

These very special habitats cannot be put under glass, though concerned scientists talk of management. They advocate grazing use, not only in moderation, but also modulated according to the features of the natural salt marshes. In the case of artificial salt marshes they call for maintenance of breakwaters, with restoration of the biological value of salt marshes behind dikes, by opening them up once again to the sea.

These principles of conservation management will need to be adopted in Nature reserves to be set up along appro-

priate coasts. To protect some 1,650 species of invertebrates and over 300 halophilic plants, a genuine European network of biogenetic reserves needs to be established, and quickly.

MICHEL GISSY
c/o European Information Centre
for Nature Conservation
Boîte Postale: 431 R6
F-67006 Strasbourg Cedex
France.

Parks Canada-World Heritage Ceremonies

The World Heritage Convention, established under the auspices of UNESCO, is of growing importance for the conservation of some of the world's most outstanding natural and cultural areas. Eighty-seven nations have joined the convention, and so far 186 areas have been designated World Heritage Sites. Of these, 43 are natural areas.

As a part of Parks Canada's celebration of the centennial of Canada's first National Park, two new World Heritage Sites were added to the six which have been previously designated in Canada; joining Anthony Island (Ninstints Village), Kluane, Nahanni, Dinosaur, Head-smashed-in Buffalo Jump, and L'Anse aux Meadows, were the 'Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks' and Wood Buffalo National Park.

On 21 August 1985, HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, unveiled a plaque commemorating 'The Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage Site'. The ceremony attracted a crowd of hundreds in spite of driving rainstorm. This World Heritage Site encompasses Banff, Jasper, Yoho, and Kootenay, National Parks, totalling an area of 20,160 sq. km. At the ceremony, the Government of British Columbia announced its intention of responding positively to the World Heritage Committee's request that Mount Assiniboine, Mount Robson, and Hamber, Provincial Parks be added to the site to enhance its ecological integrity. The World Heritage Plaque has been mounted on the shores of Lake Louise, and will undoubtedly become the subject of millions of tourist photos over the years.

On 22 August 1985 a dual ceremony was held at Fort Smith and Fort Chipewyan, commemorating the designation of Wood Buffalo National Park as a World Heritage Site. Wood Buffalo was recognized for its protection of the endangered Whooping Crane's (*Grus americana*) nesting areas, the Lake Claire Delta, and its Karst topography.

It seems most unfortunate that press coverage of both these ceremonies indicated a lack of public (or, anyway, press) understanding of the role of the World Heritage Convention. Local press reports suggested that the areas were being internationalized, and that future administration would be under the jurisdiction of UNESCO! These misunderstandings have since been corrected. They do, however, indicate the need for a continuing and more intensive public education programme about the World Heritage Convention and the designation of world heritage sites than has so far been mounted.

HAROLD K. EIDSVIK, Senior Policy Adviser
Parks Canada
Ottawa
Ontario K1A 1G2, Canada;
Chairman, (sometime Executive Officer)
Commission on National Parks
& Protected Areas
IUCN
World Conservation Centre
1196 Gland
Switzerland.

Heritage Resources Programme: University of Waterloo-Parks Canada

Cooperation between government agencies and universities to improve information, research, and training, makes good economic sense. A liaison agreement between Parks Canada and the University of Waterloo, in effect since May 1983, as noted in *Environmental Conservation*, 11(4), p. 369, 1984, has led to a productive period of strengthening working relationships between Parks Canada and the Faculty of Environmental Studies, the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, and also other departments within the University. Advances have been made particularly in the areas of staff assignments, documentation exchange, an 'occasional paper' series, a public-lecture series, compilation of selected readings, heritage issue sessions, a student internship programme, networking with allied institutions, and a review and compilation of training opportunities for Parks Canada staff that are offered by the University.

A resident Parks Canada liaison officer participates in teaching at the University. In addition, several Parks Canada staff members participate in various courses on a 'guest speaker' basis. Moreover, many students consult with the Parks Canada Liaison Officer on matters of contacts, information, research, career development, and thesis work. A Joint Steering Committee, and a University-

based Management Committee, provide direction to the Programme. The public-lecture series and occasional workshops and 'issue' sessions are providing for interaction with interested faculty members, students, and professionals from other Ontario universities, as well as with government and nongovernmental heritage groups.

A collection of government publications has been established at the University, with links to Parks Canada's main documentation centre in Hull, P.Q. Five Occasional Papers have so far been produced and are available at cost. A publications brochure is available on request.

During 1985, the Programme's committee members have been involved in commemorating the one-hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the first Canadian National Park. The Management Committee has advised on a special issue of *Environments: Sharing Heritage Management*, dedicated to Parks Canada in recognition of the Centennial.

J. GORDON NELSON, Professor of Geography
Heritage Resources Programme
University of Waterloo-Parks Canada
c/o Faculty of Environmental Studies
University of Waterloo
Waterloo
Ontario N2L 3G1, Canada.