

Willmore Wilderness Foundation

... a registered charitable foundation



2016 Annual Newsletter

Photo by Susan Feddema-Leonard - July 2015
Ali Klassen & Payton Hallock on the top of Mt. Stearn

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Rosie Award Nominee in 2013 by Alberta Film & Television

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Rosie Award Nominee in 2014 by Alberta Film & Television

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President's Report by Basil Leonard

I thought that I would share a recap of 2015, which was a year of many changes and surprises. Grande Cache is facing changing times with the temporary closure of the Grande Cache Coal Mine. No one is certain for how long the shut down will last—so our community is in a state of uncertainty. The good news is that the Foundation will continue our operations. We have several partnerships, and will carry on operating as usual.

One of our main focuses for 2016 will remain on trail clearing and youth mentoring. This past summer we restored trails, rehabilitated campsites, acquired GPS coordinates, kept detailed journals, photographs and film footage. These records detail the trails that were cleared, the problems that we incurred; the country, weather and other information. You can read about this year's trail clearing initiative by going to Page 10 of this Newsletter.

The Youth Mentoring is a program that facilitates elders and old time outfitters to provide hands-on-training to youth. The trail clearing staff continued recording an inventory in Willmore Wilderness Park, while completing trail assessments through physical inspection. They did this in order to determine the priority needed for restoration and rehabilitation initiatives.

Our crew completed mapping of some of the Willmore Wilderness trail network this year. We have acquired GPS coordinates, tracking and waypoints on many gravesites, old trapper's cabins, historic campsite areas, traditional backcountry

campsites, dangerous river fords, and historic areas on the west side of the Smoky River.

The photographs and film footage that were taken during the trail restoration initiatives will be used for transmedia content creation. Transmedia storytelling (also known as transmedia narrative or multiplatform storytelling, cross-media seriality, etc.) is the technique of telling a single story or story experience across multiple platforms and formats, using current digital technologies. We use this method to share the history, traditions and culture of Willmore Wilderness Park with the world. HD film footage and photography of the flora and fauna of Willmore Wilderness Park are an on going task for creatives Arthur Veitch and Susan Feddema-Leonard

Our staff and contractors continued to conduct historical research on Willmore Wilderness Park. The information that we find is woven in the movies, websites, social media, annual newsletter, book publications, and tourism promotion. North West Company, Hudson's Bay Company and scrip records have been accessed, along with church and other archival records.

Our crew is keeping up to the times, and 2015 saw ongoing educational multimedia development and social media. The Foundation was elated when Laura Vinson and Dave Martineau were nominated for the Best Original Musical Score (non-fiction over 30 minutes) for the Alberta Television and Film Rosie Awards for Ancestors Calling.



Basil Leonard:

Photo courtesy of Admire Studios

Order of the Bighorn 2015

Inside This Edition

February 2016

**Willmore Wilderness Foundation
Annual Newsletter**

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Registered Charitable Organization

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**willmore
wilderness
FOUNDATION**



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The Willmore Wilderness Foundation welcomes the return of the Fish & Wildlife Horseback Patrols. Mike Ewald and Shane Ramstead were on patrol this past hunting season. Both Officers are competent trail hands and have years of experience in Willmore Wilderness Park.

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President's Report .. continued from page 3

Pictured above:
Brenda Myers, Residential Property Manager
Bazil Leonard, President
Sunil Zachariah, Acorn Plaza Manager,
and Heather Devoe, Chief Financial Officer,
Willmore Wilderness Foundation.

Pictured on the right hand page:
Mike Ewald, Regional Problem Wildlife Specialist,
& Shane Ramstead, District Fish & Wildlife Officer,
at Kvass Flats in Willmore Wilderness Park.

People & Peaks Productions has produced the Canadian Rockies Series (6 X 60' HD Documentary), that feature breathtaking documentaries, that share the history, traditions and culture of Improvement District ID #25 aka Willmore Wilderness Park. The productions tell the story of legendary mountain people through compelling and dramatic narratives featuring the isolated valleys and pristine summits of the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Documentaries include: Wildie, Women of Willmore Wilderness, Ancestors Calling, Long Road Home, Mountain Mustang and Mountain Men, which is currently in post-production. The Canadian Rockies Series has aired on Wild TV to a national and international audience. Canamedia is distributing the series to many networks around the world, including Horse TV

channel, which is aired in the Nordic countries for viewers from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland & Greenland. Mountain Mustang and Wildie are also being shown on the Country Channel in New Zealand.

Documentaries in the Canada Rockies Series have been nominated for a total of four Alberta Film and Television Rosie Awards. Susan Feddema-Leonard, Producer was nominated for the Best Documentary (non-fiction over 30 minutes) for Women of Willmore Wilderness by the 2014 Alberta Film & Television Rosie Awards. Wildie, Women of Willmore Wilderness, and Ancestors Calling have been nominated for the Best Original Musical Score (over 30 minutes) in 2013, 2014 and 2015 by the Alberta Film & Television Rosie Awards.



... continued from page 4

Alberta Rockies Adventures (ARA) is another program that is spearheaded by the Willmore Wilderness Foundation. ARA represents the leading operators and lodges along the scenic eastern slopes of the Canadian Rockies in Alberta, Canada. Our operators – your hosts, share a personal history and knowledge of the region offering a unique traditional and historic tourism that focuses on the history of the Canadian Rockies, the saga of how Canada's west was opened. All businesses operate in or around Willmore Wilderness Park. Clients can connect with the true essence of Alberta's mountain past through the ARA operators.

The Foundation had booths at the Alberta Wild Sheep Foundation Convention, Canada's Wild Outdoor Expo, and sponsored a booth for

Jasper National Park's Aboriginal Days. We promoted Willmore Wilderness Park at these trade shows and events. The Foundation will continue its tourism promotion strategies for Alberta Rockies Adventures during the 2016 year.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation continues to support the Alberta Northern Rockies Tourism Alliance (ANRTA). Susan Feddema-Leonard will continue to represent the Foundation on the ANRTA Board of Directors during the 2016 year.

I would like to thank Macro Properties Ltd. for their generosity. They donated \$10,000.00 to the Foundation for their Trail Clearing Program. When in Grande Cache, we would encourage our supporters to stay at the Acorn Motel, one of Macro Properties' holdings.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation welcomes the return of the Fish & Wildlife Horseback Patrols. Mike Ewald and Shane Ramstead were on patrol this past hunting season. Both Officers are competent trail hands and have years of experience in Willmore Wilderness Park.

With the changing times, we need to be flexible in order to survive. Remember the story of the "Oak and the Willow," in which the willow challenges the oak to a trial of strength in withstanding a storm. The oak puts up a heroic fight and, after it falls, condemns the willow's conduct as mean and cowardly. The willow weathers the storm and bends with the wind and welcomes the sun for another day. Times are a changin'.

Wishing everyone the best in 2016.

The Moccasin Telegraph *by Susan Feddema-Leonard*



Pictured above:
Susan Feddema-Leonard
Filming Mountain Men on
upper Bazil Creek, in July 2015
Photo by Ali Klassen

Sir Winston Churchill once said, "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often." Like the rest of Alberta businesses and organizations, the Willmore Wilderness Foundation has undergone some changes this past year.

First, Jennifer Houlihan married and left our employment to attend Business Administration at Grande Prairie Regional College. We really miss Jenn and wish her the best in her future endeavours.

In April 2015 the Foundation hired Heather Devoe as the Chief Financial Officer. Heather has a past history of working at the Foundation. She left the Foundation's employment to attend four years of university and is now back after finishing her degree. Heather graduated from the University of Lethbridge with a Bachelor of Management, and a Major in Accounting, in 2014.

Heather plays an active role in the operation of the Foundation and the financial accountability operations of this Registered Charitable Foundation. She researches and writes proposals for funding, prepares reporting requirements for current funding, manages everyday finances through petty cash, accounts payable and receivable, payroll, etc.

Heather Devoe is also the Production Manager for People & Peaks Productions. During her first stint of employment with the Foundation, Heather worked as an Assistant Production Manager in film. She was instrumental in assisting the research phase of the documentary *Long Road Home*, and *Women of Willmore Wilderness*. She attended the Banff Adventure Film Seminar with instructors Michael Brown and Keith Partridge. After graduation in 2014, Heather joined People & Peaks Productions as the Production Manager and brings her management and financial expertise to

the table. Heather is enjoying the daily challenges of the job and is looking forward to the exciting things the foundation has in store for the new year.

Chehala Leonard also returned to work for our organization in the spring of 2015. Chehala graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in June of 2014 from the University of Alberta, and the University of Queensland in Brisbane Australia.

Chehala was hired as the Marketing Manager for the Willmore Wilderness Foundation. Chehala's experience with international travel makes her a natural for this position. She has visited and lived in eighteen different countries, learning about the cultures and traditions of the people of the world. This has exposed Chehala to a worldview, and helps her promote innovative marketing strategies using the Willmore Wilderness films, programs, books and Alberta Rockies Adventures to a larger audience.

Chehala has also taken on the role of Associate Producer / Director of People & Peaks Productions. She has worked in film making over the past ten years, and was one of six aboriginal youth selected from across Canada by Amberlight Productions in 2005 to host a half-hour documentary called *Road Scholars* that was aired on APTN. Her story was filmed in Iceland, Greenland, Canada, and the United States. She was also hired as a western reporter for APTN's weekly TV series called *THE LINK*. Chehala was both a cinematographer and host of both shows. These experiences sparked Chehala's interest in film/TV, and she attended the Serac Adventure Film School in Vail, Colorado, which equipped her with proper editing and filming skills. She had the opportunity to produce two short films about Aboriginal culture to submit as final assignments while attending

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Heather & Chehala are both knowledgeable ambassadors for the Foundation. Both women have worked on the trail, and know Willmore Wilderness Park intimately.



school in Australia. She also produced one short vignette for the University of Alberta called *Sharing Languages*. She has worked as a cinematographer in the People & Peaks Productions' *Long Road Home* and *Women of Willmore Wilderness*. Chehala owns and operates the film production company Chehala Rose Productions Ltd.

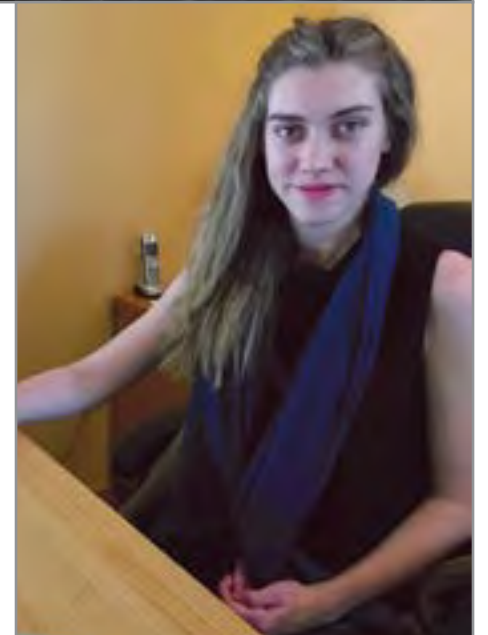
Both Heather and Chehala are knowledgeable ambassadors for the Foundation. Both women have worked on the trail and know Willmore Wilderness Park intimately. These two young ladies cooked on the *Long Road Home* trip with Rita Senkyr for thirty-seven people. This trip was from Grande Cache to Jasper, and back. Both ladies are comfortable in the saddle, and are competent trail hands—so the Foundation is really blessed.

One more change happened in 2015. I was honoured by my colleagues in Women in Film and Television (WIFTA), when I was elected as President. This is an exciting and challenging position, that is opening up opportunities in the film and television world across Canada and throughout the world, as this is an

international organization.

Lots of changes are coming globally, nationally and provincially. Years ago I asked old Granny (Alice) Joachim, how she dealt with change during her life time. She said "Ki-am," shrugging her shoulders. "Ki-am" is a Cree word that means "let it happen" or "so be it," or "whatever." She was telling me not to be addicted to what is happening—rather to let it happen and not let the change effect you. I never forgot her words of wisdom.

Our staff have adopted a philosophy to move through this time of change with a positive outlook. I thank Estella Cheverie, Arthur Veitch, Debbie (Camp) Fitzsimmons, and Kathy Pickles for their unending support. I would be remiss if I forgot the rest of the People & Peaks Productions crew which include, Laura Vinson, Dave Martineau, and Jerry Woolsey. We have an awesome team of talented professionals, and I am confident we can navigate through the turbulent waters ahead. There is nothing more constant than change! I am wishing everyone the best in 2016.



Pictured on top:
Chehala at the
Canada's Wild Outdoor Expo
July 2015.

Pictured below:
Heather Devoe in her office at the
Willmore Wilderness Foundation

From Willmore's Wild Camera



Pictured above:
Laura and Arthur Veitch
Photo by Susan Feddema-Leonard

The score is now: Beavers-I & Arthur-0

Yes, I have to bow my head in shame and admit to being skunked by the lowly Castor Canadensis.

For over a month, I attempted to get video footage and still images of beavers. I came away with only a few lame shots of flat tails.

I have always reserved my camera trapping efforts for those "hard to get" species. Animals like cougars, wolverine and lynx are seldom seen in the wild. Folk who tromp extensively through the wilderness are lucky to get fleeting glances of these critters. Good, well-lit images of these animals in the wild are as hard to find as winning lottery tickets.

Camera traps change the odds. Through hard work and improved technology, my peers and I have garnered some exceptional images and footage of the most cryptic of critters.

I'm humbled but not disheartened. I'll get after those pesky beavers in the spring. Maybe mating season will make them less camera shy.

In the past, I was never really interested in camera trapping animals that I can readily capture with typical long lens photography. Bighorn sheep, trophy elk, deer and moose can be easily photographed from a vehicle with a telephoto lens. A photographer just has to pick the right locations. The same can almost be said for beavers. I have a good photography blind. I can hook a long lens to the camera and stake out a beaver dam. Beavers are too easy to waste on camera traps, I thought.

My focus is changing. I have started assembling images for a book

published through People and Peaks Productions and I realize I have a shortage of good images of the less charismatic creatures. To keep the same "flavor" as my other images, I need wide-angle imagery that is unique to remote trigger photography. I reckoned beavers would be a good starting point. I scouted an accessible area that showed plenty of beaver activity. I set up a slew of camera sets figuring that the results would come quickly. They didn't.

The beavers were there. They scuttled underneath my traps. They waddled behind them. They pulled piles of brush to obscure their faces. They pounded the water with their tails only a few metres away as I tended the cameras. I began to feel like a paparazzi chasing Lady Gaga. Finally, the snow came and the ice froze over the ponds and canals. The beavers are now busy under the ice, safe from the dizzying bursts of my camera flashes.

I'm humbled but not disheartened. I'll get after those pesky beavers in the spring. Maybe mating season will make them less camera shy.

Thinking back over the hours and hours spent working on beaver runs, I realize it was a great wilderness experience. These wetland areas are remarkably alive. Flying squirrels fluttered from tree to tree in the twilight. A great horned owl screamed its consternation at my wife and me. Swans and whooping cranes burst from the canals. And I still smile at the memory of my daughters' laughter after I crashed into a bank den. Life by a beaver pond is good.



Welcome to the Kohlers



The Willmore Wilderness Foundation hosted a pot luck welcome gathering for the Kohler family, who recently purchased Rock Lake Lodge near Willmore Wilderness Park. The Kohler's also own Wild TV - Canada's Hunting and Fishing TV Network. The Willmore Wilderness Foundation, People & Peaks Productions, and Alberta Rockies Adventures are proud to welcome the Kohler's to our mountain community.

Pictured on top:

Laura Vinson, Lavone Olson, and Dave Martineau played songs, some were composed for People & Peaks Productions. They played tunes from the soundtracks they wrote for "Mountain Mustang," and "Mountain Men."

Pictured bottom left to right:

- Outfitter Wald Olson, Owner of Brule Bed & Breakfast/Brule Trail Rides with Outfitter Basil Leonard, President of the Willmore Wilderness Foundation, and Dieter Kohler, Owner of Rock Lake Lodge and Wild TV.

- Lea Kohler, Laura Vinson, and Lavone Olson

- Monty Groat and Outfitter Johnny Groat, of Lazy VU Outfitters.

- Outfitter Tom Vinson, Horseback Adventure Ltd, with Outfitter Kipp Kelley of Rock Lake Trail Rides.

- Dave Martineau, with Ryan Kohler, President of Wild TV and owner of Rock Lake Lodge.



2015 Summer Trail Clearing Report

by Susan Feddema-Leonard



One goal of the Willmore Wilderness Foundation is to restore historic packtrails, and enhance the use of Willmore Wilderness Park for Albertans and visitors alike. Each summer and fall, trail crews rehabilitate the traditional trail network, which was used by aboriginal people, trappers, guides and outfitters in days-gone-by. This “brings the trails to life” in Willmore Wilderness Park, also known as Improvement District #25 (ID #25).

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation also focuses on promoting ID #25 as a tourist destination spot. The mountain region has a unique culture that is home to many historical attractions, including old traditional buildings (trapline cabins, etc.), old graves, and the mountain trails.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation strives to achieve the following objectives:

- There is a need for experienced and knowledgeable guides in the Alberta Rocky Mountains. The Trail Clearing Program ensures that there will be a future pool of guides and outfitters who can take tourists safely through the northern Alberta Rockies. The Foundation does this by arranging to have local youth mentored by senior trailmen, elders and horsemen. This program ensures that the age old skills are passed on from one generation to another.
- The Trail Clearing Program is a hands-on experiential outdoor training program that focuses on mentoring youth. The program facilitates the restoration of the trail network in this 4500-square kilometer wilderness park.
- Youth trail hands work one-on-one with elders or senior trailmen. All the outfitters are fully licensed by the Alberta Government; insured and bonded. The Foundation is also insured for the trail clearing initiative.
- Youth are also taught how to train a horse from start to finish, with no stress. This helps in the development of this unique backcountry industry.
- The Foundation is ensuring the creation of detailed maps of the traditional packtrails.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation has had a mandate to do trail rehabilitation since 2002. Over the years the Foundation has hired many of the aboriginal elders, guides and youth. The organization is keeping the “trails alive.” The Foundation’s efforts have rehabilitated, restored and opened up many hundreds of kilometres of trails that have traditionally been used by hunters, trappers, outfitters, anglers, and horsemen during the past 200 years.



The Foundation is not only clearing trails, but is packing out garbage and stocking campgrounds with wood. All this is done with packhorse and saddle horse in travelling tent camps.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation would like to thank Alberta Municipal Affairs for its contribution towards the previous trail-clearing initiatives. We would also like to thank the MD of Greenview for their support.

- Cleared trail up to the summit of Mt. Stearn - **7 km**
- Heavy trail clearing from the Staging Area up the Smoky River to the base of the Switch Backs - **20 km**
- Trail Clearing from the base of the Switch Backs over to the Jackpine River - **30 km**
- Trail Clearing up Bazil Creek - **16 km**
- Cleared through 2007 burn to Cote Creek, up Surprise Pass - **30 km**
- Trail Clearing and Infrastructure Improvement Initiatives: Cleared trail from the Mt. Stearn Summit, across to the headwaters of Davey and Eaton Creek and down Mount Stearn to the Gravel Pit on the Sulphur Gates Road. Total Distance - **25 km**

TOTAL - 158 KM

Pictured on left page:
Trail Clearing through the Smoky River Burn
 Top: Cleared trees through the Copenhagen Plateau
 Second: Payton Hallock, a wrangler’s helper.
 Third: Ali Klassen, Trail Hand
 Fourth: Lance Wanyandie, Trail Hand

Pictured above (left to right):
Trail Clearing through the Sheep Creek Burn
 Kyle Leonard, Dan Leonard & Bazil Leonard at the upper Sheep Creek called Copper Kettle Camp, named for the copper kettle that Caroline Hinman found there back in 1915.

All photos by Susan Feddema-Leonard

How I Got My Sheep: The Stan Kitchen and the Bing Crosby Story

....This is an excerpt from an article that was authored by Bing Crosby. The *Stan Kitchen and the Bing Crosby Story* is featured in Chapter Sixteen of *People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park: 1800s to mid-1900s*. The following is a quote from Mr. Crosby.



Pictured above:
Frank Moberly

Photo courtesy of Dusty Groat

Pictured on right page:

From left to right:

Stan Kitchen,
Frank Moberly in the back
& Bing Crosby.

Photo courtesy of Mac Elder

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Next day, (Outfitter) Stan (Kitchen) and I kept our date with the (Frank) Moberly party. We found Moberly and Malcolm Pfunder and Charlie Waldo there. The rams they'd spotted the day before were still on deck. But where there had been only seven rams, there were now eleven.

They were on the same mountaintop, alert and watchful. Fortunately, we were in timber, so they couldn't see us. Frank Moberly looked through his glasses and told us that he thought they'd come down to timber to feed when it stopped snowing, and if we started up now we could get into position for a shot. We rode along the trail and then started on foot through the timber. It was steep and we climbed a hundred yards or so, rested for ten minutes, climbed again, then rested again. A third of the way up, we came upon fifteen or twenty blue grouse in the timber. They were perfect for pot fodder, but we couldn't shoot them for fear of disturbing our sheep, so we spent twenty minutes on our hands and knees, trying to catch them or bat them over the head with sticks. When we closed in on them, they jumped ten or fifteen feet away, and the process started all over again. It must have been a comical sight to see a lot of grown men on hands and knees trying to sneak up on a covey of skittish birds.

Finally Frank and Stan went ahead to case the sheep. We broke into a small clearing and, crawling along, came onto a couple of deer feeding.

One of them had an enormous chandelier. The other was only slightly smaller and packed quite a hall tree, himself. But with the rams only about three quarters of a mile above us with their ears cocked, it was impossible to shoot them. That last three quarters of a mile was almost straight up and, at some points, we had to pull up hand over hand. I was carrying a gun and camera and wearing a heavy coat. My legs felt like lead, my lungs seemed bursting, and my heart pounded. But each time I felt like stopping I thought of Dr. Pfunder. He admitted to being sixty-one, yet he seemed to be in no greater distress than I. By pulling, hauling, panting and scrambling, we reached a point where we could peer over a ridge at our quarry about four hundred and fifty yards away.

A heavy snowstorm started—big, wet, thick, heavy flakes. We were soaked with perspiration and we clung to the mountain at the twelve-thousand-foot altitude, while our blood congealed, and Frank and Stan debated what to do.

The rams belonged to Frank's party. I was strictly a guest, and as Doc. Pfunder only craved a big head—he had two small ones at home he'd shot on previous trips—we wanted him to have first crack at the biggest specimen. But even with a 'scope site' he doubted if he could hit a vital spot, and once his fire had spooked them, they'd light out and that would be the end of our shooting.



Stan decided to circle around over the top of the mountain to see if he could kick them out and head them our way. We watched while he climbed unbelievably difficult places. At last he reached a point where he could get back of them and head them our way. At this moment our rams trotted toward us, outlined against the snow with their heads held high, sniffing suspiciously. The weather cleared suddenly, the clouds parted and the sun shone brilliantly.

Frank and Doc Pfunder got up on the brow of the hill for a shot. The rams were about a hundred and seventy-five yards away when Doc fired. He hit the leader in the hip, but failed to stop him, and the others veered and went up around us. Charlie and I started firing then.

I had five cartridges in my magazine, but on the first shot the ejector threw out the used cartridge and one other, and with the second shot the remaining two popped out into the snow. Charlie and Doc were blazing away, the sheep were making for the next ridge, and I was groping in the snow for my lost cartridges. Seeing the sheep getting farther away made me desperate. Running up to Charlie, I started pulling at his cartridge belt. The confusion was indescribable. I was tugging at Charlie's middle while Charlie's guide was pulling at his shoulder trying to show him where two of the rams had gone. Doc Pfunder was blazing away and, when I wasn't yanking at him, Charlie was blazing away too; and Frank Moberly was yelling instructions.

The sheep were about three hundred yards from us, on another slope, when I got a couple of cartridges out of Charlie's belt. I put one in the chamber and took a pop at a ram. I missed the first time, but the next one must have hit him in the shoulder. He dropped like a stone and slid out of sight down the snow and shale into a deep ravine. Charlie hit another ram in the neck and he fell down a ravine near the one mine had gone down. Doc put a clincher shot into a big fellow and he fell down a third ravine. So now we had three sheep sliding down three slots into the valley below.

But getting to them was quite a job. We had to climb over precipitous and slippery shale covered with snow. If we lost our footing, we'd fall into a gorge or a crevice, but we made it and found our sheep. We got out our cameras and took pictures. Just as we finished, the clouds closed in and the mountains were wrapped in a blizzard. Stan skinned out my head, and we took a couple of quarters and the loins, and started down. The head and cape I was carrying weighed about sixty pounds and I was wobbling, but Stan was in even worse shape. He was carrying the two quarters and the loins. We slid part of the way, fell for additional yardage, stumbled the rest. On this descent, most of it spent on my extensive derriere, friction burned my hip pocket off, and with it went my brand-new, two-blade, bone-handled knife with leather punch and fishhook disgorged. We reached the trail and the horses about nightfall. The wind was whistling and we got lost a couple of times, and when we sighted our fire, about twelve-thirty, we were cold, wet, tired and hungry. But we had our rams.

Bing Crosby

Alberta Order of the Bighorn Awards

Picture on right hand page:

Bazil Leonard and the
Honourable Robin Campbell.

Maurice Nadeau and
Reg Prostebby, President Wild Sheep Foundation,
Alberta Chapter.

Photos courtesy of Admire Studios
Order of the Big Horn 2015

Willmore Wilderness Foundation Members Bazil Leonard and Maurice Nadeau were inducted into the Order of the Bighorn on March 6, 2015. Hank Cheverie, Director of the Willmore Wilderness Foundation nominated Bazil for this prestigious award. The Foundation was excited that both of these outdoorsmen were honoured by the Alberta Government. The following is an excerpt taken from the Alberta Environment and Parks website that features the Alberta Order of the Bighorn Awards.

Bazil Leonard

In 1982, the Government of Alberta established the Order of the Bighorn Awards to officially recognize the passionate contributions of Albertans to conserve fish and wildlife. Since its inception, the Order of the Bighorn Awards has celebrated voluntary

efforts that positively contribute to the conservation of Alberta's native fish and wildlife. The awards also serve to recognize the importance of ongoing stewardship of these resources. Members of the Order of the Bighorn have distinguished themselves and enriched the lives of all Albertans through their commitment to the environment and Alberta's world-renowned fish and wildlife.

Through his involvement in many organizations and activities over decades, Bazil Leonard has been an outstanding steward and advocate of our mountains and foothills and the species that live there. Bazil is a founding member of the Willmore Wilderness Foundation and the current president. Over the past 12 years he has donated countless hours, horses and equipment for



trail building and other work in the Willmore Wilderness Park.

As a long standing member of the Alberta Outfitters Association and the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society, he has served on both executive councils for many years. He has always been a sound voice for sustainable management of our wildlife resources and habitats.

Bazil is also the current vice president of the Mountain Métis in Grande Cache and is active with many other groups.

Bazil is an authentic mountain man who has consistently worked to promote conservation and stewardship ethics to increase public education and awareness of conservation concerns and to inspire young and old to take an active role in environmental stewardship.

Maurice Nadeau

From his early days on the farm where he grew up, Maurice Nadeau has been fascinated with the outdoors. It did not take long for this fascination to grow to a life time of conservation and stewardship actions directed at sustaining Alberta's species and habitats.

Maurice became a member of The Beaver River Fish & Game Association many years ago and shortly after became its vice president, then its president. He has held various other prestigious positions over the years including vice director and director of Alberta Fish and Game Association, Zone 5. At the provincial level, Maurice held the offices of Alberta Fish and Game Association Provincial Hunting chair, junior vice president, vice president and president at various times.

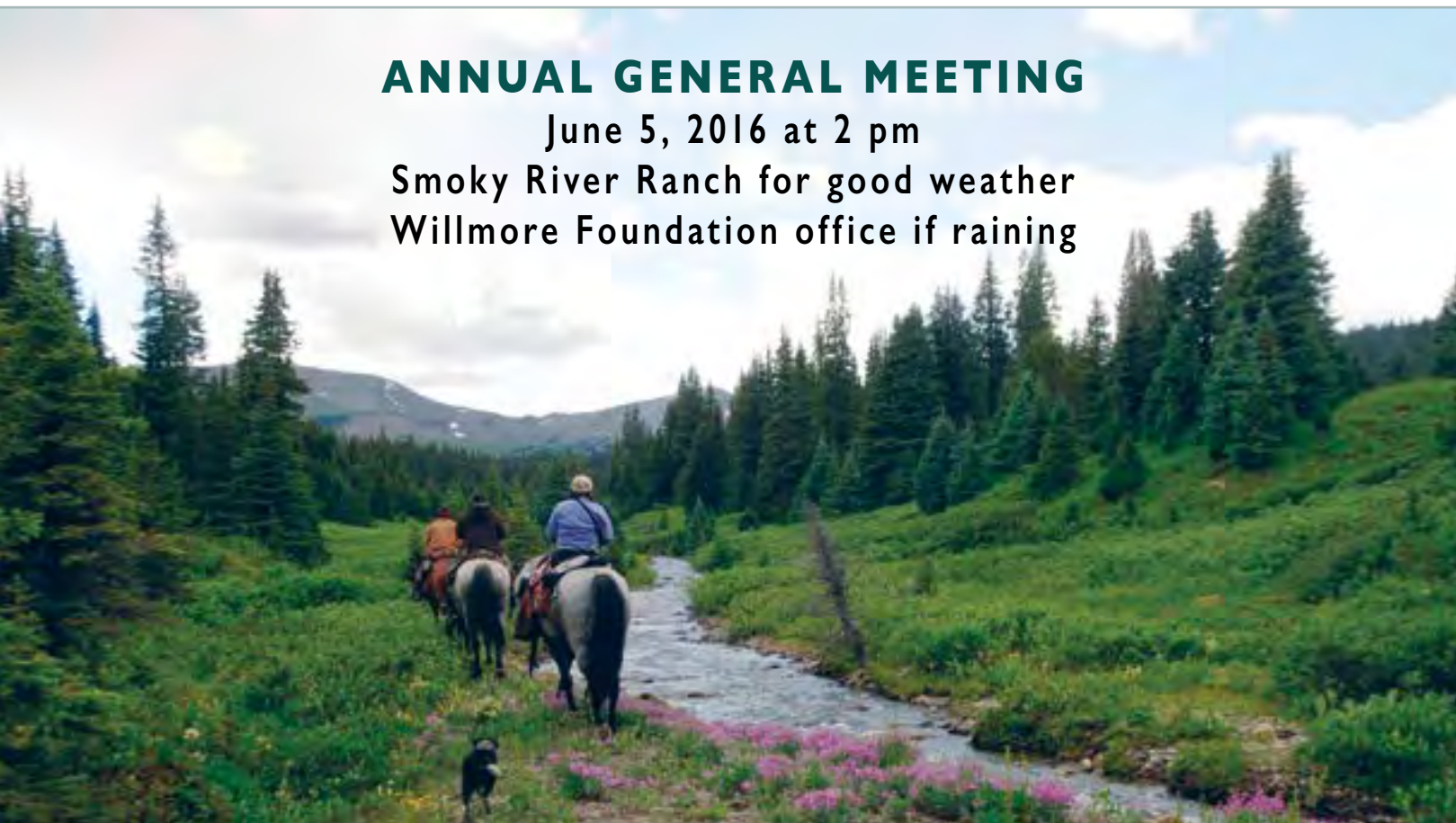
He has been very active in numerous other organizations and committees, including the Alberta Outdoors Coalition, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, Willmore Wilderness Foundation, The Wild Sheep Foundation, Alberta Trappers Association and many more. He has become well known for his longstanding dedicated and consistent service on behalf of Alberta's fish and wildlife populations. He has been an outstanding voice for conservation.

Through his dedicated service as an Alberta Fish and Game representative and his roles in other organizations, Maurice has shared his belief that the resource must always be first, followed by the interests of the Alberta resident and that working together is in our best interests and in the best interests of our fish and wildlife resources and the habitats on which they depend.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 5, 2016 at 2 pm

Smoky River Ranch for good weather
Willmore Foundation office if raining





Pictured above:

Bud Brewster

Photo by William Foster

courtesy of

Annette Brewster

Outfitting Marilyn Munroe:

Interview with Bud & Annette Brewster and Janet Brewster-Stanton

Below is an excerpt from *Chapter One: Bud & Annette Brewster* and their daughter Janet Brewster-Stanton interview, in the *People & Peaks of the Panther River & Eastern Slopes*. Bud Brewster was the outfitter for the movie production called *River of No Return*, starring Marilyn Munroe and Robert Mitchum.

Sue Bud, I understand that you worked on the feature movie called the *River of No Return*.

Bud Yes, I worked on the *River of No Return* with Marilyn Monroe and Robert Mitchum, but there have been various stories floating around that I will correct.

I was hired by OT (Otto) Preminger to pick out the sites for the shoot. Otto was the director and producer of this film. He was also an actor. Otto and I did this a year before the filming even started. It took us two weeks to do this. I supplied the food and horses for the Banff portion of the movie of the *River of No Return*. I also supplied food for the film production camp on the Jasper Highway.

Most of the *River of No Return* was filmed at Devona, a train station east of the town of Jasper. I had to buy a horse from the Indians. Mac Graham was there and was in charge of the Jasper operation for me. Mac Graham was also a double for Robert Mitchum.

Seventy percent of the film was made in Jasper and twenty percent in Banff. Ten percent was shot at our guest ranch at Seebe. They filmed up in the Yoho (National Park) too, and they did work at the Ranch near the Bow River. They moved up to Jasper after they filmed in Banff and went to Devona.

They had one photo shoot down at Seebe when they burnt down a cabin there, near Exshaw. Ester Richards was cooking on that job. The ten percent of the film that we handled at Seebe was the dangerous part. They ran the Horseshoe Rapids near the Seebe Ranch. I got the power company to lower the water level to make it safer. I used to work at the power company. The last scene was a battle with the Indians on the Bow River. Jim Brewster was also a double for Robert Mitchum in that movie. There was one shot that was taken at the Rafter Six Guest Ranch. We supplied ten head of horses for this portion of the movie.

I was involved in six different films that had film sets in the Rockies. They were produced by International Films, Fox Films and several other film companies. *Rose Marie* was filmed in Revelstoke in 1954 for the CPR when I was in my late 20s. I was also involved in another shoot with actor Randolph Scott. The film was made near Morley, Alberta and it was about an Indian attack on a train. They even brought in an old CPR train for the show.

One interesting picture was during World War II. Some army officers decided that they had to have a winter survival session. The problem was that in order to do this, we had to buy thirty-five head of horses and break them. We needed to prepare

them for a trip to the Columbia Icefields. The production company hired a director and producer from New York. It took about six months to organize everything, and the war was close to over by the time the picture was completed.

Another small picture was done by Jack Sobel and was called *Johnny Mathis in the Canadian Rockies*. Jack Sobel had trouble getting a cast. He tried to hire Lorne Greene but he was not available. Jack finally called Karen Valentine, who was a singer and the production was successful.

The largest picture that I was involved with was *Fort Saskatchewan*. A lot of the picture was shot at Bow Lakes, but the movie was filmed both in Banff and Yoho Parks. We had a hundred head of horses and a hundred Indians in that movie. It involved twenty-five trucks and six buses. There were twenty tepees. It also took about a month to build the fort at Bankhead, about four miles out of Banff. The two main actors were Shelley Winters and Alan Ladd.

Son of Lassie Come Home was a short film that was shot out of Lake Louise. We left Lake Louise and rode to the Plain of Six Glaciers Tea House in Banff where we had a building. We had to build trail for about a half-mile to get all the props into the Victoria Glacier. Everything had to go by packhorse at that time, as there were no helicopters. It took about four days to get all the props in, and it only took two days to shoot the picture. The dog trainer made us pack in a dead dog for any dangerous shots. It took about twenty-five head of horses.

Janet One interesting story that happened during the time you were involved with *Lassie Come Home* is when this guy went down

a crevasse and saved a guy in Lake Louise because that story has been told inaccurately. Dad read an article about it and said, "That's not how it happened!"

Annette Bud did the rescue of the pianist at Lake Louise that fell down a crevasse. Janet was a baby when this happened, and we were living at Lake Louise. The pianist had gone out with a Swiss guide. He only fell ninety feet. There was a kid that we picked up on the trail who went down after him. We put together lash ropes and lowered the young Swiss boy in there. The wardens came after we got him out.

Bud The story is about a piano player who played at the Chateau Lake Louise. John Lynn and Walter Feuz, one of the Swiss guides from the Chateau Lake Louise were climbing on the Victoria Glacier when they dropped through the snow. Walter hung on and John went down to the end of the rope that both were tied to. Walter didn't have the strength to pull John out so he had to cut the rope and let his partner down. John went down about ninety feet and caught a ledge. Walter started walking back to the Plain of Six Glaciers Tea House and got help from a guide who was out with a party of five or six people. Walter instructed the guide to go over to the corral and get a hold of me.

Now it was up to me to organize a rescue off of the Victoria Glacier for John Lynn. I closed our operation down for the day and went to work. We gathered up about 125 feet of rope and left the corral with all the staff we had. There was seven staff and myself—the rescue chief. I even got the hotel doctor to come and assist on the trip. On our way to the site, we picked up a young Swiss boy. He joined our group and followed me,

as I knew the trail to where we were going because I had been involved in cutting the trail to the glacier for the movie company that was filming *Lassie Come Home*. You could ride a horse right to the edge of the ice flow. It wasn't long before we arrived at the snow bridge. I was the first to the site, so I hollered down and said, "John, are you down there?"

He recognized my voice and hollered back, "Get me out of here, but I don't want you to come down!" So the young Swiss boy offered to go down. We tied all the ropes together and the crew lowered him down. He tied John on, and the crew pulled him out. The doctor took over after we had him safely out of the crevasse. The Park wardens showed up when all was said and done. They took him down to the Plain of Six Glaciers Tea House where he remained during the night. The doctor told John that he would not likely have survived any longer down that hole.

Sue Did you work on any other films in later years?

Bud No, Parks Canada eventually made a rule that there would be no more major films or documentaries shot in their jurisdictions, so we really lost a lot of opportunities in later years.

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WILLMORE WILDERNESS PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2014

	2014 \$	2013 \$
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	109,315.15	0.00
Accounts Receivable	16,527.96	243,687.67
Security Deposits	200.00	200.00
	<u>126,043.11</u>	<u>243,887.67</u>
Capital Assets		
Building	287,000.00	287,000.00
Equipment	13,855.19	13,855.19
Office Equipment	3,484.95	2,468.15
Camera, Video & Film Equipment	64,371.22	64,371.22
Computer	50,167.75	38,900.54
Furniture & Fixtures	14,427.26	14,427.26
	<u>433,306.37</u>	<u>421,022.36</u>
Less: Accumulated Amortization	<u>92,670.67</u>	<u>74,804.53</u>
	<u>340,635.70</u>	<u>346,217.83</u>
	<u>466,678.81</u>	<u>590,105.50</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Bank Overdraft	0.00	4,794.64
Accounts Payable	<u>43,906.95</u>	<u>124,765.94</u>
	<u>43,906.92</u>	<u>129,560.58</u>
Long Term Liabilities		
ATB Mortgage Payable	<u>111,395.36</u>	<u>119,387.71</u>
	155,302.31	248,948.29
Equity		
Retained Earnings	<u>311,376.50</u>	<u>341,157.21</u>
	<u>466,678.81</u>	<u>590,105.50</u>

WILLMORE WILDERNESS PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
STATEMENT OF EARNINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

	2014 \$	2013 \$
REVENUE		
General Sales	350.00	1,050.00
Grants	270,140.73	480,600.00
Memberships	3,847.25	3,499.00
Book Sales	24,851.63	25,308.94
DVD Sales	748.19	210.00
Donations	3,469.70	225.00
Training & Clinics	3,150.00	2,100.00
Trail Clearing Contracts	0.00	48,000.00
Fundraising Proceeds	9,893.83	9,416.09
Interest	90.39	46.28
	<u>316,541.72</u>	<u>570,455.31</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Accounting & Consulting	3,073.65	1,537.50
Advertising & Promotion	15,409.95	4,610.61
Amortization	17,866.14	20,570.34
Fundraising Costs	10,415.48	7,835.69
Bank/Credit Card Charges & Fees	3,026.78	2,235.87
Insurance	3,969.00	2,332.00
License, Fees & Permits	929.90	90.75
Loan/Mortgage Interest	5,366.79	5,558.68
Supplies	6,768.03	116.82
Conventions, Banquets & Meetings	402.00	291.41
Training & Clinics	19,490.43	373.00
Office	24,845.48	21,895.93
Utilities	5,724.78	3,934.53
Property Taxes	7,839.47	8,376.80
Book & Film Production Costs	38,294.49	0.00
Telephone & Fax	3,593.31	1,896.84
Maintenance & Repairs	261.52	369.40
Travel	20,090.73	225.37
Wages & Benefits	73,129.58	81,283.88
Contract Services	85,824.93	3,000.00
RADF Project Costs	0.00	393,667.87
	<u>346,322.44</u>	<u>560,203.29</u>
EARNINGS (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS	<u>-29,780.72</u>	<u>10,252.02</u>

Thanks to
Macro Properties
for their
generous support.

Thanks to the Alberta Municipal Affairs for supporting
infrastructure improvement in
Improvement District #25 aka Willmore Wilderness Park

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Norman Willmore, Mrs. Dot Willmore and Prime Minister Diefenbaker.
Photo courtesy of Joyce Hageman, Norman Willmore's niece.

Norman Willmore: Architect of the Willmore Wilderness Act

The following excerpt on the formation of Willmore Wilderness Park was taken from page 24 and 25 of People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park: 1800s to mid 1900s.

During the 1940s changes were affecting the eastern slopes and a visible scar was being perpetrated in the Alberta Rocky Mountains. "In 1944, the Imperial Oil Company explored the area north of Hinton, searching for petroleum. Approximately one hundred men were occupied in this search. In 1948, Imperial Oil constructed the 'oil road' to Muskeg (which is twenty miles east of present-day Grande Cache). In order to find sites where their seismic crews could drill, Imperial Oil hired various guides and outfitters in the area."¹

During the 1940s and 1950s, oil and gas leases were awarded in what is now Willmore Wilderness Park. The Hinton and Jasper outfitters and trappers were getting worried about the roads that the oil and gas sector were inflicting on the mountain trails. Outfitter, Tom Vinson stated in a July 19, 2003 interview, "So we

pressured Norman Willmore (MLA) to do something about the oil and gas exploration, and he did. He declared the area a wilderness park where trapping, hunting and fishing would be permitted. That was all—no motor vehicles. That's what we wanted, of course."²

Due to the fact that no oil of any consequence was discovered, the pressure from the oil and gas sector subsided when they let their leases expire. In 1959, Norman Willmore was instrumental in getting legislation passed to protect the area. This legislation is now known as the Willmore Wilderness Act.

Honourable Norman Willmore was a man who believed in the environment and wanted his constituency to have a voice and he encouraged the trappers to organize into a body that could be heard by government. Norman Willmore was member of the Alberta Legislature for Jasper-Edson, and was also Minister of Lands and Forests. He was also the driving force in the formation of the Alberta Trappers Association. This

Member of the Legislative Assembly listened and has left a wilderness legacy for future generations.

"The past hundred years have seen a huge transition in the eastern slopes of the Canadian Rockies—and the indigenous people of the area have paid a very heavy price. Resource extraction of timber, and oil and gas on the eastern slopes, has ravaged the mountain region. It is reassuring to focus on the fact that Norman Willmore had the foresight to have legislation passed which would ensure traditional land use activities in what is now called Willmore Wilderness Park. There is some solace in the fact that future generations will have the right to hunt, trap, fish and use horses—all because of the lobbying in the 1950s from outfitters, trappers, indigenous friends and constituents for what became the Willmore Wilderness Act."³

"Thank you, Norman Willmore!"

³ People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park: 1800s to mid 1900s – Page 27

¹ Diamond Hitch by E.H. Heart – Page 253

² History of Hinton by Hazel Hart – Page 344



Larry Nelles presented Curtis Hallock with the **Pete McMahon Memorial Buckle** for his outstanding contribution for mentoring youth in mountain horsemanship skills.

Mountain Horsemanship Memories



The Willmore Wilderness Foundation has been offering Mountain Horsemanship Clinics for many years, and have used revenues they raised from various sources to support young people who wanted to experience the horseback culture. During the 2015 clinic, Larry Nelles presented Curtis Hallock the Pete McMahon Memorial Buckle for his outstanding contribution in mentoring local youth in horsemanship skills. Curtis has been passing the skills he learned from Larry onto the next generation, and Larry wanted to recognize him for this.

This year we are sharing images of some of the "little cow pokes," who enjoyed the 2015 clinic. Remember, *you are never too old or too young to ride.*

Pictured from left to right:

- Larry Nelles giving a young fellow a ride.
- Kyle Leonard leading the Canada Day Parade with Payton Hallock to the right.
- Curtis Hallock's son Trewyatt.
- Martin Hallock (It) helps a his nephew Meredith on horseback.
- Mountain Horsemanship Clinic Cook Lois McMahon, with her helper Braiden Hallock.
- Kyle Leonard and his young cousin, Jaely Willow Moberly, enjoy ride at Smoky River Ranch.



Photos courtesy of Susan Feddema-Leonard

Willmore Wilderness Foundation

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