Parks Heritage Conservation Society, 15th Floor, 635 - 8th Avenue S.W., Calgary T2P 3M3 January - February 2013 Winter Issue

Jane Rizzoli, Editor

Message From The Executive Board

Gail Fitzmartyn

Unbelievable - another year has passed and we are into 2013. We had another great Christmas Party - well attended and a great time for socializing and catching up with friends and colleagues. We also had another successful year of volunteering - our best ever for the "plaque busters". It is a partnership with Parks that we hope to continue. We expect to continue to have joint events with the Warden Alumni as it is a great opportunity to keep in touch with people from the field locations. Our Newsletter has moved to primarily an electronic offering that is easier to read. Keep your stories coming - they are popular with our readers.

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It has been a tumultuous year for our colleagues at Parks Canada - with many layoffs, and program and reporting changes. We are trying some new initiatives to encourage people who have left or retired to join us. More about that at the AGM. An important change for us is the retirement of DG Bill Fisher. Bill has been a critical link for us and he will be missed. We will begin working with the new person as soon as one is appointed.

The Annual General meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2013. Our society has a healthy bank balance and at the AGM we will be seeking ideas on how to use some of those funds. The Board of Directors have had several conversations around this and we will provide information on those and seek your additional ideas and input. We will also be seeking new Board members - please consider adding your enthusiasm and expertise by joining us. As usual we will provide coffee, pizza, vegetables and some entertainment. Mark it on your calendars and join us at our new location (Calgary Canoe Club 6449 Crowchild Trail Southwest).

CELEBRATIONS

Stu McBride Turns 85.... by Jane Rizzoli

Happy Birthday to Stuart McBride who turned 85 on January 16th of 2013. Stu celebrated his special day with suppers, luncheons and get togethers with good friends. Stu spends many days visiting friends and acquaintances in hospitals, nursing homes, volunteering at the FSNA Office and he even has time to continue singing with his choir – **85 and vibrant with energy** – he's amazing!



Christmas Party - November 2012

by Bob Weaver



There is nothing better than a decorated tree, a fire burning in the open hearth and the warm comfort of an old log building to set the mood for a festive event. Interesting conversation, great food and silent auction bargains were the highlights of our second annual Christmas Party lunch (we have all enjoyed numerous evening parties in the past). This change to a mid-day celebration seems to be taking hold with an excellent turn-out, and for those traveling a distance day time driving is a bonus. After catching up on all the news, we tucked into a great roast beef dinner, followed by short presentations. Bill Fisher, VP for Parks Canada provided his last

update as he has now joined the ranks of the retired. It is very rewarding to spend this time together, sharing stories of the year gone past and chatting about future plans of travel or family gatherings. The chatter was non-stop, only to be interrupted when in serious contemplation to up the bid on a sought after silent auction item. Competition for a few of the items was intense, with counter bids right up to the closing bell! All in good fun, as always!

So now we can look forward to our next gathering. The AGM provides another opportunity to visit, share a meal and keep abreast with fellow member activities, and the spring picnic provides a welcome introduction to the summer. These social events are the bedrock of our Society and form the glue to hold us together. Thank you to all the volunteers who make these parties a success and see you soon.

More photos taken at the Christmas party can be found on Photo Bucket at: http://s1341.beta.photobucket.com/user/phcsdirectors/library/Christmas%202012

What Are People Up To, You Ask . . .

Following the Klondike StampedersDon Mickle



Four retired wardens and one unretired dog headed for Skagway Alaska and the Chilkoot Trail this summer. Kathy Calvert, Dale Portman, Rod Wallace, Don Mickle and Lilly followed the trail of the Klondikers from Dyea Alaska to Lake Bennett Yukon. The coastal rain and fog was at our backs as we headed toward the 3000 ft. Chilkoot Pass from the Pacific Ocean. This was Rod's third trip over the Chilkoot. He was a big hit on the trail with his purple pants and Gandalf hiking pole!

The second camp, Sheep Camp was the last outpost before the Chilkoot Pass. There were 8000 gold seekers there in 1898. We stopped at 'The Scales' where the Stampeders weighed their packs before the ascent into Canada. They had to make 40 trips of 50 lbs. on their backs before the NWMP would let them head for the Yukon River. We climbed the vertical rock pile through heavy fog to the snow covered summit of Chilkoot Pass. There are several interpretive signs telling about the various historic points of interest. There are still many artifacts laying along the trail. One sign 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 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. This was the site of Linderman city during the Klondike 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 back to Skagway. We met a lot of interesting people along the trail and were well taken care of by US Rangers and Park 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, Kevin McLaughlin and the retired and ever entertaining Marv Miller.

Retired, Laidback and Loving it! ... Cornell Wynnobel

In 2005, I was driving down Calgary's Broadcast Hill along Sarcee Trail and a weird machine whizzed by me on the shoulder. He made it down into Bowness long before I got there. I caught up with him and we had a conversation about recumbent bicycles and tricycles. He was on a three wheeled recumbent tricycle which was more like a luge and about 8" off the pavement. I had never seen these vehicles before and I was intrigued!

I have always been interested in bikes. I guess growing up in Holland in the late 1940s and early 50s does that to you. One of my earliest recollections as a child was going cycle camping with my parents. After we moved to Canada, my father rebuilt an old girls bike for me and the streets and sidewalks of Winnipeg became highways to adventure and far off neighbourhoods. Over the years I have bought many bikes and the feeling has remained the same.

I have done the Golden Triangle Rocky Mountain tour many times with other staff members from Parks, such as Kevin Murray and Dave Whiting. I still have memories of the pain that resulted after burning up near 100 km on each section. The idea of selling my road bike was a real possibility after each ride.

After seeing the recumbent tricycle, I was hooked and started to research them. There are many styles and

makers of recumbent human powered vehicles. The main thing I learned, without actually test riding one, is that they are comfortable, incredibly fast and very expensive for a good quality model. Within a very short

time, I determined that I wanted to test ride a recumbent trike, just like the one I had seeing screaming down the hill on Sarcee Trail.



To make a long story short, I found a dealer up near Red Deer, Alberta and my wife and I drove up there to test ride a trike. I was not only intrigued, but I was hooked! I bought my first recumbent trike in the Spring of 2006. I spent a great deal of time riding it around my local area and putting on the kilometers.

During that winter, I met a lot of like-minded folks on-line at Bentrider-on-line. I also looked for areas where I could ride my trike in more exotic locales and some of North Americas rail trails. I found the Trail of the Couerd'Alenes was fairly close to home and decided I would do that during the

Summer of 2007. As luck would have it another recumbent rider in Utah was trying to get a group together to do the 75 mile trail as a semi-organized ride. I joined immediately and in June of that year, 12 of us, from all over North America met for the first time. I was the only Canadian. We spent 5 days riding this wonderful rail trail and getting to know each other. We all became friends and planned to meet the next vear at the same locale.

Over the next 5 years our numbers grew from the initial dozen to over 100. We now commandeer a hotel in Kellogg, Idaho for nearly a week and ride the trail and local roads in the area. The participants come from all over North America and Canada. The event now spreads over a whole week of riding and socializing.





Many of the people who attend this event every year are passionate about these vehicles and many of them own more than one. Over the past year, I have travelled to Idaho, California, Oregon, Washington, Minnesota and Manitoba to ride with various groups of people on abandoned rail trails. Some of these folks have become very good friends and we visit with each other very often.

A few Parks Canada alumni have joined me in riding these trails. In 2009, Jim Taylor retired Historian from the Calgary office joined me in Idaho. In 2012, Rod Wallace, retired Jasper Park Warden and Randy and Judy Mitchell also joined me to ride the Trail of the Couerd Alenes. By all reports they had a great time.

In conclusion, I just love recumbent vehicles and to a certain

degree have changed my retirement for the better. While there is a certain amount of geek factor associated with these vehicles, however, as you get older, it really does not matter as long as you are having fun, getting some exercise and doing it with a lot of very nice folks who share your enthusiasm.

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Christmas with Lois Tremblay



I had a wonderful Christmas with my son Scot & Penny in Victoria, BC. And we can't forget the 2 dogs, Nellie, the Aussie dog and Trixie, the Border Collie..One of the other family members had a little "Pug". He is so cute. They all seemed to tolerate each other despite the differences in size.

We all had Christmas dinner with Penny's family and the dinner was super-delicious! Turkey, Lamb & Ham were served along with yummy sweet potatoes. baked potatoes, green peas, and 2 different kinds of cranberry sauce. I always make my traditional lime jello with Crushed Pineapple and cream cheese - something we have had at Christmas in my family for over 50 years. We used it like cranberry sauce, but some like it for desert.

The day after Christmas a bunch of us took one of the Grandsons and visited the Aquarium . It was very interesting with lots of very colorful fish and for some it was "feeding time". so that was exciting to watch... So, outside of missing Larry at this time of year I had a wonderful Holiday. Larry always worked away a lot, but always came home either just before Halloween or just before Christmas. So this time of year is sometimes hard.

Terry and Linda's Awesome Adventures – Chapter 2

With travel to India under our belt, the past year was again an opportunity for us to tackle a few more places we would like to visit before global climate change and world population demographics change them



irrevocably and/or our age precludes us from seeing and experiencing them.

First on our list was a visit to Belize and to do something out of our normal touring. We chose to go to an atoll called Glovers Reef about 50 km off the coast of Belize to snorkel and sea kayak offered by Island Expeditions out of Vancouver. The atoll's highest point is no more than a meter above sea level and is located within a marine preserve area. It has few permanent buildings and we slept in a tent right on the beach. It was like being at summer camp with meals served in a communal dining room and called to meals with the sound made from blowing into a conch shell. The snorkeling was fantastic and after some hilarious training in water re-entry into the sea kayaks, we had a grand time. After a week of exercise, we then went on to Ambergris Caye

just off the Belize mainland for a week to recuperate by laying around the pool and exploring the mainland and the cave where travel is primarily limited to golf carts.

In November, we ventured off to East Africa on safari as offered by Tourcan Vacations out of Toronto. We touched down in Nairobi, Kenya from whence our safari began. We visited the Lake Nakuru area famous for its large pink flamingo population .It was here that we also had a chance encounter with a male white rhino so close we could almost touch him from the safety of our 4 x 4 pop up roof safari vehicle. We then visited the

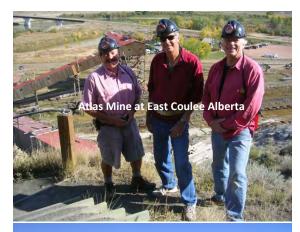
Masai Mara that forms the northern tip of the Serengeti plain where it crosses into Kenya. We visited a Masai tribe village and after "Masai-ing around" and bartering and dancing with several Masai warriors, I landed up purchasing a lighter for 10 Kenyan shillings (\$12 Cdn) that consisted of two sticks that you rub together! They sure saw me coming. We then crossed into Tanzania and spent another five awesome days on safari around the Serengeti including going down into the Ngorongoro Crater. During this time, we saw the "Big Five" (lion, rhino, elephant, leopard and buffalo) as well as so many giraffes, gazelle, hippos, ostrich, warthogs, hyena and zebras that we found ourselves becoming somewhat blaze of seeing them near the end of our safari. We were even fortunate to see several cheetahs and a lioness and her cubs on a kill. We then flew over to the island of Zanzibar, Tanzania where we spent another five days soaking up the sun (and a few brew) around the pool. It



was only after returning home and viewing all of our photos that we realized just how incredible and awesome this trip was. It ranks as our number one trip of the many trips and places we have visited to date. But then there are still many places still calling out to be visited. Next on our bucket list - China.

Volunteering

Plaque- Busting Central Alberta - September 2012 ... Bruce Leeson





Bob Weaver, Russ Kirby and Bruce Leeson had another outstanding adventure refurbishing Historic Sites Plaques in mid September 2012. This time we worked in South Central Alberta, learning about important people and events in Alberta's history, seeing delightful places, and meeting memorable people.

Anthony Henday's plaque in Innisfail was in pretty good condition, but needed freshening up. Anthony Henday, one of my favourite historical personages in Alberta, is credited as being the first "white man" to see and record his impression of the Rocky Mountains north of Mexico. From a hill near present- day Innisfail in October 1754, Henday records his breathtaking sight - "...behold the Shining Mountains".

Later that day we finally located the "Stephansson" plaque in Markerville, not at the Stephanson Historic homestead at all! Stephansson was an Icelandic immigrant to Canada who was a pioneer homesteader in the Markerville area in the late 1800's. Despite the hardships of his existence and being self educated, Stephansson mastered all the Scandinavian languages and later was acclaimed as "unsurpassed by any other Icelandic poet since the Middle Ages". This plaque was in rough shape and required the full treatment. That, and the cooling late afternoon, delayed our completion until dark. When I mentioned this would be about the time the wolves would begin their nocturnal foraging, I noticed Weaver and Kirby picked up their work pace noticeably. As we left

this forsaken location the setting sun highlighted the classic Alberta fall late-day scene of ground fog and combine dust.

Next day - September 18, took us to the delightful town of Alix where we refurbished the unique plaque honouring Mary Irene Parlby, one of the original "Famous Five". She was a tireless promoter of her community and Alberta's agricultural industry in the early 1900 's. The location and setting of this plaque in the community park overlooking Alix Lake was the most delightful I have seen so far - see the pic. Late that day we traversed Alberta's rolling parkland terrain on our way to Drumheller - a wonderful visual delicacy to pass through this picturesque countryside as the extensive aspen forests turned golden, and farmers worked late into the night to combine their grain. Memorable supper at Boston Pizza that night!

Early next morning - another sunny, warm day, we headed to the Atlas Mine near East Coulee, Alberta. While briefly pausing at the entrance pondering where we should look for the plaque in this large site, we were approached by a young woman who was heading to the gate to put up the "open" sign. At her query if we were lost, Russ explained why we were there and that we were wondering where the historic site plaque was. She leaned her sign against the truck and with a great flourish completely popped open her shirt to reveal the word "GUIDE" emblazoned across her t-shirt which constrained an ample bosom. Russ was tongue-tied and Bob promptly drove into the ditch. Turned out she was the manager of the site, and was delighted to take us under her care to get our work done. Fortunately, the plaque being in good repair, required only minor attention. That left us plenty of time to join a complimentary tour of the mine. What an intriguing place, and such friendly staff! (see - www.atlascoalmine.ab.ca). Late lunch at the ancient Last Chance Saloon in nearby Wayne finished up the official complements of our assignment.

Our drive back to Calgary provided plenty of time to contemplate appreciation of our beautiful province, and to wonder if Parks Canada might check out the charming visitor greetings practised by a National Heritage Site operated by a Historical Society.

Volunteer Work in 2012 and Looking ahead to 2013 Rob Harding

The volunteer work completed by PHCS members in 2012 was substantial. A record 353 hours of volunteer hours was committed to inspecting and refurbishing 24 HSMBC plaque sites throughout central and northern BC and central Alberta. Our thanks go out to the committed team of plaque busters including Bob Weaver, Bruce Leeson, Russ Kirby, Terry and Linda McGuire, Glenn Webber and Rob Harding. In addition, others including Tom Smith participated in the demonstration/training event in Calgary.

In 2012 the PHCS plaque busters were provided with a new lease vehicle that provided safe and comfortable transportation. Over 4,000 km were covered in various trips as far away as Fort St James BC. A thorough review of safe work practices was completed resulting in the purchase and updating of safety equipment and refinements to some of the techniques and materials used. As well, Parks Canada is now providing a cell phone for emergency use. The training/orientation program including safe work practices was very well received and will be a mandatory component for new recruits in 2013.

The work completed supported a number of Field Units in the mountain parks and efforts are being made to ensure the respective Field Unit Superintendents are made aware of the

Glenn Webber and Rob Harding working on Caribou Trail sign at Barkerville.. The road was so washed out we couldn't get the trailer into the site

scope of work undertaken. As well, observations such as missing plaques and other issues will be



referred to the respective Field Units. Support for the program remains strong and we anticipate the funding for this initiative will continue in 2013. As with any funding initiative, we may not receive confirmation of funding until May 2013.

Volunteer activities outside of the plaque maintenance work was limited to Bruce Leeson participating in the Bar U Ranch spring opening preparation in May. PHCS members are reminded that Parks Canada has other volunteer initiatives available for our members. If you are interested in other types of activities contact Rob Harding.

As we look forward to 2013 some of the challenges facing Parks Canada have become our challenges. A number of our Field Unit contacts have retired and in most cases the new contacts have not been identified. This is critical to help us identify work priorities and plan travel routes. We have reported a number of missing and removed plaques to the agency as part of our inspections yet it is unclear if there are resources to replace them. Another outstanding issue is the reductions to the work hours for the administrative support person in Rocky Mountain House who has routinely updated the master files with our annual inspection reports. Rob

Harding will be working with this person to monitor progress. We will continue to investigate and refine our methods and equipment to improve the efficiency and effectives of our work practices.

Ken Pigeon has left the Bar U Ranch but we have been assured there is still interest for PHCS volunteers to participate in the spring preparation (May 20-24) and Aggie Days in Calgary scheduled for April 10-14. Give Rob Harding a call (403 762-5448) or drop him an email if you are interested in getting involved.

Despite these challenges, our volunteers continue to undertake valuable work that is strongly supported by Parks Canada and the communities that value their heritage. For our volunteers it is an opportunity to reconnect with good friends and protect our cultural heritage.

Migrations



Tracy Thiessen, Executive Director Mountain Parks is currently acting in Bill's position.

Pam Vienotte left Banff in August to become the first Field Unit Superintendent of the newly created Rouge National Urban Park on the outskirts of Toronto.

Dave McDonough has been appointed the new Field Unit Superintendent for Banff.

Melanie Kwong, Chief of Staff-Corporate Services has been appointed the new Field Unit Superintendent for Lake Louise, Yoho, Kootenay Field Unit replacing Dave McDonough.

Ken Pigeon has left the Bar U Ranch to become the manager of the OH Ranch, his wife **Deb** is currently acting superintendent of the Bar U Ranch until the end of March.

Further afield:

Don Marrin is the new Executive Director, Northern Canada **Diane Wilson** is the new Field Unit Superintendent Western Arctic.

Retirements



Bill Fisher retired on Nov 30, 2013 as Vice President Operations, Western and Northern Canada. Bill addressed the PHCS at the Christmas Party the evening before his retirement. Congratulations Bill – wishing you all the best!

Rod Pickard retired from Parks Canada this fall after spending the last two years of his career as project manager for the Cave and Basin NHS redevelopment. The site is scheduled to reopen in May 2013.

Upcoming and Current Events

AGM - February 19th, 2013 9 (TUESDAY)

Date and Time: Tuesday, February 19th, 2013

11 am to 2 pm

Location: Calgary Canoe Club

6449 Crowchild Trail Southwest

(403) 246-5757

http://calgarycanoeclub.com/



We will hold the Annual General Meeting from 11 am to Noon - to be followed by a pizza lunch served with veggies and soft drinks provided by the Society.

Please refer to the detailed notice was sent out in mid January.

Membership

different location

If you haven't already renewed your membership in the PHCS please use the form below and send your 2013 dues to Peter Kroeger (24 Cedardale Hill, SW, Calgary, T2W 5J1). Please also update your contact information for our records and let us know if you're interested in helping out on the Board of Directors. We can always use your help.

PARKS HERITAGE CONSERVATION SOCIETY 15th Floor, 635-8thAve SW, Calgary, AB T2P 3M3

Your membership is important. Any contribution of services and/or money ensures the continuation of the work of Parks Retirees/Associates. Annual Dues are: \$10.00 (January 1 to December 31) Fees are waived for the first year of your retirement.

Please make cheques payable to PHCS and send to Peter Kroeger (24 Cedardale Hill, SW, Calgary, T2W 5J1.

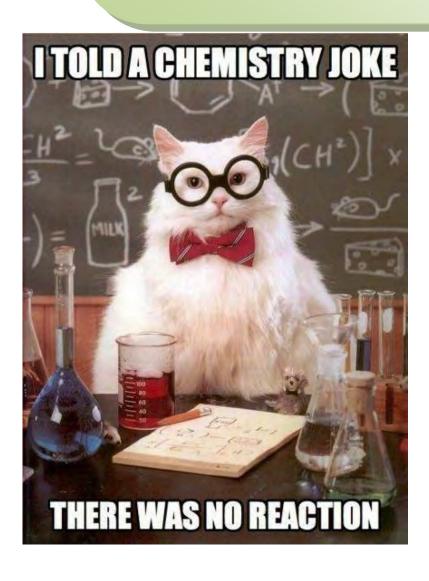
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Address	POSTAL CODE		nterested interested inteering for:
Telephone Alt Phone		۵	Social activities
E-mail address		۵	Director Position
Spouse's Name		۵	Volunteer Activities
Year of Your Retirement			

THE LAST TRAIL

	2004	Cliff Steele	October 23
	2005	Bill Turnbull Carole Wiebe Mike Schintz Jim Lunney Margaret Seel Dick Kendall John B Heppes	February 13 March 15 August 20 October 6 October 12 December 18 December 28
MAR	2006	Doug Wellock Dick Sloan Bunny Farlay Bud Gilmour	January 26 January March 23 May 28
HILLIANS	2007	Glen Finley Walter Parama Jim Rouse	January 29 March 6 September 28
	2008	Bruce MacKinnon Bill Bennett Andy Walker Larry Tremblay George Rogers Vera Fuhrmann	July 5 July 13 August July 29 October 2 November 5
	2009	Ross Innes Heather McColl Donald Farmer Ken Preston Douglas Sullivan Paul Hartley Bill McDaniel Bob Lightfoot	January 1 March 20 April 12 April 15 April 27 September 28 November 20 December 4
	2010	George Balding George Yeates Willie Pfisterer Bruce Wilson	February 22 April 8 July 21 August 12
W. Line	2011	Alex Zellermeyer Maurice Olynyk Dave Poll Bob Redhead	June 25 July 20 November 1 December 29
	2012	Bryan Rizzoli Belle Mathie Marvin Hayne	February 6 February 20 November 21

SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gail Fitzmartyn	President	403-547-6171
Terry McGuire	Vice-President	403-249-3998
Cornell Wynnobel	Secretary	403-932-5163
Peter Kroeger	Treasurer	403-251-5316
Bob Weaver	Membership	403-228-0117
Jane Rizzoli	Communications	403-239-4968
Rob Harding	Activity Director	403-762-5448
Cliff Kaleski	Membership	780-922-4202
Rod Wallace	Warden Representative	403-932-1774





The next issue is targeted to be out around Spring 2013. If people have articles and/or pictures they would like to share with the Membership, please send to Jane Rizzoli at mjrizzoli@shaw.ca either in a Word Doc or in the body of your email. We ask that your pictures be sent outside of your Word Doc and in a jpeg format (both can be sent within the same email). We appreciate your input.

Please put <u>Article for PHCS Newsletter</u> in 'Subject' of email. Thanks.