



Les **Amis** du Parc de la Gatineau
Friends of Gatineau Park

Amis Friends

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www.friendsofgatineaupark.ca

Biodiversity

Fishing for Science in Gatineau Park

*by Keith Stamplecoskie and Steven Cooke (Ph. D.),
Carleton University*

In partnership with the National Capital Commission (NCC), the Fish Ecology and Conservation Physiology Laboratory at Carleton University is currently conducting a study on three of the most recreationally important lakes in Gatineau Park (i.e., Meech Lake, Lac Philippe, Lac la Pêche). The objectives of this research are to; (1) document the distribution of nearshore fish relative to different habitat types, (2) identify potential stressors that influence fish health or community structure, and (3) provide managers with information on where to focus habitat

restoration and protection resources. Fish were collected in the summer and fall of 2010 using a boat electrofisher. Electrofishing is a non-lethal tool for sampling fish and is regarded as one of the most effective approaches for monitoring nearshore fish communities. To date, ~1000 fish representing 12 species have been sampled and released alive. Formal analyses will be available in 2011. Any questions should be directed to: kmstamp1@connect.carleton.ca.

This presentation was part of the Research Day 2010



Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Québec: preliminary report of surveys conducted in the Gatineau Park

by Benoit Laliberté

Fieldwork for the first *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Québec* was conducted from 1984 to 1989, and the data gathered led to the production of what has become the major reference work for ornithologists in Québec. Just over 25 years later, the Regroupement QuébecOiseaux, the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada, and Bird Studies Canada have partnered to oversee a new atlas. The main aim of the second atlas is to provide up-to-date information on the distribution and relative abundance of bird species nesting in Québec, information essential for their conservation.

Data collection for this massive project started in 2010, and will continue over the next four years. In 2010, both paid teams and volunteers surveyed the Gatineau Park to gather data on the birds that breed there. In total, 115 species were observed, and 60 of these were confirmed as breeding in the park. As well as standard surveys, additional efforts were made to detect species at risk, and resulted in the discovery of the Least Bittern, the Peregrine Falcon, the Bald Eagle, the Whip-poor-will, the Chimney Swift, the Olive-sided Flycatcher, and the Golden-winged Warbler. The Yellow-billed Cuckoo, a species that only occasionally nests in Québec, was reported from a number of different sectors within the Park. Interestingly, one of the highlights of the 2010 field season was made in the nearby region of Quyon: the first confirmed breeding of Loggerhead Shrikes in Québec for 15 years. Although this observation was made outside the limits of the Park, it raises hopes concerning the future of this species in Québec.

Despite the encouraging results outlined above, it should be noted that the data collected for the Bald Eagle, the Olive-sided Flycatcher, and the Golden-winged Warbler were not sufficient to confirm that these species successfully bred in the park in 2010. Furthermore, several species at risk that have been observed previously in the Park were not recorded in 2010. These include the Cerulean Warbler, the Louisiana Waterthrush, the Canada Warbler, the Red-headed Woodpecker, and the Sedge Wren.

Atlas fieldwork will continue up until the end of the 2014 breeding season. Hopefully, during the coming four years, other interesting discoveries will be made, and further species will be added to the list of those birds nesting in the Park.

Anyone who would like to submit their observations to the atlas project can register online (www.atlas-oiseaux.qc.ca) or contact the atlas office directly at 1-877-785-2772.

The Atlas Team would like to thank the National Capital Commission and Friends of Gatineau Park for their financial support of this project, and the volunteers for their time and effort.

Benoit Laliberté is biologist and Assistant coordinator of the second Québec Breeding Bird Atlas.

Heritage **Canada's Cultural Landscapes: Definition and overview of management issues**

by Lynda Villeneuve, Parcs Canada

Definition and context

Since the early 1990s, cultural landscapes, a concept developed from the theories of cultural geography, have become popular in the field of heritage conservation worldwide. They are so popular because that they allow for an extension of the traditional view of heritage protection to include spaces that demonstrate the interaction between humans and the land over time. They integrate cultural traditions and natural resources as essential elements in heritage value and the management of these spaces.

Cultural landscapes were included in the UNESCO World Heritage Convention in 1992. They are defined as follows: *They represent the combined works of nature and of man designated in Article 1 of the Convention. They are illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal.* The notions of association between humans and nature, of evolution resulting from diverse influences, and of natural or cultural origin are central to this definition.

Parks Canada defines cultural landscapes as follows: *Any geographical area that has been modified, influenced, or given special cultural meaning by people.*¹ This definition also expresses the notions of association between humans and nature and of influence. The accent is on special cultural meaning, which may constitute the very essence of its value.

Cultural landscapes may vary in size and type, from individual gardens such as Maplelawn Garden, a national historic site in Ottawa, Ontario, to vast areas such as the Sahoyué-?ehdacho National Historic Site, an Aboriginal cultural landscape of 5,587 km² near Great Bear Lake in the Northwest Territories. This site bears witness to a unique cultural association with the culture and traditional knowledge of the Sahtugotine, who have occupied this land for thousands of years. Several cultural landscapes also show themes related to colonization, agricultural practices and industries that have significant social and economic impact for a region or all of Canada.

Cultural landscapes and national historic sites

Cultural landscapes were first included in Parks Canada's *Cultural Resources Management Policy* and in the designation criteria of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada at around the same time as they were included in the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, in the early 1990s. Today, cultural landscapes represent 9% (87) of the inventory of the 956 national historic sites in Canada².

These include Aboriginal cultural landscapes like Sahoyué-?ehdacho, or Kejimikujik in Nova Scotia, which has been occupied by the Micmacs for 4,000 years. They also include historic parks and gardens such as Rideau Hall in Ottawa. Some of them are sites linked to historical events marking the history of Canada and some of its communities. For example, the Grand-Pré Rural Historic District in Nova Scotia commemorates the deportation of the Acadians and the national significance of this Acadian life centre from 1682

to 1755. There are also rural landscapes such as the Victoria District National Historic Site in Alberta, an exceptional illustration of the major themes of prairie colonization in a concentrated area: the fur trade, the Métis' river lot systems, the missions, the development of prairie agriculture and immigration from Eastern Europe.

Some of these cultural landscapes are managed by Parks Canada, sometimes in cooperation with partners or Aboriginal communities. However, the great majority are managed by other departments or levels of government, associations or individuals. Often they are spread over several properties, which makes managing them a challenge.



Victoria District National Historic Site of Canada, Alberta (Photo: Parks Canada)



Sahoyué-?ehdacho National Historic Site of Canada, NWT (Photo: Parks Canada)

¹ Parks Canada, 1994: *Guiding Principles and Operational Policies*.

² According to Parks Canada's *Federal Directory of Heritage Designations*, dated February 17, 2011.



Grand-Pré Rural Historic District, Nova Scotia
(Photo: Parks Canada)

Cultural landscapes management issues

The multiple values, the expanse and the changing nature of cultural landscapes present numerous challenges for their management. Exemplary management practices are based on a solid understanding of their multiple values gleaned through detailed documentation of their history and character elements, including their changing economic and cultural factors and their current significance.

The inclusion of all pertinent disciplines in the evaluation and management of cultural landscapes is also essential, as much for the understanding and protection of their cultural elements as for their natural components.

Consultation among local communities and/or Aboriginal groups is also essential. Consultation allows communities to engage in dialogue on the multiple values of a site and to be involved in their conservation.

It is also important to include protection goals in the existing planning tools at the local and regional levels, to ensure that future development within and near a cultural landscape will respect its heritage value.

This article summarizes a presentation on cultural landscapes given to the Friends of Gatineau Park on February 20, 2011.

Upcoming events

- Annual General Meeting of Friends of Gatineau Park on Saturday, October 22.
- Research Day 2011 on Saturday, November 19.

Les Amis du Parc de la Gatineau/Friends of Gatineau Park, a registered charity publishes in Amis/Friends articles on a selection of ecology and heritage research undertaken in the Gatineau Park, particularly that funded by us as well as related to our other educational programs. Published twice a year, the Bulletin is archived at friendsofgatineaupark.ca and deposited with the National Library ISSN 1926-6537 (print) + 1913-7648 (online). Comments, suggestions, stories: send via www.friendsofgatineaupark.ca or 33 Scott Road, Suite 227, Chelsea QC J9B 1R5 Tel. 819-827-3113. Publisher: Jo Ann Gagnon; editing and layout: Jean-Philippe Rheault; printing: Imprimerie Vincent. Printed on recycled paper.

