



## *Willmore Wilderness 2012 Newsletter*

### **Willmore Wilderness Foundation Celebrates its 10th Anniversary**

It is hard to believe that 2012 is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Willmore Wilderness Foundation's formation. We organized ourselves at the prodding of the late Julian Kinisky, our founding president. He felt it imperative to create a voice for the traditional users of Willmore Wilderness Park in order to ensure that future generations could use the Park like their forefathers.

Prior to his death Julian Kinisky wrote, "The first time I viewed the Willmore Wilderness Park, I was so utterly grateful to the Honourable Norman Willmore, the then Minister of Natural Resources, in whose name this wonderfully beautiful park was created by the Government of Alberta. Comprising some 4,597 square kilometers of virtually untouched beauty, it is backed by majestic mountains with such historic names

as Lougheed, de Veber, Hardisty and Talbot—after the first Alberta Senators. Although hunting, trapping and trail riding are allowed, the intrusion of motor-driven vehicles is forbidden, thus preserving the silence to allow those who wish to appreciate the goodness of God's own creation without disturbance.

continued on page 2



## Willmore Wilderness Foundation Celebrates its 10th Anniversary - continued from page 1

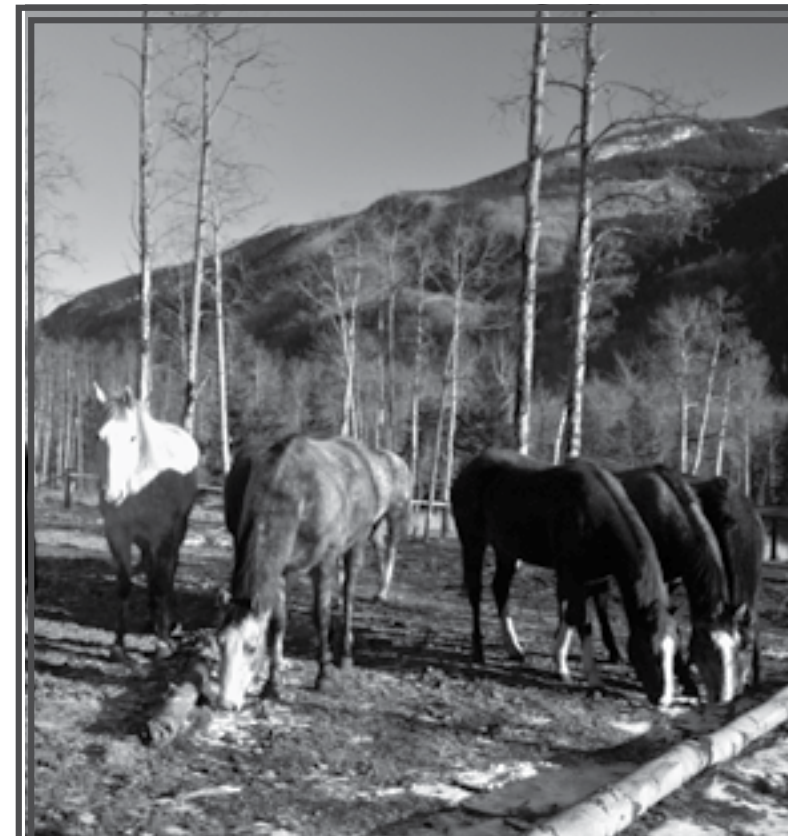
"In the year 2002, the Willmore Wilderness Preservation and Historical Foundation was formed by a group of individuals. Members have volunteered to inventory and catalogue old cabins, graves, carvings on trees, historical campsites and trails. Databases are being created— which include GPS coordinates, photographs and oral histories. This information is being catalogued and stored for further study. The work of trail clearing has been particularly difficult because of huge windfalls over many miles of mountain terrain—complicated by the historic no-burn policy of the Alberta Government in the 1900s. Just finding the traditional trails has been difficult and only managed through the special talents of our outfitters and aboriginal guides who seemed to possess paranormal abilities in their identification of blazes and other old sign".

I know that Julian Kinisky would have been thrilled to know that in 2008, the Willmore Wilderness Foundation purchased a building, which is home to a state of the art film production studio. The Willmore Wilderness Foundation has been frugal, operating through the support of its volunteers. Through their generosity the Foundation only has \$160,000 left owing on the mortgage.

I am sure Julian Kinisky would have been drinking a brandy and smoking a cigar in sheer joy if he knew that the organization he helped create had been awarded a 1.1 million dollar contract in order to preserve the traditions, culture and lifestyle that he believed in. The new contract with the Rural Alberta Development Fund promises to catapult the Willmore Wilderness Foundation into cutting-

edge ways of doing business, along with preserving an age-old way of life.

We are very excited about many of the events that are up and coming in 2012. One such date to note will be the 1st Annual Mountain Horse Live Auction. This promises to be very exciting as we have 18 horses that were raised by Brian Ellingson of Bonanza, Alberta. Over the past 40 years, Brian has raised registered paints and quarter horses of outstanding quality. Due to ill health, he was forced to disperse his horse herd. We were fortunate enough to purchase 18 unbroken colts and fillies ranging in age from three to five. These colts will be well started before the auction, which will be held at Smoky River Ranch near Grande Cache on June 24, 2012 at 2 pm. There will be a barbeque held for purchasers after the auction.



## Live Horse Auction:

18 colts & fillies - 3 to 5 years

- will be well started before the auction
- papers are available if desired
- registered quarter horses and paints

Location: Smoky River Ranch near Grande Cache

Date: June 24, 2012 at 2 pm.

Contact: 780-827-2696

or [info@willmorewilderness.com](mailto:info@willmorewilderness.com)

- a barbeque held for purchasers after the auction

## mountain horse auction

## Inside This Edition

President's Report	4	Financial Report	22
Views from Sheep Creek	6	Auction Dates	22
Felix Plante's Moose Hunt	8	Foundation Hosts Trapper Education	24
Moccasin Telegraph	10		
Grizzly Report	16		
Memberships	18		
News Release	19		
Tall Tales	20		

January 2012  
**Willmore Wilderness Foundation Annual Newsletter**  
 © Willmore Wilderness Foundation  
 no portion of this newsletter may be reprinted without written permission.  
 Registered Charitable Organization  
 #89655 0308 RR0001



## DVD & Book Sales

**Long Road Home:** 45:13 min - \$20.00

**Wildie:** 44:14 min - \$20.00

### People & Peaks

of Willmore Wilderness Park:  
 1800s-mid 1900s: \$60.00

For stories on the people, traditions & culture of Alberta's northeastern slopes go to: **PeopleandPeaks.com**

Contact: **WillmoreWilderness.com**  
 1866-WILMORE or 1-780-827-2696  
 Box 93 Grande Cache, Alberta T0E 0Y0 Canada





## President's Report

### Hi Willmore

#### Wilderness Friends:

The 2011 season was not as busy as the 2010 season. Special thanks go to the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) and the MD of Greenview who generously contributed towards the Youth Mentoring Initiative. This support went towards one 10-day trip and one 18-day trip.

A thank you also goes to Outfitter Ed Regnier for helping mentor five youth during the 18-day project and one youth on the 10-day trip. Ed has many years of outfitting and trail experience, so the youth had an excellent teacher.

Three separate grazing-research sites were cleared up at Kvass Flats on the 10-day trip. Barbwire, page wire and metal posts were taken down and stacked for further removal by either helicopter or snowmobile. This ended up being much more work than anticipated. There was significant evidence that wildlife had been caught in the barbwire, and the metal fence poles were bent as a result. We also cleared the Smoky River trail through the 2002 burn during this 10-day period. There was a lot of downed timber, and it was tough cutting.

We continued to clean up the endless yards of fluorescent red plastic ribbon in the Sheep Creek, Continental Divide and Jackpine River areas during the 18-day trip. The five youth learned a lot from their mentors on this trip.

Our youth also included 14-month-old Jaely Moberly who participated on the extended packtrip along the Continental Divide. This little trailhand

never cried once, despite the great distances her mother packed her on horseback. Our thanks goes out to Jaely's mother Jaeda for donating her time to cooking and helping with camp chores.

We cleared the main Sheep Creek Trail through the burn to Casket Lake during the 18-day trip. More work needs to be done on re-routing the muskeg areas between Casket Lake and Morkill Pass. Also there is 1½ miles of bad muskeg from Donald McDonald Meadows down Basil Creek that needs significant work.

The youth and their mentors continued to clean up garbage and trash throughout the 18-day trip. The trash was packed out to Grande Cache by packhorse. Obstructed trails were cleared and made passable. Youth were taught packing, trail skills and more. Extensive video and pictures were taken of the youth and their mentors. A movie is in production on the 2010 and 2011 trail clearing initiatives by People & Peaks Productions.

More work was done in Sept 2011 on the Sheep Creek Trail from a contribution that Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation provided the Foundation. More work needs to be done on the Sheep Creek trail, as it has been neglected for decades.

The trail clearing crew worked hard and put in long hours. It was a labour of love and was a lot of hard, physical work. We would like to thank the 2011 trail clearing staff and volunteers.

On a different note, I want to thank Jason Bildson Contracting who



Basil Leonard:  
Photo by Sue Feddema-Leonard

#### Pictured on right page:

Top: Jaeda Feddema & daughter Jaely Moberly

Middle: Tyler Hallock 2011  
taking a break at Sheep Creek Camp

Bottom: Youth riding over Morkill Pass - 2011

Photos by Susan Feddema-Leonard

did a fantastic job renovating the Willmore Wilderness Foundation office. We were down for a five-month period and our staff was glad to move back into the premises at the end of October.

There are a lot of developments planned with the Rural Alberta Development Fund grant that was recently announced (see page 19). I wish to let everyone know that the Willmore Wilderness Foundation is organizing a committee for the development of cultural, traditional and historical mountain ecotourism. The program is called Engaging Traditions for Economic Growth and will develop a first-ever Northeastern-Slopes Operators' Steering Committee

Our goal is to meet with the Willmore Wilderness Park Commercial Trail Riding Operators/Outfitters, Bed and Breakfast Operators and Back Country Lodge owners to organize, develop strategies, develop a marketing plan/collective brand, and develop standards.

We will be meeting in 2012 and 2013 to develop this concept. One of the goals is for the Northeastern-Slopes Operators Steering Committee to hire a consultant to help the regional operators develop programs and products. The consultant will help operators polish their products for a high value clientele. The tourist industry trends are moving towards experiential tourism and the northeastern slopes operators are in an ideal position to develop this traditional, cultural and historical ecotourism niche product. Also, Willmore Wilderness Park has considerable capacity to increase the number of clientele. There is also capacity to increase the backcountry lodge and B&B experiences in the areas adjacent to Willmore.

The Northeastern-Slopes Operators' Steering Committee will have fair regional representation with eight members in total. Willmore Wilderness Foundation will appoint a chairperson, a secretary/treasurer and six directors. One outfitter and one backcountry lodge owner will come from the Grande Cache area. One outfitter and one backcountry lodge owner will come from the Hinton/Brule area. One outfitter will come from the Edson area. The B&B operator representative will come from the Brule area.

There are a couple of dates you should mark on your calendar. Our Annual General Meeting will be held at 2 pm on June 3, 2012 at the Smoky River Ranch near Grande Cache. I would also like to mention the Larry Nelles Youth Colt Starting Clinic which will be held at the Smoky River Ranch from June 28 to July 3, 2012.

I certainly hope that everyone will come out to the 1st Mountain Horse Live Auction at Smoky River Ranch on June 24, 2012 at 2 pm. Call 780-827-2696 for information on any of these events.

Happy Trails

Basil Leonard

Editors Note:

I wish to note that Basil Leonard donated his time, a cook and the outfit for the 2011 trail clearing initiative. Many of his staff also donated their time. There were a few paid trail crew, but for the most part, the 2011 effort was completed with the support of a volunteer crew and outfit.





# Views from Sheep Creek

Brian Bildson - Executive Director

One of mine and Deana's great pleasures in life is heading out on the trail with both old friends and new. And when you throw in a Willmore sheep hunt, you know you're in for a good time. We hit the trail again this fall, and this is how the trip played out, I swear it's all true!

*Day One:* We packed up the horses at Sheep Creek Lodge. It took several hours as we have plenty of steeds. My friend and Alberta Conservation Association CEO & President Todd Zimmerling has brought along his father. Reid may have been 65 but he was an amazing help lifting the heavy pack boxes one after the other.

Finally we're all packed up, and it's time to go. So someone wakes up Todd and we all mount up. We have 24 horses in the string, and our trail boss Basil Leonard has them all strung out head-to-tail like the pro that he is. Our wrangler Danny Hallock is 81 years young and sitting tall in the saddle. The indomitable Sue Leonard rounds out the team as cook, videographer, & social butterfly. We have a steady uphill ride all day in a light rain, but the weather clears as we reach our destination in the early evening.

We go to work putting camp quickly in order, using the available light. These are practiced routines for most of us, and we fall into the rhythm of setting camp. Basil and Danny tend to the horses, getting gear off and putting hobbles on. Grass looks scarce, but, I know from experience, the bush holds a few secrets around here—one of them being a few hidden meadows which hold grass for feed. One disappointment is the creek I'd used for

water had gone dry. With only a bit of light left I was able to find a small spring seep that pooled water in the bole of an old spruce tree about 400 metres from camp. The water was sweet, and we drank it the entire trip.

In a couple of hours, the tents were pitched, horses secured, and supper on the table. Reid went to wake Todd up, as he was pretty done in from the ride and was having a nap. In fact, the first thing we did was set his tent up and inflate his foamy while he had a hot chocolate and Danny massaged his legs after the long ride. I was glad he was able to get some rest as I know how stressful his job is.

We finished the night with Reid and I having a hot toddy while Todd sang old cowboys songs into the night. Actually, now that I think about it, that may have been my malamute Nikki howling. Ok, I'll stop hacking on Todd. The truth is the Alberta Conservation Association's CEO is tough, determined, a hard worker, and a pleasure to have in camp.

*Day Two:* Time to find the trail up into sheep country. Last time here I had bush-wacked my way up, literally climbing from alder to alder up a hell-hole slope; however, coming out I had hit a pretty good trail that followed drainage back to camp, so my goal was to find that trail. It took the day, but we unraveled the secret trail with its miniscule blazes and false branches leading to bad areas. There was no doubt in my mind, this was an old sheep hunter's trail, as I have seen this sneakiness before. In this case maybe it paid off, as we were off the known sheep hunter's radar in this range.

We broke out into the alpine in the early afternoon. Before us lay a climb of about 2,000 feet in order to make it to the peak, and like good sheep hunters, we couldn't resist climbing higher. We gained some elevation, but evening was coming and the summit still a long ways up. There's no use pushing the envelope when making your way back to a new camp on a new trail, let alone adding night to the equation. We saw sheep beds, tracks, and the area felt good so we went back to camp pretty happy.

*Day Three:* Todd and Reid were to ride out from camp on the horses back up the mountain, accompanied by Deana and Danny. I took off ahead on foot with a chainsaw in order to open the trail up enough for horses. Our camp was a brisk one-hour hike until the start of alpine. I was able to open the trail up enough that the boys rode right to the top of the trees and the start of our hike. I also marked out the trail a bit better so we could return at night. There are still a few tricky spots on the trail, and you had to pay attention. We unloaded the horses and tied them up for our return while Deana and Danny took the chainsaw and rode their ponies back to camp.

As we hiked our way up, two ewes and a lamb came over the ridge-line and busted us. They stood and stared, and we waited for a bit until I decided they've seen us anyways; let's just keep hiking up. Eventually they moved off unconcerned. During the hike we would see the odd ewe off in the distance but no rams. It got towards late afternoon, and I decided to skirt the edge of a bowl while Todd



Pictured left:  
Reid & Todd Zimmerling  
photo by Sue Feddema-Leonard

and Reid went up the spine of a ridge. My side was steep, and I had to keep to a narrow sheep trail which wound its way across the slope.

Along the way I found a good ram track, and it was fresh as the edges were real crisp. I worked my way up a saddle to meet up with Todd who had already summited. I could see he was excited, as he told me he had spotted a herd of two dozen sheep plus another pair off by themselves. Only problem was they were two kilometres away in another bowl; and it was a long hard hike to them; and then an even harder pack trip out...if successful. However the sighting of all those sheep raised the spirits of the party considerably.

We moved down slope and met up with Reid, shared the news, and hiked down to the horses. As you know heading down hill is a killer. This is where the knees give out, and the muscles quiver, but we survived. Todd and Reid mounted up, and I led the way back to camp on foot in the evening. It took the effort of all three of us to keep on the trail.

There are many false blazed trails or intersections of legit trails, some with 100-year-old blazes on them. Back in camp we recharged and decided it was time for an overnight stay.

*Day Four:* This morning the boss, Basil, brought us in with the horses. As we passed an opening in the trees, Baz commented on a particular bowl, mentioned it might be worth looking into. As we unloaded our packs from the horses, I told him that bowl was where I saw the ram track. He suggested I keep a real close eye on it as it looked real good to him. Also the sharp track edges might mean this could be a timber ram, one who spent less time in the rocks, hence having large hooves without being worn down.

We started climbing with 40-lb packs and limited water. Reid set the pace and once again amazed me. Nice and steady, little breaks, but up we climbed. I had tied my pack to a meat pack that Todd had brought, but it made balance a bit difficult. Finally I stashed it on a rock out-cropping

about two-thirds of the way up. As we made our way up the spine, the potential sheep basin that Basil liked was off to the right. To the left was another steep bowl, and over its ridges was the bowl Todd saw all the sheep in. We saw a couple ewes but no rams, as we worked our way up.

Suddenly I saw movement to my left. I looked over and saw a band of rams coming over the ridge. "Drop down" was my immediate response, and the troops complied. We snuck to the rim and Todd looked at me and confirmed it. **"Rams,"** he said in a whisper, but his eyes were bugged out and screaming sensory overload. Perhaps it was because as we watched, eleven rams worked their way across the slopes... heading our way.

The speed at which they moved awed me. Within a couple minutes, they covered a half kilometre of cliff and were clustered around a rock which glistened in the sunlight. As we watched through spotting scopes, the rams took turns at the rock. They

... continued on page 14



## Felix Plante's Most Memorable Moose Hunt

by Jim Babala



Author Jim Babala was a long-time Willmore Wilderness Park guide and outfitter. Photo courtesy of Jim Babala

Hunts come and go in the outfitting business, but some hunts leave everlasting memories, especially when outstanding trophies have been taken.

The moose hunt I am about to tell you is not a story of any exceptional trophies taken, but instead is a re-counting of the exceptional way it was conducted.

The hunt was in connection with the hunt Felix Plante and John Ostashek made in 1960, with both John and I operating the hunt in partnership.

Fred Plante walked into the cook tent at 9:30 one morning after checking all the horses, saying he had seen a lot of moose sign on the big red willow flat about a mile and a half from camp. He saw where a large bull moose had rubbed and polished his horns on a small Jack Pine tree, and had uprooted a few other trees and pawed the ground up. He had also pawed holes in the ground—a sure sign that the rut was on.

The two German hunters on this trip had decided to take a day in camp. Everyone was sitting in the kitchen, enjoying an extra cup of coffee when Freddy came in. The biggest German, who weighed two hundred sixty-five pounds, heard Freddy talking moose. He asked the interpreter to explain to him what he was talking about.

That morning both German hunters had already decided that on their day in camp, they would try to catch a mess of trout. Now the big German wanted to see the spot where the moose had rubbed his antlers

and pawed the ground. Felix said they would get the horses in after lunch and ride to the spot. The German wanted to walk to the spot, however, as he didn't want to ride a horse. The smaller German (two hundred twenty-five pounds) still wanted to go fishing.

After lunch Felix and the big German got ready to go. The German put into Felix's pack sack three bottles of beer, a can of tomato juice, some rye bread, cheese and a German-type sausage. He put on a green hunting outfit, a pair of loose, baggy britches, a heavy sweater, two vests, a heavy great coat, and a pair of leggings over his boots. He then snapped a three-legged stool with a leather seat to Felix's belt loop. The stool hung by a light chain. Felix also carried his rifle and a forked stick that the German used for a rifle rest while sitting on his stool. This is the method the Germans used when hunting Red Deer in Germany.

The smaller German, John Ostashek, and the interpreter took off fishing. Felix and his German started walking. They had gone hardly seventy-five yards when the German called Felix, took off his great coat, and gave it to Felix. They then proceeded for another twenty-five yards when again he stopped Felix. He took off the first vest. Another twenty-five yards and off came the other vest. He then unsnapped the stool from Felix's belt, set it up and sat down, took out a small torpedo-shaped cigar (which he smoked constantly), had Felix light it for him, and took a few puffs. Then he stretched out his arms. Felix put a vest back on him. In a few minutes



Felix Plante in 1978 at age 84 still making packsaddles - Image courtesy of Jim Babala

more, he stretched out his arms again and Felix put on the second vest; and in just a few more minutes, the great coat.

Freddy and I were standing at the cook tent watching this performance and enjoying a good laugh over it.

Albert Norris the cook, who had no use for Germans, exploded "Just look at the S.O.B. German bastard! Calls himself a hunter! Only a couple years ago we were fighting the bastards and now we have to cater to them like slaves! That S.O.B. is lucky I'm not guiding him! Bull Shit!" He walked back into the kitchen, ranting and mumbling about Krauts and Germans.

Freddy and I stood there watching the proceedings: the taking off

and putting on of coats and vest, the unsnapping of the stool, and setting down and getting up. By then over an hour had passed, and they had not made it to the corner of the first flat (about one mile distant). Freddy said they had about three-quarters of a mile more to go around the point onto the next willow flat where the moose had rubbed and pawed and torn up the ground.

When they got to the point, they stopped again and went through the same procedure. This time Felix opened the German a bottle of beer and lit up another cigar. Freddy and I were still laughing. We just had to get the report from Felix, on the special Canadian moose hunt, hunted in the German Red Deer style!

They left the point at 3:00 p.m.

Felix had planned to stay there until late. He figured they would be back about 7:30 to 8:00; however, at about 5:30 Felix and the German appeared back at the point, coming home, using the same procedure.

"Hell, they won't make it back until after 9:00 tonight at the rate they're coming! I'll be damned if I'll give them supper then!" declared Albert.

The smaller German, John Ostashek, and the interpreter got back before 5:00 p.m. with a fine mess of Dolly Varden—our supper.

I told Freddy to get a couple horses and go and get the moose hunter. He caught the horses and trotted up to them. Felix and Freddy got



## The Moccasin Telegraph

by Susan Feddema-Leonard



Susan Feddema-Leonard  
cooking in a Bighorn sheep hunting camp  
- Sept 2011

Photo by Brian Bildson

Another year has come and gone, so I wanted to bring everyone up to speed. On Sept 30, 2011, we completed a two-and-a-half year project with the Rural Community Adaptation Program called *Transition to Traditions*. This program had several focuses, and I will outline some of the deliverables.

Educational videos were produced and distributed to the educational system, tourism and in the public domain. Originally we were going to create ten short movies but ended up making two full-length features, four short movies and two trailers, for a total of eight documentaries. These productions have increased understanding both locally, regionally and nationally of some of the history, culture and values of the people of Alberta's northeastern slopes.

The movies produced are:

*Diamond Hitches* – 2:56 minute short movie

*Grandpa Dan* – 5:07 minute short movie

*Tom McCready* – 8:31 minute short movie

*Mountain Métis Music* - 6:49 min short movie

*Long Road Home* – 45:13 full feature movie

*Long Road Home* – 3:20 minute trailer

*Wildie* – 44:14 full feature movie

*Wildie* – 3:34 minute trailer

*Long Road Home* for example was featured at the 2011 Dreamspeakers International Film Festival. Over 1,000 copies of *Long Road Home* have been sold, distributed or featured at the following places:

Athabasca University  
Native Studies Program

Northlands School Division

Dreamspeakers International  
Film Festival

People & Peaks Film Festival,  
Grande Prairie  
*Hon. Mel Knight and Ken Drysdale, MLA attended this function and saw all the documentaries and short films. Both were enthusiastic and supportive. Robin Campbell, MLA also attended various showings of the productions.*

Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation

Various Cabinet Ministers and  
government staff

People & Peaks Productions was formally registered as a Trade Name under Alberta Consumer and Corporate Affairs during the *Transition to Traditions Project*. Productions can be viewed on various websites:

<http://www.PeopleandPeaks.com>

<http://vimeo.com>

<http://dreamspeakers.org/2011a>

People & Peaks Productions provides the viewer with an inside view of the unique culture and traditions of Alberta's northeastern slopes. Former Deputy Minister of Tourism, Parks and

Recreation, Bill Werry stated that *Long Road Home* provided him with a first-time insight on the unique history, culture and traditions of Willmore Wilderness Park.

People & Peaks Productions features documentaries made by an independent film production crew. Most of our team has roots from the Canadian Rockies. People & Peaks Productions is composed of talented people who live and work on Alberta's northeastern slopes and know the area and community in an intimate way. Laura Vinson and Free Spirit wrote songs reflective of the history and traditions of the region as a direct result of *Transitions to Traditions*. Laura recently toured Europe and showcased many of the songs that were recently written, including film footage of *Long Road Home*. Laura and her band are re-booked for a 2013 European tour.

Brian Bildson, Executive Director of the Willmore Wilderness Foundation is actively pursuing TV opportunities for movies and stories. This seed is sprouting and has excellent future possibilities.

The *Transition to Traditions* project allowed the Willmore Wilderness Foundation to prepare a Cultural Feasibility Analysis in 2011. A full business plan was also developed to help the Willmore Wilderness Foundation create a vision, plan and strategy to survive in the rapidly evolving world economy.

The *Transition to Traditions* program worked in a collaborative effort with

the Town of Grande Cache, Grande Alberta Economic Region (GAER), Mountain Metis Centre, Grande Cache Chamber of Commerce, Grande Cache Trappers Association, and more than a dozen northeastern slopes traditional businesses. The project partnered with local, municipal and provincial governments.

In January 2011, Brian Bildson, Ken Groat and Susan Feddema-Leonard drove to Jasper to show *Long Road Home* to the GAER Council. GAER suggested that Helen Keller-Empey work with Susan Feddema-Leonard in developing a regional theme that might look at some of the traditions and history of Alberta's northeastern slopes.

Susan Feddema-Leonard collaborated with Helen Keller-Empey at various meetings in order to build interest. Discussions focused on the regional concept of *Canada's Untold Stories*, which was developed by the Willmore Wilderness Foundation and the Mountain Metis Centre.

Many meetings took place in order to bring up the energy and awareness of incorporating the history of the area into a regional vision. Susan Feddema-Leonard also met with the Grande Cache Town Council who endorsed *Canada's Untold Story* as a vision for the region. The town even adopted a 'fur cache' for their logo, which fit the regional concept.

After meeting various agencies, municipalities and businesses,

In January 2011,  
Brian Bildson,  
Ken Groat and  
Sue Feddema-Leonard  
drove to Jasper to show  
*Long Road Home* to the  
GAER Council.

GAER suggested that  
Helen Keller-Empey work  
with Sue Feddema-Leonard  
in developing a regional  
theme that might look at  
some of the traditions and  
history of Alberta's  
eastern slopes.

Thanks to the  
Government of Alberta's  
Rural Community  
Adaptation Grant Program  
& to MLA Robin Campbell



Thanks to  
Alberta Conservation Association  
& Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation  
for supporting the 2011  
trail clearing & campsite cleanup program



## The Moccasin Telegraph - continued from page 11

by Susan Feddema-Leonard

an invitation notice was sent out to participants which stated, "The Town of Grande Cache, GAER, the Mountain Métis Centre, and the Willmore Wilderness Foundation have recently formed a partnership to pursue a new regional tourism marketing strategy that builds on our unique Mountain culture and heritage. It is our captivating stories of adventure and endurance that stir the soul and maintain this cultural relationship between mountain land and people. Coupled with adventure activities that will coincide with these stories, we can create an attractive regional destination for tourists looking for 'experiential' tourism experiences."

The collaboration for *Transitions to Traditions* was phenomenal. The first ever sub-regional tourism workshop took place at the Blue Lake Centre on May 31, 2011. The project ended in a meeting of regional stakeholders. All workshop participants were committed to pursuing a regional brand.

*Transitions to Traditions* has planted a seed that will, in the long term, increase the economic diversification of the region through adopting the unique history of Alberta's northeastern

slopes into a regional vision. This has potential for tourism and economic development in the region, using Willmore Wilderness Park as a focus.

*Transitions to Traditions* also focused on training youth and building leadership using its seasoned mountain men as mentors. Two short documentaries that detail this program are detailed in *Grandpa Dan* and *Diamond Hitches*. Both of these short movies can be seen on <http://www.PeopleandPeaks.com>.

There were numerous training events for young people that included colt-starting clinics, which the film production *Wildie* was based on. This documentary clearly shows how the Willmore Wilderness Foundation is building capacity and a future workforce for the next generation.

The *Transition to Traditions* project resulted in increased networking and community collaboration. One example is that four Jasper Park Wardens attended the horsemanship training that is featured in the *Wildie* documentary. The Willmore Wilderness Foundation also worked closely with

the Mountain Metis Centre on the *Long Road Home* project.

Another outcome of *Transitions to Traditions* is the positive social impact that the youth mentoring program has had in conjunction with the DVD productions of those programs. We see families proud of their elders and young people proud of their traditions.

All in all, *Transitions to Traditions* helped the northeastern slopes people move towards unique community solutions that fit their culture and lifestyle. *Transitions to Traditions* employed the skills of the local people, who told their story. The program encouraged old-time mountain men in mentoring youth, so their skills could be passed on to future generations.

I wish to thank the Rural Alberta Adaptation Program, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and our MLA Robin Campbell for believing in the Willmore Wilderness Foundation. It has been a great experience working on this project.

Thanks to ConocoPhillips  
for supporting the  
2011 Edson Shindig &  
Grande Cache Gala &  
2011 Larry Nelles Colt Starting Clinic



## Felix Plante's Most Memorable Moose Hunt - continued from page 9

by Jim Babala

the German loaded on, and by 6:00 p.m. Freddy had the German back in camp. Felix walked back, arriving a few minutes later. He had a grin from ear to ear.

"Felix you've had many moose hunters in your time, but this German-style hunt I believe must be the most outstanding!" I observed.

Felix laughed and agreed it was. He told us they finally got to the moose tree, as the German called it, after many stops and rests as described. The German then drank a bottle of beer, ate some sausage and

cheese, and took some pictures of the tracks and pawing. After about an hour, a lone, dry cow crossed the willow flat from one side to the other. The German snapped a few pictures of her, making gestures that he wanted a bull to come out. But no bull came. He then smoked another cigar, drank the third bottle of beer and let Felix know they should start back to camp for supper.

Felix tried to get him to stay longer, telling him that after 6:00 p.m. was the best time for moose. The German just got up from the stool, snapped it onto Felix's belt and pointed back to

camp. Felix figured once we spotted them returning, we would send out a horse.

We all laughed. I asked Felix how many times he had to put on and remove the vests and great coat. He said he thought probably about ten. He figured we saved him at least six more by sending out the horse.

A memorable and outstanding moose hunt, which Felix and I chuckled over for many a day!



Photo by  
Doug Butler

Thanks to the supporters  
of the 2011  
Grizzly Bear Survey

Alberta Bowhunters  
Association

Alberta Fish & Game  
Association

Alberta Wild Sheep  
Foundation

Cheyenne Rig Repair  
& Supply Ltd

North Eastern  
Fish & Game: Zone #5

Willmore Wilderness  
Foundation



## Views from Sheep Creek - continued from page 7

Brian Bildson - Executive Director

We couldn't see Todd but sure could see the parade of eleven rams that walked past on the slope 700 meters below us, right on the pass we predicted they would cross.

Photo by Brian Bildson



were getting moisture and, I suspect, minerals at the seep. The trail was pounded, and it helped account for all the ewe traffic on that ridge. We pulled back from the rim and made a game plan. Right from the start, Todd wanted Reid to get a sheep. He's a damn good son. As we strategized I figured if the rams came our way they would either cross the saddle directly above us, or the flat rim 700 meters below us. We decided I would take Reid to the top as it was much closer, and we could make it in time. Todd hot-footed it down the slope to get in place.

When Reid and I got up top, I snuck to the rim and looked over. The rams were on the move towards us, but heading for the lower crossing. I turned to Reid and told him, "It looks like this hunt is for Todd."

We were excited and grabbed our

spotting scopes and moved over to the other side of the ridge to watch. We couldn't see Todd but sure could see the parade of eleven rams that walked past on the slope 700 meters below us, right on the pass we predicted they would cross. Single file they walked across a 300-yard clearing and disappeared into low brush, only to emerge in a small meadow and start feeding.

By this time we figured Todd must have been caught out in the open and unable to move when the Rams showed up. This turned out to be true. Meanwhile we're watching them feed, and I'm convinced four of the rams are legal and two are real good.

We continue to watch the show, but the rams keep moving lower and lower and feeding in small meadows. Finally they are in the last meadow we can see, and a few of them bed

down. This we know buys us time, but where's Todd? I asked Reid to move down-slope with me looking for Todd or potentially getting him a shot. He declined as he wanted to watch the whole show through his spotting scope, but Reid encouraged me to get down there.

Getting the excuse I wanted, I took off like a blood hound. I moved my way down-slope until I was out of the sight-lines of the sheep and made my way towards them. I crawled up a few times to glass and confirm their presence; and in my final stalk, I belly-crawled and rolled my way towards them. Oh, did I mention I didn't see Todd in any of the shrubs I crawled through?

I made my way to the edge of the short shrubs and wind-swept trees that screened the meadow. I could see

the rams through the undergrowth, no need for optics. I slid my gun barrel through the limbs of the spindly tree, stood up and shouldered the stock, and lined up on the ram I had chosen. The rams milled around; they knew something was up.

As I waited the ram I wanted stepped away from the band, craning his head a bit to see what apparition was rising from the ground. As soon as it was clear from the other rams, I pulled the trigger and made a good hit. I should have, as I was only 30 yards away from the band. The ram staggered, and it was obvious it was done, but its wobbly legs were taking it close to the steep roll of the meadow edge. I anchored it one more time and ran over to grab the horns, flopping it over on its side, dead. As I turned around I saw 10 rams running...back towards me.

The rams ran back towards their fallen comrade and stood facing me at 60 yards. The other big ram had taken the lead and now stood looking at me face on. I could see it would score higher than the fallen ram as both of its horns were intact, while the downed ram was a scrapper and had a broken horn.

I turned and ran back upslope looking for Todd, who I discovered was rapidly covering ground heading down-slope. We met somewhere in the middle and as I gasped for oxygen, I explained the situation. We hurried back and found the ten remaining rams moving along briskly about 80 yards away from us; however, we were looking at the west-bound portion of some east-bound rams, none of which presented a good shot.

The rest is classic sheep hunting. We're hurrying trying to get in position on moving sheep, which leave

us in the dust. Reid watches them file by at 300 yards but isn't comfortable judging the moving rams at that distance. We watch as they scale a canyon wall and leave, in no particular hurry. We all rendezvous and exchange our version of events. Much excitement and high energy and then the work begins.

First though, Todd tells his poor Pa that we're going to sleep right on top at 8000 feet, and he should start hiking up while we deal with the sheep. That poor guy climbed so high, I could see him through my spotting scope pulling oxygen bottles out of his pack and hooking a mask up. This while we ate sandwiches and watched his ascent. After the sheep was rough-caped and the meat was boned out, Todd walked the 70 paces to the meat pack I had stashed earlier on. I'm just saying when you're good, you're good.

Meanwhile we get an emergency cell call from Pa who has made it to the top and is standing on a snow bank. The wind is mach 9 and he's hanging on for dear life, even his hat has blown off. "THERE'S NO FLAT SPOT, AND I CAN'T STOP THE WIND FROM SCREAMING IN MY HEAD!"

Todd tells him to come on down then, and we'll camp right here. I could see the steam rolling from Reid's ears as he hiked for two hours back down to the original departure point. We decided the best, and maybe only flat place to camp, was the actual meadow where the sheep had expired. Todd snuggled up to the gut pile, Reid used the dismembered legs to cushion his head, while I lucked out and crawled into the grizzly cavern that a meadow-excavating bear had created.

The night went pretty well for me, but Reid struggled until he was

"forced" to drag his bag over top of me, kick me in the head, and take the top side of the griz bed. Todd slowly rolled down-slope all night and woke up on the valley floor but hiked back up to us.

After a lovely breakfast of freeze-dried crap (don't even ask about the teriyaki ginger supper mix), we planned our day. I was on meat-packing and horse-fetching duties while Todd and Reid would hunt the day. I got the meat to the loading spot after a lovely hike. I walked back to camp, feeling as light as a feather without my packs, and arranged for horses to go back in the afternoon.

We picked up the Zimmerlings at the stashed meat. They had seen more sheep, but no legal rams. We loaded up and made our way back to camp for a short-lived celebration, as the beds were calling us hard. It was a trip to remember, like most sheep hunts, successful or not.

We had an awesome time, but I wish every Albertan could have these same experiences. These are wild and free lands in the Willmore and until you see the rawness and vast landscapes, you can't begin to appreciate its value to us as a human species. I know of no one who leaves the Willmore without being touched in some way.

I hope 2012 brings you peace and joy, and hopefully lots of outdoor experiences.

Regards, Brian



## Grizzly Bear Survey Report 2011

by Jenn Houlihan



Jenn Houlihan

Photo by Susan Feddema-Leonard

Greetings:

My name is Jenn Houlihan, the Willmore Wilderness Foundation's Office Manager. I have spent a good part of the year working on the Grizzly Bear Survey. I work closely with Nate Webb, the Provincial Carnivore Specialist with Alberta Sustainable Resources Development (ASRD). All of the data is sent to Nate Webb and placed into the provincial database. I am really excited about working both with Nate, as well as with the public.

Our organization has just completed the fourth year of the Willmore Wilderness Foundation's Grizzly Bear Survey. The 2011 program was sponsored by Alberta Bowhunters Association; Alberta Fish & Game Association, Alberta Wild Sheep Foundation, Willmore Wilderness Foundation, Cheyenne Rig Repair & Supply Ltd, and the North Eastern Fish & Game: Zone 5.

Because of the partnership, we were able to advertise full-page and full-color ads in every issue of Alberta Bow Hunter's Association (ABA), Alberta Trapper's Association (ATA), Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFA), as well as in Alberta Outdoorsmen Magazine. Our advertising campaign has proven to be positive, as we have had many grizzly bear sightings reported this year.

The Foundation started the Grizzly Bear Survey in 2008, as we were concerned that the bears were becoming more brazen. Many were coming into the local community, in and around Grande Cache, while others were venturing into many of the local outfitter camps.

The following represents some

interesting points that I gathered in the 2011 Grizzly Bear Survey. At the time of press, the Willmore Wilderness Foundation has received 710 grizzly bear sightings. This includes the time period from April 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011. I am still collecting 2011 data, so I expect the number of sightings to increase, as a number of outfitters have promised to forward their data in the new year. Please note that the 2010 survey noted a total of 807 sightings.

I have collected a large image database, which can differentiate between bears that have been spotted. I will be putting together a PowerPoint of all of the 2011 images, which will be shown at the Willmore Wilderness Foundation fundraisers. Copies of the PowerPoint and the database will be distributed to sponsors.

I can report many stories about encounters of the grizzly kind. One story hits close to home. Our Willmore Wilderness trail crew had an interesting encounter with a lone grizzly bear at Casket Lake Camp on the Continental Divide in the Willmore Wilderness Park. Basil Leonard awoke with a start at 3:00 a.m. when Daisy dog started growling. She was sleeping next to Ed Regnier, but outside the cook tent. We could hear Ed talk to the dog in his usual humorous way. "Hey, why are you growling?" he joked.

Baz climbed out of bed and went over to talk to Ed, as he thought maybe there was something prowling around the camp. He told Ed that he could hear the picket horse snorting and pawing next to the tepee. He also heard the distinct sound of a bear snorting, so he must be close.

Daisy was frightened and ran inside the cook tent and hid under the table. The men made a fire in the cook stove, built a cup of cowboy coffee and decided to sit up and chat. They knew the bear was close, and they needed to let the bruin know that there was some activity in camp so that he would become more cautious.

Thank goodness the guys volunteered to stay awake to protect the camp so that everyone else was able to get a few extra hours of sleep. Baz and Ed lay down at 5:30 a.m. for twenty minutes and got up again to get ready for the big move over three passes—Forget-Me-Not Pass, Featherstonhaugh Pass and Morkill Pass. The men could hear Blaze (horse) snorting and pawing the ground next to the tepee. Baz went over to check where Blaze was picketed and saw grizzly tracks. The guys figured that a bear was close by in the timber, watching us—not a good feeling. It was time to pack up and leave the area.

Our trail crews had a second encounter of the grizzly kind when they reached Sheep Creek airstrip. There was fresh bear scat all over the place. Alex Holmes, a young trail hand saw two grizzly bears standing over what he called a nest, which he described as a big heap of willows. Basil said that the bears probably had a carcass stashed, and we would have to be careful. The grizzlies were hanging out between the Foundation's campsite and Sheep Creek where we got our water.

Many other grizzly sightings were sent into our office from around Alberta. Some bears were reported on the outskirts of several small towns in Alberta. Some town folks saw one

brazen bruin on July 24, 2011, on the west side of Grande Cache in close proximity to the Elementary School. There was also a sow with two young cubs wandering up the Griffiths Trail, a local hiking trail around the town of Grande Cache. The activity was not only confined to Grande Cache. In July 2011, a bear was spotted and video recorded in the backyard of an Edson home. This sort of activity would suggest that grizzlies are losing more of their fear of man.

In late December there was an excessive amount of unseasonal grizzly sightings. Most of the bears were spotted in the Grande Cache area. The abnormal behaviour of bears may be due in part to the warm weather. Some of the bears were reported as digging and destroying the traps of local trappers.

On July 6, 2011, I received a sighting of a young grizzly bear that was eating a road kill (*white tail buck*) on Highway 40. One driver headed south, spotted the bear running alongside the ditch beside someone who was riding north on a pedal bike. The biker was oblivious of his stalker.

On May 19, 2011, there was a report of three grizzly bears one kilometer west of Rio Grande, which is 30 km west of Beaverlodge. The bears were trying to get into someone's house. The incident was reported and the Grande Prairie Fish and Wildlife were called to manage the incident.

On October 8, 2011, I received a report that there was a two-hundred-kilogram sow that was attracted to the smell of a moose, which was being smoked the traditional way. There

was also a freezer full of moose meat that was outside of a residence at the Muskeg Co-op, a small hamlet where native families live. It is located 27 kilometers east of Grande Cache. I learned from one of the elders there that the bear was successfully trapped and relocated to Swan Hills, Alberta.

On September 1, 2011, a grizzly created havoc to a lone camper. The bear was seen before bedtime and was chased off. The bear came back during the night, and the man forced the bear away again. The same pattern repeated itself at least six times during the night. The camper decided to leave the area after an exhaustive night.

There have been many reports of bears vandalizing property, destroying granaries, killing livestock and a more than usual count of bears entering residential areas, campgrounds and recreation areas. I even have one report of a man who set up a trail camera on his property. The camera caught images of eleven bears in one night.

We live in a land where there are both predators and prey. Our ancestors were smart enough to maintain their role as the top predator; however, with lack of management, the grizzly has lost his fear of man and is increasingly becoming the dominant predator. The survey I am working on clearly indicates that there has been an increase in incidences of grizzlies showing little fear of humans. We had more reports of grizzlies becoming more aggressive towards humans. It is also evident that the bear population is steadily growing with many sightings of twins and triplets. Bears are adapting to new habitat and prey, which now includes a diet of donkeys, cows, horses and pigs.



Willmore Wilderness Foundation

a registered charitable organization  
#89655 0308 RR001  
Box 93 Grande Cache, Alberta T0E 0Y0  
Canada

Phone: 1-780-827-2696  
Toll Free: 1-866-WILMORE  
Email: info@willmorewilderness.com

Web Pages:  
WillmoreWilderness.com  
PeopleandPeaks.com  
Great Divide Consulting Inc., Publisher  
Estella Cheverie, Editor  
Brian Bildson, Regular Columnist

A person may become a member  
by a favourable vote passed by a majority  
of members at a regular meeting  
of the Foundation, and upon payment of the  
fee. Written notification will be sent to ac-  
cepted members with a membership card.

\$25.00 per year.  
Life Time Membership is \$500.00  
Corporate Membership is \$100.00 per year.

The membership year runs from  
Jan 1 to Dec 1. Annual General Meeting in  
June of each year.  
An independent newsletter published in  
January of each year.

ADVERTISING RATES:  
full page ad B & W - \$295.00  
full page colour - \$500.00  
1/2 page ad B & W - \$145.00  
1/4 page ad B & W - \$80.00  
1/8 page ad B & W - \$45.00  
circulation 5000

© Willmore Wilderness Foundation  
no portion of this newsletter may be reprinted  
without written permission.  
The entire Newsletter is copyrighted ©.

We welcome feedback to this publication and  
any suggestions or ideas for future articles.  
Contact our Editor at:  
info@willmorewilderness.com



Join Our Membership

Find out about what's happening in Willmore. Get the latest news, issues  
and developments! We will keep in touch with our members in an annual  
newsletter each January. We keep you up-to-date on important events  
and information. Articles or letters to the editor are always welcome.  
Join today!

A person may become a member by a favourable vote passed by a  
majority of voting members at a regular meeting of the Foundation, and  
upon payment of the fee. Written notification will be sent to accepted  
members with a membership card. The membership year runs from Janu-  
ary 1 to December 31.

Yearly Membership is as follows:

- \$25.00 Individual Membership
- \$35.00 Family Membership
- Life Time Membership \$500.00
- Corporate Membership \$100.00

company	
name	
address	
city/country	
postal code/zip	
telephone/fax	
email/website	
amount enclosed	
year	
date	



Rural Alberta Development Fund

This project received financial support from Rural Alberta Development Fund. Visit radf.ca

NEWS RELEASE

Monday, December 19, 2011

Edmonton, AB – Rural Alberta Development Fund Board of Directors approved \$1.1 million in funding towards creating an experiential ecotourism experience in Alberta's Willmore Wilderness Park, located southwest of Grande Cache. Through the Willmore Wilderness Preservation and Historical Foundation, the *Engaging Traditions for Economic Growth* initiative will enhance the marketability and profile of the park, bringing in tourists and creating economic opportunities for the traditional businesses – guiding, outfitting and backcountry lodges – operating in and adjacent to the 4,600 square kilometre wilderness area.

"Developing a regional identity for Willmore Wilderness Park will shine a light on one of Alberta's best kept secrets," said the Honourable Evan Berger, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. "Unlike many parks in Alberta, this park is untouched with no motorized access within the park, offering a completely different perspective and experience for visitors who want to immerse themselves in the traditions of historic wilderness culture."

Focusing on transitioning traditional businesses into the global economy, this project will build on the region's unique

story, history, traditions and natural resources creating a marketable regional brand. Through multimedia productions, including HDTV documentaries, training videos and social media development, the story of Willmore Wilderness Park will act as a marketing strategy for the region's tourism industry. The project also centres on training youth in the historic traditions of the mountain way of life, keeping the unique culture alive while creating economic opportunities at the same time.

"By educating and mentoring youth in traditional businesses, the *Engaging Traditions for Economic Growth* project will provide meaningful employment throughout the Willmore Wilderness Park area," said Marie Logan, Chair of the Board of Directors, Rural Alberta Development Fund. "Building capacity at the local level will increase skill development, expand economic growth and ultimately increase quality of life for those within the region."

As a steward of Willmore Wilderness Park, the Willmore Wilderness Preservation and Historical Foundation has formed strong partnerships with local municipalities, communities, organizations and tourism operators in and around the park. With a shared vision, these partners will work towards marketing the region, creating a regional brand, developing new ecotourism products and experiences as well as train-

ing youth in the mountain way of life. The North Eastern Slopes Steering Committee will guide and make recommendations for the development of the tourism products.

Funding from the Rural Alberta Development Fund will go towards staffing, training, marketing and promotional materials, film production and administration costs. The project's anticipated completion date is December 2013.

*Rural Alberta Development Fund is a not-for-profit company that inspires innovation, collaboration and growth across rural Alberta. In 2007, it was capitalized with \$100 million by the Government of Alberta as part of its Rural Development Strategy. So far, \$94.5 million has been committed to 80 projects. The remaining funds will be committed by March 31, 2012. Expressions of Interest are no longer being accepted.*

For more information, contact:

Gitte Sorensen  
Communications & Program Coordinator  
Rural Alberta Development Fund  
780.436.9585 office  
gitte@radf.ca

Susan Feddema-Leonard, Administrator  
Willmore Wilderness Foundation  
780.827.2696  
info@willmorewilderness.com

Larry Nelles Youth Colt Starting & Horsemanship Clinic

- June 28-July 3, 2012
- for information call 1-866-WILMORE or 1-780-827-2696



## TALL TALES

by Ed Regnier



Ed Regnier - Aug 2011  
Photo by Susan Feddema-Leonard

I started as a Board of Director in June 2011. Somehow, as part of my duties, I got roped into getting a load of horses that weren't even halter broke. The Foundation had purchased eighteen colts to train, so that they could be auctioned off in June 2012, at a special fundraiser. The horses were from two years old to four years old. Basil phoned me and said, "You better come up and help load and truck them." Basil's son Cody was also roped into helping us. Sue (Feddema-Leonard) and Jenn (Houlihan) were in the truck behind us. They were planning on filming us getting the broncs into Basil's new red trailer. Sue had hoped to film Brian Ellingson the owner, for a production she was doing on the horses—start to finish.

We got up at 6 am and had a pretty good start. The roads were a little bad because it was snowing out. We did good;; but Sue, our co-pilot really liked this moose, so she thought she would run over it. We had to wait an hour or so in Grande Prairie for the girls. Her truck wasn't in good shape when she arrived, as it had a few dints. Her windshield was kind of broken, so she decided not to come film us getting the unbroken horses into Basil's pride and joy. She ended up staying in Grande Prairie to get the windshield fixed. Jenn brushed the shattered glass off of herself, and she jumped trucks, joining us guys to get the broncs.

We headed northwest on the highway up to Bonanza. We had a coffee with Brian Ellingson who had bred the horses. Brian had been raising horses for forty years and had done some competitive roping. He was in poor health and had decided

to sell his herd to the Willmore Wilderness Foundation. Brian had registered Paints and Quarter Horses. The horses were in good shape and showed excellent breeding.

A young gal handed out Christmas cookies when we were chatting, and I regret not grabbing one. We had the coffee over with, and Basil backed his red truck and trailer up to the chute. We opened the gate up. Brian's oldest daughter was good with the horses and ran three horses in at a time. We loaded three at the back, three in the middle and three in the front section.

Everyone said good byes and we headed down the road to Grande Cache. We stopped at Keddies Tack and Western Wear in Grande Prairie and got a hold of Sue. She was still busy getting things straightened out, so we headed home. We saw two dead moose on the highway—a cow and calf. Someone must have hit the calf after Sue hit the cow. Everything went good on the ride home.

We made it to Basil's horse holding lease at dark. Basil pulled into the Smoky River Ranch with the load of horses, and the road was a little slick. Unfortunately, we ended up in a terrible position. We had to get these un-halter broke horses close to the corral. The only thing I could say is that it was good that we were next to the hay yard when the trailer jackknifed and took the back end of the cab out.

Poor Jenn was in her second car wreck in one day as the glass shattered over her again. The window smashed out—and there Cody and

Jenn sat in disbelief. The trailer was one direction, and the truck was pointed the other way, and pieces of back window lay all over the place.

Now we had a mess to contend with. The nine horses were fine, but were still in Basil's red trailer. We tried to pull the truck out of the icy roadway that blocked access to the horse pen. Basil fired up his 1959 Massey Ferguson tractor, but it was so icy that it kept spinning its wheels. There were chains on the big wheels but it was all to no avail. We even tried chaining up the truck, but nothing was working.

Cody had taken Jenn to town and got his truck in order to drive us home. Basil's truck and trailer was going nowhere. Sue had arrived when we decided to push the horses out of the trailer. One good thing about the trailer was that it had a lot of doors in it. In fact, it was the first trailer I had seen with so many doors. I decided to open the front door first and let the first three out. The horses kind of got away from us and headed for the ice. Two of the horses went down, but we finally got them up. We headed them over to the haystack and got them inside the fence.

Basil thought we should open the other gate and run the second group of horses out. I felt that the middle gate didn't have a steep drop off for the horses to unload. I opened the gate and the horses hopped out. One bronc slid but it was not so bad. We put hay on the ice to keep them from slipping, as we had no sand. We opened up the gate and got the last three out safely. All the horses were fine, but one of the horses was a little sore on the left hock, as it was slightly swollen.

I guess we better wait until the roads are in better condition to haul the last nine horses. We could halter break them before we load them, so we have a way to get them into the corral. We also have the problem of getting Basil's truck fixed—a job for another day.

Holy mackerel! I'm not good at this Board Member stuff, but I have gained a lot of knowledge about unloading horses in icy conditions. I think it's going to be all right to work with the Willmore Wilderness Foundation Board of Directors. It is going to be a new experience, and I have a lot to learn. It's good to work with Basil Leonard, Ken Groat and Brian Bildson.

Now we had a mess to contend with. The nine horses were fine but were still in Basil's red trailer.

Basil fired up his 1959 Massey Ferguson tractor, but it was so icy that it kept spinning its wheels.



**THANKS**  
MD of Greenview  
that generously contributed towards the  
Youth Mentoring Initiative



WILLMORE WILDERNESS PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATION  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2010

	2010 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current	
Cash	5,261.14
Accounts Receivable	14,319.05
Prepaid Expense	0.00
Security Deposits	7,600.00
	<u>27,180.19</u>
Capital Assets	
Building	287,000.00
Equipment	13,941.01
Office Equipment	6,621.18
Camera, Video & Film Equipment	33,110.53
Computer	43,399.95
Furniture & Fixtures	2,450.00
	<u>386,522.67</u>
Less: Accumulated Amortization	19,618.45
	<u>366,904.22</u>
	<u>394,084.41</u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	<u>56,108.27</u>
Long Term Liabilities	
ATB Mortgage Payable	<u>141,303.92</u>
	197,412.19
Equity	
Retained Earnings	<u>196,672.22</u>
	<u>394,084.41</u>

WILLMORE WILDERNESS PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATION  
STATEMENT OF EARNINGS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010

	2010 \$
<b>REVENUE</b>	
General Sales	1,353.00
Trail Clearing Contracts	40,824.00
Grants	2,508.00
Memberships	5,534.17
Book Sales	8,004.13
Training & Clinics	3,624.00
Donations	33,370.12
Fundraising Proceeds	113,548.77
Rental Income	8,075.00
Interest	40.59
	<u>216,881.78</u>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	
Accounting & Consulting	614.85
Advertising & Promotion	8,446.54
Amortization	10,959.48
Donations	5,634.01
Fundraising Costs	60,402.25
Bank/Credit Card Charges & Fees	2,118.17
Insurance	2,860.00
License, Fees & Permits	1,825.86
Loan/Mortgage Interest	5,920.48
Supplies	7,108.49
Equipment & Trail Costs	9,789.56
Conventions, Banquets & Meetings	1,078.18
Training & Clinics	18,871.73
Office	21,606.19
Utilities	5,694.63
Property Taxes	6,766.98
Book & Film Production Costs	63,259.28
Telephone & Fax	3,698.66
Rent	7,390.96
Maintenance & Repairs	2,015.24
Travel	16,646.96
Wages & Benefits	23,902.80
Sub-Contracts	118,037.35
	<u>404,648.65</u>
<b>EARNINGS (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<u>-187,766.87</u>

## Edson Shindig (dance)

Laura Vinson & the TRUCKS  
Royal Canadian Legion: Joe Wynn  
Live & silent auction - Banquet buffet - \$50.00 tickets  
Saturday, Feb 4, 2012 - doors open at 6 pm and dinner at 7 pm

## Grande Cache Gala

Saturday March 3, 2012  
Mountain Métis Centre  
Live & silent auction  
Banquet - \$40.00 tickets  
Doors open at 6 pm and dinner at 7 pm

## Grande Prairie Rendezvous - People & Peaks Film Fest

Five Mile Agricultural Society Community Hall - Grande Prairie, AB  
Live and Silent Auction - \$50.00 tickets.  
Saturday April 14, 2012 - doors open at 6 pm and dinner at 7 pm  
Schedule for the People & Peaks Film Fest TBA

## Annual General Meeting

June 3, 2012 at 2 pm  
Smoky River Ranch  
near Grande Cache  
for info call 1-780-827-2696





## Foundation Hosts Trapper Education

Jason Bildson Contracting completed the office renovations just in time for the Willmore Wilderness Foundation to host the Alberta Trapper Education Program from October 31 to November 5, 2011.

We were excited that fourteen participants signed up for the hands-on training program, including eight young people. We had excellent instruction and would like to thank Johnnie Prociuk and Ed Graham. The

Alberta Trappers Association facilitators paid a lot of attention to the youth who were eager to learn the latest trapping techniques.

A special thanks also goes out to Shane Ramstead, Fish & Wildlife Officer who provided a lecture and support. Susan Feddema-Leonard of People & Peaks Productions filmed the entire course. This footage will be used at a later date for a film about trapping in the Willmore.

*Pictured top:*  
Trapper Education Class

*Bottom (lt to rt):*  
Payton Hallock, Leashea Delorme, Ed Regnier

Bazil Leonard - overseeing the event

Trayton Thomas and Cameron Ewald with  
Payton Hallock to the rt.

*Photos by Susan Feddema-Leonard*