

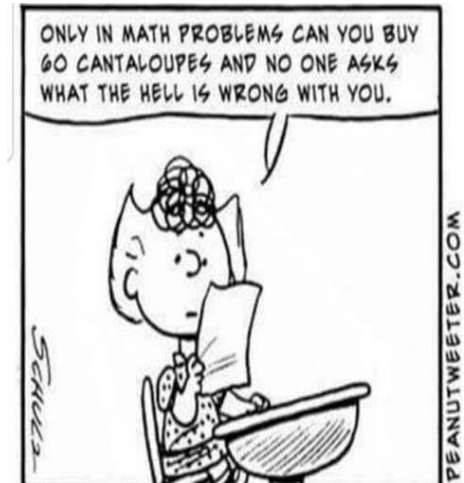
**PARK WARDEN SERVICE ALUMNI SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ des ANCIENS des GARDES de PARC**

Spring 2023 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.

The PWSAS is Growing

Since its inception the PWSAS has been well aware that the Warden Service was a national organization even if the bulk of its members worked in the mountain national parks. How to be inclusive was a real challenge to the small group of warden alumni centered in the Mountain Region! The PWSAS website was one way of meeting this challenge but it had one drawback: most of its content was of the Mountain Park Warden Service.

The PWSAS has always had executive positions (usually vacant) for regional representatives and did broaden its membership criteria to include personnel now filling roles throughout Parks Canada that were traditionally filled by the ‘old school’ wardens. In recent years the executive has made contact with former wardens in the North, Central Canada and the Atlantic. There are good indications that this desired expansion is starting to ‘sprout.’ Retired wardens in those areas are taking an interest in ‘branches’ modeled on the current Mountain Parks one but adapted to each region which is probably the way forward most likely to take root. In this light have a read within of our first regional report from Tom Elliott, North & Yukon Rep! (See Page 3).

Memberships

Thank you to those new members and those who have renewed your membership for 2023. Your membership is important to us in many ways such as funding support to the on-going Oral History Project [now in Phase 13]; keeping up our website; funding support for our mini-reunions; and funding the costs of this newsletter [we have 30 members who do not have email so mailing it out is essential]. Being a member of the Park Warden Service Alumni Society is also a way being a part of and maintaining the camaraderie of the warden service.

THANK YOU LOYAL MEMBERS!

“The (musical) Wardens”

The Wardens have been busy entertaining audiences with their songs and music. They have made three two-week tours over the winter playing in 200 to 400 seat theaters and community halls throughout the northwest United States, the B.C. core and Vancouver Island. Last month they played at the Canadian Folk Music Awards in PEI. Many performances were sold out and the crowds appreciative if not downright enthusiastic. More than once there were people in the audience known to the band members too! Their most recent event was in the 400 seat TransCanada Theatre in Olds.

The band now consists of Ray on guitar, mandolin and bass; Scott Ward, guitar and bass; Scott Duncan, fiddle, mandolin, bass; and Nico Humby, bass, mandolin and guitar. When playing in community halls they have to set up their own sound system. Good thing Ray is a bit of a techie.

The songs are original and many of them are about the warden life that so many of us lived. The appeal of The Wardens to the public – note: sold-out performances – speaks loudly of their skill and also is proof that there is strong public interest is exactly what the PWSAS was set up to commemorate.

PWSAS Silent Auctions

The PWSAS has been holding ‘silent auctions’ on-line. These have proven to be a good, if sometime slowish, way of adding to the PWSAS treasury.

Recent items put up for auction included:

- A pristine Warden Service Belt Buckle [still in its original packaging] donated by Mike Dillon. The successful bidder was Darryl Grams.
- Perry Jacobson donated an authentic vintage Park Warden Stetson. Successful bidder was Clayton Nylund.
- Bev Hunter donated an original 1940 copper national park vehicle entry pass that Eric Langshaw successfully bid on.

Halle Flygare generously donated 10 copies of his 1966-1986 photo-journal Sir Alexander MacKenzie Heritage Trail (Retracing the Nuxaulk-Carrier Grease Trail). These 10 books proved popular and sold out in less than 24 hours.

Thank you to these generous donors and to the folks who supported our silent auctions and book sales. Watch for future Silent Auction items and more book sales.

Park Warden Service Alumni Crests

We still have a limited number of crests for sale at \$5.00 each [includes postage]. Dave Reynolds will have some available at the Mini-Reunion in Salmon Arm this fall. You may also purchase a crest directly from the society by contacting the Secretary-Treasurer at parkwarden2008alumni@hotmail.com.

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
Eric Langshaw

Perry Davis – Newsletter Editor

Regional Representatives

Mountains – Gord Anderson
Central B.C. – Alan Westhaver
Vancouver Island – Peter Clarkson
North & Yukon – Tom Elliot
Prairies – vacant
Central Ontario – Alan Gibbs
Southern Ontario – Dan Rieve
Eastern Canada –

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

Jasper Homecoming

The Yellowhead Museum and Archives in Jasper is hosting a “Homecoming” event to be held Sun., Aug.27 – Tues., Aug. 29. It will open with a wine and cheese reception at the museum on Sunday (afternoon or evening?). Tickets cost \$100.00 with the money going to support the Museum and Archives.

During the events Museum staff will be asking attendees for their stories– good, bad or indifferent – of their time in Jasper town and park - short term or long. They will be used in the second edition of *Jasper Reflections*.

For more information go to homecoming2023@outlook.com.

P.S. Rod Wallace is looking for PWSAS volunteers, former Jasper Park Wardens especially, to help organize a warden service alumni display booth and to man the booth.

Creating a Warden Presence in Heritage Park

As has been reported the Park has designated the Bert Pendergast Cabin (originally from Harvie Heights) as a warden cabin in the Prospect Ridge area. There is an opportunity to have retired wardens man the cabin. Commitment is flexible – one day in the summer, one day a month and so on. This would be an excellent opportunity to spread the ‘real’ warden story as well as the role of the PWSAS.

The PWSAS is also investigating the possibility of holding a one day only “Warden Days” event in the park. What is envisioned is a modified version of the gymkhana/Yucca Flats get togethers. Of course this depends on a go-ahead from the park and commitments from PWSAS members. At the present the PWSAS is waiting to hear back from the park.

If this plan appeals to you or you have ideas about how it could work please contact Perry Davis, point man on this initiative.

Yukon & North Regional News – from Tom Elliott It’s a Small World



It’s a small world, but when you are a holiday destination like most mountain parks, you are more likely to cross paths with former work colleagues and friends. Over the years I’ve run into the likes of Duane West, Mike Dillon, Ivan Phillips, Al and Wendy Gibbs, Ray and Louise Brenneman, George and Janet Mercer, BJ, Chris Worobets and others. Last summer an informal gathering of the Kluane Order of ROFW (retired old fart wardens) occurred when Wes Olson and Peter Jowett showed up at the Bakery in Haines Junction. Wes posted a picture of the

group on the Facebook alumni site which I’ve copied here.

A few years back while Penny and I were having a beer at the Fish Company wharf in Skagway, Alaska we ran into Brad White who had just completed a kayak trip in Glacier Bay. A couple days later we were sitting

outside at Winterlong Brewing enjoying one of their craft beers. We overheard a fellow at the next table mentioning some familiar names and places. Turned out to be the Rev-Glacier fire management guy who was biking the Alaska highway (don't recall his name but he was next generation res con staff).



A few years prior to my retirement, Dale Portman, Kathy Calvert, Rod Wallace, and Don Mickle had come up to hike the Chilkoot. They became legends along the trail as hiking parties talked about the group Happy Camp cooking up a breakfast of bacon and eggs on a big cast iron frying pan, they had packed over the trail. Their legend likely grew larger at Lindman, where I had arranged to have some beer and sodas delivered to them by the Chilkoot Trail staff.

Whatever the case, if coming the Yukon way please check in. We are more than happy to share our favourite hikes, things to do and places to see, eat or find a local coffee roastery or craft beer. You might even be able to join the Kluane crew when they meet for their weekly coffee jam.

On a similar note, you never know who you might meet while traveling yourself. This past December when deboarding the plane in Vancouver, I heard someone call my name. I turned around, surprised to see Peter Clarkson. We had time to have a quick beer before catching our connecting flights. A great visit and reconnection. Not the first time this has happened either. Same thing a few years when I ran into Ian Morrison from the east coast. Yes, it's a small world, or simply the small circles we travel in, as some might say.

* * * * *

Tax Tip

It's tax season. You may be looking at a tax refund and impatiently waiting for your tax slips to arrive to submit your tax return. Something I stumbled upon recently, was a place online to find and download your various T slips long before they arrive in the mail.

You need a Revenue Canada account to do this (easy to set up). Simply log into your account and click on the "Tax Return" link below your Profile link. Next scroll down and select the "Tax Info Slips (T4 and more)" link. Then specify the "tax year, information slips, All Slips and view" and all your slips will be there as posted by various agencies.

My OAS T4A showed up Jan 13th, my CPP slip Jan 17th, and my pension slip Feb 16th. Various bank and other reporting slips were posted from Feb 17th through early March. This year I filed online the morning of March 13th. By 3:30 pm that same day I received a notice from Revenue Canada that my express notice of assessment had been completed. I logged into my account to find my expected refund, and that my final notice of assessment and deposit dates expected March 23rd. Fastest response and turn around time ever. Good luck.

The Banff Warden Archives

These archives are located in the Banff Warden Office. They were originally established by Don Mickle, maintained next by Dennis Herman. They contain many mountain park warden historic documents, photos & maps etc. Fortunately they survived the organizational changes to the Warden Service. New material is being

added and summer assistants have been hired. One researcher last year worked on expanding the inventory of warden cabins. Another is being hired this summer.

Steve Malins is in charge. However he is not the “on-duty curator” as he has several other responsibilities so access to the archives has to be arranged beforehand with him. He can be contacted at stevemalins@pc.gc.ca

Missing Stuff

Speaking of archives the Alumni would like to know where the *Compendium of Climbing Route: Banff National Park* went to? So too would Steve Malins. This was an early guide to Mountain Parks’ mountain climbing routes. It was kept at the front desk of the Banff Warden Office and used by whoever was helping climbers register out (remember those days?). It covered all the main climbs at that time in Banff with the routes marked on photos. Andy Anderson assigned Jim Murphy the job of creating this Compendium around 1975. The budget included two days of helicopter time for Bruno to take photos of the mountains. Jim consulted the climbing community about the routes and then marked them on plastic overlays of the photos so as not to obscure any details of the actual route. The finished Photo Compendium was a publication approx. 11” x 17” with a hard cover, possibly professionally bound. There were two copies made. If you have any ideas – or even know – what happened to it please let Perry Davis or Marie Nylund know...both PWSAS.

PHASE 13 ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

A Grant Application has been submitted to the Province Alberta through the Heritage Preservation Partnership Program under the Heritage Awareness, Publication, and Research component to assist with Phase 13 of the Oral History Project. This is a matching grant so PWSAS is required to fund the cost of half of the interviews. We plan to add at least 10 oral history interviews to the current collection of over 100. The interviews are posted on our website and a copy of each interview is provided to the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies. The benefit of this oral history project is that it captures the work-related stories and evocative vignettes from individual park wardens during the 114-year long history of the Park Warden Service in Canada’s national parks. We are very appreciative of those individuals who have participated in this project.

We are very appreciative of the Province of Alberta who has provided the Park Warden Service with research grants over the past several years. Without this financial support the number of interviews in our collection would be substantially less.

We also appreciate the expertise of all of our interviewers who have conducted interviews since the project first started. We were fortunate to have interviews who have a solid understanding of the warden service, its history and the role of park wardens has contributed greatly to the quality of these oral histories.

RETIREMENTS:

The time has come for Parks Canada to host a retirement gathering to celebrate and congratulate Rob Jennings on his 23+ years of service training horses at the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch!

The date has been set for a **dinner BBQ on Friday, April 21st, 2023, starting at 4:30pm at the Light Horse Association** beside the Banff Barns (51°12'20.3"N 115°32'06.1"W)

To estimate numbers, please email me if you will be attending, at leah.swain@pc.gc.ca.

Please also bring along \$10 if you plan on attending as there will be a BBQ for all.

Rob looks forward to seeing you all there!

Cheers!

Leah Swain

leah.swain@pc.gc.ca

403-497-5170

A flashback to the past:

Veteran Mountaineer Honoured

by Pam Clark



Banff National Park Public Safety Manager Tim Auger, receives the National Search and Rescue Secretariat Award from Parks Canada Assistant Deputy Minister Tom Lee.

Veteran mountaineer Tim Auger was recently presented with the 1996 National Search and Rescue Achievement Award for Alberta. Tim was honoured with the award for his past 27 years of outstanding leadership and dedication in public safety and rescue within Parks Canada.

Tim's first years working for the national parks as Lake O'Hara's District Warden provided him with ample climbing opportunities and winters off to earn his Association of Canadian Mountain Guides certification. In 1975 he was invited to join an elite group of mountaineers and form Canada's first ever national park rescue team. Over the past 30 years there is probably no one person, who has assisted in rescuing as many visitors in the mountain parks as Tim Auger.

As a pioneer of many of the currently used alpine rescue systems, Tim continues to shape the living tradition as well as the future of the warden service rescue team. Even with his list of lifelong achievements Tim remains very modest. He credits his success to the earlier training he received from rescue veterans and the efficient and talented members of his rescue team.

Pam Clark, Executive Services and Media relations, Banff National Park

THE LITERARY CORNER

Another winter of playing in, shoveling and getting stuck in snow is ending. So it's a timely time to re-visit this old question – How many Eskimo words are there for Snow?" J. P. Davidson in *Planet Word: The story of language from its earliest grunts to Twitter and Beyond* (p. 65) explains:

The notion that Eskimos have hundreds of words for snow began with a 1940 article by B. Whorf who along with E. Sapir conducted extensive research among the native people of North America. "What Whorf actually said [in his article] was that Eskimos . . . have seven distinct words for snow and must therefore think differently about snow. The initial data [of their research] was flawed and then extravagantly misrepresented. In the popular press the seven became fifty, and by 1984 an editorial in the *New York Times* expanded the number to 100."

"Eskimo languages are known as "agglutinated languages (from Latin meaning 'to glue together') where suffixes can be added on to a root word to form a new word . . . The number of words [that can be formed this way] is almost limitless. So for instance the root word for snow is *kamiktshaq* and you can add *thuk* meaning bad to create a new word [for bad snow]. In theory you could also add 'pee' and 'walrus' to form [one] new word: 'badsnowpeedonbywalrus.'"

Sid Marty's Latest Poetry Book

Sid's latest book *Oldman's River: New and Collected Poems*. This, the first-ever collected works brings together old and new poems, published and unpublished works, in a celebration of the career and artistry of a Western Canadian icon. It is appropriately placed between *It Begins with Salt* and *the Fabulous Beast*, for rivers come from the salty ocean and the creative drive (and other things) from the fabulous beast. That warden life must have been a good one for it help foster the fabulous beast's creative impulse. Consider as well that the music spirit is alive and well in "The Wardens."

Speaking of the value of the arts – this passage your editor came across in the Stockmen's Memorial Library while waiting for a PWSAS executive meeting to start. It was in *We Sagebrush Folk* by Annie Greenwood of Idaho. I wish I had made some notes on Annie – quite the remarkable life she led from the other bits I read:

"What aspiration there was came from the woman folk for their children – who will say that trying to produce music is not better than sinking into a milking-plowing-chawing tabaccer machine."

Paula's Red Deer River Horse Trip: Part two –conclusion coming in the next newsletter – ed.

The Health Section

For those of you who may have missed the news or let it slip the Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP) will be moving from Sun Life to the Canada Life Assurance Company or "Canada Life" for short. The change takes effect July 1st. In the meantime Sun Life is processing claims.

Members are advised to review all their personal information on their Sunlife account. To do so sign in to your online PSHCP account at www.sunlife.ca/pshcp and click on "Positive Enrolment." If you do not have an online account you can do "Positive Enrolment" by calling the SunLife toll-free number 1-888-757-7427 (toll free from anywhere in Canada).

Fingers crossed that it all goes smoothly for us PWSAS members!

Congratulations – Happy Birthday!

Ann Dixon-Bruder will celebrate her 97th Birthday on April 17th. Ann is a remarkable woman who has lived an active and healthy life! Happy Birthday Ann!

Second Annual Park Warden Alumni Camping Mini-Reunion



Salmon Arm, BC. Elks Campground

Tuesday Sept. 5th - Thursday Sept. 7th, 2023

Cost: \$40.00 per night (21 full service); \$20.00 (35 un-serviced)

Tuesday: Evening take-out pizza
Wednesday: Potluck supper & BBQ
Thursday: Pancake breakfast

} social
in the XXL picnic shelter

Bring photos, stories and a
campfire!

coffee mug for around the

To reserve your campsite or obtain further information please
contact alan.westhaver@shaw.ca "First come -first served" on
serviced sites.

For non-campers: Salmon Arm Fairfield Inn and Suites offers a discounted rate
for alumni. Call (778) 489-0555 ASAP, and identify as a Park Warden Alumni.
Offer for reduced rate expires August 03. Other hotels available at regular
rates.