

Wild New Brunswick



Fall 2013/Winter 2014

Help Needed to Protect Restigouche



By Michelle Lavery

Sparkling rivers, the silver flash of an Atlantic salmon, the quiet swish of a paddle. Rustling leaves, the faint huff of a moose, the distant song of a scarlet tanager.

This is the Restigouche. This is wild.

Right now, less than 1% of the public land in the Restigouche watershed in New Brunswick is protected from logging, mining or other industrial development. Without protection, most uncut areas of the Restigouche will be logged within the next 10 years. Wildlife that need old-forests, like marten, barred owls and flying squirrels, may have a harder time finding the habitat they need for feeding and breeding.

If we don't keep the wildest parts of the Restigouche wild, these cold salmon rivers may become even more sensitive to the combined impacts of human development and climate change. Without the shade

provided by a dense forest canopy, water temperature is likely to rise along with the predicted increasing provincial temperatures. This will cause problems all along the food chain in the rivers, as higher water temperatures encourage habitat-smothering algal blooms (like the didymo algae now being found in the river), and threaten the survival of the cold-blooded Atlantic salmon.

"...still no word from provincial government whether any of the Restigouche will be protected..."

CPAWS NB continues to encourage the establishment of more protected areas in the Restigouche. There is still no word from the provincial government whether any of the wild areas in the Restigouche will be protected this year. You can show your support by taking a moment to write a simple letter to the Minister of Natural Resources, asking about the status of these candidate protected areas. Let's keep the pot boiling, speak up and keep the Restigouche wild. Please contact our office if you want help taking action. ▼

Behind the Scenes

With Hungry Puffins and Terns

By Vadini Mahabir

Tony Diamond is a Research Professor at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, where he established the Atlantic Laboratory for Avian Research (ALAR). Graduate students from ALAR have been monitoring seabird populations on Machias Seal Island (MSI) in the Gulf of Maine since 1995. This tiny island is used by many seabirds, among them the largest colony of Atlantic Puffins in the Gulf of Maine. These birds nest in burrows in the soil, and under boulders, where the chicks (sometimes called pufflings) are housed deep within. The chicks are fed mainly herring, which the parents catch by diving down into the cold ocean waters.

But all is not well on the seabird front, says Tony. Though the global Atlantic Puffin population is stable, the MSI population breeding season in 2013 happened later than any time on record, a sign of stress. Many fewer chicks left the nest successfully than in

any previous summer, many dying apparently from starvation. Herring numbers appear to be declining, possibly as a result of fishing nets catching mainly the larger herring that lay more eggs, or of changes in the climate. This problem affects other seabirds too; one of Tony's students is researching why Arctic Terns have not bred on MSI since 2007. Perhaps the terns are not getting the food they need at the warming ocean's surface, as they are not divers like the puffins.

To help the bird species of the oceans around New Brunswick, like the puffin, we need to find ways of protecting their food sources. Tony states he believes we must take action on global climate change, and also recommends a more ecosystem-oriented regulation of fishing practices. Marine protected areas, especially in the spawning grounds of the herring, may be part of the solution to a complex problem. ▼

Photos: Left, Arielle DeMerchant; right, courtesy of Tony Diamond.

Hikes, S'Mores and Two Beaches

By Sue McAdam

CPAWS NB enjoyed an awesome Parks Day this past July 20th at two events. CPAWS NB's Conservation Educator Alex Reid guided an enthusiastic group of families and adults on a nature and wildlife walk at New River Beach Provincial Park.

Our other event involved tents and marshmallows. CPAWS NB staff once again joined in on *Learn to Camp* activities, this year at Fundy National Park. Over 100 families, couples and

friends came for the fun, including several newcomers who had never camped before! After learning how to put up tents, some hiked the Salmon River Trail, while others enjoyed the balmy Bay of Fundy breezes on the beach and created tidal art. The day ended peacefully gathered around a traditional campfire for hotdogs, s'mores, and a sing-a-long. What better ways to celebrate Park's Day than getting out there to enjoy them!



Get Outside! NB

By Sue McAdam

Our Executive Director, Roberta Clowater, travelled around the province visiting several students who worked as Parks Natural Leaders this summer. As part of the *Get Outside! NB* program, she provided advice and support for their efforts in connecting park visitors to nature. Students enjoyed engaging with nature in the parks through hiking, geocaching, wildlife walks, and nature focused games. The summer component ended in late August with a gathering of *Get Outside! NB* team members at Fundy National Park, where the gang talked about their experiences in the parks during the summer and explored more ways to promote our parks and enable people to connect to nature.

Paul Hutchinson, our Parks Natural Leader at Sugarloaf Provincial Park, summed up his *Get Outside! NB* adventure: "It's been such a great experience to share my park and my little part of the world with people coming into the area, to help them connect with it and protect it, and hope they promote it to other people... We're sitting on treasure here, and this has been a reconnection to home for me."

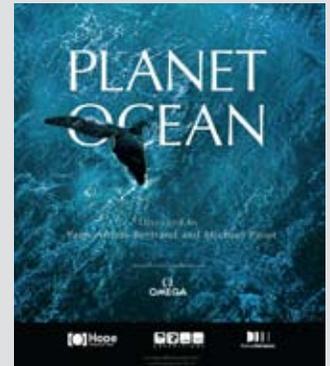
The Get Outside! NB crew will continue their good work as ambassadors for their parks all year round, and perhaps some will be back working at our parks next year. Thanks to the NB Wildlife Trust Fund for their generous support for this program.



Celebrate Our 50th With Us

Planet Ocean Film Showing

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, New Brunswick Chapter (CPAWS NB) and UNB Department of Biology are pleased to present a showing of the internationally acclaimed film, *Planet Ocean*, directed by Yann Arthus-Bertrand and Michael Pitiot.



Wednesday, November 6, 2013, 7 pm to 9 pm

Tilley Hall, Room 102, University of New Brunswick campus, Fredericton

Free admission - A celebration of CPAWS' 50th Anniversary

50 Years Young and Still Wild!

A reception to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

-  Local nature art display and sale
-  Photo and videos highlights of New Brunswick wilderness and wildlife, and the people who protect them
-  Music and light refreshments (free admission, voluntary donations appreciated)

Wednesday, November 20, 2013, 7 pm to 9 pm

Charlotte Street Arts Centre Auditorium, 732 Charlotte St., Fredericton

RSVP would be appreciated if you plan to attend.

Thanks to YOU, Our Supporters

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.



**CPAWS NB
Canadian Parks and
Wilderness Society,
New Brunswick
Chapter**

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**For more information on
events and activities, please
visit our web site:**

cpawsnb.org

CPAWS is New Brunswick's voice for wilderness. For 50 years, CPAWS has 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: LeeAnn Haggerty (President); Vadini Mahabir; Sue McAdam; Christina Walsh (Vice-president); Suzanne Wood (treasurer)

CPAWS NB staff: Roberta Clowater, Executive Director; Steve Reid, Researcher/Web Master

Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Smith

Contributors: Roberta Clowater, Michelle Lavery, Vadini Mahabir, Sue McAdam



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

Payment Methods: Cheque ___ (made payable to "Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society")

Visa ___ MasterCard ___ AMEX ___ Card # _____ Expiry Date _____

Signature _____

Your phone number: _____

Your name: _____

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Gift recipient name: _____

Gift recipient address: _____