

A full-page photograph of a cougar walking through a forest towards the camera. The cougar has a tawny coat and blue eyes. The background features a dense forest of evergreen and deciduous trees, with a large, snow-capped mountain peak visible in the distance under a clear sky.

Willmore Wilderness Foundation
2013 Newsletter

Photo by Arthur Veitch



Photo by Joe Sonnenberg

2012 Grizzly Bear Survey

Alberta Bowhunters Association

Alberta Fish & Game Association

Alberta Wild Sheep Foundation

Cheyenne Rig Repair & Supply Ltd

AM Consulting & Maurice Nadeau

North Eastern Fish & Game: Zone #5

Willmore Wilderness Foundation

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February 2013
Willmore Wilderness Foundation Annual Newsletter
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President's Report

Hi Everyone:

There were many changes this past year, and the Foundation turned a milestone in December 2012, celebrating its 10th anniversary. Many exciting developments included the formation of the first ever Northeastern Slopes Operator's Steering Committee (NESOSC). In September 2012, Laura Vinson was elected the Chairperson of the group—and we haven't looked back under her leadership. NESOSC hired Joe Pavelka, the President of Planvision Management Consulting Ltd. and his partner Laura Ells as a consultant for ecotourism marketing. Both have proven to be a great fit for our traditional eastern slopes operations

Joe is an Associate Professor, and an Eco Tourism / Outdoor Leadership Program Coordinator at Mount Royal College in Calgary. He has been conducting field schools in Peru along the Salkantay trail, which is emerging as a popular secondary trail for reaching Machu Picchu. Joe and his partner Laura Ells were also facilitators at the 2012 Travel Alberta Industry Conference in Banff. Joe and Laura have prepared a Draft Short-Term Marketing Strategy for the NESOSC Marketing Plan Project. NESOSC is in the process of starting the next phase of its new tourism strategy and developing a marketing strategy with the help of Joe, Laura and Don Wilson, a Travel Alberta Team Member for Industry Relations.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation is developing many relationships within the region. For example, the Foundation is an active member of the Alberta Northern

Rockies Tourism Alliance (ANRTA), which is forming a not-for-profit society. ANRTA is looking to develop a regional marketing strategy.

The Foundation has also been busy in the film production end of things, through People & Peaks Productions. Susan is mentoring four youth in multimedia. They include Bailey Storrie, Stephen McDonald, Morgan Sapach, and Thomas Houlihan. **"Wild Alberta: The Willmore Legacy"** (46 min) was premiered at the People & Peaks Film Fest on Friday April 13, 2012, at the Jan Cinema in Grande Prairie. A movie called **Women of Willmore Wilderness** (48 min) and an accompanying book will be premiered/launched at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies on April 4, 2013 at 7 p.m.

Forgotten Trails is in the pre-production phase. This movie will feature the 1940s Carnegie Institute footage of Willmore Wilderness Park shot by cinematographer the late Art Twomey. This documentary reflects the history and the culture of true mountain men, where the "measure of a man was his ability on the trail." It is a rare glimpse into the lives of a few that still practice these traditions today. We would sincerely like to thank Margie Jamieson for her generous donation of this footage.

We also have one more film, which is in the pre-production stages and in the negotiation stages, which will share a historic story of this region of the Rockies. This and four teaching vignettes are in the works.

Susan Feddema-Leonard has been elected to the Board of Directors of



Basil Leonard:
 Photo by Sue Feddema-Leonard

Forgotten Trails is in the pre-production phase. This movie will feature the 1940s Carnegie Institute footage of Willmore Wilderness Park shot by cinematographer the late Art Twomey.

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"Women in Film and Television Alberta" (WIFTA). She has attended the Banff World Media Festival and the Impact Media Festival in New York. She is making a lot of contact in the film and television world.

I would be remiss if I forgot to mention the 2012 Larry Nelles Horsemanship. Six trainers and two helpers, for a total of eighteen participants, took the Mountain Horsemanship Clinic. Participants gleaned many tips from Master horseman Larry Nelles. The eighteen horses were trained and auctioned off. The revenue generated on the colt auction was in excess of \$14,000.

We had sixteen young people participate in a six-day Larry Nelles Youth Horsemanship Program. There were also many young adults who experienced youth mentoring with old-time trail hands during the 2012 spring, summer and fall trail season.

On another note, Susan Feddema-Leonard has written her second 460-page book called the **People & Peaks of the Panther River & Eastern Slopes**, with the support of editor, Estella Cheverie. This publication is being launched in the Sundre area in February 2013. **People & Peaks of the Panther River & Eastern Slopes** is an exposé of twenty colourful mountain men and women, whose stories are woven into the very fabric of the Canadian Rockies. It allows the reader to experience first-person accounts of trail men like Bud Brewster, Rex Logan, Dewy Browning, Phil Temple, Ray Legace, Stan Burrell, Glen Kilgour, Bob Kjos, and more.

Susan has also written her third

book called **Women of Willmore Wilderness**, with the ongoing support of editor Estella Cheverie. This publication will be launched on April 4, 2013 at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies in Banff.

Our last book **People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park II** will also be launched in the fall of 2013. Those interviewed include:

- Bill Anderson about his father Harold Anderson's long relationship with Willmore;
- Frank Coggins and his story about growing up in Brule and the construction of the Adam's Creek Tower in Willmore Wilderness Park by his father with a team and wagon;

- Trail hand Dan Hallock
- Guide Tom Wanyandie
- Outfitter George Kelley
- Outfitter Bazil Leonard & Susan Feddema-Leonard
- Outfitter Pete & Lois McMahon
- Outfitter Wald & Lavone Olsen
- Outfitter George Ostashek
- Outfitter Ed Regnier
- Outfitter Dave & Carol Simpson
- Outfitter Jim Simpson
- Outfitter Jerry Stojan
- Outfitter Charlie Stricker
- Outfitter Tom Vinson & Shawn Vinson
- Outfitter John Ward
- Outfitter Ken Thomson and the

geological surveys in Willmore and more

All in all, 2012 and 2013 has produced a lot of work that will help keep the legends of Willmore Wilderness Park alive for future generations to enjoy. Understanding our past ... determines our ability to shape our present and influence our future.

Last but not least, we would like to thank *Conoco Phillips* for their support of our auctions and horsemanship clinic in 2012. The *MD of Greenview* has provided financial support for the publishing of **Women of Willmore Wilderness** and for trail support in 2013. The *Alberta Conservation Association* has been a big support on the 2012 trail clearing initiative.

I would also like to thank the supporters of the 2012 *Grizzly Bear Survey*. Organizations include: Alberta Bowhunters Association, Alberta Fish & Game Association, Alberta Wild Sheep Foundation, Cheyenne Rig Repair & Supply Ltd, A.M. Consulting/ Maurice Nadeau, North Eastern Fish & Game: Zone #5.

I cannot forget the support of the Rural Alberta Development Fund and our MLA Robin Campbell, along with the many private and memorial donations. Thanks you so much for your continued support.

The Foundation has decided to take a break from regular auctions in 2013 and focus its fundraising efforts on promoting numerous film festivals.

Wishing everyone happy trails in 2013.

Bazil Leonard, President

Retirement of a Great Auctioneer



Gordon & Maxine Murison, holding Jaely Willow Moberly at the 2012 Grande Cache Gala. Photo by Susan Feddema-Leonard

Email From: Gordon Murison <gordonmurison@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: Gordon Murison <gordonmurison@yahoo.com>

Date: Saturday, 12 January, 2013 1:49 PM

To: Ken & Shelli Groat/Orava <gallopfree@moradnet.ca>

Cc: John <johnny.mac.jwm@gmail.com>, Susan Feddema-Leonard <info@willmorewilderness.com>

After many sleepless nights and days of serious thought I have decided the time is right for me to start gearing down and do some travelling while I still can. This winter I have had to deal with to many illnesses, one being pneumonia, so I have been laid up quite a bit.

Therefore I have decided to resign as President of the River Valley Riding Association; (I will stay on for one term as Past President).

My immediate plan is to do local fund raising auctions so long as they are not too large. I will still be available to announce different activities if I am asked. I will refrain from doing out of town auctions.

We do plan on being away a fair bit this year starting in March with a trip to Osoyoos, B.C. and later to the Island.

Thank you all for your support over the past thirty-two years. We have raised many millions of dollars together.

Gordon Murison CPPA

"The Foundation has decided to take a break from regular auctions in 2013 and focus its fundraising efforts on promoting numerous film festivals."

The Moccasin Telegraph by Susan Feddema-Leonard



Susan Feddema-Leonard

Experience the first person accounts of trail men like Bud Brewster, Rex Logan, Dewy Browning, Phil Temple, Ray Legace, Stan Burrell, Glen Kilgour, Bob Kjos, Mac Elder and more.

People & Peaks of the Panther River & Eastern Slopes

It took four years to write and design *People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park* and it was certainly a labour of love. I don't know what possessed me to think I could script and graphically design a book. Luckily I had the support of my long-time friend Estella Cheverie, who is an amazing editor. Neither Estella nor I had ever done anything like this before and were both pleased at the success of the publication.

I was astonished when Bobby Turner of Sundre, Alberta phoned and asked me to write about the early trappers, outfitters and the early geological survey parties in the Panther River and eastern slopes area of Alberta. I was initially uncomfortable, as I normally only write about subjects that I know. I had never been to the Panther River area or the southern Rockies. I thought long and hard and finally came to terms with the fact that I understood both trapping and outfitting from a soul level. Bazil, my husband had been on a one-hundred-day geological survey trip back in 1959, so I undertook to write the manuscript.

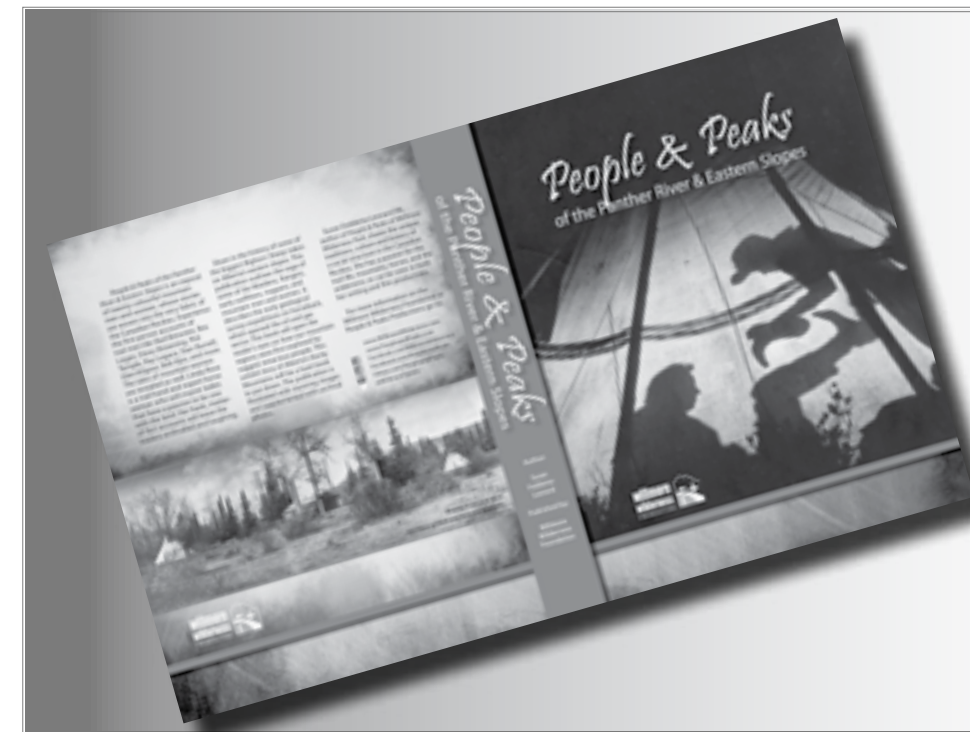
My biggest challenge was to try to understand the lay of the land that I was writing about. As I drove south to interview Rex Logan, Dewey Browning, Pinky and Bruce Temple, I took different routes. One time I took the Banff-Jasper Highway. The next time I drove the Trunk Road south to Nordegg, and then east to the Cowboy Highway, and south.

I had always wanted to travel the Trunk Road from Grande Cache to

Cochrane, and talked Bazil into driving me to Bud and Annette Brewster's in Banff. We had a late start, and I didn't factor in the shortness of daylight in February. We left Grande Cache at 3:00 p.m. and made good time to the Cadomin Mine. We stopped, and I had a chance to film several trophy Bighorn sheep. It only took us an hour and a half to drive from the mine to Nordegg. I couldn't imagine that Banff would be much farther, as the overall distance looked the same on the map. Boy, was I wrong!

We left Nordegg at 9:00 p.m. and headed south on the Trunk Road. It was dark and the road was icy in places. We were most surprised when we reached Cutoff Creek, sixty-eight kilometers west of Caroline, and found that the road was not ploughed during the winter months. It seemed to be a long way back to pavement, so we decided to press on. Baz popped the truck into four-wheel drive, and we proceeded very slowly over Corkscrew Mountain in the pitch-black night. We drove around hairpin turns, and I held my breath in prayerful reverence. There was not a soul in sight, and we had not seen another vehicle for hours. We were totally alone in the starlight. We were relieved to find two icy ruts in the road, which we gratefully followed. Baz muttered something saying, "This would have been a lot better in the daylight." I agreed, but reassured him that I had a much better understanding of the lay of the land as a result of his careful driving. He didn't seem too impressed with my wry remarks.

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People & Peaks of the Panther River & Eastern Slopes available at the Willmore Wilderness Foundation, at 4600 Pine Plaza. E-mail us at jenn@willmorewilderness.com or phone 780-827-2696 to get your copy!

Debit, Visa, Mastercard, cheque, cash.

The Moccasin Telegraph ... continued from page 6

It was a long haul resulting in a six-hour crawl to Banff. We arrived at Brewster's Mountain Lodge at 3:00 a.m. exhausted but very thankful for a safe journey.

All in all, I have a much better understanding of the lay of Alberta's eastern slopes and its drainages. I loved travelling south and found a cultural way of life that is interwoven into the northern Rockies. It has taken Estella and me four years to finish the *People & Peaks of the Panther River*. I am happy to share that we have just had the first book launch of the publication at the 2013 Alberta Outfitter's Convention in Red Deer, Alberta.

People & Peaks of the Panther River & Eastern Slopes shares an exposé of twenty colourful mountain men and women, whose stories are woven into the very fabric of the Canadian

Rockies. Experience the first person accounts of trail men like Bud Brewster, Rex Logan, Dewy Browning, Phil Temple, Ray Legace, Stan Burrell, Glen Kilgour, Bob Kjos, and more. The tales of mountain women are revealed as well. Linda Rose is a trail hand and expert horsewoman who will inspire ladies that have a passion to be one with the land. Her frank, matter-of-fact accounts will leave the readers enthralled and laughing.


Share in the history of some of the biggest Bighorn Sheep taken on Alberta's eastern slopes. This publication outlines the saga of some of the Wardens, Rangers, early outfitters, trappers, and mountain men and women. It describes the early geological survey expeditions on horseback, which opened the oil and gas sector. This book will open the reader's eyes to how our mountain regions were first explored by rugged,

tenacious people. This untold story of Alberta's Rocky Mountains will be a hard book to put down. The publication is illustrated with stunning images and supplemented with archival photos.

For more information on the Willmore Wilderness Foundation or *People & Peaks Productions* go to:

www.WillmoreWilderness.com

www.PeopleandPeaks.com

 [Facebook.com/WillmoreWilderness](https://www.facebook.com/WillmoreWilderness)

 [Facebook.com/PeopleandPeaks](https://www.facebook.com/PeopleandPeaks)

 [Vimeo.com/PeopleandPeaks](https://vimeo.com/PeopleandPeaks)

 [@WillmoreTweets](https://twitter.com/WillmoreTweets)

Social Media

by Fabienne Mooser-Kolly



Pictured above:
Fabienne Mooser-Kolly
Social Media Coordinator for the
Willmore Wilderness Foundation

Pictured on right page:
Fabienne and her husband
Ivan Mosser on a
trail ride at Kvass Flats
2012

My name is Fabienne Mooser-Kolly, I am 33 years old. I moved with my husband from Switzerland to Canada in May 2011. Through my husband's job opportunity, we moved to Grande Cache at the end of February 2012.

I am lucky to have met many great people in this mountain community. As much as I can, I love to explore the great outdoor opportunities in and around Grande Cache by hiking, mountainbiking, horseback riding, snowshoeing, skiing or climbing.

I am the newest staff member of the Willmore Wilderness Foundation and started working on November 1, 2012, as a Social & Multimedia Coordinator.

I am extremely excited and motivated about this job opportunity. In this short time, I have learned many new things and am eager to learn much more. It's great to work together with the staff as a team and help each other to achieve our goals. I am certain that I will gain many valuable experiences, both personally and professionally.

Don't hesitate to contact me at fabienne@willmorewilderness.com if you have any questions.

My Adventures in the Willmore Wilderness Park.....

I jumped up high when I found out that my husband and I could go on a two-day horseback trip into the Willmore Wilderness Park with Sue and Bazil. It was a gorgeous fall weekend in mid-September 2012. We met at the staging area of Sulphur Gates together with Lisa Steciuk, Richard Thompson and my cousin Karin (visiting from Switzerland). I was so excited to spend a weekend with this group and the horses in the Willmore Wilderness Park. We watched how to pack the horses. Whew.....a lot of work until everybody was ready. We enjoyed the fantastic ride to the cabin in Kvass Flats. We helped with the horses and set up the tents. Susan spoiled us with a great lunch. We spent the afternoon checking out the pristine area and spent some time at the Smoky River. Back at the cabin, we enjoyed some reading or chatting. We enjoyed a great dinner, and before we went to sleep, we sat at the warm campfire. After a good sleep, we heard the calls of an elk. The smell of coffee, bacon, French Toast enticed us to crawl out of the sleeping bags.

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**Thanks to
Alberta Conservation Association
for supporting the 2012
trail clearing
& campsite cleanup program**



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Bazil brought in the horses, and we heard from far away the bells and felt the ground shaking from their canter. WOW.... "Goosebump" moment! I remember I said to Sue: this is like a paradise Everybody helped to catch the horses and slowly get them ready for the ride back to Sulphur Gates. Again we enjoyed the ride and

everything went smoothly. It was such an amazing weekend, and I hope this was not my last horseback trip in the Willmore Wilderness Park.

I was very lucky to join my husband for a helicopter flight from Prince George, B.C. to Grande Cache, Alberta! This was a totally different experience to see the Willmore Wilderness Park from the air. You get a bigger idea of how big this park is:

glaciers, mountain peaks after mountain peaks, wildlife, waterfalls, the river curling through the valley, lot of trees! Again, "Goosebump" moments.....

These are just some highlights.... Looking forward for more adventures....

TALL TALES

by Ed Regnier



Ed Regnier - Aug 2011
Photo by Susan Feddema-Leonard

Ed Regnier shared the following story with me about his travels over the Continental Divide in 1994. The weather can change in a hurry, turning a romantic trip into a dangerous trek. I was originally going to print this story in the *Women of Willmore Wilderness* book, but pulled it for lack of space. I believe it is a good story and decided to print Ed Regnier's account in the 2013 Newsletter. - Susan Feddema-Leonard

We went on an expedition in 1994 from McBride, B.C. to Mount Sir Alexander, north along the Continental Divide. Dale Portman of Greenhorse Adventures booked the trip. He used to be a Warden and search-dog handler in Jasper National Park. His wife Cathy cooked, and they hired Brian McKirdy who had an outfitting business in Valemount, B.C. Brian knew the country and the trails in B.C. where we started our trip. There were an awful lot of alders blocking our way, which had to be cut during the beginning of the trek. Brian told me that he had to slash the brush every year, as there was a lot of annual growth on that trail.

I was responsible for bringing the horses and camp, so I hired long-time outfitter Tom McCready as a packer. Tom was born and raised in Jasper and was an accomplished mountain man. I worked for him during the 1960s right until he sold his outfit to Jim Simpson in 1972. I guided for Jim for the next 18 years. I also started my own outfitting business called Miette Trail Rides and had the name changed to Saracen Head Outfitters later. Tom McCready was a second-generation Jasper family whose father moved to the new tent community after he gained employment with the railroad in 1910, the same year that the Moberly family and others were forced to leave their homeland after

Jasper became a National Park. Tom's mother Myrtle was Jack Hargreaves' twin sister, so it's no surprise that Tom was on the trail from an early age. He became a guide and outfitter from 1945 to 1972 and purchased his Uncle Jack's outfit in the mid-1950s.

I trucked my horses from Niton Junction up the Holmes River Road and five kilometres up the Chalco road. We camped there and in the morning, ponied the horses up Chalco road and then packed up. Tom McCready, Brian McKirdy and I packed supplies and food for the party of ten older hikers who were over the age of fifty. Brian McKirdy was recovering from a bout of arrhythmia, so Tom, Dale, Cathy, and I pulled a little extra. We were a short day's travel from Renshaw Creek to Beaverdam Pass, which was new terrain to Brian. He led the packhorses along what appeared to be a shortcut and got into a big muskeg up on a ridge. We were moving the outfit, knee deep in the bog when we caught up with the hikers. We decided to tie the horses up while Dale scouted the area on foot. We got out of the marshy ground and back onto the main trail, which was also full of bog holes. We travelled through Beaver Dam Pass into Pauline Creek and followed it downstream.

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Big Shale is to the east and Little Shale is to the west when you travel downstream on Pauline Creek, so you are basically between the two hills. Boy, there was a lot of boggy ground in between Big Shale and Little Shale! We were in a cloud when we crossed Big Shale and you could only see maybe 100 feet. It was a bit stressful until Brian came across an obvious horse trail in the soft shale. The hikers got separated on the ridge and caused us a lot of worry. There were many extra miles that Dale hiked looking for the lost travelers, so it was a big relief when everyone wound up in the same camp that afternoon. We travelled next over Big Shale on the old pack trail to the Morkill Camp, then on to Casket Lake. Tom and I took a day ride to George Hargreaves' grave at the confluence of Casket Creek and Sheep Creek. Tom wanted to spend some time paying respect to his Uncle George.

We moved camp from Casket and headed down the trail to George's grave and followed the west fork of the trail to upper Sheep Creek. We kept on moving and set up at Broadview Lake, then headed west of the Kakwa to Mariel Lake. We camped there in sight of Mount Sir Alexander for a while and then the hikers were met by vehicles that were able to drive up to Buchanan Creek.

Brian McKirdy only went one way on the expedition and left us at Mount Sir Alexander, as he wasn't needed anymore. RJ (Robert James) Kingston joined our crew on the return trip as Dale Portman had booked an expedition heading back the same way we had come. RJ, had worked for Tom McCready and knew Dale Portman prior to the trip. RJ joined the trip on short notice and only had about a day's notice to throw his affairs in order before he joined us. He was hired as a wrangler and was some extra "muscle" for the trip back. Guest Duke Watson and some of his friends also decided to hike back on the return pack trip.

RJ rode with us. He took some time to ride down to George Hargreaves' grave and spent half a day cleaning it out. Everything went well until we hit Morkill Camp when we were having some bad weather. It was raining a lot and even snowed some of the time. Tom McCready wasn't feeling well, and I was quite worried about him. Dale Portman had a radio, so Jasper National Park brought in a helicopter to Morkill Pass. The whole group decided to pack it in and headed out on the helicopter, including Tom. They "choppered" out a lot of the packboxes and extra food. I kept back some steak, eggs and bread for the rest of our trip

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There was a lot of boggy ground in between Big Shale and Little Shale! We were in a cloud when we crossed Big Shale and you could only see maybe 100 feet. It was a bit stressful!



THANKS

MD of Greenview

for helping publish the book
Women of Willmore Wilderness

TALL TALES ... Ed Regnier continued from Page 11

My horses went over to the left (east) on the summit. By the time I got around them, they almost went over a 1000-foot drop because they couldn't see.

We were short-handed after we left Morkill. I was basically on my own with the help of RJ, looking after the horses. To complicate matters, we went over Big Shale in a snowstorm. This is a high pass that is about 6500-to-7000 feet in altitude. It's a pretty rough climb on a good day travelling over Big Shale, but it was snowing like hell. It started sleeting, and we couldn't see a thing. My horses went over to the left (east) on the summit. By the time I got around them, they almost went over a 1000-foot drop because they couldn't see. We were above tree line and there was no place to hide from the storm. The packhorses put their hind ends against the blizzard, as they didn't want to head into the wind. I got around and turned them just in time and got them moving in the right direction. RJ stayed in the rear and kept the packhorses moving behind me. We sure could have used Tom, but the big storm would have caused him more health problems. Tom was pretty sick.

Dale Portman was hiking down Big Shale and was ahead of me. He

was on the wrong side of the hill and had lost the trail. I saw him down below and wondered where he was going. I kept on the path and got down to the bottom ahead of Dale and hollered to him, "The trail is over here!" Dale heard me and was able to follow the packhorses' tracks. If you get off the trail, you will get buggered up as you won't know where you're at.

The trail was tough, exceptionally muddy and we were travelling through very soft ground. The horses were thrashing through the deep muskeg and at times were up to their bellies in the bog. We decided to get off and walk, leading our horses to keep the weight to a minimum. It was a good thing that we only had one tent, a stove and a set of food boxes. The rest of the horses were running empty.

We were making fairly good time and we only camped one more night on the trail. We finally ended up at a farm at the base of the Holmes River where I had left my truck and trailer. There I left the horses and ended my trip.

Thanks to ConocoPhillips
for supporting the
2012 Edson Shindig
& Grande Cache Gala
& 2012 Larry Nelles Clinic



Grizzly Bear Survey Report 2012

by Jenn Houlihan

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation started the Grizzly Bear Survey in 2008 to help study the range and distribution of the grizzly population in Alberta. It is co-sponsored by the following:

Alberta Fish and Game Association

A.M. Consulting - Maurice Nadeau

Cheyenne Rig Repair and Supply

Alberta Bowhunters Association

Wild Sheep Foundation: Alberta Chapter

Willmore Wilderness Foundation.

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), and the Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA). We were able to advertise half-page full-color ads in Alberta Outdoorsmen Magazine.

Five years ago some of the scientists were reporting as few as thirty bears north of Highway 16. Our staff couldn't believe this unbelievably low count. In the Grande Cache area, grizzlies were live-trapped in the school yard at Susa Creek. They were also reported to Fish and Wildlife as being on the Muskeg Co-op, Joachim Enterprises Co-op, and many other local locations. The bears were becoming more brazen and were coming into many of the local outfitter camps. The Foundation decided to "take the bull by the horns" and conduct a survey.

Jenn Houlihan has spent the entire year working on the Grizzly Bear Survey. She works closely with Nate Webb, the Provincial Carnivore Specialist with Alberta Sustainable Resources Development (ASRD). All of

Jenn's data is sent to Nate Webb and placed into the Provincial Database. Jenn is very enthusiastic about working with Nate and the public will be getting a much more comprehensive grizzly bear census as a result of this cooperation.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation collected 288 Grizzly Bear sightings from April 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012. The 2011 survey gathered 710 sightings. She is still collecting data from Local Fish & Wildlife Officers and Outfitters. Jenn has collected a large image database which helps differentiate the reported Grizzly Bear sightings.

Some bears were spotted in and on the outskirts of small towns in Alberta. On May 18, 2012 there was a single Grizzly Bear spotted in the north side of Grande Cache near residences and the Golf Course, and again spotted a couple of days later.

There were fewer sightings reported this year, which could be due to a number of reasons. Apathy and a sense of resignation on the part of those who spend time in the wilderness areas could be one deciding factor. We believe that our on-the-ground survey sightings has consistently shown that there is a substantial number of grizzlies in the province and that in some areas a limited hunt would be beneficial. The cancellation of hunting opportunities was a political decision, and sad to say, it still is.

We would like to thank our sponsors: Alberta Fish and Game Association, Alberta Wild Sheep Foundation North Eastern Fish & Game: Zone 5, Alberta Bowhunters Association, Cheyenne Rig Repair and Supply Ltd, A.M. Consulting - Maurice Nadeau for their ongoing support.

Bazil Leonard & Jenn Houlihan



Jenn Houlihan
Photo by Susan Feddema-Leonard

Jenn has collected a large image database which helps differentiate the reported Grizzly Bear sightings.

Northeastern Slopes Operator's Steering Committee

By Laura Vinson, Chairman



Pictured above:

Laura Vinson, Chairman of the Northeastern Slopes Operators Steering Committee.

Pictured below on left-hand of table:

Laura Ell, Consultant for PlanVision, Basil Leonard, Hillary Shannon, Larry Delorme, Mary Luger, Ed Regnier, Peter Witlow, Amber Hayward.

Pictured on right hand-side of table:

Perry Hayward, Laura Rutter and Joe Pavelka President of PlanVision.

Hello everyone:

The Northeastern Slopes Operators Steering Committee (NESOSC) met Sept. 21, 2012 and was reformed due to resignations.

The members of the committee are:

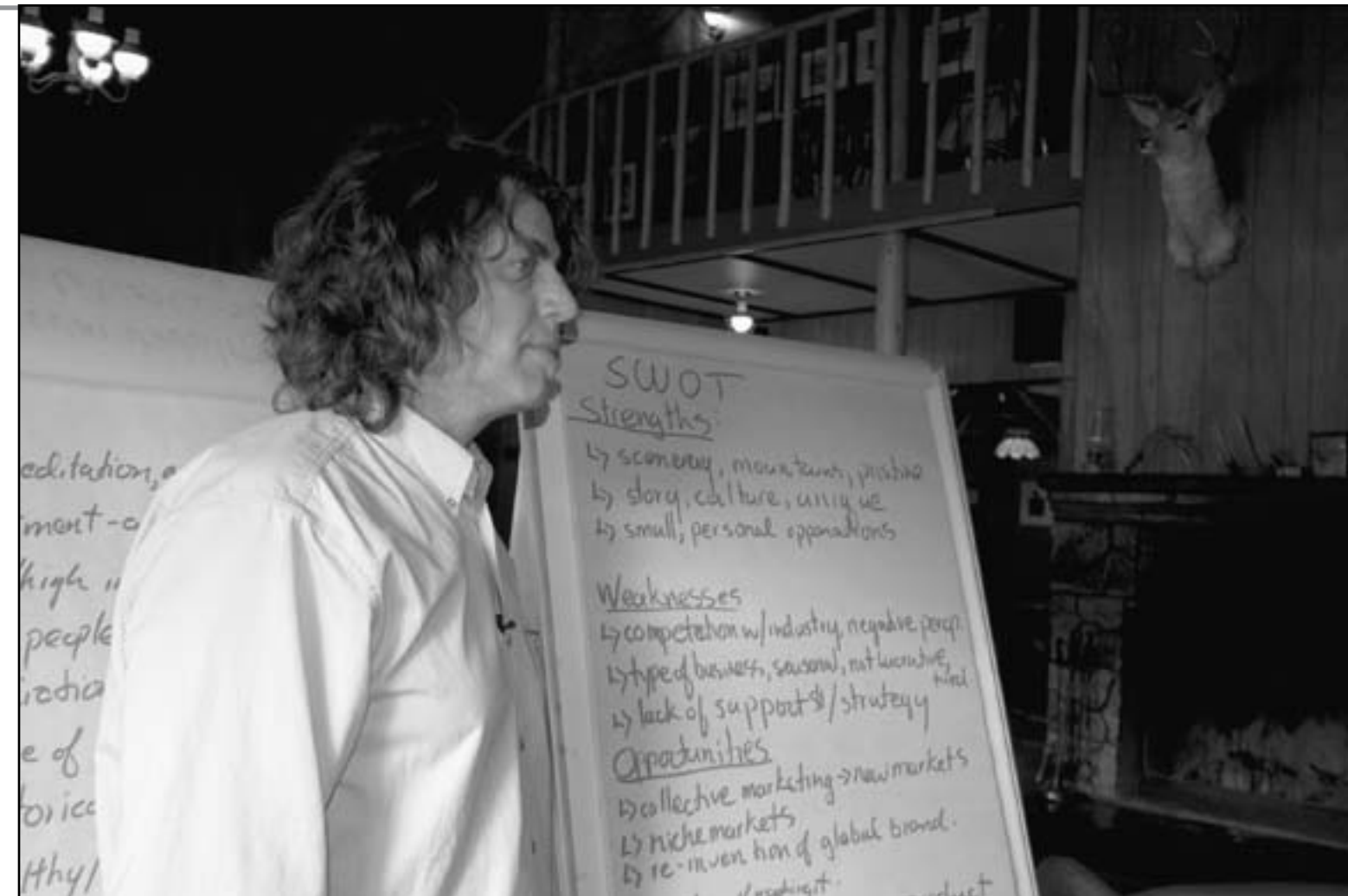
Laura Rutter - Rocky Mountain Escape, Mary Luger - Old Entrance B and B, Hillary Shannon - Black Cat Ranch, Ed Reigner - Saracen Head Outfitters, Sue Feddema-Leonard - Willmore Wilderness Foundation, Basil Leonard - High Country Vacations, Nannette Mosely - Rock Lake Lodge and myself, Laura Vinson, Chairman of Blue Diamond Mountain B and B.

We represent a group of tourism operators in the Hinton, Grand Cache and Edson area who all have a similar vision of the kind of tourism that make us unique here on the Eastern

Slopes. We all feel we have something special to offer tourists, not only with the beauty of the mountains here, but also the history of the fur trade and Aboriginal culture. All the operators are hands-on and have historical and family connections to the area. They all wrote letters of support for a grant to fund a marketing campaign and the grant was successful. We received funding to hire a consultant and produce marketing tools.

The committee was successful in procuring the services of Planvision Consulting in November. Joe Pavalka and Laura Ell have a great deal of experience in ecotourism marketing and have proven to be a great fit for our kind of operations. On Nov 26, 2012, the group as a whole met with Joe and Laura to develop a theme that was representative of our type

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of tourism and provide a basis for a brand name. It was a very productive and enthusiastic meeting, and we are now in the process of choosing a brand name.

We will meet again on Feb. 4, 2013, to decide how to develop our marketing campaign, what tools will be created and what media will be used. We have been invited to submit a proposal to Alberta Travel for matching funding to augment this campaign.

It seems that a lot has happened in a short time, and it is very satisfying to be part of a group that is able to do something positive for the operators of the Willmore Wilderness and surrounding area. It will be exciting

to see how the marketing campaign plays out and how it impacts our individual businesses. We will keep you all posted.

Laura Vinson

Editor's Note:

As of February 5, 2013, the name of this group has been changed to **Alberta Rockies Adventure**. A new website is being created at www.AlbertaRockiesAdventures.com. The group has entered into a marketing phase and is moving ahead with the help Chairman Laura Vinson, and consultants Joe Pavelka, and Laura Ells. Don Wilson of Travel Alberta has also provided invaluable assistance.

Pictured above:

Joe Pavelka is the President of Planvision Management Consulting Ltd.,

which consults with clients, including

Parks Canada, on issues of leisure and recreation, community development and projects relating to tourism.

Joe received his master's degree in Recreation Administration from the

University of Alberta.

Youth Report

by Stephen McDonald



Stephen McDonald
Photo by Susan Feddema-Leonard

We usually stay at the Pine Bungalows cabins, located just outside of Jasper. It is very relaxing there because there are no telephones or televisions in the cabins. While we were there this fall my dad introduced me to Mike, the owner of Pine Bungalows. He is a very kind person,

Stephen McDonald is one of the four young people that the Willmore Wilderness Foundation is mentoring during the winter months. I asked Stephen to write a short article for you 2013 Annual Newsletter.
- Susan Feddema-Leonard

Hello, my name is Stephen McDonald. I was born in 1996, in the small town of Grande Cache, Alberta. Grande Cache is located in west central Alberta in the beautiful Canadian Rocky Mountains.

I was asked by the Willmore Wilderness Foundation to write a brief story for this newsletter. When I realized this article was going to be read by an international audience, I was both excited, and nervous. I realized I could write about anything; many ideas came to mind... hunting stories, stories passed down from my family, past experiences, what I did this summer, school trips, etc. I asked my Principal what he thought I should write about, and he said, "You live in a beautiful place. I think other parts of the world are envious about where you live, so I think you should write about where you live." My teacher agreed with him. I thought it was a good idea and have decided to do so.

Grande Cache was established in 1969. Fortunately my Aboriginal family has always been here, and still is to this day. I have a lot of things to learn about my Aboriginal history and the local community. When I visit my grandparents they tell me about what it was like before the town was here. My grandma says there were no roads, only trails. They told me about some of the houses they have lived in. The

houses had no floors, so they had to use Spruce bows as matting for the floor. She said Balsam tree branches were the best, because they lasted about three days. One of their old houses is still standing today. When I first saw it I could not believe what it was like, but it was all they had at the time. Eventually, they moved into a newer, safer, warmer house. It just got running water about two years ago, but the water quality is poor and unsafe to drink.

My father was born in the Grande Cache area, before the town was built. There was no hospital at the time. I was born in Grande Cache Hospital. My mother says I was one of the last children to be born in our local community hospital. The people in our community have to travel to Hinton or Grande Prairie if they need an emergency doctor now. My ancestry on my father's side has been in this area since time immemorial. Our family has strong Rocky Mountain Cree traditions and values. We depend on the land for things such as medicines, food, clothing, and shelter. I like to hunt, participate in our cultural ceremonies, and visit with family and friends.

We have a unique community history. Some of my dad's relatives

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This is the bad Elk that Stephen was talking about in his article.
Photo courtesy of Stephen McDonald

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were evicted from the area which is now known as Jasper National Park. Some of the people came here because they wanted to be left alone. My dad is regularly asked to do presentations about the local Aboriginal community history from an Aboriginal traditional perspective. Sometimes he'll ask me to accompany him to his presentations. I am fortunate that I get to go with him most times. I find it interesting to see the pictures in the presentation, because they tell a story about the Rocky Mountain Cree People.

Jasper is still an important place to us. We often go there to photograph the wildlife, and harvest medicinal plants. This year, my dad and I were in Jasper taking pictures of elk during the elk rut. During one of our trips, we ran into one situation

that wasn't exactly a comfortable encounter. We were taking pictures of elk that were on the side of the road. A cow elk started to come towards our direction with a big bull elk not far behind. We could tell the bull elk was not in a good mood because he had just won a fight over another bull elk not even ten minutes earlier. We were afraid of the big bull, and he started to come towards us, so we got behind our vehicle. This only lasted a couple minutes, but it was not a good feeling to be stalked by an angry bull elk. It sure is a different feeling when you have a small camera instead of a rifle.

We usually stay at the Pine Bungalows cabins, located just outside of Jasper. It is very relaxing there because there are no telephones or televisions in the cabins. While we

were there this fall my dad introduced me to Mike, the owner of Pine Bungalows. He is a very kind person, and we have agreed to conduct Aboriginal culture presentations next year for his European clients.

I currently live in town; I am actively learning and enjoying practicing my family's traditions as much as I can.

WILLMORE WILDERNESS PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2011

	2011 \$	2010 \$
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	80,837.87	5,261.14
Accounts Receivable	4,482.56	64,068.17
Security Deposits	200.00	7,600.00
	<u>85,520.43</u>	<u>76,929.31</u>
Capital Assets		
Building	287,000.00	287,000.00
Equipment	12,805.19	13,941.01
Office Equipment	2,468.15	6,621.18
Camera, Video & Film Equipment	49,875.65	33,110.53
Computer	34,574.54	43,399.95
Furniture & Fixtures	9,614.89	2,450.00
Horses	11,340.00	0.00
	<u>407,678.42</u>	<u>386,522.67</u>
Less: Accumulated Amortization	<u>30,326.64</u>	<u>19,618.45</u>
	<u>377,351.78</u>	<u>366,904.22</u>
	<u>462,872.21</u>	<u>443,833.53</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	<u>55,647.65</u>	<u>56,108.27</u>
Long Term Liabilities		
ATB Mortgage Payable	<u>134,318.27</u>	<u>141,303.92</u>
	<u>189,965.92</u>	<u>197,412.19</u>
Equity		
Retained Earnings	<u>272,906.29</u>	<u>246,421.34</u>
	<u>462,872.21</u>	<u>443,833.53</u>

WILLMORE WILDERNESS PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
STATEMENT OF EARNINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011

	2011 \$	2010 \$
REVENUE		
General Sales	275.00	1,353.00
Grants	234,725.00	2,508.00
Memberships	4,854.52	5,534.17
Book Sales	2,796.00	8,004.13
DVD Sales	4,765.00	0.00
Donations	66,565.00	33,370.12
Training & Clinics	0.00	3,624.00
Trail Clearing Contracts	28,500.00	101,784.00
Fundraising Proceeds	85,730.16	102,337.89
Rental Income	8,500.00	8,075.00
Interest	16.23	40.59
Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Assets	<u>-3,619.37</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>433,107.54</u>	<u>266,630.90</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Accounting & Consulting	1,101.84	614.85
Advertising & Promotion	8,247.53	8,446.54
Amortization	12,674.26	10,959.48
Donations	0.00	5,634.01
Fundraising Costs	58,885.92	60,402.25
Bank/Credit Card Charges & Fees	2,766.14	2,118.17
Insurance	2,965.00	2,860.00
License, Fees & Permits	516.02	1,825.86
Loan/Mortgage Interest	6,214.44	5,920.48
Supplies	978.90	7,108.49
Equipment & Trail Costs	2,152.83	9,789.56
Conventions, Banquets & Meetings	3,255.22	1,078.18
Training & Clinics	8,139.50	18,871.73
Office	10,697.37	21,606.19
Utilities	5,279.31	5,694.63
Property Taxes	7,410.87	6,766.98
Book & Film Production Costs	78,984.46	63,259.28
Telephone & Fax	4,496.60	3,698.66
Rent	0.00	7,390.96
Maintenance & Repairs	996.93	2,015.24
Building Renovations	83,484.10	0.00
Travel	7,733.20	16,646.96
Wages & Benefits	22,401.83	23,902.80
Sub-Contracts	40,700.00	118,037.35
RADF Project Costs	<u>36,540.32</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>406,622.59</u>	<u>404,648.65</u>
EARNINGS (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS	<u>26,484.95</u>	<u>-138,017.75</u>

Women of Willmore Wilderness

by Susan Feddema-Leonard

For years I had no knowledge of the history of the northwestern portion of Willmore Wilderness Park.

Bazil and I worked away at clearing trail, seeing sign and wondering about those that travelled before us.

A friend of mine had told me about a book called *Off the Beaten Track: Women Adventurers and Mountaineers in Western Canada* by Cindi Smith.

There was a short chapter about Mary Jobe and another about Caroline Hinman. I immediately purchased the publication and read each woman's chapter with great interest. I was excited, as this was some of the first written information I had seen on the Jackpine River and Continental Divide areas. Our family had been busy restoring the trail network in this area after my husband Bazil had acquired Curly Phillips' old trapline in 1992.

I noted that Cindi Smith's information was taken from the Caroline Hinman Fonds at the Whyte Museum in Banff Alberta.¹ I immediately called Don Bourdon, Manager of the Archives and Library who told me that he had the 1915 Journal of Caroline Hinman. I was ecstatic and told him I would make the eight-hour drive down to Banff to

see the hand-written diary.

My daughter Chehala and I had some business to do in Calgary, along with friend Dan Hallock. The three of us drove down to the museum in May of 2005 on our way to Calgary. We arrived at the Whyte Museum Archives Department at a pre-arranged time and asked to see the Hinman journal. I was full of excitement and anticipation as this would be the first chance I had of understanding some of the happenings of yesteryear in the most western portion of Willmore Wilderness Park.

Lena Goon the Reference Archivist for the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies brought the diary out for us to look at. I was eager to look at the many pages of tiny writing and really hoped to get a copy of the diary. We had no historical written accounts for the Willmore and adjacent areas, and this journal would be invaluable to our organization. I told Lena that I personally had written journals for more than a decade, as I was trying to keep records of our attempts to restore the historic pack trails of the northwestern portion of Willmore Wilderness Park. I started to joke with her without thinking, "If someone wanted to view my journals in 100 years from now—and an archivist told me no I couldn't have copies—I would come back and haunt them."

Lena laughed at my joshing and told me to wait as she went to get Don Bourdon, the Manager. He kindly agreed to photocopy the journal for the Willmore Wilderness Preservation and Historical Foundation. I made arrangements with Lena to pay for

¹ Businessdictionary.com defines an "archival fonds" as an entire collection of the records originating from the same creator, archived with other such collections.



People & Peaks
Women of Willmore Wilderness
available at the
Willmore Wilderness
Foundation office after
April 4, 2013.

E-mail
jenn@willmorewilderness.com
or phone 780-827-2696
to get your copy!

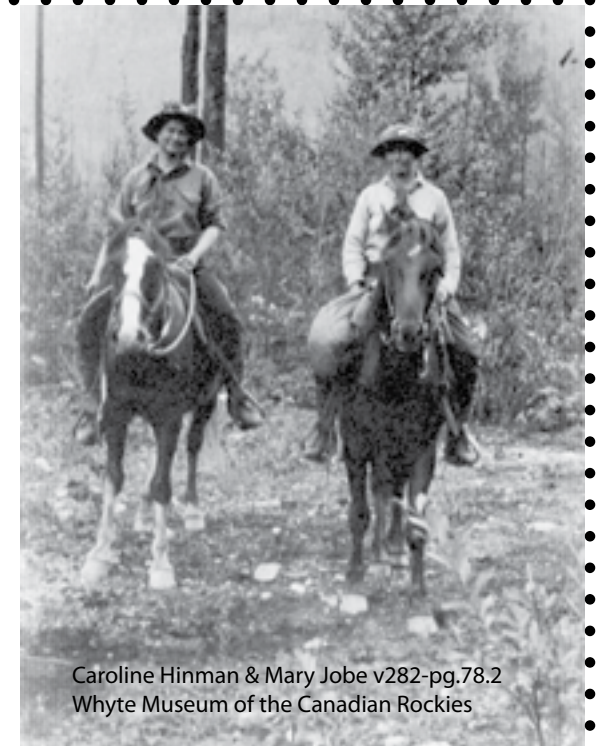
Debit, Visa, Mastercard,
cheque, cash.

Women of Willmore Wilderness

Book Launch and Film Premiere

Thursday, April 4
Doors open at 6:30 PM, program starts at 7 PM
Admission by donation

To celebrate the exhibition *Off the Beaten Track: Caroline Hinman's Pack Trips and Trail Tours* the Whyte Museum is pleased to host the *Women of Willmore* book launch and film screening. The book and film share the stories of free-thinking women past and present as they reveal how their experiences on rarely-travelled trails deeply inspired them. Songwriter Laura Vinson will perform.



Caroline Hinman & Mary Jobe v282-pg.78.2
Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies

the copying, when Don told me about some old film footage that we might be interested in.

Chehala, Dan and I followed Don Bourdon into a room and watched him place a reel of very old film into an antique projector. He turned the machine by hand, and we were surprised to see pictures of horses swimming at Clark's Crossing on the Smoky River. Dan and I voiced in unison, "That's the Smoky!" Don seemed impressed and kept the film rolling. Dan and I were able to identify many of the other places in the footage. After we viewed the reel, Don told us that we were the first people he had met who could identify the areas that Caroline Hinman had shot.

I asked Don if the Foundation could obtain a digitized copy of the film for future use and agreed that the Willmore Wilderness Foundation would pay for the digitization. Don concurred and made arrangement for the footage to be sent out for processing.

Chehala, Dan and I left the Museum feeling elated. I was delighted with the fact that the Foundation had copies of the journal and the film footage. This was the beginning of what would become both a publication and a one-hour film documentary.

Following the lead of historic women who challenged the traditions of the day, blazing trails into a man's world on horseback in the Canadian Rockies, modern generations of women face their own challenges to travel these same trails.

Travelling as horseback people was a way of life for Native and Métis women living nomadically with their families in the Rocky Mountains. Later, and prior to World War I, a small number of affluent women afforded the services of packhorse outfitters to guide them into unexplored Canadian Rockies. With the advent of the Second World War, there was a birth of feminism, and women began

participating in non-traditional roles, including careers in the mountain wilderness. Many were trying to survive the post depression era, etching a living off the land; while others were adventurers seeking a sense of freedom. Most of these women lived "outside the box" and were visionaries of their time. These explorers shed society's expectations and followed their dreams, becoming more of "who they were" in a landscape they loved.

Women of Willmore Wilderness shares the stories of women past and present as they reveal how their experiences in mountain culture deeply inspired them. The story focuses on Caroline Hinman, Mary Jobe, Sophia Hargreaves with her daughter's Ishbel and Margie, along with a modern generation of trail women. Meet free-thinking individuals who blazed trails into a man's rugged world. Share the humour and deep emotion of these souls who find the essence of their lives' work on trails rarely travelled.

Willmore Wilderness Foundation

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PeopleandPeaks.com
Great Divide Consulting Inc., Publisher
Estella Cheverie, Editor

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An independent newsletter published in
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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 January 1 to December 31.)*

Yearly Membership is as follows:

- \$25.00 Individual Membership or \$100.00 for five years
- \$35.00 Family Membership or \$140.00 for five years
- Life Time Membership \$500.00
- Corporate Membership \$100.00
- Youth Fees are 1/2 price
- Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Debit and Cheques accepted

company	
name	
address	
city/province/state	
postal code/zip country	
telephone fax	
email website Twitter Facebook	
amount enclosed	
membership year	
date	

Veitch's Views

The tracks showed my quarry had crossed the snowmobile trail and brushed by a big pine tree. Head low and back hunched, I began to follow the prints in the snow. I reckon I looked like Elmer Fudd but instead of rabbits, I was after a cougar. And instead of shotgun, I was carrying a bulky camera, lens and tripod.

The tracks showed the cat had circled right around the pine and went directly back onto the snowmobile trail. Its footprints were imbedded in mine. I had been less than a metre away from the cat, and it had snuck directly behind me without being seen or heard.

I really, really wanted to make a photo of a wild cougar in Grande Cache so I made a snap decision. I would run after the cat, barking and baying like a hound dog to send it up a tree. Once the cougar was treed, I would get my image.

So I set off, lumbering through the ankle deep snow and howling like a dog. Within minutes I was winded but wildlife photography has always been my consuming passion, so I pushed on. The cat zigged and zagged through the forest above Grande Cache Lake with the mad photographer in hot pursuit.

Just as my howls had turned to pathetic huffs and whimpers, I saw movement just ahead in the small

clearing. The cat was slowing down too, I thought. I gave one last burst of barks and charged into the clearing. There, in front of me, were two men setting rabbit snares. Their mouths and eyes wide open. I muttered an apology before trudging back to the truck, defeated.

A few months later, I saw an article in National Geographic Magazine about tigers. All the great photos of wild tigers were made with remote control cameras, or camera traps. That's when the light bulb blinked on above my head. I would do the same in Grande Cache but, instead of tigers, I would photograph the equally elusive predators here.

After a lot of trial and error, I began to see results. Over the coming years, I managed to get National Geographic quality images of wild cougars, lynx, wolves, bears and wolverines. This was the most rewarding and enjoyable photographic journey of my life. And I owe a lot of the success to the knowledge passed down by traditional trappers. I realized that I could use their techniques but replace a snare with an infrared beam and a conibear with a camera. Cubbies that worked to snare bears helped me photograph wolves and lynx while run poles that worked for marten allowed me to make images of fisher and wolverine.

... continued on page 24



Arthur Veitch
Photo courtesy of Susan Feddema-Leonard

I really, really wanted to make a photo of a wild cougar in Grande Cache so I made a snap decision. I would run after the cat, barking and baying like a hound dog to send it up a tree. Once the cougar was treed, I would get my image.

Larry Nelles Youth Colt Starting & Horsemanship Clinic

- June 20-29, 2013; Fee is \$350/horse. Bring your colt or horse
- for information call 1-866-WILMORE or 1-780-827-2696



Photo by Arthur Veitch

Veitch's Views

... continued from page 23

About a year ago, the Willmore Wilderness Foundation challenged me to join them and adapt still camera trap techniques to video. It's been a challenge. I knew nothing about movie cameras. What I did discover is that they are generally more expensive and less hardy than still cameras. This has posed some problems but the results are getting

better. A few deer are ambling by the set and a young cougar provided a few thrilling minutes of footage.

As the techniques become more refined, I hope to provide better wildlife moments. Even more, I am eager to learn how to best present the footage to the public. I have to thank Susan Feddema-Leonard and the rest of the Foundation members for rekindling the passion for wildlife imagery.

Arthur Veitch has won numerous provincial and national photo journalism and newspaper awards. Arthur is an accomplished wildlife photographer, with his images of cougars, lynx, bears and wolves published in magazines like National Wildlife and Canadian Geographic.