



The Three Rivers Fund / Le fonds des Trois Rivières: Coulonge - Dumaine - Noire

Report to 2020 Members

2020 was certainly a year none of us had envisioned. We know that many Three Rivers Fund members were challenged greatly and in recognition, all 2019 members retained their 2020 membership without any contributions requested.

CPAWS-OV's work continued none-the-less and we were actually blessed to be more active in some key areas including our work in the Three Rivers.

Given the exceptional year, the format of this report is different. Instead of reporting on the Conservation and Infrastructure portions of the 2020 funds, we will simply tell you about the work we have done in the Pontiac that has been possible from other funding sources.

Following the 2020 wrap up, the current plans for the Fund in 2021 are presented.

CPAWS-OV Three Rivers Video

We are pleased to report that we have developed a [Three Rivers video](#) specifically for Fund Members to use in their operations and/or to simply share with staff. It highlights this amazing region and its ecological and recreational value. We hope it will help you to ignite enthusiasm for the anticipated return to the region following all the Covid shutdowns. It is currently available in English and a French version is in the works. Please feel free to start using it right away!

River Etiquette Brochure

A long-time supporter of CPAWS-OV made a special gift to the Three Rivers Fund this summer specifically for the development and production of both a French and English River Etiquette brochure to designed to help users 'leave no trace' and avoid inadvertently damaging ecosystems during their visit. These are now available to all Fund Members who are interested. To get an electronic copy or to order copies, please email Sabrina Howe at showe@cpaws.org.

Canada Nature Fund's Target 1 Challenge initiative

In 2019, CPAWS Ottawa Valley partnered with the Conseil régional de l'environnement et du développement durable de l'Outaouais (CREDDO), along with other groups to submit a project to create a 115,000 hectares protected area in the Noire and Coulonge Rivers watershed. On June 5th, 2020 we received word that this 4-year project had been approved. Also contributing to this project are: the Schad, Consecon and Echo foundations; the CREDDO, Evolugen, the Université du Québec en Outaouais, Eco2Urb and CPAWS-OV. As a Three Rivers Fund member, I hope you are proud to see this additional investment from such diverse supporters in the area!

2020 Achievements

In early April, Mathieu St-Laurent – Addison was hired as our Conservation Project Manager. Mathieu has been heading up field work and GIS mapping and has been working closely with Geneviève Le Blanc, our Conservation Director.

This past spring, CPAWS-OV convened a series of training sessions given by the Institut des Sciences de la Forêt tempérée (l'ISFORT) for the Kitigan Zibi Guardians, who were mandated to help with this project, and our staff on old growth forests and species at risk in preparation for field studies. Over the summer, CPAWS-OV and the Kitigan Zibi Guardians worked together to complete approximately 80 man-days of field work collecting data in the area. Over the next several months, the results of this work will be presented to users, citizens, and other concerned parties through a series of consultations in order to develop consensus on the optimal final boundaries for the new protected area.

A big "Thank You" to Fund Members who supported this work with their in-depth knowledge of the area and their hospitality! This has been a big asset to the project.

Interpretive Panels

CPAWS-OV was pleased to have the opportunity to install fifteen interpretive panels along the Dumoine River Tote Road Hiking Trail this summer. These panels will help inform visitors learn about and appreciate the Dumoine's unique ecological features. We hope those of you operating in this region will see this as a value-added offering to your customers' experience.

CPAWS-OV Staff Volunteer with Friends of the Dumoine River on the Tote Road Hiking Trail

John McDonnell, our Executive Director has become personally attached to the Three Rivers region and spent a considerable number of hours this summer volunteering with Three Rivers Fund member, Friends of the Dumoine River, to expand and improve the Tote Road Hiking Trail Project. This historic trail, first opened in 1840 as a tote road for supplies, extends from just west of the mouth of the Dumoine to Grande Chute on the Dumoine and Six Mile Lake on The Fildegrande. To date thirteen of the thirty kilometers of this trail have been cleared - five in the south and eight in the north.

VIP Visits

This summer, the Mayor of Gatineau, Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin and his teenaged son, turned Covid restrictions into an opportunity to discover areas closer to home for their vacation. The two canoed the Dumoine River for three weeks resulting in not only life-long memories but also a [news article in leDroit](#).

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his family were also on the Dumoine River this summer and were welcome guests of the Dumoine River Rod and Gun Club. While CPAWS played no part in these visits and did not have the opportunity to welcome these VIPs, we are greatly encouraged by the recognition of the region that their visit represent.

Ongoing Conservation Work

Our Conservation Coordinator continued to participate in [Table régionale de gestion intégrée des ressources et du territoire de l'Outaouais](#) meetings. This group brings together all of the stakeholders involved in making decisions that apply to public land in the Outaouais. Here, we continue to advocate for the conservation of biodiversity by building relations with forest industry stakeholders, motorized recreation groups, hunters, fishers, and other users.

2021 Three Rivers Fund

Membership Renewal

We recognize that 2020 was an amazingly difficult year for many financially and that the beginnings of a return to financial health may not take place until the fall of 2021. However, we believe it is important for us to continue the Fund particularly for the role it can play in the Green Recovery. This is a unique and important opportunity for us all.

To this end, we are asking 2020 members to [renew their support](#) and to encourage new members to join from amongst your networks. We will be seeking new members as well and be working to engage and leverage both existing and new relationships.

In order to recognize the different fiscal realities of Fund Members we are offering a more flexible membership fee payment model. 2020 Fund Members can indicate their intention to renew their membership for 2021 now with a small deposit and defer the remainder of their payment until September 2021. We will also continue to recognize in-kind donations as explained further below.

While we have abandoned a membership structure based on 'client days' spent in the region, we encourage all Fund Members to consider how much of their core operations rely on an authentic "wilderness experience" as well as their desire and capacity to support the objectives of the Fund when choosing their membership level.

2021 Membership Levels

<i>Jack Pine</i>	year 2021 - donation of \$100 to \$249	year 2022+ - donation of \$150 to \$374
<i>Red Pine</i>	year 2021 - donation of \$250 to \$699	year 2022+ - donation of \$375 to \$999
<i>White Pine</i>	year 2021 - donation of \$700 or more	year 2022+ - donation of \$1,000 or more

Year 2022+ rates assume that the worst of the economic effects of the Covid 19 pandemic will have passed.

Volunteer and Resource Donation Opportunities

We are continuing our conservation activities in the region in 2021. If you are in a position to do so, we would welcome any volunteer time, physical resources or services towards these efforts you are able to offer. As in the past, if your volunteer time and/or resources can be put against our budget line-items, you will be credited these amounts against your membership fee.

Leveraging Your Involvement

We have also set up a way for your customers and networks to [contribute directly to the Three Rivers Fund](#). This way, your leadership can have a compound effect! Point of Sale (POS) software companies are also increasingly offering merchants the opportunity to add donation items as well as round-up for charity options, methods which you could use for promoting support of the Three Rivers Fund.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

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