



New Forestry Strategy Spells End of Future Forested Protected Areas, Unless...

By Roberta Clowater

In March, 2014, the provincial government released a new 10-year Crown forest management strategy. The strategy will take away more than one-quarter of the conservation zones on public land that used to be used to conserve fish, wildlife habitat and protect our rivers. Instead, they are giving it over to increased logging, including clearcutting.

CPAWS NB, along with many of the province's wildlife researchers, is concerned that reducing the amount of conservation forest on public land puts our ecosystems at unnecessary risk. The strategy will allow more logging in old forest habitats, steep slopes, and other previously inoperable areas. This threatens wildlife that depend on large patches of old forests, like marten, flying squirrels, and barred owls. Overstressed forests are not as able to withstand the pressures that will come from climate change impacts, like new diseases, new insect outbreaks, floods, or drought.

The habitat areas that were conserving larger patches of old forests were some of our best options to add to

a network of protected areas over time. Because of this new forest strategy, we will have a hard time finding natural forests that are large enough, or undisturbed enough, to add to the protected areas network in the future.

"This strategy is not good for either our environment or our economy..."

Future governments are being locked in to an industrialized forestry approach that doesn't leave room for new conservation or new protected areas. Government has signed a legally binding agreement with the forest industry. This appears to mean government would need to pay compensation to a forest company if any forested protected areas are created.

This strategy is not good for either our environment or our economy, and it needs to be abandoned. It should be replaced with a plan that will ensure survival of our wildlife, forests, and rivers, will support a wider range of forest-based jobs, and will give us the flexibility to add much needed old forest protected areas in the future. See "Unless..." article on page 2 for what you can do. ▼

Photo: Kedgwick River.



Why Is a Riparian Buffer Zone so Important?

By Michelle Lavery

“Everything is connected” – we hear it over and over again, and it could not be truer for the rivers and forests in New Brunswick. Rivers are linked to and affected by their surroundings in many different ways.

The Riparian Buffer Zone (RBZ – a fancy name for a portion of conserved forest along the riverbank) protects the river from drastic changes in the forest environment due to land uses, like forestry, land clearing, or development. Without an RBZ, rivers can fall victim to erosion, sedimentation, eutrophication, and other nasty consequences.

Muddy and algae-clogged rivers are not only unsightly, but they can also kill many river fish and wildlife by reducing the amount of light that gets to the bottom, and increasing water temperatures. If we leave a buffer zone, its canopy keeps our rivers shaded and free of

cloudy sediments. The buffer also acts like a filter, removing pollutants and excess nutrients from surface water before it reaches the river.

The NB Forestry Strategy will reduce “conservation forest,” including buffer zones, from 30% of public lands to 23%. Government is doing this despite the fact that forest ecologists and biologists expressed concern that we were already at a minimum, and going lower puts our fish and wildlife at risk. The strategy will also encourage logging on steep slopes and around wetlands, increasing erosion and problems with water quality. The Riparian Buffer Zone keeps our rivers connected to forests as they were meant to be. Please lend your voice to protect not only our forests, but our rivers as well. ▼

Photo: Salmon pool in Restigouche courtesy of Michelle Lavery.

...Unless... You Take Action to Reverse the Forestry Strategy!

Things you can do right now:

1. Go to our web site **cpawsnb.org**, and click on the Take Action link on our front page. It opens our online form, where you fill in your letter content, your name, and contact information, and it sends an email to the Premier.
2. Write a letter or email to your MLA, and copy the Premier, telling them what you think about the new forestry strategy. Or phone them.

3. During the election campaign, ask questions of candidates from all the parties about the forestry strategy.

4. Keep in touch with us over the summer, and we will give you updates on what is happening in your area. We're part of a large coalition of conservation groups, fish and wildlife groups, woodlot owners, and scientists that plan to organize rallies, presentations, and meetings, and it will really help if you can join in. -RC

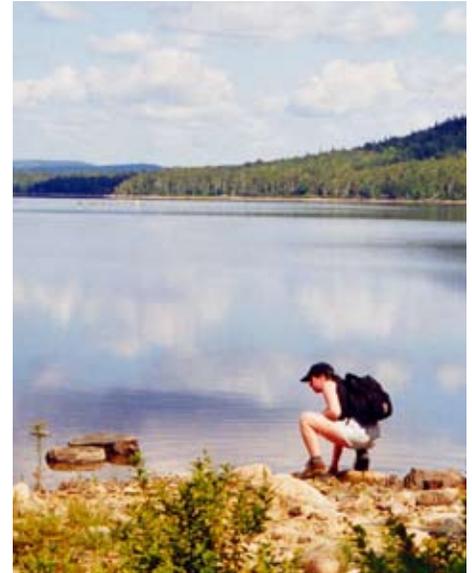
NB Parks Act Changes Look Good for Nature!

By Susan McAdam

Finally, the *Parks Act* in New Brunswick will state that one of the main mandates of provincial parks is to permanently protect ecosystems and natural heritage! New Brunswick has changed its provincial *Parks Act* so there will be new rules to conserve the natural areas within provincial parks. It will require 10-year public reviews of the law and encourage the public to participate in creating the park management plans that will say how to protect the nature in parks. The changes also set the framework for zoning within parks to help manage the recreation and conservation mandates.

This is so important to New Brunswick because only 3% of our land is protected, including provincial parks, so each

provincial park is carrying a lot of nature conservation weight. CPAWS has been encouraging many of these changes for over a decade, and we are very happy about them. We know this happened because so many of you spoke out in support of nature protection in parks. Twenty five hundred people responded to the online survey posted by the government, an outstanding number considering the survey happened in August when many would have been on vacation. It is clear to us that this bill represents the public's response. So CPAWS would like to thank you all for getting involved with the changes to the *Parks Act* in New Brunswick. You've made a real difference!



In Memoriam

In February, CPAWS and the whole conservation community mourned the passing of Mary Majka, our beloved mentor, powerful force for nature conservation and long-time CPAWS member. Mary was passionate about sharing her love of nature and encouraging its protection. Mary's sparkling personality and infectious spirit enlivened every room she entered, and every nature excursion she led. Thank you Mary, for your dedicated service to our community, and for generously sharing your passion for nature. *Photo: Mary Majka story-telling at a CPAWS tour of Caledonia Gorge Protected Natural Area, 2006*

CPAWS Celebrates 50 Years of Conservation

At a reception in Fredericton on a blustery night last November, CPAWS friends and supporters celebrated CPAWS' 50th Anniversary. We created an oasis of wilderness in the Charlotte Street Arts Centre as we enveloped the room with music, the calls

of birds and animals, the sounds of rustling leaves and rippling brooks, and beautiful photos and paintings of New Brunswick's natural areas. *Photos – Steve Reid*



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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); Susan McAdam; Christina Walsh (Vice-president); Suzanne Wood (treasurer)

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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!

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.



**Look for CPAWS this summer at:
Fredericton Farmer's Market for
Oceans Day on June 7; Mactaquac
Provincial Park for Parks Day on
July 19; Big Wild Challenge on July
26; Get Outside activities in all the
provincial parks; and at various fairs
and farmer's markets. Check our
website and Facebook for details.**



Want to keep in touch with CPAWS NB between newsletters?



Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society New Brunswick
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cpawsnb.org

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