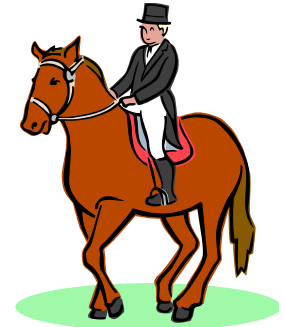


PARK WARDEN SERVICE ALUMNI SOCIETY

# Spring 2014 NEWSLETTER

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

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## 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.”



### **UPCOMING 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the NATIONAL PARK WARDEN ALUMNI SOCIETY**

WHEN: Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014. Meeting starts at 1 p.m.

WHERE: Fenlands Recreation Centre, Banff

The recreation centre is located on Norquay Road between the railway tracks and the Norquay overpass. It is easy to get to and there is plenty of parking.

Note: If you have not renewed your membership you can do so at the meeting

After the meeting ends there will be the usual social get-together. This year it will be in the lounge at the recreation centre and not the public horse corral bar-b-q shelter. PWSAS will be subsidizing the cost of Hamburgers and beverages from Top Shelf Pizza & Grill. Cost to members will be a mere \$5 payable on site to Marie. It is essential that you RSVP by May 15<sup>th</sup> in order that the proper number of hamburgers and beverages can be pre-ordered. RSVP to [parkwarden2008alumni@hotmail.com](mailto:parkwarden2008alumni@hotmail.com) or to Marie Nylund at (403) 638-1284 by Noon on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Dogs, of course, aren't allowed in to the Recreation facility.

## The Warden Oral History Project

Another year's work is planned on this project as funding is available and Christine wants to continue doing the interviews. A slate of retired wardens to be interviewed has been drawn up. It keeps on being revised as new names are brought up and priorities shift.

As an add-on to this project, we want to have a list of all interviews done with wardens by other organizations in the past. Some members of the executive are working to put together as complete a list as possible. Besides the Whyte Museum we know that extensive interviews were done for Dale and Cathy's book, for the book *Guardians of the Wild*, and by Mary Alice Stewart for the Whyte Museum. There may be others that will turn up as the search progresses.

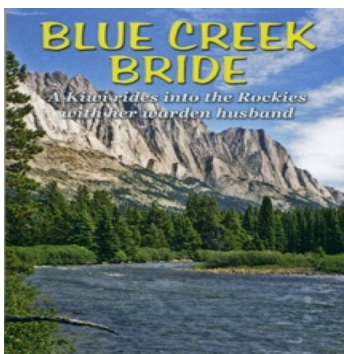
Another initiative being explored by the executive is putting some of this material into book form. There are many examples, one of which *Blue Creek Bride* is covered later or *People and Peaks of the Panther River* which was mentioned in the last newsletter.

As you may know, funding from the AB Gov't through its community development program has dried up. We are running on left-over monies and hoping the grants will be restored to allow us to continue this work.

## "The Wardens"

The band has proved popular – which says something about the strength of public interest in the warden way of life. They have played at small towns all over Alberta and southern Saskatchewan, often to full houses and to very appreciative audiences.

The group has recorded its second CD with ten new songs. If you enjoyed The first one the new one will be available, as long as there no production hitches or glitches, at the A.G. M. on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.



*Blue Creek Bride* is about Leanne's life as a warden's wife in Jasper – can you tell from the cover image? It is a self-published book that tells of the summers she and hubbie Phil spent patrolling the backcountry.

It was reviewed in the December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 edition of the Fitzhugh newspaper.

Kathy Calvert is looking into having copies available for sale at the A. G. M.

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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.

### PWSAS Executive:

President – Dale Portman

Vice-President – Gordon Antoniuk

Secretary-Treasurer – Marie Nylund

### Directors:

2 year terms expiring 2015

Don Mickle,

Kathy Calvert

Rod Wallace

Mac Elder

Gordon Anderson

Perry, Davis

Cliff White

Larry Gilmar

3 Year Terms expiring 2015

Scott Ward

Bob Haney

Perry Jacobson

### **Regional Representatives**

Mountains – Gord Anderson

BC Interior – Gord Rutherford

North & Yukon – Tom Elliot

West Coast – Ev Gilmar

Eastern Canada – Bev Hunter

Ontario – John Taylor

Newsletter Editor: Perry Davis



The Banff Social Committee has these distinctive coffee mugs for sale. They have the horse brand on them and sell for \$27. We might be able to have some available at the AGM. You may also order them from Ali Buckingham at the Banff Resource Conservation Office.

## OBITUARIES

We were sad to hear that Bev Rutherford passed away early Friday morning, April 4th. The memorial will be held May 3<sup>rd</sup> in the afternoon at the Winfield United Church.

For those of you who wish to send condolences Gord's address is: 2325 James Road, Kelowna, B.C. V1W 2T3.

## The Executive's Going Ons

The Warden Alumni has been meeting regularly with the next meeting scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup>. Meetings are held in the Stockmens' Memorial Foundation Library in Cochrane and any members are welcome to attend. Memberships and finances are always on the agenda. Both are healthy but, of course, more is better in both cases. Our financial affairs have to be audited to meet AB Gov't requirements and Mac Elder has found us an auditor whose services we have made use of for several years now.

The Oral History Project, already reported on, is the one major project we are supporting. Upcoming is the Ya-Ha-Tinda Ranch Centennial in 2017. Parks Canada has to take the lead on this and the Warden Alumni Society wants to participate. Cliff White met with Bill Hunt and reports back:

"I talked with Bill Hunt last Friday about the potential 2017 Ya Ha Tinda reunion. Bill sounded positive about this, and will talk to Rick Smith over the next few weeks about how this might work.

"So.... no definitive answer yet, but things are in progress with Parks."

The Alumni Society has heard that Stan Cowley is looking into a diorama for the Buffalo Nations Museum in Banff featuring a warden and a horse at

work in the backcountry. He wants the diorama not only to be dramatic but authentic and is interested in advice from wardens on both aspects. The executive will ask him to submit an outline of his ideas. It could be an excellent opportunity to promote the warden history in keeping with the "historical commemoration" part of our mandate.

Don Mickle and Perry Davis met with Steve Malins, Cultural Resources Officer, to pursue discussions about entering into an agreement with the Whyte Museum for archiving warden material. So far, nothing has been heard back to date.

The executive is continually making decisions on behalf of the members and has decided to poll the membership to determine what was important to them. A one page questionnaire has been prepared and is attached to the back of this newsletter. The executive ask you to please fill it out – it will only take a few minutes of your time – and hand it in at the A. G. M. If you are not coming to that event, please mail it in to the society's address (see Page 1). You can sign it or not as you choose. The results will help the executive set priorities in its activities and expenditures. For it to be meaningful we need all members to fill it out and return it. The results will be published in the next newsletter.

## Social Notes – But Only What We Have Been Told

There is a lot more news in this area than is covered here. No doubt we will catch up on a lot of it at the social after the A.G.M.

**Hans Reisenleiter** recently retired. Hans started work with B. C. Parks before joining the National Park Warden Service. Like many park wardens, his career to him to several parks including Pacific Rim where his aquatic interests were made good use of before he finished work in Banff. Hans is known as an avid collector of warden items. One of his displays of flashes is shown here. We welcome Hans into the alumni "*retirement cabin*". Pull up a chair!





**Howie Klett** is doing research on the warden cabins, probably concentrating on the history of them. Maybe a book will come out of it. There is a lot to be covered. For instance, Banff used to include what is now Kananaskis Country and there were national park warden cabins throughout that area including Deadman's Flats (beside the T.C.H.) and Whiteman's Pass at the top of the Gap above Canmore. The picture is of Bill Potts at Whiteman's Cabin. Don Mickle led a group to the Hector Warden Cabin a few years ago – it dates back to the 1920's when there was only the Banff-Jasper trail.

**Dale Loewen** was recently hospitalized. He is back on his feet now. We received this note from Peter Applejohn that we thought we should pass on: "*I received a phone call from Dale earlier this evening and He is out of the hospital and Staying with friends in Sundre. He wants to thank everyone for their support and passes on that he is feeling much better.*" So that's good news!

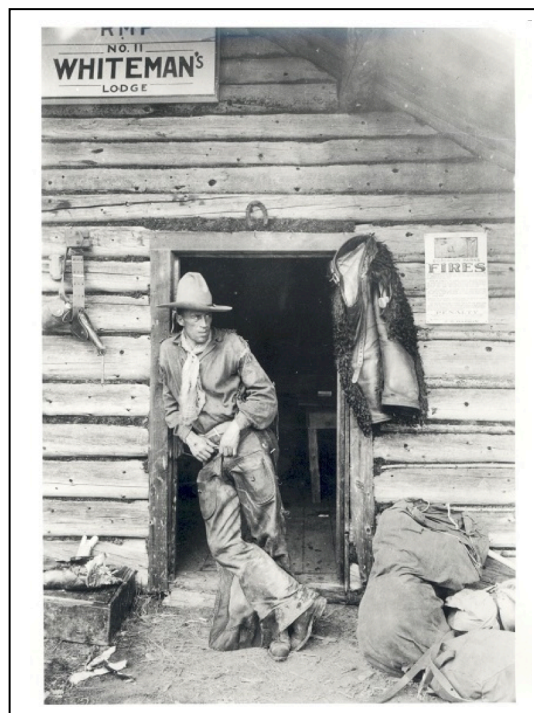
**Katie Pacas** sent a heartfelt letter to those whom she calls *'My dear Parks Canada Family, 'parts of which follow:*

*Your kindness, generosity, support and shared grief has been overwhelming to me, Nicky, Joel and my extended family.*

*Losing Charlie still doesn't seem quite real to us. Is he coming home soon from Devon Lakes? Is he still at work? Was he up at Sunshine today or Lake Louise? I feel like he should just walk in the door, exhausted, dump his stuff and turn on a hockey game.*

*Grief is a strange and terrible emotion. Evolutionary scientists believe grief evolved so that we avoid, at all cost, losing those that we depend on and love, because we survive better in groups. What I have discovered is that grief triggers empathy in those around us and that empathy draws us into new groups, thus giving the ones suffering grief a new chance at survival. It is beautiful really. It is perfect.*

*I will survive because of you all. You have brought me in. And I thank you.*



**Rob Hermanrude** continues to post pictures from his family's life in the warden service. So does Don Mickle and others. The pictures are on the Warden Alumni Website: [parkwardenalumni.com](http://parkwardenalumni.com). Some pictures of the Hector Warden Cabin from Mickle's trip will be posted shortly.

You probably received this request from **George Mercer** already but if not – here goes:

*If anyone is interested in sending me a short piece on why they joined along with a photo (if you want), I'll happily post it on my website <[georgemercer.com](http://georgemercer.com)>. I think all of the pieces so far have been great. Not looking for Nobel prize winning writing (whatever that is) but honest stories from the heart which I think they all are.*

If you did get this message and have not replied maybe this will be a good reminder.

## What do you want your Warden Alumni Society doing?

The executive has to decide what to get members involved in, how deeply to get involved and how much of our limited funds to devote to activities we commit to. Among the executive there has differing views about some proposed activities such as environmental activism and partnering with the national parks. So we would like to know where you stand on possible alumni activities and have put together this short questionnaire to find out. Once you have completed and returned it we will tally the results and let you know what they are. We are not keeping track of names, of who is in favour of what. You can hand it in at the A.G.M. or mail it to the Society at its Sundre address. We would like all members to complete and return the questionnaire.

There are five activities described and a final section where you can write in any proposed activity you feel should be included. At the end of each statement is "Your score" going from zero to four. Please assign each activity the number of point you feel it deserves. The more points you give it the more important you think it is. That includes the additional activity if you added one.

1. Should the Warden Alumni society be environmental advocates? For ex. should we oppose what is considered inappropriate developments in the National Parks such as the Brewster Skywalk or the Maligne Lodge proposal This could also involve partnering with existing environmental groups or lobbying on our own for stronger wildlife protection as an example.  
YOUR SCORE: (circle one)    0    1    2    3    4
2. Should we continue to organize re-unions, social activities and special events in order to bring member together?  
YOUR SCORE: (circle one)    0    1    2    3    4
3. Should we be actively looking for opportunities for members to work with national parks to help with projects we support such as warden cabin or trail maintenance or wildlife monitoring? This would most likely be through volunteer or mentoring programs. One of the issues here is keeping our independence and our ability to criticize Parks at the same time that we are partnering with them.  
YOUR SCORE: (circle one)    0    1    2    3    4
4. Should we continue preserving and helping others preserve the warden heritage? This could include working with museums and archives to improve their collections, promoting or helping with events or displays involving warden history, and serving as a "safe" middleman for the donation of artifacts in members' possession.  
YOUR SCORE: (circle one)    0    1    2    3    4
5. Should we expand our ways and means of keeping members across Canada and abroad in touch with each other through newsletters, the website, and upkeep and distribution of the membership list?  
YOUR SCORE: (circle one)    0    1    2    3    4
6. Other activities:  
Please describe another activity or activities you think the society should be doing and assign it a score too.

YOUR SCORE: (circle one)    0    1    2    3    4