

# **P.W.S.A.S. Fall-Winter'23 Newsletter**



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

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Website: [parkwardenalumni.com](http://parkwardenalumni.com)

Membership is open to all former Park Wardens and family as well to anyone who wants to support 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: Redwood Meadows Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>.**

It was a cosy group of members who attended the meeting in person and on Zoom. The Redwood Meadows location was chosen as a good one to attract southern Alberta members. Wintery conditions prevailed outside and that probably kept numbers down. Nonetheless there was enough for the required quorum

President Dave Reynolds’ big news was that our grant application for the Oral History project had been turned down by the provincial government and the language indicated that there would be no future funding of our organization! The PWSAS is now looking into B.C. and Heritage Canada grant applications: fingers crossed. This setback gives more importance to our “**self-generated interviews.**” We have already implemented these with moderate success so far. This consists of a printed questionnaire that the person of interest completes and returns. The information package on self-generated interviews can be found on the first page of our website. Click on “Oral History Form” in the top task bar. You can download the whole package. Contact Don Mickle or Perry Jacobson for assistance in completing your self-generated oral history.

On the topic of interviews, all oral histories done so far have been posted on our website. Have a peek: there are sure to be some of interest to you!

Dave has also been working on extending the PWSAS to the eastern region and has made some progress in that direction. Some of our eastern members are planning a re-union possibly in the coming Spring. Alan Westhaver pointed out that a later date would not conflict with our planned Mini-Re-union to be held May 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (more information below). Our Facebook account is active and lively and should also

help aid this expansion. Marie's financial and membership reports were good news – membership numbers have reached a high point and we are in the black financially. Not to say they both can't go higher still!

Gord Anderson had to step down as a board member. His failing hearing made it too difficult to continue as he would have done otherwise. So one board position is open. We thank him for his good work while on the board. He continues as the Mountain Rep. for the PWSAS.



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  
Eric Langshaw  
Perry Davis – Newsletter Editor

**Regional Representatives**

Mountains – Gord Anderson  
Vancouver Island – Peter Clarkson  
West Coast – Bob Hansen  
North & Yukon – Tom Elliot  
Prairies – vacant  
Central Ontario – Alan Gibbs  
Southern Ontario – Dan Reive

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

**Can't Avoid It so May as Well Enjoy it!**

Don Mickle at the Summit Café, Canmore  
(Belated Happy Birthday Don!)

**Consumer Economics**

Sanjay Thakrar, CEO at Euro Exim Bank Ltd got economists thinking when he said: "A cyclist is a disaster for a country's economy. He does not buy a car and does not take a car loan. Does not buy car insurance. Does not buy fuel. Does not send his car for servicing and repairs. Does not use paid parking. Does not become obese.

Yes,.....and well, damn it!! Healthy people are not needed for an economy. They do not buy drugs. They do not go to hospitals and doctors. They add nothing to a country's GDP.

On the contrary, every new McDonalds outlet creates at least 30 jobs: 10 cardiologists, 10 dentists, 10 weight-loss experts apart from people working in McDonald's outlets.

Walking is even worse - those people do not even buy a bicycle!!!

## **Biodiversity Protection for the Ya Ha Tinda**

Excerpts from Cathy Ellis' article in the "Rocky Mountain Outlook," May 9, 2023.

Parks Canada is working on an application to have Ya Ha Tinda recognized for its contribution to biodiversity conservation. The 3,945-hectare ranch is currently not a designated protected area. However, there are strong indicators it meets criteria for Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECM) – a new category that countries can report as contributing to the protection of biodiversity under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

Parks Canada officials say Ya Ha Tinda Ranch – which has been operated by the federal government for more than 100 years – lies within rare montane grasslands with an abundance of wildlife including grizzly bear, wolf, cougar, moose, deer, and bighorn sheep, and is a major winter range for about 1,000 elk.

Archaeological evidence indicates that the the Ya Ha Tinda area – which means "mountain prairie" in Îyârhe/Stoney – has been used by Indigenous peoples for more than 9,400 years.

Many camps, tipi rings and artifacts have been found, while remains of pre-historic bison have been unearthed as well. In addition, the Red Deer River was a trading route since more camps exist west along the river towards the Continental Divide.

Parks Canada officials say recognition of Ya Ha Tinda as an OECM will not result in any changes to existing activities, uses, or access, noting hunting will continue to be permitted, current access will be maintained, and operations as a working horse ranch will continue.

## **Nature Conservancy of Canada purchases land for protection in southern Alberta.**

A property that includes fescue grasslands, forests and wetlands near Waterton Lakes National Park in southern Alberta has been purchased by the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

### **Meghan McCord**

The PWSAS received an e-mail from Meghan informing us that she has been taken on as the Executive Director of CPAWS-BC. She has over 20 years. experience in resource management and has worked across Canada and in Africa to co-develop in working groups effective management strategies for vulnerable species and ecosystems. An excellent person to have on staff and to be in contact with us!

## **Surplus KYLL Warden Cabins**

The PWSAS along with the Parks Canada Heritage Society (PCHS) continues to pursue the possibility of acquiring one of these cabins and having it re-located to an historical site such as Heritage Park. This would bring the general purpose warden service to the general public in a big way as along with the cabin would have to be information on the role of such cabins including the story of the general purpose wardens and their work in protecting the park's resources as well as its visitors. This would be feathers in the caps. of both the PWSAS and PCHS.

A copy of a report on the Hector Cabin has been passed on to KYLL zone. It includes a simple plan of the Hector Cabin made by P. Davis and, in effect, a photo inventory of it made by some friends of his as well as an evaluation of the cabin's soundness by Frank Burstrom. It is well recorded now whatever its fate. However, of the three cabins the field unit management has decided that the Hector Cabin will be left in place. That leaves the Owen Creek cabin (pictured opposite) and the Baker Creek cabin still under consideration although others may also come up.





## Some Other Parks Cabins



The two photos above show Mother Nature quietly working to return the works of man to her!

The left photo is of a young Mike Carleton, his dad and Emil, one of the entomology camp scientists, in front of the cookhouse at a mine site on Copper Mountain. The photo was taken in the 1960's. Emil, by the way, was the fellow who re-discovered this site and then informed Ed about it. The cabin must date from the 1880's. so it was about 80 years old then. The picture on left was taken about 65 years later and is, yes, of the remains of the same cabin.

### Model Warden Cabin.

The cabin in this photo was made by the late Smokey Gutman. With his passing (see obits below) a member of his family passed it on to Bob Haney for the PWSAS. It is remarkable for its detail: note how well the logs fit together. The weather vane on the porch actually moves. The three windows are all of four panes (plastic) and there is even a hasp and lock on the front door!

The PWSAS is considering donating it to Heritage Park to be kept in the warden cabin in the Prospect Ridge area of the park. When an interpreter (one of us?) is meeting and greeting visitors at the cabin they could bring the cabin outside and use it to explain they were used in backcountry areas and, by extension the work of wardens of those days. The cabin is mounted on a swivel so it can easily be rotated.



The one thing that is missing is a sign - "Smokey's Cabin" sounds just right.

### Cabin on the Castle Lookout Trail

This is what remains of this cabin and almost nothing is known about it either- who built it? For what purpose? When?

If you have any information on it please pass it on to the editor or one of the exec.







Kootenay Brown's grave with those of his two wives on either side; Waterton N. P.

## **Obituaries**

**Ruth Remple:** Grand Prairie, May 13, 1949 – St. Albert, Dec. 22 – 2022.

Ruth earned a degree in Enviro. Sciences from an Ontario Univ. and then returned to Jasper where she worked for Parks Canada for 41 years. Throughout her life she was a passionate defender of the natural environment and active outdoors – hiking, skiing, skating, curling, camping, canoeing etc. A celebration of her life was held at the Jasper Legion.

**Alan Stendie:** Alan Stendie passed away during the Covid crisis. The family hosted a celebration of his life at the Jasper Inn on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Emil Yurasek.** Emil grew up in the Crowsnest Pass, worked for D.P.W. and then Parks Canada where he became the head of the newly formed Wilderness Recreation Program in Banff which took over some of the work of the wardens in the backcountry and meant working closely with them. He was a fine horseman and an excellent musician. Emil passed away in Banff and the family held a celebration of his life at the Jerry Martin Picnic Shelter at the Banff Light Horse Association grounds on June 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year.

**Angela Norcross:** The warden service family was very saddened to learn of the passing of “Angie” Norcross in April of this year. Angie joined her husband Dave who we lost in September of 2021. Their daughter Jamie remains in the heart of our warden service family.

**Ross Mac Donald.** Ross worked for Parks Canada and made significant contributions in the areas of natural and cultural conservation. He became later on the President of the Wings Over the Rockies Nature Festival which fit in with his birding and photography skill. He passed away June this year.

**Gail Kun** Gail passed ay on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Gail joined her cowboy Steve, in the pastures of the unknown. She was born in Jasper where she met Steve. They embarked on a life journey which lasted over 60 years.

**Mac Elder** Mac passed away at the age of 94 on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Mac joined the warden service in 1957 and retired in 1991 after 34 years of service. Mac was a mentor to many park wardens over the years of his service, and continued to be held in high esteem by the Park Warden Service Alumni and many, many others.

### **Smokey and Lynn Gutman:**

Smokey was born in Beausejour, Manitoba in October of 1933, and as a young man eventually made his way to Jasper where he was hired as a Park Warden. He was soon transferred to Banff where he worked under Ed Carleton before being assigned to the Clearwater District. He and his newly wed wife, Lynn Hobbs, moved there. After two and a half years there they were transferred to Sask. Crossing and in 1965 to Whitehorse in the Yukon, finishing up in Haines as the Resource Management Officer.



All the family, including kids Greg and Jill loved the Yukon. In his retirement Smokey put together a museum in the old Haines Junction fire hall which is still open. Smokey passed away this past October at the age of 90. Sadly, Lynn Guttman passed away two weeks later on October 28<sup>th</sup> at the age of 83.

### **Jasper Mass Retirement**

A retirement party was held at the Range arena, Jasper, Sept. 30, 2023 for the eight stalwarts in the picture. Their total combined years of service comes to 240.

We wish them all the best for a long and fulfilling retirement (and hope they join the other happily retired members of the PWSAS!)



Picture L-R:

Jurgen Deagle, Grant Perigoodoff, Steve Malcolm, Steve Blake, Mike Eder, Sean Buckle, Patti Walker and Jim Chesser.

### **Next Year's PWSAS Mini-Reunion**

The decision to cancel it this year proved to be the right one for us and for refugees from the B.C. fires! Alan Westhaver is taking the lead planning the 2024 one. The dates have been confirmed for May 7-9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the same location (Elks Campground in Salmon Arm). The local hotels will be at the off-season rates, less than previously quoted, for those who cannot camp.

### **Dealing with hearing loss.**

Tom Elliot has put together an in-depth article on the subject. It is posted on the PWSAS website. It's worth checking out. If you are suffering hearing loss it should be informative. If you are but don't know it – it could get you taking pro-active steps. Check it out!

## THE TRADING POST

The Park Warden Service Alumni has the following donated items for sale. The cost of shipping extra. Contact email [parkwarden2008alumni@hotmail.com](mailto:parkwarden2008alumni@hotmail.com) to submit your offer.

2 belt buckles from Halle Flygare – offers accepted.



2 collector Park entry passes (1937 and 1939) donated by Ruth Quinn. These are rare and valuable. We will consider offers.



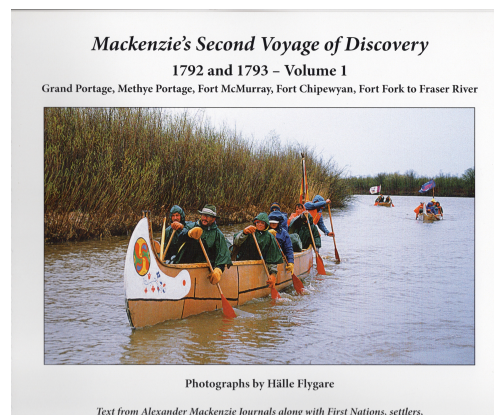
Toni Klettl carving of a Grizzly - value \$200

Toni Klettl carving of a Big Horn Sheep donated by Jim Reynolds - value \$200





2 copies of Halle Flygare's book - MacKenzie's Second Voyage of Discovery 1792-1793 Vol 1. Valued at \$34.95 each. Donated by Halle Flygare.



2 copies of Halle Flygare's beautiful book - Wildlife of the North, Animals of the High Latitudes of North America and Europe co-authored by Valerius Geist, Geoffrey Holroyd, and Wayne Lynch. Retail value \$29.95. Donated by Halle Flygare.

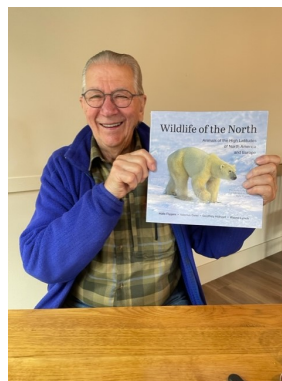


Photo courtesy of Gord Antoniuk.