

PARK WARDEN SERVICE ALUMNI SOCIETY
Winter 2019 Newsletter
BOX 1611, TURNER VALLEY, ALBERTA, T0L-2A0
E-mail: parkwarden2008alumni@hotmail.com



Our Mission Statement

“Maintaining the culture and tradition of the National Park Warden Service by fostering good will and assistance through mentoring, volunteerism, historical commemoration, advocacy, and social activities.”

Happy New Year Everyone!

With the New Year on us (what were your resolutions?) it is time to renew your membership with the Park Warden Service Alumni if you have not done so already. How good a deal is it? - compare your membership fee to a 12 pack of beer or a haircut to be reassured. Also read the newsletter or check our website to see what good things the society is up to and the good use the executive (volunteers!) are putting your funds to.

Membership fees remain at \$25 per year.

Check the last page for a membership drive poster which we ask that you share with anyone who might be interested in joining our worthwhile society or post it in a public space.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UPCOMING PWAS Annual General Meeting

Where: the Banff Legion

When: Thursday, June 6th, 2019 starting at 1:30 p.m.

Details will be published in the "Spring PWAS Newsletter"

From last year's post-A.G.M. In Invermere.



Enjoying Linda Stinson's hospitality.

Photo by Linda.

L-R: Colleen & Dave Reynolds, Dennis Herman, Greg Keesey, Kathy Calvert (seated) Jim Thorsell, Dale Portman, Marie Nylund and Jane Gilmar (far right).

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Articles, membership enquiries and any other matters may be sent to the society at the above addresses. This newsletter is published 3 or more times yearly for members of the society.

Executive:

President – Dave Reynolds

Vice-President – Cliff White

Secretary-Treasurer – Marie Nylund

Directors: (2 & 3 year terms)

Dale Portman

Don Mickle

Kathy Calvert – membership

Gordon Anderson

Perry Davis

Perry Jacobson

Colleen Reynolds

Dennis Herman

Jim Murphy

Regional Representatives

Mountains – Gord Anderson

West Coast – vacant

North & Yukon – Tom Elliot

Prairies – vacant

Ontario – John Taylor

Eastern Canada – Bev Hunter

Oral Histories and Your Stories

If you have been following us, as we hope you have, you will know that Christine Everts has finished her work to be a mother and a teacher (both rather demanding roles). Monique Hunkeler who worked as a Banff Warden Office dispatcher carried on 'til she left for S. America. The Oral History sub-committee has now contracted with Mary Dalman of Canmore to continue on.

The sub-committee has also arranged with the archives of the Whyte Museum, Banff, to have printed and electronic copies deposited there for the use of researchers. This is done with the consent of those interviewed.

The list of people to be interviewed is extensive so this is definitely an ongoing project. We are fortunate to have had knowledgeable and enthusiastic interviewers

and Mary is sure to carry on in this vein. We, and those who come after us, are fortunate in another way in that quite a few of those interviewed have crossed the great divide! As this newsletter records - this continues!

The oral history sub-committee is made up of Jim Murphy (Chairperson), Don Mickle, Cliff White, Kathy Calvert, Dave Reynolds and Perry Davis.

Your Stories:

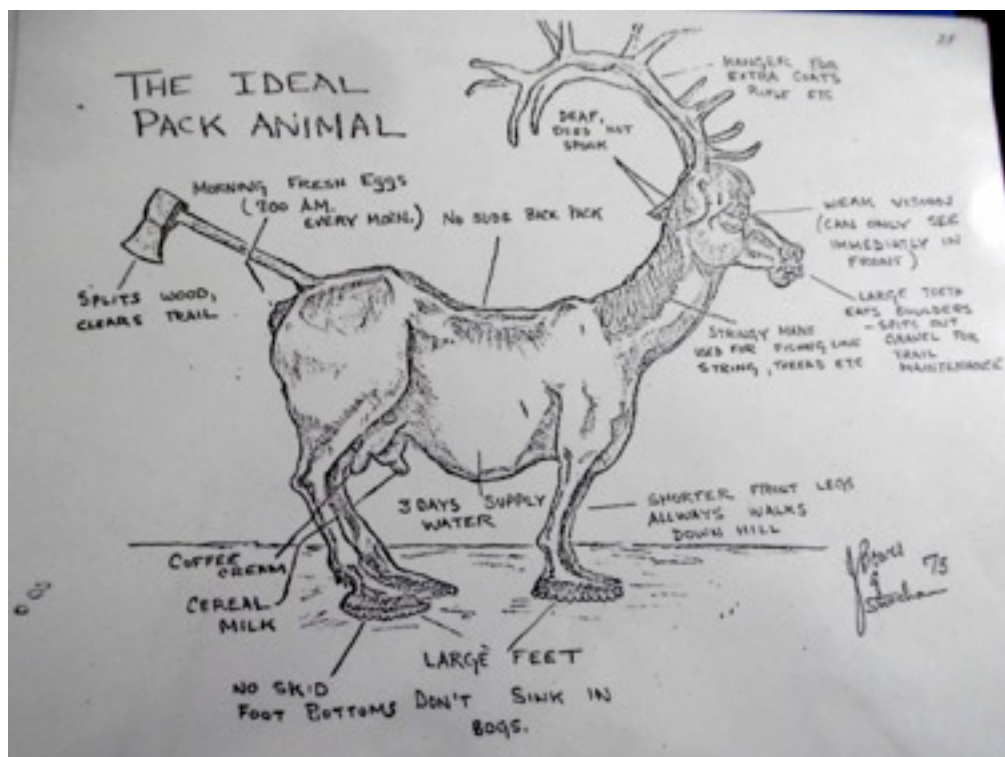
The call went out and very good stories have been coming in. The list below is meant to get you thinking of stories you could submit. The ones posted on our website will also help. We are looking for single incident or day-by-day stories – usually with a fair amount of humour. (Remember those Spaz Charts?).

- Search and Rescue
- Fire fighting
- Back county travels
- Resource Management
- Law Enforcement
- Avalanche Control
- Boating stories
- Horse stories
- Wildlife Management stories
- Bear Stories
- Cultural Resource
- Environmental Assessment
- Parties
- Sporting events
- Warden Days
- & any other ones you can think of!

Warden Cartoonists: J. Strachan & Bowles.

All of you who have travelled with a pack horse will have dreamed of this or a similar animal.

Member Mike Eder has submitted several of these cartoons for publication in our newsletters. Our thanks go out to him for adding



this new aspect of the warden life. Others will appear in future newsletters. Strachan and Bowles were not the only cartoonists in the service - so the works of others could also be published for your enjoyment.

The OBITS

Many of you may have heard of these deaths already. These notices are included here in brief but more details are to be had on the P.W.A.S. website. As our secretary-treasurer puts it so well, "Our warden service family has had a rough trail to follow these past months.

Geraldine Kraft

Geraldine, passed away on February 27, 2018 at the age of 90 years. She was the wife of warden Fred Kraft who worked in Banff and Glacier and other national parks. They retired to Sundre. Fred passed away several years earlier.

Cynthia Ball

Cynthia was Mike Westbrook's partner. She passed away May 8th, 2018. A Celebration of her Life was held in Jasper.

Dennis Welsh

Husband of Theresa, he passed away June 14, 2018. Dennis worked his way up to the Jasper Barn Boss in his 36 years of service. He also ran the Jasper Park Lodge stables. His memorial service was held in Rocky Mt'n. House.

Lance Derek Cooper

Lance passed away in the Canmore Hospital November, 2018. Lance joined the Warden Service in 1971 and became one of the pioneers of the Mountain Rescue team. In 1981, he left and became a pilot for the Mountain Rescue Team.

Lance was awarded the Search and Rescue Award of Canada in 1988, The Alberta Emergency Services Medal in 2009, and Association of Canadian Mountain Guides Award in 2013.

Helen Dawson

Helen passed away Jan. 2008 at age 97. She and husband Murray lived in the W.

National parks where they raised their family and enjoyed the outdoor life. Murray became Chief of Visitor Services in Banff.

Alfie Burstrom

Alfie suffered a stroke and passed away in the McBride Hospital on Nov. 29, 2018, age 86. His wife June had died earlier that year.

He joined the warden service in 1953 and went on to become the first national park dog master. He and June retired to Valemont in 1987.

Ilse Wackerle

Ilse Wackerle passed away in the Sundre Hospital December 10, 2018 at the age of 86. Ilse came to Canada in 1956 from Germany and married John Wackerle, long time Banff Warden.

Phyllis Dumpleton

Phyllis had passed away on January 26 2019 of cancer. She and Don were married for 61 years. They moved to B.C. after Don retired from Parks Canada. Her ashes were spread at a favorite spot in White Rock.

Wayne Thordason

Wayne has passed away from pancreatic cancer. His dad was Tom Thordarson who was assistant CPW in Banff at one time and Wayne was a seasonal warden in Banff in the early 70's and then became a full time warden in Jasper for a decade or so. He quit the Warden Service to go ranching and eventually ended up as a Corrections Officer in Lethbridge and resided at Coaldale.

Cliff White Awarded Harkin Medal at C.P.W.A.S. Ceremony in Ottawa

Last week, the CPAWS National Board of Trustees, members of the CPAWS conservation award committee and invited guests, gathered in Ottawa mid-January to celebrate all that



Cliff White has done for conservation in Canada over his nearly four decade-long career in promoting ecological thinking within Parks Canada and in the management of Banff, the Mountain Parks and beyond.

And as Cliff reports: Johanne and I went down to Ottawa last week for some wining and dining at the Nation's Capital. Our daughter Alexandra came up from New York City, and we got to visit with great

group of long-time parks folks that I worked with in national Parks Canada headquarters during the 1980s, and the current committed group of the national board of trustees that guide CPAWS.

Horses and Horsemanship



Horses, as is well known, are found on all the continents of the world in including the Mongolian desert, the Pampas of S. America, the Australian Outback and even the S. Pacific:

This National Geographic photo was taken on one of the Marquesas Islands which are found about halfway between Lima, Peru and the N. tip of Australia. Horses were first introduced to Ua Huka by French Admiral Abel Dupetit-Thouars. The

islanders tamed them and used them for riding, hunting and packing and now for dude rides too. Horses still run wild on Ua Huka and some islanders still capture and tame them.

If this is the kind of life that still appeals to you and you are looking for some place warm to retire to, the Marquesas would be a good place especially if you took French Language training. Or, even for a winter get-away: there are resorts where English is spoken on some of the Islands.

Some Social Tidbits

The Alumni Society has received several notices, letters and bits of news from members which are given here in a summary form. Should you feel inclined to share news you believe the membership would be interested please send it in to the secretary-treasurer, address and e-mail in the box on page 2.

From Ev. Gilmar, December 24, 2018

Well my good friends I hope 2018 was a good one for you.

My year was swell, the chickens produced well. Chickens are my life right now – and a good one it is. Gives me a reason to get out of bed in the morning, even if I don't want to.

One small skirmish with the neighbors dog to the tune of 4 dead hens but as you may suspect I dealt with that and all is calm again.

The garden flourished, as did every one's here in our little valley. It was a strange, productive year: the fruit didn't seem to ripen and fall off, just finally dried up. The wild birds should have an easy winter. And talk about easy winter!!! We had about 2 inches of snow Nov. 9 and then nothing but some gentle rains until last week when we had another 4 inches, which is also gone.

My health has been surprisingly good, considering that when I was last at my doctor's he reminded me that it has been two years since I "died" and he brought me back.

I had a go round with my accountant regarding vehicle usage. Him say I pick up chicken feed when I go to buy groceries and I say NO.... I go to buy feed and then pick up some groceries.

Stop in at my place in Salmon Arm and I will give you some eggs like you have never tasted since you ate at Grandma's house.

Evelyn Gilmar 1100 Salmon River Road, Salmon Arm, BC. ph. 250-833-4541

And from Vicki Olesky-Wallace, Japser Info. Centre.

As part of "ye olde Parks Warden Service and Our Extended Parks Family," I want to share with you news of the farewell party for two retirees and one departee. We called it "We've Moved On." It happened June 6 here in Jasper, to honour Rita Hindle, Louise Jarry and Elliott Ingles. Louise & Rita had a long history with Parks Canada through their decades of service & adventures, both officially & unofficially. Elliott worked with JNP for about 10 years, first in the Information Centre, then as the supervisor & finally as manager of all park campgrounds, always with a keen interest in the back-country. He is now in charge of Mount Robson Provincial Park and is setting a strong & positive precedent in getting back-country trails cleared & maintained.

Many of us here in JNP are missing the camaraderie of Warden Days a **LOT!** Perhaps it's time to begin a new tradition? It's such a rich experience to gather and share stories about the incredible park adventures so many of us have been so fortunate to experience.

Happy & healthy trails to all of you & your clan.

From Loni Klettli, Jan.31, 2019

Howie Klettli's Warden Cabin Quest is almost finished. This quest was; to get to, photograph, tell the story of getting there, some history tidbits of all the warden cabins in the mountain parks. The only cabin left is Sawtooth, in a remote, very inaccessible part of the JNP. This has been a remarkable quest and we're all very proud of him.

From Glen Peers, June, 2018

It's hard to believe but this is the 12th year for awarding the Keith Everts Scholarship. This year's recipient is Eric Fabbri, a graduate from the Canmore high school. He sounds like a pretty amazing young guy and a worthy candidate. He is enrolled for the fall semester at the University of Northern B.C. in the Applied Science in Environmental Engineering program.

Warden Daze at Pine Bungalows in Jasper . . . was a wonderful event!

The weekend started on Friday, October 12th with folks registering as guests of Mike Wasuita who was in the process of selling



the business. Since he has a long-standing

friendship for and appreciation of the Warden Service he invited the warden service alumni to be his final guests at exceptional rates. The alumni welcomed this invitation as an excellent opportunity for a get-together.

Cool, damp weather did not hamper anyone's enjoyment. Saturday was full of options. Thanks to Mike Eder for coordinating the tours. Some of us enjoyed a tour of the Palisades Centre provided by Paul Langevin. Paul explained that Parks Canada owns the Historic Ranch facility that offers public education programs to people and host groups of all ages. Up to 90 people can be accommodated at the

Palisades Centre for such events as Family Reunions, retreats, and workshops. Home cooked meals are available for groups of 12 or more. While one group toured the Palisades, others drove to the Maligne Range; others chose to hike the trails near Pine Bungalows or to visit the townsite.

Before dinner everyone gathered in the conference room at Pine Bungalows for



happy hour and were treated to “toonie beer” supplied by Three Rangers Brewing Company. Mike Eder provided an assortment of photo albums and photo displays which were enjoyed by everyone.

Dinner followed hosted by Greg VanTighem and his crew. They served a fantastic barbecue dinner complete with assorted salads, desserts, tea and coffee. By the way, Greg donated his proceeds to charity. After the barbecue, we were treated to a live concert by The Warden Band, generously sponsored by Mike Wasuita.

The concert was a highlight with songs and a slide show. The lyrics and photos no doubt brought back lots of fond memories for many people in attendance. Thank you to Scott, Brad Ray and violinist Scott Duncan!

In appreciation for Mike Wasuita’s generosity, the alumni presented him with a Warden Service Stetson beautifully mounted on a wooden backing making a wonderful display. Mike was overwhelmed. After the concert, visiting continued long into the evening.

The weather improved significantly on Sunday morning. The Pancake Breakfast was a huge success. Thanks to Alan



Westhaver, Jim Murphy and crew who planned, organized, cooked and served breakfast.





Interested in Joining the Park Warden Service Alumni Society?

If you are:

- a current or past Park Warden/Seasonal Park Warden and/or spouse or family member of a Park Warden,
- currently or have worked in a supportive role within the former Park Warden Service,
- currently or have worked within Resource Conservation, Public Safety or other similar category within Parks Canada Agency, or
- or are simply supportive of the work of current and past Park Warden Service and Resource Conservation and public safety personnel,

then you are eligible to become a Voting, Associate, Supporting, Life or Honorary member of the Park Warden Service Alumni Society.

The benefits of membership include:

- social activities to maintain contact with past/present Park Wardens;
- the Annual General Meeting of the members;
- opportunities to participate in activities (see “Accomplishments” below);
- National Park Warden advocacy and historical commemoration projects;
- Volunteering and/or supporting on other Warden-related projects.

Accomplishments:

- 2009 Warden Centennial Celebration;
- Ya Ha Tinda: A Home Place book;
- Ya Ha Tinda Centennial Plaque

For more information and to obtain a membership application go to:

www.parkwardenalumni.com

or email us at “ParkWarden2008Alumni@hotmail.com”