



# Wildlife Habitat Canada Habitat Faunique Canada

## *Update on Activities*

July – September 2007

1984-2007...without habitat, there is no wildlife...it's that simple!

Page 1

### **WHC Board Meetings**

WHC's 2007 Annual General Meeting and Board meeting was held in Whitehorse, Yukon on July 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. The meeting provided an opportunity for Board members to experience the wilderness traditions at a First Nations camp (Kwaday Dan Kenji), a presentation on the Ice Patch Research Project, as well as the northern habitats and landscapes via visits to the Kluane National Park/Sheep Mountain and Kluane Research Station. Discussions at the Board meeting primarily focused on future directions for WHC in consideration of the options related to the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Program. In addition, the Finance & Audit Committee approved the audited financial statements for the 2006/07 fiscal year, and the Nominating Committee presented a new Slate of Officers and membership on the committees of the Board. WHC welcomed Brad Fenson (Alberta) and Tami Hamilton (Yukon) to the Board.

Subsequent to WHC's July 2007 Board meeting, several teleconference meetings of both the Executive Committee and the full Board of Directors have taken place as WHC responded to the consultation process launched by Environment Canada.

### **EC Consultations re: Stamp Program**

Environment Canada's (EC's) consultation process on the future of the stamp program and the management of the habitat conservation revenues (see [http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/legislations/tim-st\\_con/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/legislations/tim-st_con/index_e.cfm)) was launched on August 6<sup>th</sup> and was set to conclude on October 1<sup>st</sup>. EC's consultation paper presents several options related to the stamp program. As the main source of funding for WHC's grant program is derived from the revenues associated with the stamp (which is primarily purchased by waterfowl hunters to validate their Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permits), changes to the stamp program will have a significant impact on WHC and its future.

With the implementation of all the recommendations outlined in the Stratos Report, we believe that the current system is an effective and efficient delivery mechanism for the stamp program. WHC forwarded letters to both Cynthia Wright, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Stewardship Branch at EC and Environment Minister John Baird on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> respectively regarding our comments on EC's consultation paper while emphasizing our willingness to work with EC to address the issues raised in EC's consultation paper related to the stamp program.

We thank all those who took the time to send a letter of support. There were more than 40 separate submissions, with many of those representing thousands of members of conservation organisations across the country. A special thank you goes to the waterfowl hunting community, which expressed its passionate support for the Habitat Conservation Stamp and WHC. A summary of the responses received is posted on WHC's What's New web page ([http://www.whc.org/EN/about/whats\\_new.htm](http://www.whc.org/EN/about/whats_new.htm)).

The response overall was overwhelmingly in favour of continuing the Habitat Conservation Stamp Program and the relationship with WHC. It was clear that the respondents did not want to see the Stamp money managed directly by EC, a position that was reinforced by the recent spate of stories about budget issues in the department.

As we write, the next steps are still not clear. WHC and EC exchanged summaries of the consultation responses received, and EC has indicated they will analyse the input before coming to a decision about their preferred course of action. We don't yet know how long that will take, but it will have to be done quickly if a new agreement is to be in place for April 1, 2008.

Stay tuned for more news. While the support for the Stamp and WHC was clear during the consultation process, the decisions about the future are still pending.



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Page 2

### **B.C. Family Recognized for Forest Stewardship**

On July 18th, the Honourable Iona Campagnolo, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia and David Brackett presented the 2007 Forest Stewardship Recognition Program Award to Warren Cook and his son, Bruce Cook, of Bowser, B.C. The award recognizes outstanding stewardship in Canada's forests, and was presented to the Cooks to honour their exceptional commitment to habitat protection. The Cooks operate a selective logging and aquaculture business on the family's 86-hectare oceanfront property on Vancouver Island. Five generations of Cooks have lived on the property, and the family has a strong tradition of stewardship. See <http://www.whc.org/EN/stewardship/FSRP/FSRPAwardBCFamily.htm> for more information.

### **Grant Program**

Project reports associated with grants supported by WHC in 2006/07 are available on WHC's website at [http://www.whc.org/EN/grant/ProjectReports\\_06-07.htm](http://www.whc.org/EN/grant/ProjectReports_06-07.htm).

The Board recently approved 2 additional grants:

- A revised Habitat Stewardship in Saskatchewan 2007-2008 project (for more information on this project, see <http://www.whc.org/EN/grant/07-08/HabitatStewardshipinSaskatchewan.htm>); and
- Alternative Land Use Services Demonstration Project in the County of Vermilion River, Alberta (for more information on this project, see <http://www.whc.org/EN/grant/07-08/ProjectVermilionRiverAlberta.htm>).

To date, WHC funding has been approved for 18 grants in 2007/08 totaling \$1,034,333.

### **WHC's 2006-2007 Annual Report**

The annual report is available on our website at [http://www.whc.org/documents/WHC\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2006-07.pdf](http://www.whc.org/documents/WHC_Annual_Report_2006-07.pdf). Contact Claudia at [clatsch@whc.org](mailto:clatsch@whc.org) if you wish to receive a hard copy.

### **Stamp & Print Program**

Planning for the 2008 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Art Competition is now being finalized. With over 30 entries the competition is gearing up to be very interesting! Of the entries, twelve artists are new to the competition. Judging will take place at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa, ON on October 15, 2007.

Pauline has been busy with sales over the last few months. As producer and distributor of the Limited Edition Prints this year, WHC has seen a definite increase in sales over the last few months. Orders for stamp and prints can be placed with Pauline at [pfitchett@whc.org](mailto:pfitchett@whc.org) or by phone at 613-722-2090, ext. 222.

Former WHC Director, John Perlin has organized the donation of a number of older prints to be hung on the walls of the Salvation Army Wiseman Centre for emergency housing for homeless men in St. John's NL. We currently have an inventory of selected prints and giclées that would be available for donation to good homes such as this. If you should have any suggestions or ideas, please contact Pauline.

### **Former WHC Chairman Appointed to Order of Canada**

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, announced the appointment of Al Davidson, former Chairman of WHC, as a member of the Order of Canada. Our congratulations to Al!

### **Sad News**

It was with great sadness that we learned on Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> of the passing of Dave Neave's wife Nancy. Many of us have very fond memories of Nancy's participation in WHC events during the years Dave was at the helm, and our thoughts are with Dave and his family as they deal with this sudden loss.