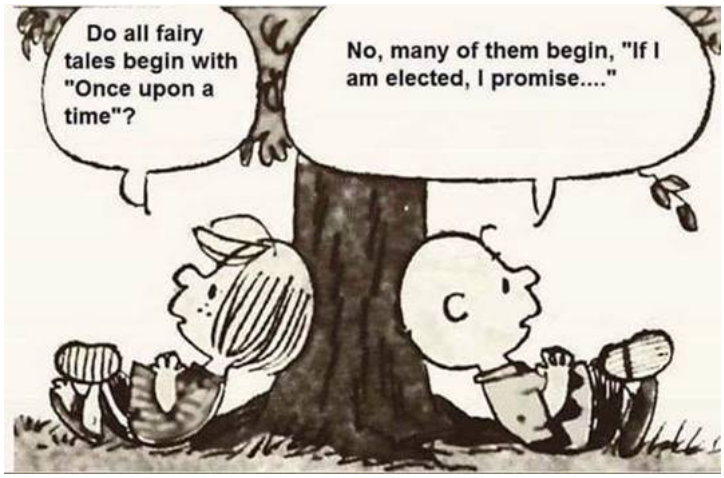
PARK WARDEN SERVICE ALUMNI SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ des ANCIENS des GARDES de PARC
Winter 2022 Newsletter
BOX 1611, Diamond Valley AB., T0L 2A0
E-mail: parkwarden2008alumni@hotmail.com / Website: parkwardenalumni.com
Membership: Open to all former park wardens and all those supportive of the Alumni Society and its work



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.

Annual General Meeting 2022

Wednesday, November 2nd, 1 p.m.
Redwood House. 101 Many Horses Drive. Redwood Meadows or on Zoom

A ZOOM CONNECTION IS AVAILABLE

The zoom meeting ID is: 661 318 6338 and the meeting password is: 2USs7Z

***If you plan to participate in this meeting via Zoom please contact Zoom Host Dave Reynolds by email (david.reynolds@shaw.ca) so that he can send you the invitation to the Zoom link.

If you are interested in letting your name stand for election please let Marie Nylund the Secretary-Treasurer know by Wednesday, October 19th, 2022. Contact info at top of page.

If you plan to attend the AGM in person please RSVP to
Email: parkwarden2008alumni@hotmail.com

Heritage Park Warden Cabin

There is now a "warden" presence in the park with the cabin albeit could be stronger. A horse packing demonstration at the cabin helped that way.

It was put on by Hannah with her horse Sarcee and was well attended with the crowd seated at the small 'amphitheater' in front of the cabin. The first thing we learned was that there would be a demonstration of saddling the horse but not of putting the packs on it. If she went to put the rump strap under Sarcee's tail – "That's when the rodeo starts." Understood. She had the pack gear on site and went through it later.

Hannah did an excellent job of demonstrating saddling, explaining clearly what she was doing and naming the pieces of equipment and the parts of the saddle as she was using them. She did the same for the pack gear. Keep in mind there were probably many in the crowd, especially youngsters, who knew little about saddling a horse. There was one retired warden present – Ted Anderson. Hannah went about her work with a sense of quiet self-assurance which, I guess, can come from working with horses.

Afterwards I asked her what the requirements were for bringing a horse in to the park. She said the only requirement was that it had all its vaccinations up-to-date. That means if there is interest from our members we could consider a "Warden Days" event in the park much like what we used to put on at the Whyte Museum. Although Dorothy is not around to make cookies some of us could fill the gap a bit making 'Cowboy coffee." It would be a big draw. Something else to consider that would elevate our profile is putting on displays of warden-related items. These could include beside artifacts books and recordings by wardens, a binder of the oral histories, art works such as paintings, photos or cartoons, and perhaps videos. Displays would have to be small as its only a small cabin.

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 addresses top of page one.

Executive:
President – Dave Reynolds
Vice-President – Cliff White
Secretary-Treasurer – Marie Nylund
Membership – Marie Nylund
Directors: (2 & 3 year terms)
Perry Jacobson
Don Mickle
Dale Portman
Kathy Calvert
Jim Murphy
Colleen Reynolds
Alan Westhaver
Gordon Anderson
Perry Davis
Regional Representatives
Mountains – Gord Anderson
West Coast – vacant
North & Yukon – Tom Elliot
Prairies – vacant
Ontario – John Taylor
Eastern Canada –

Anyone interested in serving as a Regional Rep. please contact the society

Round-up: History Groups of Southern Alberta

The long standing group, Southern Alberta Pioneers took the initiative to invite history groups to a general meeting June 5th of this year. Fourteen groups were invited (a few couldn't make it) including the P.W.S.A.S. which was represented by Dale Portman and Perry Davis.

The purpose was mainly to get the different organizations acquainted with each other and to share information about their projects. It was not to form an umbrella organization or pursue common goals although the invitation expressed a hope that it might lead to a stronger political presence, probably a wish we all shared.

Each group in turn gave summaries of their aims and projects along with successes usually with some hurdles. The solutions to some problems different groups encountered was of particular interest. It was notable how many had as their main project publishing books; some have several publications to their credit and more in the works. Fortunately the P.W.S.A.S. was able to hold its own here with mention of *Ya-Ha-Tinda: A Home Place*. Most or all depended on some government money just as we do. The Bearspaw Historical Society has undertaken the restoration of a one room school house and its teacherage; apparently punching above its weight. The Glenbow, now known as the Glenbow Western Research, maintains an archive which is presently open to researchers by appointment and is also accessible through the internet. The [Calgary] City Heritage Group focuses on built heritage and is funded by the city. The Okotoks group has expanded from publishing history to also giving walking tours and even ghost tours. Some of them had brochures available, something the P.W.S.A.S. should consider. Several of the groups participate regularly in the annual Calgary History Week. So there was quite a variety of projects and purposes. Enthusiasm was noticeable in all presentations – ours included!

The Southern AB. Pioneers started off the talks with the other groups in more or less alphabetical order meaning the Warden Service Historical (as we were identified) was last with a wrap-up by one of the moderators, Mr. Gene Blakley of the Pioneers. Some of the groups represented small areas such as the district of Bowness in Calgary or the towns of Chestermere or Okotoks. The Chinook Country Regional, on the other hand, covered a vast area. The McDougall Stoney Historical and the Bar-U represented by Ken Chatelk were the two organizations closest to ours in their interests. Note that the McDougall group now includes "Stoney" in their name. After the church was burnt down they realized they needed much closer ties with the natives and have taken big steps in that direction. They also recommended that groups consider joining the Alberta Museum Assoc'n. The Bar-U is a maverick historical site – it allows visitors to actually handle the artifacts!

For the remainder of the event it was mingling and networking. Chatting with Mr. Blakley it turned out he knew several wardens personally. From his introduction of each group it was plain he also knew members of almost all of them. A real networker. The Pioneers have their own log building in a choice location in Calgary. They also have an archive which is open to the public by appointment. They also are willing to come and speak to any of these groups.

It is to be hoped that these round-ups become annual events and lead to the desired "stronger political presence."

Paula Duncan's Red Deer River Horse Trip: Part one of two

(Paula is a nurse and a PWSAS member. She spends much of her summers hiking and camping in the parks and submitted the following article. Editor.)

I had been interested in hiking over Divide Pass through to the Clearwater and beyond for several years, however had been deterred by tales of formidable fords on the Clearwater, and other hikers' misadventures in those waters. Several plans for autumn trips at low water had been deferred due to various issues. Last year I hiked up Tyrell from the Red Deer, over Shale Pass, and back to Red Deer via Divide, so I was keen on the opportunity of extending the journey via horseback when the opportunity arose! I'm sharing this as the recent conditions of the route may be of interest to some, and I've thrown in a few personal observations

On August 9/22 our group of six riders set off on a seven day trip, with Paul Peyto of Timberline tours outfitting, capable staff Syd and Nicole, and a sturdy pack string of eight horses and mules. Our first day was over very familiar terrain, via Deception Pass to Skoki; there was still a little snow patch at the summit of the pass, in which we found a grizzly track. That night we settled in at the Peyto camp by Red Deer Lakes. Yes, the horse flies (aka "hiker flies") and mosquitoes are just as bad as they ever were on this section. This was also when the fire ban was on, so cooking was done on a Coleman rather than the wood stove. During the evening we enjoyed the reflections on the very still Red Deer Lakes.

Drummond Glacier, like all others has much receded, and the creek greatly reduced in volume compared with accounts I have read from past decades. The past few years I have hiked by at various times over the summer season, it is never more than ankle deep. After a sporty ford of the Red Deer, which would not have been possible had I been on foot, we pitched camp at the designated area towards Skeleton/Horseshoe Lake. It didn't appear to have been used for some time, the route and pasture area was very overgrown with brush. The next morning while the packs were being loaded, we hiked to the lake on a slightly obscure trail, and wished we could have enjoyed several more hours at this very delightful scenic and remote spot. We found a small black bear track near the lake

We proceeded to Divide Pass, there was a fair bit of deadfall along the Red Deer, but Paul did not have to use his chainsaw. Four elk were spotted on high slopes en-route to summit of the pass, also as in the previous year I had hiked this route, an impressive abundance of moths rising up as we passed. I was reminded of ever opportunistic bears exploiting this food source, and the feasibility of it providing enough calories and nutrients for the effort when insect numbers are in abundance. One of our party identified a Timberline Sparrow. The horse camping area near Divide Cabin was also extremely overgrown with brush, and it took some time to get settled in. Just after we were established, "Banff Barn Boss" Shaun stopped in; he and his crew were at Divide Cabin, and we were grateful to learn they had just been through our route, clearing deadfall.

To be continued . . . .

Johnny Nylund Memorial Get-together.

Marie organized the second memorial hike to the summit of Square Butte where Johnny's ashes were cast to the winds on September 17th of last year. It was well attended though not all made the hike. It is a grunt to the summit but what views especially the sunny day of the event. Afterwards there was a gathering at the Ballachey place.

A time to socialize over refreshments. Marie had outdone herself and was certainly pleased at the success of the event. Good to remember Johnny.

More cabins, cabins, cabins

For whatever reason, a good deal of interest is being taken in the mountain park warden cabins Several initiatives are underway on this front. Edwin Knox has done considerable work on the Waterton cabins, and may perhaps have completed his research. Steve Malins, Banff Field Unit cultural resources manager, was able to hire an assistant to update the spreadsheet on Banff's cabins. I was able to contribute a bit of information on a few cabins not in their inventory but was daunted by the amount of information on file already.

Your executive had heard that the Owen Creek and Baker Creek Cabins were to be 'decommissioned." A letter was sent to the KYLL field unit which resulted first in a Zoom meeting with the acting Recourse Con. Manager, M. Seth Cherry. What he said was re-assuring: procedures had to be followed and that included FHBRO before a decision could be made on the fate of the cabins. He did point out that somewhere along the line hard decisions will have to be made. Limited park funding is a big factor and that includes maintenance, however limited, on cabins that are no longer being used. The Castleguard Cabin was protected from the rescribed burn in that area this summer. That was good news. By the way, Dale Loewen said J. Rimmer had nothing to do with the construction of that cabin as I had reported in this Spring's newsletter.

The Owen Creek and Baker Creek cabins are both undergoing FHBRO assessment. The one for Owen Creek is completed or almost so; the one for Baker is underway. The process, as some may remember, is a lengthy on: two years is probably a minimum from start to finish. The Hector Cabin came up at the Zoom meeting. As Seth and the Current Assets Manager, Mr. Kurt Devlin, knew of the cabin but had not been to it so a trip was arranged with Perry Davis guiding them so they could see the cabin and its site first hand which they did along with Rhonda Owchar, cultural resources. They will now initiate the FHBRO process.

Your editor got it into his head last year to track down the sites of the seven (Owen Creek included) warden cabins one located along the Banff- Jasper Highway. This notion probably goes back to being taken, along with several others, to the Hector Nine Mile Cabin by Don Mickle. This summer's mission was to the Howse River Flats cabin site.

The Howse River Flats Warden Cabin.

Trails were the travel routes before construction of the Banff-Jasper Highway. The crossing of the North Saskatchewan was done in two steps – first across the Howse and then over the North Saskatchewan River as shown on the 1931 map here. Note the warden cabin shown on the south side of the Howse River ford. Also worth noting is that there is nothing at today's Saskatchewan Crossing site. I wonder if there is any sign of where the bridge over the Mistaya was then – much upstream from the canyon.

This summer Perry Davis hiked to the site of the cabin. Where the Howse Pass trail bends around the first corner after coming out on the flats he found the knoll the cabin was reported to have been on. Its a long treed ridge actually and a great cabin site. He followed the trail along the top of the ridge keeping

an eye out for remnants of the cabin. Nothing. So he walked back off the trail weaving back and forth. Nothing – until he spotted some odd flat rocks, definitely not natural. Scraping the grass and dirt away at that site they turned out to be part of a broken up thin concrete slab. He also found a few assorted rusty nails and a piece of wire. The two photos show the site as it was then and as it is now.

How could the cabin, shed etc. (thanks to Cliff White for photo) have so completely disappeared?

Dale Loewen recalls that one of the cabins from the Ozada W.W. II prisoner of war camp had at some time been hauled up the Howse River. Where it was sited I am not sure but it was not on the top of the knoll for Jim Murphy recalls seeing the cabin partly flooded during high water. Dale was ordered to burn it down. A can of high test helicopter fuel did a quick and thorough job.

First Warden Alumni Camping Reunion a Success!

45+ enthusiastic Park Warden alumni and friends, from as far away as Ontario, converged in southern Alberta Sept. 6 – 8 making our inaugural camping mini-reunion a great success! The Nanton Lions Campground provided a perfect setting for renewing old friendships, story-telling and discovering new connections with Warden alumni and their "not-so-silent partners" who lived, worked and raised families in National Parks across Canada. Several others took advantage of local motels and/or day tripped to join us around the campfire and picnic tables. Early September timing assured good weather and allowed us to take full advantage of the campground's facilities. Potluck meals and a communal pancake breakfast kept the conversations going, the logistics simple, and expenses reasonable. There was unanimous agreement this should become an annual fall event, hosted in semi-serviced campgrounds (with indoor accommodation options), and at rotating locations. Most attendees pledged to return. We expect that many more will join in next year's event as a way to sustain old friendships and build a new tradition.

The 2023 alumni camping reunion will be held at the beautiful Salmon Arm Elks Campground, September 5 – 7; full-service & dry camping sites are available. Contact Alan Westhaver (alan.westhaver@shaw.ca) or call (250) 430-7206 for details and to make your camping reservation ASAP. Many motels are available nearby for the non-campers.

History of the Warden Service
Dale Portman and Kathy Calvert are in the process of researching and writing a book on the history of the warden service. They applied for and were awarded a research grant from the Alberta Government, Historical Resources Foundation to assist with the project. The project is in the initial stages at this point.

Peter Fuhrmann's biography
Kathy Calvert has been given a contract to write a biography on the life of Peter Fuhrmann who played a key role in the development of the mountain rescue project in the national parks.

Announcements

We are saddened to hear of the passing of three of our Park Warden Alumni family:

Gordie Peyto. Condolences to Jan Peyto and her daughters Bonnie and Kelsey on the sudden loss of Gordie on September 24th. Gordie was born in 1948 and grew up in Banff. No sooner had he graduated, then he was offered a job with the warden service on trail maintenance. The warden service seems to have been a tradition for the Peyto family. Four weeks later, he found himself working for Andy Anderson as a seasonal warden at the "Head of the Red". He spent three years as a Season Park Warden with winters on the warden maintenance crew on the Cascade Fire Road and Spray Lakes logging and moving snow. Gordie's early days with the Warden Service took him to Waterton Lakes National Park, Rogers Pass, Banff, and Jasper national parks. He eventually was offered a permanent position in Revelstoke/Glacier on Snow Research and Avalanche Safety. Gordie, as with so many other park wardens, had gained his expertise from mentors like Walter Perren and Willi Pfisterer. Gord's skiing ability came naturally and he was a great skier and climber who did not hesitate to share his knowledge with others. He is known for his sense of humour and friendship. Gordie became Dog Master for Revelstoke/Glacier National Park in 1980. He retired in 1998 after 32 years of service with the Warden Service. He continued to work after retirement driving a propane truck, a school bus and did some logging and as night watchman at the Golden Sawmill . He was always busy.

Sylvia Carleton Condolences to Michael Carleton and family on the loss of Sylvia on October 7th,
Sylvia passed away peacefully at home with her beloved husband Mike at her bedside at the age of 75 years. She had a long and challenging journey living with Alzheimer's, but she bravely dealt with the disease and lived every day to the fullest. Sylvia grew up in the Swedish countryside within the beauty of forest and lakes and rivers and she loved the nature and wildlife. Her family lived in several small communities in Sweden before moving to Karlstad in Värmland where Sylvia completed high school. Sylvia continued her studies at a technical school in Sundsvall and became a cartographer. Sylvia immigrated to Canada in 1967 and settled in Calgary. She worked as a draftsperson for Texaco Exploration, then Renton and Partners, an architectural firm. Sylvia joined the Foothills Nordic Ski Club and really enjoyed club ski touring outings in the mountains. On a trip to Lake O'Hara she met Mike, romance ensued, and they were married in Banff in 1974. Three children were born: Ingrid (1976), Erik (1978), and Patrick (1980). They all grew up with a love of the mountains and the outdoors. Sylvia was a volunteer and host to visiting nations during the 1988 Olympic Winter Games in Calgary, fulfilling the role of Hosting Chairman at the Canmore Nordic Centre. Sylvia was dedicated to Swedish culture and heritage. She was a founding member of the Swedish Language School in Calgary and a teacher with the school for many years. She was President of the Swedish Society of Calgary, a member of Branting Lodge #417, and a volunteer and Office Manager at the Calgary Scandinavian Centre. In the home, she raised her family with Swedish language and traditions. In her senior years she worked as a support worker for the Calgary SCOPE Society, an organization for people with developmental disabilities. She had an unselfish devotion to helping others and was loved by her clients. Sylvia was a member of the Senior's Outdoor Club of Calgary (SOCC) for hiking and skiing in the mountains, and a regular on their weekly bus trips. For over 30 years she was a "Crow Cavorter", attending the annual Crowsnest Pass Mountain Climbing, Caving and Cavorting Expeditions in the Crowsnest Pass. During the years living with Alzheimer's, she attended and made

good friends at the Memory Plus Program. She also attended the Bowview Manor Adult Day Program and the online Rec@Home program, both operated by the Brenda Strafford Foundation. Sylvia is lovingly remembered by husband Mike, daughter Ingrid (Aaron), son Erik (Karen), son Patrick (Mayumi); grandchildren Jonathan, Nicholas, Victoria, Myla, Liana, and Stryder; brother Urban (Eva) and their family in Sweden, and dear friend Ulla Bäckman in Sweden. She was predeceased by her parents Sven and Karin Hellberg. A private family service will be held, and a Celebration of Life will be on her birthday, February 4, 2023 at the Calgary Scandinavian Centre 739-20 Ave NW, Calgary, AB.

Erin Murphy Condolenes to Jim and Patsy Murphy and family on the sudden passing of Erin on October 13th. Erin Patricia Murphy unexpectedly passed away on Thursday, October 13, 2022 in Calgary. Born on Aug. 2nd, 1984 in the old Banff hospital, Erin was 38 years old when she passed away, much too young. Erin lived the first five years in Banff, then moved to Canmore with her family in 1989 where she had been based on and off ever since. Having a Kiwi mother, she spent her early years living in New Zealand with the family where she excelled at academics while attending Nelson College for Girls. She was also active in sports, especially rowing. While in New Zealand, Erin was diagnosed with Crohn's/Colitis and Scoliosis which she lived with for the rest of her short life. Moving back to Canmore in '99, she graduated from Canmore Collegiate High School. Subsequently, Erin pursued and acquired a nursing degree at the Southern Institute of Technology in Invercargill, New Zealand. Upon completion of her degree, Erin 'spread her wings' by first working as a nurse in Melbourne Australia, then working on various Princess Line cruise ships. She loved working on the ships for many reasons, most of all being an officer on board which gave her many privileges- especially the parties in the officers mess. After several years of being on the high seas, sailing around the world, Erin decided to come home and work as a nurse in the Bow Valley and Calgary. She loved working in the Calgary Children's Hospital ICU and the Emergency Dept. in Canmore. Erin was dedicated to nursing at the Children's ICU, especially due to the fact that she had spent so much time as a patient in the old Children's Hospital in Calgary. She loved the nurses there and wanted to give back. Erin loved socialising with her friends in Canmore and Calgary, especially enjoying outdoor sports. Erin enjoyed activities such as: X/C and downhill skiing; ice skating; biking; hiking; 'SUP'ing'; dragon boating; golf; and needle pointing. Her adventures were often celebrated with good wine and food. Camp 'Hoo-Ha' was one of Erin's favourites. At work, she enjoyed teasing the doctors on her ward, trying to lighten the mood. She also called a spade a spade, which did irk some members of the team at times, but her cheeky grin always eased the way. Erin is survived by her: Mother (Patsy); Father (Jim); brother (Christopher), sister (Sarah); brother in law (Ian); Niece (Fernly Jane); Uncles (Frank, David, Graeme, and Graeme); Aunts (Tricia, Sue, Chris); many cousins from the West coast to the East in Canada and in New Zealand, Australia and England. She is also survived by many friends, medical workmates and acquaintances from around the globe. Erin's family wish to extend a special thanks to all the medical staff in Canmore and Calgary who supported her in her times of need. The Family would also like to thank her colleagues and close groups of friends that supported Erin, bringing adventure and light into her life. Erin was a very strong, beautiful woman. She loved the colour pink- if possible, please wear pink at her 'Celebration of Life' which will be held on Wednesday, October 26th at 1pm in the Bill Warren Training Centre at the Canmore Nordic Centre. You will be able to visit Erin at the Banff Mountain View Cemetery, or rest on her bench located along the ridge above Benchlands Trail.

CHANGE OF MAILING ADDRESS:
The mailing address for the Park Warden Service Alumni Society will change effective January 1st, 2023.
The town's of Turner Valley and Black Diamond will be amalgamated into one town – Diamond Valley.
The new mailing address will be PO Box 1611, Diamond Valley, Alberta, T0L 2A0.