



THE PARKS CANADA REVIEW

2011 Centennial Edition



CELEBRATING A CENTURY:
OUR Centennial edition of
The Parks Canada Review

A Message from Canada's Minister of the Environment

What a year this has been for the world's first national park service!

From the downtown cores of Canada's cities to the most remote regions of our vast network of parks, historic sites, and marine conservation areas, we have celebrated a hundred years of connecting Canadians with our national treasures.

Across Canada and around the world we have made a difference over the past year.

At home and worldwide, we have received wide recognition as a leader in managing protected areas. We are proud to share the credit with the many engaged individuals, organizations, communities, Aboriginal groups and local, provincial and territorial governments who have worked with us. As we prepare for another century of achievement, we look forward to building upon these collaborations and to proudly sharing Canada's best from coast to coast to coast with Canadians and beyond our borders.

The Honourable Peter Kent, PC, MP
Minister of the Environment and
Minister responsible for Parks Canada



Parks Canada lit up the area around the CN Tower and throughout Toronto.



Minister Kent throwing out the first pitch of the Blue Jays game.

Parks Canada Hits a Home Run in Toronto

The world's first national park service launched its 100th birthday celebration on May 21st with the Parks Canada Experience, an exciting day-long outdoor street and music fest that attracted thousands to downtown Toronto.

In the words of one poster on the Parks Canada Facebook page, it was "an awesome day," with everything from heritage presentations and costumed interpretation to the Fort George fife and drum corps and a critter corner ensuring a fun day for kids and grown-ups alike. The volume kicked up another notch at a late afternoon concert with Mudmen, Malajube, Sweet Thing, and Apostle of Hustle.

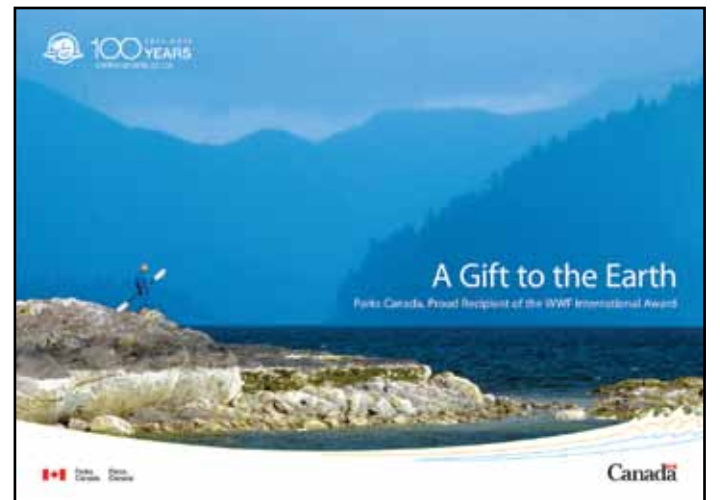
The celebration in Canada's largest urban centre hit the big leagues when the Toronto Blue Jays invited Minister Kent to throw out the first pitch at the Rogers Centre. Special activities during the game included the Parks Canada Trip of a Lifetime Giveaway. After the game, the stadium was transformed into Canada's biggest indoor campsite, with dozens of families taking advantage of what one called a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" for an overnight camp-out inside the ballpark.

A Gift to the Earth

On May 19th, World Wildlife Fund International presented Parks Canada with its prestigious Gift to the Earth Award in recognition of Parks Canada's leadership and conservation achievements that contribute to protecting the living planet. These include the dramatic growth of Canada's system of national parks and national marine conservation areas and our international leadership in creating new protected areas and reintroducing species at risk.

As well, Parks Canada was acknowledged for embracing precedent-setting collaboration with Aboriginal peoples in the creation and management of protected areas. As Minister Kent observed, "little of the tremendous growth we have achieved since 2006, from the expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve in 2009 to the creation of Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve and Haida Heritage Site in 2010, would have been possible without the excellent relationships with our Aboriginal partners."

Calling the award an "incredible honour for Parks Canada and for all Canadians," Minister Kent marked the anniversary by announcing another gift to the earth—the addition of 110 square kilometres to Grasslands National Park. This area of spectacular scenery and native



This special booklet delves deeper into why Parks Canada received this honour.

grasslands in southwest Saskatchewan is part of one of the most endangered ecosystems in Canada, and a global priority area for World Wildlife Fund.



Yves Chevallier

Will and Kate thrilled Canadians at every stop on their tour, from dragon-boating in Prince Edward Island National Park to inspecting 'soldiers' at the Lévis Forts National Historic Site.

Youth Ambassadors with Royal Connections

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has ensured that the memories of the 2011 Royal Visit and the centennial of Parks Canada will live on by creating The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's Parks Canada Youth Ambassadors Program as a gift to the royal couple. The program, Prime Minister Harper said, "will remind The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge of the time they spent here together enjoying Canada's natural wonders, and forever connect them to the young people participating in the program that bears their name."

Beginning in 2012, two youth ambassadors will be selected each year to reach out to Canadian youth in schools, communities and at Parks Canada locations—expanding our efforts to connect young Canadians with their special places.

CENTENNIAL

Centennial Experiences Across the Nation

Hard on the heels of last year's celebrations of the 125th anniversary of Canada's first national park, staff across the country pulled out all the stops again this year, inviting Canadians to join in celebrations of the 100th birthday of Parks Canada, the first national park service in the world.

From the "100 Voices for 100 Years" singing of "O Canada" at Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site to "Talk Like a Pirate Day" at Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site to the "Bloomers to Sack Suits" fashion show at Klondike National Historic Sites, the centennial brought new events and a special flavour to regular activities at Parks Canada places from coast to coast to coast.

In many cases, the centennial celebrations coincided with other milestones—Yoho and Glacier national parks commemorated their 125th anniversaries as national parks with 125-kilometre hiking challenges, while Cape Breton Highlands National Park marked its 75th anniversary with more than 75 ways for visitors to choose their own big adventure.



Fun for everyone during Parks Canada's centennial.

Minister Kent with Parka, Parks Canada's New Mascot



Centennial Sparks Special Editions and Tributes

A number of Canadian magazines issued special editions in honour of Parks Canada's centennial. As well as publishing a special "collectors' edition" featuring the best photographs from national parks, *Canadian Geographic* devoted its April 2011 edition to Parks Canada, with stories covering subjects ranging from our history to the discovery of HMS *Investigator* in 2010. This was followed by a special June issue of *Explore Magazine* on adventures in national parks and an *Explore Magazine/Géo Plein Air* national parks adventure poster map in July. The unprecedented coverage for Parks Canada during its centennial year also included feature stories in publications such as *Macleans*, *Canada's History* magazine, *Kayak: Canada's History Magazine for Kids*, *enRoute*, *Taste & Travel International*, *Our Canada, up!*, and *Canadian Immigrant*.



Throughout the centennial, the *Globe and Mail* regularly featured Parks Canada places and experiences and encouraged readers to share their stories in print and online.

Centennial Headlines Major Festivities



National Parks Project at Canada Day celebrations.

Parks Canada was front and centre at some of Canada's biggest events in 2011.

Starting with a spectacular frozen fireworks display, Ottawa's Winterlude festival featured the Parks Canada centennial with a celebration of national parks and national historic sites and the pleasures of winter camping. Visitors were treated to large-scale images of Parks Canada places projected onto the exterior of the Canadian Museum of Civilization, as well as short films and photo exhibits, among all kinds of activities on the world's longest skating rink, the frozen Rideau Canal—one of Parks Canada's gems and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

On Canada Day, drummers from the Fortress of Louisbourg and the Halifax Citadel joined an Ottawa-based ensemble of Inuit drummers on Parliament Hill to entertain the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and 300,000 new friends. This was part of a full day of family-friendly activities, capped off by a National Parks Project concert in the evening across the Ottawa River in Gatineau, Quebec.

In Calgary, the Parks Canada Flag-bearers on horseback, a fixture in the Stampede Parade for over 20 years, was complemented for the centennial year by a horse-drawn wagon and an award-winning float! On the Stampede Grounds themselves, magnificent Percheron horses from Bar U Ranch National Historic Site made a big impression on young and old alike.

Moose Muffle Soup? There's an App for That



Alan Latourelle, CEO of Parks Canada, with chefs from the Culinary Arts Program at Ottawa's Algonquin College.

With the help of professional chefs from the Culinary Arts Program at Ottawa's Algonquin College, more than 70 heritage recipes from national parks and national historic sites across the country have been adapted for modern cooks.

The recipes—all fully tested in the college's kitchens—along with photos of each dish and a few words about their history and place of origin, have been combined into *Heritage Gourmet*, a smartphone application that can be downloaded via the Parks Canada website.

The recipes, also available directly from the website, range from Granny Canning's Finnan Haddie to the orange marmalade that Prime Minister Mackenzie King enjoyed as a boy.

Commemorative Change

The Royal Canadian Mint honoured Parks Canada's centennial year with two remarkable tributes. The first collector coin of 2011 was the Parks Canada centennial silver dollar, a solid silver masterpiece designed by artist Luc Normandin.



On October 7th, a beautiful Parks Canada centennial commemorative loonie was unveiled and entered into circulation. Featuring elements

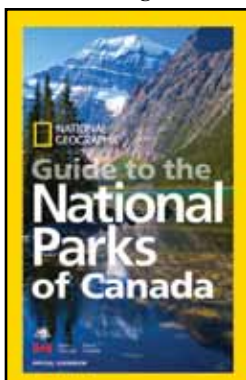


of national parks, national historic sites, national marine conservation areas and a hiker, five million centennial coins will be in the pockets of Canadians for the next 20 to 30 years, and collected forever. The centennial loonie is the leader of the Mint's 'Our Legendary Nature' five-coin series. Ads on French and English television enable Canadians to discover more about Parks Canada and this centennial coin.

New Books Celebrate National Parks in Canada

From their fascinating history to their stunning landscapes, two new books provide lasting commemoration of the wonders of Canada's national parks and national marine conservation areas.

Canada's National Parks: A Celebration, designed by a Parks Canada team and published by Canopy, an environmental non-governmental organization, is a 256-page collection of photographs showcasing the natural beauty of each of Canada's national parks.



Daryl Benson

Another book launched in July is destined to occupy a spot in many glove boxes and backpacks. Richly illustrated, the 350-page *National Geographic Guide to the National Parks of Canada* is the product of the first-ever collaboration between National Geographic and Parks Canada. It is available in English, French and German.

Postal Pride



In honour of 100 years of conserving places of natural beauty and historic significance for all to enjoy, Canada Post released a Parks Canada tribute stamp including a complimentary postcard and first day cover. Said stamp designer Tim Nokes, "it was important to me that parks be seen as a place of self-discovery, education and powerful inspiration from nature."

CONNECTION

The Mysteries of Camping Revealed

It's been a favourite activity for generations of Canadians, and this past summer Parks Canada partnered with Mountain Equipment Co-op to stage national learn-to camp events in more than a dozen national historic sites across the country. The hands-on weekends introduced urban Canadians to the fun and affordable experience of camping.

At Fort George National Historic Site, a burned marshmallow proved to be the first course of Zaid Al-Rawni's welcome feast to Canada's wilderness. He and his children arrived from England three months earlier and took advantage of the opportunity to learn how to camp. Mr. Al-Rawni said the kids scorched their first few marshmallows when they thrust them into a bonfire, but they soon mastered the art of roasting the fluffy white sweets. "I want them to enjoy it," he said. "Canada's got great outdoors, and having an opportunity to kick-start our camping adventures was really cool. You have to enjoy it," he said of the wilderness, "otherwise it's a waste."



Excited children check out their tent at Fort George National Historic Site.

Reaching Next Generation Today

Youth are the future caretakers of our nature and history, which is why Parks Canada continues to reach out to them with engaging and fun programs.

The Parks Canada Xplorers program was launched in 2011, offering special activities for 6-11 year-olds at some 40 national parks and national historic sites across the country and on Via Rail trains. The program will be expanded to new sites in 2012.

The "My Parks Pass" program entered its second year in 2011 with some new features. Again in partnership with Nature Canada and the Historica-Dominion Institute, this year's passes—distributed to 400,000 Grade 8 students across the country—continue to allow students free entry to any Parks Canada place for a year. The program now includes online contests with prizes ranging from iPods to Canada's Ultimate Family Adventure in Jasper National Park. This fall, the passes will allow entire classes to enter the "Canada's Coolest School Field Trip" Contest. The class submitting the best video on a Parks Canada theme will win a four-day learning adventure in Banff National Park.

"Canada's Greatest Summer Job" Program from 2010 yielded such incredible videos that five of them were screened at the prestigious Banff Mountain Film Festival that year. Many of those videos were compiled into a six-part series being broadcast by Oasis HD in 2011. The videos produced by these very talented youth can also be viewed on the Parks Canada website.



The Hayes family, winners of the My Parks Pass Canada's Ultimate Family Adventure, in Jasper National Park.

Honouring our Volunteers

Every year, close to 6,000 volunteers give their time and talents to everything from pulling weeds to maintaining ships at national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas across the country. As part of the centennial celebrations in 2011, a hundred of these volunteers were honoured with a certificate signed by the CEO and a limited edition backpack—volunteers like husband-and-wife team Yuko and Tomoaki Fujimura.

Working closely with Parks Canada and other community organizations, the Fujimuras played a key role in commemorating the 100th anniversary of Canada's worst avalanche

accident in history in which 58 railway workers, 32 of whom were Japanese, lost their lives in what is now Rogers Pass National Historic Site in Glacier National Park. Among other efforts, the Fujimuras contacted members of the families of a number of the 32 Japanese men killed in the disaster and arranged for them to come from Japan for two memorial services. Schools, communities and individuals across Canada and as far away as Europe sent more than 16,000 origami cranes to the Fold and Unfold Crane Project conceived by Yuko Fujimura. Suspended above the crowds, the cranes signified the major gains in snow science and safety over the past century and the hope to never again see such an avalanche tragedy.

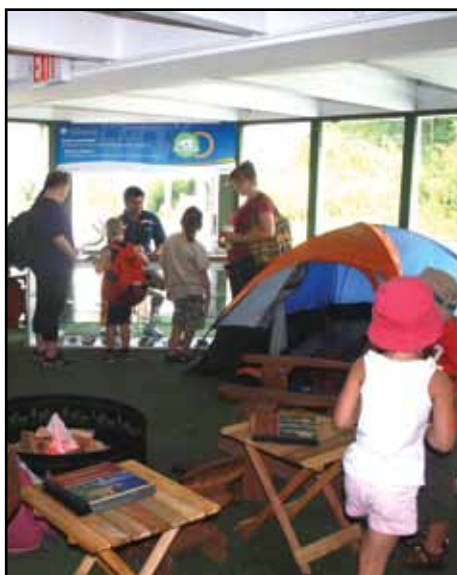


From the time he was 9 years old, Josh Nelles has been volunteering at HMCS Haida National Historic Site.

Parks Canada volunteers help build a legacy for Canada's natural and historic treasures. While Parks Canada took the opportunity in 2011 to recognize 100 of our volunteers, each and every volunteer's contribution is greatly appreciated by Parks Canada and by Canadians!

Ontario Place Exhibits Attract Record Crowds

More than three million people were expected to visit Ontario Place during its 2011 season, as the Toronto waterfront park offered free admission to mark its 40th anniversary.



Parks Canada brings the outdoor experiences inside Ontario Place.

A new Parks Canada exhibit, with interactive programs and inspiring 'eco' activities highlighted national initiatives in conservation and environmental education.

The Parks Canada exhibit was one of several in Ontario Place's new Eco-Learning Centre. The Wetland Discovery Trailer from Trent-Severn Waterway National Historic Site, appearing at a number of special events in and around Toronto during the summer, spent a week at Ontario Place in August, bringing collector cards of species at risk along with other displays and programs.

'Northwords' Brings Urban Writers Northwards

Producers of the Gemini award-winning National Parks Project teamed up with radio personality Shelagh Rogers and Parks Canada to bring five top-selling Canadian authors, Joseph Boyden, Alissa York, Noah Richler, Sara Leavitt, and Rabindranath Maharaj, to one of Canada's newest national parks for a unique multimedia project called Northwords.

"I thought it would be interesting if we took writers who have a very urban experience of Canada...and placed them in a place of deep nature to see what they would come up with, see what they would be inspired by, see what their connection to the land would be and what it would yield creatively" said Shelagh Rogers in August while en route to Torngat Mountains National Park.

The writers' experience on the land, and the meaningful connections that inspire their work as a result, is the basis for a documentary film that will also highlight the unique physical beauty of the park as well as its significance as a place of deep spiritual meaning to the Inuit. The film will be complemented by an episode of Rogers' popular CBC Radio program *The Next Chapter* and an interactive website.



Shelagh Rogers interviews Alissa York at North Arm, Torngat Mountains National Park.

CULTURE

New Exhibits Contribute to Reconciliation



Annette Robichaud

One of the many community photographs (workers at the lobster cannery) displayed in Kouchibouguac National Park's new exhibits.

Along with the centennial, Parks Canada staff at Kouchibouguac National Park are celebrating a newly renovated and expanded visitor centre that will greet visitors next spring when it re-opens.

A new high-definition film, 'Naturally Captivating: The Kouchibouguac Coastal Experience,' will now give visitors a spectacular 20-minute tour of the park's natural beauty and history.

There are also two self-guided multimedia exhibits. 'Where Land, Sea and People Meet' showcases the park's diverse natural environment and interweaves both the dynamic history of the people who once lived off the area's natural bounty and their descendants who still depend on it. 'Memories of Our Communities' was developed in collaboration with members of the park's Former Residents Advisory Committee. It recognized the impacts on landowners whose property was expropriated when the park was created in 1969.

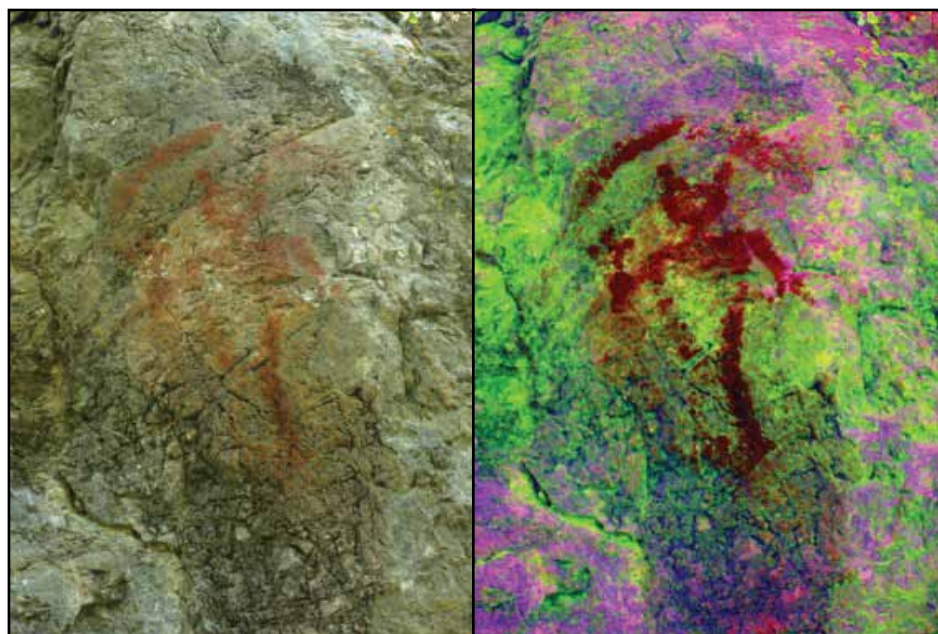
Through sharing personal oral recollections and hundreds of family photos of life in the communities that existed in the area before the creation of the park, the exhibit ensures these communities will not be forgotten.

Ancient Pictographs Break Their Silence

Time and the elements have done their best to hide their secrets, but pictographs that are no longer visible to the naked eye are being 'seen' once again in and around Kootenay National Park.

Parks Canada archaeologists learned of an American pictograph enthusiast who had developed software designed specifically to detect traces of pictographs and produce enhanced photos of this ancient rock art. Once enhanced, the images can be 'read' by Aboriginal elders who are working with the archaeologists to make sure that the stories the pictographs tell are preserved.

While some speak of battles or epic journeys, many of the pictographs found in Western Canada depict the spiritual life of Aboriginal peoples, providing a rare glimpse into the belief systems and rituals that make these cultures unique.



Pictograph of shaman figure at Armstrong Bay, in Kootenay National Park. What is visible to the naked eye is shown on the left. Digital enhancement on the right Courtesy of DStretch.com

Tribute for Remarkable Ocean Liner

In July, the Honourable Senator Suzanne Fortin-Duplessis unveiled an Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque commemorating the loss of 1,012 lives in the sinking of the Canadian Pacific steamship RMS *Empress of Ireland* on May 29, 1914.



With dignitaries in attendance, Senator Suzanne Fortin-Duplessis unveiled a plaque commemorating the *Empress of Ireland* tragedy.

Designated a National Historic Site in 2009, the wreck lies 40 metres below the surface of the St. Lawrence estuary off Pointe-au-Père, about 300 kilometres downstream from Québec City. Beyond the tragedy, the *Empress of Ireland* represents Canada's most notable and most complete example of an early 20th-century ocean liner. On another level, it symbolizes a strong emotional connection for the descendants of the tens of thousands of European immigrants the ship carried to Canada during its lifetime.

100 Guns Salute 100 Years



The War of 1812 era guns and soldiers at Fort George National Historic Site take part in a 100-gun salute that spanned the country.

With cannons booming, muskets crackling and pageantry galore, Parks Canada's first-ever Fab Forts Weekend in August was a huge success, drawing thousands of visitors to historic fortifications across the country. And that was just the warm-up. Next year's commemoration of the bicentennial of the War of 1812 at the forts promises to be bigger, more colourful—and even louder!

Funding through Canada's Economic Action Plan has meant significant improvements in time for the bicentennial at a number of historic fortifications across the country, especially in Eastern and Atlantic Canada, enhancing an already exciting experience for visitors.

As an example, Fort Wellington National Historic Site in Prescott—built during the War of 1812 to defend St. Lawrence River shipping from possible attack by the United States—will re-open in spring of 2012 with a great new visitor centre and a number of new exhibits, including the preserved hull of a British gunboat that patrolled the St. Lawrence in the early 1800s.

New Investments Help Promote Métis Culture

On a beautiful day in June, the Government of Canada announced a major initiative at Riel House National Historic Site that sets the foundation for a stronger relationship between Parks Canada and Métis peoples across Western and Northern Canada. Parks Canada will invest \$4.25 million over five years to work with Métis communities and organizations to preserve their history and culture and present their rich heritage to all Canadians.

The funds will support a total of 18 projects, including the creation of a Riel House National Historic Site travelling exhibit for use at community events across Manitoba; new interpretive programming

and exhibits at Fort St. James National Historic Site in British Columbia; an art exhibit at Batoche National Historic Site in Saskatchewan; and, a Métis camping experience at Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site in Alberta.



David Chartrand, Manitoba Metis Federation President, and Rod Bruinooge, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South, with interpreters at Riel House National Historic Site.

ENVIRONMENT

A Unique 'National Urban Park'



The park on the doorstep of Canada's largest metropolis.

The Speech from the Throne in June marked the centennial of Parks Canada in a very special way, stating the Government of Canada's intention to work with provincial, regional, municipal, Aboriginal and community stakeholders toward establishing a national urban park in the Rouge Valley of eastern Toronto.

Parks Canada is already working with key stakeholders to reach a shared understanding and to develop a vision and innovative management approach that responds to the agricultural, conservation and recreational needs of Canadians and the residents of the Toronto region.

A national urban park in the Rouge Valley will provide a unique opportunity for Parks Canada to connect with urban Canadians and deliver exciting outreach, engagement and visitor experiences to residents and visitors of The Greater Toronto Area.

Sable Island to Become Canada's Newest National Park



Sable Island is home to over 400 wild horses.

On October 17, an historic agreement was signed between the province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada to protect Sable Island as a national park reserve.

Located 290 kilometres offshore from Halifax, Sable Island is a windswept, crescent-shaped sandbar 42 kilometres long that emerges from the Atlantic Ocean. The island's sand dunes and freshwater ponds are home to over 400 wild horses, dynamic plant communities, and numerous migrant and breeding birds, including species at risk. Its beaches provide habitat for the world's largest breeding colony of grey seals.

Sable Island holds a special place in the hearts and minds of Canadians in Nova Scotia and across the country. A strong desire for the protection of Sable Island was made clear during last year's public consultation, with overwhelming support for the proposed national park.

It is designated a reserve in view of the fact that Canada, Nova Scotia and Mi'kmaq are negotiating a claim to Nova Scotia including Sable Island.

The Sound of Silence



It's official: true serenity can be found at Grasslands National Park.

Quiet places—where only the pure, unadulterated sound of nature is heard—are increasingly rare. To be considered a quiet place, there must be at least 15 minutes during daylight hours when the only sounds are natural. According to Emmy-winning sound recorder Gordon Hempton, there are only 12 such places in the entire United States.

At the invitation of Parks Canada, Canadian Geographic and Tourism Saskatchewan, Hempton recorded the sounds of Grasslands National Park for two weeks in June. While his recordings revealed occasional aircraft and other sounds of human origin, Hempton says noise-free periods in Grasslands were frequently longer than 15 minutes, and often more than an hour long.

In terms of sound, Hempton says the park is the least polluted of any grasslands in North America—in his words, “a truly remarkable place.”

Whales Have a New Support Network



Jean Lemire, biologist, renowned filmmaker, and 'champion' of the Eco-Whale Alliance, Nathaël Bergeron (Parcs Québec), Daniel Langlois (Parks Canada), Robert Michaud (GREMM) and Yan Hamel (spokesperson for excursions companies).

Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park is a protected marine area that is part of the Parks Canada and Parcs Québec networks. Every summer, hundreds of whales, and hundreds of thousands of happy whale watchers, converge on the region, which is one of the best destinations in the world to observe these marine mammals.

On June 15th, the Marine Park, the Group for Research and Education on Marine Mammals (GREMM), and marine tour operators launched the Eco-Whale Alliance to promote responsible whale watching. The initiative includes a management plan for activities in the Marine Park, a Guide for Eco-Responsible Practices for Captains/Naturalists, and the Eco-Whale Fund for research and education.

The Eco-Whale Alliance is based on the Management Plan for Sea Activities in the Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park, produced by Parks Canada and Parcs Québec in collaboration with local stakeholders involved in marine activities.

Recent Announcements Bring Two National Marine Conservation Areas Closer to Reality



Walrus haul-outs—areas where these pinnipeds spend some time out of the water—are just one of the treasures found in Lancaster Sound.

In December 2010, the Government of Canada announced its position on a potential future boundary for a 43,300 square kilometres national marine conservation area in Lancaster Sound, an area so ecologically rich it is often referred to as the “Serengeti of the Arctic.” Finalization of the proposed boundary will be subject to consultation with Inuit communities, but news of the proposal was greeted with widespread approval by major conservation organizations and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

Then in October 2011, the governments of Canada and British Columbia announced an agreement on a proposed boundary for a national marine conservation area reserve in the southern Strait of Georgia. The Government of British Columbia has agreed to transfer administration of the seabed to the federal government if a national marine conservation area reserve is established, and both governments will now undertake in-depth consultations with First Nations, local governments and stakeholders to discuss its establishment.

Both areas are quite unique. The waters in the southern Strait of Georgia are home to some of Canada's most iconic and exotic marine animals, from orca whales and salmon to seals and the giant Pacific octopus. Lancaster Sound provides crucial habitat and feeding ground for large populations of equally iconic marine species, including seals, walrus, narwhals, polar bears and Arctic seabirds.

Waterton ESI



Wolves, weeds, wildflowers and more are all examined by the Ecosystem Investigators.

A generous centennial gift from the W. Garfield Weston Foundation will allow Parks Canada to increase the participation of young Canadians in the Waterton ESI (Ecosystems Investigators) Camp in Waterton Lakes National Park.

The Foundation's gift of more than \$460,000 over three years will fund a series of three-day camps where Grade 5 students from urban, rural, and First Nations schools in the region will be able to enjoy nature and learn about the ecology of this unique part of the Alberta landscape.

The camp is part of the 'Restoring Terrestrial Ecosystems Together' Action on the Ground project. The W. Garfield Weston Foundation has a long history of supporting conservation activities, from the Weston Family Conservation Centre in Waterton to the Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow Program in the Toronto area.

WORLD

Deeper Discoveries in the Arctic

A year after the discovery of HMS *Investigator* generated world-wide excitement, a team of Parks Canada archaeologists returned to the North and uncovered new insights into the lives of early inhabitants and European explorers in Canada's Arctic.

Underwater archaeologists dived into the icy waters of Mercy Bay on Banks Island for the first time. They returned with dramatic underwater footage of the celebrated wreck and collected artefacts that were at risk if left in place.

Onshore, in Aulavik National Park, a land team completed the survey of McClure's Cache, unearthing a number of revealing artefacts about the *Investigator* and her crew, and

the use by the Copper Inuit people of the materials left behind when the crew abandoned ship in 1854. The Parks Canada team also conducted archaeological work at a nearby Paleoeskimo site, one of the earliest sites of human habitation on Banks Island, perhaps 2,500 years old!

Later in the summer, the team set out to search for HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror*, the lost ships of Sir John Franklin's ill-fated quest for the Northwest



Discover more spectacular images and first-hand accounts from the archaeologists on the Parks Canada website.

Passage. Working with new partners, armed with new technology and filled with optimism following last year's discovery of HMS *Investigator*, the team scoured the ocean floor and the shoreline.

Despite their efforts, the final resting place of these vessels remains a mystery. But with the combined expertise, additional resources and new research data that come from working with partners like the Canadian Hydrographic Service, Canadian Coast Guard, Government of Nunavut, University of Victoria and Canadian Ice Service, the puzzle of the lost Franklin vessels will eventually be solved.

Wildlife Crossings Connect Habitat

To sustain healthy wildlife populations, animals need to move freely in the larger landscape. If there's a busy highway cutting through it, the consequences can be serious for more than just the ecosystem. Wildlife crossings improve safe passage for both wildlife and drivers and also connect vital habitat.

Parks Canada added two more wildlife crossings as part of ongoing upgrades to the Trans-Canada Highway through Banff National Park. There are now 38 over and underpasses connecting key wildlife habitats and wildlife populations in the park and beyond, with a total of 44 slated upon completion of highway



Grizzly bear on the move across a wildlife overpass in Banff National Park.

twinning in the park. Since year-round monitoring began in 1996, 11 species of large mammals—bears, elk, cougars and others—have used the crossings more than 240,000 times! Together with fencing installed along the highway, the crossings have helped reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions along the highway by more than 80 percent.

Parks Canada is working with the Western Transportation Institute, the Miistakis Institute of the Rockies, and the Woodcock and Wilburforce Foundations to monitor and research the effects of highway wildlife crossings.

Treasures of a Nation on Tour in the UK

Canada's High Commission in the United Kingdom has joined the centennial celebrations by enlisting the Royal Canadian Geographical Society to mount a travelling photo exhibit of Parks Canada's natural and cultural treasured places.

The exhibit, entitled 'Treasures of a Nation: Celebrating Canada's National Parks and Historic Sites through the Lens of Canadian Geographic,' features contemporary and historic photos of Canada's iconic places from the archives of *Canadian Geographic* and Parks Canada. Inspiring quotes and texts bring the photos to life, opening a window to Canada's awe-inspiring places of spectacular beauty and cultural heritage for audiences overseas.



L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site is one of Canada's treasured places featured in the exhibit.

Award-Winning Staff



Guy Thériault (centre) with Gopal Rao, TIAC Board Chair, and Blake Richards, Member of Parliament for Wild Rose (Alberta).

As 2010 was coming to a close, Guy Thériault, who works closely with the leisure travel media, learned that he had been named the Tourism Industry Association of Canada's (TIAC) 'Tourism Employee of the Year.' Considering there are more than 600,000 people in Canada's tourism industry, to be singled out for the award is no small honour.

In March of 2011, Ernie Gladstone was presented with the George Wright Society's Cultural Resource Achievement Award, in recognition of his leadership and role on the Canada-Haida Nation Archipelago Management Board—the first time the award has gone to anyone outside the United States.



Ernie Gladstone receiving the George Wright Society's Cultural Resource Achievement Award.

Canadian Bison Roam the Range in Russia



Canadian wood bison now graze in Tempennie Nature Park, Russia.

A larger herd of Canadian wood bison is now grazing on the grasslands of northern Russia, another demonstration of Parks Canada's commitment to wildlife conservation and species protection in Canada and around the world.

The bison, 30 in all, flew out of Edmonton in March, following in the hoof prints of 30 other wood bison from Elk Island National Park relocated to the same conservation area in the Russian Republic of Sakha in 2006.

Parks Canada has maintained a wood bison recovery herd in Elk Island since the 1960s, making a major contribution to the survival of a species that is still considered threatened under Canada's *Species at Risk Act*. There are now some 11,000 wood bison in Canada. Most can trace their ancestry back to the Elk Island herd, like wood bison herds in Alaska and now Russia.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Wishing Upon Shining Stars

Like true silence—where only the sounds of nature are audible—absolute darkness is becoming a rare commodity in our modern society. Fortunately, Canada—and Parks Canada in particular—has become a world leader in protecting the spectacular vistas the night sky provides when it does not have to compete with artificial light.

In March, the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada recognized Jasper National Park as Canada's newest Dark Sky Preserve. At more than 11,000 square kilometres, Jasper is now the largest Dark Sky Preserve in the world. Even with an entire town within its boundaries, there are vast areas of true darkness throughout the park, especially in its southern areas—and until you have experienced the stars in such a place, it is impossible to describe just how awe-inspiring such a view can be.

Eight Parks Canada locations have been designated as dark sky preserves, and there are now even more night-time activities to introduce visitors to the wonders of the cosmos. Kouchibouguac National Park in New Brunswick offers *Dark Sky Delight* where park interpreters share stories, legends and myths about kings, animals and events as told by the stars and Mi'kmaq folklore. Elk Island National Park in Alberta has added *Party Under the Stars* to its list of annual events, and other parks offer visitors information on what to see and where best to enjoy the night sky in pitch-black darkness.



So many sparkles in the night sky at Jasper National Park.

Pathway to Protection



Thumbs up for the new path!

It's a win-win in Prince Edward Island National Park, where infrastructure improvements have increased protection of the park's sensitive ecosystems while inviting visitors to enjoy more active experiences in the park.

A new, three-metre-wide, paved, multi-use trail follows the route of the Gulf Shore Parkway. The Parkway itself has been re-surfaced, and roadside parking has been removed, so visitors are less inclined to use informal pathways through the fragile sand dunes.

Several new scenic lookouts allow visitors to stop and admire magnificent views while driving, walking, running, cycling or in-line skating.

The new trail is a popular addition, and it has allowed the park to host a number of new activities, from Pedal the Parkway days to the Prince Edward Island Marathon. The project is also enhancing the local community's appreciation and enjoyment of the sand dunes and affording more protection to the site.

The Key to Protecting Cultural Resources

Parks Canada staff in the Western Arctic have developed an innovative new product serving as an interpretive tool, a way to protect cultural resources, a souvenir and a unique way to keep track of your keys.

The cultural resource keychain is distributed at the mandatory orientation sessions for visitors to the three national parks in the Western Arctic. The keychain has 36 credit-card-sized plastic pages, describing various cultural artefacts and features found in the parks. The cards also provide instructions on what to do if the visitor discovers an artefact—don't touch it, place the card with the centimetre scale beside the artefact, take a picture, and send a copy with location data to Parks Canada.



This handy reference tool is popular with Inuvialuit beneficiaries as well as Arctic visitors.

Pacific Rim's K'wisitis Visitor Centre: New Name, New Story



The renamed K'wisitis Visitor Centre in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve was celebrated at a grand re-opening.

Sporting \$3.3 million in renovations, upgrades, and new exhibits—funded largely by Canada's Economic Action Plan—the renamed K'wisitis Visitor Centre in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve welcomes visitors with engaging, interactive, multimedia exhibits.

The Nuu-chah-nulth Working Group, with members representing nine First Nations that have traditional territory or Treaty rights within Pacific Rim's boundaries, worked closely with park staff on the entire project. The centre's new name means "other end of the beach," which is how members of the Yuu-thlu-ilth-aht have always referred to the area where the centre is located.

The enhanced visitor centre highlights natural features of the park, with a new emphasis on the history and culture of the Nuu-chah-nulth. It also includes a brand new gift shop operated by the Yuu-thlu-ilth-aht.

Plug into the Adventure of a Lifetime!

This year, eight self-proclaimed technology-dependent young Canadians gave up their devices to plunge into *Operation Unplugged*, a six part docu-adventure series produced in collaboration with Parks Canada, Glassbox Media and HLP+Partners.

Host Alan Bishop unplugged participants from their virtual networks and connected them with a series of real, never-before-imagined challenges in Canada's breathtaking national parks and national historic sites. If you're a compulsive gamer, text fanatic, blogaholic or if you just like action and extreme experiences, you'll want to tune in to this unique adventure. *Operation Unplugged* will premiere on the Travel and Escape channel in early 2012.



Host Alan Bishop with the cast of *Operation Unplugged*.

ENTERTAINMENT

HIGHLIGHTS of exciting new experiences

Pop-up exhibits and a 'tell-all' booklet reveal secret Cold War scientific research history at defunct Defence Research Board camps in Quttinipaaq NP

A fun afternoon of canoeing and discovery with Parks Canada guides entertains participants of 'Paddle Your Way on Pine Lake' at Wood Buffalo NP

Summer hikers have a creative and inspirational rest from their journey when visiting artists-in-residence stationed temporarily on the Chilkoot Trail NHS

A new 'menu' of tours and experiences—including becoming a prisoner or firing a cannon—lets visitors choose their activities at Fort Battleford NHS

The Top Ten Park Destinations await discovery by those completing a geocaching treasure hunt at Gulf Islands NPR

Chore Horse competition expands to include horse team driving clinics for beginners at Bar U Ranch NHS

The crops of 600 years ago sprout in the active and historic garden at Lower Fort Garry NHS

Rustic cabins at Georgian Bay Islands NP and yurts at Bruce Peninsula NP provide a new alternative to the traditional camping experience

'Ghosts of Signal Hill' wows visitors as they uncover the daring escapes, ghost ships, buried treasure and headless phantoms of Signal Hill NHS

Extended trail system provides wider window into 18th and 19th centuries at Port-la-Joye-Fort Amherst NHS

International Kite Exhibit takes flight as a permanent exhibit at Alexander Graham Bell NHS

'Taste of Fundy' sizzles with jazz, a cook-off contest and delicious tastings at Fundy NP

'Beer and Fine Spirits at the Fort' at Fort Chambly NHS reveals the history of and secrets surrounding alcohol consumption in New France and Lower Canada

*NP is National Park; NHS is National Historic Site; NPR is National Park Reserve



Sarah Harmer Delivers a New Campfire Classic

Campfire songs are probably as old as campfires themselves—and now there's a brand new one to add to the national repertoire. In honour of Parks Canada's centennial, CBC Radio 2 commissioned Canadian singer-songwriter Sarah Harmer to write a new campfire song for Canada. The Park Song is everything a good campfire song should be: easy to play—just three chords—and a chorus made for singing along, as thousands did when Harmer performed the song during the Parks Day concert on Toronto's Centre Island in July. You can hear Harmer perform the song, and download the lyrics and music, on the Parks Canada website.



Grab a guitar and sing along.

Parks Day Extravaganzas in Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver

On July 16, Parks Canada drew huge crowds to a series of free Parks Day festivals that included some of Canada's top artists.

Thousands turned out at the Lachine Canal National Historic Site in Montréal to enjoy the unique sounds of Québécois stars Les Trois Accords and singer Marie-Mai.

Meanwhile, the ferry to Toronto's Centre Island was jammed all day carrying throngs to a Parks Canada show with performances by Toronto's Skydiggers, and singers-songwriters Serena Ryder and Sarah Harmer.

In Vancouver's Stanley Park, the huge crowd waiting to greet Canadian hip hop headliner K'naan was entertained beforehand by artists like Saskatoon rockers the Sheepdogs and rising British Columbia star Kate Morgan.

The concerts topped off full days of Parks Canada events and activities for families and youth in these three cities. The goal was to introduce a younger, more urban and diverse audience to the heritage that we share as Canadians.



Sharing Parks Day with 4,500 close friends at Lachine Canal National Historic Site.

Parks Canada Scores a Hat Trick

Whitehorse was the headliner for Scotiabank Hockey Day in Canada 2011, and Parks Canada staff went above and beyond, organizing three activities to make sure the day was extra special.

Working with local communities, businesses and First Nations, they cleared an outdoor rink on Kathleen Lake in Kluane National Park and Reserve so that local

schoolchildren could play a game of shinny with a team led by CBC personality Ron MacLean. The game was later featured during the CBC Hockey Day in Canada broadcast.

Parks Canada staff also built and hosted a shinny rink next to the S.S. Klondike National Historic Site, complete with warming tent and hot refreshments served by local Rotary Club members in period costume.

Meanwhile, staff in Dawson City organized special hockey-themed exhibits at Klondike National Historic Sites and hosted a full day of fun events, highlighted by the Governor General's visit to the historic Commissioner's Residence.

Canadians love to play and watch hockey and Parks Canada enjoyed providing new venues to allow them to do just that.



A mix of the historic and modern added a fun element to the game of shinny in Dawson City.

National Parks and National Historic Sites Inspire Art

Of all the ways Parks Canada connects Canadians with our natural and cultural heritage, none are more creative than its Artist-in-Residence programs. More and more national parks and national historic sites are offering artists the opportunity to spend a number of weeks in some of Canada's most inspiring places. This year, for example, sculptor Monette Léger of Shediac, New Brunswick, spent the month of July as Acadian artist in



Artists used wood from an old elm tree to symbolise the human history it witnessed over the centuries at Grand-Pré National Historic Site.

residence at Grand-Pré National Historic Site. The triptych she designed uses wood from an old elm tree that once stood at Horton Landing. One panel, which Léger herself carved, depicts the eventful history of the Acadians. A second panel, carved by Mi'kmaq artist Gerald Gloade, portrays the area's First Nations heritage. The history of Planter settlers inspired the third panel, carved by Planter descendant Doug Morse. The work will go on display in the Grand-Pré visitor centre in 2012.

And the Gemini Goes To...

The National Parks Project keeps on giving! In addition to the 13 documentary films that have been viewed at film festivals across Canada and around the world, the Gemini-winning TV series has been aired on Discovery Channel, and the music created by musicians on location has been turned into The National Parks Project Album (available on CD and through iTunes

with proceeds to the Nature Conservancy of Canada).

The films, music and other content are all available for streaming or purchase on their award-winning website (www.nationalparksproject.ca).



National Parks Project on location in Mingan Archipelago National Park Reserve.

Photo provided by the National Parks Project

Ride the Wave at Lachine Canal

Pop on the earbuds and prepare to experience Montreal's Lachine Canal National Historic Site in an all-new way—or maybe that should be all new wave.

New for 2011, *Wave* guides visitors along a leisurely, one-hour, 2.5-kilometre tour of the historic canal, accompanied by a personal, innovative sound and music experience inspired by the canal's history and industrial landscape. *Wave* can be downloaded from the Lachine Canal page on the Parks Canada

website and copied to an MP3 player and is also available on pre-loaded handheld devices that can be borrowed at one of several locations around the canal.



Rediscover the Lachine Canal National Historic Site through *Wave*.

The Parks Canada Review is distributed once a year. To receive more copies of the 2011 edition or to indicate you do not wish to receive future editions, please email your request to

Email: stories@pc.gc.ca

For more information about Parks Canada, visit our website at

www.parkscanada.gc.ca

All photos are Parks Canada copyright protected unless otherwise noted.