

Willmore Wilderness Foundation

... a registered charitable foundation

2014 Annual Newsletter



**... Inside—George Kelley's
story of the Yellowstone Wolves**

Photo by Arthur Veitch

NEW DVDs & Books

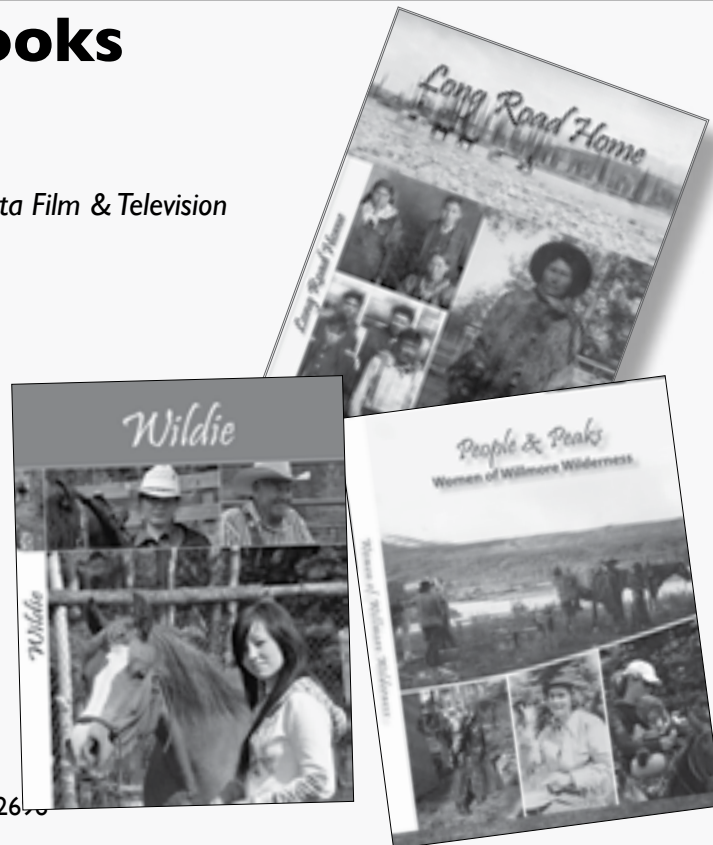
Long Road Home: 45:13 min - \$20.00
Wildie: 44:14 min - \$20.00
Nominated for a Rosie Award in 2013 by Alberta Film & Television
Women of Willmore Wilderness:
 44:50 min - \$20.00

People & Peaks Books \$60.00

For stories and information on the people, traditions & culture of Alberta's northern Rockies go to: **PeopleandPeaks.com**
WillmoreWilderness.com
AlbertaRockiesAdventures.com

Contact: **Jenn@WillmoreWilderness.com**

1866-WILMORE or 1-866-945-6673 or 1-780-827-2666
 Box 93 Grande Cache, Alberta T0E 0Y0 Canada



President's Report by Basil Leonard

Hello Everyone:

We had a productive year in 2013. Our RADF contract was fulfilled, and we exceeded all expectations. We produced three new books and had a re-print on the first People & Peaks. We are in the final phases of completing the last two of four one-hour documentaries. People & Peaks Productions has also produced three teaching videos called the *Packhorse Pete Series*. These are ideal vignettes for anyone who wants to learn about how to pack a horse, boxes and proper saddling techniques for travelling into the backcountry.

We coordinated film festivals for *Women of Willmore Wilderness* in Edmonton, Edson, Banff, Hinton, Jasper, Valemount, Grande Cache and Grande Prairie and had excellent turnouts. The Board of Directors has decided to invest its energies into film festival and/or dinner/film fests, rather than our traditional auctions. They feel that it is a better way to educate the public, market books and videos and get the story out. We will keep you posted as to the 2014 schedules, as we will be premiering *Mountain Metis: A Forgotten People* and *Abandoned Trails & Diamond Hitches*.

Susan Feddema-Leonard has been working as a volunteer on the Board of Directors of "Women in Film and Television Alberta" (WIFTA). WIFTA hosted "Martini Madness" at the *Banff World Media Festival* in June 2013. Susan agreed to do the graphic design and print the WIFTA Martini Madness Brochure. Two thousand copies were printed and handed out to all delegates at the *Banff World Media Festival*. The Rural Alberta Development Fund, People & Peaks Productions and the Willmore Wilderness Foundation were all sponsors of the 2013 Martini Madness event.

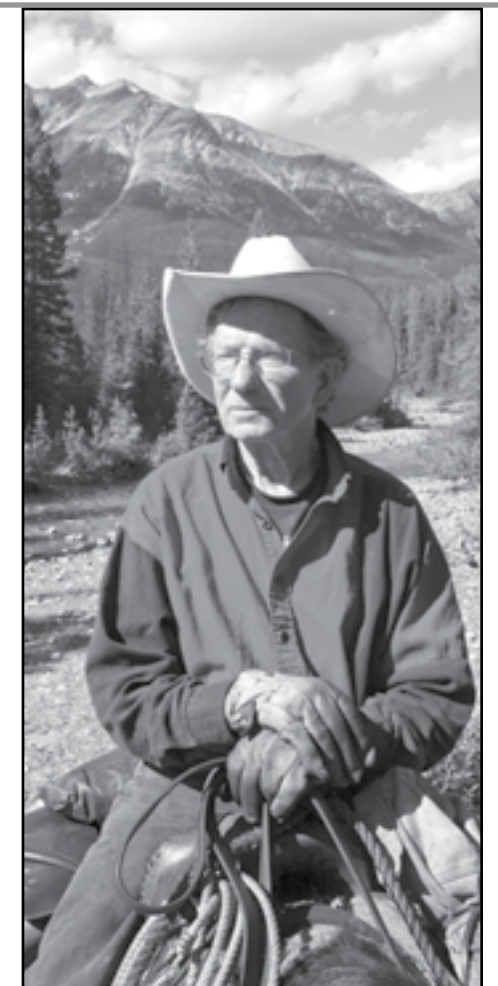
Ryan Koehler, Vice President of Wild TV came to the Martini Madness evening after he received a Martini Madness flyer. He saw the *Women of*

Willmore Wilderness trailer playing on the three TV large screens at the event and requested to meet with Susan. As a result of this meeting, Wild TV will be broadcasting the People & Peaks Productions' documentaries beginning March 8, 2014. The Willmore Wilderness Foundation has received the Confirmation of Broadcast letter from Wild TV for five of our one-hour documentaries. We have also received Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission Approval for Broadcast.

Congratulations go out to People & Peaks Productions as Laura Vinson and Dave Martineau were nominated for the best sound track in the movie *Wildie* in 2013 for the Alberta Film & Television Awards, Rosie Awards. We have competitive documentaries and are proud of our production staff.

One of the important goals we have in the Willmore Wilderness Foundation is educating local young people in traditional skills and in multimedia skills to further our story. We wish to sincerely thank the MD of Greenview for its support, during the coming year, of two youth who will be mentored in film production, including cinematography, editing, multimedia disciplines, Adobe Creative Suite, social media, community partnering initiatives and basic office administration skills.

We spent forty days trail clearing during the summer of 2013, and eighty-two-year-old Tom Wanyandie accompanied us. He was a great asset to the trail crew. On one of the trail trips we cleared up to Surprise Pass and over into BC Kakwa Provincial Park. The trails on the BC side in that area are in very poor condition. We did spend one day clearing the trail from Broadview Lake, south toward Surprise Pass, to the little creek that runs into Cecilia Lake. We had several youth that we mentored this year; however, it was very nice to see Tom Wanyandie instructing his two young grandsons. They were both good workers and good with



Basil Leonard:
 Photo by Sue Feddema-Leonard

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation has received a Confirmation of Broadcast letter from Wild TV for five of our one-hour documentaries. We have also received Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission approval for broadcast.

... continued on page 4

Inside This Edition

President's Report	3	ARA Marketing	14
2013 Trail Clearing Report	5	The Spirit Sings Tour	15
Moccasin Telegraph	6	2012 Finances	18 & 19
Final Report RADF	9	Humour along the Continental Divide	20
Notes from the Editor	10	Membership	22
Descendant of the Fur Trade	11	Willmore's Wild Camera	23
Mountain Horsemanship	12	Alberta Rockies Adventures	24
Grizzly Survey Report	13		

February 2014
Willmore Wilderness Foundation Annual Newsletter
 © Willmore Wilderness Foundation
 no portion of this newsletter may be re-printed without written permission.
 Registered Charitable Organization
 #89655 0308 RR0001



President's Report .. continued from page 3

a chainsaw. We thank Alberta Municipal Affairs and the Municipal District of Greenview for their generous support on the 2013 Trail Clearing Initiative. The 2014 trail clearing will continue with the support of Alberta Municipal Affairs.

We had some momentum building with respect to the marketing of the traditional businesses that work in and around Willmore Wilderness Park with the support of Travel Alberta. This group is known as Alberta Rockies Adventures. The www.AlbertaRockiesAdventures.com website was launched in October 2013. We have also developed www.Facebook.com/AlbertaRockiesAdventure and www.Twitter.com/ABRockies pages.

The 2013 *Canada's West Marketplace* (CWM) trade show was held in Whistler, BC from November 23rd to 26th at the Whistler Conference Centre. The CWM trade show brings together tourism industry suppliers from BC and Alberta with international and domestic tour operators in a proven business exchange of pre-scheduled appointments, open sessions and networking functions over a three-day and four-night period. Established in 1989, the *Canada's West Marketplace* trade show is a partnership between Travel Alberta and Destination British Columbia.

Travel Alberta provided Susan Feddema-Leonard a scholarship to attend the 2013 *Canada's West Marketplace* trade show. The Willmore Wilderness Foundation sponsored Laura Vinson to also attend the event. The scholarship is a three-year commitment that Travel Alberta has made with the Willmore Wilderness Foundation/ Alberta Rockies Adventures group.

Larry Nelles gave us another successful colt training and horsemanship clinic in June 2013. Mountain Horsemanship Program initiative will continue in 2014 with support from Alberta Municipal Affairs to sustain the Master Horsemanship Program. Larry Nelles will mentor those who wish to

learn more about training a horse from a horse. Make sure you contact Jenn Houlihan to register for the clinic.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation has contracted Arthur Veitch to do wildlife trap photography and videography. The Willmore Wilderness Foundation also sponsored Arthur in the 2013 BBC Wildlife Camera-trap photo competition. Congratulations go to Arthur Veitch, who won runner-up with two photos under the Animal Portraits Category.

In order to ensure we have factual information regarding our documentaries and books, we have contracted the services of Debbie Fitzsimmons to research documents from the North West Company and Hudson's Bay Company; records from churches, museums and archives. The RADF Project has enabled the Willmore Wilderness Foundation to do historical research and accurately develop the story of Alberta's eastern slopes—and to tell this unique story to an international audience. The history of Alberta's fur trade and how the Canadian west was developed has nearly been forgotten. We have been able to keep the story alive with the publishing of four books, and four one-hour documentaries. Debbie Fitzsimmons will continue with the research work in 2014.

Last but not least, we have contracted Lisa Brown as the Foundation's Financial Consultant. Lisa is the Executive Assistant/ FOIP Coordinator/Director of Emergency Management for the Town of Grande Cache. We are pleased to have her on board and look forward to getting her into Willmore Wilderness Park this summer to experience the magic of the Canadian Rocky Mountains.

I wish to thank the Alberta Multimedia Development Fund for supporting the *Women of Willmore Wilderness* film documentary, and the MD of Greenview for supporting the *Women of Willmore Wilderness* book publication. I would also like to thank the Panther River

Burnt Timber Foundation for supporting the publication of *People & Peaks of the Panther River & Eastern Slopes*. We look forward to the launch of the book *People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park: The Legacy Continues* in early March. The second publishing of *People & Peak of Willmore Wilderness Park: 1800 to mid-1900s* will follow shortly thereafter. These two books and the *Women of Willmore Wilderness* have all been made possible with the support of the Rural Alberta Development Fund. This type of support is critical to keep the historical stories alive and in the public domain. Understanding our past determines our ability to shape our present—and influence our future.

Sincere thanks to Maurice Nadeau, A.M. Consulting, the Wild Sheep Foundation: Alberta Chapter, Alberta Bow Hunter Association and Jenn Houlihan of the Willmore Wilderness Foundation for supporting the **2013 Grizzly Bear Survey**. I would also like to thank Nathan Webb, Provincial Carnivore Specialist for his guidance and cooperation over the past six years.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation Annual General Meeting is on June 1, 2014 at 2 pm. There will be meeting and a barbeque at Smoky River Ranch, weather providing. Alternatively, if it is raining, we will meet at the Willmore Wilderness Foundation office. Call Jenn at 780-827-2696 or me (Bazil) at 780-827-6404 if you have any questions. Make sure you mark your calendars now.

I wish everyone a good year and hope you have a chance to come out to one of our many **People & Peaks Film Fest & Fundraisers** that will be hosted in various communities throughout 2014. We also hope you spend some time enjoying Willmore Wilderness Park.

LIKE our www.Facebook.com/PeopleandPeaks and www.Facebook.com/WillmoreWilderness in order to keep abreast of our community events, trail clearing initiatives and various programs.

The 2013 Trail Clearing Report

by Susan Feddema-Leonard

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation was formed in 2002, with a goal of restoring the historic pack trails. The Foundation's efforts have opened up, maintained and restored many kilometres of trails that have traditionally been used by hunters, trappers, outfitters, anglers and horsemen for the past 200 years.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation would like to thank the MD of Greenview for its contribution towards the 2013 trail clearing initiatives. We would also like to thank Alberta Municipal Affairs for their support.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation spent forty days clearing trail in the western portion of Willmore Wilderness Park. We hired Elder Tom Wanyandie and mentored two of his grandsons, Dale Belcourt and Lane Wanyandie Bequette. Tom's daughter Emily Wanyandie Bequette was a great support on all of the trips. Old-time

trail man Dave Wildman was also on the trail clearing expeditions, and he mentored Mark Pirker from Grande Prairie in the traditional ways of the trail. Payton Hallock was also an apprentice trail hand on one trip.

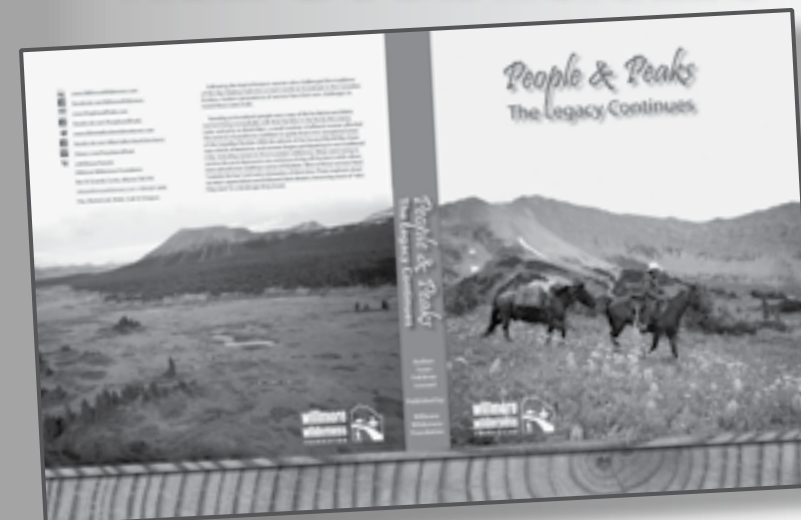
A lot of hard and dirty work was needed for restoration and development to keep the trails open and improve infrastructure of Willmore Wilderness Park. Some areas included:

- Improvement of the Smoky Trail
- Re-routing around the deep water at Eaton Creek
- The trail up Mount Stearn from Kvass Flats
- Surprise Pass Trail
- Copper Kettle Camp to Casket Creek Camp Trail
- Muddy Water to Boulder Creek Trail through the 2002 burn
- George Hargreaves' Grave to Casket Creek Camp Trail
- George Hargreaves' Grave to Copper Kettle Camp

- Sheep Creek Airstrip to George Hargreaves' Grave through 2007 burn
- Fetherstonhaugh to the base of Morkill Mountain through bad muskegs
- Ptarmigan Lake through the 2007 burn
- Up Bazil Creek towards Morkill
- To the Smoky River past Fox Lake, and on the main trail back to Grande Cache.

It is important to remember that the Sheep Creek, Smoky River and Jackpine River burns will have to be cleared on a yearly basis to keep ahead of the falling trees. It is critical that we keep these trails open and not let the burnt timber win the battle. It is tough dirty work, and we are proud of our trail crews for their commitment and determination to continue with this laborious task.

New Book Release



People & Peaks
of Willmore Wilderness Park:

The Legacy Continues
available at the Willmore
Wilderness Foundation,

Call 1-780-827-2696 or
1-866-WILMORE or
1-866-945-6673

Debit, Visa, Mastercard,
Interac, cheque, cash.

WillmoreWilderness.com

The Moccasin Telegraph by Susan Feddema-Leonard



Pictured above:
Susan Feddema-Leonard
Photo by Share Munoz of Vivian Digital Films

Pictured on right page:
George Kelley in 1996
with a Big Horn
during the last hours
of daylight

Photo courtesy of
Nanette Hamilton Moseley

The Yellowstone Wolves

On March 18, 2006, I had a chance to interview George Kelley for the latest book called *People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park: The Legacy Continues*. The interview took place at his home one month before George was diagnosed with cancer. He passed away less than a year later.

I was pleasantly surprised that George was so forthcoming during his interview. Normally he held his cards close to his chest and didn't reveal too much. As the events unfolded, I figured that George knew on some level that he was leaving us and wanted to share his story.

George confided that he trusted me with his story and wanted me to look after it. As he moved towards the inevitable, he told me that he didn't get out of bed much any more. He, however, made the effort to get up and review the Nick Nickerson chapter in *People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park: 1800s to mid-1900s*. George was very proud of his relationship with his friend and teacher—Nick. The Nick Nickerson pictures in Chapter Six are courtesy of George and Kipp Kelley. One of the last things George said to me on that last meeting was, "Sue, I knew you would do it." I felt a sense of pride in his belief in me.

The following is an excerpt from George's chapter in the *People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park: The Legacy Continues*. I am very proud of this publication, which I have dedicated to Estella Cheverie, our editor. Without

her unrelenting support, none of the *People & Peaks* publications would have been possible. I hope that everyone who reads this thanks her for her dedication to get the story of the mountain men and women "out there."

Sue One of the things that the Willmore Wilderness Foundation supports is trapping. Can you tell me about how you got started trapping and how you live-trapped those wolves?

George I started trapping with my mother because my father was out on the trapline. My mother taught me to trap, way more than my father; and of course, my uncles: my mother's brothers. We started trapping as soon as I could walk. We could trap on our own place. We were always trapping weasels and squirrels or something. When I really started trapping, I was fourteen, and I quit school. The old man said if you're going to quit school, you're not going to stay around here; you're going out on the trapline. So that summer they packed a bunch of grub into the Berland country with the dog, horses and on our backs. The year before I turned fifteen, I spent from the fifteenth of October to Christmas day; and I come out Christmas day. I went to trap with my brother, but he tried to make a slave out of me. He wanted me to get up in the morning to make fire, get water, and feed the dogs—when I went out there to trap. We got into an argument pretty quick, so I moved

about twenty miles away by myself with two dogs and trapped there the whole fall. So that's where I learned to trap. I wasn't really prepared for it, but I learned a lot living by myself, not eating too much. I just about died a whole bunch of times crossing them rivers and everything else, but I learned a lot about trapping. I spent two falls out there trapping: the fall I was fourteen and the fall I was fifteen.

When we first started trapping on the Berland, we walked all the way from here. It was a three-day walk, with a pack on your back. It was a lot longer coming out in the winter because there were no roads. We had to walk with snowshoes, or in the fall, by foot.

Of course wolves weren't much money then, but they were always something that was hard to catch. You know, I got a few pointers from people on how to trap them. It was trial and error on a lot of that stuff. I more-or-less learned to trap wolves by myself. They used to be hard to trap, but now they're easier—just as easy as anything else. All you need is the right equipment. That's the most important thing—the right equipment—because a wolf is smart. If you educate him once, he usually won't make that mistake twice. When they moved those wolves down to Yellowstone, they got Wade Berry and me to put collars on them. Wade was the one that got me on it through the Forestry School. He was supposed to contact a bunch of other trappers to do this, but he wanted to hog all the money; and he knew he couldn't do it by himself. So he got me to give him a hand with it. They gave us two thousand dollars for every wolf we live-trapped and turned loose with a collar on its neck. What they wanted were two collared wolves in every



pack. That would have been the ideal situation. And they wanted ten or fifteen packs with collars on—either one or two collars per pack. So we did that from the first of trapping season, the fifteenth of October until after Christmas. After Christmas was when they were going to come in with the choppers and dart them.

Sue What year was that? Do you remember?

George Probably '94 or something like that. I'm not sure, but I have everything here anyways. Yeah, we made good money doing that. We snared them all because they didn't want them trapped in case they injured their foot. They didn't want to hurt no wolves because they were a bunch of wolf lovers. What we'd do is put the snares out and put a stop on them so they'd only close so tight. They would just be able to slip the snare off their head; it would only go so far and lock. The problem with that is when you tied those wolves up—

when you snare them—they choke down and can't fight as much. If you just tie them up, they really go nuts; they fight hard. I had eleven broken snares in those two months we spent trapping. I also had about two of them that pulled their head clean out of the snares. The locks didn't close. They didn't take enough wolves down there. They should have took more.

Sue How many wolves did you collar?

George I think they paid me for nine or ten collared wolves. Then when they came in here to move them out or to come and helicopter-dart them, I snared five more live ones. They gave us a different price on them. It was five hundred dollars apiece for the live.

Sue There's a story that I hear from different people—but I'd rather hear from you about this wolf in your truck.

The Yellowstone Wolves

by Susan Feddema-Leonard

... continued from page 7

George Well, I was out there checking my snares, and there was a wolf in the snare; but I didn't have a collar to put on it to turn it loose. They had the collars. I didn't want to leave the wolf there because he'd get loose by the time I got back. So I got a pole with a snare on the end of it with a piece of haywire and got his front foot and pulled him out. Once I got him stretched out, I'd snare another leg and tie his two legs together to keep them tight, so he couldn't bite me. Then I just threw a pole across his neck, once he's tied down. I had a pair of gloves that came up high called gauntlets. I just cut it off and put some holes in there. I pulled it over his face, and I tied it around his head—so he couldn't bite me. I tied three legs together and threw him in my truck. I go about checking my snares, and pretty soon this wolf kind of wiggles up on the damn seat. He's sitting there for a while, humped up. They're kind of submissive once you get them tied. They don't growl. They act like a cowardly dog. I got driving along, and he's sitting there in the seat. Pretty soon he's looking around. I go down this one new pulp road, and here comes a load of pulp. I pull over to the side. I had a bunch of bait in the back: a moose head and some hides, a

deer. It was bait for my sets. The truck driver pulls up. I guess he's in no rush to go somewhere, as he starts talking. He asked me if I was out hunting. I told him no, that I was trapping. He didn't hear what I said, and he said, "It looks like you had lots of luck hunting." Instead of trying to explain everything I said yeah, yeah, yeah. I wanted to get the hell out of the road. He looks in the truck and says, "Gee that's a nice big dog you got there."

I said, "Yeah, he's nice." He asked me what breed he was. I said, "I don't know, he looks part wolf." He kept talking for a while, and he finally let me go. That old wolf, I brought him here, put a collar on him the next day and turned him loose.

Sue He probably didn't know what hit him.

George They're not bad to handle. Like, I'm used to handling wild horses. Like a big stud horse, a twelve-hundred-pound horse, he can kill you a lot quicker than a wolf. A wolf, all he can do is bite you. Once you get a hold of him around the neck and once you get a hold of a foot, he can't do nothing. A big strong horse will stomp on you; he'll kick you. If you fall down, he'll bite you just as hard as a wolf. So

handling a wolf is no problem—once he's tied up.

Sue So you're still trapping?

George I still trap now. I didn't kill a lot of wolves this year because I wanted to save them for the hunters. Where I trap there's not a lot of wolves anymore.

Sue Have you seen changes in the trapping over the years?

George Things go up and down. It's hard to really trap now because the logging companies have the country all tore up. You used to be able to ride a skidoo for a hundred miles all through the country, setting traps. Now you go down a cutline and hit a road, and it's all tore up. You can't go through there; you have to turn around and go back and load the skidoo up and unload it. The trapping has gone to hell, of course.

The End

Excerpt from the newly released
People & Peaks
of Willmore Wilderness Park:
The Legacy Continues
George Kelley's Chapter

You can read George Kelley's full story in

People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park: The Legacy Continues

or read other *People & Peaks* books like the

People & Peaks of the Panther River & Eastern Slopes

Call 1-780-827-2696 or 1-866-WILMORE or 1-866-945-6673

WillmoreWilderness.com



Final Report on the Success of the Rural Alberta Development Program

by Susan Feddema-Leonard

December 31, 2013 marked the end of the Rural Alberta Development Funding (RADF) grant. In the fall of 2011 the RADF Board of Directors approved \$1,100,858 in funding in part towards creating an experiential traditional and cultural tourism experience in Alberta's Willmore Wilderness Park. Through the Willmore Wilderness Preservation and Historical Foundation, the *Engaging Traditions for Economic Growth* initiative was given the opportunity to enhance the marketability and profile of the Park, bringing in tourists and creating economic opportunities for the traditional businesses—guiding, outfitting and backcountry lodges that operate in and adjacent to the 4,600-square kilometre wilderness area.

Prior to the RADF initiative, some of the traditional tourism sector was fighting to survive the changes of a very competitive industry. RADF support was critical in building an atmosphere that fostered regional tourism, catering to an international market.

Canada's untold story of how the west was opened was virtually forgotten. RADF has enabled the Willmore Wilderness Foundation to develop the unique history of the mountain culture, traditions and history of the Canadian Fur Trade. We have begun sharing the exciting story of the biggest untapped resource in Alberta—Willmore Wilderness Park, also known as Improvement District #25. The authentic story of the region makes the area unique.

The distinctive tale fosters the imagination of a place where trappers, natives, outfitters, hunters, trailmen, and mountain men freely roamed the Rocky Mountains. The history is now being told through books, films, on-line videos, television, social media, marketing campaigns and tourism initiatives.

Engaging Traditions for Economic Growth utilized six pillars to achieve its goal. Developing a regional identity for Willmore Wilderness Park has helped shine a light on Alberta's best kept secret.

Focusing on transitioning traditional businesses into the global economy has helped build the region's unique story, history, traditions and natural resources creating a marketable regional brand—Alberta Rockies Adventures. Through multimedia productions including HDTV documentaries, training videos and social media development, the story of Willmore Wilderness Park has acted as a marketing strategy for the district's tourism industry. The project also centred 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, and in educating them in mountain horsemanship skills, the *Engaging Traditions for Economic Growth* project has resulted in more competent trailmen and women in Willmore Wilderness Park.

Some of the funding from the Rural Alberta Development Fund was used for film production. The Foundation has been successful in getting a Confirmation of Broadcast for Willmore People & Peaks Productions verifying that Wild Television Network will incorporate five one-hour documentaries into their 2014 line-up. The first documentary will be aired on March 8, 2014. The Willmore Wilderness Foundation has also been successful in obtaining a Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission confirmation letter verifying that the People & Peaks documentaries qualify as Canadian Programs.

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. These include Alberta Municipal Affairs, Municipal District of Greenview, Grande Yellowhead Public School Division, Town of Grande Cache, Alberta Northern Rockies Tourism Association, the traditional operators, and more. With a shared vision,

these partners are now working towards marketing the region, creating a regional brand, developing new tourism products and experiences as well as training youth in the mountain way of life. Alberta Rockies Adventures, led by Chairperson Laura Vinson, is guiding and making recommendations for the development of the traditional tourism products.

The future looks bright for the Willmore Wilderness Foundation, as Alberta Municipal Affairs has committed long-term funding, facilitating the Foundation to act as the steward for Improvement District #25—Willmore Wilderness Park. The MD of Greenview has also shown support for the Foundation's ongoing programs, particularly in youth mentoring. The organization is in good shape and is looking forward to moving ahead with new initiatives and partnerships.

Engaging Traditions for Economic Growth has been an exciting project. The Foundation's staff has put in long hours, and they have been very dedicated, going above and beyond the call of duty. The Willmore Wilderness Foundation is proud of its achievements and feels that *Engaging Traditions for Economic Growth* has exceeded all of the goals and expectations initially outlined in the project. These achievements of an outstanding job have been realized through a dedicated staff and a determined, focused Board of Directors.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation thanks the Rural Alberta Development Fund for supporting this initiative and breathing life into the northern Rocky Mountain area of Alberta. Without Kamie Currie's guidance and support throughout this Project, we would not have been as successful as we have been. Kamie Currie's role as Project Officer was critical and greatly appreciated. We would also wish to thank MLA Robin Campbell, who provided unwavering and ongoing support throughout this endeavour.

Notes from the Editor's Desk

by Estella Cheverie



Estella Cheverie Aug 2013
Photo by Susan Feddema-Leonard

The beginning of another year! Well, last year was productive for us, as we put together three new books. The last one was just finished in time to go to press this year. It should be printed and ready by late spring. I don't think anyone will be disappointed. It's full of the further adventures of our favourite people, their mountains, their horses, and their everyday life. It will keep you wanting to read more.

Whereas I haven't had the experiences of these adventurous beings, I feel privileged to have become a part of it through their candid and unselfish sharing. I have to admit that one of my favourite parts is about the horses and the relationship between the people and their animal partners. There has to be a bond of trust and interdependency between them in facing the elements of nature's environment.

I remember my first horse. He was a little old Welsh-Cobb pony who had looked after kids all his life. I was about ten years old at the time. Looking after me and my siblings, who had never really ridden a horse before, was easy for old Teddy. He knew all the tricks when he got tired of us—the old brush-them-off, then wait-for-them-to-pick-themselves-up trick.

While growing up we lived for a while on the ranches of both my grandparents, before our parents got a farm. We always had a few horses, some cattle, pigs and chickens. On my dad's farm, we had Teddy, of course; and for our working horses, we had a pair of young Clydesdales. They were Tom and Jesse, a gelding and a mare. We also got the mother of Tom, old Queenie. Tom and Queenie were black with the usual white trimmings while Jesse was sort of a roan and had almost wall eyes. They were pretty big creatures to us little kids, but that didn't stop us from getting on their backs once in a while—when no one was looking. After all, we did do all the chores—which included looking after them. I only got kicked once, and that was by Tom, but I never told anyone.

We always rode bareback and never had a saddle. I used to watch every new Eaton's catalogue that came out to make sure "my" saddle was still there. I dreamed that one day I would have that saddle; even though it was \$75, which was all the money in the world at that time. It was probably equivalent to whatever a saddle would cost today. I never did get it. We left the farm when I was a mid-teenager, and I never rode in a saddle until some years later when a boyfriend took me out riding. God, was I ever stiff the next day! Been off the farm too long—but I never lost my

love of horses. I always loved animals, in particular horses and cats.

This reminiscing came about because of a project I've been working on recently. In between jobs in the office, I've been cataloging and updating our Willmore Foundation's library. We have a few books about horses; not just about famous ones, but people's stories of their connection with their particular animals; however, we don't have enough of those stories.

This gave me a great idea that perhaps our readers would share some of their stories about their special animals, be they horses or maybe dogs on the trail; or of such incidences they may have had. I, for one, would certainly enjoy reading those stories.

So, here is an invitation for you to tell us about your adventures, encounters or experiences with horses or other animals. We would love to share it with our entire readership in the next Newsletter. You don't have to be a "writer" to tell your story, and we would show you the transcript before we printed it. We would certainly welcome your input. There has to be a lot of stories out there!

We will also be reprinting our first book *People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park: 1800s to mid-1900s*. It should be available shortly after the appearance of our *People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park: the Legacy Continues*.

I look forward to hearing from you!

A Descendant from the Fur Trade Joins the Willmore Foundation

by Edna Doire



Edna Doire December 2013
Photo by Susan Feddema-Leonard

Tansi, my name is Edna Doire. I'm from Susa Creek Co-op. I speak Cree and English, and I'm hoping to learn the Iroquois language. I'm a mother of four beautiful Métis children.

In 2012 I took a three month life-skills program. I did two work experiences, one at Native Counselling Services, which was a great experience, and one at the Willmore Wilderness Foundation. I was amazed to find out that Willmore Wilderness Foundation did professional picture framing with all the material and tools used to actually frame a picture. I was impressed!

After completing my life-skills, I told the life-skills coach that I was going to pursue my education. Willmore Wilderness Foundation took me on, for which I feel very fortunate. So I had a math tutor, and then I took classes to prepare for my GED test that is coming up in February 2014.

Back in May 2013, I went with Sue Feddema-Leonard and Stephen McDonald, who is a student, to do an interview with

Kelly Joachim at his home at Wanyandie Flats. It was awesome learning his story and past history. On our way out, we saw two dancing robins; and that was a cool sight to see. We also did two interviews here in the office. One was with Jane McDonald. I did some translating for Jane there. It was great to hear her story! We interviewed Joe Karakuntie; and again, it was very awesome going back in time and hearing his story.

Previously we did an interview with my Grandma Lucy Wanyandie, my mother Mabel Wanyandie and my Aunt Marie McDonald who is also Stephen McDonald's grandmother. I was wowed by that interview at my grandma's home in Susa Creek. My aunt Philomene Moberly, sister of Mabel and Marie came in and added to the interview. My 94-year old grandma was sick as she had a tumor in her stomach; so it was very important this interview was done! Marie pointed out that she always wanted a picture taken at the Moberly homestead in Jasper with her mother Lucy.

We made plans, and two days later we were on our way to Jasper; but plans don't always work out. My grandma had been in pain, so she couldn't make it, sad to say. My mother Mabel, my Auntie Marie (my godmother), Stephen, and I made the journey; and I got to bring my baby girl Mercedes (2 ½ years old). What a great, amazing, trip it was! My mother Mabel and Aunt Marie were interviewed at the cabin on the homestead of Ewan Moberly (my great-great-grandfather); and it was all captured on video. My mother indicated that she wished the people of Jasper would ask for forgiveness and hold a feast and round dance.

During the interview I noticed some people approaching us at the cabin. I didn't know them, but everyone else seemed to. It was my first time being at the Moberly Homestead. They were Sherrill Meropoulis and Greg Deagle, Jasper Park staff. We also met Mike (Wasuita) who owns the Pine Bungalows in Jasper and is

a very good friend of Stephen. Sherril and my mother spoke about the Round dance and feast, which is now in progress and expected to happen in May 2014. On our way out after the interview, we saw an eagle. It was all just an amazing event!

Sad to say my Aunt Marie McDonald passed away November 17, 2013. I miss her; and she will never be forgotten.

My grandmother Lucy (Moberly) Wanyandie was Cree. Her Moberly relatives were evicted from Jasper in 1909/1910. My grandmother, however, wasn't acknowledged as a Moberly. My grandmother Lucy Wanyandie passed away January 1, 2014. I was there with her with all my kids. We went to the hospital at noon. The kids gave her a kiss and told her that they loved her. I put holy water on her; as she used holy water often. I miss her; and she will never be forgotten.

My grandfather was Daniel Wanyandie. He spoke Cree but was of Iroquois descent. I found out that the Wanyandies were among the first families in the Rockies along with the Karakunties, Findlays, Loyers, Belcourts, Delormes, Joachims, and others.

I'm learning a lot at the Willmore Wilderness Foundation. I'm finding new things about the history of the people and my relations. I'm very lucky to work with such an awesome, encouraging team. Without my supportive colleagues, I would not have gotten the necessary interviews from my grandmother and other relatives. Now we have this information for future generations. We can make educational documentaries, allowing our Elders to speak with their own voices, sharing this history of the Alberta Rockies.

I'm looking forward to continue learning new things through further education. I also am excited about working here at the Willmore Wilderness Foundation. Thank You.

Mountain Horsemanship 2013

by Susan Feddema-Leonard

Photo courtesy of Jaeda Feddema

Pictured right:
Some Mountain Horsemanship participants
from left to right:
Jenn Houlihan, Kyle Leonard, Tom Wanyandie,
Clinton Unruh, Brianagh Meaney-Feller,
Larry Nelles, Lori McFayden, Riley Thiessen,
Lorne Thiessen, Bazil Leonard,
Susan Feddema-Leonard, Paul Dumont
and Fabienne Mooser-Kolly.

In the front are Payton Hallock
and Jaely Willow Moberly



The traditions of a mountain horseback culture are in jeopardy of being lost. Since its formation in 2002, the Willmore Wilderness Foundation has been focused on educating youth, or anyone else who wants to learn the traditional mountain skills. Bazil Leonard first started promoting the *Larry Nelles Clinics* in Grande Cache in 1996, after he recognized that we had to make changes in the way we were working with horses. Through the RADF grant, we were able to “up the game,” and since that time Larry Nelles has been teaching participants to start colts from horse to horse. This spring will mark nineteen years since Larry first came to Grande Cache.

This year Larry will teach horsemanship preparation as well as starting colts from horse to horse, right up to the finished horse. This clinic will educate people how to start young colts off of horseback. Old techniques that were used in ancient Greece in 350 BC are being resurrected and used today. Xenophon’s “*On Horsemanship*” is one of the oldest surviving Western works detailing the principles involved in training the horse in a manner that is non-abusive. Participants will be taught in Larry Nelles workshop on how to work horses in a mountain environment with no stress. This will help develop the mountain culture and traditions for our unique

backcountry industry. The Willmore Wilderness Foundation invests a lot of energy in educating others to keep the old trail skills alive for future generations. Remember, **in riding horses we borrow freedom.**

We encourage anyone to call Jenn Houlihan at 780-827-2696 to register for this year’s clinic, which will be held in late June. Camping is available on-site. We thank Alberta Municipal Affairs its support for this year’s Mountain Horsemanship Clinic.

THANKS
MD of Greenview
for supporting youth training



Grizzly Bear Survey Report 2013

by Jenn Houlihan & Bazil Leonard

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation started the Grizzly Bear Survey in 2008 to help study the range and distribution of the grizzly population in Alberta. We have run the survey for six years now. In 2013 we continued the survey with the support of Maurice Nadeau of A.M. Consulting; Wild Sheep Foundation: Alberta Chapter; Alberta Bowhunters Association, and the Willmore Wilderness Foundation. We were able to advertise full-page and full-colour ads for six months in the following magazines:

Alberta Bowhunter’s Association (ABA)
Alberta Trapper’s Association (ATA)
Alberta Fish & Game Association (AFGA)
Alberta Outdoorsmen Magazine.

Six years ago some scientists were reporting as few as thirty bears north of Highway 16. Our staff couldn’t believe this incredibly low count. In the Grande Cache area, grizzlies were live-trapped in the school yard at Susa Creek. The bears were becoming more brazen and were coming into many of the local outfitters’ camps. The Foundation decided to “take the bull by the horns” and conduct an annual survey.

Jenn Houlihan has spent the entire year worked on the Grizzly Bear Survey. She worked closely with Nathan Webb, Provincial Carnivore Specialist with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD). All of Jenn’s data was sent to Nathan and placed into the Provincial Database.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation collected 328 sightings from April 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013, which was a little higher than 2012’s 288 sightings. Jenn has collected a large image database which helps differentiate the reported grizzly bear sightings. There have been a lot of reports and pictures of twin and triplet cubs.

After six years of gathering traditional research and sightings, the Willmore Wilderness Foundation has decided to cease the Grizzly Bear Survey for the upcoming year. The Foundation has been able to determine that the grizzly population in Alberta is healthy and growing at a steady rate.

In June of 2010, the grizzly bear was designated a Threatened Species under Alberta’s Wildlife Act. We managed to prove that there is a substantial grizzly population in Alberta, and we feel a limited hunt could be held in some areas of the province. In fact, the bears seem to be dispersing into more southern and eastern regions.

We would like to thank our sponsors throughout the years for their ongoing support. We would like to thank all of the individuals who have sent in sightings over the last six years. Without your traditional sightings, the grizzly bear survey would not have been as successful.



Jenn Houlihan
Photo by Susan Feddema-Leonard

Thanks to

Maurice Nadeau & A.M. Consulting
Alberta Bowhunters Association
Wild Sheep Foundation: AB Chapter
Willmore Wilderness Foundation
for supporting the
2013 Grizzly Bear Survey

Thanks to

Alberta Multimedia
Development Fund (AMDF)
for supporting the documentary
Women of Willmore Wilderness

Thanks to ConocoPhillips
for supporting the
Grande Cache Gala



Alberta Rockies Adventures Marketing

by Laura Vinson, Chairman



Pictured above:
Laura Vinson
in the Netherlands
on the European Tour.

Photo courtesy of
Susan Feddema-Leonard



The Canada West Marketplace was a very interesting and rewarding experience. We weren't sure when Don Wilson of Travel Alberta approached us whether this was an event that would work for the Alberta Rockies Adventures (ARA) group. This is a trade show that features buyers—tourism agents—who represent tourism product from the sellers/operators such as us. We were afraid that we did not have the packages that would be of interest to them. We were told that those who would want to meet with us would not be those that we would want to do business with. It's a good thing we went and found out for ourselves how it really works.

We were overwhelmed by requests from the Buyers to meet with them. We only requested three meetings with Travel Alberta Reps from abroad, and we had to turn down many requests for meetings with Buyers. This is apparently very unusual, and we can only attribute it to the unique product we are offering and the great website that twiggged the Buyers' interest.

At a workshop we were told that authentic and experiential tourism is now what people want, and that is what our operators offer. The ARA operators have all been operating in the area for many years, know the country, history, culture, and stories and can give exciting hands-on experiences such as pack trips. This seems to be the flavour of the day in tourism, so we were well received at the Marketplace.

We met with many Buyers and were encouraged by their responses

to our tourism product. We also got a valuable insight into how tour group operators sell to the public. We were told not to expect much from our first year of meeting Buyers. It was said that relationships and trust had to be built up and that it would not be for another year or two that we would actually see any business generated; however, if we can believe the response we got at meetings, we may well be seeing some results this coming summer. The Buyers are willing to contact our operators directly and did not expect us to act as a representative, which is the only way it can work for us. It was a relief to know they could do business this way, as it will work well for the operators in the ARA group.

Some of our best contacts for horse-back trips will likely be from eastern Canada and BC, but we may see some interest from Germany as well. These areas as well as Asia were interested in accommodations and wilderness locations. It was surprising to get a very excited response from Koreans who would like to hunt Black Bear. We will now follow up with the Buyers and see if they need more information and make sure they don't forget about us!

We hope that we will be hearing from our operators in the near future, that they have been contacted and will be increasing their summer's business from this marketing opportunity.

For information got to:
AlbertaRockiesAdventures.com.

The Spirit Sings Tour - Netherlands

by Laura Vinson, Chairman

Our second Spirit Sings tour of the Netherlands with the Spirit Sings Production had a rough start. We call it the little tour that could!

We lost our bass player, Fred LaRose, to cancer a few months before the tour and dedicated the new CD, "Warrior" to his memory. We were lucky to get Pat Braden from Yellowknife who did a great job on bass and Chapman Stick. Karen Donaldson Shepard our violin player and Maria Dunn on accordion, guitar and whistle did a remarkable job in taking over the harmonies while playing their own parts beautifully.

Our band leader (and my husband), David Martineau had to have open-heart surgery the week before we left and is recovering well. We were fortunate that our friend, Rob VanDuran was available in Holland, and he did a wonderful job playing pedal steel, lead guitar and dobro.

Then our piper, Harold Burden who really started this thing, had a heart attack two days before departure. Once again Eric Vermeulen, our manager came through and found us another piper who did an excellent job learning the pipe parts in just two days.

We also had to replace one of our dancers because of rescheduled surgery. Elija Wells did a very credible job as a novice with great coaching from Shawnrae Gabriel who was a great new addition to the show with his dancing and singing. Jessica McMann did a marvelous job of covering all the female dancer parts when our other dancer had to drop out for school reasons.

Bela Martineau had never before played cello professionally with a band, but pulled it off like a pro and sang like an angel.

Paul Martineau, our drummer was rock solid and really kept us all together as band leader and volunteer social convenor.

It was difficult leaving my ailing husband at home, but the show must go on, as they say. If it had not been for the dedication and talent of these performers, I could not have done a presentable job myself.

I can't say enough about how great the performers were in helping, supporting and covering for each other under difficult circumstances. We all enjoyed working together and everyone was very positive and enthusiastic.

The shows went really well with standing ovations after every one. There were wonderful comments from the audience members after the round dance at the meet-and-greet. It was humbling to see how grateful the crowd was to learn about native culture. People loved the pageantry, the stories, the history, the cultural lessons, and the music. They enjoyed learning the round dance and dancing with all performers. It felt like ending the shows as one big happy family. The audience was very supportive in purchasing product such as CDs and crafts.

Susan Feddema-Leonard (my roomie and major support) was successful in getting very good footage for the upcoming documentary, "Daughter of the Fur Trade". This is a

film about my career as an aboriginal person telling the story of our historical and cultural development.

We also exceeded our goals in our partnership with Travel Alberta in promoting tourism for our area and our Alberta Rockies Adventures group. Brochures were given out at every show, and we were able to talk to people about the wonderful tourist opportunities there are here. But the wonderful thing that happened in addition was we were able to leave our banner and brochures with a Netherlands establishment, the Mondani Restaurant, which specializes in Canadian food on a permanent basis. Many thanks to Yvonne and Barry of Mondani Restaurant for that wonderful opportunity.

It was bitter-sweet when we had to say goodbye to our "drivers," (managers and dear friends) Eric Vermeulen and Diago VanGent and head back to Canada, but I was anxious to get home to my recovering husband. As usual we left Holland with fond memories and hopes of going back again.

**Thanks to
Alberta Municipal Affairs
for their
ongoing support
in enabling the Foundation
to be stewards of
Willmore Wilderness Park
aka
Improvement District #25**

Humour along the Continental Divide in 1942

by Ishbel (Hargreaves) Cochrane

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation published *Women of Willmore Wilderness* in the spring of 2013. The publication follows the lead of historic women who challenged the traditions of the day, blazing trails into a man's world. The book shares the stories of riding the Rockies through time. It shares the tales of women past and present as they reveal how their experiences in mountain culture deeply inspired them. 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' works on trails rarely travelled.

The following is an excerpt from Ishbel (Hargreaves) Cochrane's 1942 Chapter. I really laughed until I had stitches in my side when I first read Ishbel's account of travelling in some of the most rugged parts of the Canadian Rockies. We have reprinted this short excerpt for your enjoyment. Call the Willmore Wilderness Foundation office if you haven't already ordered your copy of *Women of Willmore Wilderness*. Susan Feddema-Leonard

Thursday, October 1, 1942 Move over Big Shale to a camp (Curly) Phillips Creek now called Pauline Creek

It might not have rained much yesterday, but it sure rained last night. I went to bed at 10:30 p.m. A half hour later, I felt a big drop of rain on my head. I got up and moved my bed as far away from the side of the tent as I could, then went back to sleep. At midnight Anne arose and moved the lunches away from the canvas walls and fussed around. The part of my shirt, which was under my pillow, was wet when I woke up this morning. Sadly there would be no stopover at McDonald's as we were to go over Big Shale Mountain, possibly in a snowstorm. We'll get to that later.

Today and yesterday Diamond ran loose in the pack string. He was running on three legs limping and wouldn't stay behind. The first six packhorses were the ones that included Diamond's friend, so he tried to keep up with them. Murray rode Music, as she was much better now; however, it was still hard for her to lift her foot out of mud.

McDonald's Meadows was made up of dozens of muskegs surrounded by timber. We went along a bunch of the muskegs and then along the side of a mountain. I kept looking for Big Shale Mountain as we were going along. Chuck had said that Big Shale was a long ridge, and I saw several, but we passed them. I

looked at one and spitefully thought to myself, "I suppose we'll have to go over the top of that." Yeah, I was right.

We went down a hill, crossed a little creek and then started up. You could ride up it, but we chose to walk at first. Anne was behind—all by herself. When she caught up, we had a tow system worked out. Murray went ahead on foot to chase the packhorses, so Anne held on to Music's tail, and I hung on to Peggy's. Anne was afraid that her horse Kate probably wouldn't be very happy to pull her, so she opted to use Murray's horse instead. It was raining a little but not very hard. Pretty soon it started to hail, and as we achieved higher altitudes, the wind blew—and blew—and then some. We were so hot from walking that we didn't mind it very much, except for the sleet stinging our faces. We got behind the outfit once, and Music trotted to catch up, losing Anne and me for a while, so we had to hoof it on our own. We went right over the top of Big Shale Mountain and started down the other side when something happened to the visibility of the area. The fog and snow were pretty thick, but we found the trail at the bottom of the mountain, after wandering down among bluffs and snowflakes.

We had experienced Big Shale Mountain in a snowstorm—and just the way we thought it would be. At the foot of Shale, we crossed a branch of the Jackpine River and started up Little Shale

Mountain. This wasn't a very long pull, but it was steep, muddy, rocky and 'rooty'. I rode most of the way up, as I was tired, having just walked all over Big Shale.

We came part way down Little Shale and then camped (*Pauline Creek*). I walked into camp, stumbled and then fell onto my hands and knees. Lots of things went wrong, and it was a bad night, as it continued raining while we were pitching our tents. The fire wouldn't burn, and it kept right on pouring—and to make matters worse, we arrived in a messy campground.

Anne and I cleaned nine chickens that we had shot through the head with my trusty twenty-two, then the boys unpacked. We really had a feed of the wild chickens, and did they ever taste good. It was the first good meal I had of them since last fall.

I had to laugh at Albert Tyler, though. Dad, who had come ahead with the dudes, asked me, "How did you like Shale Mountain, in a snowstorm?" I replied, "I liked it fine." Then Albert piped up, "If you ask me, Roy she's damned easily pleased." Albert had sore lips from sleeping on the mountain in the sun, and now a hailstorm added to his list of experiences. Albert Tyler was wet and cold, and he sure sounded funny with his comments.

... continued on page 17



Pictured left:
Ishbel (Hargreaves) Cochrane
courtesy of Ishbel Cochrane

Learn about the most remote regions of Willmore Wilderness Park and the Continental Divide trails in the Publication *Women of Willmore Wilderness*.

Ishbel's 1942 to 1946 journal and photos clearly detail the trail networks, game, hunts, weather systems, and the stories of hunters from days gone by—including Jack O'Connor, the legendary writer for *Outdoor Life* magazine.

Friday, October 2, 1942 Jackpine Island Camp

We were off to the Jackpine Islands today. We went down the rest of Little Shale Mountain and started traveling through the muskegs at the base of it. I managed to get through the soft, muskeggy ground all right by riding behind and watching the other horses. A couple of the horses had floundered a bit, but nothing very exciting happened. Kate seemed to have had a drop in weight, as every time I rode down a steep hill, her saddle just about slipped over her head.

I walked most of the time, and I didn't feel good. I just sat on my horse and ambled along. We crossed another branch of the Jackpine River (*Meadowland Creek*) and then hit the main branch, which we started to follow up towards the headwaters. On one side of the Jackpine River, there were sloughs; and along on the other side, there were soft, boggy muskegs. We rode in the sloughs for a while, then crossed over and rode in the muskegs—anyway; it all looked the same to me. After a while we came to some pretty Jackpine River country and ended up camping in a very nice spot. There was a small beach, and the tents were lined up along the river. It rained as usual.

We went to bed around 10:30 p.m., prepared for a good sleep; however, the

wind started to blow the tent at around 11:30 p.m. The canvas cook tent banged against the stove and knocked a pot over. Anne and I surveyed the wreck to see if it was worthwhile getting up. Just then another gust came, and the tent leaned on the stove. We crawled out of our warm beds and realized when we touched the roof of the tent that it had snowed! Anne went out to tighten the tent rope and tried to pull the canvas straight. She struggled along, and the men woke up and asked what was wrong. Luckily Murray came to our aid, but not without a struggle. The stake came out of the ground three times before it was finally secured. The stovepipe ended up falling down, but Murray fixed it—we hoped.

We went back to bed, and just as we were about to drop off to sleep, we heard a swish of snow falling off a tent. A few minutes later we heard an Indian war whoop, and Albert yelled, "Roy, what's wrong? Our tent fell down!" Soon we heard Murray shout, "Get up Chuck, its flatter 'n hell!" Anne and I were laughing. We couldn't get a good view of their predicament as the boys' tent was in the way; however, we heard all the details as described by Albert Tyler the next morning. He shared how the tent pole was out of centre to make room for a bed. The snow got heavy and weighted down the tent resulting in the centre pole falling on Paul Geer. To make matters

worse, Bill Morton found the stovepipe in his lap. Albert Tyler was lucky as he had a chair at the head of his bed, so the tent didn't fall on him. After much ado they got things straightened out.

I had a honey of a toothache to top off the night's fun. Anne and Murray hoisted up the cook tent as I sat on the pannier and held my head in my hands. Did that tooth ever ache?!!

Saturday, October 3, 1942 at the head of the Beaver River

Everybody was gay in the morning. There was less than an inch of white, but it was snowing off and on—and it was one heck of a day to have to move. We were out of bread, but the men decided to move anyway. I think the dudes were getting tired of the rain and bad weather.

Last night Murray asked me if I'd like to ride Music and use her as a tour horse over Jackpine Pass. We hadn't traveled more than five minutes from camp when Music's hind foot slipped off the bank. The old pack trail ran along the edge of the river. Despite slipping, Music tried to save herself; but I guess her sore foot wasn't strong enough. Anyway we went in the river, and the jacket I was wearing got caught over the saddle horn, and I had one heck of a time getting it off, but I managed. Music and I wallowed around in the Jackpine River for a while.

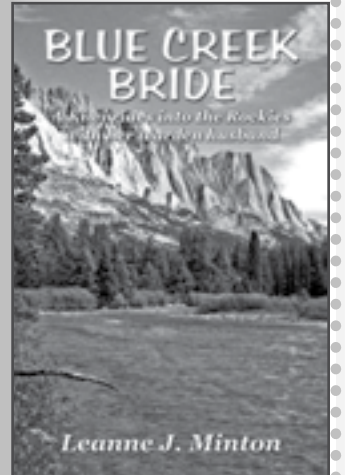
... continued on page 20

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2012

	2012 \$
ASSETS	
Current	
Cash	134,423.40
Accounts Receivable	7,221.25
Security Deposits	200.00
	<u>141,844.65</u>
Capital Assets	
Building	287,000.00
Equipment	11,802.32
Office Equipment	2,016.01
Camera, Video & Film Equipment	57,125.55
Computer	38,900.54
Furniture & Fixtures	12,535.12
Horses	0.00
	<u>409,379.54</u>
Less: Accumulated Amortization	<u>51,729.18</u>
	<u>357,650.36</u>
	<u>499,495.01</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	<u>41,560.79</u>
Long Term Liabilities	
ATB Mortgage Payable	<u>127,029.03</u>
	<u>168,589.82</u>
Equity	
Retained Earnings	<u>330,905.19</u>
	<u>499,495.01</u>

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

	2012 \$
REVENUE	
General Sales	50.00
Grants	462,558.00
Memberships	6,098.47
Book Sales	2,672.92
DVD Sales	1,295.00
Donations	100,874.14
Training & Clinics	720.00
Trail Clearing Contracts	6,400.00
Fundraising Proceeds	78,595.69
Rental Income	2,700.00
Interest	42.22
Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Assets	0.00
	<u>662,006.44</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Accounting & Consulting	0.00
Advertising & Promotion	6,113.42
Amortization	23,907.55
Donations	340.00
Fundraising Costs	49,233.79
Bank/Credit Card Charges & Fees	3,656.80
Insurance	660.00
License, Fees & Permits	300.25
Loan/Mortgage Interest	5,910.76
Supplies	4,235.80
Equipment & Trail Costs	0.00
Conventions, Banquets & Meetings	266.15
Training & Clinics	0.00
Office	8,534.81
Utilities	4,710.53
Property Taxes	7,108.91
Book & Film Production Costs	35.85
Telephone & Fax	2,217.70
Maintenance & Repairs	2,683.80
Building Renovations	12,013.95
Travel	474.36
Wages & Benefits	40,278.31
Sub-Contracts	0.00
RADF Project Costs	430,634.59
	<u>603,317.33</u>
EARNINGS (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS	<u>58,689.11</u>



Blue Creek Bride by Leanne Minton

Blue Creek Bride is the engaging account of a park warden's wife as she travels with him on horseback into the backcountry of the Canadian Rockies.

Contact:
Sheila Couture at
780-852-4949

Leanne Minton
leannecc_pearson@
hotmail.com

SOLD OUT

People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park: 1800s to mid-1900s

We have published a second printing

available at the Willmore Wilderness Foundation,

Call 1-780-827-2696 or 1-866-WILMORE or 1-866-945-6673

Debit, Visa, Mastercard, Interac cheque, cash.

www.WillmoreWilderness.com - www.PeopleandPeaks.com



Thanks Rural Alberta Development Fund for support



Humour along the Continetal Divide in 1942 - continued from page 17

by Ishbel (Hargreaves) Cochrane

Then I crawled out onto the bank while Music ran out in the middle of the river. It was just my luck that nobody saw the dreadful accident. Murray was the first to see his horse in the river and me crawling out. Murray grabbed Music, and Anne came back to help me while Dean Swift went on hazing the packhorses up the trail. Murray remembered which packhorse had my dunnage, so he got it for me. I was soaked right to my hide.

We unpacked the horse, and Murray went to sit on the trail until I was ready, while Anne helped me change my drenched clothing. You should have seen me standing beside the river in a snowstorm with bare legs! When I was ready, we called out for Murray, but he didn't come. So Anne and I packed the horse up by ourselves. It was the first time I'd ever thrown a diamond over caribou horns, which had been packed on top of my duffle earlier in the day. I managed to tie the diamond hitch, and we started up the trail. Murray hadn't heard us call and was wondering how anyone could take so long to change—even in a snowstorm.

We wheeled 'er to catch the outfit, and it wasn't long before we met Chuck coming back towards us, as darn old packhorse Kitty was lost again. Murray went back with Chuck while Anne and I caught up with the pack string. Finally, after what seemed a long time, we saw Chuck and Murray coming up behind the outfit. When they caught up, I realized that they were hurrying dear Kitty along by giving her the odd swat with their reins. I couldn't look back as I was pretty busy keeping Music away from the riverbank whenever I felt the trail was too close to suit me. Once I did get a glimpse of the men behind me and saw Chuck pick up his cowboy hat off the ground and then get back onto his horse, King.

Well I wasn't the only one with hard luck, as it was Chuck's turn when King stumbled on a log lying across the trail during all the excitement. Chuck glided

over the head of King into the mud—and the horse's face wasn't white anymore. If Chuck had sailed off the other side of his horse, he too would have been in the river, but he was lucky.

We rode up to the headwaters of the Jackpine River and were right under the glaciers where the water came from. Now I know why the river had been so cold when I took my Saturday bath.

It wasn't long before the pack train started climbing. We climbed up and up through snowy mud, then went along the top of the pass over a bunch of snow-covered rocks. We were above the glaciers and started to descend the pass. It sure was steep and muddy. We finally trailed down a long way and into camp. A grizzly bear had crossed the trail back and forth just above camp, so Paul Geer was hoping for a look at him. They walked around, but the grizzly must have been scared away by our wild outfit. There were lots of big trees in the campground, so it was decided that we would stay over a day as we had something strong to anchor the tents down with.

Sunday, October 4, 1942 - At the head of the Beaver River

Sunday was supposed to be the day of rest, but we made bread, pumpkin pies, a mince pie, shortbread, iced chocolate gems and chocolate fudge. Not bad, eh? We had run out of candy, so we thought we better make some.

This was B.C. (*at the head of the Beaver River now called Holmes River*). Personally, the country all looked the same to me—Alberta, B.C. and Jasper National Park. Each area with poorer horse trails than the last and steeper mountains to trail over.

Luckily, our horses stayed near camp all night. Chuck and Murray went out and counted them in the morning. Pretty soft wrangling I called it. They didn't get their coffee in the morning because the fire wouldn't burn, and the coffee wouldn't boil. The wood was just too wet.

When the hunters returned to camp, they had nothing to show for a day spent in the rainstorm, climbing up and sliding down muddy hills. We expected to go over Bess' shoulder in the morrow. I had heard a lot about how steep a descent it was.

Monday, October 5, 1942 To Mile 9 on the Smoky River

Well, we trailed over it, Bess' shoulder I mean, and it was quite a shoulder. We went up one heck of a long way, and I made Music pack me up—all the way up. Then we went downhill, but I chose to walk down. In fact, I'd much sooner walk down hills that were steep, than ride down. We even went over a waterfall in one place. Oh, it was a terrible ride, but it didn't bother me though. After falling in the Jackpine River once and the Smoky River once, nothing could terrify me anymore.

When we went down on the gravel bars at Bess Creek, we cut out Diamond leaving him with his sore leg. Diamond would head back to the 'Range' on his own and join up with the herd of Dad's horses that were grazing there.


We camped at Mile 9. This was our last camping night and our last evening in the bush. We made lunches for the last time and crawled into the eiderdowns for the last time.

Thursday, October 6, 1942 To Mt. Robson Ranch

Today we planned on going home. Before we left camp, I imagined that we would sail through the meadow near Mt. Robson Ranch, merrily yelling and singing, glad to be home. Then we would all eat in the dining room and talk over the highlights of the trip.

Dad went on ahead with the dudes, and we started on the trail at 9:45 a.m. with the packtrain of horses. The rain was just pouring down, which was a delightful last day—a glorious end to our trip. The farther we went, the colder it got and the more it rained. It was very

... continued on page 21



Women of Willmore Wilderness

shares interesting history
of women who have travelled
along the Continental Divide
of the Alberta Rockies
from 1915 to present.

To get a copy call 1-780-827-2696
or 1-866-WILMORE or
1-866-945-6673
or email Jenn@WillmoreWilderness.com

windy when we hit the end of Berg Lake. The sleety rain drove into our faces and just about blew us off our horses. Was I ever cold! My raincoat was ruined, the zipper was wrecked, and one side was just about ripped off. Anne and I stopped and had tea at Mickey McGuire's Warden Cabin. The dudes had just finished their lunch at Mickey's, so Anne and I decided to take a break from the harsh weather and stop to finish up the tea. We caught up to the outfit before they got to Berg Lake Chalet.

We left our flour and picked up a pack load of canned goods at Berg Lake Chalet. The Hargreaves Brothers had built the Chalet in the early 1920s. My dad had helped his brothers build the cabin, and my dad had used it since that time.

We left the cabin and rode along Berg Lake. When we arrived at the end of the lake, Dean Swift asked if Hilda was there; however, she wasn't. Dean was frustrated and said that Anne and I should have been the ones to get the horses whenever they strayed off the trail. Dean hadn't bothered to go into the brush after Hilda had left the trail. Anne and I thought he would have chased her out of the brush, but he had not seen her. Dean went back down the trail after her in a huff, and no one went with him.

It was extremely cold and windy, especially at Windy Point. The wind was really blowing around there. We hit the trail on toward Kinney Lake and were trailing towards Mt. Robson Ranch. Dean caught up with us at the top of the last hill at Kinney Lake, but without Hilda. He couldn't find her, so he came on and left her there with a pack on. Murray took Music and went back in search of the lost packhorse at the foot of the hill. I caught up to Chuck to tell him what had happened, and he turned back too. It was a quarter to five then.

Anne, Dean and I took the outfit in to Mt. Robson Ranch. Anne and I had contemplated lots of thoughts but didn't say a word to Dean all the way in. We got home about 6:15 p.m., just as it was getting dusk. We jerked the packs off the horses and went up to the house. There was no gay entry into the meadow, with us merrily yelling and singing, glad to be home. We had traveled eight and a half hours in cold rainy weather, and the pack horses were tired, and we were wet and mad. Dean said something at the barn, and I bawled him out. Honestly, it made me so mad to think that he would leave a packhorse when he knew that someone would have to go back the next day. Grr-grrr!

To make matters worse, the water wasn't running at Mt. Robson Ranch, so we could not have a bath.

Wednesday, October 7, 1942 At Mt. Robson Ranch

Albert Tyler, our photographer left this morning for home, as he was worried about his wife Edna. The others went hunting in the afternoon. Anne and I finally had our baths as the water started running again. Murray and Chuck came to the Ranch just before supper. They found the lost mare this morning, below Adolphus Meadows.

As luck would have it, the hunters got a black bear. Paul Geer's gun clicked three times, so old Morton shot—then they both shot. In the end old Morton claimed the bear. They would leave tomorrow, so the hunting trip ends today.

The total "tally" of our hunt was two sheep, two deer, two moose, two goats, three caribou, grizzly, black bear and coyote. As a whole, we had a swell time, lots of laughs, and I guess a little experience in trail cooking. And so—the end.

All my love, Bo - (Ishbel)

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

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 2500

© 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



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



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



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



[Twitter.com/ABRockies](https://twitter.com/ABRockies)



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



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

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, Interac and Cheques

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

From Willmore's Wild Camera

I came here for a job but I stayed for adventure.

In 1984, I lived out of my suitcase for the first eight months that I worked at the Grande Cache Mountaineer. Why unpack when my stay in Grande Cache was only temporary? After all, I was destined to be a big-city news photographer. The hard facts of life were lead weights in my swim trunks, however. If I wanted to move to a larger centre, I needed to pad my resume with meaningful experience. Fortunately, Grande Cache gave me ample opportunity to do that, more than most young journalists would ever be exposed to. And I began to suck it in.

I had a lifestyle like a National Geographic photographer. I was flown by helicopter into forest fires. I photographed biologists catching wolves for Yellowstone. The list goes on and on. I became an outdoor adventure addict. The promise of more thrills in the grand Rocky Mountains kept me in Grande Cache. I saw that jobs in Edmonton or Calgary would never scratch my itch.

Two years became five, five years stretched to ten and then ten to twenty. Becoming a father meant I could no longer work at the newspaper, and I signed on as a Correctional Officer, a job I really enjoy. But how was I going to fill my

lust for outdoor adventure? That's where the Willmore Wilderness Foundation came in. Sue, Basil and the good folk at the Foundation wanted to put my camera trapping and media background to use.

I was contracted to make a video of wild animals, and I was invited to join the team. Now, I also provide still photographs for the Willmore Foundation and its partners. I am going to help with layout of future historical books and even edit films. This involves learning new programs and skills.

At least once a week, I set out to check my camera traps. I trudge for kilometres to reach the cameras. All the way, I search for signs of quarry. Tracks in the snow, scrapes in the exposed duff can signal that an animal is frequenting the area. I get a huge thrill when I approach the sets. And that turns into outright joy when I replay footage of foraging martens, mischievous fox and even prowling cougars.

I'm getting better at it, and I would dare say the footage is pretty darn good for a beginner. Bigger things are coming as we set our sights on elusive critters like wolverine, caribou and grizzly bears. And soon the Foundation will be able to share these scenes almost as they unfold. Once the bugs are ironed out, Willmore followers



Arthur Veitch

Photo courtesy of Susan Feddema-Leonard

will be able to click and watch video clips of area wildlife. Keep checking the website for details.

Yup, the promise of outdoor adventure keeps me here. Thanks to the Foundation, I'll be able to share this joy with the public.

Arthur Veitch

Larry Nelles Youth Colt-Starting & Horsemanship Clinic

- June 2014; Fee is \$350/horse. Bring your colt or horse
- for information call 1-866-WILMORE or 1-780-827-2696
- www.WillmoreWilderness.com - www.PeopleandPeaks.com

AGM June 1, 2013 at 3 pm
at Smoky River Ranch
if it is good weather or
Willmore Foundation office
if it is raining.