

NEWFOUNDLAND WILDERNESS

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter



Executive Director's Message

By Tanya Edwards and Suzanne Dooley

As we welcome you to the Fall issue of CPAWS–NL's newsletter we recognize that we have never actually given our newsletter a title and so after some careful thought and consideration we are happy to say that our newsletter will now be called *Newfoundland Wilderness*.

Another calendar year is coming to an end and it is the perfect time to reflect on the past year and give thanks to those that support the work that we do. This past year there has been a whirlwind of activity for CPAWS Newfoundland and Labrador with significant advancements in our campaigns for increased protection for Newfoundland and Labrador's marine and terrestrial programs. We have carried out many grassroots projects that help us reach our conservation goals from rescuing seabirds to developing a National Geographic Geotourism MapGuide.

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Newfoundland and Labrador's chapter may be small in size but we work diligently to make a difference. We have a dedicated board of directors, a group of highly knowledgeable individuals with a wealth of experience who willingly give their time and expertise to oversee our small chapter. Without their continued commitment to CPAWS–NL our successes would not be possible. We truly appreciate their efforts.

Inside This Issue

Executive Director's Message	1
Sustainable Forest Management	2
Puffin & Petrel Patrol	3
Dare to be Deep	3
A Word from our President	4
Adopt-a-Beach	5
Membership/Contact Information	6

CPAWS–NL also relies heavily on our partners and funders. We are grateful for the continued support of foundations, corporations and government, all of which provide financial support which enables us to continue to work toward conserving and protecting Newfoundland and Labrador's wild spaces and species.

Our members, donors and volunteers are the heart of our organization. These people believe in the value of our wilderness and recognize the need to ensure our natural resources and species exist for future generations. It is their active participation in our campaigns that have been instrumental to our continued success.

As we are approaching our 10 year anniversary we have an ambitious agenda for the following year. We will continue to rely on the relationships we have established in order to ensure Newfoundland and Labrador's wilderness is protected.

If you would like to be added to our NL mailing list please send an email to nlcoordinator@cpaws.org



CPAWS NL continues its Input into Sustainable Forest Management

After our many efforts, it seems that 2012 has been a big year for evolving changes in forest management in Newfoundland. There are exciting processes in place by Government to improve and evolve its commitment to sustainable forest management.

In 2012, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in Newfoundland proceeded with stakeholder meetings to influence evolving its 2013 Sustainable Forest Management Strategy. CPAWS-NL and other Environmental Non-Government Organizations (ENGO) have supported the Centre for Forest Science and Innovation (CFSI) of the DNR in considering intact landscapes and developing deferrals that would optimize habitat for various herds of woodland caribou as well as other species. The federal Committee On the Status of Endangered Wildlife In Canada (COSEWIC) has contracted the updated report to re-evaluate the status of the woodland caribou population on the Island of Newfoundland. Given the dramatic declines, some of our colleagues suspect that a federal listing for the island herds may result. In 2012, Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited (CBPPL) applied for Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC). CPAWS has provided an input and recommendations of the High Conservation Value Forest Assessment carried under that process. The FSC 'Boreal Standard' is the only forest certification supported by CPAWS.

A Newfoundland and Labrador Regional Working Group of the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement had its first formal meeting in May 2012. The CBPPL has proposed deferrals for 1500 km² caribou habitat that are now under discussion, and have been developed as part of the requirement for 'Large Ecological Value' forests



under the FSC process. There was national media attention on an earlier report on intact landscapes and woodland caribou on the Island of Newfoundland co-authored by Ian Goudie. Through a supporting grant from Mountain Equipment Coop, an independent assessment of intact landscape on the Island of Newfoundland demonstrating its unequivocal importance to caribou was completed by Dr. Goudie in collaboration with Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Canadian Boreal Initiative. Under the Data Sharing Agreement with the DNR, it is hoped this report will be released to the public in the near future.

As part of its evolving 2013 Sustainable Forest Management Strategy, the government of Newfoundland is preparing deferrals of intact landscape for the Island of Newfoundland. While input into Five-Year Forest Management Plans has continued through the Environmental Assessment process, the success at achieving deferrals for old-growth and woodland caribou habitat has been mixed. Protection of habitat has been driven primarily by a policy of the Wildlife Division to protect 50% kernel areas associated with a small sample of radioed female caribou. Because of its importance to biological diversity, CPAWS-NL and other ENGO groups are therefore continuing to work collaboratively to encourage the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to make Large Intact Landscapes a centre piece of the new management policy.

Volunteers Rescue over 500 Puffins

CPAWS–NL are very proud of the success of our Puffin and Petrel Patrol Program, which is part of our Seabird Habitat Improvement Campaign. For the past two years local volunteers have participated in rescuing puffins and petrels along the southern shore. We currently have over 50 volunteers searching for stranded puffins and petrels at night along the roadsides of Bay Bulls, Witless Bay, Mobile, Tors Cove, Burnt Cove, St. Michael's and Bauline. As a result of their dedication this past summer we rescued over 500 puffins and 80% of these were banded by either the Canadian Wildlife Service or Parks and Natural Areas Division. In addition, we are happy to report that this year was the first year we actively searched for stranded Leach's Storm Petrels and we were able to rescue and release 6 (these birds are somewhat harder to see and are more mobile). We hope to recruit more petrel patrollers next year so our petrels receive the same protection as our puffins.

This year has been a phenomenal year in regards to



outreach which primarily stems from increased media, public presentations in schools and the interests groups. Local businesses were happy to become engaged through enforcing mitigation measures such as dimming unnecessary lights as well as providing equipment, donations, etc, which greatly helped our volunteers. It is very encouraging to have so many people wanting to patrol the streets looking for the birds, but ultimately no birds on our roadways would be the best scenario. Our intention is to encourage mitigation measures that will deter these birds from coming to the shore and becoming stranded in the first place.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in the Puffin and Petrel Patrol program these past few months. It has been a long and rewarding season and without the support of all of you the program would not be a success. For more information visit the Facebook page: *Witless Bay Puffin Patrol*.

Join the call of 12 new marine protected areas by 2012!

Did you know that even though Canada hosts one of the largest ocean territories in the world, less than 1% of it is protected through meaningful long-term conservation measures? The federal government made a commitment seven years ago to establish a network of marine protected areas by 2012. Since then, we've lost too much time to get a full network in place, but Canada CAN make progress by creating at least 12 new marine protected areas! As part of our Dare to be Deep campaign we're aiming for 12,000 people to endorse this message to the Federal Government to advance marine conservation through the

establishment of 12 new marine protected areas by the end of 2012. So far CPAWS–NL has gathered over 400 signatures and nationally we have reached our goal. To add your name to the list or to learn more about Dare to Be Deep, please visit <http://www.daretobedeep.ca/>



A Word From our President

By Dan Ficken, CPAWS–NL President

With 2012 coming to a close, CPAWS–NL is gearing up for an exciting 2013 and our ten–year anniversary as an official chapter. It is important to recognize the grand efforts of the volunteers who helped make this chapter a reality in 2003. These efforts have gotten us to where we are today and I look forward to many more successful years of parks and wilderness conservation.

This year has been no exception, with the Seabird Conservation and Habitat Improvement Program more puffins and Leach's Storm Petrels have been spotted and rescued than ever before. The dedicated CPAWS–NL staff and volunteer–led Puffin and Petrel Patrol have been hard at work ensuring these young birds make it to safety by releasing them to sea and by educating about the effects artificial coastal lighting has on the natural flight paths of seabirds. Similarly, the volunteer–run Adopt–a–Beach Program has also been a success with beaches along the Southern Shore being monitored for rare birds, such as purple sandpipers, as well as for signs of marine pollution.

DID YOU KNOW?

For 40 years, CPAWS has been instrumental in protecting more than 45 million hectares of Canada's wilderness.

Cost per hectare saved is less than \$1.

The National Geographic Geotourism MapGuide project is blossoming with the official MapGuide launch to occur in the spring of 2013. There has been great interest in this project and many people have participated in populating the map of Eastern Newfoundland with important sites of ecological and cultural interest. The production of the map will help to promote sustainable tourism in the province and we expect there will be similar maps produced in the near future for other parts of the province. Sustainable tourism will enhance the experience people will have when visiting these sites and will aid in conserving our wonderful and unique areas of natural environmental importance and historical significance for generations to come.

I look forward to continuing on the achievements of these projects and more from 2012 onward to 2013 and we here at CPAWS–NL are pleased with the level of interest and dedication of local volunteers who help make these programs so successful. I also look forward to our continued collaboration with CPAWS National and the various chapters across the country who are making conservation a priority in the eyes of Canadians. Here's to a fruitful 2013 and to pride in our parks and wilderness, and to your dedicated support towards our important natural areas.

All the best in 2013.





Adopt-A-Beach

For the past two years, CPAWS-NL has reached out to various key communities along the southern shore of Newfoundland recruiting volunteers as stewards to adopt a beach and monitor birds washing up on their local beaches on a weekly basis. Volunteers survey beaches for beached birds, monitoring various sources of mortality occurring in the marine environment, which can otherwise be difficult to assess. Collected data is used to provide scientific-based information that will help with management decisions at various levels. Monitoring mortality rates is critical in ensuring our marine environment and its resources are healthy, sustainable and available for future generations! If you're interested in participating in the Adopt-a-Beach program, please contact us. We provide you with survey

kits and training.

We would like to thank our dedicated volunteers who regularly monitor beaches and help increase public awareness and appreciation of the marine environment, its threats and ways we can reduce these threats and ensure our marine environments and its resources are protected. Our volunteers are invaluable to the success of this program. So again Thank You!

For more information on this program please visit our website, <http://cpawsnl.org/campaigns/adopt-a-beach>



You can help ensure CPAWS-NL's Adopt-a-Beach program continues by voting for our project to receive a funding grant at the link below:

<http://fuellingchange.com/main/project/373/Adopt-A->



We've Moved!

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WANT TO GET INVOLVED!
CALL US, WRITE US, FAX US,
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YES, I support the NL Chapter of CPAWS
YES, I want to become a member **YES, I want to renew**

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