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- 1988 - 1989**

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# Canadian Heritage Rivers System Annual Report 1988-1989



*Ruth Parlane, Grade 6, Prairie Elementary School, Three Hills, Alberta*




April, 1989

**TO THE FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL  
MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CANADIAN  
HERITAGE RIVERS SYSTEM**

I present herewith, on behalf of the members of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, the fifth Annual Report on the Canadian Heritage Rivers System for the fiscal year 1988-89.

Respectfully submitted,



D. John Archibald  
Chairman  
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board



## Ministers Responsible for the CHRS



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# Canadian Heritage Rivers System

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is a cooperative program of the Government of Canada; eight provinces to date: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan; and the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The objectives of the CHRS are to give national recognition to the important rivers of Canada and to ensure long-term management that will conserve their natural, historical and recreational values for the benefit and enjoyment of Canadians today and in the future.

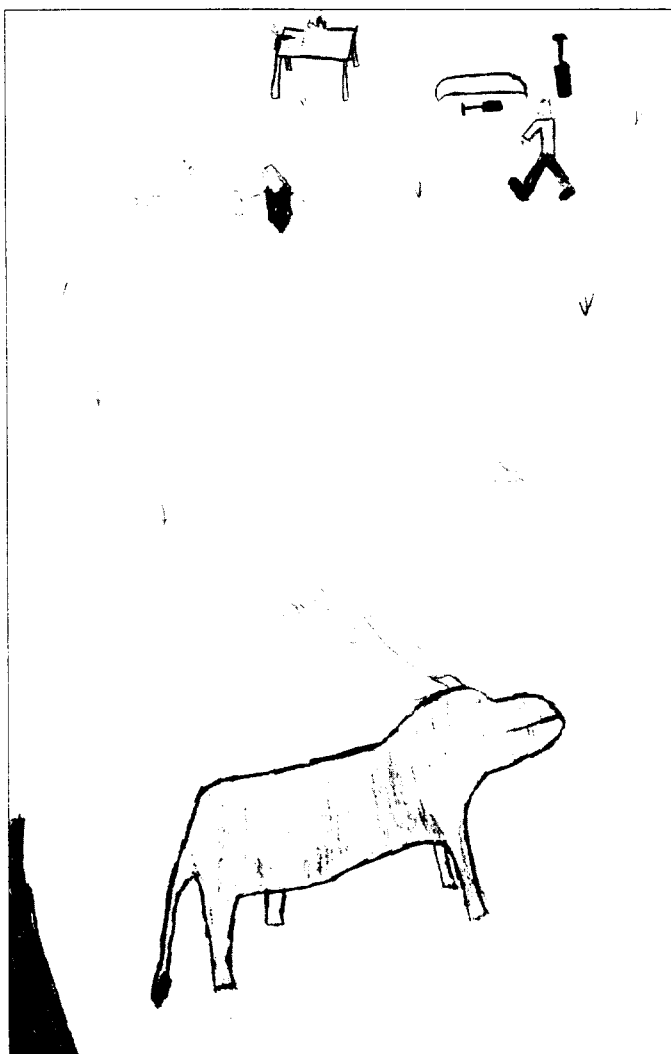
A fundamental principle of the CHRS is that the nomination and management of Canadian Heritage Rivers remain with the governments currently responsible. This is generally the provincial governments in the south, the federal government in national parks and other federal lands, and the federal and territorial governments jointly in the north.

## Financing the CHRS

Responsibility for financing the CHRS is divided among the federal and participating provincial and territorial governments.

The Canadian Parks Service (CPS) assumes the cost of staffing and operating a Secretariat, and of publicizing the CHRS both nationally and internationally. CPS also provides financial assistance to managing jurisdictions for the preparation of studies and plans required for nominations and management plans.

The government responsible for managing a designated river assumes the cost of its development and operation.



*Jeffrey Symbaluk  
Grade 4  
St. Paul Elementary  
St. Paul, Alberta*

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## Acknowledgement

*Graphics for this report were adapted from posters created by Canadian students. The Board would like to thank the Newfoundland Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Parks and the Alberta Federation of Naturalists for kindly allowing us to reproduce this artwork.*

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# Chairman's Report

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*This silver ribbon below me flows timelessly towards the sea, gathering each of our lives to it as smoothly as a stream running over bare rock. Time spreads itself like a map, etched with the silver tracings of the rivers that bind the land into a living network.*

Lynn Noel  
Going Upriver  
Final Project Report

1989 marks the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. In reviewing the growth and development of the program over the past five years, I am deeply satisfied with what the system has accomplished. While the 1980s have been a time of fiscal restraint for all participating governments, the CHRS has, with a modest budget, made a significant impact on water management in Canada and established a strong foundation for future growth. Since it was launched in 1984, fifteen rivers totalling over 2,600 kilometres have been added to the system.

Significant developments over the past twelve months include the participation of Prince Edward Island in the system, and the designation of the Athabasca, North Saskatchewan and Kicking Horse Rivers in the Mountain National Parks of Alberta and British Columbia.

Efforts were strengthened to increase public awareness about the tremendous importance of our river heritage. During the summer of 1988, the CHRS sponsored an acclaimed international interpretive

program entitled *Going Upriver*. This initiative was the result of a unique joint venture between the CHRS and an international non-profit conservation organization, the Atlantic Centre for the Environment. The target areas for the program were Atlantic and Central Canada and the New England and Midwest regions of the United States. A number of research projects and studies were also undertaken during the year by participating governments. Details on these studies, as well as on the *Going Upriver* project, are described in this report.

The highlight of the year for me was to present on behalf of the Board a five-year progress report on the CHRS at the March 1989 meeting of federal-provincial parks ministers. This presentation was made by means of a twelve-minute slide show that outlined the background of the program, its accomplishments over the past five years, and future challenges. Over the next year, this presentation will be displayed at a number of public events including conferences, workshops and seminars across Canada and the United States.

I would like to thank the members of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board and the staff of the Board Secretariat for their support during the past year. It has indeed been a pleasure to have served as your Chairman.

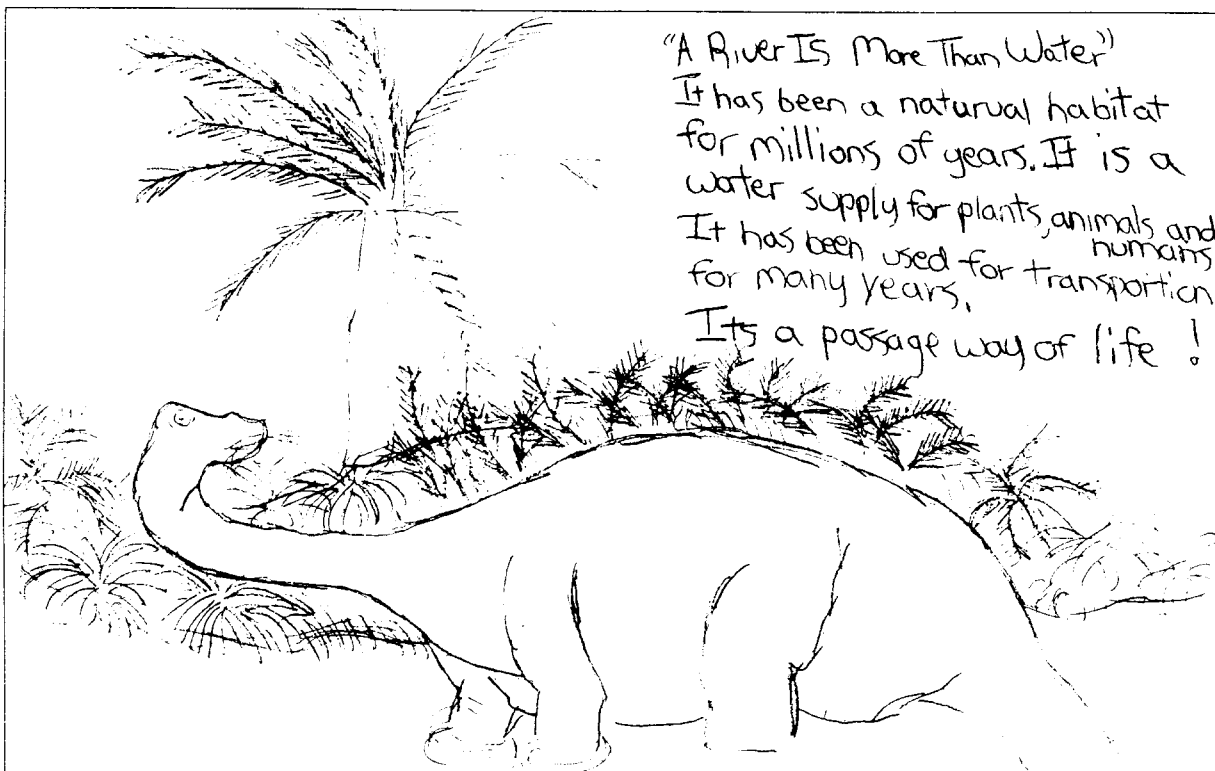
D. John Archibald  
Chairman

## Birth of the Program

In late 1978, federal, provincial and territorial parks ministers asked their officials to work together to examine the possibility of creating a national mechanism for the protection of heritage rivers. A task force was thus set up early in 1979, with the Canadian Parks Service acting as co-ordinator. Discussions ended in July 1981 with the completion of a proposal to establish a Canadian Heritage Rivers System. By 1983 there was a majority agreement by the provinces and territories on the recommendations of the task force proposal. A set of objectives, principles and procedures was then drawn up to guide governments wishing to participate in the CHRS.

In January 1984, the CHRS was born, and the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board was formed to oversee its development. A small Secretariat was also created within the Canadian Parks Service to provide administrative support and technical assistance to the Board in implementing the program, and to help publicize the system.

David Broska  
Grade 6  
Fort Public School  
Fort Vermilion, Alberta





The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board reviews nominations and recommends to the federal Environment minister and to the provincial or territorial minister of the nominating government, whether a nominated river meets selection guidelines for the system, and if it should be accepted as a candidate heritage river.

The Board consists of one representative each from the Canadian Parks Service (CPS) of Environment Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), and participating provincial and territorial governments. Each board member, with the exception of the INAC member, has one vote. The CPS member votes in consultation with the INAC member on matters relating to rivers in the territories.

A chairperson is elected for each fiscal year by vote from among board members. This chairperson is responsible for organizing and chairing board meetings, for directing the operation of the Secretariat, and for promoting public awareness of the CHRS. The 1988-89 Chairman was John Archibald, Executive Director, Development Division, New Brunswick Tourism, Recreation and Heritage. The 1989-90 Chairman is Barry Diamond, Director of Parks, Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forests.

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## Board Members in 1988-89

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John Archibald	—	New Brunswick (Chairman)
Don Hustins	—	Newfoundland
Doug Murray	—	Prince Edward Island
Barry Diamond	—	Nova Scotia
Guy Bussière	—	Quebec
Norm Richards	—	Ontario
Derek Doyle	—	Manitoba
Alan Appleby	—	Saskatchewan
Finlay McRae	—	Yukon
Alan Vaughan	—	Northwest Territories
Ian Rutherford	—	Environment Canada
Claude Bugslag	—	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

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## Secretariat Staff

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Secretary	—	Michael Porter
Ass't Secretary	—	Don Gibson

# The Canadian Heritage Rivers System as of March 31, 1989

## Designated Rivers

River	Province (Park)	Designation Date	Length
French River	Ontario (French River P.P. *)	Feb. 1986	110 km
Alsek River	Yukon (Kluane N.P. ** Reserve)	Feb. 1986	90 km
Clearwater River	Saskatchewan (Clearwater River P.P.)	June 1986	187 km
South Nahanni River	N.W.T. (Nahanni N.P. Reserve)	Jan. 1987	300 km
Bloodvein River	Manitoba (Atikaki P.P.)	June 1987	200 km
Mattawa River	Ontario (Mattawa River P.P. & Samuel de Champlain P.P.)	Jan. 1988	33 km
Athabasca River	Alberta (Jasper N.P.)	Jan. 1989	168 km
North Saskatchewan River	Alberta (Banff N.P.)	Jan. 1989	49 km
Kicking Horse River	British Columbia (Yoho N.P.)	Jan. 1989	67 km
Total			1,204 km

## Nominated Rivers

River	Province (Park)	Nomination Date	Length
St. Croix River	New Brunswick	June 1984	185 km
Missinaibi River	Ontario (Missinaibi P.P.)	June 1985	426 km
Boundary Waters, Voyageur Waterway	Ontario (Proposed La Verendrye P.P.)	June 1986	250 km
Bloodvein River	Ontario (Woodland Caribou P.P.)	June 1986	106 km
Seal River	Manitoba	June 1987	260 km
Jacques Cartier River	Quebec (Jacques Cartier P.P.)	June 1987	128 km
The Thirty Mile (Yukon River)	Yukon	Jan. 1988	48 km
Total			1,403 km

\* P.P. denotes provincial park    \*\* N.P. denotes national park



*\* Designated Rivers*

## River Nominations

*Rivers Are Not  
Just Water.  
Rivers are our  
lifestream.  
They are beautiful  
too.*

*Jodi Pedersen  
Grade 3  
Prairie Elementary School  
Three Hills, Alberta*

While 1988-89 marked the first year in which no rivers were nominated to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, the year saw significant progress toward the first nominations by certain provincial and territorial governments, and toward the nomination of rivers in more developed parts of Canada.

- The Government of the Northwest Territories completed background studies of the Kazan and Thelon Rivers, and nomination documents were expected to be prepared in the immediate future.
- The Government of Nova Scotia completed its overview study of seven rivers in the province, and identified three for final consideration by the provincial cabinet.
- The Government of Ontario completed the background study begun in 1988 of the Grand River, which flows through densely-populated southern Ontario. The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board also made considerable progress in developing and clarifying CHRS guidelines for nominating and managing such rivers.
- In New Brunswick, the first phase of a systematic study of 21 rivers was completed. This is the first step in determining which rivers will join the St. Croix as Canadian Heritage Rivers in New Brunswick.

More information on these studies may be found under *Studies* on page 10.

### Nomination Process

While river nominations may be submitted to the Board only by participating governments, private citizens or groups are invited to present submissions to their federal, provincial or territorial parks agency for any river they feel worthy of consideration.

Once a river is identified as a possible candidate for nomination, the responsible government assesses its suitability for inclusion in the system. A decision on whether a river will be nominated is then made on the basis of its natural, historical or recreational values.

The government makes a nomination through submission of a "nomination document" to the Board. This document contains all of the information necessary to evaluate if the river is of outstanding Canadian value as defined by the "Guidelines for the Selection of Canadian Heritage Rivers". The Board reviews the nomination to determine if the river conforms to the selection guidelines and makes a recommendation for acceptance or rejection to the federal Minister of the Environment and the minister of the nominating agency.

Three more rivers were designated to the CHRS in 1988-89, creating a total of nine altogether. All three were located in the Mountain National Parks of Alberta and British Columbia. These were the Athabasca River in Jasper National Park, the North Saskatchewan River in Banff National Park, and the Kicking Horse River in Yoho National Park. The total length of these three rivers represents 284 kilometres of the current total of 1,204 kilometres designated.

The completion of management plans after many years of planning and public consultation for the Mountain National Parks enabled the designation of the three rivers. These plans describe how the rivers will be protected and interpreted under the National Parks Act. Their status as Canadian Heritage Rivers means that the values for which they were nominated will be regularly monitored. It will also give them a higher profile, which will not only help protect them but also help promote them as recreation destinations.

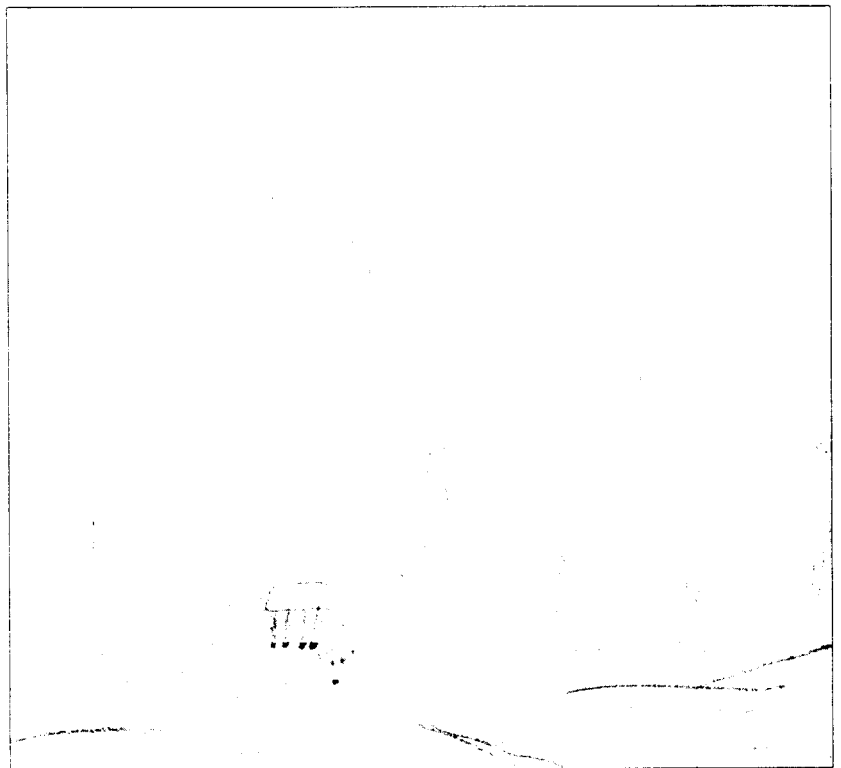
These rivers are exceptionally important to the CHRS from the standpoint of creating a balanced geographical system. The Athabasca and North Saskatchewan Rivers are the only Canadian Heritage Rivers in Alberta, and the Kicking Horse is the only one in British Columbia. In addition, they are only the second representations in the system of, respectively, the Arctic, Hudson Bay and Pacific drainage basins.

## Designation Process

For a river to be designated to the CHRS, the Board member representing the government that has jurisdiction over the nominated river is obliged to lodge with the Board a management plan for the river. This management plan sets out the policies and practices to be followed by the managing agencies to ensure that its development, management and use are consistent with the objectives of the CHRS.

Once the management plan has been lodged with the Board, the Chairman informs the federal Minister of the Environment and the minister of the nominating agency that the requirements for designation have been met. The two responsible ministers may then formally designate the river to the system. A plaque commemorating the river's designation is unveiled at a key location on the river at a later date.

*Marc Aubin  
Grade 5  
Girouxville, Alberta*



### **Athabasca River, Alberta**

The Athabasca River rises in the Columbia Icefields on the Alberta and British Columbia border, a *hydrological apex* from which flow rivers to the Arctic and Pacific Oceans and to Hudson Bay. The nominated section consists of the uppermost 168 kilometres of the river, whose total length is 1,538 kilometres.

This river's upper reaches in Jasper National Park flow through extensive gravel flats, over numerous rapids and the spectacular Athabasca Falls. It scythes through the Front and Main Ranges of the Rocky Mountains, which rise more than 2,500 metres above the valley floor. Along its shores are sizeable populations of bighorn sheep, grizzly and black bears, coyotes, moose, elk and deer, golden eagles, bald eagles and ospreys.

Unknown to non-native explorers until the nineteenth century, the Athabasca River was found by David Thompson in 1811. Since this time it has played a continuous role in Canadian development, first as a key link in the fur trade, then in 1862 with the Overlanders and the Cariboo Gold Rush. In the late nineteenth century the valley saw the development of two transcontinental rail links, and in the early part of the twentieth century, the opening of roads, notably the world famous, scenic Banff-Jasper Highway.

The river offers park visitors exhilarating whitewater experiences in an area of great natural beauty and diverse wildlife. The length of the river may be travelled by raft, and most of it by kayak or covered canoe. The lower 58 kilometres contains water suitable for experienced canoeists.

An objective of the park management plan is the management and protection of the natural and historic resources of the river as a Canadian Heritage River. In addition, the river will be monitored, and facilities such as access and egress points, signage, and picnic sites will be provided for users according to demand. There are also specific proposals for an information package on the river, and for a regional brochure on the North Saskatchewan and Kicking Horse Rivers in neighbouring national parks.

### **North Saskatchewan River, Alberta**

The North Saskatchewan River rises in the Saskatchewan Glacier, an arm of the massive Columbia Icefield that is also the source for the Athabasca River. The designated section of the river, in Banff National Park, is only 48.5 kilometres long, but brings to the CHRS outstanding natural, historical and recreational features.

The valley of the North Saskatchewan affords spectacular views of the Eastern Main Ranges of the Rockies, and contains the *graveyard flats*, other huge upland gravel flats, and habitat for golden eagles, grizzly bears, wolves, mountain goats and bighorn sheep.

Although its valley was occupied by the Stoney and Kootenay Indians for generations, it was unknown to European explorers until visited by David Thompson between 1807 and 1811. With its tributary, the Howse River, it briefly became a link in the fur trade route to the west when other routes were blocked by hostile Indians.

The river is perhaps best known to travellers of the Banff-Jasper Highway, or *Icefields Parkway*. Thousands of park visitors enjoy views of the river from this vantage, and some 200 each year travel the river itself. Easily accessible to canoeists, 35 kilometres of the river provide an exciting and scenic experience for skilled paddlers.

An objective of the management plan for Banff National Park is to protect and manage the river as a Canadian Heritage River. Planning and information for the river will be co-ordinated with that for the Bow River. No new facilities are planned, but an information package will be prepared to describe the river's role in the CHRS.

### **Kicking Horse River, British Columbia**

A tributary of the Columbia River and the only designated Canadian Heritage River in British Columbia, the Kicking Horse River is a classic example of glaciated river environments on the west slope of the continental divide. With its main tributary, the Yoho River, the designated section in Yoho National Park provides 67.5 kilometres of magnificent scenery to park visitors travelling by road, rail and river.

The river valley contains excellent examples of glaciated features, fluvial erosion and some of the most beautiful waterfalls in the Canadian Rockies. Nearby is the Burgess Shale, a World Heritage Site that contains a unique assemblage of invertebrate fossils dating back 530 million years.

The pass formed by the river through the Main Ranges of the Rockies was first explored by the Palliser Expedition. A member of the expedition, James Hector, was kicked by his horse, giving the river its name. The valley was used for the first transcontinental railway, which passes through the famous spiral tunnels, 2.5 kilometres long. Millions of travellers using the Trans-Canada Highway now pass through the valley.

Although some of the river in the park is unnavigable for a small part of the touring season, it provides an exciting whitewater experience for skilled canoeists and kayakers. Rafting is becoming increasingly popular.

The management plan contains several proposals for the river that will be provided according to demand. A pull-out is being considered at Chancellor Peak with other access and egress sites. A water quality monitoring program and an aquatic resources management plan will be developed. Random camping and campsites for river users will not, however, be developed. A river guide will be provided to raise the profile of the river as a Canadian Heritage River and to reduce safety concerns.

Why Rivers are important.  
Rivers are one of the  
amazing places of beauty in  
the world!

*Ruth Parlane  
Grade 6  
Prairie Elementary School  
Three Hills, Alberta*

### Systems Studies

Systems studies are comparative studies of rivers in a province or territory. Their purpose is to identify those rivers with the greatest potential for further study as possible Canadian Heritage Rivers. They include general assessments of the values of each river in terms of CHRS selection guidelines. Systems studies are extremely important in allowing governments to establish priorities and make long term plans for further river studies and nominations.

Funding contributions through the CHRS by Canada for these studies varies according to guidelines that reflect the size and population of each province and territory.

### New Brunswick Systems Study

Commencement of the systems study of rivers in New Brunswick was initiated in February 1989. By the end of March the first phase of the study, involving the development of a classification system for the heritage values of the rivers, had been completed. The study will include three other phases,

including one which involves analysing the feasibility of managing rivers according to CHRS objectives. This aspect of the study is of great importance in New Brunswick, where much of the land along rivers is privately owned. The study is scheduled for completion by March 31, 1990.

The total cost of the study is expected to be about \$63,000, toward which Canada, through the CHRS, will contribute \$26,210 over two years.

### Background Studies

Background studies have traditionally been used by participating governments for the collection of detailed resource information for analysis in terms of CHRS selection guidelines. Where a background study finds that heritage values warrant nomination of a river, the managing government may, at its own discretion, prepare a nomination document for presentation to the Board. In some cases, governments found that before nominating a river they also needed an analysis of the management implications of a river's possible designation.

The complexity of potential management issues surrounding more and more rivers led the Board in 1988-89 to make a modification to the guidelines for allocation of CHRS study funds. Now, governments that intend to nominate a river but require more information on management feasibility, will be able to request management planning funds prior to the river's nomination. These funds were previously available only to nominated rivers. Maximum CHRS funding in support of river nomination is now \$68,000, comprising \$20,000 for a background study, \$3,000 for a nomination document, and \$45,000 for feasibility studies and management planning.

*Elaine Sewell  
Grade 5  
Parkdale Elementary School  
Wetaskiwin, Alberta*





In 1988-89, preliminary background studies were undertaken of seven rivers in Nova Scotia, and full background studies were undertaken of the Margaree River in Nova Scotia, the Grand River in Ontario, and the Kazan and Thelon Rivers in the Northwest Territories.

Background studies of the Margaree, Kazan and Thelon Rivers will be finalized in 1989-90. The Grand River background study was completed in March 1989 and, taking advantage of the new funding guideline, management feasibility studies will continue for the river in 1989-90, with the preparation of a draft nomination document. Nomination documents for the Kazan and Thelon Rivers were drafted in 1988-89, and will be finalized in 1989-90.

### **Nova Scotia Background Studies**

A systems study of 45 rivers in Nova Scotia was completed in 1986-87. This study identified seven rivers that appeared to have the greatest potential for inclusion in the CHRS. Background studies of these rivers began in October 1987 and were completed in January 1989. The seven rivers studied were the North Aspy, Shelburne, Roseway, Margaree, St. Mary's, Liscomb, and North. The first six background study reports were received in 1987-88, the seventh in October, 1988. In January, the final summary report, which contained recommendations on the preferred candidate river for nomination to the CHRS, concluded the study.

Two types of financial contributions were made by

Canada through the CHRS: \$10,000 as funding for completion of systems studies, and \$10,000 on a pro-rated basis for seven separate background studies.

### **Margaree River Background Study, Nova Scotia**

The first phase of a full background study of the Margaree River in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia was begun in January 1989. This river was identified for study as a result of the seven Nova Scotia preliminary background studies. By the end of March 1989, an analysis of the management implications for heritage rivers in Nova Scotia had been completed, and preparations had been made for public consultations, including a public information tabloid and an audio-visual presentation on the Margaree River.

The background study is expected to be completed in 1989-90. A public open house and a series of meetings with private landowners and representatives of all concerned interest groups will be held to ascertain the level of support for including the Margaree in the CHRS, and for optional approaches to managing the Margaree as a Canadian Heritage River.

If substantial support is forthcoming, a local advisory committee may be created and consulted in the preparation of a nomination document and management plan. If local people do not support the nomination, the Province will pursue the Shelburne or St. Mary's Rivers as potential CHRS candidates.

## **Rivers**

Rivers are more than just water that you drink out of. They're places where you can get away from the city for awhile.

*Elaine Sewell  
Grade 5  
Parkdale Elementary School  
Wetaskiwin, Alberta*

A river is more than water. We have many uses for them. Animals and humans use them for drinking water. We also use them for recreation.

Where do our rivers come from? Our rivers come from mountains, bigger lakes, and when it rains our rivers form.

*Layle Ruitter  
Grade 6  
Parkdale Elementary School  
Wetaskiwin, Alberta*

In 1988-89, \$9,500 in CHRS funds was contributed to the background study of the Margaree River. This amount was matched by the Province. An additional \$8,500 in CHRS funds has been set aside for a continuation of this work in 1989-90. It is anticipated that provincial support will exceed this amount.

### **Grand River Background Study, Ontario**

The Grand River is unique among rivers studied for their CHRS potential in that it flows through a densely populated part of Ontario. Several small cities are located along its shores, including Guelph, Cambridge and Brantford, and most of the lands are privately owned. Local interest in the river's heritage value was spurred in 1987 by the first part of this background study. Modern urban and rural development had mostly ignored the river as a unifying element in the region. Regardless of whether the river is nominated to the CHRS, local interest has already been heightened in the protection of historical and natural heritage sites.

The background study of the Grand River was begun in late 1987 and completed in March 1989. It was undertaken in conjunction with the Grand River Conservation Authority, which provided financial and technical help. The Authority has jurisdiction over the waters and floodplain of the Grand River, and is acting as the co-ordinating agency for the local governments in the watershed. In 1988-89, the CHRS contributed \$14,580 to the study. The Conservation Authority contributed equivalent

funds on behalf of the Province of Ontario.

The study included a detailed inventory of the natural, historical and recreational features of the Grand River watershed. In addition, because of the location of the river and the jurisdictional complexities that could be involved in managing it as a Canadian Heritage River, an analysis was made of potential management constraints and local concerns. A number of public consultation meetings and a public workshop were held in the area. The feasibility of proceeding with a nomination is now under scrutiny by the provincial and local governments.

### **Kazan and Thelon Rivers Background Studies, Northwest Territories**

In 1984, a CHRS systems study of rivers in the Northwest Territories placed the Thelon and Kazan among twelve rivers having potential for nomination. They are also the two largest rivers in the Northwest Territories flowing into Hudson Bay.

The Thelon is characterized by a relatively lush boreal ecosystem surrounded by tundra, which supports a broad range of wildlife in the vicinity of the river, and spectacular wilderness canoeing and trophy fishing. The Kazan is the heartland of the Caribou Inuit, people unique in their inland location and dependence on caribou. The river course is characterized by barrenlands, vast herds of caribou, and thrilling whitewater canoeing and kayaking.

In 1984-85, the CHRS contributed \$10,956 toward background study work on the Thelon River. In July 1988, the Northwest Territories and Canada entered into a \$75,000 Memorandum of Agreement for the preparation of background studies and nomination documents for both the Thelon and Kazan Rivers. The studies began in September 1988 with the enthusiastic support of the local community of Baker Lake.

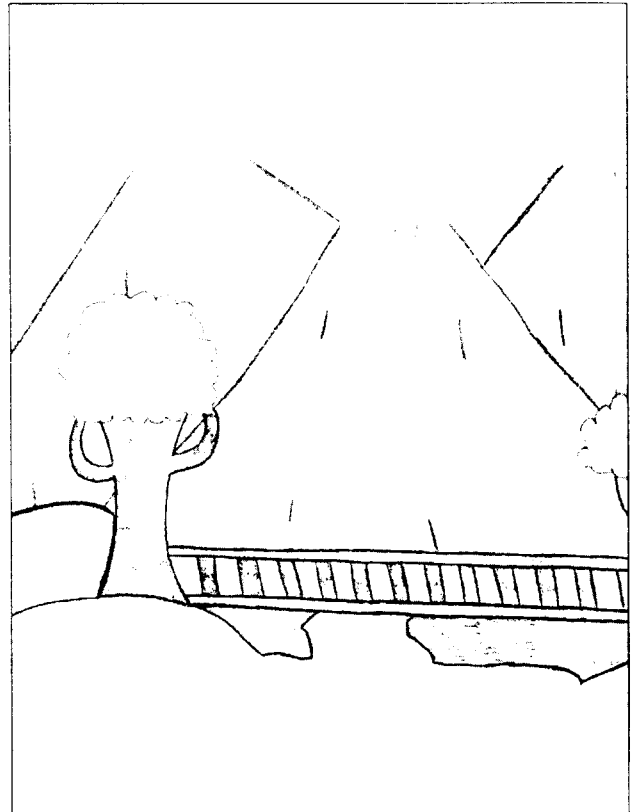
The CHRS financial commitment to the studies and nomination documents totalled \$24,560 in 1988-89: \$9,044 for the Thelon, the remainder for the Kazan. The Northwest Territories fulfilled the other financial requirements of the Memorandum of Agreement in fees, expenses and housing for a consultant located in Baker Lake. Final draft background studies of the human heritage resources and land uses of the rivers, and draft nomination documents, were completed in March 1989. Other background studies of the Kazan and Thelon Rivers are to be completed by March 1990.

## Management Plans

A river can only be designated to the CHRS once a management plan has been lodged with the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. To this end, the Canadian Parks Service, through the CHRS, provides up to \$45,000 toward the cost of preparation of management plans. While the Board is not empowered to reject a management plan, it has developed guidelines on the definition of a management plan for Canadian Heritage Rivers. Plans may only be recognized if they meet this definition. These guidelines are currently being revised to take into account rivers that are located outside park settings where a variety of management instruments may be applicable.

In 1988-89, CHRS funds were used for management planning work on the Seal River in Manitoba, and on The Thirty Mile section of the Yukon River.

*Layle Ruitter  
Grade 6  
Parkdale  
Elementary School  
Wetaskiwin, Alberta*



### **Seal River Management Plan, Manitoba**

A management plan for the Seal River in Manitoba was initiated in 1988-89, following its nomination to the CHRS in June 1987. It is the last major wild river in northern Manitoba, and a management plan is needed to ensure that its pristine but fragile environment is protected.

Building on information gathered in 1987 during the CHRS background study, the following elements of the management plan were completed in 1988-89:

- further study of archaeological sites located in the 1987 study;
- draft goals and objectives for management of the river as a Canadian Heritage River;
- public information and consultation meetings in Tadoule Lake and Churchill;
- an information brochure for heritage users;
- draft management concepts for the river.

CHRS funds contributing to this work amounted to \$29,300 through two contracts. Manitoba contributed technical expertise, logistical field support, aircraft reconnaissance, and administrative support of equal value.

### **The Thirty Mile, Yukon River, Management Plan, Yukon**

The Thirty Mile section of the Yukon River was jointly nominated to the CHRS in January 1988 by the Yukon Government and the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. A management planning study of The Thirty Mile section of the Yukon River was initiated in September 1988, and the first two phases were completed in March 1989. The study was guided by a steering committee comprised of representatives from the Canadian Parks Service, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, the Yukon Territorial Government, the Council for Yukon Indians, and the local Ta'an Kwach'an Band Council.

The first two phases of the study comprised:

- a background report on the heritage resources of The Thirty Mile and how they may be affected by management as a Canadian Heritage River;
- a tabloid publication for use in public consultations, which describes optional management planning strategies.

Funding for the study included \$16,860 in CHRS funds and \$19,475 in Yukon Government funds for consultant fees. The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs provided \$3,900 for native participation on the consultant's planning team.

During 1989-90, the Yukon Government plans to finalize the tabloid and hold public hearings in most communities along the Yukon River. No CHRS funds have been allocated for this.

## Monitoring Program

Since 1987, the status of designated rivers has been annually reported to the Board Secretariat by the managing governments. The reports are made in the form of checklists accompanied by descriptions of major changes in the condition of the rivers' heritage and recreational resources, on the rivers' integrity, and on local activities that could have an impact on the river.

At its January 1989 meeting, the Board adopted a new set of guidelines for monitoring designated Canadian Heritage Rivers, and for addressing the mechanisms for collecting and reporting information on their status. These guidelines will help ensure, and publicly demonstrate, that all designated Canadian Heritage Rivers are given maximum protection and are managed in a manner that befits their value to Canadians.

The new guidelines require that the values of each designated river be listed for monitoring purposes. Lists will consist of:

- one list of heritage and recreational values for which the river was originally nominated. These will be monitored annually;
- two schedules of water quality parameters, one to be monitored annually, the other, every ten years or more frequently, if required.

Baseline information on the condition of these values at the time of nomination is to be obtained in order that the river can be checked against this information at least every ten years.

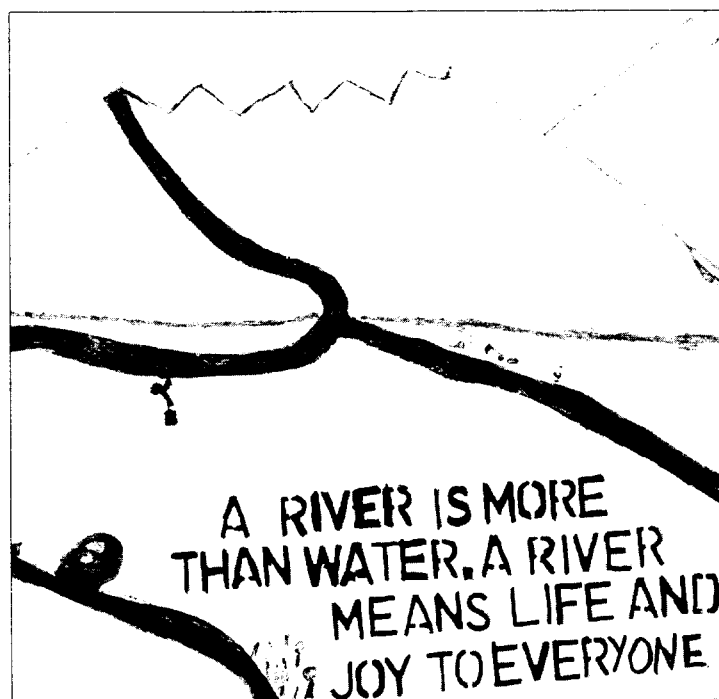
Lists of values to be monitored annually, baseline information on these, and a preliminary indication of what will be contained in the two water quality schedules are expected to be completed for each designated river by January 1990.

## 1988-1989 Activities

Annual status reports were submitted for the Asek, French, South Nahanni, Bloodvein (Manitoba), Clearwater and Mattawa Rivers for 1988-89. No reports were required for the Athabasca, North Saskatchewan and Kicking Horse Rivers which were designated just two months prior to year end. Annual reports will be filed for all nine designated rivers in April 1990.

A summary of the status reports received for 1988-89 follows in order of river designation:

*Nicholas Weidl  
Grade 4  
St. Paul Elementary  
St. Paul, Alberta*



### **French River, Ontario**

The French River was brought under provincial park regulation this past year, receiving official status as a Provincial Waterway Park. This action will provide a stronger measure of protection for the river's heritage and recreational values under Ontario Provincial Parks Policy, and will provide the legal basis for implementation of the French River Park Management Plan. A park operating plan, completed in June 1987, will also be brought into effect, with a citizen's involvement group assisting in the park's operation.

Two issues that arose in 1987-88 remained unresolved in 1988-89:

- The proposed sale by the federal Department of Public Works of three dams located within the general area of the park is currently being assessed by a Public Works consultant. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has expressed concern that the possible use of the dams for hydro-electric purposes would contravene Ministry policy.
- In 1988-89, the Voyageur Recreational Waterway Feasibility Study was completed. This study assessed the commercial viability of developing a navigable waterway for large recreational craft through construction of a lock and tramway system between Lake Nipissing and Georgian Bay. It recommended that the proposition was not feasible, with the possible exception of modifying the lock at Bad River on the lower French River. The

City of North Bay is attempting to have this project reassessed.

### **Alsek River, Yukon**

The management plan for Kluane National Park Reserve, through which the designated section of the Alsek flows, is being reviewed and a revised version will be in place by 1990-91. A draft concept plan is now under public review. Access to the park reserve has been a major issue and the Dezadeash-Alsek system is considered to provide significant opportunity for water-based transportation into the park interior. The Alsek will be closely examined through the Environmental Assessment and Review Process and uses found to have potential detrimental impact will be prohibited or tightly controlled.

The discharge of effluent from the sewage treatment plant at Haines Junction into wetlands of the Dezadeash River, just upstream of the Alsek, is expected to occur in 1990-91. Park staff have begun preliminary planning for a baseline monitoring program in 1989-90 that will measure the effects of this action.

### **Clearwater River, Saskatchewan**

A one-year permit was granted in 1987-88 to Clearwater Rafting to conduct a specified number of whitewater raft tours on the river. While there was potential for some negative impact on the wilderness recreation experience for canoeists, overall use of the river is generally so low that little contact likely occurred between canoeists and rafters. The permit has therefore been renewed for the 1989 season.

Several small fires occurred along the road corridor to the Clearwater River. These were quickly extinguished by ground crews using hand tools and pumps, and with water bombing techniques using helicopters. In the short term, some scenic values will be impaired, however, in the long term the integrity and ecological balance of the river valley will likely be enhanced.

### **South Nahanni River, Northwest Territories**

A plaque unveiling ceremony commemorating the designation in January 1987 of the section of the South Nahanni River in Nahanni National Park Reserve, took place on August 25, 1988 on a promontory overlooking Virginia Falls. The South Nahanni was the first river in the Northwest Territories to become part of the CHRS and the fourth river in Canada to be so designated.

Studies initiated in 1987-88 continued through 1988-89:

- The first year of a three-year water quality monitoring program being undertaken by the Canadian Parks Service and the Inland Waters Directorate of

Environment Canada was completed. The second year of sampling is scheduled for 1989-90 and in 1990-91, an on-going monitoring program will be in place, managed by CPS. The information generated by this study will enable CPS to determine any detrimental effects on the quality of park waters as a result of mining activities in the headwaters.

- Following the Environmental Assessment and Review Process screening of plans for the Virginia Falls area in 1988, a final design was prepared for the rehabilitation of the campground and day-use area. Construction will extend over three summer seasons from May 1989 to September 1991. While the project will increase the number of man-made structures along the wilderness river corridor, the work will have the positive effect of controlling visitor use and protecting the sensitive environment around the Falls.

*I like rivers because they make the world look pretty. I also like rivers because they give us the water we need*

*Angela Tipton  
Grade 3  
Prairie Elementary School  
Three Hills, Alberta*

### Bloodvein River, Manitoba

Interim Management Guidelines for Atikaki Provincial Wilderness Park, through which the Bloodvein River flows, were begun in 1988-89 and are now in the final stages of preparation. Implementation of these guidelines will allow for greater control and protection of the area's heritage and recreational values.

Two research studies were initiated in 1987-88 and will continue in 1989-90. Manitoba Parks Branch finalized details with the Manitoba Department of Environment for water quality research work to take place in the summer of 1989. A long-term research study of the Woodland Caribou herd continued, and is expected to continue for some years.

A field inspection to determine the impact of a winter access forestry road constructed across the Bloodvein corridor indicated that there was no apparent negative

environmental impact and no visual damage to the corridor.

### Mattawa River, Ontario

A public awareness and clean-up program was launched on the Mattawa River last year. A crew cleaned up litter, participated in a public awareness campaign on litter removal, rehabilitated campsites and portages, and installed privies along the river.

The maintenance of high water quality has always been a major requirement of residents who live along the shores of Trout Lake, the headwaters of the Mattawa. A homeowners association closely monitors the water quality of the lake, and has expressed concern about potential pollution that could result from ice-fishing huts on the lake and from septic systems. In 1989 the City of North Bay intends to ask the Ministry of the Environment to study the effects of pollution sources on Trout Lake.

Randy Miko  
Grade 5  
Fox Creek School  
Fox Creek, Alberta





In the summer of 1988, a special interpretive tour spanned the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence River Corridor with an exhibit on North America's freshwater heritage. The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board was proud to sponsor *Going Upriver* as the centrepiece of its 1988-89 public information program. The tour was co-ordinated in conjunction with the Atlantic Centre for the Environment—a Canada/U.S. non-profit conservation organization. Financial support was provided by the CHRS and various non-profit organizations, supported by a coalition of public and private agencies.

The CHRS exhibit, which made its debut at the 1988 Winter Olympics, provided the focus for the *Going Upriver* program. The exhibit is made up of a series of silver and blue fibreglass panels (7' high x 10' deep x 20' wide), displaying full-colour enlarged photographs of designated rivers and the award winners from a recent national river photography contest. A video unit offers an eight-minute continuous loop of CHRS public service announcements featuring some

spectacular footage of Bill Mason, the Nahanni River Gorge, whitewater kayaking, and wild birds in flight. The display is complete with a map stand and visitors' book, a freestanding prism-shaped kiosk with top-mounted track lighting, and a literature rack holding CHRS brochures, pamphlets, fact sheets and a Frances Ann Hopkins poster of the CHRS symbol depicting the voyageurs. *Going Upriver* distributed over 5000 of these posters along with other informational materials en route.

The exhibit was complemented by a bilingual musical concert series highlighting heritage themes, children's educational programs, and river workshops involving community organizations and the public. The project was structured to employ interns (university students from Canada and the United States) to assist in public outreach and education about the importance of our river heritage. These young people provided a vital link for the CHRS in fostering a spirit of friendship and international co-operation.

A River is More than  
water it is drink for  
the animals. The Ram  
slowly eats the green grass  
the fish swim fast to get  
the fly that slowly buzzes  
around the river, the bird  
dig to catch worms for their  
young.

Randy Miko  
Grade 5  
Fox Creek School  
Fox Creek, Alberta

Project staff travelled up the St. Lawrence River from New Brunswick to Minnesota in eighteen weeks, crossing the U.S./Canadian border six times, to present a total of 77 public programs and eleven exhibit displays. The 26 program sites included museums, nature centres, retail arcades, schools and libraries, and national and provincial parks. A final project report on *Going Upriver* can be obtained by writing to:

Atlantic Centre for  
the Environment  
39 South Main Street  
Ipswich, Massachusetts  
United States of America  
01938-2321

*Miarina Keeping and  
Rebecca Keeping  
Grade 12  
Grandy's River Collegiate  
Burnt Islands, Newfoundland*



Other events where CHRS information products were displayed and distributed during the year included:

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Cape Breton Island Sport & Leisure Show Sydney, Nova Scotia	April 1988
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Banff National Park Information Centre Banff, Alberta	April 1988
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Sixth IWRA World Congress on Water Resources Ottawa, Ontario	May-June 1988
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St. Stephen's Information Centre St. Stephen's, New Brunswick	June 1988
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Whitehorse Trade Show Whitehorse, Yukon	June 1988
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Festival of the River Margaree, Nova Scotia	July 1988
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Mattawa River Designation Ceremony Mattawa, Ontario	August 1988
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South Nahanni Designation Ceremony Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories	August 1988
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Atlantic Winter Fair Halifax, Nova Scotia	October 1988
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CHRS exhibits were also on display throughout 1988-89 in the offices of the provincial and territorial agencies participating in the system. CHRS fact sheets, pamphlets, posters and brochures were distributed in national, provincial and territorial parks across Canada.

There are five key challenges that face the CHRS as it enters the 1990s.

- It will be a continuing challenge for the Board to build the vision to sustain the CHRS. Over the next decade it is hoped that there will be at least one designated river in every province and territory, thereby reflecting a truly national system. It may be necessary to more clearly define policies and procedures in order to fulfill this vision and allow for recognition of rivers that pose complex jurisdictional and management problems. This may include transboundary rivers as well as major waterways flowing through settled areas.
- A second challenge relates to meeting public expectations. Water management is now at the top of the public environmental agenda. Eighty per cent of Canadians are concerned about the effects of pollution on human health and safety and its impact on future generations. An even higher number, 84 per cent, place a high priority on controlling toxic chemicals that pollute water. The CHRS is already making a significant impact on water management in Canada and must continue to strengthen its efforts in research and monitoring.
- A third challenge will be to strengthen the constituency for heritage rivers in Canada. Although a constituency exists nationally, it needs to be broadened to include a wider diversity of interests including tourism and business associations, industries, universities, municipalities, and local and regional watershed associations. Efforts must continue in the area of public education and river heritage interpretation at the community level.

*A waterway  
environment  
can provide  
fun for everyone.*

*Paula Smith  
Grade 5  
St. Paul's Elementary  
St. Paul's Inlet, Newfoundland*

- A fourth challenge involves broadening the co-operative marketing effort to allow for joint ventures with tourism associations and the private sector. A study commissioned by the CHRS in 1988 revealed that the rivers industry in Canada has potential for tremendous growth. By way of example, the Ottawa River is the second most popular river for rafting in North America, exceeded only by the Colorado. The Board is confident that with proper marketing techniques the tourism potential of Canadian Heritage Rivers can be realized while maintaining heritage values.
- The most pressing challenge in the short term will be to develop and devise innovative funding sources to support the CHRS program. The system currently works with a modest budget and will require increased funding for studies and monitoring, as well as for marketing and promoting heritage rivers.

### For Further Information

Comments and requests for information on the CHRS should be addressed to:

The Secretary  
Canadian Heritage  
Rivers System  
c/o Canadian Parks Service  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0H3

General information on all nominated and designated Canadian Heritage Rivers can be obtained by writing to the Secretary. Specific information on Canadian Heritage Rivers in national parks may also be acquired from this source. Requests for detailed information on other designated Canadian Heritage Rivers (i.e. those under provincial or territorial jurisdiction) should be directed to the appropriate Board members listed on page 3, at the addresses listed on page ii.

*Jodi Pedersen  
Grade 3  
Prairie Elementary School  
Three Hills, Alberta*

