

Fall 2020 Newsletter

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The P.W.S.A.S. 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.”

Our Annual General (Social Distanced) Meeting – Wednesday, December 9th, 2020 at 10 am.

This years Annual General Meeting will be held via Zoom, an internet conferencing program. Official notice will be sent to members electronically before December 1st. We will include the instructions on how to participate in the meeting via Zoom. Zoom technology will also allow the business to proceed in a timely manner. The agenda as always will include matters that are best discussed by the membership at large. Official notice will be sent out by email per our society by-laws. Please consider this as advance notice as to the AGM date and time. More specifics will be forthcoming.

HALLOWE’EN: Curses. Witches & a Blue Moon

The Curse of Climate Change.

“Withdrawal from fossil fuels by an addicted world will be painful. “We’ve spent decades ignoring the evidence of climate change and hoping that things won’t get too bad. We count on technological advances that seem always just out of reach. And we do this in spite of the fact that climate scientists - permafrost experts in particular - say all signs point to the need for urgent even audacious action. Climate models aren’t yet sophisticated enough to capture the effects of ‘abrupt thaw’ of permafrost. A report taking the effect of the melting of permafrost estimated that “to halt temperature rise at 1.5 degrees [the present level agreed to internationally] we’d have to zero out our fossil fuel emissions no later than 2044. That would give us just a quarter century to completely transform the global energy system.”

Craig Welch. “The Threat Below.” The National Geographic, Sept., 2019.

P.s. In its Oct. 2019 report the IPCC stated “to achieve the 1.5 degree goal the world would have to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030.”

The Curse of the Ancients

(From Nat’l. Geog. e-newsletter, Oct. 13, 2020. A Canadian woman has returned artifacts she had stolen from Pompeii years ago, blaming them for a string of misfortunes. She sent a package containing two mosaic tiles, parts of an amphora and a piece of ceramic to a travel agent in Pompeii according to the “Guardian” newspaper.

“Please, take them back; they bring bad luck,” adding that she was seeking forgiveness from God.

Ed. Comment: If only there were curses on artifacts stolen from the national parks! It could be lifted by sending them (anon.) to PWSAS.

Witches

Makes you think of Shakespeare's Macbeth and the Salem Massachusetts witch trials no doubt. Gets you in the right mood for Hallowe'en. To that you can add the burning of ninety-one "witches" in Finnmark, the most northerly region of Norway.

Blue Moons

There was a blue moon this Hallowe'en. Was that an omen or just an astronomical phenomenon? Technically when a month has two full moons the second one is a blue moon. They aren't frequent but they aren't rare either when you consider that the lunar cycle at 29 days is a bit shorter than the average month.

Sage Articles of Likely Interest to You

"Sage" is the magazine of the National Association of Federal Retirees (N.A.F.R.)

The following snippets are included for the benefit of those who do not get this magazine or who do but may have skipped over them.

Winter 2019.

Hearing Loss and Health Risks

"Statistics Canada reports that as many as 40 percent of adults ages 20 to 79 . . . have at least some hearing loss in one or both ears. An estimated 4.9 million Canadians have hearing loss that affects their ability to hear normal speech. More alarming is the fact that approximately 77 percent of adults with hearing loss diagnosed by a health-care professional [denied that] they had a hearing deficit.

"There are cultural stigmas attached to hearing loss that keep people from . . . seeking out help for it.

" . . . hearing loss may be elevating other health risks. For instance there is a statistically significant association between hearing loss and depression Similarly, people with diabetes are about twice as likely to develop hearing loss."

If you do need an hearing aid or a new one read "Selecting the Best Hearing Aid."

Spring 2020

1. Reverse Mortgages

The article on this subject in the winter edition prompted a letter from a reader in the Spring edition that made several points worth noting;

- "the seller has to pay a hefty price to have the property reviewed . . . for an approval. These costs have reported to be as high as \$7,00 to \$8,000.
- "[When the owner(s)] pass away these properties are now owned by the equity bank [and] will be sold by said bank to recoup its money
- "Do your homework [consult a reputable financial planner] before you decide to go this route. If it sounds too good to be true then its not for you."

2. Federal Minister of Seniors

The Minister of Seniors in the current Liberal government cabinet is Deb Schulte.

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
Bob Haney
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 –

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

She has a significant portfolio for “according to Statistics Canada 17 percent of the Cd’n. population is older than 65 and that demographic is forecast to grow to 26 percent early in the next decade.”

There is a Liberal special interest senior caucus that was meeting weekly when the House of Commons was sitting. The N.A.F.R. was frequently invited to make presentations to this special caucus.

3. Other items of interest

The three page article “Powers of Attorney” could be of interest to you. Also one on looking into healthy meatless alternatives: “Where’s the Beef?” Also of interest is “Health Check” on “the planned and supervised process of reducing or stopping medications that may not be beneficial or may be causing harm,” which comes with an interesting diagram on possible effects of medication on people as they age.

Fall 2020

Confined by Covid-19

The pandemic has brought more attention to the adverse effects of loneliness, especially among older people who are likely to have a smaller social network. The curtailment of social activities can lead to feelings of loneliness and isolation. On the other hand medical research has established that being connected socially contributes to physical and mental health. So our members are asked to watch for signs of these feeling in themselves and other PWSAS members as well as family and friends. Midred Macfee is an example of how to of keep one’s spirits up during the Covid pandemic. A retired nurse whose husband has passed away she lives in a seniors’ residence. She starts the day with exercises, plays the piano an hour a day, does crossword puzzles, plays bridge online with international opponents, cooks her own meals and also calls other isolated seniors in the residence regularly just to chat. “You’ve got to have some kind of a plan,” she says, “otherwise you just sit in front of the TV.”

The Latest in PWSAS Fashion!

There are about 15 warden alumni T-shirts still available. Dave Reynolds has a few mediums, a few large and a few more XL sizes. The cost is \$22 plus postage if it needs to be mailed. He will hand deliver in Canmore or Banff. Anyone wanting one for a Christmas gift or whatever reason should get in touch with him by e-mail at david.reynolds@shaw.ca or by phone at 403-618-5944. They are good quality and can start conversations. A young member of the KYLL zone park staff noticed the editor’s PWSAS vest as she was leaving a coffee shop and they got in a conversation. It turns out her crew had worked in the Ice River area and she found Don Mickle’s “Ice River Guitar” story in the Warden Journal on our website!

B.S.’ers

We want more of your stories for the Warden Journals on our Website. Take a peek at some of them on our website to get your creative juices and ink flowing. They should be mostly true. E-mail them to our President Dave Reynolds. Pictures are welcome too.

Banff’s New Hotel: Named after the “Queen of Banff.”

(From Gordon Lozeman, President, Banff Lodging Co.):

“It all started when we decided that it was time to convert Bumpers to more of a Boutique Motel. In coming up with an interior design and rebranding, we settled on a theme of heritage camping and outdoor adventure, with a particular focus on strong, pioneering female outdoor enthusiasts of the 1950s and 60s.

We like to keep our hotel names simple, so we usually default to local wildlife species. But we got creative on this one. We decided that a simple female name common to the era of our design theme would make sense - names like 'Gladys', 'Marg', 'Pat', and the like came to mind. It was then that we realized: Who better to match the profile than our local legend, Dorothy Carleton? Our very own



'Dorothy!! Dorothy epitomized everything that we were trying to capture in the re-making of the motel - adventurous, outdoorsy, resilient, edgy, vibrant, but yet warm and tremendously hospitable. It was a perfect fit. Now we just need to figure out how to make the motel sing.'
p.s. The motel is open now. There is a web site for it: www.dorothymotel.com.



Oral History

Nine interviews were on this year's slate, Phase 10, and they have nearly been completed. Completed means interview, transcription, approval by interviewee and making needed changes. Don and Marie have taken on the job of putting selected interviews on the PWSAS website.

Dave Reynolds has done the tedious work (many thanks Dave) of completing the application for an Alberta Historical Resources Research Grant for Phase 11 interviews. The executive is also looking at ways of funding this project. The list of names of those still to be interviewed is over two pages

long.

Considering the success we are having there have been discussions of expanding it nation-wide. Gord Anderson has been asked to discuss this matter with several contacts he has in eastern Canada. These concerns are likely to show up for discussion at the December A.G.M.

PWSAS Outreach.

Remember that word from work? Well the feeling among the executive is that we need more members and more money to carry on the work of "maintaining the culture and traditions of the [former] warden service." One project in the early stages is a slide show and video to spread the word about who the PWSAS is, what it has accomplished, and what it is doing. The slide show is intended initially for our associate groups and the short and snappy video (we hope) will go on the Internet for the general public along with a notice to consider joining or making a donation. The slide show could also play at the warden cabin being installed at Heritage Park along maybe with readings from some of the "Warden Journals" and some clips from the oral histories. Goodness, this could take off!

A smaller measure in the same vein concerns this newsletter. Several regional offices in the Western, Prairie and Northern Regions have said they would like to receive copies. That will start with this newsletter and with a bit of luck they will be posted in staff rooms or shared for 'all' to read.

The Bookshelf

A. Kathy Calvert's book Vertical Reference The Life of Legendary Mountain Helicopter Rescue Pilot Jim Davies published by Rocky Mountain Books should be out in late November - just in time to wrap it up to go under the X-mas tree.

B. Looking for something for a youngster - consider the book 'Rocky Mountain Rangers: Guardians of the Wild' which is based on the music of The Wardens, with illustrations by award-winning artist Lia Golemba. Ideal for ages 4 + (Kindergarten to Grade 4), this uniquely Canadian book aims to bring the majesty of the Rockies to kids across the country, inspire a love of the outdoors, and pride in our natural heritage.

C. Ed and Dorothy: A Rocky Mountain Romance. This is the story of the Carleton family, Ed, a Didsbury boy who became a Calgary Highlander and later a Banff National Park warden, his wife Dorothy and their lives and experiences raising three boys in warden cabins and then in the town of Banff. It will appeal to a larger circle of people than just those who knew the Carletons and those in the Park Warden service. Transition and coping are strong themes. There is Ed's experiences at Dieppe and being wounded during D-

Day and Dorothy's account of coming from England to Didsbury with a baby in diapers. It was quite a change, coming from a cozy English village to the "gopher ranch." The family's history is also the history of the closure of the warden districts, the instigation of rescues by wardens and then the increased specialization of warden duties. So is that era of the town of Banff and some of its citizens. Another of its strong points is that overall it is an uplifting read in a time when 'uplift' should be welcome. Through the ups & downs of the transition from England to Canada, the depression and the war, the Warden Service, federal bureaucracy and raising a family Ed keeps a level head and a steady course, and Dorothy - well she more than copes, always with a song. My only quibble is that the phrasing sometimes takes on a young adult tone. I suspect the author at these places was forced to imagine how her subjects were feeling or what they were thinking. Better than a story that stutters or leaves a blank this one flows along nicely. Copies are available at Cafe Books located on Canmore's main street, from the Whyte Museum in Banff and Pixie Hollow in High River An e-version is now available at Amazon.ca.

An added note from Mike Carleton: *"Dan Evans, who did the book cover, has now interviewed Brian and me. He is also preparing a video that includes Dorothy's story that should be of future interest."*

D. Barbara Wackerle-Baker is writing her dad's story for her family. She plans to 'interview' her dad and share the results with PWSAS to add to our Oral History project!

Announcements

Warden Reunion - Jim Murphy is looking into holding a re-union at the Ya-Ha-Tinda next fall. Perhaps the pandemic will have subsided by then. If it comes off it would be a good time to celebrate any retirements that have occurred. Cross your fingers and hope it comes true!

Obits

Johnny Nylund 1938-2020

Another of the "Millarville Mafia" has ridden over the great divide. Johnny Nylund passed away suddenly from congestive heart failure at his home in Turner Valley on September 17th. Johnny leaves behind his wife Marie, children Leo (Shelley), Nancy-Lee (Bill), Guy (Hannah); and grandchildren Clayton and Ruby Nylund. Johnny was predeceased by his parents Hjalmar and Peggy Nylund and his sister Margaret Sim. He is survived by his brother George Nylund and his sister Eleanor Davidson and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Johnny was born in Calgary and raised at Square Butte. He attended Square Butte school and rode a horse 2 miles to school each day. He enjoyed the country life, acquiring practical skills of ranch life, livestock management and a hard work ethic. Johnny gained excellent horsemanship skills having spent countless hours on horseback while hunting, chasing wild horses or simply enjoying exploring the country west of Millarville. For many years he worked for John & Isamay Ballachey at the Chinook Ranch at Square Butte. He and his wife Marie and son Leo lived at the ranch for 4 years before moving to Lake Louise where Johnny had accepted a job with Parks Canada on Trail Crew, a job that took him and his horses over many backcountry trails and mountain passes in Banff National Park.. He also worked his winters as a Snow Cat operator at the Lake Louise ski hill and later as a speed plow operator on Highway 93 North for Parks Canada. accepted a position as Banff Barn Boss in 1977. He was a skilled horseman and horses loved him. He also took care of the Buffalo Paddock herd and enjoyed seeing the newborn calves arrive each spring. always said, "I have the best job in the park!"

In 1996 an opportunity came up to manage the Ya Ha Tinda ranch. He and Marie moved to the ranch and remained there for 7 years. Johnny's time at the Ya Ha Tinda was the highlight of his career with Parks



He

He

Canada. He took great pride in the ranch and managed it as if the ranch was his own personal place. And again, he loved to see the newborn foals each spring. He retired in 2003 after 30 years with Parks Canada. He and Marie purchased an acreage near Bergen which they enjoyed for 14 years. Johnny liked to build with logs and had helped to build several log cabins for the backcountry of Banff Park as well as his own log cabin and barn at Water Valley. After retirement he built several log beds and coffee tables for family and friends. Johnny and Marie moved to Turner Valley in the summer of 2017. This move put him back into the beautiful country of his youth and he enjoyed many drives to Square Butte, Junction Creek, and the Highwood reminiscing about the many experiences of days gone by. Johnny's wishes are that he be cremated and his ashes spread at a special place west of Millarville. The family hopes to hold a Celebration of Life 2021.

John Woodrow Dec. 22, 1947 - Aug. 30, 2020

Born in England, John emigrated to Canada at age 12 where his family settled in Saskatchewan. John earned a diploma in renewable resources 1970 and in 1979 became a paramedic. He and his wife Pamela and their daughter Keri moved to Waterton where John worked first as a warden before transferring to Jasper. He retired from the warden service in 1988 to the West Coast to live on his boat before settling in Courtenay. After suffering a stroke he moved to Calgary where he spent his final years with his daughter and her family. He is survived by his two brothers, by Keri, his son Simon, several grand-children.

James Eldridge Quinn Jan. 4, 1938 - June 6, 2020

Jim had been on horses since riding as a boy to the White Creek one room school west of Bowden. While working at JB Cross's Bar Pipe Hereford farm at DeWinton he met and married Ruth Ann Denbury. During the fall and winter of 1964 he worked at the Ya Ha Tinda, starting and training colts for Warden Service. While working at the Ya Ha Tinda, Jim suggested the alphabetical naming of horses as a means of tracking their age, a system Jim had found worked well at the Bar Pipe. This suggestion was implemented in 1964 and is still used today. In 1967 he and Ruth became life-long members of the Banff Light Horse Association. That year he started work in the Physical Facilities of the Banff Centre, retiring as Trade Supervisor in 2000. Over the years, Jim was a mentor to many riders. He shod horses for people, and took a one year contract shoeing warden horses, in Banff, Yoho, and Kootenay Parks. Holidays were spent touring, on horseback, the backcountry of the National Parks, Kananaskis country, and the Forestry districts. Jim also enjoyed fishing, especially salmon fishing in BC. Jim is survived by his wife Ruth, sister Irene Martin and several nieces, nephews and cousins. In 1967, Jim and Ruth became Banff Light Horse Association members (corral # 44) and remained active members for the rest of his life. A celebration of Jim's life may be held in 2021.



Retirements

Greg Slatter provides some details missing from his retirement notice in the last newsletter: Greg states:

- 38 total years of service which included 26 years as a Park Warden and 12 years as a Resource Management Officer.
- 5 years in Mount Revelstoke./Glacier at Rogers Pass, 5 years in Banff, and the remaining 28 years in Jasper total (includes the 12 as a Resource Management Officer).
- No retirement party due to the pandemic (and I didn't want one anyway - so they were going to take A.L. and me to lunch but it was cancelled).

- The majority of my years of service were lived/worked at Warden Stations (Sunwapta and Pocahontas in Jasper) and Beaver River in MRGNP. I think I was the last active staff member to live and work out of a warden station in the mountain parks?

- We bought 160 acres plus a home on a protected parcel SW of Athabasca, (N. of Edmonton) have just finished moving and are starting to explore the area.

From the Trail: Mt. Wardle Lookout, Kootenay National Park

The newsletter editor, in his quest to get to know Kootenay Park better, set out to make it to this now abandoned lookout site. He sums up his experience by saying if someone you don't like asks you for a good place to hike in Kootenay send him there! On my first attempt I lost the road (after finding it in the first place) at a massive deadfall. On my second attempt I found out that the best thing to do when you lose the way is to make a wide circle in search of it; where I was sure it was going straight ahead - it switchbacked!

The way from there to the lookout was:

- a. monotonous - no views except for trees, upright, leaning, angled, fallen.
- b. one deadfall after the other; some you could step over, others you crawled under and still others you went around and sooner or later found the road again
- c. never ending the road went on and on and on and up and up and up. The jungle of deadfall and brush at the final stretch of road could only be followed by looking up for the cut in the trees. In places I wasn't even walking on the ground. I only knew I was at the lookout when my boot hit one of the concrete footings! It was then that I had an uplifting moments, one of only two: there was a handprint in it and it said "I WAS HERE!" It made me feel good - the human mark of the little guy going back millenia to the caveman. The other uplifting moment was walking over to a break in the forest that gave me a view of the Kootenay River Valley. Then I confidently cut across to the nearby road, and over deadfall, and around deadfall and across and across. What a relief to finally come to it and an even greater relief to the end of it and back to my truck!



The "Warden Range" and the Geographical Name Game

I stumbled across a document from Parks Canada titled "PARKS CANADA CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE CLIMBING CAMP July 24th to August 1st 1985." It describes an expedition into McConnell Creek by a group of wardens. This was ostensibly to commemorate the death in-service of six wardens and to commemorate the 100 years of the National Parks. Of interest was the statement that "we will request the Canadian Permanent Committee of Geographic Names to designate the mountains surrounding the north fork of McConnell Creek as the Warden Ranges, and to name six of the peaks climbed after these men." Say what? From my knowledge there was no such named range or named peaks in the area. The peaks named by the group (all previously appearing to be unclimbed) were Mt LeBlanc, Mt. Colgan, Mt. Marak, Mt. Brink, Mt. Lee and Mt. Goodiar. Anon.

Reply by former Cultural Heritage warden Don Mickle.



I am sure that there was an application to name these mountains by the Warden Service back in 1985. We tried again in the early 2000's but were either turned down or ignored – can't remember which. I think there was something about it falling short on 'National Interest'. There is a story about the climb by Claire Israelson on the Alumni website.

