



[www.cpaawnsns.org](http://www.cpaawnsns.org)

### *In this issue*

Page 2...

• *President's Message*

Page 3...

• *MPAs needed*

• *Hike anyone?*

Page 4 ....

• *Fisheries Act*

• *MEC partnership*

• *Rare horse mussel reefs*

Page 5...

• *Better forestry*

Page 6...

• *Blandford rocks*

• *Yukon's Three Rivers*

Page 7...

• *ATV regulations*

• *Join CPAWS today!*

Page 8...

• *New legislation*

• *Upcoming AGM*

*Since CPAWS was founded in 1963, we have helped to protect over 40 million hectares of Canada's most treasured wild places - an area nearly seven times the size of Nova Scotia!*

# CPAWS Wild East

CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY THE NEWSLETTER OF CPAWS NOVA SCOTIA  
NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

## Province Acquires 10,000 Hectares of Conservation Lands from Bowater-Mersey "Significant majority" to be wilderness areas and nature reserves

*By: Chris Miller, Wilderness Conservation Coordinator*

In March, the Nova Scotia government spent \$27 million to acquire 10,000 hectares of high value conservation lands from Bowater Mersey Paper Co. Ltd. in the southwestern portion of the province. This transaction represents the largest single purchase of conservation lands in Nova Scotia history. A total of 29 properties were acquired from the company.

CPAWS-NS worked hard to ensure that these acquisitions included the most significant ecological features on Bowater's lands, especially old growth forest sites, rare species habitat (e.g. Blandings Turtle, coastal plain flora), significant wetlands, coastal areas, frontage on significant waterways, sites adjacent to existing protected areas, and sites important for landscape connectivity.

In the days leading up to the official announcement, CPAWS-NS met with a contingent of Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and staff from the Premier's office to stress the importance of making a clear commitment to designate the purchases as protected areas. We had concerns that the purchases would be destined for the general Crown lands pool, and not toward the protected areas system, something which would have left them vulnerable to resource extraction in the future. *(con't p.2)*



*Old hemlock forest in southwestern Nova Scotia acquired for conservation. Photo: NSDEL*

## CPAWS-NS Speaks Out on Deep Panuke

*By Laura Smith, Atlantic Ocean Committee Volunteer*

On the Scotian Shelf near Sable Island lies the Deep Panuke natural gas field. This area has a long history of interest from petroleum companies; initially Shell in the late eighties, and later drilling by PanCanadian (now EnCana) throughout the nineties. Now, EnCana is requesting environmental approvals again to work on Deep Panuke, releasing a project description in November of last year as required by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

The specific gas field involved in EnCana's application has already gone through an environmental assessment once before in 2002, and was approved. However, EnCana held off on developing these natural gas reserves, and modifications to the original project plans necessitate a second assessment. The project calls for the building of an offshore production platform, up to nine wellhead structures and associated pipelines on the seafloor, and a pipeline to bring the gas ashore at Gold-

boro.

CPAWS-NS has been participating in the environmental assessment for the Deep Panuke offshore gas project, challenging assumptions made in the report and providing sensible recommendations for protecting the environment. The marine ecosystems of the Scotian Shelf are currently under significant stress from human impacts such as overfishing and marine pollution. CPAWS-NS has expressed concern about the impacts of continued industrial development, and believes that we should also be investing in programs and initiatives that move us closer to a sustainable marine environment. For example, Atlantic Canada currently lacks an adequate system of marine protected areas, which could help to mitigate impacts on marine ecosystems. In the meantime, further offshore development will only add to environmental impacts and limit options for protection.

*(con't'd p.2)*

## President's Message

Mark your calendars for CPAWS Nova Scotia's Annual General Meeting on June 20! We are pleased to announce that Mr. Bob Bancroft, wildlife biologist and CBC radio personality, will be our keynote speaker.

It's been another successful winter and spring, with much activity on our terrestrial and marine campaigns. Chris Miller has taken on extra responsibilities as our new Wilderness Conservation Coordinator. In addition to the ongoing protected areas work of the Colin Stewart Forest Forum, Chris is also working to establish a nature reserve at Blandford and is collaborating with Stora-Enso for the protection of high conservation value forests through their FSC application. Keep up the great work Chris!

Our marine campaigns, under CPAWS-NS Marine Coordinator Laura Hussey, continue to be very active. Advocating for more marine protected areas in the Atlantic region, participating in several environmental assessments, and raising awareness about the unique Bay of Fundy

horse mussel reefs are a few examples of CPAWS-NS marine work. Look for Laura and Dr. Gordon Fader's presentation on horse mussel reefs this fall.

Thank you to everyone who came out to CPAWS' 'Journey to the Yukon's Three Rivers' on April 18th. Special thanks to Cheyenne Dickin-son, event organizer extraordinaire, and all of the Three Rivers volun-teers for putting on an excellent evening!

It's that time of the year again – membership renewal! Please fill out the enclosed membership form and return to the CPAWS-NS office. We're always looking for volunteers as well; don't hesitate to contact our office for more information. I hope to see you at our AGM on June 20!

Yours in conservation,  
**Carolyn Hedley**  
President, CPAWS NS

### Deep Panuke... (cont'd from p.1)

CPAWS-NS has been an active participant in the public hearings and consultations surrounding EnCana's proposal, and has strongly urged the environmental assessment board to require EnCana to address all potential ecological impacts of Deep Panuke on the marine ecology of the area.

CPAWS-NS has stressed that if the project ultimately goes forward, we expect that vulnerable and important marine species and habitats in the vicinity of the gas field will be closely monitored for impacts, including Sable Island, species at risk, and fish spawning areas. Also, EnCana must be open and inclusive with its environmental monitoring programs and results. The company must keep abreast of the most current industry best practices and scientific research on mitigating and avoiding environmental impacts and put this knowledge to use, as well as being flexible and ready to adapt in case any unacceptable impacts result from the project. EnCana must also take every opportunity to engage with other ocean stakeholders through the Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management (ESSIM) initiative, and allow this integrated approach to influence its own planning and activities.

Following the public hearings in March, the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) and the National Energy Board (NEB) released the Joint Environmental Report for the project. This report outlines the Boards' concerns, responses, and suggestions for the Deep Panuke project and describes its potential environmental interactions.

The final report took into account comments and concerns expressed over the course of the public process, including several suggestions from CPAWS-NS. These included specific recommendations to release environmental monitoring results to the public, to require stricter monitoring of direct and indirect impacts on the ecosystems of Sable Island and its environs, to require specific measures for the protection of the endangered roseate tern, and to require EnCana to be an active participant in ESSIM. Leading up to the compilation of the final Comprehensive Study Report on Deep Panuke, CPAWS-NS hopes that we may yet have further opportunities to influence the development of the Deep Panuke project.



Offshore oil production platform. Photo: DFO

### Acquires... (cont'd from p.1)

Our work paid off. At the announcement, the Premier clearly stated (on three separate occasions, in fact) that the "significant majority" of the purchases would be designated as protected areas. In addition, the official government press release said that the significant majority of purchases "will be designated in a way that brings Nova Scotia closer to the province's 12 per cent commitment for protected spaces".

CPAWS-NS will now monitor the progress of these designations to ensure that they are quickly designated as protected wilderness areas and nature reserves. Our job on this file won't be finished until that happens. The announcement of the Bowater purchases follows almost a year's worth of work by CPAWS-NS to engage the forest industry directly to expand Nova Scotia's system of protected areas.

We congratulate the Provincial government for purchasing these conservation lands and for their commitment to designate the significant majority as protected areas. We also commend Bowater-Mersey for protecting the ecological features of these properties by voluntarily setting them aside from their harvesting operations and for making them available to the province for purchase.

\*\*\*

## Marine Protected Areas: Less Talk, More Action

By Laura Hussey, CPAWS-NS Marine Coordinator

It's been a long time coming, but things are finally starting to happen for marine protection off Canada's East Coast. In early March, the Musquash Estuary in New Brunswick was officially designated as a Marine Protected Area (MPA) under the federal Oceans Act. Discussions are underway to begin evaluating an area on the south coast of Newfoundland as a possible National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA). In the most recent federal budget, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty promised protection for Sable Island, that beautiful and fragile wisp of sand on Nova Scotia's outer banks.

Currently, Nova Scotia only has one designated MPA – the Gully, which is a huge submarine canyon on the edge of the continental shelf, and home to many species including northern bottlenose whales and cold water corals. We also have a few marine special management areas, including two coral conservation areas, two whale sanctuaries, and a few areas managed to protect concentrated spawning and nursery areas for commercial species of fish.

This is a good start, but considering all the vast and varied ocean and coastline we are surrounded by as a province – not to mention the central importance of our ocean and coasts to our culture and ways of life – we're going to have to do much better than this.

Adding new MPAs is not only a moral and ecological imperative, but also a matter of federal and international law. In Canada's Oceans Act, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans is tasked with creating a national system of marine protected areas on behalf of the Government of Canada. Canada also signed on to World Summit on Sustainable Development and 5th World Parks Congress resolutions to establish a representative marine protected areas network by 2012. Our single protected area and smattering of management areas certainly does not yet fit the bill for adequate protection for our region.



*A deep sea coral community in the north Atlantic. Photo: 2006 Centre for Marine Biodiversity Discovery Corridor*

Plenty of work has been done to identify some of the many marine areas and features of regional and global significance that exist in our waters – work by NGOs like CPAWS, by government agencies including DFO, Parks Canada, and Environment Canada, by academics, and others. Collectively, we know where most of the important marine areas are located – areas like the rich waters off the Digby Neck peninsula, or the globally unique horse mussel reefs in the Bay of Fundy. Now what we need is action, and the political will to move forward.

World Oceans Day may be coming up on June 8th, but every day is a good day to show your support for our oceans and for more marine protection in Nova Scotia. Our oceans give us plenty to celebrate, from providing most of the oxygen we breathe, to providing over \$500 billion worth of industry, to playing an essential role in regulating the earth's climate. Yet, marine ecosystems the world over are suffering unprecedented degradation. It's high time we acknowledge the endless value of this natural resource by taking its protection seriously.

*For more information on our marine protection efforts, or to get involved with the Atlantic Ocean Committee, please contact the CPAWS-NS office.*

## Join CPAWS for a Hike this Summer!

### Atlantic Ocean Guided Hike – Taylor Head

*When:* Sunday, July 15 (rain date: July 22), 1:00pm

*Location:* Taylor Head Provincial Park

*Description:* This rugged park offers a great opportunity to learn about and reflect upon our marine and coastal environments. Join CPAWS to learn about this beautiful coastal area and our marine conservation efforts.

*What to bring:* All ages and abilities are welcome on this moderate hike. Bring hiking shoes, snacks, and water. Taylor Head Provincial Park juts out into the Atlantic, making this a cooler hike than expected – be prepared and bring an extra layer of clothing.

*For more information on these hikes, please contact the CPAWS-NS office.*

### Crowbar Lake Trail Guided Hike

*When:* Sunday, August 12 (rain date: Aug. 19), 10:00am

*Location:* Waverley-Salmon River Long Lake Wilderness Area

*Description:* Located only a short distance from Metro Halifax, this trail is less than a year old and will take you through a rugged landscape of beautiful lakes and unique scenery. Join CPAWS to learn about the region's rich flora and fauna, Leave No Trace ethics, and our conservation efforts in and around HRM.

*What to bring:* This 7km hike to Granite Lake is over moderately rugged terrain, so be prepared with sturdy shoes, drinking water, lunch, snacks, and sunscreen. Please meet at the trailhead on Myra Road, 9km off highway 7 at Porters Lake.



## Canada's New Fisheries Act: A Sea of Potential Problems

By Laura Bennett, Atlantic Ocean Committee Chair

In December, Bill C-45, an updated version of Canada's Fisheries Act, was introduced to the House of Commons. This piece of legislation seeks to replace the current Fisheries Act of 1868, and was submitted for second reading on February 23.

Members of the Atlantic Ocean Committee, along with members of other marine-related conservation groups from Nova Scotia, met with representatives of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to discuss various aspects of the new Bill. After careful review of the proposed Act, CPAWS released an official statement calling on the federal government to withdraw Bill C-45 from its second reading in Parliament until the Bill can be revised to provide stronger protection for fish stocks and fish habitat.

CPAWS expressed concerns that the new Bill fails to set clear environmental standards and does not require the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to protect or conserve habitat. Language used throughout the Bill leaves many conservation measures to the discretion of the Minister, rather than setting clear conservation and protection measures for species and ecosystems. Although the preamble of the Bill discusses the application of an ecosystem-based approach, the Bill itself fails to mandate the application of this approach to fisheries management.

While CPAWS supports improving the current, outdated Fisheries Act, we strongly feel that the proposed revisions brought forth in Bill C-45 do not do enough to adequately address the crises in our oceans. We feel that an improved Bill will require further collaboration with stakeholders, and greater focus on the protection and sustainability of our marine ecosystems. After waiting 139 years for a revised Act, we believe that the federal government has a responsibility to introduce more effective legislation that actually serves to protect our marine resources for future generations.



Little River, NS. Photo: Laura Hussey

## CPAWS and MEC Team Up in Nova Scotia

By Christine Krochak, MEC Sustainability Coordinator, Halifax

Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) believes that by nurturing meaningful partnerships with conservation and outdoor community groups we can protect the places where we play, and enable and inspire outdoor adventure. Our collaboration with not-for-profit organizations is an essential ingredient in demonstrating leadership in social and environmental responsibility.

MEC has supported dozens of CPAWS conservation projects over 2 decades of environmental funding. Since 2004, we've provided core funding to the national office to strengthen the CPAWS voice for wilderness conservation. Through ongoing support for direct advocacy for a healthy network of parks and protected areas, as well as campaigns such as the Boreal Rendezvous, the Nahanni Forever Tour, and the more recent Journey to the Yukon's Three

Rivers tour, MEC is helping CPAWS to raise awareness and advance wilderness protection in Canada.

At the local level in Halifax, we are excited about formalizing our affiliation with CPAWS-NS and are thrilled about working together on a more meaningful level in our community. This partnership has already proven successful with the joint promotion of the Three Rivers event and the sale of CPAWS memberships through our store. We look forward to working with the local chapter in the future, and becoming a shining example of what can be done when two committed organizations with a common vision join together.



## Discover the Bay of Fundy's Rare Horse Mussel Reefs!

Learn about this globally unique and little-known marine feature from the discoverer of the Bay of Fundy mussel reefs, Marine Geologist Gordon Fader, and the Marine Coordinator for CPAWS-NS, Laura Hussey. Join Gordon Fader as he recounts the discovery of the reefs and relates what we know about them so far. Then hear from Laura Hussey to learn more about the need to protect the reefs, and the efforts by CPAWS-NS to ensure these amazing features are studied and maintained.

This presentation will take place in conjunction with the monthly meeting of the Halifax Field Naturalists, and is open to the public. Please join us!

Time: 7:30pm  
 Date: September 6th  
 Place: NS Museum of Natural History Auditorium,  
 1747 Summer St, Halifax



## Improving Forestry in Nova Scotia through FSC Certification CPAWS-NS works with Stora-Enso to protect high conservation value areas

By: *Chris Miller, Wilderness Conservation Coordinator, and  
Craig Smith, CPAWS-NS Executive Member, Secretary*

Close to 50,000 hectares of forest are harvested in Nova Scotia every single year, an area roughly equivalent in size to Kejimikujik National Park. Accessing this timber requires an extensive road network, which in Nova Scotia is long enough to encircle the Earth more than twice at the equator if pieced end-to-end.

This unsustainable rate of forest harvesting is placing an incredible strain on the ecology of the Acadian forest, the globally rare mixed deciduous-coniferous forest in our region that supports a wide diversity of plants and animals. Not only are high volumes of timber harvested from Nova Scotia's forests, but the vast majority of this wood fibre is extracted using clearcuts.

### *Encouraging signs*

Clearly, much work remains to be done before sustainable forestry will emerge as the status quo, but there are some encouraging signs of progress starting to emerge from around the province. Some private woodlot owners, for instance, have taken voluntary steps to improve forest management on their lands. Some have even been certified using the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, which requires woodlots to be managed using strict environmental and social guidelines.

This is an encouraging sign and has created a small foothold for better forest stewardship in Nova Scotia. Now it would appear a major industrial stakeholder is moving in that direction as well. Stora-Enso Port Hawkesbury Ltd. has taken the first provisional steps towards FSC certification and the company hopes to be audited for certification later this year.

Stora-Enso maintains forest management rights on approximately 630,000 hectares of land in the eastern portion of the province, or roughly eleven percent of Nova Scotia and nearly 40% of our public land base. The company has a large footprint on the forests of Nova Scotia, so it is encouraging to see Stora-Enso voluntarily moving in the direction of stricter environmental protection using FSC certification. Currently, less than one percent of the forests in Nova Scotia are FSC certified.

### *Protecting High Conservation Value Areas*

So, what's the CPAWS-NS role in all of this? Well, aside from our campaign to encourage FSC certification on public lands in Nova Scotia, we are working collaboratively with Stora-Enso in the identification, mapping, and protection of High Conservation Value (HCV) areas as part of the FSC certification process. As members of a team, we have been working with the company to protect the most ecologically significant areas of the province, some as strict protected areas and others as special management zones. We are also examining opportunities for landscape level connectivity, and working with the company on developing buffer zones around existing protected sites.



*The St. Mary's River watershed has been identified as a high conservation value area in need of more protected areas and special management zones. Photo: Chris A. Miller*

HCVs include large unfragmented forests, rare or declining ecosystems, and habitat for species of concern (including endemics, rare species, concentrations of biodiversity, and species at the edges of their natural ranges), to name a few. They also include sites important for cultural reasons and for the maintenance of watersheds and aquatic systems.

Much work remains, but so far the results of the HCV assessment are encouraging and very soon the vast majority of the most ecologically significant sites in Stora-Enso's area of operation will be identified and mapped. Some of these sites will eventually become part of an expanded system of protected areas in Nova Scotia. Currently, only 8.2% of the province is legally protected from industrial activities, such as forestry, mining, road-building, and development.

CPAWS-NS will continue to encourage FSC certification for forestry operations on public lands in this province, and will continue to work collaboratively with interested parties in identifying and protecting high conservation value areas.

#### *What is FSC?*

The Forest Stewardship Council is an international, membership-based, non-profit organization that supports environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

#### *What is FSC certification?*

Forest certification is a voluntary market mechanism through which forests are certified against a strict set of environmental and social standards, and all producers and manufacturers along the supply chain are certified to ensure that the final product bearing the FSC logo actually originated from a certified forest.

#### *What is the FSC Maritimes Standard?*

The FSC Maritimes Standard applies in the Acadian forest region of the Maritimes provinces including NS, NB, and PEI. It provides the basis for an independent FSC accredited certification body to measure and judge the performance of woodlands management by companies or individuals applying for FSC certification. (Source: FSC Canada)

## Dalhousie Students Lend Support to Blandford Campaign

By Chris Miller, Wilderness Conservation Coordinator

“Save Blandford, Save Blandford, Save Blandford”. That was just one of the many loud cheers that could be heard escaping the walls of the Grad House at Dalhousie University on the evening of March 23rd. At times, the cheers were so loud that I’m sure they could be heard all the way downtown at Province House. And that was exactly the point.

The concert was organized by a group of eight student volunteers from Dal to raise awareness and funds for the campaign to protect the public lands near Blandford as a nature reserve. Sporting homemade “Save Blandford” t-shirts, the students managed to pack nearly 200 people inside the campus pub through the course of the evening, to enjoy the music, have a good time, and help Blandford at the same time.

CPAWS-NS has been asking for the public lands at Blandford to be declared a nature reserve since the Department of Natural Resources proposed de-listing the area as a game sanctuary two years ago. Since game sanctuaries do little to protect habitat, a stronger designation is needed to protect the ecology of the Blandford area.

The Dalhousie students also organized a number of bake sales on campus for the Blandford cause, and together with the March concert, raised a total of nearly \$700 for the campaign. CPAWS-NS is grateful for the time and energy that the Dalhousie students devoted toward this project and will continue to work hard to ensure that the public lands at Blandford are properly designated as a nature reserve.

The Blandford lands are located on the Aspotogan Peninsula just west of Halifax, between St. Margaret’s Bay and Mahone Bay. The area is important for supporting old jack pine forests and other types of sig-

nificant ecosystems, and is a known staging area for migratory birds. It is also one of the last intact natural areas in the region, which is quickly being fragmented by clearcuts and new developments.

*Editor’s Note: On May 11th, the provincial government announced its intention to designate the public lands at Blandford as a nature reserve. Many thanks to everyone who took the time to write the Premier and request that these magnificent lands be protected. Stay tuned for more updates.*



The band plays to an enthusiastic crowd at the Blandford campaign fundraiser at Dalhousie University. Photo: Chris A. Miller

Want to stay up-to-date with the work of CPAWS-NS’ action committees? If so, send a blank message to the following addresses:  
[Terrestrial-subscribe@yahoogroups.ca](mailto:Terrestrial-subscribe@yahoogroups.ca)  
[Parkwatch-subscribe@yahoogroups.ca](mailto:Parkwatch-subscribe@yahoogroups.ca)  
[Atlantic\\_ocean-subscribe@yahoogroups.ca](mailto:Atlantic_ocean-subscribe@yahoogroups.ca)

## Journey to Yukon’s Three Rivers

By Cheyenne Dickinson, Three Rivers Event Coordinator

CPAWS’ “Journey to the Yukon’s Three Rivers” cross-Canada tour rolled through Halifax in April, bringing with it majestic images of untouched Northern wilderness. Our guest of honour, long-time CPAWS Yukon conservationist Juri Peepre, took to the podium to bring us the evening’s main event, an incredible journey to the Yukon’s Three Rivers. Through pictures, stories and film, Juri invoked imagination and wonder, inviting the audience to join in the splendour of this incredible place.



Juri Peepre guides the audience through a spectacular Yukon journey. Photo: Andrew Chow

The evening’s emcee was CBC’s *Living East* host Heidi Petracek and the musical entertainment was provided by ECMA-nominated and International Songwriter’s Competition-winning singer/songwriter David Myles and his own special guest, banjo songster Old Man Luedecke. Local photographer Cheryl Foster, Ontario photographer Mark Nowicki, and Lakeview artist Al Bergin generously donated incredible nature-inspired pieces for a prize raffle. A mounted poster of Egg Mountain – James River Wilderness Area was also donated by Nova Scotia Environment and Labour.

Heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who made the event possible, including our tireless volunteers and everyone who came out to make the evening a success. Thanks especially to our munificent donors and our national sponsors, Mountain Equipment Co-op and Yukon Wild.

# Wildlife Put at Risk as Province Guts ATV Regulations

By Clare Robinson, CPAWS-NS Board Member

*Editor's note: A similar version of this article was published in the Chronicle Herald on May 2, 2007.*

On March 21, many of us were stunned when Natural Resources Minister David Morse announced the government was backtracking on the recent laws governing the use of Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) including All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), in Nova Scotia. ATVs are now allowed on (1) "established trails", (2) unmaintained public roads, and (3) logging roads on Crown land. The regulations define an "established trail" as "a route or path in existence before April 1, 2006, that has, through traditional use, become a trail for use by OHVs, and permission to use that route or path has not been withdrawn". Wilderness areas and sensitive ecosystems are still off-limits – but pretty much any set of ruts through the woods (or your property) could now be defined as an official ATV trail.

With one statement, the Minister has opened thousands of kilometres of forest roads to ATVs – causing significant impact to otherwise remote, ecologically important areas. Many of these areas function as critical habitat for sensitive species needing interior forest, like our endangered lynx, marten, and mainland moose.

We already have 31 species legally listed as being at risk in Nova Scotia. Most are on this list because their survival on the landscape is challenged by human use and human development. The disturbance caused by ATV-use sanctioned by gutting the regulations will impede

recovery of sensitive species and will all but ensure the list continues to grow, which is bad news for conservation in Nova Scotia.

Science – and common sense – tells us roads have a negative effect on forest ecosystems by fragmenting them into ever-smaller pieces. ATV-use on unmaintained or poorly maintained routes damages waterways and forest vegetation – and as a result creates stress for species dependant on these ecosystems. Noise from ATVs disturbs many sensitive interior forest wildlife causing them to avoid otherwise suitable habitat. Roads penetrating remote forest ecosystems create easy access to interior lakes, rivers and wildlands making them vulnerable to excessive hunting, fishing, trapping and poaching. Poaching is a key factor in the decline of moose on the mainland.

Regular maintenance of trails and roads helps ensure they meet safety and environmental standards. Many "established trails", "abandoned roads" and "logging roads on Crown land" do not meet any acceptable standard because they are not maintained. Consequently, they pose risk to ATV drivers and the environment.

For safety and environmental reasons, ATVs need to be restricted to appropriate roads and trails, contingent on a site-specific assessment of each route. An approved road and trail network should be contingent on funds available for regular monitoring, necessary maintenance and enforcement. Signs should mark designated roads and trails. If there is no sign, it is closed to OHV traffic. *(cont'd p.8)*

*Help protect and preserve Canada's wilderness and wildlife!  
With your help, we'll save another 400,000km<sup>2</sup> of Canada's wilderness.*

I want to protect Canada's wilderness. Here is my CPAWS membership contribution of:

\$35       \$50       \$100       \$200      Other \_\_\_\_\_

*We provide tax receipts for all donations of \$10 or more*

Please find my:  cheque enclosed; or charge my:  Visa     Mastercard     American Express

_____		_____	
Card #		Expiry Date	
_____		_____	
Signature		Name (please print)	
_____		_____	
Email		Phone	
_____		_____	
Mailing Address	City/Town	Province	Postal Code

- Please send me information on making a planned gift (e.g., a bequest in my will or a gift of life insurance)
- I would like to receive news and campaign updates by email

 *Cut along line and mail to: 4-1526 Dresden Row, Unit 3, Halifax NS, B3J 3K3*

## CPAWS Strengthens Piece of Environmental Legislation New clause inserted through Law Amendments process

By Chris Miller, Wilderness Conservation Coordinator

The Nova Scotia government has just passed a new piece of comprehensive environmental legislation that sets into law a number of goals and targets for a range of environmental issues. It includes a goal of expanding the current protected areas system on land by 50% over the next few years.

The Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act sets in law a target of 12% of the Nova Scotia landmass as legally protected by the year 2015. Currently, only about 8% of the province is designated as protected areas. The Act also requires yearly reporting to the legislature on progress toward achieving the 12% target. The Nova Scotia government has previously announced a 12% target but has never before enshrined this goal in legislation.

CPAWS-NS has long been advocating for an expansion to the current protected areas system and we participated directly in the legislative process for this Bill by testifying in front of the Law Amendments Committee on April 10th. In Nova Scotia, there is a unique process in place where groups or individuals can propose amendments to a new piece

of legislation while it is being debated in the House, between second and third reading.

CPAWS-NS was successful at inserting a clause into the new Act that clearly defines “legally protected” as sites that contribute to biological conservation goals, such as wilderness areas, nature reserves, and national parks. This is to avoid having certain types of protected areas included in the 12% that do not exclude industrial activities, such as game sanctuaries (which are extensively clearcut in Nova Scotia).

The definition inserted into the Bill clearly establishes that the 12% target must be met using real protected areas that actually protect habitat, as opposed to protected areas that contribute little to biological conservation and are green on highway maps only.

CPAWS-NS also requested that the 12% be a ‘floor’ for the expanded protected areas system, and not a ‘ceiling’. We also requested that the timeline for achieving this target be shortened from 2015 to 2012.

CPAWS-NS will now be recommending specific high-value conservation sites for the expanded protected areas system and will make sure that progress is achieved right away with the creation of new protected sites.

## ATV Regulations...(cont'd from p.7)

These are not new ideas. The government’s own OHV Action Plan calls for limiting ATV-use to a network of trails to be guided by a multistakeholder committee including representatives from OHV, medical, safety, and environmental organizations. Government struck the advisory committee soon after passing the OHV Act in 2006, but now appears to be ignoring it.

The OHV Act stemmed from an exhaustive public consultation by the Voluntary Planning Task Force, where Nova Scotians came in droves to reject a situation that was aptly described as “out of control”. Sensible recommendations from the task force resulted in an act that provided greater protection for riders, the environment and the rights of private landowners. It reflected the views of the majority.

Minister Morse has sacrificed public faith in fair and inclusive consultation to satisfy a handful of riders and dealers – and of course, a group of government MLAs who are uncompromising ATV enthusiasts.

ATV-use needs to be concentrated on routes that do not wreak havoc on wildlife and wilderness. Identifying those routes was supposed to be overseen by the Minister’s OHV advisory committee. Minister Morse - and especially his one-sided caucus colleagues - should let them do their job.



CPAWS-NS Board of Directors  
 2006-2007

### Executive Officers

Carolyn Hedley, *President*  
 Graham Smith, *Vice-President*  
 Judith Cabrita, *Treasurer*  
 Craig Smith, *Secretary*  
 Clare Robinson, *National Trustee*

### Directors

Robert Miedema  
 Amanda Lavers  
 Virginia Soehl  
 Andrea Flowers  
 Veronica Sherwood  
 Karen Potter  
 Britt Roscoe  
 Robert Sharkie

### Chapter Staff

Laura Hussey, *Marine Coordinator*  
 Chris Miller, *Wilderness Conservation Coordinator*



You're Invited to CPAWS Nova Scotia's



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When: Wednesday, June 20th, 7:00 pm  
 Where: Room 1007, Rowe Management Building  
 6100 University Ave., Dalhousie University

CPAWS-NS is pleased to announce that our guest speaker this year will be wildlife biologist and CBC radio personality **Bob Bancroft**. Please join us for Mr. Bancroft's engaging discussion, and to hear updates on CPAWS-NS' recent activities and progress from our staff, directors, and volunteers.