

PARK WARDEN SERVICE ALUMNI SOCIETY SPRING 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.”

MEMBERSHIPS

We encourage you to keep your membership current. Memberships are vital to funding of the Oral History Project, Website costs and operational costs.

Forms are now available on our website parkwardenalumni.com. The form can be downloaded, completed and submitted by mail along with your cheque to the secretary-treasurer at the address above.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in Banff again this year. Note – earlier start time. As usual it will be followed by the barbecue. Please mark your calendars!

Date: Wednesday, May 15th, 2013

Location: Banff Royal Canadian Legion, Dieppe Room, downstairs

***Time: 10:00 a.m.

BAR-B-Q

Barbecue to be held at the Banff Light Horse Association
Jerry Martin Picnic Shelter. Meet at 4:00 pm. BBQ at 5:00 pm

Hamburger patties, buns, condiments will be provided. Salads & desserts would be appreciated.

RSVP to parkwarden2008alumni@hotmail.com if you are attending so that we can plan how much to buy. Or RSVP to Marie at (403) 638-1284

BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN - MAYBE

In the early days of the Warden Alumni, I was willing, maybe even eager, to help out in the backcountry with cabin maintenance, trail clearing, wildlife observation – many of the things members had once done and which still need to be done. Helping out at the Ya-Ha-Tinda and with the proposed Bison Restoration Project were other activities of interest to the Alumni. However, the park's volunteer requirements at that time were an obstacle.

That obstacle may have been largely removed. Bill Hunt, Resource Conservation Head for the Banff Field Unit, recently met with three of the executive – Don Mickle, Perry Davis and Gord Antoniuk. In answer to questions about the alumni helping out he said the park had relaxed its volunteer requirements. Former wardens with known horse experience would be accepted as such and not required to take horse training. The same applied in other matters such as use of tools in the backcountry. More clarification on the First Aid requirements is needed however.

The use of personal horses was still questionable and Bill said the parks still has a horse herd and wants them used. He made it clear that any work done could not replace, but would have to assist park employees in their work. He felt that the alumni could have an additional role to play here in mentoring staff in horsemanship and backcountry travel while on the trail.

While Bill was speaking for Banff we assume that what he had to say applied generally to the mountain parks.

THE WARDENS CD

The CD is ready; all original songs about warden life. Those mean dudes pictured below are Brad Bischoff, Ray Schmidt and Scott Ward. The production of this CD was a project that the Alumni helped to support financially. The official release will be held at The Club, Banff Centre on April 7th. Tickets are \$10 each at the door and seating is limited so come early. Doors open at 7 p.m. This event will be hosted by Karsten Heuer and will include story telling by Dorothy Carleton, Frank Burstrom, Gord Irwin and Brianna Burley.

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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.

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

Gordon Anderson

Perry, Davis

3 Year Terms expiring May 2015

Scott Ward

Bob Haney

Perry Jacobson

Regional Representatives

Mountains – Gord Anderson

West Coast – Ev Gilmar

North & Yukon – Tom Elliott

BC Interior – Gord Rutherford

East coast – Bev Hunter – to be confirmed

Ontario – John Taylor – to be confirmed

Newsletter Editor: Perry Davis

Website: parkwardenalumni.com



“The Wardens” will be putting on a benefit concert as a way of helping the Alumni Society financially. A sub-committee has been formed to organize the event. It will be held the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 15th in Cochrane. This seemed a good choice as it could draw people from the surrounding areas – Airdrie, Bragg Creek, Millarville, Square Butte, Priddis, Black Diamond, Turner Valley, Dog Pound, Cremona and Water Valley. It will be held indoors. Tickets will probably be \$15 for adults.

The committee will be contacting other performers such as Sid Marty, Perry Jacobson and Monica Schaefer. We will keep you posted – watch our website.

YOUR EXECUTIVE



Back: Mac Elder, Marie Nylund, Kathy Calvert, Dale Portman, Don Mickle, handsome stranger in top hat, (Senator Matthew Cochrane perhaps?) Johnny Nylund & Rod Wallace . FRONT: Gord Antoniuk, Scott Ward.
MISSING: Perry Jacobson, Gord Anderson and Bob Haney (Photo taken by Perry Davis)

RECENT DOINGS

Glad to say that life is neither dull nor routine on the executive. Something or other keeps popping up – like setting up a website – or projects that need to be kept going – like the oral history project.

It is probably easiest to just list recent doings. More later in this newsletter on some of them.

1. Organizing a fund-raiser for the Society in Cochrane on Sept. 15th at the “Seniors On The Bow”.
2. Revising & registering our by-laws to meet legal requirements of Alberta Corporate Registry.
3. Keeping the oral history project going – the interviews, the transcription, the grant applications.
4. Applying for copyright for those oral histories already completed.
5. Continuing work with the Whyte Museum and Parks Canada on the Warden Archives.
6. Soliciting, recruiting or arm-twisting members to serve as regional representatives.
7. Investigating feasibility of publishing a condensed version of the Warden Oral Histories.
8. Launching the Website and inviting members to participate.



What you see above is what you will see when you log on to the alumni society website.

The executive agreed to the setting up of the website as a good way of allowing the members to keep in touch with each other considering that they are spread across the nation. All members have access to the site. On it you can post your own material which covers just about anything: got a horse for sale, have a trip planned and are looking for companions or did something you just have to tell others about. Lost something, found something, got a question that needs answering, a picture to share – it can all go on our website now. Call it a democratic, national (international actually) newspaper.

You can find the site on the internet at parkwardenalumni.com. As an alumni member you can post material. Members were sent an “invitation to the Website” and a “Users” Tutorial. You need to “accept” the invitation in order to ‘post’ items onto the website. Only paid up members are invited as “Users”. Non

members are invited as “followers” and are restricted from posting anything onto the website, but can make comments on posts. Once you have “accepted the invitation”, completed the registration of your user name and registered a password, you are ready to post. Here’s what to do:

Log onto parkwardenalumni.com/wp-admin. Enter either your user name (or email address) and your password. This will get you into the site.

Click on the “post” button & then “add new”

Add a title to your post in the top bar and then type your message.

Scroll down and pick the best “category” for your post.

Finally, scroll back up and click the blue “publish” button and you’re done.

The website was set up by Don Mickle’s daughter Johanna. We are very proud of this Website. Annual costs are under \$50.

The Warden Stetson – Symbol of Service , by Rod Wallace



The Stockmen's Memorial Foundation, Cochrane has accepted the donation of the Park Warden stetson pictured here. It is now on display in their library to represent the work done by Park Wardens and Forest Rangers to protect our National Parks and Alberta Forest areas in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains.

Many locals worked for the service. H. Sibbald, the first National Park warden in Banff National Park, came from the Jumping Pound area. Many others worked in the forests of Kananaskis as well as the many other valleys of the Bow River drainage. Several local families ran outfitting businesses in the mountain parks, and worked as guides, horse packers, forest officers, and forest rangers. Others including members of the Edge, Bagley, Burles, Loblaw, and Munro families worked for the Brewster's and other outfitters as guides in the Rocky Mountains and foothills. Several of these local "cowboys" competed in the Calgary Stampede, as well as local gymkhanas in the mountains. The "Millarville Mafia", as they were dubbed by other park employees, include Bob Haney, Perry Jacobson, Keith Foster, Don Mickle, and Johnny Nylund. Bert & June Mickle, Don's parents, ran several outfitting businesses in the Yoho Park, and the Lake Louise areas. Bill Peyto and great nephews Paul and Gordon worked in outfitting and as National Park Wardens. Other local family names who contributed to the development of the Park Warden Service include the family names Elder, Potts, Nylund, Hayes, Dixon, Cartlidge, Gilmar, Loewen, Holroyd, Jennings, Richards, Jamieson, and Barker.

Warden History in Your Closet

Like Rod, other retired wardens will have warden material of more than personal value. One of the Alumni's objectives is the preservation of warden history. The Oral History is our most ambitious step so far. We are continuing to make progress in our work with Parks Canada and the Whyte Museum in this matter as well.

We are concerned that artifacts, memorabilia, documents, photos in our members' possession could as time passes be "left behind" or "tossed on the junk pile of history." We ask our members to look around with a sense of history at their memorabilia and to give some thought to its eventual fate. Contact Rod Wallace if you have any items that you'd like to donate to the archival collection of the Park Warden Service Alumni Society. Rod can be reached by phone at (403) 932-1774 or by email at slwood1@telus.net.

THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT TO DATE

The Wardens Alumni is very fortunate to have the continuing services of Christine Everts. Christine arranges and carries out the interviews. As you can guess, this can mean a great deal of travel. Once the interview is completed, a transcription is made – the time consuming part. The transcribed interviews are then printed with photos.

We are now in the process of having the printed versions copyrighted so that they may be distributed publicly. If you are interested in a particular interview please contact Don Mickle. If you know of someone who should be interviewed, he would very much appreciate hearing from you. As you can see from the list, there are some members who have since passed on. Plans are also afoot to produce a condensed version of the oral histories.

We hope to continue this project but in order to qualify for a provincial grant we need a minimum of \$1000 in donations. We are short by \$215 at this time. We hope we can reach the \$1000 goal in donations by the end of the year.

The following is a list of the 30 interviews conducted to date:

Andy Anderson
Gerry Campbell
Frank Coggins
Joe Halstenson
Ole & Alice Hermanrude
Jack Holroyd
Gord Rutherford
Max & Julie Winkler
Murray Dawson
Mac & Cathy Elder

Larry Gilmar
Smokey & Lyn Guttman
Perry Jacobson
Don & Grace Mickle
Earl Skjonsberg
Ray Frey
Dorothy Carleton
Johnny & Marie Nylund
Dale Portman & Kathy Calvert
Ann Dixon

Bob & Pat Haney
Gordon & Sandra McClain
Abe Loewen
Jim and Muriel Woledge
Scott Ward
Larry Harbidge
Duane & Donna Martin
Gord & Sharon Anderson
Hans & Lilo Fuhrer
Lou Comin

SOME SOCIAL NOTES

RETIREMENT: Terry Damm's retirement was announced this past February after a full 40 year career. He and his wife Marie will be moving to Smithers, B.C. "The Calgary Herald" published a half-page article on Terry that included a large photo of him on horseback. Nice to see the warden service getting this level of recognition!

Welcome to the retirees club, Terry! A send off will be held for Terry & Marie on Friday, May 3rd, at the Lake Louise Visitor Centre starting at 5 pm. If you'd like to attend, please bring some food to share.

THE JENNINGS FAMILY Silent Partner, Meta Jennings passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 19th at the age of 89 years. Meta was predeceased by her husband, retired Park Warden Hugh Jennings. Meta is survived by her sons Robert (Ya Ha Tinda Ranch) and his family; and by Randy Jennings and his family (Riding Mountain National Park).

OTHER SOCIAL NEWS: There must be lots. Please make use of our website to keep us all informed.

PORTABLE WARDEN DISPLAY

Rod Wallace did not leave behind his interest in keeping the warden history alive when he retired. He has recently completed the display panel shown in the photo. Using several Bruno Engler photos it shows many of the routine and not-so-routine activities of wardens.

The fact that it is portable and easily erected is a bonus. Well done, Rod!



HOCKEY TOURNEY

Rod is looking for hockey players too:

We are still short a number of ol' farts for an "exhibition" hockey game. Last chance to impress the "talent" scouts, and make your mark in Parks hockey history folks !! If you drink beer and eat pizza - you're in !

Game time is 1 pm Saturday April 6, in Invermere B.C. We hope to have some young folk to tie your skates, for those many of you who cannot bend over that far anymore! Bring the family and come for the day, or better still the weekend, and enjoy the friendship of some new and old Parks friends !!

Please let Rod Wallace know at slwood1@telus.net; or phone (403) 932-1774 if you're coming.

SOME PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Bill Hunt pointed out that a report on the Resource Conservation field work of the Banff Field Unit for 2011 is available on the Banff National Park Website. It covers the ground with sections on Aquatics, Cultural Resources, Fire and Vegetation, Wildlife etc. The link will be posted on our website.

People and Peaks of the Panther River and Eastern Slopes by Susan Feddema-Leonard is an exposé of twenty colourful mountain men and women, whose stories are woven into the very fabric of the Canadian Rockies. Experience the first person accounts of mountain men like Bud Brewster, Rex Logan, Dewy Browning, Phil Temple, Ray Legace, Stan Burrell, Glen Kilgour, Bob Kjos, and more. Rod Wallace passed around a copy at the last executive meeting. It is a well done, lavishly illustrated book. It can be obtained through the Wilmore Wilderness Foundation (780) 827-2696 or check out www.WillmoreWilderness.com.

The Backcountry as Home: Park Wardens, Families, and Jasper National Park's District Cabin System, 1952-1972. This is a master's thesis done for the University of Alberta by Nicole Eckert-Lyngstad. Park warden cabin registers were used in the research and twelve retired park wardens and their families were interviewed in order to "explore their sense of humour and the challenges and pleasures of this way of life."

THANK YOU's

The alumni has been helped in its activities by a number of individuals who have volunteered their time and services when they did not need to and by organizations who have gone out of their way to help us or given us preferential rates. Some have been mentioned directly or indirectly in this newsletter i.e. Christine Everts and the Whyte Museum. We need to thank the Banff Light Horse Association, Ruth and Jim Quinn who helped out with last year's barbecue and have offered to do so again. The Stockman's Memorial Foundation at Cochrane have been very hospitable and the auditor, Mr. Don Hepburn deserves our thanks also for auditing our accounts to government standards. And not to forget the Banff Legion either. It should also be pointed out that all executive members of the Alumni Society generously contribute their time. Last, but not least, thank you to our members for your on-going support and for your donations which certainly help to keep our Oral History Project active and to

facilitate other projects such as the Website.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

At last years Annual General Meeting a motion was passed to amend our by-laws to create a Lifetime Member category as described below:

Section 4.3 -“lifetime members” are not required to pay membership dues, and are entitled to vote.

They include:

- i) a retired member of the warden service who has reached 80 years of age;
- ii) a spouse of a retired member of the warden service who has reached 80 years of age;
- iii) a retired person who has worked within the warden service who has reached 80 years of age;
- iv) a spouse of a retired person, and who has worked within the warden service who has reached 80 years of age.

We now have 21 Lifetime Members:

Andy Anderson	Mac Elder	John Wackerle
Alf Burstom	Peter Fuhrmann	Max Winkler
June Burstrom	Smokey Guttman	Julie Winkler
Gerry Campbell	Alice Hermanrude	Muriel Woledge
Murray Dawson	Jack Holroyd	Cynthia Stewart
Dorothy Carleton	Steve Kun	
Frank Coggins	Kurt Seel	
Ann Dixon-Bruder	Earl Skjonsberg	

We encourage you to let us know of other potential Lifetime Members.