

Willmore Wilderness Foundation

... a registered charitable foundation

2015 Annual Newsletter

Photo by Susan Feddema-Leonard - September 2014

Bazil Leonard and Kelsey Dozorec riding in Willmore Wilderness Park



Buy DVDs On Line

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

Wildie: 44:14 min - \$20.00

Rosie Award Nominee in 2013 by Alberta Film & Television

Women of Willmore Wilderness: 44:50 min - \$20.00

Rosie Award Nominee in 2014 by Alberta Film & Television

Ancestors Calling: 44:28 min - \$20.00

Go to SHOP at:

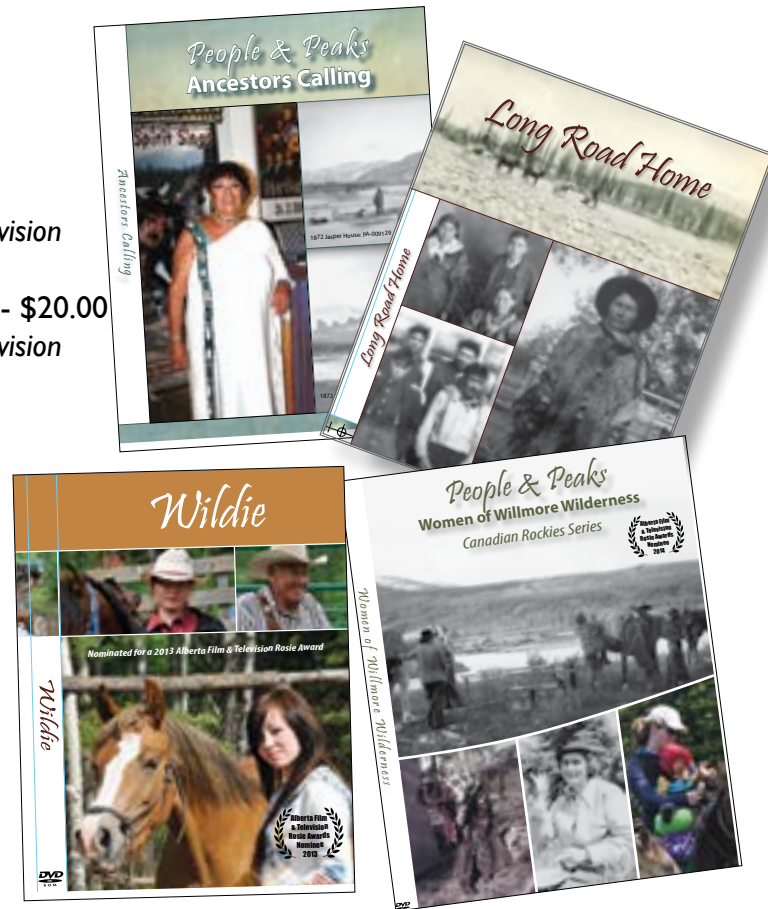
WillmoreWilderness.com

AlbertaRockiesAdventures.com

PayPal accepted

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

Box 93 Grande Cache, Alberta T0E 0Y0 Canada



President's Report by Basil Leonard

Another year has come and gone; yet I am happy to report that the Willmore Wilderness Foundation has made strides ahead in many areas. We launched our fourth book **"People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park: The Legacy Continues"** at the Alberta Outfitter's Association AGM banquet in Rocky Mountain House on March 2014. The publication has been well received and sales are going well. A big thanks goes out to Author Susan Feddema-Leonard and Editor Estella Cheverie. I feel that it is incredible that they have published over seventy chapters featuring mountain people. Their first person interviews showcase the unique culture, traditions and history of the Canadian Rockies.

The stories of the Canadian Rocky Mountain people are being showcased in film productions as well. People & Peaks Productions **Wildie** was aired on WildTv - Canada's Hunting and Fishing Tv Network, on March 8, 2014. **"Long Road Home"** was featured on Saturday June 7, 2014 and **Women of Willmore Wilderness** was broadcast on October 2 on WildTv. The Willmore Wilderness Foundation has a Broadcast Agreement with WildTv to air two more films that are in production including **Mountain Men** and **Mountain Mustang**.

Congratulations are in order to Producer Susan Feddema-Leonard, along with Composers/Writers Laura Vinson & Dave Martineau for two (2) nominations as Alberta Film and Television Rosie Awards Finalists for the documentary **"Women of Willmore Wilderness."** Susan was nominated for the Best Producer for a documentary (over 30 minutes), while Dave and Laura were nominated for the Best Original Musical Score (over 30 minutes). We were very proud of the accomplishments and look forward to next year's nominations.

People & Peak Productions has recently produced the documentary **"Ancestors Calling,"** which was premiered at the *Jasper Short Film and*

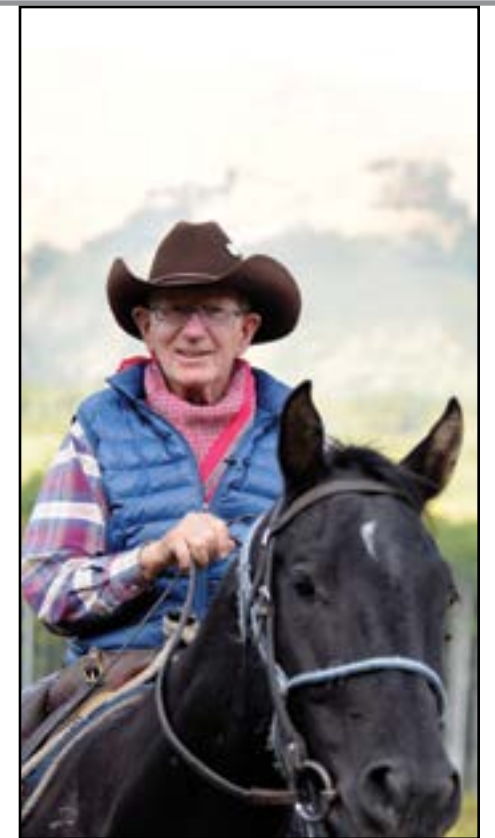
Media Arts Festival (JSFF) on September 27, 2014. **"Ancestors Calling"** shares the Rocky Mountain region's rich culture through the music and stories of award-winning musician Laura Vinson, a descendant of the early North West Company employee Louis Loyer. **"Ancestors Calling"** is touring with "The Best of JSFF," so we're excited that it was well received.

On April 5, 2014 the Willmore Wilderness Foundation held the Annual *Grande Cache Gala*. We held a live and silent auction as a fundraiser. The *Grande Cache Gala* was a successful event.

On April 22, 2014 my wife, Susan Feddema-Leonard and I attended the Alberta Outdoor Coalition (AOC) AGM held at the Alberta Trappers Association building in Westlock, Alberta. AOC member groups work in collaboration to ensure the continued respectful use, enhancement and enjoyment of Alberta's wilderness and natural areas for the benefit of all Albertans. We are proud to be part of this association under the leadership of President Maurice Nadeau.

Susan and I represented the Willmore Wilderness Foundation at a meeting with Alberta Parks Conservation Officers on May 12, 2014 to discuss the summer trail clearing initiatives. Willmore Wilderness Park Commercial Trail Riding (CTR) Operators were also in attendance at the meeting in Hinton, Alberta. Under the leadership of Alberta's new Premier Jim Prentice, the structure of Alberta Parks has changed. Willmore Wilderness Park is now managed under *Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD)*. The Willmore Wilderness Foundation looks forward to working with ESRD in the coming years.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation is working in collaboration with Municipal Affairs under the MSI Operational Funding program. The goal of the MSI funding is to restore and develop trails and



Basil Leonard:
Photo by Sue Feddema-Leonard 2014

Basil Leonard
at Kvass Flats
in September 2014
riding a
Quarter Horse colt he
called Moon.
It was a
Bryan Ellinson colt
that he started in a
Larry Nelles Clinic.

Inside This Edition

President's Report	3	Pete & Lois McMahon	15
Moccasin Telegraph	6	Memorial Clinic	17
Notes from the Editor	10	2013 Finances	18 & 19
2014 Trail Clearing Report	11	Dozorec's Diary	20
Willmore's Wild Camera	12	Hersch Neighbor	21
Jenn's Journal	13	Membership Online	22
Tribute to a Willmore Outfitting Family	14	Book Sales Online	23
		Alberta Rockies Adventures	24

February 2015
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

infrastructure of Willmore Wilderness Park. This initiative also supports the **Youth Mentoring and Trail Clearing Program**.

Trail crews were out and revitalizing the trails during the summer and fall of 2014. The Foundation has been focusing its efforts on the 2002 and 2009 burns in the Sheep Creek, Smoky River and Jackpine Valleys. A total of 127 km of trail were cleared in Improvement District #25, also known as Willmore Wilderness Park. 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. For more information refer to the Trail clearing Report outlined later in the 2015 Willmore Wilderness Foundation Newsletter.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation's AGM was held on June 1, 2014 at the Smoky River Ranch. After an informative and productive "outdoor" meeting, the participants enjoyed a great BBQ on a sunny afternoon/evening. The newly elected Board of Directors included President Bazil Leonard, Vice President Herb Schmidt, Secretary-Treasurer Shawna Nichols, and Directors Hank Cheverie, Ed Regnier, Emily Wanyandie-Bequette, and Gord Leonard. The Board of Directors is progressive and energetic. The new Board is the driving force behind the conventions and fundraising banquets that will be held in 2015.

I would encourage travellers to take time and visit the Grande Cache Tourism & Interpretive Centre. Willmore Wilderness Foundation books and DVD sales are doing extremely well from this venue. A 70-inch television screen displays the People & Peaks Production documentaries; and a beautiful log, display stand showcases the books, DVDs and Alberta Rockies Adventure brochures. The collective sales from various outlets bring in enough income monthly to make the mortgage payments on the Foundation's

4800-square-foot office building.

Alberta Rockies Adventures is a program spearheaded by the Willmore Wilderness Foundation. All member businesses operate in or around Willmore Wilderness Park.

Alberta Rockies Adventures represents the oldest tourism operators, lodges, Bed 'n Breakfasts, and outfitters in or adjacent to Willmore Wilderness Park. The businesses often have a personal connection to the history of the fur trade. Owners share their personal history and knowledge of the region offering a unique traditional and historic tourism that focuses on the history of our area in the Rockies that features accounts of how Canada's west was opened. For more information go to www.AlbertaRockiesAdventures.com.

We were busy with many trade shows and exhibitions promoting Alberta Rockies Adventures, as well as letting the public know about Alberta's best kept secret, which is Improvement District #25 or Willmore Wilderness Park. Laura Vinson and Dawn Woolsey attended the Edmonton Journal's Alberta Summer Travel Show in the spring of 2014. Susan Feddema-Leonard and Laura attended the Alberta Northern Rockies Tourism Alliance meetings throughout the year. Jenn Houlihan represented the Willmore Wilderness Foundation at Canada's Wild Outdoor Expo in Stony Plain, Alberta. Jenn also attended the Wild Sheep Foundation Show in Red Deer Alberta.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation hosted the **Larry Nelles Mountain Horsemanship Clinic** on June 22 to June 29, 2014 with Alberta Municipal Affairs Capital MSI Funding support. We were excited to have Master Horseman Larry Nelles back in Grande Cache for the 7-day clinic. It was a great learning experience for both the riders and horses. Many participants camped at Smoky River Ranch and enjoyed the breathtaking scenery of the Smoky River Valley. Fabienne

Mooser-Kolly, Susan Feddema-Leonard and Jenn Houlihan cooked nutritional meals and served delicious lunches and suppers to all those who attended the clinic. There was never a shortage of food. A special thanks goes out to Hank Cheverie for keeping the fires going and keeping the cooks stocked with firewood. Hank was a great asset on the team, arriving long before the cooks, to get the fires burning and wood bucked up.

On Day 2 of the clinic it rained late in the afternoon. We had a good time overall, and all participants made great progress. We decided to quit early and gathered around the cozy campfire to warm up. On Day 3 Larry gave an overview of his "TRAINING, TUNING & SHOWING" technique. On Day 4 there were more lessons in the round pen; and then the horses were readied for a short trail ride around the ranch. Day 5 was exciting as the newly started colts and riders were "tested" with a trail ride into Kvass Flats in Willmore Wilderness Park. Congratulations were in order on Day 6 for Payton Hallock (11 yr), Braiden Hallock (14 yr) and Martin Hallock (15 yr) who all rode their colts bareback. On Day-7 we all said goodbye after a good day's work in the round pen and a delicious supper. It was an end to an incredible week for both riders and horses.

It was with sadness that Hank Peterson from Rocky Mountain House, Ishbel (Hargreaves) Cochrane from Valemount and Peter McMahon from Sherwood Park rode over the Heavenly Divide in 2014, and we had to say goodbyes. It is coincidental that both Peter and Ishbel passed over at the same time. Both these trail hands loved Corral Creek and made the camp their home. Ishbel's father Roy Hargreaves, who built corrals during the 1940s to roundup his horses, named Corral Creek. Peter rebuilt the camp and corrals during the past two decades, and used the area to base his Bighorn sheep hunts out of. Pete's son Tyler McMahon, along with Peter's wife Lois McMahon will keep the outfit running.



We had a great clinic at Smoky River Ranch, AB. Our youngest colt rider was 11 years old and our oldest participant was 79 years old.

Thanks to all participants who supported this year's *Mountain Horsemanship Clinic*.

Back (lt to rt): Bazil Leonard, Paul Dumont, Tom Wanyandie, Riley Thiessen, Lorne Thiessen, Sean Elliott, Martin Hallock, Braiden Hallock,

Charlene Hagman, Betty Bellamy, Mimi Kelly, Reagan Kelly, Emily Wayandie and Jenn Houlihan,.

Bottom (lt to rt): Gunner, Mike Norton, Kyle Leonard, Payton Hallock holding Rosie Pup, Susan Feddema-Leonard,

Fabienne Mooser-Kolly, Katie Cull, Logan Vinson,

Missing: Gord Leonard, Jim Bruhm and Jaeda Mae Feddema. Right is our mascot Jaely Willow Moberly, Jaeda's daughter.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation will be hosting a 7-day **Peter McMahon Memorial Horsemanship Clinic**, honouring Pete on June 25 to July 1, 2015. Pete McMahon introduced Susan and me to Larry Nelles in 1996, after which she organized the first colt clinic in Grande Cache. Without Pete's introduction, we would have had a hard time maintaining the horsemanship traditions that many of us enjoy today. We have secured Larry Nelles for the 7-day clinic and the dates are locked in place.

The **Peter McMahon Memorial Horsemanship Clinic** will be "first come, first served," and will only accept 16 participants. Please note that this event is booking up fast. Larry Nelles has especially requested that **Lois McMahon**, Peter's widow be contracted

as the **Official Clinic Cook**. Lois is famous for her homemade cinnamon buns and home cooked meals.

Last but not least, I personally want to congratulate our MLA Honourable Robin Campbell on his new positions as the *President of Alberta Treasury Board*, and the *Minister of Finance*. Honourable Campbell has been a great ambassador for our region, and it is great to see him being honoured with such prestigious positions.

I also want to congratulate Yellowhead's new Member of Parliament Jim Eglinski. I feel that Jim will be a great ambassador for this region. Remember to mark your calendar for the next AGM to be held at Smoky River Ranch on Sunday May 31, 2014 at 2 pm. Hope to see you there. In the event of rain, the AGM will be held at the Willmore Wilderness

Foundation office at 4600 Pine Plaza, Grande Cache. I wish everyone a great 2015.

Happy Trails
Bazil Leonard, President

The Moccasin Telegraph by Susan Feddema-Leonard



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

Travelling by horseback into the Rocky Mountain wilderness with Tom Wanyandie, a Cree Aboriginal elder is like travelling back in time. This summer, the 83-year-old native joined the Willmore Wilderness Foundation on a trail clearing expedition deep into Willmore Wilderness Park. His 18-year-old grandson Dale Belcourt, who was being taught the “ropes” of the trail, accompanied him. Outfitter Basil Leonard and his 22-year-old son Logan Leonard were also on the trek; along with camp cooks Kelsey Dozorec and Fabienne Mooser-Kolly. I tagged along as a cinematographer documenting the journey for an up-coming film. Mayhem broke out on day ten of the 21-day adventure—the night a hungry little porcupine waddled into our camp.

Basil and I had been travelling with Tom for over a quarter of a century. He had a colourful family history. He was almost 40 years old when the New Town of Grande Cache was first constructed in the Canadian Rockies in 1969. He was one of the last people, who lived a traditional lifestyle, to be assimilated into modern civilization. Tom’s third great-grandfather, Ignace Wanyandie had come into the Athabasca Valley in 1806 when the North West Company hired the first voyageurs. Ignace was a Mohawk from the Iroquois Confederacy and was always referred to as an Iroquois.

An excerpt from a document in the Provincial Archives of Alberta reveals some of the historic stories of the Rockies. At the end of the eighteenth century (*circa 1800*), three Iroquois came to what is now known as Alberta. These three, Louis and Ignace Karakwante and Ignace Wanyandie came from the Indian Village of *Caughnawaga*, nine miles east of Montreal, Quebec. They followed the customary water route from Montreal to Fort Garry, now known as Winnipeg, Manitoba. At this point they joined Joseph Belcourt and continued west by way of Cumberland

House, up the Churchill River to Beaver River, to Lac La Biche. From there they portaged to the forest of the Athabasca.¹

In the Athabasca the three Iroquois took wives of the Sekanaise tribe of the Montagnais Nation. Roaming the country, they did much of the early exploring of the Rocky Mountains and its passes and of Lesser and Greater Slave Lakes. They were reported to have gone down the Mackenzie River and to Great Bear Lake. Later they were the guides of Alexander Mackenzie, David Thompson, Cheadle, and others. These Iroquois are unrecognized, unsung heroes of the fur trade.²

The North West Company records also show that Ignace Wanyandie’s co-workers and voyageurs in the Athabasca District, as early as 1806, included Pierre Delorme and Jacques L’Hirondelle. Others who followed later included mixed blood characters like Jacco Findlay, James Findlay, Charles Loyer, and Louis Loyer, to name a few. The language of these men was French and their faith was Catholic.

Ignace Wanyandie was married to Marie (*Sekanaise*) Walker who was of mixed blood, and was the daughter of his fur trade factor boss. Their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren continued to thrive in the Athabasca Valley for the next 100 years. Ignace had a son named Jean Baptist, whose son Vincent (Basa) Wanyandie was born in Jasper House in 1859. Historians often refer to this man as Vincent Wanyandie; however, Tom and his relations refers to his grandfather as Basa.

Basa grew up during the second half of the 1800s in the beautiful Athabasca River Valley, riding horses, hunting, trapping and fishing. He proved himself a skilled hunter and was hired by the Hudson’s Bay

¹ Alberta Provincial Archives:
Accession No 71.185

² Idem (*same as previously mentioned*)
... continued on page 7

Company to harvest game for the families living in the Jasper area. Official Scrip records of 1900 show that Basa would often travel to the Smoky River area where game was plentiful, and bring back enough meat for the residents of the Athabasca Valley.

The 1872 Jasper Census gives us a good idea of who was living in the Upper Athabasca River region during Basa’s lifetime. Records show that 14 Shuswap men, 14 Shuswap women and 40 Shuswap children were residing in the area. There were also 30 French half-breed men, 30 French half-breed women and 150 French half-breed children. It is of interest to note that there were no English half-breeds and no Whites noted, with a total population of 281 people. Jasper was a thriving town.

By the 1880s *times were a-changin’* in the valley; and the railroad surveys began in earnest, bringing new surveyors, packers and outfitters. The original native families who had served the fur trade, for the previous hundred years, continued to live on their home-place ranches, guiding the early survey parties into the deep recesses of the Canadian Rockies.

In 1906 the Canadian Government completed another census in the Athabasca district. This record revealed the names, ages, sex, and amount of livestock that each household owned. These families included those of John Findlay, Albert Gauthier, Angelica Tappe, Louis Karakuntie, Adam Cardinal, Martin Joachim, Adam Joachim, Isadore Findlay, Ewan Moberly, Bill Moberly, John Moberly, Adolphus Moberly, and Lewis Swift; along with Henry Kenney and Kenny Kenney, a family about which Tom Wanyandie has often spoken.

Forty-eight-year-old Basa (Vincent) Wanyandie, his beautiful wife Isabella and five children were also on the 1906 Jasper census. The list included seventeen-year-old son Daniel Wanyandie, who was Tommy’s father. Basa was still living in the same location that his grandfather



had settled a hundred years before, near the present day Palisades, near Jasper. Basa reported owning eighteen head of horses— second largest herd in the Jasper Valley. Lewis Swift, Basa’s neighbour owned the biggest herd of twenty-four head of horses and one-milk cow.

New people were moving into the Athabasca Valley, and 1906 was a time of transition. There were many new names in the valley including that of Outfitter John Yates (26) and William Fetherstonhaugh (32) who was the head of the Grand Trunk Pacific Survey. Fetherstonhaugh Pass on the Continental Divide is named after this early surveyor.

It is interesting that Thomas A. Groat (20) was noted as a single and was listed as “an employee,” who was from Edmonton. Of the 194 names entered on the Census, 113 were newcomers to the community and were associated with the railroad survey. The other 81 entries were long-time descendants of the Canadian fur trade era.

One year after the Census, in 1907, the Canadian Government passed



Top: (lt to rt)
Jean Baptise and Ignace Wanyandie
Bottom: Marie (*Sekanaise*) Walker

Nona Foster created these images. They are composites of four generations of family likenesses based on facial structure. The clothing was based on archival journals, and the purchasing habits of these individuals. Records were kept by both the North West Company and the Hudson’s Bay Company.

... continued on page 8

The Moccasin Telegraph - con't

by Susan Feddema-Leonard

... continued from page 7

an Order in Council for the creation of Jasper Forest Park—imposing the evacuation of all the native and mixed blood families in the Athabasca Valley. Many of the long-time residents who had arrived during the fur trade era left Jasper compliantly, leaving six families who were determined to stay on their homesteads. By 1909 the federal government sealed the guns of those families, along with those of everyone else who lived in the Athabasca Valley. This action forced the fur trade descendants off their land, as they needed their guns to hunt for food. The only one who kept his homestead was Lewis Swift, a newcomer to Jasper in the 1890s, as he had his land deeded just before the government created the Park.

We can gain a glimpse into what the Athabasca Valley looked like through the eyes of old time trapper Shand Harvey. When he first arrived in Jasper in 1909, Shand stated:

“Families were scattered along the valley—faring well on farms. About a hundred of them lived in the comparative security of a crude, white-man’s type of civilization. The men were descended from canoe-men and snowshoe-men in the eastern forests (*of Canada*)—they were now horsemen and mountain climbers.”

Tom Wanyandie was descended from a long line of mountain men, and it was no surprise to us that he agreed to come on a 21-day trail-clearing trip at the tender age of 83 years. It was July 31, 2014, and we were on day six of the expedition. We had been clearing trail to the Jackpine River and were moving to a new camp. We arrived at the Jackpine cabin after a nine-hour ride. We were using the log building as our base camp to clear the trails along the Continental Divide. The winter snow had knocked the heater stovepipes down, forcing the big stove to completely topple over. We had set up a camp and had some cabin cleanup to do. There was wood to chop and stack; and we were all tired after

a long trip from Kvass Flats.

It didn’t take Tom long to notice that a porcupine had been chewing on the walls of the log building, and there were lots of fresh tracks and scat. He became very excited by the sign and announced out loud that we were going to have porcupine for dinner one night. One thing for sure was that Tommy loved porcupine meat.

I remember one trip in 2003 when we were clearing trail through the 2002 Smoky River burn, past Copenhagen Hill. I spotted a porcupine in a very tall spruce tree. I knew that Tom loved his porcupine and called out to him, pointing to the prickly varmint. “Too bad, Tom,” I said, “You forgot your gun.” Tom jumped off his horse and said, “No problem—I brought my chainsaw.”

Tom fired up his *Husqvarna* and proceeded to cut down the forty-foot pine tree. I stood looking in disbelief while Basil held Tom’s horse. Old Dan Hallock, Merlin and Curtis Hallock looked on in amazement. Tom ran and grabbed a big stick and went chasing after the porcupine, which was making a quick get-away after the tree came crashing to the ground. He found the poor critter and clubbed it to death. It wasn’t long before he was holding the dead porcupine by the foot, a delicacy that was going to be supper. Old Danny Boy and Tommy devoured this delicious meal and revelled in how good the meat tasted. Tom loved porcupine, and I knew he would be looking for the pesky critter that was chewing up the log cabin.

On day ten of this trip, Basil, Tom, Dale, and Logan were clearing trail on Basil Creek, the route that goes up to Morkill Pass. There were problems with muskegs, which were very soft and had to be re-routed. It seemed like some new springs were coming up out of the ground, which made the trail impassible. There was a second section of the trail that was in bad condition, and which also needed

more re-routing.

Basil had hoped to clear to the headwaters of Basil Creek; however, thunder and lightning brought the trail clearing effort to an abrupt halt. Tommy had always had a fear of thunder, so he jumped on his horse Tex and sped towards camp, leaving the others behind. The rest of the crew couldn’t catch Tom; and Basil was surprised because he never knew that Tex could travel so fast.

Tom was in camp well before the others. We had a great supper that Kelsey and Fabienne had prepared, and enjoyed a campfire before bedding down. We were all tucked into bed at 10 PM and were ready for a good night’s sleep.

The sound of gnawing woke Basil and me from a sound sleep at 11:30 PM. I could hear a chewing sound and thought it was my Border Collie Rosie. She was just a pup and chewed on anything she could get her teeth around. I yelled at her to stop, but the noise persisted.

Logan and Kelsey were awakened in the wall tent by the noise. Logan grabbed his cell phone so that he could use it as a flashlight. He told Kelsey that he thought it might be a porcupine chewing on the side of the cabin. Logan, wearing boxers, threw on a T-shirt. Kelsey followed him, chasing the little critter as it scuttled away as fast as it could. When they reached the back of the cabin, they ran into Basil who was in his long johns and big boots, holding a loaded .22. “Let’s go hunt a porcupine,” Baz said.

I ran out to tell Tom, Dale and Fabienne the news, but all three were standing by the campfire. Tom told me that he wasn’t going to leave the warmth of the fire. The four of us watched as the flashlights moved relentlessly through the woods. There was no way that Tom was going to encounter the sharp quills of a porcupine in the blackened night. He would



wait for the morning to hunt the creature.

The three brave souls tracked the animal in a hurried search. Logan spotted the porcupine, loaded the .22 and shot the varmint; but only wounded it. He reloaded! The porcupine was running fast, but Logan was able to put another shot into the critter, which slowed it down. The prickly creature disappeared momentarily, but Logan put the flashlight on top of the gun barrel so that he could see and shoot at the same time. They found the porcupine lying on its side. Logan looked at Kelsey and asked, “Do you want the last shot?” She looked at the porcupine, looked back at Logan and said “Give me the damn gun!” Kelsey aimed at the porcupine and asked where its head was. Logan pointed it out, and she made the final shot. The crew all came back to camp and decided to get the dead critter in the morning.

When Tom realized that the porcupine was dead, he didn’t want to wait for daylight. He left the warmth of the fire in hot pursuit. He was attired in tattered long johns and was accompanied by his grandson Dale who was wearing boxer shorts and a T-shirt. Kelsey and Logan had marked the trail with two sticks in an “X” formation, so that they could easily find the critter. Everyone tried to help Tom find



Top left: Tom Wanyandie gutting his porcupine at the creek.

Top right: “Tom’s Meat.”

Photo by Fabienne Mooser-Kolly

Tom was up at the crack of dawn and came into the cabin announcing that he was going to find his prized meat.

his porcupine, but they couldn’t see the twigs in the dark; so they abandoned the search until morning. The crew was tired and retreated to bed. There was no more chewing, and it became a very quiet night.

Tom was up at the crack of dawn and came into the cabin announcing that he was going to find his prized meat. He had no idea where the crossed sticks were, but he was bound and determined to find them. Baz knew roughly the location of the critter and knowing that Tom might have trouble finding the markers, he decided to go out and give him a hand. Finding the dead porcupine was no easy task, but Baz finally did locate the carcass 500 to 600 yards from camp

Tom was pretty happy now that he had hold of his favourite meat. He re-lit the big camp fire behind the cabin and began to sing off the quills. He scraped the carcass with a stick until there were no more signs of quills. Tom took the rodent down to the creek and quickly gutted it. He cut the carcass up into pieces and placed them on a green garbage bag to keep the meat clean.

Tom asked me for a big pot to boil his meat and asked me to make up a big batch of bannock. He told us that the

... continued on page 10

The Moccasin Telegraph - con't ... continued from page 9



porcupine meat would have to boil for two hours before it was ready to eat. He cooked a meal fit for a king.

Tom always said that porcupine was his number one meat. He delighted in eating the boiled delicacy with, bannock and salt. He headed to the back of the cabin with a full plate of food and sat relishing his dinner. I must admit that the other crew members didn't think that porcupine was the most delicious meal ever served. Everyone ate a morsel of the meat; and it was funny to watch the contorted expressions on their faces as they tried to swallow the implied treat.

Notes from the Editor's Desk

by Estella Cheverie



With regard to my search for animal stories in last year's Newsletter, I did not receive any prospective contacts or submissions. I did, however, run into a person last year at the Grande Cache Deathfest. She was among the vendors who came to town during our big annual event, an extreme racing event: the *Canadian Death Race*.

This vendor caught my eye because she was selling BOOKS—a foremost interest for me! Then when I saw that the books were about horses, I had to stop. The lady in question was the author—of even greater interest to me! I had never heard of this person and was delighted to talk with her, however briefly. Her name is Laurette-Lynn Link, and she lives in Wabamun, Alberta. She is an Albertan, born in Edmonton, and a true horse person.

Her book is called *Horseface: 50 Years with Horses and Our True Stories*. Her stories give a real appreciation of the connection between animals, in particular horses, and people. I am sure our horse-oriented readership will feel a kinship with this author. Ms. Link's character comes through as unpretentious yet reveals a comic sense of humour as she recounts her adventures and experiences. Her down-to-earth approach will resonate with you. Although from humble

In the end the dogs stole most of the carcass, as no one could bring themselves to eat it.

Working with Tom Wanyandie over the past quarter century has taught me many old ways. I am sure if tough times ever came, I would know how to hunt, clean, cook, and eat a porcupine. I am very grateful for having had the opportunities to travel with this mountain man, experiencing the historic traditions, culture and way of life from an authentic descendant of the Canadian fur trade. All in all, we cleared many miles of trail on that trip; I shot great film footage; and we all enjoyed an amazing expedition.

beginnings, she was led to a successful equestrian career.

I can't say more without exposing the whole story, but I highly recommend this book. You will have an adventure in exploration! At present, I eagerly look forward to the sequel to *Horseface*, which Ms. Link told me she plans to publish early this year. Inquiries for her books may be directed to:

Lynn Link
P.O. Box 1120
Wabamun, AB T0E 2K0
Phone: 780-892-2408

My previous invitation still stands to our Newsletter readership for stories of adventures, encounters or experiences with horses or other animals; so that we may share them with our entire readership. Also, I would welcome any suggestions of titles you feel might be of interest to us for our library.

I am pleased to say that in this past year we made a second printing of our first book *People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park: 1800s to mid-1900s*. We also published its sequel, *People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park: the Legacy Continues*.

Happy reading and best wishes to all for the coming year!

The 2014 Summer 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 Alberta Municipal Affairs for its contribution towards the 2014 trail clearing initiatives. We would also like to thank the MD of Greenview for its support over the years.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation spent forty days clearing trail in the western portion of Willmore Wilderness Park. Elder Tom Wanyandie and Basil Leonard, long-time outfitter, mentored the youth involved in the trail clearing initiatives.

A total of 127 km of trail were cleared in Improvement District #25 aka Willmore Wilderness Park in 2014. A lot of hard and dirty work was needed for restoration and development to keep the trails open and improve the infrastructure of Willmore Wilderness Park.

Some of the initiatives included:

Rehabilitation of the main Smoky River trail from the Sulphur Gates Staging Area to the Muddy Water River.

- 15 km of moderate clearing completed.

Clearing the Muddy Water to Boulder Creek Trail through the 2002 burn.

- 20 km of heavy clearing. Lots of downed burnt timber from the winter winds.

Restoration of Boulder Creek Trail to the confluence of the Jackpine River and Basil Creek.

- 20 km of moderate clearing completed.



Dale Belcourt and Logan Leonard were mentored by Basil Leonard and Tom Wanyandie.

These young men cleared many kilometers of trails during the summer of 2014.

The insert shows Logan replacing a sign that a grizzly bear tore down.

Restoration from the confluence of Basil Creek to Ptarmigan Lake through the 2009 burn.

- 12 km of heavy clearing through the burn to Pauline Creek with lots of downed burnt timber. Moderate clearing from Pauline Creek to Ptarmigan Lake.

Restoration from the mouth of Basil Creek to the avalanche area, which is the beginning of the tree line on the trail to Morkill Pass.

- 10 km of heavy clearing around the muskegs with a lot of downed timber.

Restoration from the mouth of Basil Creek on the south side of the Jackpine River to Fox Lake.

- 12 km of moderate clearing completed.

Restoration from the Muddy Water River to Sheep Creek Cabin.

- 28 km of moderate clearing completed.

Restoration from the mouth Sheep Creek Cabin to the mouth of Cote Creek through the 2009 burn.

- 10 km of heavy clearing with lots of downed burnt timber. Lots of cutting through very old burnt trees with large diameters.

After the 2014 Trail Clearing initiative was completed an early heavy snow came and flattened a lot of the trees over the trails that were just cleared. We managed to get out and clear to the Muddy Water River, but there will be lots of trail to restore next spring.

Estella Cheverie Aug 2014

Photo by Susan Feddema-Leonard

Pictured on top

83-year-old Tom Wanyandie

Summer 2014

Photo by Susan Feddema-Leonard

From Willmore's Wild Camera



Top left:
Laura Murdock and Arthur Veitch
Photo by Susan Feddema-Leonard
December 2014

Top right: Stellar's Jay
Photo by Arthur Veitch

'Charismatic mega fauna' is the high-falutin' term used by media, biologists and environmentalists to describe the critters that really grab the public's attention.

For example, a video documentary or magazine article on wildlife in the Willmore Wilderness Park would likely focus on the big, scary carnivores like grizzlies, wolves or cougars to grab and hold the viewers' interest. The filmmakers or writers want a big splash, so it's not likely that a Richardson's ground squirrel would be chosen as the focal point.

I've long known that photos of wild cougars, bears and such are far more attractive to most buyers, and good images of them illicit higher accolades than equally good shots of less "sexy" beasts like hares or muskrats. To get these images, I've sought the advice of experts to either bring the animals closer to my cameras or to get me closer to the critters. I've pestered mountain lion biologists foolish enough to publish toll free numbers about

how cats utilize kills. I have quizzed local Fish & Wildlife officers about grizzly bear movements in the spring. And I've listened to the stories from area trappers about the antics of wolverines. It all paid off, and I've gotten pretty darn good at getting the money shots of these 'charismatic mega fauna.'

Working with Sue and the rest of the People and Peaks crew has shown that I need to broaden my scope and include the smaller, less charismatic beasts. Footage of beavers, muskrats and song birds could really brighten the "B" Roll of future documentaries.

I'm going to dedicate a camera set to these smaller creatures, and I'm looking for help because I don't know much about things that don't have big fangs. I want to first focus on birds, everything from starlings to owls. I am calling on wilderness enthusiasts for any tips on how to lure these little guys to a camera (in a wild setting, not a back yard). Call Jennifer at the Willmore to leave your name and number and I'll pick your brain.

Jenn's Journal

by Jenn Houlihan

On July 24, 2014 I travelled to Stony Plain, Alberta to attend Wild TV's Wild Outdoor Expo. Brandon Smith, my fiancé, was to be my travel companion, but his job as a Vac Truck Operator had other plans for him. He dropped me off in Stony Plain where we unloaded the PT cruiser and set up the booth with books, DVDs, newsletters, brochures, business cards, and pictures. After we set up, it was time for Brandon to head back to Grande Cache for work the next day.

At the Expo I was surprised how many people had heard of me. At the Willmore Wilderness Foundation I do a lot of behind the scenes work and am less mentioned in any of the documentaries, books, websites, or social media as the other members in the office. I was known the most for starring in *Wildie*. I am the nineteen-year-old girl struggling to find more about her family history while maintaining a trusting bond with a magnificent wonder, Mildred. People asked me a lot of questions about starting Mildred (*My Wildie*). How long did it take? How did I learn? If she bucked or didn't buck. Did I still have her? Yes, Mildred is still in my life, and I do see her often.

I met a lot of interesting people at the Expo, who are supportive of the goals of the Willmore Wilderness Foundation. With the release of our new book *People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park: The Legacy Continues* and documentaries in the filming stages, we received much positive feedback from hunters, fishermen, outfitters, and business people. It seemed everyone at the Expo bought a film or book, or just stopped by to grab a newsletter or brochure. Susan and Bazil were in the



Jenn Houlihan
Photo by Susan Feddema-Leonard

Willmore Wilderness Park clearing trail at this point in the summer, so that was a hot topic at the Expo.

I had the pleasure of meeting Ryan Kohler, Vice President of Wild TV and host of *The Edge* when he came to our booth for a chat. Ryan had just purchased an outfit in the Willmore Wilderness Park and had many questions about the area, weather systems and habitats.

Later on, Helgie Eymundson stopped by the booth for a visit to make sure I was going to the vendor mixer later on Saturday evening. I assured him I would, along with my two friends Kaleb Gilchrist and Brandon Huff. I had two extra wrist bands because of my sudden change of plans. It was better that the passes be used rather than thrown away. At the mixer I saw many people I knew from other organizations through my work.

The Expo was a great opportunity to showcase our work to friends

and family, not just of the Willmore Wilderness Foundation, but of the people I personally know. Brandon's Uncle, Tom Smith from Edmonton, originally Fairview, came to meet me at the booth and proved to be quite the socializer. After being at the booth by myself the day before, it was refreshing to have someone to talk to and to help me when the line started exceeding my skills.

I plan to attend next year's Expo with my co-worker, Kelsey Dozorec. We agreed to make a girls' trip out of it. We are both women who love nothing more than spending the day in the wilderness exploring. Our favourite colour is camouflage, and our favorite perfume is campfire. The weekend was a great success for the Willmore Wilderness Foundation.

Tribute to a Willmore Outfitting Family

by Susan Feddema Leonard



Publisher's Note:

Bazil Leonard and I first met Pete McMahon at the Sulphur Gates Trail Head to Willmore Wilderness Park. We developed a life-long friendship with Pete and his family. Tyler was about 12 years old at the time and talked as much then as he does now. He always wore an old felt hat and worn cowboy boots.

Peter was the first person to introduce me to Master Horseman Larry Nelles back in the fall of 1995. He was exuberant in telling me that this new trainer, Larry Nelles, was like magic starting young colts. I was intrigued by Pete's passion and brought Larry Nelles to Grande Cache in May of 1996. Larry's clinics over the past twenty years have gone a long way in strengthening the skills and abilities of our mountain horseback culture, which has existed in the Canadian Rockies for more than two hundred years.

Bazil and I were down in Arizona in December 2014 filming Larry for the up-coming movie called **Mountain Mustang**. Larry suggested that we dedicate the 2015-year Horsemanship Clinic, to Pete McMahon—thus the **Pete McMahon Memorial Clinic** was envisioned. We have asked Lois McMahon to cook for this event, as she was and still is the heart and soul of Sherwood Guide and Outfitters. Some even say she is the best cook in Willmore Wilderness Park. Larry has agreed to come for a seven-day colt-starting clinic on June 25 to July 1, 2015; so mark your calendars.

The following is an excerpt from Pete and Lois McMahon's interview published in *People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park: The Legacy Continues*. We thought it fitting to give Pete a chance to share his love of Willmore Wilderness Park with our readers. If you don't have a copy of the publication, be sure to order it online at <http://www.albertarockiesadventures.com/product-category/book/>

All the best in 2015!
Susan Feddema-Leonard

Interview of Lois and Pete McMahon

by Susan Feddema-Leonard in 2012

Pete Well, I started outfitting, I think in '72. I started taking bird hunters, and I had always wanted to hunt. What I really liked to hunt was elk, and I like to hunt in the mountains. So it was in 1978 that I came up here hunting elk, and I killed a fairly good elk with a friend. I was packing it out, and we ended up losing two horses; one of mine and one of my friend's. We were coming up every weekend looking for them, so I decided to bring Lois up one weekend. I put some stock racks on the truck in case we found the horses and phoned a friend of mine in Grande Cache by the name of crazy George McNeil. I said, "Can I borrow some horses to go look for the two I lost somewhere along the Smoky?" I had lost them at Davey Creek right at the edge of Findlay Flats.

George was more than happy to lend the horses and come along. So we met him at the Big Horn Cafe at 4:30 in the morning, as it used to open that early then. We had breakfast and headed down to his barn, which is just down from Grande Cache, and saddled up three horses. We rode all the way down the hill, across the Blue Bridge, and up the hill. We checked every trail—all the way to the Muddy Water. Any place there was a trail or a horse track, we rode in and followed it.

When we left in the morning, it was kind of drizzly rain. We had those old yellow rain suits, which in theory were good. Of course after a couple of hours we were wet, and the rain turned to snow. It kept snowing and drizzling, and the fog had descended into the Smoky Valley.

George and I would ride up so we could stop to take a leak, but of course Lois's horse didn't want to be left behind. So she'd trot up, and we would trot further up. She had never ridden more than a forty-five minute ride prior to that, but she was game for it. We rode all the way up to the Muddy Water River and back. We were riding back, and of course,

we just happened to have a bottle of 32-over-proof rum, which was George's favourite. He would stop every now and again and have a drink, and he'd offer me one. I would take a small one, and he'd offer Lois a sip and she would say, "No." Well, I knew maybe she'd had enough, when I saw her take a great big swallow of 32-over-proof rum, when we stopped at Eaton Creek. (Laugh)

Riding back in the snow, we hit the wire at Sulphur Gates and George said, "Well, do you want to ride down the highway and back up the hill to the Saddle Club the way we come—or we can cross the Smoky at the Sulphur Gates and ride right up to Grande Cache? It will only take us an hour."

Lois said, "I don't think I can ride another four-and-a-half hours."

There was a little ice floating down the river. It was late October when we crossed the Smoky. Lois was on a short horse, so we had a crash lesson on crossing the river. I told her to let her horse drink all he wanted and when he lifts his head, start him going across the river. I stressed that she should keep focused on the other shore, but Lois's horse was lagging behind and drifting downstream (laugh); and it's snowing; and she's wet. We crossed the river and went about two hours through these winding little trails before we hit the town of Grande Cache. I think we landed somewhere down about where the water treatment plant is. Then we went up through town and rode along the streets. All of a sudden, George reached over and opened a gate, and we cut through somebody's yard. He opened another gate and came out in somebody else's front yard. Pretty soon we showed up at George's house, and he tied the three horses to the swing set, and we went inside to warm up.

Sue How was that for you, Lois?

Lois All I remember is going across the Smoky, and he said, "If you don't go across that Smoky you have to go five miles to get around it." I thought, one way or another, I am going to die. (Laugh) We were on our way across and Pete yelled, "Don't turn around or you are going to drown." That river was really going fast. That was probably the worst part of that whole trip, I think, except when I got to the hotel. I was so stiff and sore, I thought I would never, ever do that again—but here I am many years later.

Pete Yup, it was over a year before I could get her to get on a horse, if it wasn't in the backyard or at her sister's farm. Anything that was more than a mile from the house was out of the question.

Joe Gienger found the two horses and called me a week later. My horses were ranging with his, so he caught them. Joe was living with Leola Moberly. They lived at Number One Mine Flats, also known as Joachim Enterprises, just north of the Blue Bridge on the Smoky River. I guess the horses left Davey Creek and grazed down towards Joe's and hooked up with his herd.

Sue I have been a long-time friend of Joe and Leola's, although they are not together today. I would have been around Grande Cache at that time. I certainly remember George McNeil and his brother Dan. You were running with some pretty interesting characters.

Pete George was a wild man, but he was always straight with me. He was in his element in the bush and dearly loved the Park. Beneath his rough exterior, I believe he was hiding a soft heart.

Sue Were you guys married then?

Pete Yeah, we were married. I think we had Brenda then...

... continued on page 16

Tribute to a Willmore Outfitting Family ... continued from page 15

by Susan Feddema Leoanrd

Lois Yeah, Brenda and Michelle.

Pete ...and Tyler was being planned. *(Laugh)*

Then I got Lois to go up on the Berland (1980). I took her on a little summer trip up the Berland and took my oldest daughter; and we had a better summer. I had a nice wall tent and a stove, and we met some other people when we were trail riding in there. Lois kind of thought, well this isn't all that bad.

In 1980 I started doing some trail rides with Grant MacEwan College. I got her to come out when I pulled camp. I had a pretty good girl cooking for us then—Linda Parisi. Linda loaded up the kitchen with food before she left and Lois came up. She brought our son Tyler in riding horseback. I remember

it was raining, and she had on one of them big yellow slickers, which was a big improvement from the last rain jacket she had. Tyler's head stuck out of the front of the slicker. He was sitting on the saddle in front of her and yelling instructions to all the horses—at three years old. I think we had fourteen horses tail-tied. We rode in and hung out there for a couple of days. I got camp all ready, then we pulled it and went home.

Lois has turned into a hell of a trail hand. I mean we used to do eight-day trail rides, with three different camps. Basically the agenda was we picked you up at the gate at noon and rode you into Adam's Creek. Day two we went on a day ride. Then the third day we moved up to Pope Thoreau, and day four we went on a day ride. The fifth day we moved you over to the North Berland, and day six we

went on a day ride. Then we rode back to Adam's Creek. That would be Saturday. We would ride back out Sunday morning and get to the gate at noon. I would say good-bye to those guests, pick up another set of guests and head back in. I would do that all summer long, and I think I used to take a maximum of eight guests. I took one hundred fifty-eight people on my best year.

We had no radio communication, so I would send a note home to Lois as she was looking after all the food and supplies. Everything had to be planned two weeks in advance. So if I needed it, I wasn't going to get it for a week from the time I ordered it. I would send a note with one set of guests. They would phone her, and she would ship it up with the set coming up a week later. It ran smooth, and we had a good time. Lois would take usually two weeks of her vacation and come out to camp.



Pete McMahon Memorial Clinic

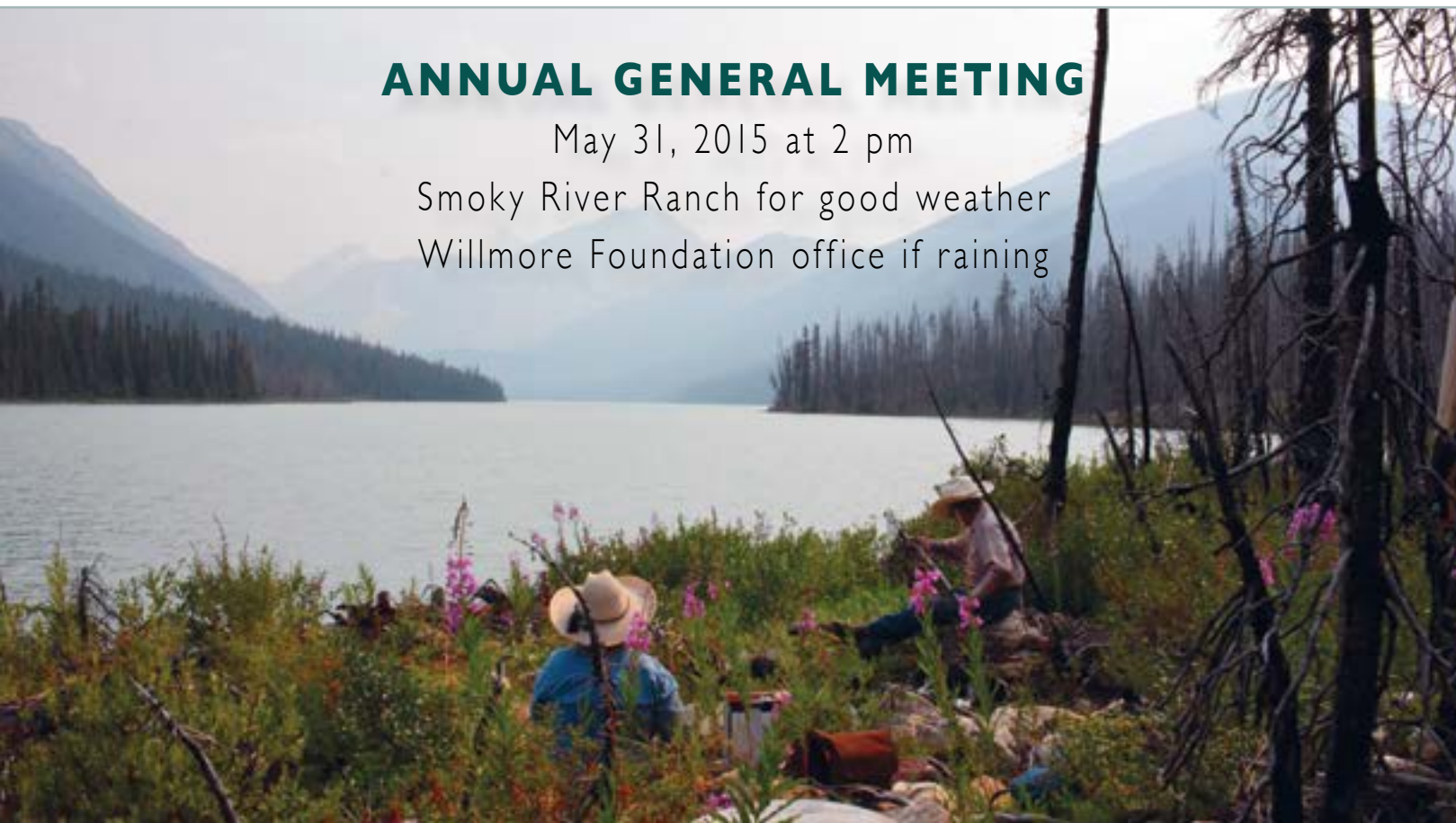
June 25 to July 1, 2015

Cooking by Willmore Wilderness' Awesome Cook Lois McMahon

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May 31, 2015 at 2 pm

Smoky River Ranch for good weather
Willmore Foundation office if raining



Date: Thursday June 25 to
Wednesday July 1, 2015

Place: Smoky River Ranch
15 kilometres north of
Grande Cache

Cost: Youth 18 and under - free
Adults \$350.00

Meals and camping included.

Limited number of
spaces are available for the
seven-day training.

Book early by calling
Jenn Houlihan at
780.827.2696

or email
info@WillmoreWilderness.com

Note: One colt per entry

No alcohol during
training sessions

Filming and photography
will take place.

WILLMORE WILDERNESS PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	0.00	134,423.40
Accounts Receivable	243,687.67	7,221.25
Security Deposits	200.00	200.00
	<u>243,887.67</u>	<u>141,844.65</u>
Capital Assets		
Building	287,000.00	287,000.00
Equipment	13,855.19	13,855.19
Office Equipment	2,468.15	2,468.15
Camera, Video & Film Equipment	64,371.22	57,125.55
Computer	38,900.54	38,900.54
Furniture & Fixtures	14,427.26	12,535.12
	<u>421,022.36</u>	<u>411,884.55</u>
Less: Accumulated Amortization	<u>74,804.53</u>	<u>54,234.19</u>
	<u>346,217.83</u>	<u>357,650.36</u>
	<u>590,105.50</u>	<u>499,495.01</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Bank Overdraft	4,794.64	0.00
Accounts Payable	<u>124,765.94</u>	<u>41,560.79</u>
	<u>129,560.58</u>	<u>41,560.79</u>
Long Term Liabilities		
ATB Mortgage Payable	<u>119,387.71</u>	<u>127,029.03</u>
	248,948.29	168,589.82
Equity		
Retained Earnings	<u>341,157.21</u>	<u>330,905.19</u>
	<u>590,105.50</u>	<u>499,495.01</u>

WILLMORE WILDERNESS PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
STATEMENT OF EARNINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
REVENUE		
General Sales	1,050.00	50.00
Grants	480,600.00	462,558.00
Memberships	3,499.00	6,098.47
Book Sales	25,308.94	2,672.92
DVD Sales	210.00	1,295.00
Donations	32,166.25	100,874.14
Training & Clinics	2,100.00	720.00
Trail Clearing Contracts	48,000.00	6,400.00
Fundraising Proceeds	9,416.09	78,595.69
Rental Income	0.00	2,700.00
Interest	46.28	42.22
	<u>602,396.56</u>	<u>662,006.44</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Accounting & Consulting	1,537.50	0.00
Advertising & Promotion	4,610.61	6,113.42
Amortization	20,570.34	23,907.55
Donations	0.00	340.00
Fundraising Costs	7,835.69	49,233.79
Bank/Credit Card Charges & Fees	2,235.87	3,656.80
Insurance	2,332.00	660.00
License, Fees & Permits	90.75	300.25
Loan/Mortgage Interest	5,558.68	5,910.76
Supplies	116.82	4,235.80
Conventions, Banquets & Meetings	291.41	266.15
Training & Clinics	373.00	0.00
Office	21,895.93	8,534.81
Utilities	3,934.53	4,710.53
Property Taxes	8,376.80	7,108.91
Book & Film Production Costs	0.00	35.85
Telephone & Fax	1,896.84	2,217.70
Maintenance & Repairs	369.40	2,683.80
Building Renovations	0.00	12,013.95
Travel	225.37	474.36
Wages & Benefits	81,283.88	40,278.31
Sub-Contracts/Consulting	3,000.00	0.00
RADF Project Costs	425,609.12	430,634.59
	<u>592,144.54</u>	<u>603,317.33</u>
EARNINGS (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS	<u>10,252.02</u>	<u>26,484.95</u>



ConocoPhillips
for supporting the
Larry Nelles Clinic
& the
Grande Cache Gala

Thanks to the Alberta Municipal Affairs for
Infrastructure Improvements to
Improvement District #25 aka Willmore Wilderness Park

Also thanks to MD of Greenview,
Alberta Multimedia Funding Agreement,
Travel Alberta: Cooperative Marketing Funding,
and Community Initiatives Program



Photo of Kelsey Dozorec
on her favourite horse Blaze
September 2014

Photo by Susan Feddema-Leonard

My first long
summer in
Willmore
Wilderness Park
will never be
forgotten.

Dozorec's Diary

by Kelsey Dozorec

My Summer in the Willmore

The word I would use to sum up my experience in the Willmore Wilderness Park this year is WOW!

This year has been filled with new memories and friends. Earlier this year, I met Logan Leonard, Susan and Basil's youngest child. We began to grow close, and he took me to the Willmore Park. It was my second time being in the park—as I had been on the grade six incentive hike. It was the first time I had been on a horse in ten years.

We decided to go out to Kvass Flats for the night. We saddled up and rode out.

Logan rode his horse Sulphur, and I rode Blaze. An hour and a half later we were riding through a giant meadow. The wind was blowing pretty hard and knocked off my cowgirl hat, scaring Blaze enough to hop around and start running. After getting Blaze to calm down and walk again, Logan looked at me and laughed saying "You must have been a professional horse rider in your past life. You handled that really well." I shook my head laughing, and we continued on to the Kvass cabin. That night we sat around a fire by our tent telling stories.

The next morning I awoke to a breathtaking sight: the meadow was still a little foggy, elk were grazing not even a hundred yards away, and the sun was rising. This place was paradise. We went to the cabin to eat breakfast and talk with Logan's parents who were out at the cabin as well. By the end of our breakfast, Logan and I had decided, that we wanted to try a trip out here. We were hired on as trail clearers for the twenty-one day trip to the Jackpine in July.

June came along with my graduation from Grande Cache Community High School, as well as the new additions to our lives, our puppies Rosie and Lucy. Soon enough it was time to go on our big adventure.

The first couple nights were spent in Kvass Flats preparing for the Jackpine. We saddled up to ride to the Jackpine, with a stop

at Boulder Creek for lunch. Not even five minutes into our ride, a horse got loose from our pack string. Logan jumped off his horse to grab it, and Tommy Wanyandie attempted to wrangle the horse. Logan's mount got loose as well. After a few minutes of getting everyone back together and ready to go, we headed out. Later, Logan was bucked off his horse; but after eight hours, we tired riders arrived at the Jackpine in one piece. Everyone was exhausted so we set up tents, ate our dinner and went to sleep.

The next few days consisted of organizing the camp, cutting and stacking wood, trail-clearing, and some photography. We packed a lunch and made a trip to Ptarmigan Lake, a glacier-fed lake that as far as the eye could see was absolutely beautiful. What seemed like only a few short days in the Jackpine area turned into two weeks; and too soon it was time to start home.

The end of the summer trip was to Sheep Creek airstrip, even farther than Jackpine, but just as beautiful. While Logan and Basil tried to clear trail when the rain was not so intense, Sue and I would bake and take photos of the area. We tried everyday to go out and clear as much trail and fly the drone, but the weather was not always in our favour. After days in the cold rain, we packed up and went back to Kvass, where the sunshine didn't stop and neither did the bugs—until the last two days, when we were awoken by white, heavy snow and no horses in sight. After we found the horses, we packed up camp and rode home to Grande Cache.

My first long summer in Willmore Wilderness Park will never be forgotten. I learned many skills, including how to tie a diamond hitch and cooking on an open fire. I made new friends and wonderful memories in the Park. Willmore Wilderness Park is not only a paradise... it is home.

I was excited to be home and see my family and friends, but heartbroken to leave such an amazing place. I promised myself that I would be back.

Excerpt from the Hersch Neighbor Chapter

People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park: The Legacy Continues

Originally, I was not going to publish Hersch Neighbor's transcript in **People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park: The Legacy Continues**.

I changed my mind after I discovered that he was one of the wranglers on Caroline Hinman's thirty-five-day 1937 trip from Devona to Mt. Sir Alexander and south to Mt. Robson. Caroline had filmed the expedition on 35 mm film, which footage I had acquired from the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies. I used segments of this footage to produce a forty-eight-minute Alberta Film and Television Rosie Award, two-time nominated documentary called **Women of Willmore Wilderness**.

Hersch was born in 1906 in Oregon. He guided in the Canadian Rockies for a total of thirty-eight years. I came to know Hersch, as I worked with the old film footage, editing the sequence together. He came across as a very capable and knowledgeable mountain man. I decided that it was important to include his interview in this People & Peaks publication.

Kreg O. Sky interviewed Hersch Neighbor in Fort St. John on November 23, 1983. Kreg had the foresight and means during the 1980s to conduct many interviews with Alberta and B.C. outfitters; after which he relinquished his taped interviews to the Royal British Columbia Museum. I contacted the Museum's Archives Department and received approval to go to press, for which a big thanks goes out to Kreg O. Sky and the Royal BC Museum Corporation.

This incident took place in 1937 on an expedition that Caroline Hinman arranged with Curly Phillips. Bert Wilkins, Curly's brother-in-law outfitted the trip. The excursion started at the Devona Railroad Station near Jasper and went to Mt. Sir Alexander and then south to Mt. Robson. Hersch was a guide on that

trip, along with Adam Joachim and Henry Joachim. Clarence Wilkins was a wrangler, and George Camp was the cook.

Hersch We took out these summer parties of sightseers. We had ten guests. It was Caroline Hinman from down in the United States. She used to organize these parties and brought out a bunch of kids. They were mostly young teenagers and that. That's what we were doing, and I was working for Wilkins and Neighbor. Bert Wilkins was in charge of the outfit.

We were on a thirty-six day trip in 1937. We were going to make a big loop in the mountains. Previous to the trip, I was breaking some horses, and this one horse was plenty hard to ride. He bucked awfully crooked, and he just started going stupid. He lost track of his feet, and he fell on me and bruised a foot. Nobody thought anything about that, and he didn't even disable me. We packed up a day or so later and went to the mountains.

We got out pretty close to the Kakwa Lake country, and this foot was getting sore—ungodly sore. I didn't know what the devil, but an infection got started. It had bruised, and that foot was getting swelled up. I knew it was serious. Then I saw this red streak from the inside of my leg. I knew it was blood poison, and she was getting pretty high.

We were camped not too far from Kakwa Lake. These two Indian boys walked into camp, and they were taking the same kind of a party from the Grande Prairie country, travelling through to Mt. Robson with a bunch of college students. They had a doctor in the outfit that went along in case somebody got hurt. They told us, "Well we've got a doctor down at our camp." So we moved camp the next day and camped not too far from them, and I went down to see this doctor to see if maybe he could give me something.

Old Adam Joachim was an old Indian that was packing for us. Adam and I rode down to the other camp. The doctor looked, and he said, "Mister, you've got to have an operation. That thing is serious, and I am quite sure I know what's in there." That foot was swelled up like a balloon. He said, "I think you've got..." ... and then he gave it some Latin name. "You need an operation and to stay off of that for ten days."

I said, "I can't stay off of that for ten days. The day after tomorrow we move on."

The doctor said, "Take your choice. Get a saddle horse and start out for the railroad. I don't think you'll make it, and if you do you are going to lose that leg."

So I said, "Alright, sharpen up your butcher knife, we'll operate."

Kreg You were seventy miles from anywhere!

Hersch It was going to take quite a few days just with a saddle horse to get out of there; it was quite a long ways back. The doctor was anxious to do an operation. He was equipped to do up to an appendix operation, so he took me in the tent there. (Laugh) They hacked me open, and I guess scraped that bone. That's what he told me he had done. The next morning Bert Wilkins came down, and I went back to camp. I have never seen that doctor since. It's the only operation I have ever had. The doctor said, "I don't think you will make it out of here. That's pretty serious infection." You see there was a streak like the length of your two fingers up the inside of my leg. So you get lucky once in a while. That was one of the toughest trips I ever did.

Note: You can purchase this and other stories **online**. Go to SHOP at www.AlbertaRockiesAdventures.com or www.WillmoreWilderness.com.

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/Willmore Wilderness](https://www.facebook.com/WillmoreWilderness)



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



[Facebook.com/AlbertaRockies Adventures](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 Online

Purchase Membership's Online

Go to **SHOP** at:

WillmoreWilderness.com

AlbertaRockiesAdventures.com

PayPal accepted

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

or mail a cheque or money order to:

Box 93 Grande Cache, Alberta T0E 0Y0 Canada

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, PayPal, & Cheques

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

Purchase People & Peaks Books & DVD's Online :

Go to SHOP at:

WillmoreWilderness.com

AlbertaRockiesAdventures.com

PayPal accepted

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

Box 93 Grande Cache, Alberta T0E 0Y0 Canada



Check out the new updated website at
www.WillmoreWilderness.com

ALBERTA ROCKIES ADVENTURES



Experience the ways of our ancestors!

Your gateway to breathtaking adventures and activities along the eastern slopes of the beautiful Canadian Rocky Mountains! Rediscover folklore, local legends and immerse yourself in historic culture through tented packhorse trips, bed & breakfasts, and back-country ranches and lodges, in and around Willmore Wilderness Park.

Phone: 780.827.2696 Toll-free: 1.866.945.6673

www.AlbertaRockiesAdventures.com

In partnership with

Travel
Alberta
Canada 

