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**2014-2015**

**Rapport annuel**

**Annual report**





## Foreword by the Chair

Canada's Biosphere Reserves are living laboratories of how sustainable development can be implemented in our communities. As their national resource and coordinating centre, Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association (CBRA) continued its work in 2014-2015 to provide training and support for biosphere reserves, their staff, and key volunteers. We are – together with local communities, First Nations, industry partners and diverse agencies – involved in a multitude of projects and activities related to sustainable development from coast to coast. (near 500 projects conducted by Canadian Biosphere Reserves in the last decade).

CBRA's 16 BRs across the country, aim to inspire initiatives elsewhere around the world and to empower Biosphere Reserve's leadership within their regions towards becoming models of sustainable communities.

We would like to recognize the precious contribution of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO) (including its Canadian MAB committee) for its support into the development and networking of CBRA. The last CCUNESCO's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Victoria allowed the network to be updated on

key international MAB developments, including the MAB Strategy 2015-2025, and the international criteria for the exit Strategy. It also provided a strong update about the CCUNESCO, as well as insights on the current situation of indigenous engagement in Canadian Biosphere Reserves. Finally, the AGM allowed us to finalize an important project with SSHRC.

Over the past years, our partners allowed us to considerably increase our expertise in the field of sustainable development and strengthen the capacity of Canada's Biosphere Reserves to share knowledge at multiple scales.

Thanks to our people, key volunteers and partners, we achieved to put together, locally, nationally and internationally, a good number of projects that are reflected in this annual report.

For this reason and for the essential work achieved since numerous years with a high level of quality and determination, I would sincerely like to salute my dedicated friends, colleagues and volunteers across Canada for their hard work, commitment and for sharing our vision of creating vibrant, healthy and sustainable communities across Canada.



## Introduction

### **MISSION:**

CBRA supports Canadian Biosphere Reserves in the achievement of their mandates and demonstrates their collective value nationally and internationally.

The Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association (CBRA) is a national resource and coordinating centre that provides training and support for the biosphere reserves in Canada. Canada's 16 Biosphere Reserves (BR) go beyond theory to real-world practice. As laboratories of sustainable development, they are models of successful initiatives and processes throughout the country.

CBRA's main functions are capacity building, training, and support for research and education related to sustainable development. CBRA advances a powerful framework for consensus-building that is emulated around the world as an effective approach for creating sustainable communities rooted in the principles of conservation and responsible economic development.

Canada's Biosphere Reserves work together with local communities, First Nations, industry partners, and diverse agencies. CBRA represents the Biosphere Reserves (BR) on national and international entities such as the

CCUNESCO, the International Coordination Council of MAB and the Steering Committee of EuroMAB.

Canada's first Biosphere Reserve, Mont Saint-Hilaire, was designated in 1978. In 1980, Canada's National Committee for the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) created a working group to facilitate the development of new BR in Canada. From then, CBRA became a unique structure, focussing on Canadian BRs capacity building and networking.

The association members are representatives of the 16 BRs in Canada and associate members from Parks Canada, Environment Canada, CCUNESCO and Canadian MAB committee.

Designated by UNESCO through the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), BR are sites of excellence for testing innovative approaches based on scientific knowledge and collaborative, multi-level governance. There are currently 631 UNESCO-designated sites in 119 countries worldwide.

## International activities

### 1) Follow up of EuroMAB 2013 (working groups)

Following EuroMAB in Canada 2015, in Brockville, Frontenac Arch Biosphere, that brought together over 190 delegates from 27 European and North American countries, 5 Working groups have been created or continued at the conference, in which Canada is participating and often leading. Those worked since then and just reported their work at EuroMAB 2015 in Estonia (report to be shared soon):

1. Communications / Canada (leader) Eve Ferguson with support from UNESCO/MAB
2. Indigenous EuroMAB /Canada (leader) Tammy Dorward, Rebecca Hurwitz, Eli Enns and Larry McDermott
3. NordMAB /Finland (co-leader) Katja Bonnevier and Canada (co-leader) Jean Philippe Messier
4. Centre for Sustainable Rural Development/ Canada (leader) Gary Clarke
5. Social Enterprise in Biosphere Reserves/UK (leader) Colin Campbell(participation by Lac-St-Pierre and Manicouagan-Uapishka)

### 2) Participation in the CC-MAB Committee

The Canadian Commission MAB Committee (CC-MAB) is an ad hoc committee of the CCUNESCO and provides advice and recommendations to the Canadian Commission and to the biosphere reserves in Canada. It functions in concert with the Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association (CBRA), an independent advocacy and networking society comprised of representatives from Canadian biosphere reserves. CC-MAB provides recommendations on periodic reviews, new biosphere nominations and input on strategic direction and policy initiatives in relation to the world network of Biospheres Reserves and CCUNESCO.

In 2014-2015, CC-MAB oversaw the periodic reviews or follow-up reports on ICC recommendations for the following biospheres in Canada.

Periodic reviews:

- Charlevoix (PR completed and follow-up report evaluated)
- Baie Georgienne (started)

Follow-up reports:

- Mount Arrowsmith
- Waterton
- Riding Mountain
- Niagara Escarpment
- Southwest Nova
- Long Point (Zoning follow-up)

CC-MAB also contributed recommendations to CCUNESCO for the new strategic direction for the future strategy of MAB and the post Madrid Action Plan, to more closely link the MAB Programme to the global agenda of UNESCO.

Further to the above CC-MAB is supporting CBRA in its efforts of biospheres in Canada in the following areas:

- Inclusion of Indigenous communities in Biosphere Reserves, including as governing members of existing and new biospheres, acknowledging the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples and their contribution to culture, knowledge and the new and emerging economy;
- Supporting the efforts of CBRA to develop new streams of revenue for biospheres as alternatives to government and foundation funding.

### **3) Participation into International Coordination Council of MAB**

The MAB governing body of UNESCO, the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, usually referred to as the MAB Council or ICC, consists of 34 Member States elected by UNESCO's biennial General Conference.

The role of the Council is to guide and supervise the MAB Programme, to review the progress made in the implementation of the Programme, to assess priorities among projects and MAB activities in general and to coordinate the international cooperation of Member States participating in the MAB Programme. It is as well the MAB ICC that decides upon new biosphere reserves and takes note of recommendations on periodic review reports of biosphere reserves.

While Canada is not an elected Member of the ICC, Jean-Philippe Messier, as CBRA's Chair, took part of the 26th Session in Jonkoping, Sweden, as well as Megan De Graaf and Stan Boychuck (CC-MAB Chair). CBRA could express its positions/contributions on all item considered as the relevant items for our work in Canada. The final report of the Chair had been distributed with Canadian authorities and is available upon request. It contains CBRA's opinion and proposition and the following items, considered as the relevant items for our work in Canada:

- item 7 : Reports on actions undertaken by Member States / regional and thematic MAB Networks in the context of MAB and discussion on collaborative thematic and research projects
- item 8: Evaluation of the Madrid Action Plan (MAP)
- item 9 : MAB and World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) – post Rio+20 opportunities and towards a strategy for 2014-2021
- item 10: Proposals for new biosphere reserves and extensions/modifications to biosphere reserves that are part of the WNBR
- item 11: Update on the exit strategy

Key suggested orientations and positions expressed in this document have been prepared prior to the ICC session under the coordination of the CCUNESCO, in collaboration and upon consultation with CBRA and the Canadian MAB Committee. Thanks to the CCUNESCO for its financial support that allowed the participation of 3 Canadian delegates.

## National activities

### **1) Cinematic documentary series “ Striking Balance ”**

Striking Balance is a project of Living History Multimedia Association, created in partnership with the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association, and with support of the CCUNESCO. This cinematic documentary series celebrates Canada’s Biosphere Reserves. In 2014, interviews with experts on-site, and footage of research and grassroots programming in-action have been made in half of the Canadian Biosphere Reserves. For more info, visit <http://www.strikingbalance.ca>.

### **2) Partnership between Canadian Biosphere Reserves and SSHRC shortlisted for a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Connection Award**

In the past recent years, the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association and the School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) of the University of Saskatchewan entered into a partnership to enhance the capacity of biosphere reserves to achieve their objectives by developing and documenting strategies for networking and social learning. This project was led by Maureen Reed and funded through Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). Practitioners across Canada identified and explained proven good practices to one another, and shared these practices through venues such as workshops, YouTube videos, and a guidebook. These tools were shared across the international network that included European Biosphere Reserves.

This work was recently shortlisted for a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Connection Award. The Award recognizes an outstanding SSHRC-funded initiative to facilitate the flow and exchange of research knowledge within or beyond the academic community. It is given to an individual or team whose project has engaged the campus or wider community, and has generated intellectual, cultural, social and economic impacts. A reception announcing the winners is taking place November 3, 2014 in Ottawa, Ontario. The Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association wishes to sincerely recognize this important partnership and thank everyone who contributed to the success of it. For more info, visit <http://www.usask.ca/sens/news/2014/maureen-reed-recognized-for-research-impact.php>.

## Local activities

The following pages are a summary of our member's annual plans. It describes the main activities and projects that had been undertaken by every member and their partners across the country.

Presented from east to west, the texts had been put in this report in the language used currently by the BR.

### Map of Biosphere Reserves across Canada



# RÉSERVE DE LA BIOSPHERE DU LAC SAINT- PIERRE

Québec

<http://www.biospherelac-st-pierre.qc.ca>



## Réalisations principales:

- Participation à la Table de concertation régionale du lac Saint-Pierre: réseautage, vision globale et partagée des enjeux, émergence de projets
- Coordination de la Commission conservation: cartographie des zones d'interventions prioritaires à aménager, rédaction de fiches descriptives, concertation et mobilisation des organismes gestionnaires d'habitats.
- Coordination de la Station Nautique Lac-Saint-Pierre: réalisation d'une carte dépliant promotionnelle, mise à jour du site Web, coordination des Fêtes du nautisme, mise à jour du plan d'action.
- Coordination de la Commission développement: développement de circuits touristiques, rédaction d'un plan de travail et d'un échéancier, accompagnements d'entreprises de leurs développements.

## Activités à venir:

### Coordination de la Commission conservation:

- Participation à la rédaction d'un rapport portant sur la priorité de la conservation des habitats et de la biodiversité rattachés au lac Saint-Pierre;
- Mise en œuvre des recommandations du rapport;
- Accompagnement des organismes dans la réalisation de leurs projets.

### Coordination de la Commission recherche et éducation:

- Refonte du site Web de la Réserve de la biosphère (intranet et bibliographie virtuelle);
- Développement d'une Chaire de recherche au lac Saint-Pierre.

### Coordination de la Commission développement:

- Animer, coordonner et développer la Station Nautique Lac-Saint-Pierre;
- Développer des circuits « découverte du lac Saint-Pierre »;
- Accompagner des entreprises dans leur développement;
- Établir des partenariats pour la mise en marché des circuits;
- Soutenir des projets de diversification bioalimentaire (en continu).

# BRAS D'OR LAKE BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Nova Scotia

<http://blbra.ca>

Complete report: <http://blbra.ca/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014->



## Main accomplishments:

- Educational resource manual for Grade 4 science
- Master Plan for Signage throughout the Biosphere
- Launched the Bras d'Or Atlas – an on-line database for the Bras d'Or
- Walking Trail around the Bras d'Or – facilitated community meetings
- Organizational Matters:
  - AGM on Sustainable Farming - attracted >50 residents
  - Develop membership policies
  - Apply for Charitable Status with CRA
  - Trade mark our logo
- MOU with Parks Canada - produced a display for the Biosphere in the Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site, Baddeck

## Upcoming activities:

- Educational Resource to be tested in schools this September
- Develop trails and link with Trans Canada Trails
- Expand coverage and promote use of the Biosphere Atlas
- Maintain Social media presence through web site, Facebook and Twitter
- Implement Biosphere signage further throughout the region
- Produce “Bras d'Or Gems” for local papers
- Publicly launch the display at the Bell Historic Site – June-2015
- 1st Annual Citizen-based Monitoring of the Biosphere – “Bras d'Or Watch” – July 2015
- Develop Social Enterprise capability
- Expand the membership base for the Biosphere Reserve Association

## FUNDY BIOSPHERE RESERVE

New Brunswick



<http://fundy-biosphere.ca>

Complete report: [http://www.fundy-biosphere.ca/images/docs/annual-reports/FBR\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2013-14\\_Final.pdf](http://www.fundy-biosphere.ca/images/docs/annual-reports/FBR_Annual_Report_2013-14_Final.pdf)



### Main accomplishments:

The Fundy Biosphere Reserve:

- participated in the 26th International Coordinating Council meeting of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program, through representation of the FBR's Executive Director, Megan de Graaf.
- released a series of 9 videos (in each French and in English, for a total of 18) about the Amazing Places of the FBR and launched a new website for the project ([www.FBRAmazingPlaces.ca](http://www.FBRAmazingPlaces.ca)). The videos profile eight Amazing Places: the majesty of Lavery Falls, the water-sculpted rocks of Moosehorn, the salmon habitat of Black Hole, the Upper Salmon River estuary, the ancient bog of Caribou Plain, the intricate microclimate of Dickson Falls, the backwoods camping at Goose River, and the shorebirds of Mary's Point.
- hosted the Striking Balance film crew, as they officially began production on TVO's Striking Balance, a 8x50 minute docu-series that will explore eight of Canada's breathtaking UNESCO World Biosphere Reserves.
- hosted four workshops aimed at building the capacity of communities, landowners, foresters, and the general public to adapt to climate change. In particular, the FBR focused on sharing and strengthening Green Plans and Integrated Community Sustainability Plans, and planning the future of forests in NB,
- joined the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves and participated in the network's meeting in Malta.
- released the results of the Resilient Forest Corridors project, which analysed projections for climate change-resilient tree species and proposed corridors for maximum future forest health.

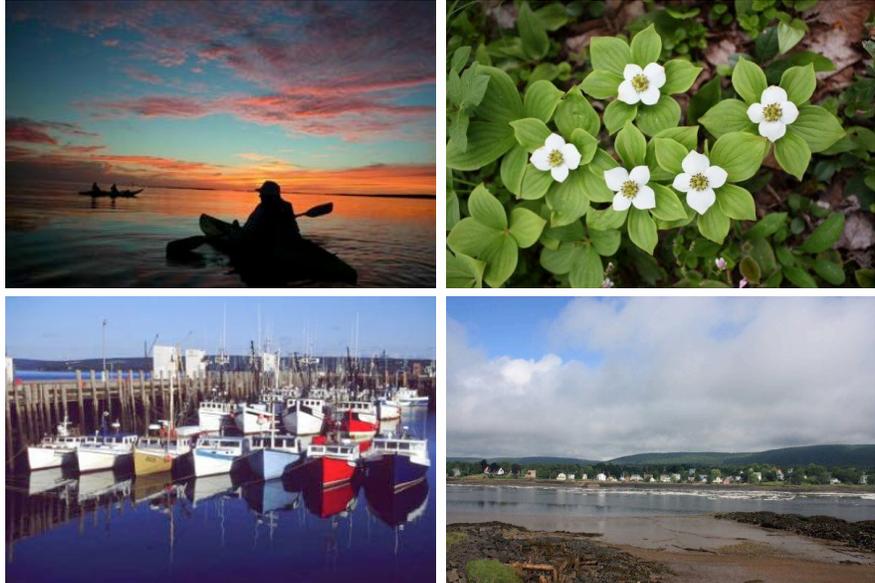
### Upcoming activities:

- Building Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge in Students and Communities in the Atlantic Provinces and Beyond
- Adopting Forests of the Future in the Fundy Biosphere Reserve
- Integrating biodiversity, water quality and flood risk reduction in regional planning approaches
- A Youtube Guide to Surviving the Treacherous Fundy Footpath

## SOUTHWEST NOVA BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Nova Scotia

[http://  
www.swnovabiosphere.ca](http://www.swnovabiosphere.ca)



### Main accomplishments:

- The SNBRA remains an active organization in a circumstance where government funding for organizations has been reduced, association volunteers have overcome significant challenges to raise the UNESCO Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve profile and utility for communities within its boundaries.
- SNBRA developed and submitted an update document addressing UNESCO/MAB and CBRA Periodic Review requirements. Subsequently the Management Action Plan "Looking to the Future" was prepared and widely circulated. It addresses previous UNESCO/ICC Status Review recommendations to enhance its operations.
- SNBRA is collaborating with educational institutions, municipal governments, NGO's and communities to protect and promote natural and cultural heritage values in core protected areas and the zone of cooperation. For example the Government of Nova Scotia website (Nova Scotia.ca) UNESCO page is being updated from a SNBRA perspective. A desktop computer version of the Touring through Time/Une Tournée Dans L ' Passé" map app was completed and is accessible through the swnovabiosphere.ca website.
- SNBRA is advancing sustainable resource management while protecting biodiversity and participating as a member of the Government of Nova Scotia Western Crown Lands Advisory Committee and the Nova Forest Alliance.
- The association is rebuilding its infrastructure with establishment of a new office in mid 2015 that will provide administrative support for heritage presentation and inter organization coordination activities.
- SNBRA is contributing to national and international UNESCO/MAB initiatives by participating in development of an internal Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association (CBRA) communication and marketing strategies, and the UNESCO/MAB Branding initiative.

### Upcoming activities:

- With the support of 9 municipal government units and the Nova Scotia Community College, SNBRA is developing the "Touring through Time/Une Tournée Dans L ' Passé" smart phone "Map App" heritage presentation initiative. ([www.swnovabiosphere.ca](http://www.swnovabiosphere.ca)) for launch in May 2015. Promotion will include signage, brochure/rack card material, decals displaying a "QR" access code, and other publication to increase Biosphere brand recognition. The smart phone "Map App" will highlight natural and cultural heritage themes in the biosphere region, and include real time user georeferencing, weather and tide times.
- SNBRA is participating in the "Innoweave" initiative to advance social enterprise development associated with the "Touring through Time/Une Tournée Dans L ' Passé" smart phone "Map App" heritage presentation initiative
- Plans are being developed for a science conference in 2015. Topics to be addressed will include climate change, sustainable forest resource management and a comprehensive research project database
- SNBRA is exploring the possibility of hosting the 2016 Canadian Council for UNESCO Conference and AGM with a variety of partners including the Municipality de Clare, Université Sainte-Anne and the Government of Nova Scotia.

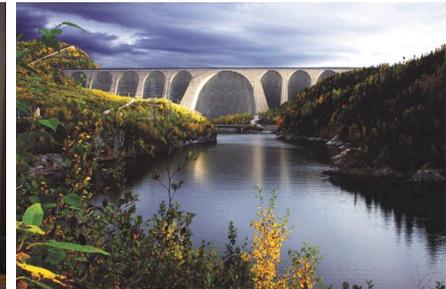
# RÉSERVE DE LA BIOSPHERE MANICOUAGAN- UAPISHKA

Québec



[www.rmbmu.com](http://www.rmbmu.com)

Rapport complet: <http://rmbmu.com/rapport-annuel-2014>



## Réalisations principales:

- Poursuite de l'accompagnement de la démarche Ma Ville Ma Voix
- Agent de réseautage pour les 3 collectivités bénéficiant des Fonds Alcoa pour les collectivités durables
- Étude de cas sur la gestion des parties prenantes de Gaz Métro
- Accompagnement en développement durable selon la Méthode BNQ 21 000
- Organisation et animation d'un café citoyen sur les inégalités sociales (Institut du Nouveau Monde)
- Modération d'une table ronde en lien avec la visite du gouverneur général du Canada
- Organisation de la Corvée de monts Uapishka (Groulx) et refonte de la carte
- Projet de collaboration avec Pessamit et la Suède
- Participation au réseau NordMAB
- Poursuite des stages étudiants internationaux dans une RB au Bénin
- Coordination du comité de gestion de la Réserve de biodiversité Uapishka
- Plus de 20 activités de représentations locales, nationales et internationales

## Activités à venir:

- Structuration et mise en place d'une base de recherche
- Déploiement d'un centre de référence en développement durable
- Lancement d'une charte d'engagement en développement durable
- Coopération avec les pays nordiques via le réseau NordMAB

# RÉSERVE DE LA BIOSPHERE DU MONT SAINT-HILAIRE

Québec



[http://  
www.centrenature.qc.ca](http://www.centrenature.qc.ca)

Rapport complet: [http://  
www.centrenature.qc.ca/  
informations/pdf/Rapport](http://www.centrenature.qc.ca/informations/pdf/Rapport)



## Réalisations principales:

- Protection et désignation comme Réserve naturelle en milieu privé de 153,5 ha de milieux naturels des zones de coopération et de protection de la RBMSH
- "Connexion Montérégie": Grand projet autour des services écologiques de la RBMSH
- Développement d'une application web cartographique pour la protection des milieux humides forestiers et des corridors naturels de la RBMSH. C'est un outil de sensibilisation auprès du grand public et un outil d'aide à la décision pour les acteurs du territoire.
- Suivi faunistique et floristique par des professionnels et des citoyens bénévoles
- Projet de foresterie urbaine permettant de faire valoir l'importance des arbres en milieu urbain et de planifier les interventions face à l'arrivée de l'agrile du frêne
- Travail avec les 8 municipalités de la RBMSH pour la planification durable du territoire et le développement viable des communautés (participation aux comités développement durable, jeunesse, culture, urbanismes, environnement, etc.)
- Accueil et encadrement de 12 cours et 16 projets de recherche universitaires
- Accueil et sensibilisation de plus de 220 000 personnes dans l'aire de conservation de la RBMSH.
- Activités culturelles et éducatives pour 1 200 citoyens, 400 élèves et 600 bénévoles.
- 24 chroniques distribuées à 60 000 personnes

## Activités à venir:

- Protéger et suivre la biodiversité du territoire par la recherche scientifique, la gestion et la restauration de milieux naturels et l'utilisation durable des ressources naturelles.
- Maintenir, communiquer et utiliser les services écosystémiques comme outil de planification territoriale.
- Limiter la présence d'espèces exotiques envahissantes
- Planter annuellement environ 1 500 arbres et arbustes
- Réaliser des recherches universitaires à propos des changements climatiques et des services écosystémiques
- Sensibiliser les citoyens de la RBMSH par des projets avec des écoles, des groupes communautaires et les différents acteurs du milieu.
- Travailler avec les 8 municipalités de la RBMSH et les acteurs locaux.

# FRONTENAC ARCH BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Ontario

[www.frontenacarchbiosphere.ca](http://www.frontenacarchbiosphere.ca)

Complete report:  
[www.frontenacarchbiosphere.ca/about-us](http://www.frontenacarchbiosphere.ca/about-us)



## Main accomplishments:

The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve:

- in collaboration with Georgian Bay and Long Point Biosphere Reserves, accomplished a pilot project through the Ontario Ministry of Tourism called Amazing Places - a community engagement project to nominate and map the special places of nature and heritage that are basic to our sense of place
- introduced a web-based unique itinerary planning tool called FAB Experiences, accompanied by 30,000 copies of a 100 page Guide to selected sites of the region related to local food, arts and culture, parks and museums.
- managed a Species at Risk awareness project in the region for the Ministry of Natural Resources and an area stewardship council
- mentored and supported student course work and research for a fourth year environmental studies course and a first year engineering course for Queen's University
- operated the now decade old Biosphere Nature Camp, a week-long day camp at Landon Bay
- successfully created the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Foundation, by transforming an existing, older foundation, which will support education, environment and cultural programs for the area, and operate the Landon Bay Centre property of Parks Canada

## Upcoming activities:

- through funding by the Trillium Foundation, and in collaboration with the Georgian Bay and Long Point Biosphere Reserves, carry forward the Amazing Places project for the next two years
- carry out projects to establish this region as a special trails and experience destination region, working with business, economic development, and all of our 80 network partners, and programs participants
- try to find a solid base of funding and income necessary to support core (staff, overhead, program) operations
- develop a conservation round table to knit together NGOs, groups and agencies to increase capacity and efficiencies
- further define and develop our basic program areas

# LONG POINT BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Ontario



[www.longpointbiosphere.ca](http://www.longpointbiosphere.ca)

## Main accomplishments:

- **Long Point Causeway Improvement Project**

Five more culverts were installed under the Long Point Causeway this winter to provide safe passage for wildlife and potential aquatic connections between the Big Creek Marsh and Long Point Bay. To date, the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation has raised more than \$1.6 million to install eight culverts and 4.5 kilometers of exclusion fencing along the Causeway. These efforts have reduced reptile road mortality by more than 50 per cent since the project began in 2008. Up to four more culverts -- two large aquatic and two small terrestrial -- will be installed over the next two years.

- **Sustainable Tourism**

After a successful pilot project in 2014, which named 30 “Amazing Places” across Ontario, the Long Point Biosphere is once again teaming up with the Georgian Bay and Frontenac arch Biosphere Reserves to expand the Amazing Places project. Over the next two years the group will add an additional 30 “Amazing Places” locations throughout Ontario and further develop virtual and onsite education materials enabling people to appreciate outdoor experiences and understand the need to safeguard these important ecosystems. [www.visitamazingplaces.ca](http://www.visitamazingplaces.ca)

## Upcoming activities:

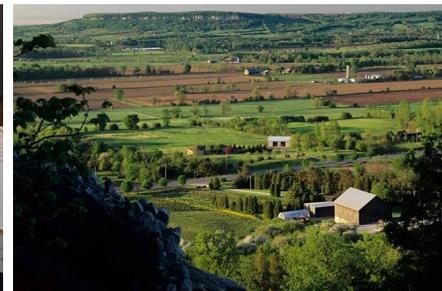
- **Community Conservation Project**

Beginning this year, community conservation practitioners will come together to identify current and emerging ecosystem stresses, share current ecosystem research, monitoring, innovative ecosystem management and restoration practices, and develop and implement community ecosystem conservation recommendations. The two-year initiative also includes the creation of a searchable digital library of reports and research from many sources. This library will enable conservation practitioners to readily access information to assist them in implementing the best management practices to ensure effective ecosystem management and restoration.

# NIAGARA ESCARPMENT BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Ontario

<http://www.escarpment.org>



## Main accomplishments:

- Following the second periodic review of the NEBR, the International Coordinating Council (ICC) confirmed that the NEBR meets the criteria and merits continued designation as a biosphere reserve.
- The NEBR provided representation at the CCU 54th AGM in Victoria BC, attended a post-AGM visit to Clayoquot Sound BR.
- Successful exploratory discussions held with NEBR partners on the benefits of a more formalized BR Network.
- Participated in a UNESCO communication and branding toolkit pilot as one of 5 world BRs. UNESCO consultants and Programme Specialist and Coordinator of the EuroMAB network led a workshop with a cross section of NEBR practitioners; the outputs of the session will be applied to the development of the NEBR network and a communications plan for the NEBR.

## Upcoming activities:

- Continue the development of a formal NEBR Network to provide a centralized forum to share knowledge and provide a forum to encourage new partnerships in the conservation of biological diversity.
- Apply the UNESCO BR Branding and Story Toolkit to develop core messaging for communicating the benefits of the NEBR in order to have a stronger voice and greater impact.
- Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the NEBR by attending various events such as the Ontario Biodiversity Summit 2015 and the EuroMAB 2015 meeting in Estonia and promoting BR objectives.
- 2015 Provincial Coordinated Review of the Greenbelt Plans is underway and will provide opportunity to evaluate the vision for the future of sustainable development planning in the NEBR.
- Provide outreach to three academic organizations, and two community groups on land use planning in the NEBR
- NEBR Representative to attend the 2015 Euro-MAB meeting in Estonia to share outcomes from participation in the pilot and promote the Branding and Story Toolkit
- Forest Biodiversity Monitoring Course in partnership with the University of Waterloo

# GEORGIAN BAY BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Ontario

[www.gbbr.ca](http://www.gbbr.ca)

Complete report:  
<http://bit.ly/1DT95uV>



## Main accomplishments:

- Coordinated Water Quality Monitoring Framework for eastern Georgian Bay
- Kids in the Biosphere, 52-page activity booklet
- Local Food Map & Food Festival
- Species at Risk monitoring & conservation conference with Magnetawan First Nation
- Launch of "Amazing Places" ecotourism project with Long Point & Frontenac BRs, inspired by Fundy BR
- UNESCO Periodic Review

## Upcoming activities:

- Develop a long-term "State of the Bay ecosystem health reporting" program for eastern Georgian Bay
- Support coordinated inter-governmental water quality and nutrient monitoring, including citizen science
- Provide landowner stewardship training, waterfront property assessment, and financial incentives for best practices
- Support networks that offer "Community Kitchens" cooking skills programs, particularly for youth & elders
- Facilitate sustainable transportation initiatives in the region (eg. trails, active schools, open streets, cycling tourism)
- Offer sustainability education to schools with "Lessons-in-a-Backpack" and a University of Waterloo field course
- Create a plan for climate change education, including appropriate energy alternatives for the region
- Expand "Amazing Places" with conservation education and tourism partners to create sustainable tourism
- Build meaningful partnerships with First Nations for environmental and cultural education, including language preservation
- Strengthen the governance and networks that support the strategic priorities and operations of GBRR

# REDBERRY LAKE BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Saskatchewan



[www.redberrylake.ca](http://www.redberrylake.ca)

## Main accomplishments:

- Supported the filming of the Redberry BR episode of Striking Balance. They will be back in the spring to finish up with filming and interviews. This will be a great documentary showcasing our Biosphere Reserve and the people that live here. We look forward to its release this fall.
- Our partnership with the School of Environment and Sustainability has brought two more students to the RLBR to complete projects that will help them complete their post graduate studies.
- We have signed a formal MOU with the Research Institute for Humanities and Nature (ILEK Project) from Kyoto, Japan. This is a research sharing agreement regarding sustainable development and environmental protection in the BR.
- We successfully fulfilled completed our project that involved replacing the shingles, soffits and fascia on the Ukrainian National Hall. This project was in partnership with the Team Youth Force group and the Town of Hafford.
- We received funding for a community based grant that will bring seniors and the youth of our community together. It involves residents of the Hafford Special Care Facility teaching school kids gardening in raised beds. These beds are specially designed so that seniors in wheelchairs can access them with ease and can take part in the project.
- The Prairie Waters Working Group (PWWG0) has been established to work with partners on water related issues in the RLBR and across the province. The first project that we have taken on is an awareness initiative to educate about the dangers of Aquatic Invasive Species to the waters of our province.
- We continue to work with the North Saskatchewan River Basin Council (NSRBC) to provide source water protection in our watershed and the extended watershed of the North Saskatchewan River. This is an important contract for us as it keeps us in contact with other organizations in the province that are key in raising the profile of the RLBR. These contacts will be key in our quest to obtaining stable funding and fulfilling our goals into the future.
- We have started a formal "Redberry Lake Trail Association" that is a separate entity from the BR. This group will continue with the maintenance and establishment of trails that were started by the BR in the past.

## Upcoming activities:

- Bring about 15 urban/rural municipalities and First Nation reserves together to convert an abandoned hog barn site in the RLBR, into a regional waste management facility that will be used for household waste and the recycling of regular and agricultural plastic materials. This project also involves converting some of the buildings on site for local economic development.
- Continue to support our relationship with SENS for their fall course studies held at Redberry Lake.
- Continue our support with our partnership with ILEK
- Continue our partnership with the NSRBC in providing environment based project in the RLBR and North Sask Watershed. This will involve working with 2 First Nations to develop Source Water Protection Plans for their Reserves.

# WATERTON BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Alberta

[www.watertonbiosphere.com](http://www.watertonbiosphere.com)



## Main accomplishments:

- supported completion of projects to decrease conflict with large carnivores including removing dead livestock from the landscape, securing grain and feed storage, and installing electric fencing to keep carnivores away from other attractants
- hosted two bear safety training workshops to provide information to ranch families about how to avoid and respond appropriately to bear encounters
- produced three technical guides designed to support landowner efforts to reduce conflicts with large carnivores (deadstock, grain storage, electric fencing) and a report featuring 2013-2014 attractant management project stories from 15 landowners
- produced a short film, *Sharing the Range* ([www.sharingtherange.com](http://www.sharingtherange.com)) to tell the story about the challenges of living with large carnivores and how people in the Waterton Biosphere Reserve (WBR) are meeting those challenges
- held our third annual Wetland Exploration Field Day for more than 100 local elementary students who explored a variety of environments and rotated through a series of presentation/activities rich with hands-on experiences and nature-based learning
- developed an action plan focusing on stewardship of species at risk including whitebark and limber pine, Northern leopard frog, trumpeter swan, and the full suite of bat species found in WBR
- gained additional support for WBR zonation including the Government of Alberta and Municipal District of Pincher Creek
- held a series of “cooperation planning forums” to seek input from stakeholders including residents, businesses, government, land managers and other organization and agencies to guide the future work and direction of WBR

## Upcoming activities:

- Complete a cooperative management plan for WBR
- Continue to deliver programs to support coexistence of large carnivores and agriculture in southwestern Alberta
- Expand the wetland exploration field day event and launch a new collaborative initiative with local schools to promote education for sustainable development
- Develop initiatives addressing education and awareness related to invasive aquatic and terrestrial species, stewardship for species at risk, and development of sustainable tourism initiatives

# MOUNT ARROWSMITH BIOSPHERE RESERVE

British Columbia



<http://mabr.ca>

Complete report: <https://mabri.viu.ca/sites/default/files/>

## Main accomplishments:

- A new and collaborative governance model: In July 2014, Vancouver Island University and the City of Parksville signed a Memorandum of Understanding to co-manage the MABR using a consensus-based roundtable model. This replaced the former not-for-profit Foundation structure.
- In August 2014, Vancouver Island University founded MABRRI, a research institute dedicated to generating and sharing knowledge about the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve region. MABRRI coordinates student, faculty and community projects and works with a broad diversity of partners to understand and improve environmental, social, economic and cultural sustainability in the region through research and education.
- MABRRI's student researchers have generated new maps of the MABR region with advanced GIS software. MABRRI can also create professional quality maps that different projects and partners require.
- MABR launched a new University-Community Speaker Series on issues relating to the Biosphere Reserve mandate.
- MABR partnered with the Kwakwaka'wakw Food Forest, a pilot project dedicated to increasing food security in the region. The project focuses on cross-generational learning, permaculture, Indigenous ways of interacting with the land, and food literacy.
- A new website and Facebook page: <http://mabr.ca> & [www.facebook.com/MountArrowsmithBR](http://www.facebook.com/MountArrowsmithBR)
- Engagement at regional, national and international levels: The MABR communicated actively with regional organizations, had a presence at events and festivals, connected with peers in the Canadian network of Biosphere Reserves for idea exchange and inspiration, assisted with the creation of the CBRA's Communications Strategy and joined the EuroMAB Indigenous Working Group. The MABR will be co-presenting at EuroMAB 2015 with Clayoquot Biosphere Trust.

## Upcoming activities:

- Declaration of MABR's Guiding Principles for Collaboration with Indigenous partners
- An analysis of community-based conservation initiatives in the MABR region
- An assessment of the main ecological pressures that occur in the region
- Monitoring of degraded and crucial marine ecosystems through Eelgrass surveys
- Salish Sea Way: An exploration of new ways to approach collective decision-making and consensus-building practices within the MABR
- Ecosystem Mapping: Creation of maps that depict ecological and historical features of the MABR
- Development of a Fellows Program at the MABR Research Institute
- Undergraduate Course on Biosphere Reserves in Global Studies at Vancouver Island University
- Vital Signs Report: A survey of community health from a socio-economic perspective
- A replica of Fundy BR's Amazing Places project that is specific to the MABR region
- A continuation of the GLORIA alpine region climate change monitoring on Mount Arrowsmith
- Creation of a sustainability-related Community Events Calendar on MABR's website
- Supporting the creation of a Biosphere Reserve in Belize

# CLAYOQUOT SOUND BIOSPHERE RESERVE

British Columbia

[http://  
clayoquotbiosphere.org/](http://clayoquotbiosphere.org/)

Complete report: [http://  
clayoquotbiosphere.org/  
who-we-are/documents/](http://clayoquotbiosphere.org/who-we-are/documents/)



## Main accomplishments:

### • Biosphere Centre

In February, the CBT board met to create a vision for the future Biosphere Centre. The building will be more than a permanent office location for the CBT – it will be a place of sharing and learning in and for the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve region. Attentive to the UNESCO themes of education, science and culture, the Biosphere Centre will be a physical space for convening the region. We envision a welcoming place and a community space – where residents, visitors and researchers feel equally comfortable, and where scientists and storytellers can share their valuable knowledge and teachings. Based on this vision, the CBT will be conducting a feasibility study.

### • Engaging Nationally

In June, board and staff had the opportunity to host a delegation from the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. 24 representatives from Canadian biosphere reserves and other UNESCO programs met with residents to discuss the themes of peace, reconciliation and sustainability. Participants had an opportunity to experience the beauty of the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve, while learning about local scientific, educational and cultural initiatives.

### • Vital Signs

In October, the CBT released its second Vital Signs® report. Vital Signs® is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada. This year the CBT, along with the District of Tofino, the District of Ucluelet, the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ government, and the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, worked with SPARC-BC to develop a survey to help gather data at the scale of our region. This new tool allowed us to collect information not otherwise available on issues such as housing, seasonal employment, cost of living and quality of life. The report informs our grantmaking and allows us to focus our programs and resources where they will make the biggest impact. The CBT will continue to issue Vital Signs® every two years.

## Upcoming activities:

### Biosphere Reserve Research Plan and Award

The CBT's Research and Environment Committee have identified the need for an overarching research plan to guide visiting researchers, government agencies, local citizens and stakeholders to advance the implementation of projects that meet ecosystem management objectives in the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve Region. As a first step, the committee agreed that the Conservation Framework used by the BC Ministry of Environment provides a useful threats classification system (based on the IUCN World Conservation Measures Partnership) for setting research priorities. Furthermore, the group identified the following criteria as guidelines for assessing priority research funding proposals.

1. Research that addresses key species and ecosystem threats within the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve region.
2. Research that addresses a trend of degradation on target species or ecosystems of ecological and/or cultural importance.
3. Research that applies to conservation action and can be applied in other areas as well (broad application).

The committee will apply these criteria to all research proposals received in 2015.



**2014-2015**  
**Rapport annuel**  
**Annual report**

[www.biospherecanada.ca](http://www.biospherecanada.ca)



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