

ON THE SHORES OF ANTLER LAKE

Submitted by: Chel MacDonald, Volunteer Steward

I want to tell you about my home. I live on the shores of beautiful Antler Lake. It is the most wonderful thing, living with a lake just outside my front door. During the winter, “my land” extends over a kilometre to the western shore, to skate, to ski, to snowshoe or walk on.

It is during the months of May to October that the lake really comes alive. The waters are never the same from day to day. Sometimes very angry, sometimes frolicking like white horses in a cool breeze on a hot day — and sometimes they’re gently murmuring, gleaming warm reflections of blackbirds calling across the cattails and feisty orioles darting to fight in overhanging branches while a secretive catbird spies on them.

And the best, the very best is the long purple and gold sunsets. The surface is a glowing mirror where the waters and the sky meet. The sun traces an incandescent path across the waters towards me and the wild calls of Canada geese, red-necked grebes and sometimes even a loon echo contentedly. I love to watch the silvery ripples trail behind them as they dance across the face of the waters.

An island of stately old-growth birch trees, willows and cattails, all teeming with songbirds lies in the water to the southwest. It’s the smallest natural area in Alberta; a place where local residents can go to relax or have wiener roasts. I’m a volunteer steward of that island, and I’m proud of it. If you measure it by the current environmental jingles like



Looking across the water to Antler Lake Island - photo credit: Chel MacDonald

biodiversity, wildlife corridors and endangered spaces, my skinny little island doesn’t seem like it has much to offer. But oh, the hours that I’ve spent enjoying it. And not only me. Some residents may not have time to spend with it — but their children do. Paddling around it, exploring on it, climbing the old birch trees and exulting in a beautiful little world temporarily all their own, they build warm memories where wilderness has its special place.

And this is the crux of it, you know. First and foremost, wilderness must have its special place in our hearts and in our souls. Because if it is not in here, then it won’t be out there.

Michele Macdonald has been the volunteer steward for Antler Lake Island for over 15 years. She was one of the first people to join the Parks and Protected Areas Volunteer Steward Program in the late 1980’s.

In this article, Michele shares her thoughts and feelings of what it has meant to her to be involved in this island natural area. Perhaps this will sound familiar for many who volunteer with this program. For others it may remind them of their own reasons for stewarding. Antler Lake Island Natural Area is truly the smallest natural area in our provincial protected areas system. In fact, it is less than a hectare in size but this tiny site has touched many lives.

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- Observations of a Garbage Picker
- ... and much more

Volunteer Coordinating Committee

Co-Chair

Ted Ritzer, Visitor Services Branch
(780) 427-8556
Ted.Ritzer@gov.ab.ca

Co-Chair

Carey Booth, Southwest Area
(403) 297-7833
Carey.Booth@gov.ab.ca

Director

June Markwart, Visitor Services Branch
(780) 427-9383
June.Markwart@gov.ab.ca

Volunteer Steward Coordinator

Sandra Myers, Visitor Services Branch
(780) 427-1742
Sandra.Myers@gov.ab.ca

Volunteer Services Coordinator

Brad Marshall, Visitor Services Branch
(780) 427-9017
Brad.Marshall@gov.ab.ca

Area Representatives

Clara Wakeford, Northwest Area
(780) 538-5350
Clara.Wakeford@gov.ab.ca

Dixie Colter, Northeast Area
(780) 623-5478
Dixie.Colter@gov.ab.ca

Jeanette Brooks, West Central Area
(780) 865-8395
Jeanette.Brooks@gov.ab.ca

Cecilia Goncalves, East Central Area
(780) 679-1270
Cecilia.Goncalves@gov.ab.ca

Don Cockerton, Kananaskis Country
(403) 297-5969
Don.Cockerton@gov.ab.ca

Rosemary Jones, Southeast Area
(403) 528-5211
Rosemary.Jones@gov.ab.ca

To call any Alberta government agency toll-free from anywhere in Alberta, dial 310-0000, then the 10-digit number, or hold for operator assistance.

For more information on the volunteer program or to view past issues of this newsletter, visit the volunteer web site at: www.cd.gov.ab.ca/parks/volunteer.

THE VOLUNTEER STEWARD PROGRAM IDENTITY

*Submitted by: Sandra Myers, Volunteer Steward Coordinator
(with excerpts taken from the Natural Area Newsletter- Issue 7)*



For those who have been volunteer stewards with us since the beginning, this is a small reminiscence and for those who are new to the program, a bit of history. As most of you know, the Volunteer Steward Program began in September of 1987 and it wasn't long before we reached the conclusion that it was vital to our success to have a visual identity. In 1989, the Volunteer Steward Program acquired its visual identity called "Naturally Yours".

"Naturally Yours" was created by Doug Madill, an Edmonton graphic designer. It was designed around the great blue heron and consists of vibrant, natural colours.

The combination of colours contrasts the blues of the sky and water with the greens of our forests and grasslands. The cattails in the

foreground represent the marshlands and sensitive areas of the province. The trees in the background show the diversity of Alberta's lands. The triangle design was chosen to represent not only Alberta's mountains and trees, but to also show an upward thrust and the positive nature of the program.

Both staff and stewards are very proud of this logo and it remains as it was designed 15 years ago with only one change. When the Volunteer Steward Program expanded to include all types of protected areas (natural areas, ecological reserves, heritage rangeland natural areas, provincial parks, wildland provincial parks, wilderness areas and provincial recreation areas), the "Naturally Yours" wording in the logo bar was changed to "Alberta's Parks and Protected Areas" to reflect this growth.

WHO ARE THE EDMONTON MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY - AND HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THEM?

Submitted by: Bill Richards, Foray Coordinator for the Edmonton Mycological Society



Collybia dryophila on duff
photo credit: Bill Richards

The Edmonton Mycological Society is a volunteer steward group for Poplar Creek Natural Area and as stewards we “observe, record and report.” During the past year several members, individually or as small groups, have visited the site near Breton and provided feedback, in the form of a mushroom species list and occasional concerns regarding public use of the site.

We have developed an extensive list of fungi but we are lacking on the botanical side. We would greatly appreciate any assistance with other species lists, particularly for vascular plants. If you would like to help, contact Bill Richards (phone 780.998.3507 or email, emsforays@wildmushrooms.ws). We are not requesting that you be a botanist but just do the record keeping of the common plant species. Many of the Mycological Society members are familiar with some of the plants even if it is by a common name, but we would like to get all of them recorded.

So, why is a group of amateur mycologists concerned with the common plants that grow at Poplar Creek Natural Area? Well there is a very good reason. Most mushrooms grow in association with plants and by knowing the plants we can also get to know and identify more mushrooms.

Since last June’s visit to Poplar Creek Natural Area, there has been only one official visit (June 27 2004) in which we traversed a big chunk of the west half of section 11 Township 48 Range 5 West 5th Meridian. [to view a map to the site, go to www.cd.gov.ab.ca/preserving/parks/lrm/natarea/poplarcr.pdf]

Several other trips had been made last fall and early winter during the hunting season. Yes, hunting does take place on this and most public

land, so make yourself visible when foraying in the fall. In June, other than the start of several off-highway trails that we saw in section 11, the site has changed little except for the recovery of the aspen after the forest tent caterpillar infestation in the mid-1980s.

This year, conference participants enjoyed a spontaneous mushroom walk graciously led by Martin Osis from the Edmonton Mycological Society and we look forward to the possibility of similar presentations at future conferences. Whether you are interested in seeing the fungi species list for Poplar Creek or just interested in mushrooms, check out the October newsletter and other interesting stuff at the web site www.wildmushrooms.ws.



Phellinus ignarius on birch, photo credit: Bill Richards

VOLUNTEER STEWARD PROGRAM - A NEW VISION

Submitted by: Sandra Myers, Volunteer Steward Coordinator



New display gives insight into the role of our volunteer stewards

Saturday, September 25th was an amazingly, beautiful autumn day in the Canmore area. It was also the first full day of sessions at the 2004 Volunteer Conference held at the Rocky Mountain YMCA. A number of stewards and staff participated in the early morning session entitled "The Volunteer Steward Program - A New Vision".

A wide range of topics stimulated a lot of good discussion over the hour and a half session. These included volunteer program issues and updates such as the new recruitment criteria, the draft handbook review, the two

orientation sessions held for new stewards, the work accomplished by the Steward Core Group over the last year and group insurance. We also showcased our brand new steward display at the conference.

We were very fortunate to have Brian Kelly, director of the Policy and Program Co-ordination Branch, at the session. He was able to answer questions on land management issues such as off-highway vehicle use in protected areas, status of candidate natural areas, land trusts and recreational leases, just to name a few.

I would like to share comments received from one of our stewards regarding her thoughts on the session and conference.

"It was very encouraging to see the expertise and experience of the parks' staff in action during the sessions. Although it seems to us that the wheels of government and bureaucracy move frustratingly slowly at times, we definitely got the message at the conference that there is interest and investment in the stewards' program, that our concerns are being listened to, and that the hearts of the staff are in the right place!"

A big thanks to all who chose to attend this session. Your exchange of ideas and feedback was very valuable to all that participated.

Note: A number of handouts were distributed during the session including the text of the slide presentation, a group insurance update and the new vision, mission, goals and objectives for the program. If you are interested in obtaining any of this information please give me a call at 780-427-8515 or email Coral at Coral.Grove@gov.ab.ca

HOST CENTENNIAL CAMPOUT

May 13-16th, 2005

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park
Group Camping Area

Join your fellow campground hosts for a weekend campout to kick off our 2005 Centennial summer season. Camping is free and casual, with everyone getting together for a pre-season chat and other activities on Saturday. Even if you don't want to camp, hosts are welcome to stay offsite and join us for the day/weekend. Contact me if you are interested in attending or have questions. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Brad Marshall
(780) 427-9017
Brad.Marshall@gov.ab.ca

OUR CENTENNIAL LEGACIES - NEW AND EXPANDED VISITOR FACILITIES IN TWO PROVINCIAL PARKS

Submitted by: Visitor Services Branch

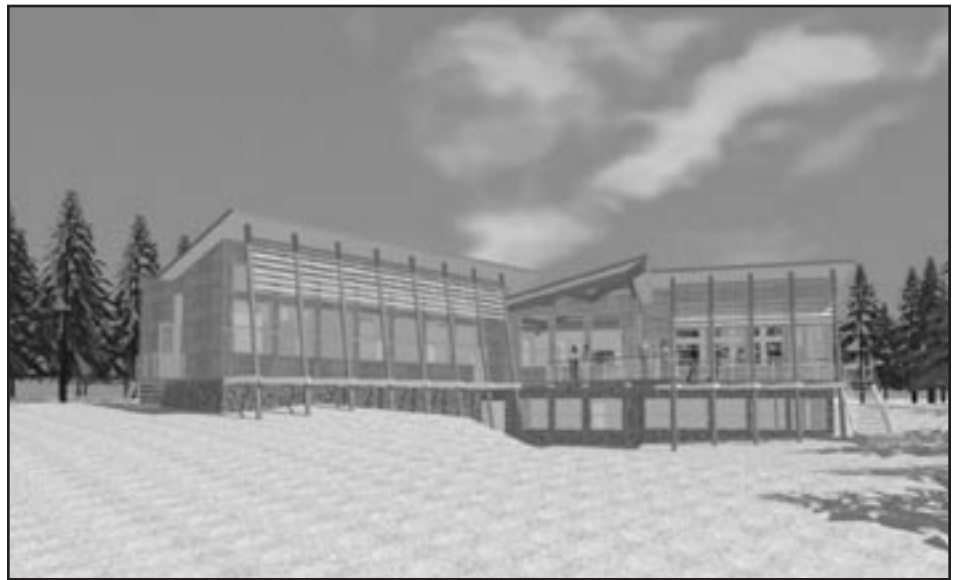
This fall Parks and Protected Areas staff and volunteers have been busy at two sod-turning ceremonies that marked the start of construction of a new Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation (BCBC) at Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park and the expansion of the Field Station at Dinosaur Provincial Park.

Because of their unique location within provincial parks, a strong commitment to make these projects 'environmentally friendly' led planners to consult the Leadership in Environmental Engineering and Design (LEED) program. Now sponsored by the Canada Green Building Council, the LEED program rates projects on their overall footprint on the landscape, awarding points in six categories for "green building" construction.

At the Field Station, visitors will notice the passive air flow system that uses a cooling tower and strategically placed windows to maximize natural lighting and minimize heating costs, both LEED design features.

The BCBC will set new sustainability standards in a government building. In the Water Efficiency category, the BCBC will attain the highest possible standard of 30% water reduction over a similarly sized traditional building. Composting toilets and waterless urinals drastically reduce water consumption and a rainwater capture and treatment system provides up to 60% of annual potable water needs.

To earn points in the Energy and Atmosphere category, the BCBC will use a geothermal heat pump system that provides all the heating and cooling required without a conventional gas-fired furnace.



Artist rendering of the new Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation

These and other sustainable building design features make our new facilities attractions in their own right.

Called Centennial Legacies, these long anticipated facilities will inspire visitors "to celebrate Alberta's past and to imagine an even brighter future". At this moment they are blueprint and wood, brick and glass, pipe and wiring. But years from now, they will not just be buildings. The spirit of the visitors who pass through their doors and the passion of the staff and volunteers who recreate the stories and stimulate new experiences will infuse the wood, bricks, glass and cement to make these visitor centres places to learn, to relax and to enjoy Alberta's gifts.

Through our programs and facilities, Parks and Protected Areas Division strives to promote stewardship and empower Albertans to actively participate in the preservation, protection and the appreciation of our lands and our heritage. They belong to all of us.

In 2005, communities throughout the province will be celebrating the provincial centennial, each in their own unique ways. Many of these projects will have meaning to us as individuals and offer opportunities to celebrate within our communities, in addition to our celebrations as Parks and Protected Areas volunteers or staff. If you are interested in organizing, promoting or just participating in community celebrations, check the Alberta Centennial web site at www.albertacentennial.ca. Look for a link to the events calendar to see what is already being planned or download a copy of the planning guide.

Find out more about the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation at www.lslbo.org/borealcentre.asp

Follow the progress of the Dinosaur Provincial Park Field Station expansion at www.cd.gov.ab.ca/parks/dinosaur

Learn more about the LEED program at www.cagbc.ca

A BEAUTIFUL AUTUMN CONFERENCE

Submitted by: Len and Jane Den Braber, Park Hosts

September 23/04 - Kananaskis Willow Rock Campground

A beautiful autumn drive brought us to the mountain campsite today. The fall colours were spectacular up against the majestic mountains.

We enjoyed a short hike along the flowing waters of the river in the afternoon and then supper needed to be barbecued. Dusk comes early when the sun drops behind the mountain peaks.

September 24/04 - Owl Group Campground - 24 degrees and very windy (*I guess you call this a chinook*)

Of course we were the first ones here! Ross and Davida from Dinosaur Provincial Park parked next to us. Soon others arrived until there were about twenty R.V.s. A shuttle van took us to the lodge to register, where the first couple we met was Penny and Lorne from Miquelon Lake. This was remarkable, since a mutual acquaintance had told us to look for them and say hello. Neither of us knew each other but we were wearing nametags and soon we were sitting at the same lunch table and becoming friends.

Soaring With Eagles, was the theme of the conference and Friday afternoon a tour bus took us to the Kananaskis Valley to view migrating eagles way above the mountains. To see them I had to look through binoculars and even then they were the size of flies. Our guide, Peter Sherrington was counting all of these migratory birds and he was pretty excited about it all. I also enjoyed the hike that continued further to Troll Falls.



Don DenHoed quickly gains the crowd's attention as Fuego

After supper a drama entitled Mask of Fuego was performed by Don Den Hoed, Interpretive Supervisor for Bow Valley Provincial Park. Don did a great job of entertaining us all as he told the story of fire and its place in the ecosystem.



Participants in the Eagle Tour hoping to catch sight of migrating eagles

September 25/04 - 12 degrees cloudy

A study on human history in the Bow Valley was our morning session, and really very interesting. Early explorers had the help of first nations people, who had mapped out the vast mountain areas and rivers with amazing detail. Fellows like David Thompson were credited with discovering these mountain lands, but the history books do not give credit due to the first nations people for making much of this possible. Ancient tools were found high upon the passes indicating man's existence in these harsh conditions and recently archaeologists have uncovered other artifacts.

September 26/04

Our afternoon nature tour of the Canmore area was very informative. We viewed a newly constructed wildlife underpass. Many animals are hampered, by all the new housing, to cross over on their usual corridors through the Kananaskis Valley and it is hoped that these underpasses will facilitate them to do so.

From Canmore we went on to a lovely hike through a reclaimed area along the river and hear an ecologist's view of what is needed to protect our natural resources.

In the evening we had a banquet and awards night. John Acorn was the special guest speaker. He brought some slides and talked about his T.V. show in a humorous and entertaining manner.

September 27/04

I made sure to have my hiking boots on for the Grotto Canyon hike to see the hieroglyphics on the wall. The hike was over a rocky river bed into a canyon. With a little help from the expert I could sort of decipher the ancient pictures. We heard about vision quests and other aspects of aboriginal culture before heading back to the bus and our final lunch at the lodge. Some folks were already packing up and leaving.

For the night, Penny and Lorne and Fran and Vic joined us for a campfire. We all talked about our further travel plans and I was so glad to be continuing on to Abbotsford to see the kids.

2004 Volunteer Awards

Tony and Alberta Van Dyk
Campground Host Hospitality

Congratulations

Patsy Cotterill
Parks and Protected Areas Achievement

Caitlin Way
Parks and Protected Areas Junior Achievement

The Friends of Switzer Park Association
Facility Enhancement

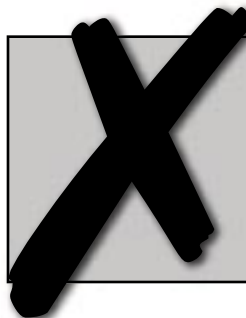
Tony Blake
Outstanding Individual Steward

Alberta Native Plant Council
Outstanding Steward Group

Rainbow Equitation Society
Steward Service Excellence

For detailed information on the award descriptions and the award recipients, visit our web site at www.cd.gov.ab.ca/parks/volunteer

Volunteer Conference Survey



Your attendance at our annual volunteer conference is valued by us. We want your input as to how we can motivate you to participate. Please assist us by completing the survey included with this newsletter, or online at:

www.cd.gov.ab.ca/parks/volunteer/survey

We look forward to hearing from you!

OUR SUMMER WITH RALPH

Submitted by: Penny and Lorne Whittaker, Campground Hosts

So who is Ralph you say. Well, he is a gutsy, entertaining, smooth talking little con who we met when we arrived at our site at Miquelon Lake Provincial Park early in May. Ralph is a squirrel.

No sooner had we backed our trailer onto the site than his indignant chattering started. He was very upset that we would want to camp in the heart of his territory without his permission. For the next two or three days this incessant chattering would happen every time we would step out of our trailer. Finally, Ralph reluctantly conceded to our presence and we settled in to watch his antics.

When some campers across the road from us threw some marshmallows around their campsite before they left, Ralph happily carried off the marshmallows to feast on. The next morning we heard a loud thump on our trailer door, then another. It was Ralph on a total sugar buzz. For about two days he kept flinging himself against the trailer or racing around the campsite until his "high" wore off.

We covered our bikes with a big orange tarp. Each morning Ralph would wake us up around 6:00 a.m. by scrambling up the tarp and then sliding down, over and over. He thought this to be great fun and later when he got a "girlfriend", both of them did it, sliding down the tarp I mean.

Ralph loves mushrooms. Because of the abundance of mushrooms this year Ralph was in his glory. He decided that the evergreen tree at the back of our site would make a wonderful drying rack. The profusion of mushrooms laid out on the branches and piled around the



Miquelon Lake Provincial Park resident, Ralph the squirrel, photo credit: Penny Whittaker

trunk of the tree was quite a site to see. Ralph protected his stash and chattered loudly when any of us went near the tree. As summer waned and the weather started to cool, Ralph's carefree attitude gave way to near panic as he started to build a nest in an adjoining evergreen tree to his stash of mushrooms.

When our daughter and grandson visited us they slept in their tent on our site. Each morning Ralph would attack their tent and chatter non stop until they awoke. One morning our

daughter caught Ralph carrying off a pair of our grandson's socks. He was lining his nest with them. As well Ralph chewed a chamois into strips and carried those up to his nest.

We hope that winter is kind to him and that we will meet again next year. We enjoyed his company and learned much from him. He taught us that life can and should be filled with fun and enjoyment. Sometimes it must be taken seriously though, but always try to enjoy what life brings you.

Alberta Centennial

September 1, 2005 will be Alberta's 100th Anniversary. For information on events, projects and how to participate, visit the Alberta Centennial web site at: www.albertacentennial.ca



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ALBERTA BIRD ATLAS PROJECT

Submitted by: Philip Penner, Federation of Alberta Naturalists

The first "Atlas of Breeding Birds of Alberta" was published in 1992 by the Federation of Alberta Naturalists (FAN). During a five-year field project from 1987 to 1991, volunteer birdwatchers or "atlassers" collected information on breeding birds throughout the province. The Atlas provided valuable information on the status, distribution, habitat, nesting and behaviour patterns of every breeding bird in Alberta. It's not surprising that it was a national best seller.

The Federation of Alberta Naturalists is currently coordinating a second atlas project (2001-2005), in part, to monitor the effects of major landscape changes that have taken place in Alberta since the completion of the first bird atlas. Data collected from this project will be compared to data from the first atlas project, other historical information, breeding bird survey data, and information from projects such as FAN's Alberta Birdlist and Personal Birdlist software. This comparison will provide valuable insight into recent and projected changes in bird distribution and abundance in the province. By conducting breeding bird atlas projects at regular intervals, changes in species distribution and abundance can be monitored, and bird-environment associations can be assessed, facilitating the development of effective conservation and management plans for birds and their habitats.

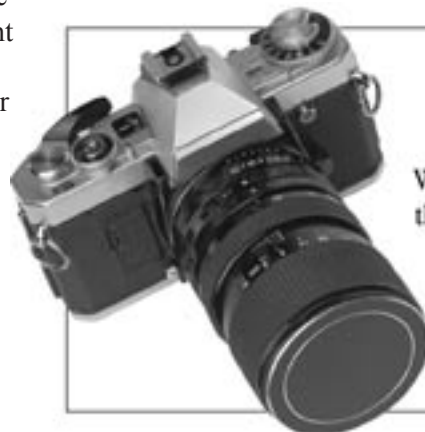


Northern hawk owl, a year round resident in Alberta, photo credit: Drajs Vujnovic

Scientists depend on baseline data from which to initiate more specific bird research. In Alberta, one of the obstacles to conducting more extensive and deeper analysis of bird species is the lack of available data. The Atlas aims to fill this gap and to paint a picture of the current status of Alberta bird species. This monitoring of data ensures that fluctuations in the abundance of bird numbers or changes in distribution and range are detected early on. As well, FAN's experience is that this data has become a valuable tool for academics, resource managers, consultants and everyday birdwatchers.

The Atlas will be conducting its final field season during the summer of 2005 and still requires many dedicated volunteer atlassers at all skill levels and ages from all over the province. If you have any questions about the Atlas or would like to participate as a volunteer atlasser, contact FAN.

Philip Penner
Federation of Alberta Naturalists
Phone: 780-427-8124
Email: philipp@fanweb.ca
Website: www.fanweb.ca



got photos?

We are requesting photos that participants took at the 2004 Volunteer Conference (especially of the awards ceremony). Please send photos to Coral Grove at Coral.Grove@gov.ab.ca or 2nd Floor, Oxbridge Place, 9820 106 Street Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J6

A DIFFERENT SPIN ON HOSTING

Submitted by: Jane Den Braber, Host Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Grazing, Wildlife and Recreation Area

It was early in May 2004. Our lives were about to change drastically. We had spent the winter in the sunny south and were eagerly awaiting the arrival of spring in Edmonton. My husband, Len had put in a volunteer host application with the Parks and Protected Areas Division. When the phone rang that morning we were told that there were three opportunities available. We had no idea what we were in for, but living in the country for the summer appealed to us. Out of the three placements one was unfamiliar to us, even though it was only a thirty-five minute drive from home.

On a sunny afternoon we drove to the Cooking Lake-Blackfoot, Grazing, Wildlife and Recreation Area, not knowing what to expect. Imagine my surprise when we came upon a rustic interpretive center (closed), a large workshop and administrative building nestled among the trees just off RR210. Just down the well-kept gravel road were staging and picnic areas complete with a shelter. We hopped out of the truck and grabbed a brochure indicating three more staging areas and 170 km of trails in the woods and wetlands beyond. This was worth investigating further and we immediately set out hiking on one of the well-marked trails where there were shelters and pit toilets conveniently located along the route. Spring was late. The trees had not leafed yet and there were small lakes and bogs dotting the area. How had we managed to miss this unique place all these years?

As it is a day use only park, this is the first time a "camp host" has been placed at Cooking Lake-Blackfoot. Due to a lack of volunteers, the interpretive center has often been



Picnic shelter at one of the Cooking Lake-Blackfoot staging areas

closed. Having volunteer hosts on site at all times, it could be open daily. The center is a delight, with a wonderful painted mural on the wall, creatures in glass cases, fur pelts to touch, stuffed animals to admire and a display recreating a trapper's camp. Panels telling about the rich history of the area and the people help to explain the significance of these items.

On May 7 we moved our modest shadow-cruiser onto the site. Len was enthusiastic. I was a little less sure. It always takes me a little longer to warm up to change. Warm up is right! This year May and June were the coldest months on record.

Few visitors came to the centre early in the summer, but reading the history book about the region filled the time: such intriguing stories of hardship and adventure! We had great hiking weather and in the evenings a wonderful hush fell over the park. Volunteer t-shirts, jackets, and hats were provided so visitors could identify us and soon we were issued permits to use the

park equipment in our work. Len and I enjoyed our treks along the trails, cleaning and clearing as we went. Len is a handy man and found all kinds of projects to fix. We enjoyed welcoming the people who came here to hike, ride bikes, or horses and tried our best to answer their questions.

On several occasions Fish and Wildlife officers asked us to babysit tranquilized animals: two moose, deer, and a fawn that was only sixteen hours old. By the middle of June we were right at home, enjoying all the wildlife, the birds singing and the squirrels chattering.

The interpretive center is getting busy with people from all over the world coming and going. Will you be next?

OBSERVATIONS OF A GARBAGE PICKER

Submitted by: Stephanie Yuill, Heritage Team Leader Northeast/Northwest Area

I admit it. I am a garbage picker and a voluntary one at that. Over the years, I have donated tremendous amounts of time and energy cleaning up other people's rubbish. From national and provincial parks to our local highways, I have literally scoured the countryside.

I do this for a number of reasons. Certainly, I like the appearance of pristine wilderness and tidy roadsides. Nothing evokes my Canadian pride more than showing off an unspoilt country to foreign visitors. And of course, I like doing my part assisting local wildlife. It's amazing how much damage a wayward plastic bag can do to a prize-winning walleye.

Collecting trash however, also provides amazing insight into human nature. Take for instance the drinking preferences of trail users. They seem to enjoy only the occasional cola, favouring instead juice boxes (with their accompanying errant straws and wrappers). And they are not above the occasional libation while experiencing the great outdoors. Nothing heightens the senses like a cool brew.

Trail users also have a penchant for certain foods. At first, they appear to be a healthy lot, as witnessed by the abundance of apple cores, banana peels and orange skins. But don't let this sugar coat your opinion of hikers. Despite a wholesome demeanour, they are not above the occasional chocolate bar, bag of chips or candy. As for gum chewing, yes it is common and discarded gum wrappers are plentiful.



Stephanie Yuill at the Swan Festival at Saskatoon Island Provincial Park this past spring

Perhaps the most revealing trash artefact is the ubiquitous cigarette butt. While brand names remain illusive, their whereabouts speak volumes. I have often walked kilometres on a trail with no sign of a smoker; however, vistas and viewpoints provide a natural smoke break. They don't want to interrupt the hiking experience, so viewpoints are a natural stopping spot. Or maybe it's a social thing. As everyone stops at a vista, they are likely to find other smokers to unwind with. Trailheads are also natural stopping spots, with a telling abundance of cigarette ends found nearby.

During my garbage gathering experiences, I have seen numerous other oddities, ranging from road signs and hair elastics to undergarments and shoelaces. But no matter what I find, garbage collecting is a worthwhile endeavour for me. While it may not be the volunteer opportunity of choice for everyone, my experiences have only been positive. I have met terrific people, encountered beautiful scenery and observed resident wildlife; all the while doing something worthwhile for my community and myself.



2005 Volunteer Conference

The 2005 Volunteer Conference is shaping up to be something special. We have a lot to celebrate! ... and its Alberta's Centennial, too!

Join all the usual suspects ... and (we hope) some new faces on September 9, 10 & 11 at the Crowsnest Centre in Blairmore.

More information will be forthcoming early in 2005, so mark your calendar and stay tuned.

2004 Volunteer Conference Photo Highlights

01

“Patsy and the chain gang”
Trail Maintenance Workshop



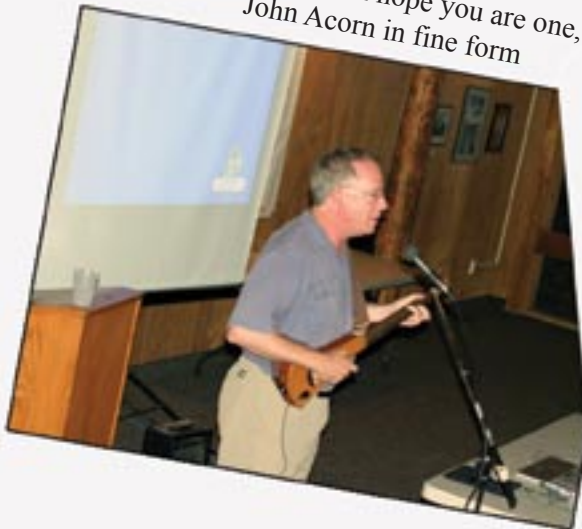
02

“Pine tree and li'l cone”
Friday evening entertainment



03

“I’m a nature nut - I hope you are one, too”
John Acorn in fine form



04

“Watching eagles soar”
Peter Sherrington from the Rocky Mountain Eagle
Research Foundation (RMERF)

