

Fall 2019 Newsletter

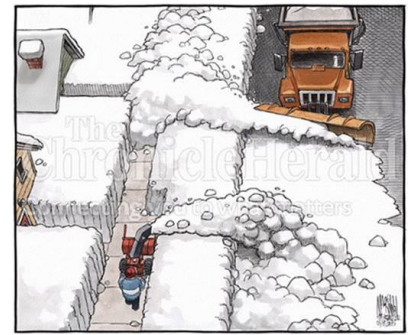
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Our Mission Statement

“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.”



X-MAS GREETINGS from YOUR DEDICATED EXECUTIVE

As this is the last newsletter of the year the executive is taking the opportunity to wish all its members and their families a merry Christmas. We hope you and yours will be able to spend good times together over the holiday season and celebrate the New Year in style. Have your resolutions ready!

The P. W. S. A. S. Website

You Gotta Check It Out! parkwardenalumni.com

Our website has gone from good to better - new format, more content and easier and quicker to use.

The Executive Committee at its most recent meeting recommended that we look into contracting a Webmaster on a yearly basis to maintain and handle issues as they arise. We will first ask Johanna Mickle if she would be interested and how much she would charge. Johanna has been the talent behind our website to date.

One item on the new site (page 5) is Clair Israelson's report with photos on the **Warden Centennial Climb** posted with his kind consent. Quite a few wardens took part in this outdoor adventure as part of the 1985 celebration of the Canadian National Park' Centennial.

Also new to the website is a **Silent Auction** item: a framed Western print. This is a fund-raising endeavour by and for the P.W.S.A.S. Bids are to be submitted to Marie by e-mail with the latest

bid posted as it is accepted. Freight is free when the picture is sent to the successful bidder or delivered by another member.

ORAL HISTORIES UPDATE

A sub-committee has been formed to handle this work. Phase 8 is complete and phase 9 is underway. Interviews are being carried out by Susan Hairsine and Monique Hunkeler. Mary Dalman helped by doing several interviews for Phase 8. The list of wardens still to be interviewed is a lengthy one.

In phase 8 the following were interviewed: Marvin Millar; Rick Langshaw; Gord Antoniuk; Terry Damm; , Diane Volkers, Bill Wallburger, Garry Forman, Bob Barker, Al Stendie, Tom Elliot, Tom Davidson, Don Dumbleton Brian Wallace and Gord Peyto. We would like to add Alan Knowles and Tim Laboucane to the list but have not yet been able to contact them. If anyone can help with tracking these two down please contact Jim Murphy. We would also like to include some wardens from the West and East Coasts.

The board decided that retiree hired on as a warden prior to 1990 would be a potential interviewee. The suggestion was made that the spouses of deceased wardens that were not interviewed be considered for interviewing about their husband's and their life in the warden service.

On June 28th, 2019 the Alberta Historical Resources foundation approved a research grant in the amount of \$5,220.00 for the Oral History Project. To date, almost 16 out of 18 to 20 planned interviews have been completed or are in the works. The board wishes to express appreciation to the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation for their generous support of this project. Dave Reynolds is preparing the application for another grant for phase 10. Provincial funding comes with a proviso that the P.W.S.A.S. come up with a matching sum which we have been able to do for Phase 9.

Archival arrangements have been finalized with the Whyte Museum (WMCR). Copies of Oral History transcripts and recordings that have been completed to date have been placed in their archives where the public can access them. A request will be dealt with at an executive meeting as to the possible submission in the future of PWSAS photos, video tapes and other materials.

The executive is looking into posting condensed versions of some of these interviews on the P.W.S.A.S website introduced by a short biographical sketch of the person.

MEMBERSHIP

Current membership stands at just under 146 members. Unfortunately we are not attracting any member from Central and Eastern Canada. We suspect that the warden culture of Western Canada has less appeal to ex-members of those regions. We would very much like to attract more members from all regions including recent retirees. Our members are urged to encourage others to join. Have a membership form handy!

Memberships are due January 1st, 2020. Folks can now submit their dues by e-transfer. They are to be made to parkwarden2008alumni@hotmail.com. The first step is to set up a "security question and answer" to be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer by a separate email. Remember to **remember** your question and answer! Cheques are also acceptable.

PARK WARDEN SERVICE

ALUMNI SOCIETY

Box 1611, Turner Valley, Alberta,
T0L - 2A0. e-mail:

parkwarden2008alumni@hotmail.com

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 - Dave Reynolds

Vice-President - Cliff White

Secretary-Treasurer - Marie Nylund

Directors: (2 & 3 year terms)

Dale Portman

Don Mickle

Kathy Calvert - membership

Gordon Anderson

Perry Davis

Bob Haney

Colleen Reynolds

Dennis Herman

Jim Murphy

Regional Representatives

Mountains - Gord Anderson

West Coast - vacant

North & Yukon - Tom Elliot

Prairies - vacant

Ontario - John Taylor

Eastern Canada - Bev Hunter

HORSY READING FOR THIS CHRISTMAS

Two recent books likely of considerable interest to our member are *The Age of the Horse: An Equine Journey Through Human History* by Susanna Forrest and *Farewell to the Horse: The Final Century of Our Relationship* by Ulrich Raulff. Both books take a thematic approach and not a chronological one. Ms. Forrest writes about six different ways people have made use of horses throughout history, taking in 6th Century Italy, ancient Ghana, 19th Century Paris (did you know that the bidet is named after a Parisian horse? The connection - you straddle both) and W.W. II. The "Economist" review (June 3, 2019) describes Mr. Raulff's book as "a category-defying piece of writing that gallops through time and space plaiting in tales of Kafka, Tolstoy and Comanche - the hard-drinking stallion the only non-Indian survivor of the Battle of the Little Big Horn.



Ms. Forrest's description of what the horse contributed to Britain's Industrial Revolution
Leo Tolstoy out riding
applies equally to what they contributed to

Canada's National Parks: "Britain owed its industrial and agricultural revolution not just to gentlemen engineers and labouring masses but to the broad chests, treelike legs and willing nature of its horses." The wardens might have different horsy qualities in mind but the sentiment will be the same.

BOOK NEWS: Good X-mas gifs for all: grand-parents to kiddies!

One retirement activity that more than a few retired wardens have turned to is writing books. Of course there is the long-standing Sid Marty. More recently we have George Mercer (also check his website) and the author of the Jenny Wilson mysteries - Dave Butler. There is Susanna Pfisterer's book about her father Willi, *Fifty Percent of Mountaineering is Uphill*. Dave Peyto has edited Walter Peyto's journals and all are now available as is *Ya-Ha-Tinda: A Home Place*. Marie Nylund has posted many more 'warden' books on our website. Be sure to check it out for some more good reading.

As I believe many of you know "The Wardens" (that music group) have published a kids' book *Rocky Mountain Rangers: Guardians of the Wild* based on the band's song. It is described as a book as "A celebration of our Western way of life with liberal doses of art, rhyming verse and humour."

Mike Carleton is at work on a book about his parents which is expected out as an E-book to be distributed by Amazon. Jordan Berg is writing a book (expected to be short) on his great-uncle Timberline Jim Deegan. He is trying to get in touch with people who knew Jim and so far has reached out to Edwin Know and Don Mickle. If you did know Jim or have stories about that character he would appreciate hearing from you. His e-mail address is <jordan.berg@uleth.ca>

SOME GOOD ENVIRO NEWS for this X-MAS!

In 2017 Hurricane Maria hit the Caribbean island of **Dominica** destroying 90% of its buildings in one night and leaving its citizens fighting for food and water. In response Dominica passed the Climate Resilience Act in 2018. It bans plastics, is instituting a uniform building code, planning geothermal energy plants and moving towards more locally grown fruits and vegetables and higher end eco-tourism. This small island is an attractive tourist destination described in tourist literature as "Nature Island" with 365 rivers, lush rainforests, active volcanoes, coral reefs and black sand beaches.

The low-lying island archipelago of **the Maldives** will soon be a carbon neutral country but, alas, remains under the threat of disappearing under rising ocean levels.

Tourists and tour companies have started taking a destination's **sustainability practises** into account in choosing or offering a destination. Much the same thinking is finding its way into decisions by investment fund managers. These are matters well worth our consideration in travel planning and our investments.

From C.P.A.W.S. Nov, 2019 "... the federal government announced that **Canada** had significantly surpassed its commitment to protect at least 10% of its ocean territory, by jumping to 13.8%!" Canada has also committed to protecting 17 percent of its land areas by 2020.

Taiwan recycles nearly half its municipal waste and has reduced the amount sent to landfills to less than one percent. The country turns plastic waste into cell phone cases and food scraps into fertilizer.

GOOD GOING WAYNE!

Wayne Stetski took to biking to relieve long hours sitting in the House of Commons, in meetings and other government work as the M. P. for Kootenay-Columbia. But he took it a step further when he saw other parliamentarians also cycling and soon a "bike caucus" was formed that came to include members of all the parties as well as some senators. They became known as "The All

Party Cycling Caucus" and one of its main purposes was to support the expansion of the Canadian network of cycling facilities. It has also helped build stronger working relationships among law makers of all parties - a most welcome step in these divisive times.

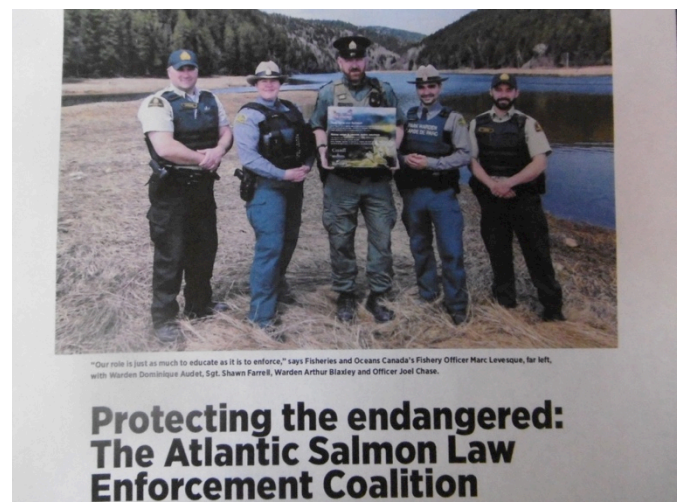
Anne Jardine in the August 29, 2019 edition of "The Columbia Valley Pioneer."

HERSCHEL ISLAND PATROL

Every two years an R.C.M. Police patrol travels to Herschel Island Territorial Park off the Yukon coast in celebration of the last R.C.M.P. dog team patrol in 1969. Two police officers and two Yukon conservation officers made the 400 km+ journey from Old Crow on snowmobiles; to reach the island took four days. Touring Herschel they spotted snowy owls, arctic foxes, musk ox and a polar bear. They also visited the two graves of police officers who died of disease while stationed there. They were joined during their stay by Park Warden Matt Garnett and Resource Managers Joe Costa and Mervin Joe.

from "Blue Line" magazine, the Cd'n. police services - including the nat'l parks variety .

From the Dec. '19 issue:



JACQUES LAKE PATROL CABIN

Under a 16-month trial agreement with Parks Canada the Alpine Club of Canada is now managing this cabin. They have refurbished it

and it is now open for public bookings - winter only. It is intended to provide a comfortable introductory winter backcountry experience.

MT. SHANKS LOOKOUT TOWER

Your editor took it into his head to explore Kootenay National Park a little bit instead of just driving through it. He settled on finding this abandoned lookout site and on his second try was successful. In the process he learned that the description and map in M. Potter's book on the towers are wrong. The one picture below is of all that remains of the cabin and the second of the view through Hector Gorge where the highway runs. As you can see it might have been possible that the Mt. Wardle and Mount Shanks towers were in sight of each other. The site is located in a clump of trees near tree-line that survived the fire. Odd!

Coming out I was able to follow the old road all the way often stumbling along beside it as it is thickly covered in bushes in many places. On my first trip out I went directly cross-country and that was much worse. Your editor recommend this outing only as punishment! Just the same he is considering searching out some of the other KNP lookout sites. The Mount Wardle site, he has heard, is a straightforward trip.

It would be interesting to hear what some of our members got up to. Many of you would know of old sites that might be worth a visit and a few words and photos. It could help save them being lost to memory. Your accounts will certainly be considered for publication.



SAGE - the magazine of the Nat'l Assoc'n of Federal Retirees (N.A.F.R.)

If you do not get this magazine here is a "heads-up" on some articles in this year's issues that may be of interest to you.

From the Spring issue:

A. Pharmacare - the mandate of a federal advisory committee is to produce a national plan for the implementation of Pharmacare. This is of particular interest to seniors for we "make up 15% of the population but account for 57% of prescription drug spending." A pharmacare program was included in the 1965 report that led only to universal medicare in Canada.

B. Cannabis - as you surely know there is a lot of hype and misinformation around "Mary Jane." This article "Learning to Manage" has a lot of factual information for any member considering using the drug(s) - there are a variety of derivatives - or who has used it.

From the Summer issue:

C. "Target: Seniors." Scammers definitely target seniors whether it is for fraudulent requests for money, threatening calls from the federal tax agency or offers of romance for the lonely. This article points out some of the ways of spotting scammers and of precautions you can take.

D. The Benefits of Guided Travel. Many seniors like to spend their spare money on travel instead of scammers but planning can be a drawback! This article points out the many benefits of signing up for guided trips but does not recommend any. The following article is on "Cruises: What you Should Know Before You Set Sail."

E. From the Pension Desk: 'Heads-Up'! The average annual pension income of N.A.F.R. males is \$36, 273 and for females \$27,121 or 25% less. It really gets tight for survivors: the average amount of a public-service survivor pension is only \$14,391. You might want to check out the amount of your survivor pension early to see if it will be adequate in advance.

F. Palliative Care: Canada's Palliative Care Framework was tabled by the Minister of Health in Dec. 2018. Its objective is to see "that all Canadians with life-limiting illnesses live well until the end of life."

RETIREMENTS

Reg Hawryluk - party held at the Yoho Ranch, Sept. 27, 2019. Reg described as from days gone by; throughout his career he maintained the integrity of an old school warden.

Alex Taylor

J. P. Kors

Lise Gautron (long time Dispatcher in Banff)

Martha Segall (long time Dispatcher in Banff)

Doreen McGillis (Fire and Veg.)

OBITS

Keith Shepherd

We received an e-mail on Sept. 2 that Keith Shepherd (son of Hal & Norma Shepherd) had passed away. He was the second eldest of four boys and is survived by three of his brothers, his daughter Kamia and her brothers and their spouses and children. He warmed up their lives with "his laugh, his incredible hugs and sturdy, heroic presence." He was a member of the National Ski Team and worked for parks for decades. He was also a mentor to many over his adult life. His wife, Jane, pre-deceased him. His son Jordy works in the Fire & Veg. section in Jasper. His other son Landon was a Park Warden and is now a real estate agent in Canmore.

Jim McIntyre

Kevin McLaughlin informed us in early November that Jim McIntyre passed away about a year ago in Whitehorse.

Simon Malin Evans

Simon passed away on Nov. 26th just shy of his 80th birthday. After earning several degrees he and wife Stephanie and children Emma and Ben settled in Newfoundland.

Simon was invited to be the Project Historian at the Bar U National Historic Site for Parks Canada. His connection with Parks Canada and the Ranch continued after retirement in 1998, bolstered by weekly "meetings" at Bottlescrew Bill's Pub, and culminated with the publication of his book on *The Bar U & Canadian Ranching History* in 2004.

His funeral service was held in Calgary at St. Paul's Anglican Church.



Rescue practice in Banff in the "Good Old Days".
Bruno Engler photo.