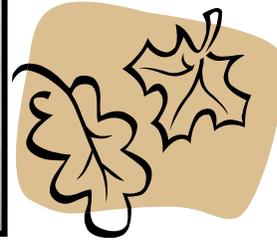
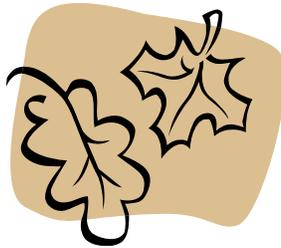


# PARK WARDEN SERVICE ALUMNI SOCIETY AUTUMN 2012 NEWSLETTER

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

From the Alumni Association President:

Greetings to everyone:

I would like to take this opportunity as your President to extend from myself and the executive our heart-felt season greetings to all our members, their families and loved ones. I would also like to pass on my gratitude to the members of the executive, for all the hard work that has gone into accomplishing what we have done this year.

I see another very productive year coming up and I encourage everyone to bring forth their ideas on how to make it that much more special. Thank you again.

Dale Portman

**IN THIS NEWSLETTER**  
**Issues of concern to members;\**  
**Gov't cutback to Nat'l. Parks and**  
**Weakening of Enviro Acts**  
**Bison Re-introduction Update**  
**Association By-Law Changes for**  
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**Obituaries**  
**Proposed Alumni Website**  
**Retired Wardens on the Chilkoot**  
**Trail**  
**The Keith Everts Scholarship**  
**“The Wardens” Band and their**  
**upcoming CD of Warden Songs**

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

I would like to remind our members that unless you have pre-paid your dues, as some members have, memberships are due on January 1, 2013. A membership renewal form will be sent to members after January 1st by email or regular mail. – Thank you and have a wonderful Christmas! Marie.

## OBITUARIES



J.R. (JAY) MORTON Dec. 29, 1946 – Sept. 30, 2012.

It's with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our brother and uncle Jay at Cheticamp, Nova Scotia on September 30, 2012. Jay was predeceased by his wife Joan, his mother and father Joanna and Joseph, as well as his brother-in-law Jack Jonsson.

He is survived by his sister Judy Morton of Victoria, British Columbia, her daughter Wendy Swan and her husband Jim, children Josephine, Sara, and James, his sister Joanne Jonsson of Victoria Beach, Manitoba, her sons, Brad sons Cole and Matt, Dan and family, Connor and Cam.

Jay studied and took great interest in the outdoors. After graduation from the University of Manitoba and St. Johns College he joined the National Parks Services. He spent many years as a Park Warden at Banff National Park, and later transferred to Cape Breton Highlands National Park. Upon retirement he stayed in the area he loved and purchased a home in Cheticamp, Nova Scotia. Jay was a great storyteller, he had a beautiful singing voice and entertained at any gathering of family and friends. Jay was an avid environmentalist and will be missed by all. (Winnipeg Free Press on October 13, 2012)

From: "Gerald Bourgeois" to I. Phillips Date: 30 September, 2012 6:38:06 AM MDT\\

*Sorry to have to relay this sad news. . . . Jay passed away this morning at the hospital at 7:45 am. When the hospital called we rushed down and were with Jay until he passed away. He was alert and being Jay until about an hour before he died. He was not alone: Lena and I and Lena's son James and his wife Darlene were with him until the end. The hospital staff really liked him and were sad to see him fail so quickly physically. I know we will miss him .. please pass along this message to all who knew him.... Gerald*

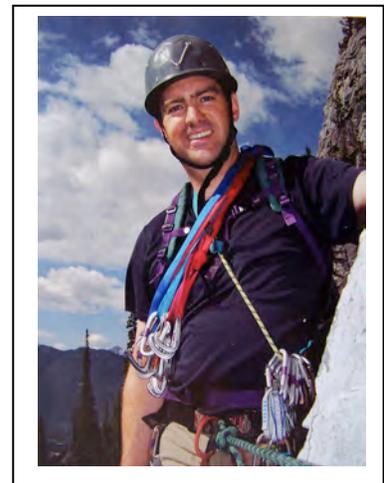
ANTHONY RUSSELL Born: Cardston, May 24, 1973.

Died: Canmore, July 4, 2012

Anthony Russell passed away after a six month battle with colon cancer. Although his career in the warden service was short Anthony really valued his time as a park warden. He left to join the Calgary City Police Service.

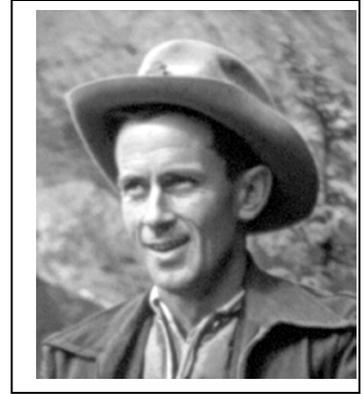
The funeral was held Tuesday, July 10th at the Canmore Nordic Centre. It was a full honours Calgary City Police funeral. The honour guard included park wardens in uniform.

Anthony is survived by his wife Chris and a young daughter Zoe



OLAF ROBERT HERMANRUDE  
Dec. 18, 1925 – Sept. 6, 2012

Ole passed away on September 6, 2012 at Shuswap Lake General Hospital at the age of 86 years. He was predeceased by his father Henry in 1966, his mother Annie in 1976, his brother Bill in 1985 and his daughter Margaret Lynn in 2000. He is survived by Alice, his wife of nearly 62 years, daughter Karen (Bob), sons Robert (Pat) and Larry (Lorena) as well as his grandchildren Lanayah (Paul), Ellison, Courtenay and Kristen. He is also survived by his sisters Helen Taggart of Brooks, Alberta, Karen Poulsen of Cowley, Alberta and Isabel Hermanrude of Edmonton, Alberta plus numerous nieces, nephews and in-laws.



Ole was born and grew up on the family farm near Evansburg, Alberta. He attended school at the old Reno school. After working on the farm and in logging camps, he joined the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve from 1944-1946. In 1949 he became a National Park Warden where he served for 31 years. He was stationed in Banff, Jasper, Revelstoke/Glacier, Pacific Rim and Kootenay national parks until retiring to Salmon Arm in 1980. He enjoyed traveling, bowling, old time dancing, gardening, fishing and visiting with many friends and family members. By request there was no service.

JOHN STRACHAN (May 29, 1944 – June 5, 2011)

Although John passed away last year, the internment of his ashes in The Barriere Memorial Cemetery occurred on June 12, 2012.



VERNE BALDING –

Verne Balding was killed in a tragic motorcycle accident on Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012. He was the son of George and Colleen Balding. A memorial service was held at Maligne Lake on Saturday July 7th. More details on Facebook - Remembering Verne Balding.

# THE SOCIAL PAGE

## Our Band “The Wardens” Going Strong

Bradley Bischoff, Scott Ward and Ray Schmidt as "The Wardens" continue to entertain audiences with original music and stories of the historic warden service. Highlights of this past summer include fifteen gigs for Parks at Tunnel Mountain and Johnsons Canyon interpretive theaters. Audiences usually numbered around one hundred. These show were well received. Other gigs included two shows several months apart at the Waterton Opera House. The last show was with the Travelling Mabels who won the Alberta music awards group of the year last year. Other shows included the Canmore Folk Festival, Lake O'Hara and Rocky Mountain House. In the spring a show was put on for the Alberta Wilderness Association in Calgary.

Future shows for 2013 will include the “Spring is in the Air” Art Festival in Cochrane, a concert at The Club at the Banff Centre, opening for Tom Russell in Cranbrook in February, a show for school groups in Calgary, and more campground shows for Parks. You can find "The Wardens" on facebook fan page as well as



at [www.banffwardens.com](http://www.banffwardens.com)

### **“The Wardens” Upcoming CD**

This band wants to produce their first CD and is fundraising to do so. The expected cost, which includes recording studio time and production, is approximately \$10,000. Their aim is to have a CD ready for sale by next summer. It is expected to sell well at their concerts. The songs will all be original to the group – not available elsewhere.

The warden alumni has agreed to assist by advancing the band \$1,000. Their proposal to the Alumni came out of the blue but the more the executive looked into it, the more they wanted to help. The obstacle is our limited bank account: a similar undertaking, the oral history project, is mostly funded by grants. “The Wardens” are certainly helping with the Alumni objective of “maintaining the culture and tradition of the National Park Warden Service.” Their songs celebrate warden life – almost all aspects; even the backdrop for the park concerts, as can be seen in the photo, a slide show of “wardens” in the backcountry, contributes to this theme.

The Wardens are planning to hold a fundraiser in March 2013 for the alumni at the Beaupre Hall west of Cochrane in conjunction with the Stockmen’s Memorial Foundation. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. But keep track on their website for confirmation of the date and directions to the hall.

### **RECENT RETIREES**

The latest round of federal cutbacks has resulted in an unusually large number of retirees this

*The Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) - the largest union of federal public servants - told reporters that 3,872 of its members across 10 departments received notices that they could lose their jobs. Public servants who receive these “affected” notices won’t necessarily lose their jobs. However some departments did inform workers that they have been declared “surplus,” which means their jobs are definitely being eliminated. Surplus employees can still take advantage of various programs that could help them find another federal government job. While the job numbers still leave many questions unanswered, the totals and their locations do give a sense of what programs and services are being cut. At Parks Canada, 1,689 PSAC members received affected notices and staff were told that 638 positions will be eliminated.*

summer. The Workforce Adjustment provisions were in effect. The net result is a reduction in park staff numbers.

*According to the union, the affected Parks Canada workers include scientists, engineers, technicians, mechanics, carpenters and program managers. Further, seasonal workers are being told their seasons and hours of work will be shortened. Union leaders warn this will hurt small businesses who cater to tourists visiting national parks, sites and canal systems. The same applies to parks across Canada – job losses, retirements, reductions in time. The information available at print time was limited. Members with more information are asked to send it to the alumni for inclusion in the next newsletter. Check out the Globe & Mail link: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ottawa-notebook/parks-canada-hit-hard-as-ottawa-doles-out-nearly-4000-job-notices/article4106781/>*

## RETIRED WARDENS CROSS THE CHILKOOT PASS By Don Mickle

Four retired wardens - Kathy Calvert, Dale Portman, Rod Wallace, Don Mickle - and one unretired dog - Lilly - followed the trail of the Klondikers this summer from Dyea, Alaska to Lake Bennett, Yukon. This was Rod's third trip over the Chilkoot. He was a big hit with his purple pants and Gandalf hiking pole!

The coastal rain and fog was at our backs as we headed toward the 3000 ft. Chilkoot Pass from the Pacific Ocean. The second camp, Sheep Camp was the last outpost before the Chilkoot Pass. There were 8,000 gold seekers

there in 1898. We stopped at 'The Scales' where the Stampeders weighed their packs before making the ascent into Canada. They had to make 40 round trips carrying up 50 lbs. each trip before the NWMP would let them head down the Yukon River.

We climbed the vertical rock pile through heavy fog and past many

artifacts to the snow covered summit. There are several interpretive signs telling about the various historic points of interest; one near the summit says "if you are experiencing rain, snow or fog – the weather is normal" The weather was normal as we were greeted by warden Christine Hedgecock with hot chocolate at the Chilkoot Pass warden cabin. We dropped down the pass through snow covered side slopes to "Happy Camp" and into the sunshine.



We left the next morning in the rain again after a real cowboy breakfast supplied by Rod (we were the envy of many hikers when they smelled bacon while eating their packaged porridge). We made our way to Linderman Lake, the site of Linderman City during the gold rush. Christine and Stephanie invited us to stay at the Warden camp and we were treated to a great salmon supper! Tom Elliot had left us a beer care package and Christine took us for a cultural tour of the historical Linderman City. Life is good!

The next day we made our way to Lake Bennett and the White Pass & Yukon Railway. Lake Bennett was where the Stampeders began their 600 mile journey down the Yukon River to Dawson City and the gold fields. We completed our journey with the train ride over White Pass, the alternate historic route to the Yukon and so back to Skagway.

We met a lot of interesting people along the trail, walked through a lot of history and were well taken care of by US Rangers and Parks Canada Wardens (pardon the terminology). We drove to Whitehorse and had a barbeque at The Elliot residence with soon-to-be-retired wardens Tom Elliot and Kevin McLaughlin and the already retired and ever entertaining Marv Miller.



## THE KEITH EVERTS SCHOLARSHIP.-

The Keith Everts scholarship is awarded annually to a student in or from the Bow Valley interested in pursuing environmentally related studies. It was set up in memory of Keith Everts who sadly passed away shortly after retiring.

Glen Peers tells us that he had a short note from Christine Everts saying that her mom had received a very nice thank you note from the recipient of this year's scholarship: Navarana Smith, Jane Whitneys' daughter. She sounds like an absolutely amazing young woman. She is currently attending the University of Victoria pursuing a double degree in biology and environmental studies. Her parents operated an ecotourism business for many years. Keith was a client on one of their kayak trips to Haida Gwaii, which Navarana was on as well.

Given her impressive resume I'm confident she will be active in the field of environmental protection for many years.

# ISSUES & MATTERS of CONCERNS

## Government Cutbacks to Parks Staff and Budgets

All our members must be aware of these cutbacks. Although they were made to help reduce government spending they certainly reinforce the fact that the current government's emphasis is on industry, jobs and the economy. Ironically, it is the impact of these cutbacks to the provincial economy that the Yukon government, as detailed on Page 7, is up in arms about. What is true this also applies to many national parks and historic sites across Canada.

The Yukon and Jacques Gerin's response are the two examples chosen to highlight these serious issues. Our members must be aware of numerous others and hopefully some of you are also speaking out in protest not only to impacts on parks but to wildlife and the environment as well. George Mercer's comments on how a century of proud has ended can be read at

<http://writenature.com/dismantling-a-legacy/>

The Canadian public is largely unaware or indifferent to the plight of parks and historic sites and the weakening of environmental acts – at this time. This may change; hopefully it will. At the time of publication national support for the Conservative government has risen but recent by-elections in safe ridings have been very close. As for government restraint measures, recent news is that the Canadian national debt is continuing to rise. The millions spent by the Harper gov't on “Economic Action Plan” and other government publicity may be undermining their fiscal agenda and thus their popularity as well.

PARK WARDEN SERVICE

ALUMNI SOCIETY

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

## WARDEN SOCIETY EXECUTIVE

President – Dale Portman

Vice-President – Gordon Antoniuk

Secretary-Treasurer – Marie Nylund

### Directors:

*2 year terms expiring 2013*

Don Mickle,

Kathy Calvert

Rod Wallace

Mac Elder

Perry, Davis

*3 Year Terms expiring May 2015*

Scott Ward

Bob Haney

Perry Jacobson

### Regional Representatives

Mountains – Bob Haney

West Coast – Gord Rutherford

North & Yukon - vacant

Prairies – vacant

Newsletter Editor: Perry Davis

**YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, FIRST SESSION OF THE 33RD LEGISLATURE,  
O R D E R P A P E R, No. 43** - Monday, October 29, 2012 - Unanimously passed:

THAT this House urges the Government of Canada to recognize the important role Parks Canada sites in Yukon play in attracting visitors, increasing the value of Yukon tourism products and supporting local travel and recreation by: (1) ensuring that Dredge No. 4 continues to be open to the public with guided tours, and that operating hours during the summer season are not reduced; (2) . . . ;(3) restoring the funding for the curatorial, conservation and collections management of the quarter of a million artifacts in Dawson City, including the preservation of Dawson's historic buildings; (4) continuing to provide year-round access to Kluane National Park, including access to emergency medical and search and rescue services, ski trails and winter camping opportunities at the Kathleen Lake campground; (5) ensuring that the *SS Klondike* continues to be open to the public with guided tours, and that operating hours during the summer season are not reduced; (6) continuing to provide year-round services for the Chilkoot Trail National Historic site; and (7) promoting the development of interpretive and instructional material for Ivvavik National Park and Vuntut National Park.

Leader of the Opposition Liz Hansen criticized the government for not taking action on this important issue. As a result of the budget cuts she pointed out: " There will be more people employed in a single Tim Horton's than are employed by Parks Canada nationally to preserve and care for millions of archaeological and historic objects in storage and on display."

MLA Scott Kent remarked: "I am hopeful that what we are able to accomplish here today is to send that message to Canada that, although we know budgeting is about making choices and they have their own fiscal pressures and their own fiscal responsibilities that they have to address, we think cuts to Parks Canada were not the right choice."

**GUTTING OUR PARKS' ABILITY TO CONSERVE NATURE**

(This piece by Jacques Gerin appeared in the Ottawa Citizen on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012). Jacques Gerin is a former deputy minister of Environment Canada. He chaired the Minister's Panel on Ecological Integrity of Canada's national parks (1999-2001). (This letter – slightly edited here - was written with and on behalf of the 11 members of that panel.)

Our national parks are part of what makes Canada great. Parks Canada has a strong reputation for excellence. Yet the agency is one of the public institutions hardest hit by the current round of cuts.

In this blizzard of government cuts, it is important to understand what is being lost. The government spin is that these are just "finding efficiencies" and there will be "no reduction in service." Such spin is simply nonsense. Parks Canada is being gutted.

The cuts impact 50 Parks Canada ecosystem scientists - fully one-third of the agency's entire scientific complement. Thirty-six of these scientists are now surplus and 14 are "affected," meaning that their jobs are at stake. These are highly-educated public servants with decades of experience in ecological restoration. These are the people who know what is happening to Canadian ecosystems and how to restore endangered species like caribou, salmon and rare plants.

More than one-quarter of Parks Canada's technical specialists who support science and ecosystem management are being cut: geographic information specialists, remote sensing specialists, monitoring technicians and human-wildlife conflict specialists. Parks Canada has also eliminated its entire in-school program. In an age where our children are increasingly alienated from nature, this is not good news.

People within Parks Canada who have spent years diligently building relationships of trust and respect with members of First Nations are also being let go. It is hard to believe that these relationships will not suffer as a result.

A decade ago, the minister responsible for our national parks accepted The Ecological Integrity Report from a panel of experts. Our report concluded our natural treasures were indeed in danger and the minister accepted all of the report's recommendations. Successive governments took these recommendations seriously and Parks Canada developed a world-class monitoring and science program.

Based on this scientifically rigorous information, Parks Canada was able to take bold steps to restore lakes, prairies, forests and species at risk. Relations with Aboriginal peoples dramatically improved and national parks became part of the curriculum in schools across Canada. These investments contributed to national and international recognition for Parks Canada: last year, the agency received the World Wildlife Fund's Gift to the Earth Award.

All these achievements are now at risk: they will be eliminated or dramatically undermined. Is it too late to reconsider before we undo a decade of great progress?

### **Proposed Warden Alumni Website.**

A sub-committee of the executive is looking in to setting up a website for the alumni. The advantages of a website for our organization are many: the quick sharing of news and the ability to bring our widespread membership closer together, easy input by our regional reps, more generous space limits than in a newsletter, the archiving of material for later access, a greatly expanded readership and a national reach.

The two major obstacles in our way: costs and a webmaster, may have been overcome as there

are now websites with annual fees of under \$50 that can be designed and set up for under \$500. The editor assisted by the regional representatives and the executive would be the webmasters. It all looks promising for us. The newsletter could still be published with material coming from the web. Some of the options include while allowing all members to contribute to the site, the general public would be able to post comments on articles only.

### **Bison Belong Project in Banff National Park**

Parks Canada is now moving into Phase II and will start consulting on a conceptual plan for reintroducing plains bison. Meetings will be held with neighbouring municipalities and stakeholder organizations.

This will be followed by general public consultations early in the new year (2013). The objective of the phased consultation is to ensure that all potential impacts, both in the park and

on neighbouring lands, are carefully considered and addressed in the final reintroduction plan.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to be involved in the public consultation phase, please contact me at 403-760-1342 or at [opinion@pc.gc.ca](mailto:opinion@pc.gc.ca). Tracey LeBlanc, Partnering and Engagement Officer Banff National Park.

**Warden Oral History Project** The Park Warden Service Alumni Society has spent \$21,670.50 towards the collection of Oral Histories. A total of 24 interviews have been conducted to date. Funding for these interviews has come from the Community Spirit Grant of \$5,170.50 received in May of 2011, \$2,500.00 from the balance of the Alberta Culture Grant received from the Centennial celebration, and the balance was funded from membership fees and donations. The Alumni did not qualify to apply for the 2012 Community Spirit Grant but will qualify for the 2013 Grant. To qualify, organizations must receive a minimum of \$1000 in donations in a fiscal year. Membership fees and especially donations are crucial in keeping the Oral History Project alive. Thank you to all those who have made a donation this year.

**Phase 4 of the Oral History Project** commenced with the interview of Muriel and Jim Woledge. A list of future individuals to be invited to participate in Phase 4 of the Oral History Project is being compiled. So far the list includes: Lou Comin, Duane Martin, Scott Ward, Rod Wallace, Gordon Anderson, Byron Irons, Larry Harbidge, Paul Galbraith, Hans Fuhrer and Cal Allen. This will provide the opportunity to include spouses as well.

### **Honorary Lifetime Members**

Please be reminded that members who have reached the age of 80 years qualify as an Honorary Lifetime Member and DO NOT have to pay membership dues. Please indicate on the 2013 Membership Renewal Form if you are 80 years of age or older.

### **Proposed Changes to Warden Alumni By-Laws**

The following by-law amendments were a result of the 2012 Annual General Meeting:

Section 2) 2.2 Honorary members - to expand the membership categories of the Park Warden Service Alumni Society by amending the by-laws, Section 2, sub-section 2.2 "Honorary Members" to create a new sub-section 2.2.1 "**Honorary Lifetime Members**". The intent is to provide a category for members who have reached the age of 80 years. These members would NOT be required to pay a membership fee.

Section 15) Constitution of a Board – to increase the board from 12 persons to a maximum of 14 persons in order to add two more directors to the board.

The Province of Alberta, Corporate Registry has informed us that in order to effect these changes we need to present a special resolution to our Voting Members. Notification of the special resolution will be mailed to only our **voting members** in April 2013 so that it can be voted on at the May Annual General Meeting.

### **GOT SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY?**

Submissions for inclusion in this newsletter are welcome. They may be edited. They should be sent to the Alumni "att'n newsletter editor." The next newsletter is scheduled for this spring.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The next scheduled meeting of the Alumni executive will be February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 10 am. It will likely be held at the Stockmen's Memorial Foundation library in Cochrane. If there are any matters you wish to bring to the executive's attention please do so.

### **THE NEW 5 W'S**

Heard at the Summit Café, Canmore over coffee one morning:

"We Were Wardens, Weren't We?"

If you are in Canmore and drop by the Summit Café before 9:30 most weekdays your chances of joining a retired warden for coffee are very good.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**