

PARK WARDEN SERVICE ALUMNI SOCIETY
Winter 2020-'21 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 anyone interested in & supportive of the society's aims "

Dear Editor,

It's Christmas. How about a cheerful newsletter? One to warm the cockles of one's heart? ¹

Anon.

Dear Anon,

Excellent suggestion. I'll do my best! Here's a start, two slogans on baby-onesies ads in mail-order catalogues: "I believe you were expecting me" and "I'm always getting picked up by women."



Christmas is just full of wishes isn't it? May yours come true!
Editor.

The Results of our 2020 A.G. M.

With Dave Reynolds at the helm and Marie Nylund in the chart room and a crew of fifteen hearties the Good Ship "Warden Alumni" sailed dutifully & swiftly on Zoom through the waters of A.G. M. Two directors term had expired: Cliff White's and Don Mickle's. Both stepped forward (put their hands up) to serve again (how could they not?) and were voted back in. Congratulations! Its good to have you staying on board.

¹ "To warm the cockles of one's heart. Said of good wine and anything which particularly warms and gratifies one's feelings." Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable."

Marie delivered the Treasurer's report. As she had done stellar work with the accounts our auditor, Mr. Don Hepburn could find no fault with it. The alumni's bank balance is higher than it was last year. Our major expense was for oral histories - money well spent! Marie also delivered the membership report. We are down 13 'hands' from the last A.G.M. and are investigating reaching out more widely across Canada as well as to presently employed Parks people. The executive is considering offering one-year free memberships as a 'come-along.' Our sister group of retired Parks personnel, the Parks Canada Heritage Society (P. C.H.S.) is also looking for new members.

Captain Dave's report largely dealt on his determined work to navigate the tricky and often foggy channels of bureaucracy to apply for more grant money for our stellar oral history work. Should we get a grant the PWSAS will need to come up with matching funds. Should we not get a grant our society will need to do some fund-raising to keep this valuable work going.

Mate Jim Murphy, chair of the Oral History project, reported that Phase 10 of the project had been completed. **Think about that:** our small crew has done ten years of collecting eighty-eight oral histories, transcribing and making them publicly available in print and audio. Our little ship is making waves. The Society is fortunate to have Monique Hunkeler and Susan Hairsine as the current interviewers, for they both have useful background experience from their years of work in the Banff Warden Office. Marie Nylund and Don Mickle have been editing some of the histories for posting on our website. They are presently working on Phase 7 interviews and so far thirty-nine are up on the website. Check it out!

Trail Blazer Web Services is maintaining our website and that includes posting the oral interviews; more that a bit of a technical challenge for our bow-legged members. Trail Blazer provides monthly reports which show that

And we are looking ahead - far ahead. There are nineteen names proposed for Phase Eleven which leaves, at present, one hundred and thirty-six to go. At a rate of ten a year that's fifteen and a half more years! Jim reported that the average total cost of an interview works out to \$500. As he noted, "Funding is key to the continuation of the program."

Re-unions are the biggest draw for PWSAS members. Retired Vice-Admiral Bob Haney is organizing a 2021 Re-Union. The criteria for the venue needs will have to take into account our ageing membership. Sleeping on deck and heaving up over the side are out! You will be informed as this event unfolds.

The final word: with our A.G.M. done, the minutes typed up and our financial accounts in order and audited the documents will be sent to the appropriate gov't. dept. We have satisfied the legal requirements of a Society.

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

The P.W.S.A.S. website address is

Executive:

President – Dave Reynolds
Vice-President – Cliff White
Secretary-Treasurer – Marie Nylund
Membership - Marie Nylund

Directors: (2 & 3 year terms)

Don Mickle
Kathy Calvert
Jim Murphy
Gordon Anderson
Perry Davis
Bob Haney

Regional Representatives

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

Anyone interested in a Regional Rep.

On the topic of Warden History: this from Randall Payne <rdpayne@drizzle.com>

An electronic copy of the Parks Canada, not the U. of C., edition of *Guardians of the Wild: A History of the Warden Service of Canada's National Parks* by Robert J. Burns w/ Michael J. Schintz (revised January 1999) is now online for viewing at; <http://parkscanadahistory.com/publications/guardians-of-the-wild.pdf>

This is a rather large PDF file (so it'll take a bit of time to load) but it's worth the wait.

The Wardens latest CD

We want you to know - *Sold Out at the Ironwood* is the title track of our new album scheduled for release in January. We think this 12-track album that is our best one yet and hope you will agree!

We could certainly use a diversion from the significant disruption the current pandemic has caused since March. We were on a fantastic tour in Montana when things began changing minute-by-minute. What was "*All Operations Normal*" one day quickly became hectic as we canceled our last few shows and headed back to Canada. As we crossed the border, we all had the sense that something really big had changed not only for the band but for every person on earth.



At that time we were also partway through recording a new album. We wanted to complete that unfinished business safely if we could. So a few months later, when we learned a little more about what we could do, we got back into the studio - **one at a time** (that's Scott Duncan recording fiddle in the *Broom Closet Studio* in Calgary with producer Russell Broom) - to record our

parts to complete the new album. We wanted so much to get our music to our fans. The CD will be available from our website at the end of Jan. 2021.

Thank you as always for your support and encouragement!

The Wardens

From the Bookshelf (support your local bookstore!)

Vertical Reference. Almost three hundred pages of the long awaited life story of legendary (that's right "legendary") Jim Davies. He was mainly known as a mountain helicopter pilot but there's more to his life. It was researched and written by Kathy Calvert, another outstanding member of the PWSAS executive and author of a mounting number of books. *Vertical Reference* is available now on Amazon and is coming out in print at the end of January.

Ed and Dorothy: A Mountain Romance (noted in the Fall 2020 Newsletter) is available from Cafe Books in Canmore, the Whyte Museum in Banff and Pixie Hollow in High River as well as from Amazon.

Bragg Creek, Stories of Our Past by Michele McDonald – Bragg Creek & Greater Area Historical Society. Our Marie Nylund, who grew up there, is one of the contributors to this local history book.

Something to Warm your Heart's Cockles while Reading or Listening to Music

Here's the "Rum Toddy" recipe from *The Centennial Food Guide* by Pierre & Janet Berton: "Into a heated crockery mug pour 2 ozs. of dark rum, 1 tsp. each of maple sugar, butter and lemon juice and a pinch each of cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon and ginger. Fill with boiling water, stir and serve."

And as that jolly old fellow with the white beard proclaims as he flies across the sky in his sleigh drawn by a choice team of caribou on to bring



peace and goodwill to all:

Merry Christmas to all!