

## **Park Management Plan Comments**

### **CB Highlands Management Plan: Part 1**

These are two paragraphs from the Executive Summary of the 2010 CB Highlands Management Plan. (These concepts have been in place since at least 1985)

The management plan for Cape Breton Highlands National Park of Canada provides strategic direction for achieving Parks Canada's mandate, namely: protection of Ecological and Cultural resources; the facilitation of meaningful visitor's experiences; and fostering public appreciation and understanding of Parks Canada's heritage places.

#### **Telling Our Stories:**

Cape Breton Highlands National Park will actively reach out to cultural knowledge holders to facilitate opportunities for these individuals to tell their own stories, the human history of the Highlands. Part of this approach will involve uncovering the human history stories that should be interpreted WITHIN the Park, including stories from BEFORE the Park was established to the stories of today.

**Note:** Fred Williams, Lawrence Barron, Joanne Doucette, Ken Donovan , Stewart Donovan , James MacDonald are all published authors who have stories to tell. Story tellers like Jimmy Cooke, Tommy Young, Emmerson Barron, Tuma Young, Mike & Adrienne Gorey, et al have their narratives and songs and poetry to reveal. Max Caplan, through his Cape Breton Magazine, has saved many of these stories - He deserves some kind of National Literary Award for his dedication to the stories of the "common man/woman" of Cape Breton. I know he has one but he deserves a bigger one.

The never forgotten exploits and sacrifices of all of our veterans deserved to be preserved and presented. The service of our veterans in time of Canada's greatest needs WW-1 and WW-2 must be preserved AND presented. The Never Forgotten National Memorial will be an ideal place to compile and present these stories when the Interpretive Centre comes on stream in later stages of the Memorial's development.

### **CB Highlands Management Plan: Part 2**

Encourage and work with local communities and the Mi'kmaq to develop tourism offers or other economic development opportunities associated with or complementary to the Park's offer and meet the needs and expectations of visitors.

At the same time, Parks Canada strives to ensure that activities at Cape Breton National Park have beneficial ecological, social, and economic effects within the surrounding region.

### **Park Management Plan: Part 3**

The most recent CEO, Alan Latourelle, and the current CEO of Parks Canada, Daniel Watson, have both noted the importance of the cultural mandate for our National Parks. The importance of protecting and

presenting the cultural resources associated with the pre-park communities and residents has become increasingly apparent.

Northern Cape Breton has a rich cultural heritage dating from Mi'kmaq occupancy since time immemorial through more recent human settlement and use. The natural resources of this region have provided a livelihood to people for thousands of years, ranging from traditional hunting, fishing and gathering economies of the Mi'kmaq to the fishing, farming and forestry that attracted the Acadian, Gaelic and other European settlers to the area.

Parks Canada must ensure that cultural resources and cultural landscapes are recognized, protected and presented so that the public can learn about and better appreciate the park's cultural heritage in ways that are complementary to ecosystem management objectives.

Collaborative Management, of this Management Plan (C B Highlands), honouring the past, assessing the value of cultural resources, and appropriately protecting and presenting cultural resources and cultural heritage are priorities for the park.

#### **Park Management Plan: Part 4**

The Park has the responsibility to develop interpretive products in Ingonish that complement natural and cultural features to convey a sense of place.

In collaboration with communities and shareholders, the Park will explore the human history of the Highlands. By linking the past and the present, our cultural heritage helps us appreciate the human experience and better understand who we are as Canadians.

The Park will develop a strategy that ensures true engagement between the Park and local communities, including exploring community interest in the creation of a local advisory committee, and understanding how stakeholders want to participate and interact with us.

And, the Park will implement a local history project.

Note: Our local history project is the Never Forgotten National Memorial.

#### **C.B Highlands Management Plan: Part 5**

The Management Plan includes a zoning plan that classifies land and water areas according to their need for protection. (1) Special Preservation (2) Wilderness (3) Natural Environment (4) Outdoor Recreation (5) Park Services.

The Acting Superintendent of CB Highlands, on June 22, 2015, confirmed that **Green Cove had the Zone IV Designation** which is given to small areas that are capable of accommodating a broad range of opportunities for education and outdoor recreation, including the major facilities and infrastructure required for visitor experience.