



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.”

To Our Members During This Pandemic

How are you managing in this time of Covid? We, the executive, hope our members are keeping safe and well while this pandemic puts stresses on us and all around us. What were routine matters like shopping for groceries or making a medical appointment have become awkward if not difficult. So is just getting together with family and friends. Add to this, the age of many members puts them in the high risk category. To the best of our knowledge none of our members have come down with Covid-19 and we hope this continues.

Wardens have always pulled together. Now we have to do it while keeping a social distance! The business of your society's executive has

slowed down to less than an amble. All our meetings have been cancelled so only urgent business is being conducted somewhat awkwardly via the internet. We decided to hold this year's AGM in autumn but that may be postponed.

The oral history project is continuing - telephone interviews are the vogue. An update is a feature item as you will read. Our website though is going strong as ever and you are urged to make good use of it. There is much of interest on it: our oral histories are now being added. Oh yes - the search for Woody the Packhorse continues. Here Woody! Come on boy!

“Warden Journals”

These are your stories of particular events in your career - serious or silly, funny or sad, animal or human - worthy of note for whatever reason. The Wardens Alumni Society is collecting them but first you have to submit them. Yes, even a voice recording will do! We have received some very interesting ones from a wide variety of members and have posted them on the “Warden Journal” section of our

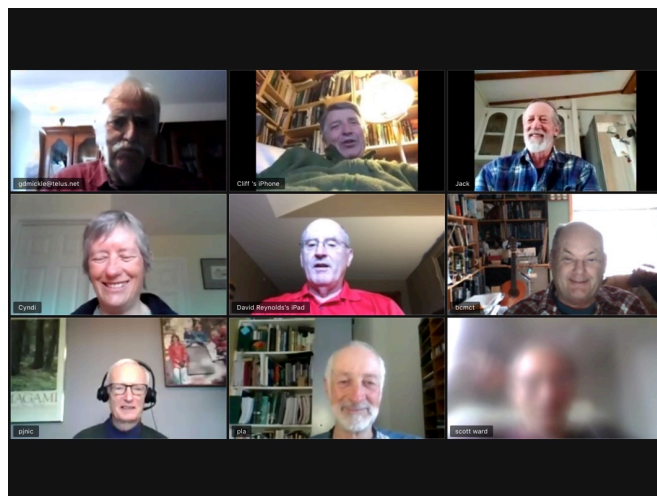
website. Check out Gord Anderson's, Dave Reynolds' or Tony Klett's postings. Read them there to enjoy or share and to get ideas because we want more. We know there are many more good ones out there. Cough up!

Membership

Have you paid up for this year? If not, please do. Contact the Secretary-Treasurer. Membership fees are the major source of the Society's funding dollars needed to keep going. We thank those who have already paid and also those who have generously donated to the society. Reminder: e-transfers can be sent to parkwarden2008alumni@hotmail.com. Remember too that the membership categories have been expanded to include interested people (supporting members). We invite you to pass the word around and encourage others to join.

ZOOM

The computer program "ZOOM" is being widely used during the pandemic to bring friends and family together. A group of retired wardens, warden office staff and friends were getting together at a Canmore coffee-shop regularly and at the A & W on Thurs. mornings. Sound familiar? Probably the same was going on for many of you too. Try this out with your family or group of friends if you aren't already on it. Zoom is a free download and works well. One of your group has to kick start it each meeting but that is simple to do. Gord Antoniuk supplied the screen shot. Thank you Gord!



OBITS

Bill Walburger (William Nicolls Walburger) passed away peacefully in his sleep on March 12th in Lethbridge at the age of eighty. He is survived by his wife Cheryl, two children, Ione and David, 5 grand-children and 8 great grand-children. Bill was born in Cardston and grew up in the ranching country and traditions of southern Alberta. He started his parks' career with the Waterton trail crew, became a warden and did extended service in Jasper particularly as the Blue Creek District warden, in Yoho and then Elk Island. His career pretty much captured everything about warden life of those days: year-round keeper of a district, fighting wild fires, searching for a lost child, traffic accidents and murders, and best of all working with horses. Not many wardens though were able to yodel. Cheryl was his 'silent partner' through it all. Their daughter grew up in Blue Creek and their son in Yoho. According to Cheryl "Bill could pack anything on a horse" and Bill proved it by packing a bath-tub on Gypsy to the Blue Creek Warden Cabin for her. A piece of warden history passed away with Bill. Fortunately it was captured and can be read in our oral history project. The family asked that those

who wish could donate to the Vasculitis Foundation of Canada, 425 Hespeler Rd., Suite # 446, Cambridge, ON., N1R-6J2.

Terry Gavin. Terry touched the lives of many Park People in his lifetime of work with the native people of the North and Western Canada. A former RCMP officer in the North he travelled extensively by dog team & snowshoe with folks on their trap lines. His love of the northern Cree and the Native culture, resulted in him leaving the police force to live and work with many northern communities. He wrote several books, spoke Cree, & made excellent photo “portraits” of folks at work & play in their northern environment. He worked extensively on many Native liaison groups, and was involved with several National Park Native liaison groups. He remained an advocate for protected places, and Native peoples’ rights up to the very end.



Announcements

Birthday - Ann Dixon celebrated her 94th birthday on April 17th. Congratulations Ann! She is doing well and enjoys going for a daily walk.

Retirements

Greg Slatter completed 35 years with Park Canada on March 31st, 2020. Greg started in Banff where he worked for 5 seasons, followed by 5 seasons in Revelstoke-Glacier. He then moved to Jasper where he was stationed at Mile 45 and eventually at Pocahontas Warden Station. Greg and his wife Elaine lived at Pocahontas for close to 25 years. They have moved to their “homestead” north of Edmonton to embark on their next adventure. Congratulations Greg & Elaine! We’d be delighted to hear more details about Greg’s career – perhaps for our fall newsletter!

A. L. Horton retired at the end of May after 31 years. He has submitted his career highlights. “I started my career with the Warden Service in May of 1989, attending the National Seasonal Warden School held in Hinton and Jasper. My first posting was as a “campground cowboy” along with Elaine

O'Neill, Barb Bertch and Brent McDougal, in Tunnel Mtn. Campground in Banff. Our job was to keep the peace amongst the drunks and families camping in Banff with shifts starting at 8 p.m. and ending at 3 a.m. (or whenever we finished getting the drunks into the RCMP drunk tank). We were "armed" with a radio, a metal clipboard full of various tickets, a set of handcuffs and a big black Maglite flashlight. We had to quickly learn how to de-escalate situations with conversation! After the September long weekend, Parks kept us on for a couple of weeks. Percy Woods took me climbing a few times and I thought we might get in trouble because I thought "we weren't really working as we were having so much fun". I took a full time GT-02 position working for Jack Willman at Elk Island the following spring. My first year there I spent mostly doing vegetation projects for Alan Westhaver and Chuck Blyth, capturing Trumpeter Swans with Rob Kaye and helping out with elk and bison handling in the winter with the rest of the gang. During my second year, we had an elk poaching. The case had gone cold but was revived by a Report a Poacher tip. I was lucky to be a part of the regional investigation team headed up by Duane Martin with help from Murray Hindle, John Steele, Phil Minton, Mike Briggs and Randy Fingland. It was an exciting investigation that involved the City of Edmonton's Police Emergency Response Team securing a house we needed to search. They went in with stun grenades and machine guns given the substantial criminal records of those involved. The investigation was successful in court and those involved got substantial fines for the time. My third year there, I got to help run the elk and plains bison management programs with Norm Cool and Wes Olson. The mountains were calling so I returned to Banff working at the Saskatchewan Crossing Warden Station with Mike Comeau in 1993. I spent 2 summers there; the second with Terry Damm. I worked out of the Lake Louise Warden Office in the winter. The Crossing was one of my favourite postings with horses, backcountry, remoteness, everything I was looking for. I moved to the Banff Warden Office in the fall of 1994 as a duty warden. I started in the backcountry the next spring working for Tom Davidson in the Bryant Creek District. It was a steep learning I but was fortunate to learn a lot from Tom, Dale Loewen and Johnny Nylund. I broke my back in a para-glider crash in September of '95 despite warnings from Marc Ledwidge's who said, "Don't go paragliding, you'll break your back! I was back in the saddle for another season in Bryant with my team, Ziggy and Wanda. In '97, I worked in the Wildlife Section for Tom Hurd. I got to trap black and grizzly bears with Todd Shury, Rob Serrouya and Ron LeBlanc, heli-dart wolves with Lance Cooper, Mark Hebblewhite and Dave Norcross and handle elk with Glen Peers. In the spring of '97 and '98 I had the opportunity to spend a couple months working at the Ya Ha Tinda helping to get the colts ready for backcountry work with Johnny and Marie Nylund, Dick Levie and Rob Jennings. What a fantastic experience! I went into front country operations in '98 and helped Dennis Herman's team. I was the court warden with much help from Hilary Husar. I was offered a GT-03 position as the law enforcement Warden in Gwaii Hanaas in '99. I worked with Bev Haines who helped keep a prairie boy alive on the ocean. My favourite memory was of circumnavigating Moresby Island with Mike Wynn. I moved back to Banff in 2000 to work in the backcountry. During the summers of 2000 to 2003, I worked as the Acting Backcountry Coordinator, the Indianhead District Warden with John McKenzie and as the mid-country warden. A couple of memorable trips included riding over Divide Pass with Leila Sumi in late October with 80 cm of snow and temps in the low -20s and riding over Elkhorn Summit from Barrier enroute to the Ya Ha Tinda with Scott Ward on December 1st. I joined the winter public safety team for the winters of 2001 to 2003 with Tim Auger, Marc Ledwidge, Brad White, Gord Irwin, Percy Woods, Mike Henderson and Johnny Two Names (Jon Stuart-Smith). The saddest day of my career happened while working with this team when we were called to the Strathcona Tweedsmuir disaster up Connaught Creek In Glacier Park in 2003. On a happier note, I'll never forget traveling with Brad White to help with a climbing school in Kluane National Park. I moved to the Sunwapta Warden Station in Jasper Park in 2004 working with Mike Eder, Mike Grande, Karsten Heuer and Jay Leopke. It was great to get back to station life. I became Jasper's Backcountry

Coordinator in 2005 working for Gord Antoniuk and working with Phil Minton, Greg Horne, Patti Walker, Sean Elliott and Jim Chesser. I moved back to Sunwapta in 2007 as the station manager working with such characters as Mike Eder, J.P. Kors, Matt Garnett, Jen Wasylyk, Barb Sharp and Max Darrah. In 2008, I lost my badge and was no longer a Warden. This had a big impact on me as until then, the Warden Service had been my life. On a higher note, I'll never forget the good times I had riding the south boundary with Ian Syme, Steve Otway and Steve Malcolm on Ian's last trip before he retired. I continued on at the Station until 2010. I had my first hip done then and on returning to work I was posted in town with the Visitor Safety team of Steve Blake, Rupert Wedgwood, Garth Lemke, Deryl Kelly and Max Darrah. I spent the next 8 years hanging from helicopters, rescuing maidens in distress, blowing up avalanches and writing plans....so many plans! I took 2018 off to test out retirement. When I came back, I worked for Dave Argument helping out Steve Malcom with the Human Wildlife Conflict team, riding the backcountry for Brenda Shepherd's Monitoring program with Etienne Cardinal and completing some Visitor Safety projects for Rupert Wedgwood and filling in as rescue leader and avalanche forecaster as required. I ended my career at the beginning of the Covid 19 pandemic. I was the only one in the office on my last day of work, I called in my final radio sign off, made sure all the computers were shut off and locked the door. Not quite how I pictured my last day.

I'll miss everyone from work and hope we can gather at some point when situations allow to have a party. I had a great career! Thanks to everyone I worked with in Parks Canada!"

A.L. Horton

Donations: Ray Frey has donated to our society some very interesting photos of large warden



gatherings at the Palisades and one of the Riding Mountain National Park staff (featured on page 3) and some flashes. We thank you Ray!

The Keith Everts Warden Service Scholarship. Glen Peers, who administers this worthy project, has advised us that there will be no award made this year on account of the Covid pandemic.

Heritage Park Warden Cabin. The park is developing a warden cabin exhibit and has reached out to the PWSAS for information which we gladly supplied. Interpretive material will include the start of the

National Park Service and the development of the Warden Service. It will also include "Bios" of some of the earlier Wardens, i.e. Howard Sibbald, the Peytos, John Conner, Bo Holroyd, Kootenai Brown, a section on "Trailblazers" such as Lawrence Grassi, the Swiss Mountain Guides and one on Wardens' wives. This is heartening news. The planned opening is Sept. 2020.

PROGRESS ON OUR ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Submitted by Jim Murphy, Marie Nylund & Don Mickle

We have been adding oral histories from retired wardens and, sometimes, their silent partners, to the Park Warden Alumni website.

Starting on April 6th, 2020, the transcripts from Phase 1 of the Oral History Project have been published on the Website. Approximately one

interview per week has been posted by our web designer Johanna Mickle of Trail Blazer Web Services. Phase 1 interviews that are now published include: Andy Anderson, Gerry Campbell, Frank Coggins, Joe Halstenson, Ole and Alice Hermanrude, Gordon Rutherford and Max & Julie Winkler. We have started to post Phase 2 interviews with Murray Dawson's interview. Watch for the weekly postings.

We began the Oral History Project in 2010 and are now working on Phase 10. Christine Crilley-Everts interviewed candidates in Phases 1 through 6. After taking some time off from the project to focus on a growing family and to teach school, Christine again assisted us with Phase 8. We have been fortunate to have Rod Wallace undertake most of the interviews for Phase 7 and Marie transcribed them. These interviews gathered some interesting experiences for Kathy Calverts' book, Ya Ha Tinda A Home Place. Phase 8, 9 and 10 have seen interviews conducted by Christine Crilley-Everts, Mary Dalman, Perry Davis, Monique Hunkeler and Susan Hairsine.

A list of questions and guidelines were presented to each individual to be interviewed. The interviews were recorded and the interviewer then transcribed the interviews. The people interviewed were able to review the interviews and make any changes that they wanted before the final transcription was completed by the interviewer. A lot of work! It is very fortunate that we were able to complete these interviews. Some of the participants have passed since the time of their interviews.

The Warden Alumni have been working with the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies to help keep the interviews available for the future. Each interview gives thanks to the Whyte Museum when we post them on the Warden Alumni Website. There are many interviews still to be completed and we hope to secure more funding to keep the project going after Phase 10 is completed.

Monique Hunkler and Susan Hairsine are currently completing the interviews from Phase 10. Members of the Alumni Oral History project have reviewed some of their final transcriptions and they are very well done and they have spent many long hours in their completion.

The Oral History Project has been funded through membership revenue and generous donations from our members. We have been extremely fortunate in obtaining grants over the years from the Province of Alberta. In 2010 we received a Community Spirit Grant of \$7,657 for Phase 1. In 2011 we again were awarded a Community Spirit Grant in the amount of \$5,170 for Phase 2. In 2017 we received a Research Grant from the Historical Resources Foundation in the amount of \$2270 that assisted in the publishing of the book Ya Ha Tinda A Home Place. In 2019 we were successful in being awarded a Research Grant of \$5,220 which enabled us to complete 15 interviews for Phase 9. We have applied once again for a Research Grant from the Province of Alberta to assist with continuing with more interviews for Phase 10. We will be notified of the outcome of the grant application in the next few weeks.

Federal Government Announces COVID-19 Relief for Seniors

NAFR e-Newsletter, May 31, 2020

In a much-anticipated announcement, the federal government unveiled additional measures to support seniors and help offset costs related to COVID-19. In our latest article, we break down the announcement's main points and discuss what these measures mean for older adults in Canada.

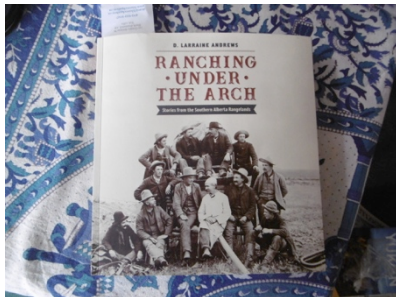
Visit Federal Retirees online to read the full article: <https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/news-views/news-listing/may/federal-governments-announcement-on-covid-19-relief-for-seniors>

The Bookshelf

NOTICES: 1. The release of Vertical Reference The Life of Legendary Mountain Helicopter Rescue Pilot Jim Davies, by the prolific author Kathy Calvert has been delayed until the pandemic subsides. This from the publisher, Heritage Books. It will be worth the wait.

2. Ed and Dorothy Carleton Rocky Mountain Romance has recently been published. The launch took place at the Banff Park Lodge in front of a large receptive crowd. Mike Carleton deserves a lot of credit for getting this story published. Contact Mike for copies.

3. Kathy Calvert's next project is " 'Woody' the Packhorse." She is hoping to gather enough stories to make a small book. She can be



contacted at

[<portman.calvert@shaw.ca>](mailto:portman.calvert@shaw.ca). Of

course it would be great if Woody would wander in so he could be interviewed.



4. A book many of our members will likely enjoy: Ranching Under the Arch: Stories from the Southern Alberta Rangelands by Lorraine Andrews. and published by Heritage House. The two opening chapters are on the history of the area and the start of ranching. They are followed by accounts of seven prominent ranches such as the MacIntyre, Buffalo Head and Walrond which also includes many of the colourful figures of this ranching history. The Bar-U is part of the "Bedingfield, E. P. and D. Ranches" chapter. It is available as a large format and well illustrated paper edition.

Good News/Bad News from the Environmental Front

BUGS BE GONE It wasn't that long ago that the prognosticators predicted that the Age of Mammals would be succeeded by the Age of the Insects. Not likely anymore. Long term research on insect populations as well as fewer windshield bug splats (anecdotal evidence and Danish research) reveals that insects are in drastic decline. Sounds like good news - no more mosquitoes or ticks or bugs to eat vegetables and fruits. There is a downside and it means major impacts for other species esp. humankind.

Bugs do a lot of useful work most of it below human notice. According to the May 2020 issue of "National Geographic" (hard to miss on the newsstands as the cover is plastered with bugs) they are the food source for many creatures. As their numbers go down so will bird and other animal numbers. They play a major part in decomposition. Without them dead stuff will start to pile up. Some insects feed on other insects doing the job that a lot of money is spent on pesticides to do. Of course bees and many other insect species pollinate plants. Just think of human hands pollinating an orchard so we can have apples and oranges but at what increased prices! They can even be called 'unpaid soil engineers.' Apparently termites set loose have turned infertile land into cropland in a year. Just don't chew on my house though. Poachers are Getting Caught: Packs of free-running hounds trained in Texas are being used to stop poachers in S. Africa. They have caused a 24% drop in rhino poaching in Kruger National Park and a 54% increase in arrests.

Some Species are Recovering: The status of several species worldwide has improved. These species include a gecko, a songbird and a minnow in the Americas; the Australian trout cod, the Echo Parakeet of Mauritius and the flightless Guam Rail (once declared extinct in the wild). Since 2015 a logging company in Alaska has been selling carbon credits instead of cutting down trees: \$100 million worth to oil companies so far. Other loggers have realized there is better money in tourism and are buying tourists lodges or salmon trawlers for use in whale watching companies.

Factoid

Everyone who participated in World War II is elderly now, mostly in their 90s. Each day, fewer of them remain to tell us what they saw and heard. Of the 16 million Americans who served in the military in World War II, not even 400,000 still are alive. (Nat'l Geog. e-Newsletter, May 24, 2020.)

Update on the PWSAS

We now have a contract with Trail Blazer Web Services for website design and maintenance. Should you log on to the old website there is a message that will direct you to the new website <https://parkwardenalumni.com>. Statistics on the website show it is being used regularly. When you type "Warden" in the Google search engine our site comes up on page 1. Access the site using the address above and not through Google.

We have supporting memberships in the Whyte Museum, Stockmen's Memorial Foundation, Alberta Wilderness Association, Friends of the Eastern Slopes Assoc. and CPAWS.

The Provincial Research Grant of \$5,220 was claimed in December and we received the check in January for Phase 9 of the Oral History Project. We extend our thanks to the Province of Alberta for this welcome and necessary financial support. A grant application has been submitted for Phase 10 in the amount of \$6,595. We will know in late May or early June as to our success. Fingers crossed

