

PARK WARDEN SERVICE ALUMNI SOCIETY

Fall 2018 Newsletter

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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. **Membership** is inclusive: from former wardens to those interested in & supportive of the society's aims."

WARDEN DAZE: A GATHERING

Dates: Friday Oct. 12th - Monday Oct. 15th.

It's another chance to get together. Mike Wasuita, Pine Bungalows, in Jasper is generously offering members of the Park Warden Service Alumni Society accommodation at a rate of \$25 per night, per person! Dale Portman is looking after bookings - NOT Pine Bungalows. This offer is open to all **paid-up** members. Room payment to be made at the Bungalows on arrival.

NB: The deadline for registering with Dale Portman for this event is October 10th.

Friday evening - meet & greet in Bungalow's main hall.

Saturday afternoon: Hear "The Wardens" when they perform at Pine Bungalows. This performance is sponsored by Mike Wasuita. In the evening attend the B.B.Q with invited local guests.

Sunday morning: Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Park Warden Service Alumni.

Sunday afternoon - enjoy the park. Everyone will be responsible for their own supper. (No catered supper)

Monday morning: checkout time.

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 – Dave Reynolds

Vice-President – Cliff White

Secretary-Treasurer – Marie Nylund

Directors:

2 & 3 year terms

Don Mickle,

Kathy Calvert

Perry Jacobson

Jim Murphy

Gordon Anderson

Perry Davis

Colleen Reynolds

Dale Portman

Dennis Herman

Regional Representatives

Mountains – Gord Anderson

West Coast – Vacant

North & Yukon – Tom Elliot

Ontario – John Taylor

Eastern Canada – Bev Hunter

Anyone who would be interested in serving as a regional representative please contact the society.

Newsletter Editor: Perry Davis

Your Stories from Your Time as a Warden.

The Alumni Society, as you have probably heard, put out a call for your stories. A number have been submitted and you can read four of them (titles and authors listed below) on our website <www.parkwardenalumni.com>. Look for the tab Warden Journals. We trust this will inspire you.

Long or short, fancy or plain, good spelling or wurz - send them in. Topics to consider are Search & rescue, fire fighting, back-country travels, law enforcement, avalanche control, horses stories, wildlife stories, boating, cultural resource management.

Here's an example from a letter we received from Ron Davies:

"My first visit to a training school for wardens was out at Cut Head Creek where morning ablutions were right in the creek for about 25 seconds.

"Also Dean Allan and I were asked at the park gate "What is a warden truck doing (here) with Sask. license plates?" Dean was driving and he said "Damned if I know!" That was old Dean, dry humour and a laugh after we drove on. "She is going to see Manitoba plates also", he said. "Maybe she won't let them in," I said. We drove on to a hotel where they served decent refreshments."

No doubt that brings back memories for you, especially the final sentence.

These are the titles the ones that are posted on the website under "Warden Journals"

Nature Creeped Up On Me, by David Reynolds

The Goat Truck, by Don Mickle

Riders in the Rain, by Don Mickle

Snake On the Loose, by Dan Reive

The old Binder at the Bar U Gets A New Life

Submitted by Marie Nylund

Photos by Marie Nylund and Della Dickie

Johnny Nylund (wearing the red shirt) has been volunteering a bit at the Bar U Historic site this summer.

One of the projects he thoroughly enjoyed was assisting Al Dickie repairing an antique McCormick-Deering horse-drawn binder. Apparently one of the old binders at the Bar U was badly damaged in the 2013 flood.

A second binder was in need of repair so Al and other Bar U staff/volunteers were able to salvage several parts off the damaged binder to repair and rebuild the second binder.

Note Al's suburb paint job! New boards were installed on the reel. Al was able to source the proper tarpaulins for the binder from the Amish in the USA.



It was heartwarming indeed to see the four-horse hitch pulling this binder around the field at the Bar U. They went on to cut the barley into bundles. The bundles were stooked by volunteers from the Eau Claire

Distillery. By the way, the barley will be eventually used by the Eau Claire Distillery in Turner Valley to distill the special brand of whiskey. What will they call it?

Check out www.friendsofthebaru.com for information on events taking place at the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site.

The Loss of Two Great Souls

Dorothy Carleton, an indomitable and inspiring individual, passed away this June in her 99th year after a long life much of it spent spreading cheer and good will. A celebration of her life was held at the Banff Park Lodge and was well attended. The entire event had an uplifting spirit of cheerfulness which Dorothy would have been delighted with.



Happy Trails Dorothy.

Tim Auger

Tim Auger passed away on August 10th at the age of 72. He was helped during his prolonged and debilitating end by friends, in particular Don Gardner. His wife Sherry did all in her power to help him throughout this long decline.

During Tim's career he became one of if not the leading Parks Canada rescue specialist. Many people owe a lot to Tim and his boldness and resourcefulness on rescues, some even their lives. His son Corey has been collecting stories about his dad so if you have one he would be pleased to get it. You can e-mail it to him at coreyauger@gmail.com.

A service in memory of Tim is being organized by Marc Ledwidge & Sue Hairsine. It will be held at Mt. Norquay, upstairs in the main lodge on Friday, Nov. 9th from 2 -5 p.m. Please RSVP to Susan Hairsine at mtnmgmt@telus.net if you plan to attend. Snacks will be available along with a cash bar.



FEDERAL PENSIONS: From time to time we hear in the news that Federal Pensions are a.) in trouble b.) a drain on the economy or c.) a burden to the next generation. It usually depends on who is talking and often its a politician with an agenda. So the following quote in "Sage" (Fall, 2018, p. 30) is worth passing on:

"The Canada Pension Plan . . . is projected to reach \$500 billion [no wonder politicians want to get their hands on it] in assets by 2024 and is sustainable for at least the next 75 years according to the Chief Actuary of Canada [note the source of this information!].

"These plans . . . generate significant revenues. Large portions of these revenues are re-invested in Canada.

"If you hear someone slagging public sector pensions remind them that dismantling [these plans] . . . would not ease the burden on taxpayers, it would increase it."

Park Warden Archives

When Don Mickle was the Cultural Heritage warden he set up an archive partly prompted by the fact that the Banff Central Registry had been closed and documents were being discarded wherever. The archive included books, photos albums, video footage and artefacts. Space available in the Warden-Stores building was limited and the archive was quickly stuffed. On Don's retirement Dennis Herman took it over and kept it in good shape but when he retired and considering the then current federal government's attitude to resource conservation libraries (some were relocated to dumpsters) the fate of this archive was uncertain.

Good news! The archive must have been below the radar. Not only did it survive but it is now in good hands, still intact in the same location and slightly expanded. Steve Malins is now responsible for cultural heritage in the Banff Field Unit. He invited Don Mickle and Perry Davis to have a look around. Both of them were impressed. Steve was able to hire a summer assistant and together they have better organized the material and instituted conservation measures.

Steve welcomes serious researchers to use the the archive (not casual browsers). If you want to arrange a visit please contact Steve at <Steve.Malins@pc.gc.ca>.

GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) *No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.*
- 2) *When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let brush your hair.*
- 3) *If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.*
- 4) *You can't trust dogs to watch your food.*
- 5) *Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair..*
- 6) *You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.*
- 7) *The best place to be when you're sad is Grandma's lap.*

GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) *Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree.*
- 2) *Wrinkles don't hurt.*
- 3) *Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts.*
- 4) *Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.*
- 5) *Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.*



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PWSAS Memberships

The executive realizes that its membership base is shrinking and has decided to try to widen it. We have always hoped it would be a national organization and are investigating becoming affiliated with larger organizations as a way of achieving that goal. We would also like to attract members from the current resource conservation offices as well as those members of the general public supportive of the work of current and past Park Warden Service and Resource Conservation and public safety personnel. We have added new membership categories accordingly.

A "We Want You to Join" poster is being sent as a separate page accompanying this Newsletter. Please print it off and hang it up at your local coffee shop, the coffee room if you are still working, the community bulletin board, the Legion or wherever you and your group hang out. If you want to handle enquiries then add your name and contact information. Otherwise enquiries come to the secretary-treasurer. One of our executive has already recruited new public members at the A&W. Kudos to him.

REMINDER: Lifetime members" include I) retired members of the (former) warden service who have reached 80 years of age.
ii) a spouse of a retired member of the (former) warden service who has reached 80 years of age;
iii) a retired person who has worked within the (former) Warden Service who has reached 80 years of age;
iv) a spouse of a retired person who has worked within the (former) Warden Service who has reached 80 years of age.

Please let the Secretary-Treasurer know if you qualify as a Lifetime Member.

Hard Conservation Choices

The following comes from "Coast Mountain Culture" magazine, Summer 2017. It is a glossy magazine with plenty of advertising but it doesn't shy away from controversial articles apparently. The intro. to the article speaks for itself but add to it the opinion of professional biologists that the polar bear is doomed: as the arctic sea ice melts away the bear's chief food source, the seal and other sea life, becomes harder and harder to get. In other words its habitat is fading away and with it goes the bear. Even if polar bears survive in zoos can they breed successfully and even if they can are polar bears living in cages, however expansive, real polar bears ?

