

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

Spring 2025 Newsletter

BOX 1611 Turner 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.

Your Executive's Worthy Doings

Grant Applications. President Dave Reynolds once again submitted an application to the federal Documentary Heritage Communities Program (DHCP) for grant money to support our oral history program. Once again it took many hours to complete the application, and once again the answer was the same...our society did not meet the funding level required and therefore we were not successful.

We're fortunate to benefit from Dave's extensive bureaucratic experience. He took the initiative to request that the Board revise the Warden Alumni's *Strategic Plan 2024–2027*. Although the original plan—approved on December 18, 2023 and covered the period from 2024 to 2027, it now requires updating to a five-year *Strategic Plan for the period 2025–2030*. It is still in the works and once finalized, the revised plan will be posted on our website to replace the current version. We will alert the membership when the plan is finalized and posted.

The Board of the Park Warden Service Alumni meets on a Monday every two months in Cochrane at the Stockmen's Memorial Foundation Library. The Stockmen's Memorial Library has been generous in providing this meeting space as well as the use of their equipment to enable Zoom participation.

Regarding our Oral History Project, OHP Coordinator Eric Langshaw has his work cut out. There is money set aside for completion of 7 more oral histories. We have conducted 122 interviews since the oral history project began. Each interview costs between \$500 and \$600. We look forward to receiving the remaining 2-3 interviews that are still in the hands of the candidates who are reviewing and editing their interview. Each interview is unique and interesting.

Eric is exploring the possibility that there could be grant money available to groups such as PWSAS through a G7 Summit legacy grant program.

Eric also has to find another interviewer and Kathy Deagle may be interested but she is not available until this fall. Rosemary Power has agreed to undertake interviews.

Perry Jacobson has spearheaded a project to collect "silent partner" stories from spouses of park wardens who have lived in backcountry districts, on highway districts, or have lived in various national parks within the service.

Perry has compiled a list of several warden service spouses requesting them to write their memories, and we are looking forward to receiving some interesting stories. This will immensely enhance our oral history collection.

HAPPY 99th BIRTHDAY



Belated *Happy Birthday* wishes to Ann Dixon-Bruder who celebrated her 99th Birthday on April 19th!

Ann is well known for her book Silent Partners, Wives of National Park Wardens, a collection of 50 life stories and photos contributed by park warden wives and families. Ann's involvement with the warden service started in 1954 when her husband Fred was posted to the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch as Manager. The Dixon family later lived in Banff, Yoho, Riding Mountain and Elk Island. The book is beautifully illustrated by Ann's daughter Peggy. Photo of Ann, contributed by Marie Nylund, taken at the 1997 Park Warden Reunion at the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch.

Regional Representatives needed: We need someone to represent the Mountain, Prairies and Eastern Canada. If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact us by e-mail at parkwarden2008alumni@hotmail.com. Thank you.

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
Dale Portman
Kathy Calvert
Jim Murphy
Colleen Reynolds
Alan Westhaver
Bradley Bischoff
Brian Spreadbury
Eric Langshaw
Perry Davis – Newsletter Editor

Regional Representatives

Mountains – Vacant
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 – vacant

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

Bruno Engler Film Footage.

The Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies (Archives) collection includes a reel of film shot by Bruno Engler of warden training – travel on snowfields and ice slopes, rock climbing and rescue work including a “victim” in the metal stretcher being transported in a variety of terrains including down steep rock. It ends with a scene from the Fidelity avalanche centre in Roger’s Pass. It dates from the 50’s and 60’s and includes many of the mountain park wardens of that time. The reel has been transferred to two CD’s which are available to the public for viewing. A scene-by-scene description is being prepared including timing. Jimmy Deegan assisted by Gordon Burles had gone through the film and identified the wardens by name.

THANK YOU’S

Our society is thankful for the following:

1. Thank you to Don Hepburn, Treasurer of the Stockmen’s Memorial Foundation, who conducted a financial review (audit) of our 2024 financial records. Don generously declined payment but suggested a donation be made to the SMF which we were very happy to do.
2. Thank you to the Stockmen’s Memorial Foundation (SMF) Library for offering space for our board meetings, and use of the audio-visual equipment.
3. Thank you to all those members who have made financial donations to our society. These donations very much appreciated and have been ear-marked for the Oral History Project.
4. Thank you to those dedicated members who renewed their 2025 membership and to the new members who have recently joined PWSAS.
5. Thank you to those people who have donated items to the society for sale to enhance our fund raising. (We still have some items for sale and they will be listed on the last page of this newsletter).

Membership

The membership fee remains the same at \$25.00 per year. A membership form can be found on our website for your convenience. Membership categories are:

Voting members include retired members of the warden service and their spouses; or retired persons who have worked within the Warden Service and their spouses.

Honourary members” include immediate family members of retired members of the Warden Service; or immediate family members of retired persons who have worked within the Warden Service.

Lifetime members include

- i) retired members of the warden service who have reached 80 years of age;
- ii) a spouse of a retired member of the warden service who has reached 80 years of age;
- iii) a retired person who has worked within the Warden Service who has reached 80 years of age;
- iv) a spouse of a retired person who has worked within the Warden Service who has reached 80 years of age.

Associate members include any park warden/resource conservation officer who is not yet retired; or any person who works within the Warden Service or Parks Canada Resource Conservation who is not yet retired.

Supporting Members. A supporting member can be someone for whom the Association is important and wishes to participate in the Association’s activities by lending expertise to assist in projects or provide advice.”

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was set for Wednesday, October 8th, 2025 at Elevation Place in Canmore at 10 am. Anyone interested in volunteering on the Board is welcome. Please contact Marie Nylund by email at parkwarden2008alumni@hotmail.com.

NANTON MINI REUNION

Another success – super turn-out, good times and good weather (and food). Thanks to Al & Lisa Westhaver and their support crew which included Tom Elliot who rounded up several people for the reunion; and to the breakfast crew of Mike Dillon, Terry Winkler and Peter Achuff who stepped up to the plate and made the final morning's breakfast a great success. The concert was well received with musical entertainment by Bradley Bischoff and Scott Duncan. PWSAS established a budget of \$800 plus \$570 was collected in donations at the concert. Our costs were \$800 for the musical entertainment, and \$145.28 for the pancake breakfast. The remaining balance will be reserved for next years' reunion.

Old time warden team-work lives on!



Back row: L-R: Larry Harbidge, Edwin Knox, Bill Dolan, Alice Wagenaar, Dave Reynolds, Patti Brososky, Brian Spreadbury, Bradley Bischoff, Wes Olson, Bill Thorpe, Terry Winkler, Peter Whyte, Nancy Nylund, Monique Hunkeler, Rod Wallace, Cliff White, Scott Duncan, Brad Romaniuk.

2nd row – L-R: Sharon Harbidge, Cathy Elder, Greg Keesey, Alan Gibbs, Wendy Gibbs, Colleen Reynolds, Cyndi Smith, Johane Janelle, Jean Smith, Rick Smith, Anne Whyte, Sharon Wood, Doug French, Marie Nylund, Susan Childs-Devlin.

3rd row: Jackie Keesey, Lisa Westhaver, Colleen Coggins, Barb Linehan, Arja Romaniuk, Liz Seale, Gail Fitzmartin, Cheryl Sheehan, Barbi Thordarson, Maggie Dyck.

Front row: Tom Elliot, Alan Westhaver, Joan Dillon, Mike Dillon, Peter Achuff, Bob Barker.

Missing from photo: Jack and Shirley Willman, Will Devlin.

We look forward to an even larger turn-out next year at the Elks Campground in Salmon Arm, May 5 - 7, 2026.

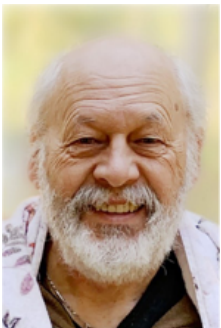
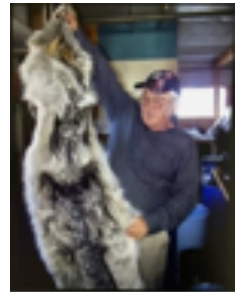
The Warden Service of Old [or] ‘getting er done.’ By Rod Wallace.

This article comes from Rod’s experiences as a warden in the 70’s, 80’s and 90’s and covers a variety of topics. Those were the days, he writes, when “Park Wardens were given complete freedom to manage the backcountry as they saw fit.” He spent many years doing just that by making boundary patrols in the NE end of Jasper monitoring the activities of hunters near the boundary and looking for traps inside the park in winter. One incident – quite an interesting one –involved his marking of the boundary line at Mystery Lake. After a discussion of the variety of boundary markers that could be found in Jasper (and probably the other mountain parks as well) – sticks, cairns, official metal and later plastic markers – he gets into the story.

There had been several cases in which poachers were let off on the grounds of “sporadic and informally marked” boundaries. Knowing that, Rod, sometime in the 1990’s, re-located the boundary signs in the Mystery Lake area where he was sure the true “height of land” lay based on his numerous trips to the site. Sometime later he came across an outfitter’s horse ‘hidden’ inside the boundary there. The outfitter contacted the Park Superintendent and he and Rod had a “lively discussion” about the matter which resulted in a formal survey of the boundary at the lake. The survey proved Rod correct and also added another three to four acres to the park! He tells this story as an example of how the “dedication and determination [of wardens] led to hands on management of park resources they were entrusted to protect and preserve.”

OBITS

Steve Cooper passed away Feb. 2025 in Whitehorse. Steve worked as a warden in Wood Buffalo and Nahanni from 1971 - 1979. In Nahanni he oversaw construction of the Deadman Valley warden patrol cabin. Steve and his wife, Myrielle, settled in Whitehorse in 1983 where he established a fur tanning and leather business that made him well known to hunters, trappers and First Nations people. He also built two log homes in Whitehorse for his family.



Steve Logan passed away at home in Feb. 2024. He started his warden career in 1977 working in Glacier National Park - Roger’s Pass and continued as a warden until 1988. During this time took a combined computer science and geography/natural resources management course and graduated from the University of Victoria in 1984. This led to his next career as a Parks Canada Info. Tech. in Western Regional Office. Calgary retiring in 1999. He is survived by his wife Kathleen, and children Lyahna, Amiel (Amy), Ky (Amy) and Ben (Alexa) as well as many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Evelyn Dorothy Middleton: Dec. 1936 - Jan, 2025. Born in Hanna, Evelyn graduated from the Red Deer Community College secretarial program and then began her Parks Canada career. She worked in the Calgary, Montreal, and Frobisher Bay offices before returning to the Calgary office. At Parks Canada, Evelyn was known and respected as a hard worker, thoroughly dedicated to her role as an executive assistant to senior-level management. She won many deserved accolades from both management and staff. Retiring early from Parks Canada she went on to become an equally hard-working volunteer with the Parks Heritage Conservation Society and the Calgary Branch of the National Association of Federal Retirees.as well as tending the lawn and gardens of the historical Lougheed House in Calgary.



Roman Bizon passed away on December 28th, 2024 at the age of 85. Roman worked for both Alberta Forestry and Parks Canada Warden Service in Jasper National Park. Journals from Roman's years of service, along with a replica cabin he built in retirement, have been preserved at the Jasper National Park Archives. Roman is survived by his wife Maureen, daughters, Heidi Schreiner and Natasha (Sheldon) Hilchie, and son Dustin (Shannon) Bizon, several grandchildren, three brothers and one sister. Roman loved nature and the outdoors, spending time with the family horses, or out foraging, hunting and fishing. He was a friend to everyone he met, always ready to share in a laugh or a joke, and he will be greatly missed for his stories.

Donald "Don" James Rose: Feb. 1932 – Dec. 2024. Don was born in Meadstead, Sask. the second of seven children. After serving in Korea with the Royal Canadian Dragoons from 1950 to 1953 he began a long career as a National Park Warden patrolling the wilds of Jasper, Waterton, Riding Mountain, Georgian Bay Islands, and Wood Buffalo National Parks. This work inspired many poems and stories some of which were published in wildlife magazines. He had a sharp wit and the knack for finding humour in chaos. He was a devoted father to Kelly and Mark (Kari) and a beloved grandfather to Michaela, Tristan, Liam, and Owen. Don lived boldly, laughed often, and is remembered for his humour, resilience, and unforgettable stories.



Gordon H. Anderson: Aug. 1943 - Feb. 2025. Gordon was born in Bjorkdale, Sask. the youngest of ten children. He had a 28-year career as a National Park Warden through the '70s, '80s, and '90s—the glory years of the Warden Service. As a warden he acted as mentor to many, offering steady support and quiet guidance. One of his favorite quips was “Talk low, talk slow, and don't say too much.” As a PWSAS member he was first a regional representative and later a member of the executive; “Zoom” allowed him to participate in the meetings. Family was always Gord's first priority. Then came a deep love for rodeo, hockey, reading, and observing nature along with a love of horses, dogs, and cats alike. He enjoyed a long and happy retirement with his life partner, Sharon. Gord is survived by Sharon, his son Travis (Courtney), his daughter Run D, granddaughters Keslin and Isadora, a brother Norval, two sisters-in-law, Eleanor and Coranne, and many cousins, nieces, nephews. He passed away in his home in Valemout in the land he loved.

Kevin Fox passed away suddenly of pancreatic cancer. He worked for Parks Canada for 42 years, mainly in Eastern Ontario. He was well known to National Historic Service staff across the country as he was a main trainer of the historic weapons program for several years. He was a very good friend to many Parks Canada colleagues. A celebration of life will be held on July 19 at the Lion's Hall in Sunbury, near Kingston.

James Chessier March 1957 - February 2025. Jim was born and raised in Jasper. He excelled in sports holding a provincial high school record in track and field for many years. As a hockey player he was not big but he never shied away from a good scrap on the ice. He rose to the professional level playing one season with the Chilliwack Bruins. Some of his team-mates went on to the NHL. In the saddle from the age of two, horses became his lifelong passion. He earned his credentials as a farrier at Olds College and went on to serve for 47 years with Parks Canada most of the time as Jasper National Park's Barn Boss and Head Farrier until his retirement in 2023. He spent decades traveling the backcountry on horseback for as is often said, “No hour of life is lost that is spent in the saddle.” He also gained a wealth of information on the park's history. He is survived by his mom, Lillian and his sister Susan Chessier (Mike Smith) and a multitude of friends.



Merchandise for sale

Crests: We have a small number of Park Warden Service Alumni crests for sale for \$5 each (includes postage).

Collector Park entry passes

A 1937 Copper and a 1939 Brass collector National Park entry pass donated by Ruth Quinn. These are rare and quite valuable to collectors.

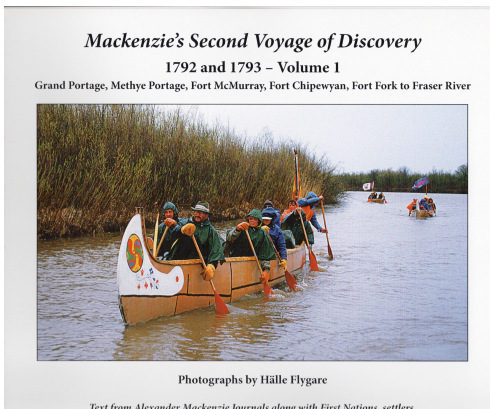
We will consider **reasonable** offers. Offers can be submitted to the Park Warden Service Alumni Society by email only at parkwarden2008alumni@hotmail.com.



Toni Klettl carving of a Big Horn Sheep donated by Jim Reynolds. This would make a nice collector item or perhaps a gift for a special person or persons.

The carving sits on a base measuring 11" long and 4.5" wide and stands 15" in height. We are asking \$200 firm for this wonderful carving by Toni Klettl.

Offers can be submitted to the Park Warden Service Alumni Society by email only at parkwarden2008alumni@hotmail.com.



There are only 2 copies left of Halle Flygare's book - MacKenzie's Second Voyage of Discovery 1792-1793 Volume 1.

This book contains amazing photographs by Halle.

Retail value is \$34.95 each.

Generously donated by Halle Flygare.

Contact the Park Warden Service Alumni Society by e-mail at parkwarden2008alumni@hotmail.com if you are interested in purchasing a copy of this interesting book.