

PARK WARDEN SERVICE ALUMNI SOCIETY

Early Winter 2016 Newsletter

BOX 11, SITE 116, R. R. #3, SUNDRE, ALBERTA, T0M-1X0

E-mail: parkwarden2008alumni@hotmail.com



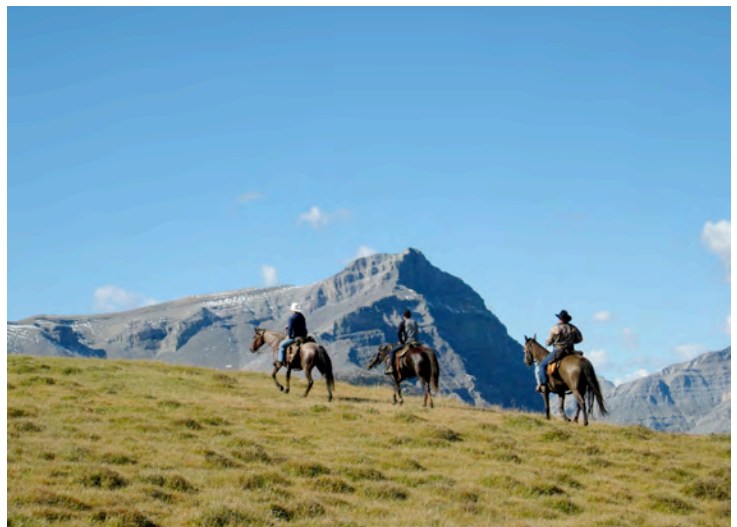
Our Mission Statement

“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.”

Ya-Ha-Tinda Here We Come!

Plans are moving ahead for all Warden Alumni, including relatives, friends, hangers-on and assorted others to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Ranch next September. The celebration as presently planned is to be a simple one - the unveiling of a plaque near the ranch house commemorating the ranch's long history. The ceremony is planned for early in September, shortly after the long weekend. We will let you know the date as soon as it has been decided. In the meantime, make a note on your calendars.

This time was chosen as we expect the campground to be less busy then. The heart of this celebration is to be a warden get-together in the campground. So plan accordingly. Those a little too



old and creaky for camping out should book a hotel nearby although “nearby” is not all that close. Depending on the weather, you might want to trailer your horses and do some riding in this magnificent country.

The executive is certainly glad to have got started early on planning this event. The plaque has been manufactured and is in our possession. It is heavy, was expensive and is paid for. Plans are well along for getting a monument-sized boulder to the ranch to mount it on. As well, there is a book on the history of the Ranch in the works. We have applied for a grant from the AB. Gov’t. but it is part grant and part lottery: We won’t know if we are getting a grant or how much until after the book is published! Kathy Calvert has worked hard on the text and several executive members on the selection of photos. It has a publisher - Rocky Mountain Books. The book will be well illustrated and replete - that is, jammed full of - stories.

The Wardens, the band, plans to be present with their latest CD. They might even do a little entertaining if they are not worn out from their tours! Bring your musical instruments and join in.

At the present we know of no plans or financial commitments by Parks Canada to celebrate this anniversary. You know how government works; a lot depends on budget allocations and nods from above so that could change. We, the executive, would like it to not be at the eleventh hour! They are permitting us to install the plaque on ranch property and have approved the wording and the French translation. Rick Smith, the ranch manager, is very enthusiastic and co-operative and that promises to help make this a successful event. Attendees can get a tour of the ranch by ranch staff, and the low-down on its present operation. The tour includes the on-site museum started by Marie Nylund and kept up since.

Editor’s Notes

Anyone wishing to submit material for publication either in the newsletters or on our website can and should sent it to our tireless secretary, Marie, or to the newsletter editor either by mail or e-mail. We will do our best to publish your submissions.

This newsletter was supposed to come out much earlier. The editor underwent cataract surgery - the operations in total took about 1/2 hour; the recovery about 1

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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.

Executive:

President – Dale Portman
Vice-President – Gordon Antoniuk
Secretary-Treasurer – Marie Nylund

Directors: (2 & 3 year terms)

Don Mickle
Kathy Calvert – membership
Rod Wallace
Mac Elder
Gordon Anderson
Perry Davis
Scott Ward
Bob Haney
Perry Jacobson
Cliff White
Larry Gilmar
David Reynolds

Regional Representatives

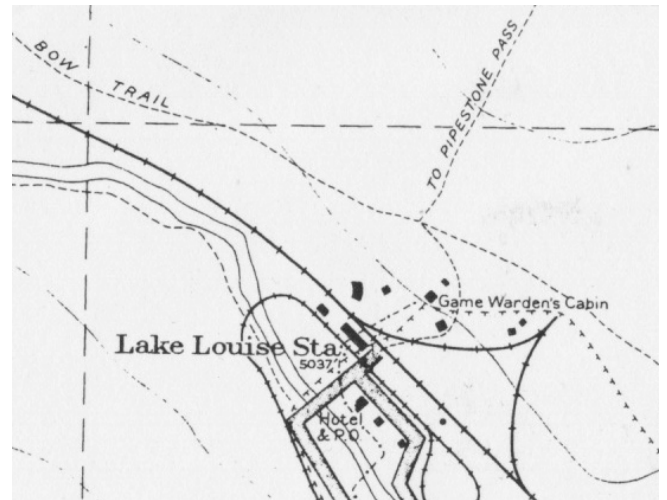
Mountains – Gord Anderson
West Coast – vacant
North & Yukon – Tom Elliot
Prairies – vacant
Ontario – John Taylor
Eastern Canada – Bev Hunter

month - which is one of several reasons for the delay. If you are grumpy about the late delivery or the recent cold snap or anything else some humour has been slipped in to help cheer you up as you have probably noticed already.

Keep an eye on the alumni website where new things are appearing regularly. You may also have something to contribute. If so, please send it in to Marie.

The Lake Louise-Bow Lake Pack Trail.

One of the discoveries associated with the trips to the abandoned but still intact Hector Warden Cabin was the pack trail. In this case, the discovery was of how intact it is even though it apparently gets little or no use anymore. The world rushes by on the highway below. The editor, P. Davis, is planning to hike parts of it in 2017 with a photographer who is interested in recording parts of it. Jim Murphy and others have expressed interest in coming along. You will be kept informed!



The start of the trail is shown on the map. Note the “Game Warden Cabin” at its start. No corrals or stables are shown though. All this area is now under the T.C. H.

A Few of Our Members’ Summer Adventures

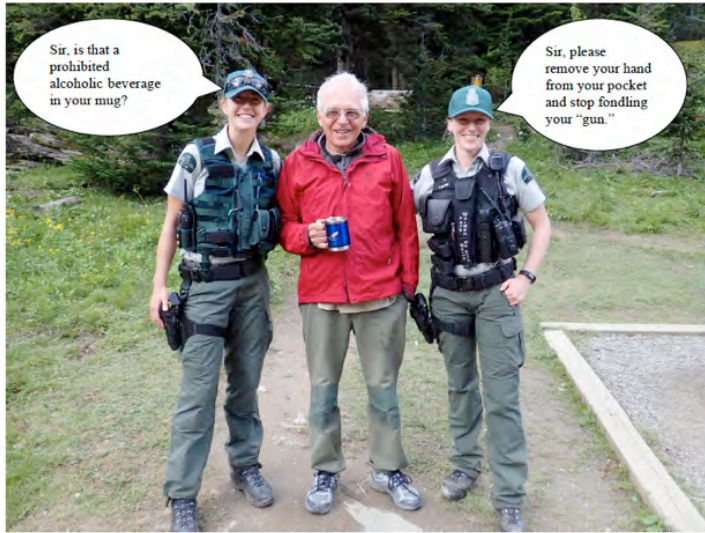
Don Mickle, and surely many others, keeps the warden life alive by getting out on his horse as often as he can in the summer. One of his truly enjoyable rides this summer was on the Powderface trail in the foothills.

The editor created some interest in checking out a fire lookout site shown on the old Banff National park map, the one with the north end inset at the bottom of the sheet. It is shown overlooking Johnston Creek yet none of the coffee crowd had heard of it. One trip got Jim Murphy and Perry to what would have been a good site but there was no evidence. The search continues; there is one higher point still on the ridge.



Dave Hunter continues the active life as well. He recently led a few friends up the Grassi trail. It starts where the Alpine Clubhouse once stood and runs up the side of Sulphur to a viewpoint - a quieter place than the top of Tunnel Mountain. When weather keeps him indoors he turns to carving wooden figurines; the spirit of Tony Klette lives on.

The editor and a friend hiked to Castle Lookout and on the way in and out kept their eyes sharp for signs of the old phone line. There is plenty of evidence of it: at least fifty insulators are still hanging in the trees. They found out that the phone line and the trail



took a higher line just before reaching the lookout cabin. If anyone knows the purpose of the abandoned cabin about halfway up this trail, the editor would like to hear from you. There is, by the way, an excellent display on the telephone system in the Ya-Ha-Tinda museum.

Brian Patton sent the editor this touched-up photo of Jim Thorsell at Floe Lake illustrating the new pattern of law enforcement in the parks. Those gals did not hike to the lake, nor did they come in on

horseback. That leaves

The Wardens

It has been a busy summer for the band and next year promises to be much the same. They have played throughout Western Canada and next year are looking at possible gigs in the American West. For Brad Bischoff it is getting to be a full-time job, perhaps interest is a better work as he enjoys most all of it. One task that has taken up a chunk of their time is cutting a new CD. They are taking the band to a new level with this CD working with a music marketing consultant. They continue to write and perform their own songs.

For the warden alumni it is heartening that there is such strong public interest in the life The Wardens sing about.

Books and Films of Possible Interest.

Derek Tilson sent out the following 'book review' of *The Last Season* authored by Eric Blehm. It's a true story about a national park backcountry ranger, legendary in the park service, who went missing himself. A big search. A highly enjoyable read, especially for those who have been in the business.

Rob Kaye's [Born to the Wild - Journals of a National Park Warden in the Canadian Rockies](#) has proven successful: here's what he says:

" I would like to thank all of you who have supported my book. Born to the Wild had recently been awarded a bronze medallion for a Western Canadian non-fiction book by the Independent Publisher Book Awards, the world's leading book awards recognizing quality, independently published books. If you have not read my book, or if you would like to make a comment about the book, please visit my website at robkaye.ca It is selling beyond my original expectations and will be closing in on 2000 sales soon. I will

be doing a 3rd printing of a 1000 books soon, possibly with maps and photos on glossy paper AND in colour. Will look much better—couldn't afford it the first time around.”

Kathy Calvert's book June Mickle, One Woman's Life in the Foothills and Mountains of Western Canada has also been well received.

From Susi Pfister: As you know, my book Fifty Percent of Mountaineering is Uphill came out in the spring. Could it be posted on the park warden alumni website somehow - possibly as a Christmas gift suggestion (along with Kathy's book and one or two others)? Janice (Penner) Peers suggested I ask about this.

Leanne Minton's book Blue Creek Bride, A Kiwi rides into the Rockies with her warden husband has been successful. Watch for the January edition of "Our Canada" magazine for a feature article on Blue Creek Bride. Leanne is currently working on her second book, Brazeau Bound, which will be published in the near future.

Perry's recommends the movie "Un-Branded." It is about four young men fresh out of University who decide to take a horseback trip from the Mexican to the Canadian border. That's not all: they grew up around horses and know what they are doing - definitely not greenhorns - and they "adopt" ten mustangs from the Bureau of Land Management which is dealing with a horse problem to our elk issue only on a much larger scale in terms of both numbers and costs. The movie gets into that issue too in a balanced manner. It is well filmed and in a way that gives it some feature movie flavour - the guys like to have some fun along the way. The trip takes four months but avoids becoming tedious. I am sure you will enjoy watching it.

On the Environmental Front.

CPAWS Petition to Establish a Buffer Zone around Gros Morne:

As a new year dawns, we are hopeful that 2016 will be the year our federal and provincial governments finally create a buffer zone around Gros Morne National Park to safeguard this amazing World Heritage Site from harmful industrial development threats. As you may recall, in 2013 a proposal to drill and "frack" for oil metres from the boundary of Gros Morne National Park raised serious concern that Gros Morne National Park, its World Heritage status, and the local tourism and fishing economy are at risk from potential adjacent industrial development. Since then, we've been working hard, alongside local community members, to encourage the federal and provincial governments to create a permanent buffer zone around the park. This idea is now supported by local and provincial tourism interests, prominent Canadians and the UNESCO World Heritage Committee which, in 2014, recommended that Canada establish a buffer zone around the park.

The Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development

This ten member committee, made up of Liberals, Conservatives and one NDP member is chaired by Deborah Schulte. It studies the programs and legislation of Environment Canada, Parks Canada and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency as well as reports of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development.

Members of the committee were in the Western Parks this fall: Banff, Jasper, Waterton and possibly others. They certainly heard about both sides (or more) of the Skywalk, The Lake Louise Ski Hill and the Maligne Lake accommodation issues and others. Their report was submitted to the government. The editor kept being send around in circles trying to get to the report itself to get the gist of it for inclusion here.

Matters presently being dealt with by the committee include:



1. Federal Protected Areas and Conservation Objectives

2. Bill C-18, An Act to amend the Rouge National Urban Park Act, the Parks Canada Agency Act and the Canada National Parks Act

3. A Review of The Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999

This is a committee whose work those of you with an ongoing interest in national environmental issues might want to keep an eye on and also submit briefs when they request them.

Wildlife

Cesare Brai photo from the Web. The location is not known – Siberia? Yellowstone? There is speculation that it was manufactured. What do you think?

In the photo seen on Page #7 the driver and passenger are wearing moose heads. They drove like this down Interstate 35 causing several accidents. Yes, they went to jail. Yes, alcohol was involved. Yes, men cannot be left to their own devices!

Some – Not Many – Social Notes

Brian Low, Brad White, Frank Burstrom and Susan Hairsine retired from the Banff Warden Office this fall. A party was held for them at Cross Z Ranch house in Canmore. We wish them all the best as they head out on the retirement trail. Brian Low may have W. Coast and boating plans; Frank, we hear, has already been called on for restoration help by Parks and Susan . . . we're waiting to hear! We hope they will decide to add to the Alumni's numbers; they will find good company here.

From Mike Carleton: Thank you to all the warden's alumni able to attend Mum's celebration "Tea with Dorothy" at the Whyte museum. (Artist Bev Tosh was in attendance to speak about the War Bride Painting of Dorothy Carleton.) Mum is very happy how it turned out, and so many friends came up to visit with her. She had some tears of emotion after it was all over. She was very happy that she sang some songs and performed with the Wardens.

There is a Youtube video produced by the Warden's band: Ray, Scott, and Brad, following a session with Mum at Cascade house earlier this year. The video captures Mum's story and the great song the warden's made about her – thanks to the Wardens! Would you please forward this message to your alumni contacts.

Peter Achuff and Cyndi Smith have moved to Canmore and like their new town.

Editor's note: A lot more happened out there than is reported here!



Thank-You to Our Donors.

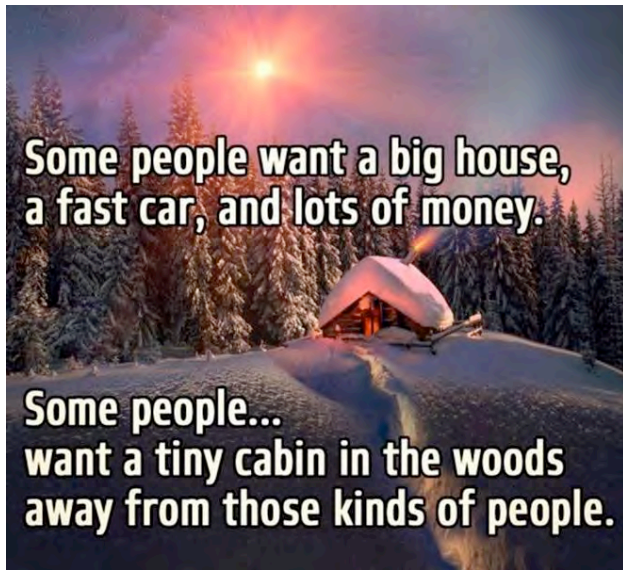
The following have made donations to the Park Warden Alumni Society. The executive thanks them for their generosity. Membership fees and donations are our major sources of funds at present with government grants much shrunken. Marie, who knows the score here, put together this list:

Donations have been absolutely tremendous. A total of \$3,720 has been received for 2016. The board of directors wish to thank the following for their generosity.

Michael Carleton, Bill Walburger, David Reynolds, Terry Carleton, Dennis Welsh, Gordon Rutherford, Alice Hermanrude, Robert Hermanrude, Rick Blackwood, Rob Ashburner, Smokey and Lynn Guttman, Larry & Jane Gilmar, Peggy Dixon-McRae, Ann Dixon-Bruder, Alan Westhaver, Beverly Hunter, Rick Kunelius, Frank Coggins, Rob Watt, Bill Dolan, Brian Carleton, Mac Elder, Dave Carnell, Lorne & Shirley Cripps, Mike Gibeau, Jack Holroyd, Eric Langshaw, Rod Wallace, Don Mickle, Al Stendie, The Wardens Band, Lawrence Baraniuk, Colleen Loxam and family, Cyndi Smith & Peter Achuff, Cynthia Stewart, Bob Haney, Madeline Crilley, John Taylor, Gordon Anderson and John Nylund.

Merry Christmas to all you bunch and your families from the hard-working executive. Keep your memberships up and encourage others to join this great group.

A Bit More Humour



Sometimes the grass will
appear greener on the other side
because it has been
fertilized by bullshit.

