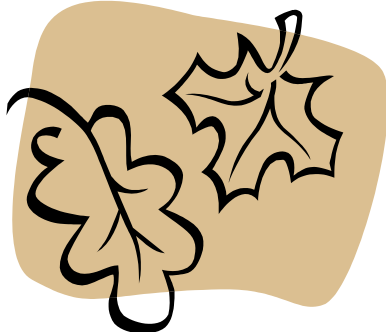


PARK WARDEN SERVICE ALUMNI SOCIETY
FALL 2013 NEWSLETTER

BOX 11, SITE 116, R.R. #3, SUNDRE, ALBERTA, T0M 1X0.

E-mail: parkwarden2008alumni@hotmail.com



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.”



Our website has not been used much this past summer, far less than hoped after the demonstration at the A.G.M. at the Banff Legion. We are not sure why as the site [<parkwardenalumni.com>](http://parkwardenalumni.com) is an easy way for our spread out group to stay in touch and keep each other informed about matters of interest on a daily basis, something we thought would catch on with our members.

The website is not like a newspaper where hired help puts it out and the public gets to read it. It's a collaborative effort: any member can contribute words or pictures to this site and any time he or she pleases. There are a few steps to go through but they become routine after being used a few times. A short illustrated tutorial is available. You can get a copy from Marie Nylund or Perry Davis. Help is also available from either of these members and if they don't have an answer they know where to go to get it for you. The address for the site is www.parkwardenalumni.com.

This website has been set up using Microsoft's inexpensive WordPress program. PWSAS members may post as "authors" on the website. Non-members and the public may view the website and comment on posts but are **restricted** from "posting". This means it is also a way for our society to become more widely known and allows anyone searching for material that we post to find it.

We encourage you to sign up on Word Press and visit the site often. You will find links there to other websites of interest as well. One of these is George Mercer's site

writenature@shaw.ca. George is an advocate for park preservation. You can bookmark our site as one of your favourites to make accessing it more convenient. We also encourage you to add material to the site. Again, if you need help doing this you know who to contact.

Cochrane Fund Raising Concert

The band “The Wardens” were grateful for the financial help they received from our alumni society and offered to put on a fund-raising concert. It took place in Cochrane. “The Wardens,” Brad Bischoff, Scott Ward & Ray Schmidt, were joined by Sid Marty and his sidekick. Unfortunately it was one of those hot, beautiful, sunny summer day on which people preferred to be outside! Still there was a moderately good turnout. In the end the alumni society did a bit better than break even but not as well as we and “The Wardens” hoped. Those who came were treated to an afternoon of good music. While the group is performing photos from the warden backcountry life are projected adding another dimension to the performance.

Update on “The Wardens” by Scott Ward

Our music group is proving popular and in demand. We have had a busy season with around 30 performances. Highlights were performances at the Banff Centre to a sold out crowd, the Canmore Folk Festival, The Rocky Mountain Cowboy Music festival, headliners for the Maple Creek Cowboy Festival, two joint gigs with Doris Daley, the Sundre Arts Centre to a sold-out crowd, the Jasper Legion to another capacity crowd and numerous smaller venues. We also did a three-gig tour in Saskatchewan ending at the Val Marie hotel in Grasslands where most of the town showed up including park staff we knew. We have applied to play at several major folk festivals next year and have been accepted at a major country music festival in New Zealand for Jan 2015. The group has recorded a six song EP in Lethbridge with producer/musician Leeroy Stagger which was released this spring at the Banff Centre. The six songs are written by Bischoff and Ward and the cover art is by retired warden Wes Olson. The sales from this EP are going towards producing a full length CD this coming summer. All said we are still having fun spreading the old warden culture through original songs and stories.

Warden Related Books

1. Rob Kay is working on a yet untitled book. The opening chapters describe his childhood experiences that led him to join the warden service. The remainder of the book, Rob says, “recounts backcountry stories of my own and dozens of other wardens I worked with. These include tales of wildlife species; accounts of survival; and tales of adversity and drama”.
2. Leanne Minton is working on a self-published book “Blue Creek Bride”. Leanne’s book describes what it is like to be a rookie in the Rockies travelling the backcountry with her warden husband Phil Minton.
3. Kathy Calvert is writing a book on June Mickle that a publisher is definitely interested in.
4. Chic Scott, having completed his biography of Hans Gmoser, is researching and writing one on the Whyte family, a family that has contributed several members to the warden service.

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This newsletter is published 2 or more times yearly for members of the society. Articles, membership enquiries and other matters may be sent to the society at the above addresses.

BOARD MEMBERS

Executive:

President – Dale Portman

Vice-President – Gordon Antoniuk

Secretary-Treasurer – Marie Nylund

Directors:

2 year terms expiring 2015

Don Mickle,

Kathy Calvert

Rod Wallace

Mac Elder

Gordon Anderson

Perry, Davis

Cliff White

Larry Gilmar

3 Year Terms expiring May 2015

Scott Ward

Bob Haney

Perry Jacobson

Regional Representatives

Mountains – Gord Anderson

West Coast – Ev Gilmar

North & Yukon – Tom Elliot

BC Interior – Gord Rutherford

Eastern Coast – Bev Hunter

Ontario – John Taylor

Newsletter Editor: Perry Davis

OBITUARIES

Charles J. Pacas: Dec. 16, 1951 – Nov. 20, 2013

[The following messages are taken from e-mails sent by S. Hairsine]

I am incredibly sorry to let you know that our wonderful friend and colleague, Charlie Pacas, passed away this morning (Nov. 20) in Canmore after suffering a massive heart attack while vacationing in Europe. He was just shy of his 62nd birthday. We are all devastated by this horribly tragic news but fortunately he had a peaceful death and his family was all able to say their goodbyes. Katie is spending this day in reflection with her children. Close to \$9,000.00 was raised through the Warden Office which totally overwhelmed Katie. She was so grateful for the donation and thanked everyone for their incredible kindness. She had spent \$4,000.00 on her kids' flights to Europe so this money will certainly help.



Charlie was born in Ontario but spent most of his life in Western Canada where he explored, learned and worked in Provincial and National Parks. To say that Charlie lived life would be an understatement: he was a lover of nature, a committed volunteer and an aficionado of bad puns. He loved skiing on beautiful winter days and riding his motorcycle made him infinitely happy. Charlie was one of those rare individuals who really had a twinkle in his eye. He loved fully and was loved by many.

A celebration of Charlie's life will be held at the Iron Goat Pub in Canmore on Friday, Dec. 6 from 1-4 pm. This will be an informal gathering and Katie hopes it will be just the kind of party Charlie would have wanted to have.

Hugh Simon (former trail crew member of Banff National Park)

[The following is taken from an e-mail sent Mon, 1 Jul 2013 by Marie Nylund]

We received the sad news yesterday that Hugh Simon passed away on Saturday, June 29th. Hugh, age 79, had been bucked off a horse recently and had sustained a punctured lung and other injuries. He was taken to Lethbridge Hospital and was making good progress. He was then transferred to Pincher Creek hospital and unfortunately died of a heart attack.

We will miss his friendship and that wonderful sense of humour and quick wit.

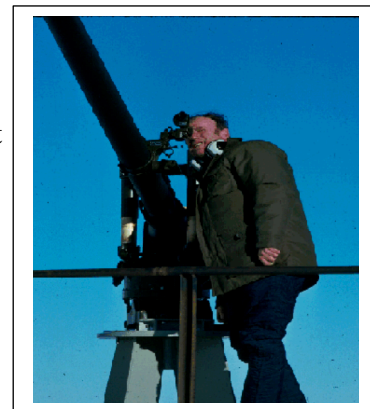
Toni Klettl July 3rd, 1927 ~ July 12th, 2013

Toni was born in Neukirchen, Austria to Jose and Maria Klettl. He was the youngest of seven children all of whom had an extremely difficult childhood growing up in the Alps: poverty, the Depression and then the war. At seventeen he was conscripted into the 6th Mountain Division, a commando style unit and fought in many horrific battles on the eastern front winning two Iron Crosses. He was wounded twice during the war. For four years he was a Russian prisoner in the mines of Siberia.

Toni immigrated to Canada in 1952 and started a new with his wife Shirley. He worked as a logger in various camps across Canada and a powerman for the Trans Mountain Pipeline until he joined JNP's Warden Service in 1955.

He made many innovative and lasting contributions in the field of mountain rescue and avalanche safety but his years as a backcountry warden in many remote areas of Jasper were, "the best years of his life". In 1985, Toni retired and moved to Valemount with Shirley.

All through the decades, Toni had kept on "whittling" wood carvings of the animals he loved, these were sought after and can now be found around the world. Toni and Shirley had four children, Howie, Linda, Robbie and Loni. They were given an incredible, unique childhood and a fierce addiction of open space, peace and wilderness. Toni lost Shirley to cancer in 2000. Toni battled Parkinson's disease at the end of his life. He will be missed. He is also survived by his older sister, Rosa.



The Warden Oral History Project

Christine Everts has told us she wants to continue with this project. This is good news. The interviews will be conducted mainly through telephone interviews as she now has additional family responsibilities. This approach fits well with the present warden alumni budget restraints. A list of interviewees will be reviewed and finalized at the next executive meeting – which any members are welcome to attend.

At the May 15th AGM a question arose about the financing of the Oral History Project to date. The total invested in the first four phases of the Oral History Project is \$20,063.01. Over the past 4 years, PWSAS received 2 grants totaling \$12,827.50 with the remaining \$7,235.51 provided by the Park Warden Service Alumni Society through much appreciated membership fees and donations.

The executive feels there is additional value in making these histories more readily available to researchers, libraries and the general public. Dale Portman and Kathy Calvert, who have more than a little experience with publishing, will be putting together an outline of such a book and presenting it to the executive for review. In addition Kathy is looking into converting her collection of audio tapes (from interviews for her books) into a suitable format to include in the Oral History Project. This is a bit of a technical problem as the interviews are on mini-cassettes, the type used by pocket Dictaphones!

The November Executive Meeting

The most recent executive meeting was held at the Stockmen's Memorial Foundation Library in Cochrane on November the 14th. Anyone wanting more details can get a copy of the minutes from Marie Nylund. The executive is pleased to welcome new board members Larry Gilmar and Cliff Whyte. They were elected as directors at the May Annual General Meeting for a 2-year term each. That means we now have a full slate. Cliff and Larry were able to make it to the most recent executive board meeting in Cochrane and clearly add two different styles to the current mix!

The executive also wants its members to be aware that they are quite welcome to attend any regular board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Wed., Feb. 19th, 2014. It will also be at the Stockmen's Memorial Foundation Library but you should check with Marie or any other board member shortly in advance just in case there are last minute changes. Board meetings are usually followed by lunch (paid for by each individual) at which a lot of stories are told and gossip exchanged. And, of course, any member will be welcome to join in with their own stories and gossip.

The only topic at this meeting not already covered in this newsletter concerns the future direction of the Society. Our mission statement commits us to keeping members in touch,

organizing social events, preserving the warden culture and helping protect wildlife and the natural world through volunteering and advocacy. The executive wants to - to use park-speak - gather input from its membership on their thoughts on the relative importance of these mandates and is looking at some good ways of finding this out especially on the matter of advocacy. We realize there are varying opinions on what should or shouldn't be done here.

Membership and Finances

Secretary-treasurer Marie Nylund presented the financial statement at this meeting. In the last year we spent slightly more than we took in (gov't grants have dried up) but our bank balance at the end of October is still in the black at slightly over \$8,000. The largest source of income is from memberships and donations and our big ticket expense is the Oral History Project which, as mentioned, we are continuing with.

Kathy Calvert presented the figures for membership. It stands at 99 including 22 honorary members. There are only 4 members from 2012 who have not yet renewed and we are encouraging them to do so. We are also inviting recent retirees to join up. The difficulty here is finding out who they are and how to contact them. We are working on it but any information our members can provide will be welcome.

Keith Everts Warden Service Scholarship

The Warden Alumni Society contributed to this scholarship as we feel it is a worthy cause that helps in its own way to further our society's mandate. The driving force behind this scholarship, the guy who keeps making it a reality, is retired warden Glen Peers.

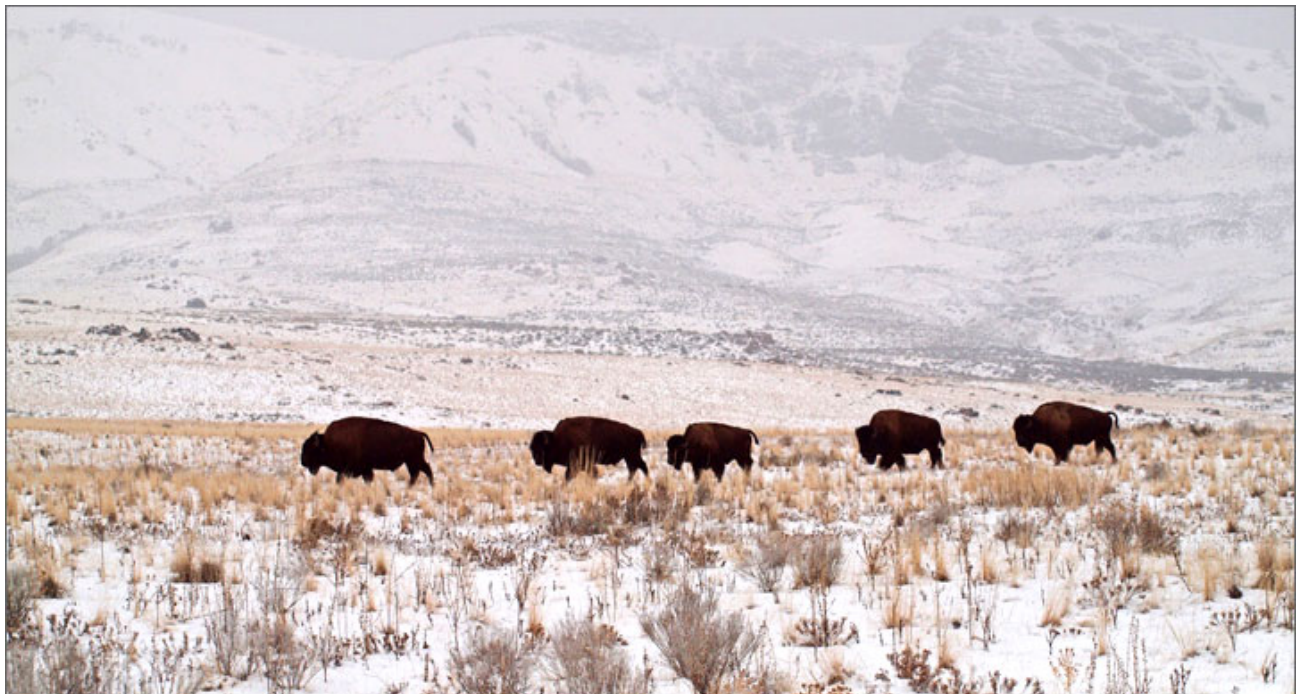
Here is some information on the latest recipient of the scholarship.

Dear Ms. Crilley-Everts,
My name is Galen Pearce and I am the recipient of the 2013 Keith Everts Warden Service Scholarship. I am writing to thank you and let you know what an honour it is to receive this award, as I plan to study biology in university. I am going to Australia in the fall for 5 months to assist a PhD. Candidate in her study of Bower birds. This is an extremely exciting opportunity for me and this, along with my experience in Australia, will be a great start to my biology career. Thank you for sponsoring past, present and future generations with this award. I think this is the best scholarship a student going into environmental science could receive. Friends of

mine before me have won it, and I can see it has helped them hugely with their academic goals. Please extend my best wishes to the rest of your family and have a fantastic summer!
Signed: Galen Pearce.

Hi Marie;
That letter [to Madeline] you mentioned in your e-mail sounds typical of this young man. I was out of the country when the award was presented at the Canmore High School so I have yet to meet him. The Bow Valley does produce some pretty amazing young people.
Glen Peers

The Federal Gov't Has Begun the Public Consultation Process to Re-Introduce Bison to Banff



The Honourable Peter Kent, Canada's Environment Minister and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, January 27, 2012, announced the start of public consultation on plans to restore plains bison to Banff National Park. The first phase of consultation will involve intensive work with the provincial government, key stakeholders and First Nations in Alberta to gather feedback, address concerns, develop mitigation strategies and draft a preliminary bison reintroduction plan. Phase two will invite the broader public to provide feedback on the preliminary plan with the last phase being the development of a final action plan. Once approved, the Banff National Park Bison Restoration Plan will be made available to the public. For more information on the public consultation to restore bison to Banff National Park, log on to the website <parks.canada.gc.ca>, contact Media Relations Parks Canada (819) 953-8371 or go to www.twitter.com/parkscanada.

Environmental Issues Facing Parks Canada

Following is a brief summary, taken from the news, of some environmental issues directly or indirectly affecting the national parks of Canada. Some or all of these issues you are probably already aware of. Parks Canada, as we know, still has a dedicated group of Resource Conservation Officers who are working-struggling to preserve or restore ecosystems but with reduced resources.

Cuts to Parks Canada: *Highline Magazine*, Summer 2013 issue, published an excellent article by Ian Urquhart on this topic. Ian is the editor of the Alberta Wilderness Association's newsletter. He was one of the leaders in the fight against the Brewster Glacier Skywalk. Some quotes:

"In March [2012] Ottawa . . . announced three years of cuts to Parks Canada: \$6 million this year; \$19.7 million in the 2013-2014 fiscal year; and \$29.2 million the next year. And Parks Canada staff weren't spared – according to the PSAC, 1,689 Parks Canada employees have received notices that they could lose their jobs."

"Another huge issue facing national parks relates to ecological integrity. Case in point – the gutting of Parks Canada's Calgary Office of its natural and social sciences divisions . . . Where is the capacity of Parks Canada to measure and monitor ecological integrity mandate? It's going to suffer given the scientific cuts made in Parks Canada and elsewhere in the federal government."

The South Sask. Land Use Plan.

The Alberta Government has published a draft plan for the South Saskatchewan River Basin. This vast area borders Banff and Waterton National Parks and the Suffield military area which is also a wildlife refuge. Industrial, agricultural, recreational activities in these bordering areas will, of course, have an effect on these national parks and military site. The Alberta government is accepting public comments on

Caribou Decline. There are concerns about the declines in caribou herds throughout their range even though some herds are holding their own. The expansion of the Maligne Lake lodge and increased human use as a result threatens to negatively impact the caribou herd there. There has been a great deal of public outcry but there was for the Skywalk proposal too. The same issue of *Highline* has an article on caribou recovery plans in Banff.

Climate Change. *The Calgary Herald*, Nov. 6, 2013. According to a recently released U.N. report. "The most recent figures indicate that emissions are already 14% higher than what is required to keep global temperatures from rising above 2 C. . . . The [report] authors picked out Canada as a lead laggard. Canada is on track to exceed its 2020 target by . . . about 20%."

Threats to Canadian aquatics. *The Calgary Herald*, Sept. 8, 2013. Scientists at the Univ. of Calgary and Dalhousie U., in a peer-reviewed paper, compared recent changes to the Fisheries Act to the original legislation. The biggest change they found "is that habitat protection has been removed for all species other than those that have direct economic or cultural interests through recreational, commercial and aboriginal fisheries." According to Dr. J. Post, one of the authors, "70 per cent of the freshwater fish that are listed under SARA will no longer receive protection."

the plan up to January 15, 2014. Members are encouraged to submit comments. The draft plan and the place for submitting comments are on the website <www.landuse.alberta.ca.>