CANADIAN UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVES

INSPIRE A POSITIVE FUTURE BY CONNECTING PEOPLE AND NATURE TODAY

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17
The vision of the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association (CBRA) is to be a leader in creating vibrant, healthy, sustainable communities across Canada, while conserving Canada’s natural and cultural heritage. Seen as demonstration areas and interactive learning sites for dynamic projects of all kinds, Biosphere Reserves (BRs) export successful results, processes, experiences and concepts throughout Canada and to the rest of the world. CBRA facilitates the networking and outreach process, empowering BRs to most effectively share resources and best practices.

The mission of CBRA is to support Canadian BRs in the achievement of their mandates and to demonstrate their collective value nationally and internationally.

INTRODUCTION

Upon recommendation of the country, BRs are recognized by UNESCO under the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) to promote sustainable development, based on the combined efforts of local communities and the scientific world.

BRs are sites of excellence for testing innovative approaches based on scientific knowledge and collaborative, multi-level governance. There are currently 669 UNESCO-designated sites in 120 countries worldwide.

CBRA is a national resource and coordinating centre that provides training and support for BRs in Canada. Canada’s 18 BRs 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 BRs work together with local communities, First Nations, industry partners, and diverse agencies. CBRA represents the BRs on national and international entities such as the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO), the International Coordination Council (ICC) of the UNESCO MAB Programme and the Steering Committee of EuroMAB.

Canada’s first BR was designated in 1978. With two new sites added in 2016, our national network now consists of 18 sites in 8 provinces and 1 territory, covering a wide spectrum of Canada’s great diversity.
As the Year of Reconciliation and Canada’s 150th anniversary, 2017 is a bright year for this country and for Canadian Biosphere Reserves (BRs). The following report is a testimony of the dedicated work of our network at the international, national and local levels. It demonstrates the impact of our large and diverse network in the implementation of the ambitious UNESCO agenda we want to take part in.

Canada’s 18 UNESCO BRs act as model regions and collaborative learning sites to strengthen and celebrate global sustainability values. We are actively participating to implement Canada’s domestic and international engagements on biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. This agenda is at the heart of our modern Canadian challenges. Like all Canadians, practitioners and partners in BRs are learning what is meant by reconciliation and are striving to demonstrate how to build respectful and lasting relationships with Indigenous peoples to advance a common agenda.

As the national coordinating organization, CBRA continued its work in 2016-2017 to provide training and support for BRs, their staff, and key volunteers. We are, together with over a million people living in BRs in Canada, including more than 50 Indigenous communities, with industry partners and diverse agencies, involved in a multitude of community-based projects and activities from coast to coast.

I am more dedicated than ever to work with my dedicated friends, colleagues and volunteers across the country to ensure our network meets the highest standards expected from the UNESCO global network. I would like to thank the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and all our committed teams for their hard work and for sharing our vision of creating vibrant, healthy and sustainable communities across Canada.

Jean-Philippe L. Messier
Chair
1) Participation on EuroMAB steering committee and working groups

The EuroMAB Network consists of all Member States of Europe and North America that participate in the MAB programme and in UNESCO’s World Network of BRs. The EuroMAB network is a platform for exchange between Member States who imagine and act in order to allow sustainable development to become a real option and choice made by society for present and future generations. Our representatives sat on the EuroMAB steering committee and within this role, contributed to the planning and hosting the EuroMAB meeting in Bassin de la Dordogne, France.

In 2016-2017 Canadian BRs were also active in the following EuroMAB working groups:

- **Communications committee** (leader from Canada: Eve Ferguson)
- **Indigenous committee** (leaders from Canada: Larry McDermott, Rebecca Hurwitz, Eli Enns)
- **NordMAB** (leader from Canada: Jean Philippe L. Messier)
- **International Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ICSRC)** (leader from Canada: Gary Clarke)

2) Tsa Tué celebration event in UNESCO Paris

The Tsá Tué BR is one of the newest members of the Canadian network, located in Northwest Territories. The area is the homeland of the Sahtuto’ine, the ‘Bear Lake People’. It encompasses Great Bear Lake, the last pristine arctic lake, and part of its watershed. Sahtuto’ine culture is intricately tied to the health of the lake, its watershed and the animals that inhabit it. As such, maintenance of the ecological integrity of Great Bear Lake and its watershed is of primary importance to the Sahtuto’ine people. This is the first BR in the world whose designation and management have been led by Indigenous peoples.

A special event was organised on Monday, 3 April 2017 in UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, in the presence of Ms Elaine Ayotte, Canadian Ambassador to UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General and Mr. Jean-Philippe Messier, CBRA Chair. Four representatives from the Sahtúot’ine Dene community, including Chief Tutcho ,shared their insights and stories during this event, which was organized with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) and Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems programme (UNESCO-LINKS). Below is an excerpt from the speech given by Ms Irina Bokova during the event.

*Tsá Tué is the first biosphere reserve, since the creation of the Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) in 1971, designed entirely by First Nations, for First Nations. I congratulate you and I thank you for leading the way.*

*Today, more than ever, we must forge new relations of respect, harmony and solidarity between humanity and the planet, between communities and the ecosystems that nourish them.*

*This is a map of humanity and nature seeking to live in harmony. This is the meaning of the Tsá Tué Biosphere Reserve, and all UNESCO Biosphere Reserves.*

*I congratulate you and I thank you for leading the way.*
NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1) CBRA Day on the Hill

On May 29, 2017, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and the CBRA hosted a special “Day on the Hill” in Ottawa. The goal was to allow Members of Parliament, Senators, and staff to discover the important role and contributions of Canada’s 18 UNESCO BRs.

This was a non-partisan event, co-organized with the support of Members of Parliament Hon. Ginette Petitpas Taylor (New Brunswick: Moncton-Riverview-Dieppe, Liberal), Gord Johns (BC: Courtenay-Alberni, NDP), and Robert Sopuck (Manitoba: Dauphin-Swan River-Neepawa, Conservative).

The day culminated with a special reception, hosted by Member of Parliament and Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees of the Whole, Bruce Stanton. Over 100 MPs and Parliamentary Secretaries attended the event. Attendees had the opportunity to learn more about how this unique network of UNESCO sites contributes to biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and reconciliation. The reception also featured sustainably crafted edibles from Canada’s BRs.

2) Partnership proposal with the Federal Government

Canada’s network of 18 UNESCO BRs has been working closely with staff from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) during the fall 2016 and the winter 2017 to prepare a financial proposal. The working relationship proposed clearly outlines the details of the tangible CBRA contribution as to how Canada’s 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets will be addressed by our network of 18 BRs. CBRA is proposing a 5-year partnership with a financial contribution from ECCC to every participating BR as well as for a national secretariat. Both the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Canadian ambassador supported the proposal.

Unfortunately, the Canadian government did not fund the proposal and our national network is still operating without any core funding.

3) New website and communication tools

The CBRA website [www.biospherecanada.ca](http://www.biospherecanada.ca) has now been refreshed with a total new look and way of organizing information. New communication tools have been developed as well, such as flyers and three banners on three different themes: Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Development and Reconciliation.

4) Canadian BRs’ Periodic Evaluations

In 2016-17, CC-MAB initiated the periodic reviews: Manicouagan-Uapishka (Quebec), Frontenac Arch (Ontario) and Fundy (New Brunswick).

Striking Balance, Season I, had its broadcast debut in October 2016 with eight 50-minute episodes on TVO, Ontario’s Public Broadcaster. Each documentary explores the evolution and progress made by one of Canada’s 18 BRs. Filmmakers Zach Melnick (Director) and Yvonne Drebert (Producer) worked closely with each community to ensure that the stories they told were accurate and compelling. Narrated by Blue Rodeo’s Jim Cuddy, Striking Balance went coast to coast in cinematic 4K - combining aerial, motion capture time-lapse, and nature photography to create a stunning picture of Canada’s BRs.

Described by viewers as “amazing”, “stunning”, and “wonderful”, the production had an average weekly reach of total unique viewers was 395,000. As of March 2017, the cumulative reach (i.e. for the series overall) within Ontario alone was 1,755,000. The series was broadcast on Knowledge Network in April 2017 with a second airing by TVO this spring also. Approximately, 1,650 people attended community screening launch events. The series also gained profile through social media with 7,500 YouTube video views and 24,000 Facebook video views. Blue Rodeo, the band, also helped to promote the series as their Striking Balance Facebook post received about 700 likes. Season II is now in development… Stay tuned!

Less known, is the companion book, Sustaining Home: Canadian Biosphere Reserves in Action. This book describes in greater detail the history and evolution of all of Canada’s BRs using an interactive platform. Archival photos and stills from the documentary series combine with video clips to help explain the connection of BRs to the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme and describe their successes and challenges in putting the MAB Programme into action. This book is presently user ready for those with MAC platforms (iMacs, iPads, iPhones). Sustaining Home is currently available on the iTunes store. A .pdf version is also in the works to make the material accessible to a broader audience.

DVDs and Blu-rays of Striking Balance are available from the Long Point, Georgian Bay, and Waterton BRs.
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 by the BR.
MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Biodiversity Conservation
• Through the Bras d’Or Watch citizen monitoring project, more than 190 participants measured key indicators of estuarine ecosystem health at six community-designated sites within the Biosphere.
• Provided a monthly article about Biosphere diversity in four local newspapers to improve cross-cultural understandings of the regional ecosystem.

Sustainable Economic Development
• Collaborated with an international music festival (Celtic Colours) to add value for clients by offering interpretive and participatory activities (e.g. hikes) that focus on MAB objectives.
• Collaborated with the Great Trail to advance the aspirational goal of a circum-biosphere walking trail that connects communities to support active transportation.
• Co-organized (with the CEPI) a biosphere-wide conference on sustainable development practices that identifies three priority areas for research and development: tourism, forestry, and aquaculture.
• Contributed creation of the federal government’s Sustainable Development Plan for Canada (2016)

Public Education & Outreach
• Published two science curriculum resources for elementary school teachers that use MAB principles and Bras d’Or Biosphere examples.
• Pilot tested five biosphere-based units of an integrated science curriculum (grade 4) in local schools.
• Developed a 20ha Classroom at a ski hill to teach recreating school children about food webs and animal adaptations in the Biosphere.
• Maintained a large, permanent, interactive display on the Biosphere at the Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site (Parks Canada) where summer students serve as interpreters.
• Designed interpretive signs for three of the Great Trail’s trailheads.
• Published regular updates on biosphere activities on the UNESCO-MAB Proud-to-Share web site.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Biodiversity Conservation:
• Conduct the expanding Bras d’Or Watch program for the third year in a row.
• Establish new forest monitoring sites with as an extension of Bras d’Or Watch into the watershed.

Sustainable Economic Development:
• Secure funding for highway signs for visitors and more interpretive signs for residents.
• Develop active learning opportunities for visitors and residents in the biosphere.
• Conduct sustainability research on development priorities with the CEPI.
• Advance marketing and implementation of the Trail Project with academic partners to document existing trails in the biosphere, promote, and connect them.

Public Education & Outreach:
• Obtain professional feedback and publish biosphere science curriculum units.
• Expand and diversify the 20ha Classroom.
• Conduct Forest Watch pilots with Indigenous high school students.
• Upgrade the Bras d’Or Lake Biosphere Reserve website to be intuitive to users.

Capacity Building:
• Convene a workshop amongst CBRA members to capture best practices of climate change adaptation in Biosphere Reserves.
MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• First 10-year review.
• Launched a 8-part documentary series called “Surviving the Fundy Footpath” to highlight one of North America's 50 best hikes, many of our Amazing Places, and the challenge and safety issues with preparing for the 5 day expedition.
• Completed a documentary on wildlife corridor connectivity on the Chignecto Isthmus (the land between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick) and participated in the second annual “Staying Connected” conference with other groups working wildlife connectivity.
• Released the results of our expanded Forests of the Future research to encourage municipalities and land owners to plant climate resilient tree species.
• Hosted a Trail Towns conference with local stakeholders to develop local, sustainable tourism initiatives around trails, towns and our Amazing Places in the region.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

• Shortly, we will be releasing our Amazing Places Challenge to encourage Canadians to visit all 50 of our Amazing Places and tag themselves on social media. The project will include 7 photo essays about activities at seven of our Amazing Places.
• We are developing new lesson plans aligning with NB curriculum based on our available content focused on local examples of environmental issues and conservation efforts for grade 8 through 12 in French and English.
MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• Implemented Interactive Science Atlas project, presented at the EuroMAB conference in May 2017. This project will actively contribute to sustainable development, sustainability science, and climate change monitoring.
• Reviewed SNBR zoning and prepared report for CCU.
• Acquired space for the SNBR Interpretive Centre in Yarmouth, a centre of excellence for education on sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, climate change monitoring and adaptation, and cultural heritage.
• Acquired SNBR office space in the Caledonia Business Hub.
• Engaged in an ongoing manner with government and partners with respect to enhancing SNBR heritage presentation and science capacity.
• Overhauled SNBR online presence and developed a communication strategy.
• Reviewed our existing Touring Through Time Map App and identified updates and improvements to be carried out by development team.
• Established SNBR video and photo library.
• Participated in NSDNR Western Crown Lands Advisory Committee in order to promote sustainable forestry management.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

• Opening of the SNBR Interpretive Centre in Yarmouth for summer 2017 season.
• Continue to develop Interactive Science Atlas.
• Launch updated Touring Through Time Map App as a fully functional mobile app.
• Several outreach and communications activities (podcast, newsletter, commissioned artist) subject to funding for Heritage Coordinator position.
• Continue to participate in NSDNR Western Crown Lands Advisory Committee.
• Establish and publicize electric vehicle charging station biosphere loop to promote ecologically responsible travel through the SNBR.
• Implement bilingual citizen science and interpretive centre based in Université Sainte-Anne.
RÉALISATIONS PRINCIPALES

Appliquer la durabilité
• Poursuite de l’accompagnement de la Ville de Baie-Comeau, via la démarche Ma Ville Ma Voix, et gestion du Fonds Aluminerie de Baie-Comeau pour les collectivités durables.
• Accompagnement de plus d’une dizaine d’entreprises de divers milieux en développement durable, acceptabilité sociale et processus de concertation.
• Enquête de notoriété sur la RMBMU et plus spécifiquement, sur les services qu’elle offre.

Créer de la fierté
• Lancement d’une charte de reconnaissance et d’engagement en développement durable.
• Activités pédagogiques avec les élèves du primaire et la bande dessinée « La grande aventure dans la Manicouagan » créée par la RMBMU.

Générer du savoir
• Ouverture de la Station Uapishka, station de recherche scientifique co-créée avec le Conseil des Innus de Pessamit.

Accentuer le réseautage
• Envoi de deux jeunes sur une expédition en Arctique avec Students on Ice.
• Implication et coordination sur réseau NordMAB.
• Participation à plus d’une dizaine d’événements de réseautage locaux, nationaux et internationaux.

ACTIVITÉS À VENIR
• Lancement de la nouvelle identité du centre de services en développement durable sous le nom de « MŪ Conseils ».
• Refonte de l’Atlas de la RMBMU.
• Événement national « Bâtir ensemble la durabilité et la réconciliation » rassemblant tout le réseau canadien dans la Manicouagan.
• Deuxième édition du colloque « Repenser son entreprise ».
• Phase d’expansion et d’optimisation de la Station Uapishka.
• Évaluation périodique.
RÉALISATIONS PRINCIPALES

Éco-conseil en responsabilité sociale des entreprises (rse)
• Accompagnement de 30 nouveaux organismes et entreprises, dans tous les secteurs d’activités économiques.
• Évaluation-compensation de GES des organisations, amélioration de leur gestion des matières résiduelles, gestion d’événements responsables.

Culture
• Conception du projet de développement culturel: les collections de la biosphère et entente avec la Corporation des métiers d’art en Charlevoix.

Écocitoyenneté
• Conception du volet d’implication citoyenne et d’éducation à l’environnement.
• Promotion de l’organisation du Colloque internationale du développement durable de Baie-St-Paul. - Création de contenu éducatif d’un parc thématique municipal, sur l’arbre.

Sensibilisation
• Ateliers dispensés à 1000 travailleurs de la Réserve de la biosphère quant à la bonne gestion des matières résiduelles.
• Conférences sur la responsabilité sociale des entreprises et le tourisme durable aux entrepreneurs, intervenants et citoyens.
• Organisation de deux journées de plantation d’arbres pour sensibiliser : élus, entreprises, citoyens, à la protection du paysage et l’environnement.

Gouvernance et association
• Présentation des orientations stratégiques de la Corporation à sa communauté, terminant ainsi la restructuration entamée à l’été 2014.
• Intégration du comité consultatif du nouveau Laboratoire interdisciplinaire de responsabilité sociale de l’Université Laval et appui aux recherches. - Intégration de l’Université Laval, de la commission scolaire de Charlevoix au sein du conseil d’administration.
• Participation active aux comités et activités de concertation régionale en lien avec les zones périphériques, l’environnement et l’entreprenariat.

ACTIVITÉS À VENIR
• Lancement, vernissage et communications publiques entourant la présentation de la collection Terre, au Jour de la terre 2017.
• Présentation de la programmation citoyenne des café-croissant de la réserve de la biosphère, lors de l’AGA de la Corporation.
• Création du catalogue en ligne de : contenant de tri sélectif pour PME / ICI et développement de ce projet d’économie sociale circulaire.
• Soutien au projet de brigade verte et de boutique virtuelle de tri sélectif de l’éco-conseiller coopératif accrédité de la Corporation.
• Certifications d’événements écoresponsables.
• Participation au Forum international du développement durable de Baie-Saint-Paul.
• Conférence au jour de la terre.
• Restructuration du site Web de la corporation.
• Création d’un bottin de ressources de la RB de Charlevoix.
RÉSERVE DE LA BIOSPHÈRE DU LAC SAINT-PIERRE

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RÉALISATIONS PRINCIPALES

- Rédaction du rapport final : Mandat de mise en valeur de l’écosystème du lac Saint-Pierre et ses potentiels économiques en partenariat avec le MDDELCC.
- Mise à jour du site internet.
- Revue de la bibliothèque virtuelle du lac Saint-Pierre recensant les articles scientifiques sous la supervision de M. André Barabé, chercheur à l’UQTR.
- Travaux sur la mise en place d’une gouvernance stratégique.

ACTIVITÉS À VENIR

- La mission de Statera : Développer et mettre en marché un concept touristique innovant, catalyseur d’une stratégie de destination, stimulant l’économie et source de fierté pour la communauté.
- Mme Hélène Gignac et Mme Roxanne Dugas siègent au conseil d’administration de Statera.
- Entreprendre une démarche de planification stratégique redéfinissant le modèle d’affaires ainsi que son réseautage de solidarité à l’intérieur de son territoire.
- Entreprendre la démarche d’évaluation périodique de son statut de Réserve de la biosphère auprès de l’UNESCO pour rencontrer les échéances de 2020.
RÉALISATIONS PRINCIPALES

- La Réserve de biosphère du mont Saint-Hilaire travaille sur plusieurs projets intégrateurs qui allient l’acquisition de connaissances, la participation citoyenne et l’engagement de différents partenaires du milieu envers la conservation des milieux naturels et le développement durable du territoire.
- Acquisition et protection de 5,2 ha de milieux naturels d’intérêt.
- Projet de recherche de l’Université McGill sur l’impact des contaminants agricoles sur les populations aquatiques (LEAP – Large Experimental Array of Ponds).
- Comité composé de quatre partenaires pour trouver des pistes de solution à l’augmentation de la fréquentation de l’aire de conservation de la RBMSH.
- Inventaire, caractérisation, cartographie et restauration de milieux humides à l’échelle du territoire.
- Suivis fauniques et activités éducatives à propos des chauves-souris auprès de citoyens, d’élèves et de bénévoles.
- Plantations de 2 800 arbres et restauration de milieux naturels sur le territoire de la RBMSH.
- Développement de plusieurs applications cartographiques interactives comme outil de sensibilisation, de participation citoyenne et d’aide à la décision pour les partenaires.
- Travail avec les municipalités de la RBMSH pour la planification durable du territoire et le développement viable des communautés.
- Accueil et sensibilisation de près de 300 000 personnes dans l’aire de conservation de la RBMSH.

ACTIVITÉS À VENIR

- Examen périodique de la Réserve de biosphère du mont Saint-Hilaire.
- Protection de 31ha de milieux naturels.
- Susciter l’engagement de citoyens et partenaires locaux par des projets concrets.
- Travailler avec les municipalités de la RBMSH et les acteurs locaux dans une optique de faire progresser les connaissances sur les milieux naturels et de favoriser leur protection.
- Protéger et suivre la biodiversité du territoire par la recherche scientifique, la gestion et la restauration de milieux naturels ainsi que l’utilisation durable des ressources naturelles.
- Sensibiliser les citoyens de la RBMSH avec des écoles, des groupes communautaires et les différents acteurs du milieu.
MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network (FABN) continues to connect and involve about 80 organizations and hundreds of people for local food, the arts, trails, sustainable tourism, education and conservation.
- Refurbishment of the FABN offices and visitor centre.
- Full-time staffing of office and visitor center during the summer months.
- The Biosphere Trails Council ran a workshop in December 2016 with 61 members from 40 different organizations to update the trails strategic plan for the region. The Biosphere Trails strategy promotes stewardship and conservation of the region’s globally significant natural and cultural resources and heritage.
- FABN continues to promote sustainable tourism with its 20 Amazing Places – sites and opportunities that educate and inspire visitors about their natural surroundings.
- FAB continues to inspire children to conserve the natural heritage of this region during its 8-week summer FAB Nature Camp, and through its school outreach activities.
- FABN brought all its activities together in its annual FAB Experiences Guide – 2017 is its 5th year and it is a social enterprise that connects people in the region to local food, heritage, arts and trails.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Canada C3 event at Gordon Island, June 2017.
- Canada 150 Bioblitz at Landon Bay with Parks Canada and Kingston Field Naturalists, June 2017.
- Fall Trails Festival planned for October 2017.
- New for 2017 is our FAB Trails project – a program developing hiking, cycling and paddling routes, and working with local businesses to develop accommodation for self-propelled travellers.
MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Engaged with partners to enhance nutrient monitoring of enclosed bays and increase Lake Partner Program coverage and citizen participation.
- Hosted 5 stewardship workshops along eastern Georgian Bay to encourage landowners to review and assess their current environmental impacts and potential stewardship actions. Provided over 200 thousand dollars of financial assistance to encourage landowners to undertake key stewardship projects.
- Developed environmental indicator frameworks for the next “State of the Bay” ecosystem health report card.
- Coordinated monitoring of massasauga gestation habitat along eastern Georgian Bay with key stakeholders.
- Launched Eat Around the Sound (EATS) workshop series to promote food security.
- Offered over 70 community kitchen programs to enhance food security and sense of community.
- Continued to expand and promote Amazing Places program with partners.
- Screened “Striking Balance” film and provided copies to all schools within the region.
- Provided “Kids in the Biosphere” summer programming, hosted annual Water Festival and offered outreach within local schools.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Present results from the Coordinated Nutrient Monitoring project and support partners in establishing a consistent monitoring and reporting strategy for region.
- Survey historically occupied hibernaculum for presence of Eastern Foxsnake. Establish conservation agreements with respective landowners.
- Offer Eat Around the Sound Workshop Series.
- Host 10th Annual Water Festival and conduct school and summer programs for youth.
- Commencement of a 2-year bat monitoring project.
- Guided hikes and guest presentations throughout the BR.
- Planting projects with local schools.
- Promote Amazing Places destinations.
- Launch Best for the Biosphere project to promote choosing native plants.
MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- NEBR is working to establish a network to foster more connection, collaboration, and synergy amongst BR practitioners.
- Amazing Places: workshop providing a forum to explore participation in the project was held, GBBR representative as guest speaker sharing Ontario’s experiences.
- Indigenous Engagement: NEBR is in the process of implementing an engagement strategy for Indigenous communities in the BR which will focus on developing approaches to support inclusion and foster ongoing participation in the BR.
- Monitoring and Research: successful inventory of an escarpment forest biodiversity monitoring plot (representing 20 years of data collection now), through partnership with University of Waterloo.
- 10-year review of the NEP: Canada's first large-scale environmental land use plan that strikes a balance between development and protection was completed.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- To support the continuation of building the collaborative network, NEBR will host a workshop in September 2017, with the expressed purpose to review Terms of Reference and identify potential partnership projects.
- Continue to implement Indigenous Engagement Strategy and develop relationships with Indigenous peoples through a potential Cultural Mapping project.
- Forest biodiversity plot-based monitoring.
MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• Beginning in 2008 in The Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation, in partnership with 15 government agencies and organizations, has completed the Long Point Causeway Improvement Project, with the support of 2.7 million dollars from Environment Canada and Climate Change, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, US National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Norfolk County and many local citizens. The installation of 12 eco-passages and 4.5 kilometers of exclusion fencing has resulted on a reduction of reptile mortality of nearly 80 percent along the causeway.

• The Foundation’s Community Conservation Initiative hosted several workshops bringing conservation practitioners together to identify and rank ecosystem stresses in the Long Point area. *Phragmites australis*, a very invasive plant was identified as a severe threat to the Long Point ecosystems. An alliance has been formed with over 30 organizations, agencies and private landowners to develop and implement a plan to manage and control the invasive plant. As part of the community conservation initiative a digital library of research papers in the Long Point area was created and can be accessed on the Foundations website.

• In partnership with Ontario and Canadian Biosphere Reserves the Foundation has continued to advance sustainable tourism with an emphasis on the Amazing Places initiative.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

• The Foundation will participate on a steering committee to develop and implement a plan to control and manage the invasive plant *Phragmites australis* in the Long Point area, Norfolk County and beyond.

• The Foundation is supporting Nature Canada to connect the local community with nature through educational and stewardship activities.

• The Foundation will continue hosting an annual Research and Conservation Conference to inform the local community of pertinent research and conservation activities in the local community and beyond.
MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Fund Development:** RMBR’s relationships with the province of Manitoba led to a 2nd year of funding from the Department of Sustainable Development.

- **Education and Outreach:** RMBR Invasive Species Network continues to raise the awareness of the implications of invasive species specifically focusing on the imminent threat of Zebra Mussels within the biosphere reserve. Also, in conjunction with the RMBR’s two UNESCO Associated Schools and the general public, a Bat House Monitoring Citizen Science Project was initiated to raise awareness of the various bat species in the RMBR their benefits and the threat of White Nose Syndrome.

- **Research:** Rural municipalities, conservation districts, stakeholders, Riding Mountain National Park, and the RMBR work together on transboundary water issues including flooding, erosion and sedimentation due to severe weather events. As well new research projects on the effectiveness of the “Bear Smart” campaign and “The Indigenous Relationship with Bison of Riding Mountain”.

- **Sustainable Tourism:** The tourism initiative “150 Reasons to Visit RMBR in 2017” was launched in celebration of Canada’s 150th Anniversary. “150 Reasons” is a year long activity highlighting the people, places, cultural locations and festivals of the Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve.

- **Flagship Programs:** “At the Farm Gate” markets highlight local producers and artisans and helps in marketing their products locally, regionally and beyond. Bovine Tuberculosis Stakeholders Advisory Committee provides a forum for producers to make recommendations regarding Tb testing and agencies to gather information on the success of the programs. Work continues to establish Community Gardens in more communities throughout the region, Native Species Gardens, and a host of RMBR Educational Programs.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- **Education and Outreach:** At the Farm Gate, Community Gardens, Bat Monitoring Programs, and Educational programs available to all grade K-8 students in the province.

- **Scientific Research:** Collaboration and Communication work by RMBR with Invasive Species Network and Zebra Mussel Awareness, Transboundary Water Issues, Tb Stakeholders Advisory Committee, Dissemination of Scientific Research, and Small Grants Program for Scientific Research.

- **Development:** Sustainable tourism initiative, brand development and web site development.
MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **(A1.5) (C6.2)** Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve Regional Planning District (RLBR-RPD) municipalities move forward with regional landfill and recycling facility (in full operation January 1, 2017). (http://www.16-43wastemanagement.ca)
- **(A1.5) (A1.3) (C6.2)** RLBR-RPD municipalities launch formation of Aspen Innovation Park to undertake sustainable economic development and training initiatives related to landfill and recycling facility, working with regional first nations. (http://www.16-43wastemanagement.ca/aspen-innovation-park)
- **(A4.5)** Three graduate students (MSc) are undertaking projects through the biosphere reserve, related to fish-hatchery development, setting up a water-testing laboratory, and the use of biomass from within the district for power generation. These students and their faculty supervisors are working through the University of Saskatchewan School of Environment and Sustainability. (http://www.usask.ca/sens/)
- **(A4.2) (B2.1)** Hosted the 9th Annual Awards Ceremony conducted by the Regional Centre of Expertise in Saskatchewan. (The RCE in Saskatchewan was acknowledged by the United Nations University in January of 2007 and is now part of a global network of over 140 RCEs.) (http://www.saskrce.ca). Four local (RLBR-based) project received awards at this event: Rafter Y Ranch (http://northwoodfarm.ca), Hafford Central (ASPnet) School, and Aspen Innovation Park.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- **(A1.4)** Facilitate a multi-year lake hydrology project with National Hydrology Research Centre and partners (NASA and UCLA).
- **(A1.4)** Undertake a biodiversity monitoring project (focus on vegetation and avian species at risk) in Core and Buffer zones (Redberry Lake and its surrounding foreshore and uplands).
- **(B2.1)** Tentatively hosting the 2017 Prince Albert Model Forest AGM.
- **(A1.3)** Work closely with Lucky Man First Nation to develop synergies between the FN and the RLBR and its members.
- **(A1.4)** Maintain and enrich the RLBR’s key Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Saskatchewan School of Environment and Sustainability. (http://www.usask.ca/sens/)
MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Beaver Hills Initiative (BHI) successfully awarded the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve designation on March 19.
- Gratitude extended to MAB Canada, CCUNESCO, CBRA and UNESCO for their support, and 12 years of hard work by the BHI.
- Special thanks to Stan Boychuk and Xavier LeGuyader for relaying the UNESCO decision directly from Lima, Peru.
- BHI set in motion a series of workshops to develop the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan.
- Specific effort was made to link the plan to the 2015–2025 MAB Strategy.
- Four Strategic Plan focus areas to support objectives and actions to propel the BHI forward in the official role as coordinating organization for the Beaver Hills Biosphere. The four strategic plan focus areas include: Healthy Environment, Healthy Communities, Capacity Building, and Climate Change.
- Strategic Plan funding has been received from the Biosphere member municipalities and the Alberta Government, Municipal Affairs, Alberta Community Partnership Grant.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Celebration of Canada 150.
- BHI to host Biosphere Celebration reception September 8 with local leaders, Indigenous communities, colleges, and dignitaries (Strathcona County Wilderness Centre).
- At reception Biosphere member municipalities proclaim September 9th Beaver Hills Biosphere Day.
- September 9th: Tour guests through the biosphere reserve (Miquelon Lake Provincial Park Research Station) with Meriem Bouamrane (UNESCO) to present the biosphere members with the designation certificate. This is a public event with Elk Island NP and will conclude with dinner for guests, prepared with local foods by national chefs (Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village).
MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed a five-year cooperation plan for Waterton Biosphere Reserve (WBR), updated WBR zoning, and successfully addressed recommendations from our 2008 periodic review.
- Maintained and expanded our Carnivores and Communities Program to reduce conflicts with large carnivores including removal of 5400 livestock carcasses from the landscape and completion of eight projects to restrict large carnivores, primarily grizzly bears, from accessing agricultural attractants.
- Held a bear safety workshop for ranch families and hosted a tour of large carnivore projects for 75 ranchers, government staff, and other interested individuals.
- Presented at and led a large carnivore project tour during the Kainai Ecosystem Protection Agency (KEPA) Summit 2016.
- Held the fifth annual Wetland Field Day providing more than 100 elementary students with a hands-on opportunity to learn about wetland animal and plant adaptations, listen to traditional Blackfoot stories, and play traditional games.
- Provided input to the newly designated Castle Parks management plan.
- Hosted over 700 people at six public screenings of the Waterton Biosphere episode of Striking Balance.
- Launched a campaign to seek information about northern leopard frogs in WBR, raise awareness about best practices for amphibian habitat, and gain support for future efforts to improve the status of northern leopard frogs.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Maintain programs supporting coexistence of large carnivores and agriculture; work to improve compensation for predator-killed livestock.
- Deliver the sixth annual Wetland Field Day.
- Co-host “Day on the Creek”, an outdoor learning experience for students, teachers, parents, and the public to learn about the environment and human history along Pincher Creek.
- Follow up on Northern Leopard Frog sightings with landowner-interviews and on-site investigation to identify locations for future work to enhance wetland habitat and potentially reintroduce Northern Leopard Frogs.
- Build partnerships and lay the groundwork to host a sustainable tourism workshop to investigate ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable tourism in WBR.
MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• The Tsá Tué International Biosphere Reserve was designated by UNESCO in March 2016. A large celebration was held in Délı̨nę in August 2016 to commemorate the event.
• The biosphere research and monitoring program was updated following a large three-day community meeting in Délı̨nę involving residents and outside researchers.
• At the invitation of the Government of the Northwest Territories, two biosphere representatives attended the Canadian Parks Conference in early March 2017 to promote the Tsá Tué Biosphere Reserve and to encourage and support enhanced Indigenous engagement in conservation planning.
• At the invitation of UNESCO, with support from CCUNESCO, four Tsá Tué biosphere representatives also attended a UNESCO meeting in Paris and the EuroMAB conference in Sarlat, France in April 2017. Three Délı̨nę Go’ńnę Government representatives including Chief Raymond Tutcho also attended the Paris meeting.
• A paper recommending strong Indigenous engagement in biosphere matters using Tsá Tué as a case study was commissioned by CCUNESCO with plans to publish and promote the paper as part of its campaign to encourage greater Indigenous engagement in UNESCO activities.
• Articles about Tsá Tué appeared in the New York Times and Canadian Geographic magazine.
• A short documentary film about Tsá Tué was prepared by Striking Balance and shown in France.
• Over 30 fellows and staff of the Gordon Foundation visited Délı̨nę in March 2017 to learn more about the biosphere and self-government.
• The Tsá Tué website went live in March 2017.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

• Plans to develop a Guardian program for Tsá Tué continue.
• A visit by ABC’s Nightline film crew is in the discussion and planning stages.
• Regular bi-monthly meetings of the biosphere stewardship society will continue.
• The biosphere research and monitoring program will be updated and implemented as resources become available.
• Striking Balance will prepare a longer film documenting Tsá Tué.
• Discussions regarding a potential research and monitoring partnership with research university will continue.
• Plans for a new biosphere office that will be located in the new Délı̨nę Knowledge Centre, in addition to the existing office in the Old Mission Building.
• Define the relationship between Délı̨nę Go’ńnę Government and the Government of the Northwest Territories.
MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Design and launch of the International Journal of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves: biospherejournal.org
- MABR’s first annual BioBlitz, a local citizen science event where community volunteers and Vancouver Island University (VIU) students work together to identify plant and bird species.
- Public nomination, selection, and launch of the MABR’s 10 Amazing Places Project in collaboration with Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism and Destination BC: marb.ca/amazingplaces
- Design and launch of a national Amazing Places website for Canada’s biosphere reserves: biospherecanada.ca/amazingplaces
- Collaboration with Snaw-Naw-As First Nation on the design and construction of their Garden of Spiritual Healing.
- Production of a 3-minute film about our governance Roundtable called Reconciliation in Action in the MABR supported by VIU and CCUNESCO.
- Redesign of the MABR logo.
- Developed a 4-week community course about UNESCO biosphere reserves.
- Established a 5-year wetland mapping and lake monitoring project with the Regional District of Nanaimo.
- Design and launch of a free collaborative environmental monitoring application with funding from the North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action that allows users to contribute to an interactive mapping database containing information and photographs about environmental features in the region.
- Attendance of the World Congress of Biosphere Reserves and contribution to the Lima Action Plan.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 18 research projects at the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRI) during the summer of 2017 with 16 VIU students hired as research assistants; all projects study biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and/or reconciliation within the MABR and involve community partners.
- Coordination of the Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association Day on the Hill on May 29 2017.
- Completion of the Snaw-Naw-As Garden of Spiritual Healing.
- Year 2 of the MABR’s Amazing Places Project; production of ten 2-minute videos about each of the sites and development of a passport program that creates economic off-spins for local businesses near each Amazing Place.
MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Developed new university residency course in collaboration with Royal Roads University and Yuuluʔiłʔatḥ government on Biosphere & Sustainability (LAP A4).
- Published 3rd Clayoquot Sound Vital Signs report, a community health snapshot (LAP A1).
- Continued a new grassroots granting initiative in partnership with Vancouver Foundation to support community sense of place and belonging called “Neighborhood Small Grants” (LAP B1).
- Launched new website to build local education capacity and visitor learning experiences, the West Coast N.E.S.T. (Nature. Education. Sustainability. Transformation.), westcoastnest.org (LAP C6).
- Supported 5 local community gardens, showcased 4 alternative container gardening techniques, co-hosted master community gardening course (120 local participants).
- Co-hosted regional student science symposium on Connecting Students with Wildlife (80 student participants). (LAP B1).
- Installed a hydrophone in the remote pristine river fjord ecosystem, recorded over 800 hours of marine and terrestrial sounds, convened listening workshops, indexed over 300 hours of ecological soundscapes, identified 38 bird species, and recorded over 100 hours of midshipmen fish humming during their diurnal vertical migration, hosted first Writer in Residence, Environmental Educator Elin Kelsey, Where Trees Talk: A Writer’s Journey to Sydney Inlet. (LAP A4).
- Awarded Association of Wetland Stewards of Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds’ Dr. Barb Beasely with 2nd annual Biosphere Research Award to synthesize 10 years of research on the conservation of amphibian migration. (LAP A4).
- Supported Raincoast Education Society to survey over 750 acres of eelgrass meadows. (LAP A4).
- Supported Hesquiaht First Nation & Central Westcoast Forest Society to re-plant disturbed riparian systems with indigenous tree species. (LAP A4).
- Supported Vancouver Aquarium research on local Sea Lion diet analysis to determine changing predation patterns. (LAP A4).

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Partner with Royal Roads University, University of Washington and Maaqtusis Secondary School on a NSERC PromoScience grant to co-create Learning by the Sea: an experiential learning program on marine conservation in Ahousaht territory.
- Partnering with Yuuluʔiłʔatḥ Government to co-host regional gathering of community reconciliation in Yuuluʔiłʔatḥ territory, September 2017.
- Supporting Raincoast Education Society to monitor marine water quality in collaboration with local oyster farmers.
- Supporting local marine acoustic ecology research on healthy Kelp Bed soundscapes indicators June-October 2017.
- Collaborating with UNESCO Biosphere Soundscape project to host acoustic ecology workshops in Fall 2017.
- Supporting Central West Coast Forest Society riparian habitat restoration activities Hesquiaht and in July 2017.