

PARK WARDEN SERVICE ALUMNI SOCIETY

Spring 2015 NEWSLETTER

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

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.”



A huge “thank you!” to all of the donors who have contributed to the Oral History Project and in support of the Park Warden Service Alumni for 2014 and 2015. Donations have made it possible for the Oral History Project to continue. Thank You!!

Donors include: Dorothy Carleton, Michael Carleton, Brian Carleton, Terry Carleton, Alfie & June Burstrom, Colleen Balding, Peter Applejohn, Rob Ashburner, Gordon Rutherford, David Reynolds, Bill Walburger, Bill Dolan, Karsten Heuer, Ian Syme, Earl Skjonsberg, Larry & Jane Gilmar, John Taylor, Ann Dixon-Bruder, Jack Holroyd, Don Waters, Alice Hermanrude, Robert Hermanrude, Rob Watt, Wes Olson, Smokey & Lyn Guttman, Alan Westhaver, Greg Keesey, Sean Cox, Cynthia Stewart, Bob Stevenson, Cliff White, Rick Kunelius, Garth Lemke, Mac & Cathy Elder, and Dennis Herman.

UPCOMING 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF THE PARK WARDEN SERVICE ALUMNI SOCIETY

WHEN: Thursday, June 4, 2015. Meeting starts at 2 p.m.

WHERE: Pine Bungalows, Jasper

WHAT: The usual + election of officers.

Pine Bungalows is located a few miles east of Jasper townsite. Turn off at the east entrance towards the Athabasca River: easy to get to with plenty of parking.



The resort has offered a special accommodation rate of \$50 **per night** for a room and \$75 **per night** for a cabin plus taxes for our AGM. If you are interested in staying there you must make a reservation by phone or on the web. The phone # is 780 852 3491 and their website is www.pinebungalows.com.

NB: Pine Bungalows has a “**No pets**” policy.

A bar-b-q follows the meeting. It will also be at the Pine Bungalows. There will be a nominal \$10/person charge payable on site. If you are planning to come to the bar-b-q please RSVP to parkwarden2008alumni@hotmail.com or to Marie Nylund at (403) 638-1284.

Warden Lives

The life of the old time warden is getting some publicity and appears to be a source of interest to the public.

1. The alumni society, as you know, is continuing with Phase 6 of the Oral History Project for yet another year. So far, Christine has interviewed Peter Fuhrmann, Bev Hunter, Ev Gilmar, Peter Whyte and Rod Wallace.

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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.

WARDEN SOCIETY

Executive:

President – Dale Portman

Vice-President – Gordon Antoniuk

Secretary-Treasurer – Marie Nylund

Directors:

2 & 3 year terms all expiring 2015

Don Mickle,

Kathy Calvert

Rod Wallace

Mac Elder

Gordon Anderson

Perry Davis

Scott Ward

Bob Haney

Perry Jacobson

Cliff White

Larry Gilmar

Regional Representatives

Mountains – Gord Anderson

West Coast – Vacant

North & Yukon – Tom Elliot

Ontario – John Taylor

Eastern Canada – Bev Hunter

Newsletter Editor: Perry Davis

2. The executive is looking into publishing a coffee table book on the warden service – see separate article below.
3. Max Winkler recently had an article published on him by CPAWS. Excerpts are also included with this newsletter. You can read the complete article in CPAWS Winter 2014/15 Newsletter on their website. Max and Julie gave a talk about their life in the backcountry on a Marigold Library system live video broadcast recently and answered the audience's questions, from all across southern Alberta.

“The Wardens”

The Wardens band goes into full swing again this April starting their fifth year together. The band is doing a British Columbia tour with stops in Revelstoke on April 7th; Kelowna on April 8th; and then to Burnaby from April 9th to 11th for B.C. Showcase which is similar to the Alberta Showcase that the band participated in last fall - the band performs in front of an audience of talent scouts and then they man a booth for the weekend. The band will be doing several shows in Regina in August and others around Alberta throughout the spring, summer and fall. They have a local gig in Banff in April. You can stay abreast of their shows on their webpage at www.banffwardens.com and/or "like" the band on Facebook. Some new original songs will be added to the act.

Born to the Wild -

*Journals of a National
Park Warden in the
Canadian Rockies*

In this new book former Park Warden Rob Kaye recounts his boyhood adventures growing up in Jasper National Park and his experiences as a warden patrolling the vast mountain wilderness that he called home. Kaye gives a vivid account of the wardens' lives in the park. He describes backcountry encounters with wolves, bears, bighorns, and other wildlife, as well as accounts of survival and tales of adversity. He also relates heartfelt and humorous stories about the backcountry wardens' most trusted

companions—the riding and packhorses that shared their high country travels.

The author's passion for the preservation and protection of wilderness and wildlife is a theme that runs throughout the book. Kaye invites the reader to ponder the future of our national parks. In reflecting on his career with the Warden Service, he illustrates how the few remaining (and no longer pristine) wild spaces are threatened by over-use, commercial development, habitat loss, and climate change.

The book is expected out in July. Rob will be at this year's Warden Alumni A.G.M. in Jasper.

Proposed Coffee Table Book

Perry Jacobson is spearheading an alumni project to have a coffee table book published with photos of the warden service starting from 1909 and on up through the years. The format of the book would primarily be photos of park wardens at work at their various tasks and responsibilities. The photos will be accompanied by descriptive captions. The book would contain an introductory section describing the history of the warden service. There is certainly no shortage of photographic material to charm the public with. Perhaps it will get your curiosity aroused enough to dig in your photo collections? A publisher has expressed interest at this early stage. So members with photos that could add to the lustre of this book are asked to contact Perry Jacobson directly or through the Warden Alumni Association.

And there are those old phones – they caused quite a lot of discussion at the last warden executive meeting. It seems they are a collector's item. Don Mickle recalls seeing dozens of them in a storage shed belonging to the Lake Louise Ski Area. They used to be mounted on trees throughout the ski area when wardens were the ski

patrol. Are there any pictures of this unusual installation? What was the phone protocol back then and who listened in to who? Any photos of staff using the phones – in the field or in the office?



Don said he made it a mission after the system was decommissioned to gather up wire in the backcountry: it was a hazard to horses and caused the deaths of many mammals. Tim Auger, on the other hand, remembers restoring the line between Yoho West Gate and the Chancellor Campground his first summer on trail crew. Perhaps it is still in operation? Just one example of the wealth of anecdotes that are out there and that could go well with a photo and maybe a message.

Winkler Warden, by Max Winkler (excerpted from *CPAWS Winter 2014/15*)

Being a park warden is not a job but a way of life, my chief warden once told me.

As a youth in Bavaria, Germany, I biked, skied and climbed at home as well as in Austria and Italy. Later I moved to Edmonton and whenever possible spent time in Banff, Jasper and Elk Island. I met several park wardens and learned what their work entailed and what national parks stood for. Within five years, I had gained Canadian citizenship, and applied to be a park warden in Jasper. It was the beginning of a 28-year career in which I and my family were privileged to live in incredibly beautiful surroundings.

Of the 14 districts that existed in Jasper until the mid-1970s, five were accessible only by trails using horses in summer, or by using snowshoes or skis in winter. My work involved trail patrols covering the district, cabin and phone line maintenance, game counts, checking for possible poachers and forest fires. We lived in a log cabin year-round with the exception of 15 days' annual leave or for taking training courses. We were on call 24 hours a day. The warden was allowed to have one day in town each month when he turned in a monthly report and picked up supplies and groceries. Getting to town in winter could sometimes mean four or five days of snowshoeing. Holidays could only be taken in the off-season of November until April.

It is amazing that in the late 1880s some people in North America had the foresight and determination to establish the world's first national parks, like Yellowstone . . . and Banff. Most of the millions of visitors who come to our parks each year are seeking a relatively undisturbed area where wildlife, plants, forests, rivers and lakes survive as they have for countless centuries. Parks Canada is to be commended for establishing many new parks throughout Canada . . .

These are living, invaluable museums, preserving a relatively pristine environment. But now Ottawa wants our parks to pay for themselves . . . To me, it is a disservice to have our parks operated as a business . . . They belong to all of us, rich and poor. To raise revenue, we are being offered Disneyland-type entertainment from commercial operators like Brewster and Maligne Tours. We now have the Glacier Walk near the Columbia Icefields and the via ferrata on Mt. Norquay. And we are fighting to prevent developers from erecting overnight accommodation at Maligne Lake in contravention with longstanding park policy. I think back to the vision of the National Parks Act of 1930. Although the act has been amended a number of times, the dedication clause has remained consistent. It states: "The National Parks of Canada are hereby dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, education

and enjoyment... and National Parks shall be maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for future generations.” Henry D. Thoreau wrote, “In Wilderness is the preservation of

the world.” That was almost 200 years ago and these words are even more meaningful today.

Max Winkler

The Executive's Doings

The next meeting is scheduled for Wed., April 22nd. It will be held, courtesy of Stan Cowley, at the Buffalo Nations Museum in Banff. Admission is \$10/adult or \$9/senior. Memberships and finances are always on the agenda. Both are healthy but, of course, more is better in both cases. Our 2014 financial affairs have been audited and the report will be presented at the Annual General Meeting on June 4th.

The Oral History Project, already mentioned, is one major project we support. We are now in Phase 6!

Another is the **Ya-Ha-Tinda Ranch Centennial** in 2017. Bob Haney will be contacting Banff Park Superintendent McDonough about holding and funding this event with Parks Canada. The executive is determined that there will be a celebration of this centennial and feels the alumni members are in full support. We do not yet have a clear idea of what our commitment will be but are working on it well in advance of the event.

Stan Cowley made a presentation at the Feb. 5th meeting of the executive on an interpretive display he would like to install in **the Buffalo Nations Luxton Museum in Banff**. He envisions a life size display of a warden and two horses in the backcountry. His presentation went over well and Stan was asked to submit a detailed proposal. Don Mickle is to assist Stan in preparing the proposal. In his presentation Stan pointed out that exhibits have to be largely self-explanatory as the museum has an international clientele. The museum is popular with school children and offers free admission to children under age 6.

The Warden Alumni **website** domain name has been renewed for another year at a nominal fee.

Thank you to those members who have renewed their membership for 2015. We are still waiting on a few more members to send in their membership.

“For Future Generations”

The Bison are Coming Back

As you must have heard the federal government has earmarked 6.4 million dollars for a five-year program to re-introduce plains bison to Banff National Park. The first years of the program will be spent on environmental assessment work, the development of outreach, visitor programs and stakeholder consultations. Not until year four will bison be released after they have been monitored for diseases. In making the announcement in Banff MP Blake Richards referred to Canada and Alberta's tourism industry.

Informed opinions on the re-introduction cover a lot of ground. Andy Anderson is not in favour. Cliff White feels that 1,000 head is far too many to be successful and that they will have to be hunted; Jim Davies, in a letter to the editor, pointed out possible highway safety concerns; and Gord Antoniuk commented that wolves in Banff may have to re-learn how to hunt bison so some “experienced” wolves may need to be re-introduced.

March 22 was World Water Day (by Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians)

Local Council of Canadians chapters hosted public awareness and community action events from Courtenay, British Columbia to Lunenburg, Nova Scotia on this day. Canada has a particularly important role to play in the protection of water as we're home to 7% of the world's renewable freshwater. But in 2012, the Harper government removed environmental protections from many of our lakes and rivers by gutting the Navigable Waters Protection Act. The government also exempted pipelines projects from the new law, leaving waterways vulnerable to oil spills.

For World Water Day, Maude researched and wrote a new report. She found that in January 2015 there were 1,838 drinking water advisories in Canadian communities including reserves. Growing threats to water include tar sands expansion, pipeline spills, fracking, climate change and agricultural run-off. Canada needs a National Water Policy that recognizes the human right to water, establishes national enforceable drinking water standards . . . and stops projects that threaten water. Maude Barlow

CPAWS 2014 State of the Parks Report.

This report is now available on their website. Here is a selection of sub-headings from the “Table of Contents”:

Developments in Rocky Mountain national parks out of step with policy, science and public opinion / Funding challenges put National Parks’ ecological integrity at risk/ Nahanni parks threatened by industrial developments/ Alberta’s Castle Wilderness remains unprotected/ Path forward unclear for Rouge National Urban Park/ Newfoundland and Labrador Natural Areas System Plan missing in action/ Nova Scotia thinks big on conservation/ Buffer zone for Gros Morne National Park gains momentum/ New national park at East Arm of Great Slave Lake moving forward.

The CPAWS report takes a balanced view as you might have guessed by including good news as well as the bad news.

Whooping Crane Sightseeing: from C. B. C. North: News

With Wood Buffalo National Park's whooping crane population on the rise, giving the public a front row seat to view something very few people have ever seen. This summer, Parks Canada is offering guided tours to migratory whooping crane nesting grounds. Thirty lucky people will get a chance to join a flyover at an altitude of 1000 feet. Six will trek through the boggy habitat to a blind about 200 metres from the nests. "This is the only natural, self-sustaining nesting flock in the entire world." says Richard Zaidan, manager of visitor experience at Wood Buffalo. The tours were designed to increase interest in the endangered species, which can assist with recovery efforts, Zaidan says.



On the brink of extinction in the 1940s, the migratory whooping crane flock has grown to 308 birds. Parks Canada says the cranes still face many challenges, such as disease and encountering toxic spills during their migration south.

"Before the visitors come, park staff are going to go in and test this," he says, "and if we detect any disturbances at all, we will leave the area, and we won't go back."

Some of the packages cost nearly \$4,000 and half the tours have sold out thus far.

Parks Canada hopes the pictures from the tours will go viral, raising awareness about the whooping cranes' fragile state.

World Wildlife Week is April 6 – 11. Proclaimed by Parliament in 1947, National Wildlife Week falls every year during the week of April 10 – the birthdate of the late Jack Miner, one of the founders of Canada’s conservation movement. “Wild Goose Jack”, as he was known, is credited with saving the Canada Goose from extinction. 2015 would mark Jack Miner’s 150th birthday. Check the Canadian Wildlife Federation website for more information.

Wings over the Rockies Festival – Invermere, May 4 -10.

This year’s theme is fossils and feathers. Details on the website www.wingsovertherockies.org.

Social Notes

Glen Peers & The Keith Everts Warden Service Scholarship Fund.

This scholarship is awarded in the amount of \$1,000.00 to a student in the Bow Valley school system who intends to pursue environmental studies. Donations to the scholarship come from the Banff Warden Office Social Committee and individual retired Banff Park employees who have all been directly associated with the Warden Service in one way or another. The Park Warden Alumni Society makes a donation yearly to this worthwhile

initiative but if you care to do so on your own – as some of us do – here are Glen’s instructions: “As usual, I am hoping you can once again open your wallets and come up with the annual \$50 donation. Remember, since this is a non-profit effort, as long as you send a cheque with your name and return address on it, the Canadian Rockies Public Schools will send you a receipt for tax purposes.

Make your \$50 cheque out to Canadian Rockies Public Schools (CRPS).

Date it for June 1st, 2015

Mail it to me: G. Peers, P.O. Box 73, Banff, T1L 1A2 no later than June 5th.

After the scholarship applications are reviewed and the successful recipient chosen, the CRPS then issues the \$1000.00 cheque to me in the name of the successful candidate. If you have any questions or comments please drop me a line or give me a call at 403-762-2893

Hard to believe this is the ninth time around. Thanks for your continued support folks.” Glen

Retirements – watch for announcements posted on our website and circulated via e-mail.

Request for a 100 Year Park Warden Pin

Can any reader assist Yves Bosse in tracking down one of these pins? Rod Wallace recalls that they were made by Friends of Jasper, and were sold at the 2009 celebration in Banff. If anyone knows where one can be had please contact Yves at Yves.Bosse@pc.gc.ca.



From Ev Gilmar: e-mail dogma@bcsupernet.com

We have moved off Vancouver Island (no more contending with BC Ferries – Yeaaaaah) and now live 17 km up the Salmon River Valley from Salmon Arm. Any of the old pack who happen out this way has an open invitation to stay. We have 20 acres so there is lots of room to park an RV, boat, quads, or horses - or to camp. Sorry no spare bedrooms but of course you can use the bathrooms. Please make reservations. 😊 If you don’t need a place to stay we would still love to see any of you for a visit. BYOB 😊

I am presently living in a trailer park about a mile from the farm but I will be moving it out to the farm when I get around to it. Farm Address: 1101 Salmon River Road, Salmon Arm, BC. My phone # 250-833-4541.



From The Yukon News, Whitehorse

I was glad to receive Art Johns’ suggestion to have Smokey Guttman’s accomplishments recognized. Guttman’s Museum of Nostalgia is an essential stop for Yukoners and visitors alike. I certainly believe that Guttman is a Colourful Five Per Center. A big thank you to Art Johns and Nola Lamken for this nomination. Johns’ letter follows:

Hello Jim Robb:

Art Johns nominates Smokey Guttman (Haines Junction) for the Colourful Five Per Cent. Smokey spent hundreds, or more probably thousand, of hours of detail work, collection and thought creating his Museum of Nostalgia. That place is a tribute to patience, perseverance, local folk interest and innovation.

All kinds of memorabilia and artifacts he’s found, or replicated, tell Yukon stories in imaginative ways. For instance, he’s taken tiny toy soldiers and carved and painted them until they become plodding 98’ers. Fascinating browsing and a Yukon historical education await any who venture there.

Newsletter submissions

Social news from the regions outside the mountain parks would be especially welcome to enlarge this newsletter’s coverage. Submissions for inclusion in the newsletter are always welcome including letters.

Andy Anderson's Season Greetings

I DO HOPE THIS FINDS YOU AND YOURS WELL AND ENJOYING LIFE. AT THIS TIME OF YEAR IT IS HARD TO GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT WHEN I THINK OF THE LOVED ONES AND FRIENDS WE HAVE LOST AND THE TRIBULATIONS OTHERS ARE FACING. I AM THANKFUL FOR MY RELATIVELY GOOD HEALTH. I HAVE HAD TO GIVE UP GOLF, BUT AM STILL DRIVING, GETTING FORGETFUL AND I HAVE THE FINE ART OF PROCRASTINATION MASTERED. THAT IS WHY YOU ARE GETTING THIS LATE GREETING.

ANOTHER YEAR HAS SLIPPED BY. I WONDER WHERE TIME WENT THEN REALIZE THAT THOSE TASKS THAT TOOK TEN MINUTES TO ACCOMPLISH NOW TAKE HOURS. WE ARE DOING FINE; ROB, SHAWNA AND THE TWINS, MACKENZIE AND JETT ARE IN GOOD HEALTH. THE GRAND-CHILDREN ARE A DELIGHT. SHAWNA AND ROB DO HAVE A PROBLEM. SHE IS ALLERGIC TO CAT DANDER. ROB PRACTICALLY REBUILT THE PLACE BUT TO NO

AVAIL. IT WAS AFFECTING SHAWNA MUCH WORSE SINCE THE TWINS CAME., THEY HAD TO MOVE OUT AND RENT. WE PUT THE ACREAGE UP FOR SALE. THEY HAVE NOW BOUGHT A PLACE IN PENTICTON, NICE THREE BDRM. ROB HAS BEEN STAYING AT THE ERRINGTON PLACE AND DOING SOME FINISHING AND LOOKING AFTER THE ANIMALS AND HOUSE SALE BUT GETTING OVER TO PENTICTON WHEN TIME PERMITS.

I'M IN A SEMI CARE "SENIOR CONDO". I SPEND A GOOD DEAL OF TIME ON MY COMPUTER. GATHERING NEWS AND E-MAILING MY PEARLS OF WISDOM TO MP'S, EDITORS AND TOLERANT FRIENDS. I PLAY BRIDGE ON THE COMPUTER, WORLD WIDE WITH MY SISTER IN PETERBRO AS MY PARTNER. WE DO WELL, WIN MORE THEN WE LOSE.

ALL FOR NOW. OUR VERY BEST WISHES FOR 2015.

ANDY AND FAMILY

From the Newsletter Editor.

An explanation appears to be in order in response to a letter about the Climate Change article included in the last edition. Notices about environmental and conservation issues in Canada are included as being just the sort of items one would expect in a newsletter for former wardens the same way one would expect to find aquatic issues mentioned in a newsletter for retired fisheries staff or pieces on proposed criminal legislation in a retired cops newsletter. Advocacy is part of the Warden Alumni Association's Mission Statement and by including this sort of material it does bring them to member's attention and allow them to react or not as they so choose. The editor and the executive are well aware that members take widely different stands or no stand at all on environmental and conservation matters and respect this diversity.

And remember to scrounge around for material for the coffee table book, please.

P. Davis

