jobs across the country, and a loss of nearly 30% of the scientists and technicians who work to conserve the ecological health of our parks. For Fundy National Park, the cuts resulted in the closure of the park from October 31 until the spring. A shorter season and very few staff to enforce the rules open the door to inappropriate use of the park. Both Fundy and Kouchibouguac had their school outreach programs eliminated. These are the very programs that could help raise a new generation of park users, nature stewards, and park advocates.

CPAWS released a report on the State of Canada’s Parks in July, and we noted that investments in parks pay off in benefits to the whole economy, and to local communities. The government’s own research shows that for every $1 spent on parks, $5 is contributed to Canada’s gross domestic product. This may be a case of being “penny wise and pound foolish,” as the old saying goes. You can read our report on our website, or contact us, and we’ll get you a copy. - RC

Welcome our new Outreach and Education Coordinator, Rob Lemmon

Rob comes to us with many years of experience in outdoor education, leadership development, and ecotourism. He also operates DayTripping NB, an outdoor adventure business. Rob and his enthusiastic team will be coordinating our school program, Watch Your Paws, getting NB elementary students excited about nature stewardship and responsible recreation in nature. If you are a teacher of grades 3 to 6, or you know one who would be interested in arranging a presentation for their class, you can reach Rob at: cpawsnb@gmail.com.

Rob will also be helping us promote our Bay of Fundy marine conservation program, and our Keep the Restigouche Wild campaign, so you may see him at events or information booths over the winter and spring. - RC
Old Forests – Home for Wildlife, Protecting our Home

By Megan Barnes and Vadini Mahabir

As New Brunswickers we have a lot to be proud of – our province is rich with natural beauty and home to a wide range of wildlife. Areas such as Mount Carleton Provincial Park and the Loch Alva Protected Natural Area are home to an incredible biodiversity that we can treasure for years to come. Biodiversity is the variety of life that is crucial for sustaining services, such as air purification and water filtration, which we depend on for our health, economy, and food. Each part of nature, be it barred owl, beetle, or balsam fir, is valuable for its own sake, for its beauty, and for the role it plays in making up the whole environment that is our own human habitat.

Old mixed forests, those older than 60-80 years, are key habitat areas for much of New Brunswick’s richest biodiversity. These old forests serve as ideal habitat for many wildlife that use the multilayer canopies of plants, shrubs and trees for shelter from predators, and fallen logs, stumps and undergrowth for nesting and foraging.

Scientists in the Greater Fundy Ecosystem Research Group (GFERG) wanted to find out how much old forest is needed to sustain New Brunswick’s forest biodiversity. Researchers studied how losing old forest impacted Northern flying squirrel populations. They found that Northern flying squirrels need at least 40% of the forest within their home range to be mature-old growth forest. Despite recommendations made by the GFERG in 2003 that advised the provincial government to increase the protection of mature-mixed forests, these critical habitats are harder to come by these days.

Recently, the provincial government decided to reduce the proportion of Crown lands that are specially managed (logged, but not clear cut) to conserve wildlife habitat. This puts a real squeeze on our remaining old forests and the wildlife that need them, from flying squirrels to American marten and barred owls. Their old forest habitats are getting smaller, they’re surrounded by roads and development, and they’re further apart. This is why CPAWS is working to encourage more deliberate conservation of our old forest habitats.

Top left: American Marten (courtesy Erwin and Peggy Bauer, US Fish and Wildlife Service)

Top right: Barred owl. Steve Reid photo.
The Board and staff of CPAWS New Brunswick would like to thank You, all of our individual supporters, and these funding partners for your valuable contributions to our conservation work.

Thanks to YOU, Our Supporters

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CPAWS is New Brunswick’s voice for wilderness. For over 45 years, we’ve played a lead role in creating over two-thirds of Canada’s protected areas.

CPAWS NB encourages the protection of New Brunswick’s wild ecosystems in parks and protected areas; promotes awareness and understanding of nature through education, appreciation and experience; and works co-operatively with governments, First Nations, businesses, other organizations and individuals to find solutions to nature conservation challenges.

CPAWS NB Board of Directors: Heidi Erdle; LeeAnn Haggerty (President); Sue McAdam; Leanne O’Reilly; Christina Walsh (Vice-president); Suzanne Wood (treasurer)

CPAWS NB staff: Roberta Clowater, Executive Director; Rob Lemmon, Outreach and Education Coordinator; Steve Reid, Researcher/Web Master

Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Smith
Contributors: Megan Barnes, Roberta Clowater, Vadini Mahabir, Kyla Tanner

Photo on back cover; background photos on front cover and page 7: Steve Reid

Please consider passing this newsletter along to a friend or neighbour who might like to become a CPAWS supporter - we are a stronger voice for nature the more members we have!

Want to keep in touch with CPAWS NB between newsletters?

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society New Brunswick
Friends of Restigouche / Ami(e)s de la Restigouche

Follow our Executive Director on Twitter - @RCnature

We have plenty of information on parks, events, conservation reports and more on our website: cpawsnb.org
I want to Give a “Wild Gift” to support CPAWS and wilderness conservation in New Brunswick

If you would like to make a gift donation in your name or someone else’s name (we’ll send them a wilderness card notifying of your gift; you will receive a tax receipt - minimum donation $30), please fill in the information below and mail it to us: 180 St. John St., Fredericton, NB E3B 4A9. There are also a variety of “Go Wild Gifts” available from CPAWS online at www.cpaws.org.

Amount: ___ $30   ___ $50   ___ $75   ___ $100   ___ other

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