



January, 22 2020

Subject: 2020 Willmore Wilderness Update

Rain, high water and sloppy muskeg was a big challenge during the 2019 trail clearing expeditions. I don't think I have ever seen as much precipitation during summer months. We had to carefully plan our move days on the 23-day expedition along the Continental Divide, so that we could avoid moving the pack outfit in the frequent downpours.

A big thanks goes out to Board Member Mark Wood and staff member Randi Lester for developing a Code of Practice (COP) for trail work. We can proudly say that the COP complies with Alberta Occupational Health & Safety regulations. The Foundation offered a Chain Saw Safety course to build the skillset of the younger trail generation.

Crews worked a total of 52-days, travelling more than two-hundred and fifty kilometers, clearing trail during the 2019 season. Our staff worked from the Sulphur Gates trail head to Sheep Creek Airstrip. The water was so high that we had to put a halter on our trail dog "Rosie" to drag her across the second crossing of the Muddy Water River. We had a short stay at Sheep Creek Airstrip to clear the 2007 burn. Next we trailed to the head of Sheep Creek, to the historic Copper Kettle Camp, where Caroline Hinman found an old Hudson Bay Copper Kettle in 1915. Our trail hands built corrals, benches, washrooms, replenished firewood and cleaned up garbage. They did this at most campsites we stayed in.

We travelled over the Continental Divide on one of the few sunny days we had. We rode over Casket's Shoulder, Forget-me-Not Pass, Featherstonhaugh Pass and Morkill Pass. We were lucky to get amazing 4K aerial drone footage that will be used in future People & Peaks Production documentaries.

We spent two nights in Morkill Camp, and then headed down to the Jackpine River. We cut trail on this, and a subsequent trip to the spectacular Jackpine Falls. It was tough cutting the burnt timber due to the 2007 wildfire. Crews cleared trail up Mount Stern later in the season. Staff were fastidious in taking GPS coordinates, waypoints and tracking points for future use.

The Foundation worked on gravesites during the summer season, building one Spirit House, cleaning up another, and erecting seven interpretative plaques. A Spirit House was placed on an unnamed Indian girl near the confluence of Pauline Creek and the Jackpine River. The original gravesite was completely destroyed during the 2007 Jackpine River forest fire. Tom Wanyandie first showed Bazil Leonard the young lady's grave in the early 1990s. This was verified by legendary trapper and outfitter Art Allen, who spoke of the girl's burial site at "Pauline Creek" in a 1984 audio taped interview. Hersch Neighbour also shared a story of the "Indian Girls Grave at the confluence of Pauline Creek" in a 1980 audio taped interview.

Trail crews also tended to a second grave. George Hargraves died in his sleep in 1936 on a hunting trip at the confluence of Casket Creek and Sheep Creek. Not many had visited the site over

the years, and a tree had fallen over the grave. The trail crew cut the tree away, as well as brushing around the site, opening up Hargreaves burial site. A trail was cut from the historic packtrail into the memorial site, and an interpretive sign was erected on a tree.

The trail hands erected 3-inch coloured plastic trail markers on the burnt trees along the trail in the burn areas, as well as marking in and out points, in the vast muskeg areas. We believe that this will help travellers find their way through these difficult parts of the Continental Divide trail. Other sections of the trail are marked with the traditional blaze marks; an axe cut on both sides of a tree.

Bazil Leonard and Tom Wanyandie (88 year-old) mentored the young trail crew. The youth included Payton Hallock (16), Ally Ingersoll (19), Marc Forquet (23), Marilyn Ada Rose McFadden (23), Braiden Hallock (18), Kyle Leonard (25) and Paige Leonard (25).

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation Board of Directors made a momentous decision when they purchased the land and building which previously operated as the Grande Cache Bottle Depot. The Board of Directors is confident that this will be an excellent real estate investment. The Foundation's employees have plans to renovate the building for future programs and services.

Our dedicated and capable staff shared specific Park information, as well as educational and historical material to the public, professionals and various government departments. The inquiries were answered by phone, email, social media and by in person visits to the office. Our personnel also promoted tourism through social media, multimedia, film production and television documentaries.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation proudly owns and operates People & Peaks Productions. We are very honoured that our creatives were nominated in two categories for the 2019 Alberta Film & Television Rosie Awards. Our producers and directors were nominated in the same two categories as Niobe Thompson's "*Equus*" a David Suzuki's *Nature of Things* program. Producers Dan Kern and Susan Feddema-Leonard were up for the *Rosie's Best Documentary Series* for *Spirit of the Rockies*. Directors Chehala Leonard and Susan Feddema-Leonard were nominated for the *Rosie's Best Directors* for *Ghosts on the Jackpine River*, which also made the **Official Selection** for the Alberta International Women's Film Festival. This has been very gratifying for both our Board of Directors and staff.

Thanks you for supporting the Willmore Wilderness Foundation. I wish you all the best in 2020.
Happy Trails!



Bazil Leonard, President
Willmore Wilderness Foundation

WILLMORE WILDERNESS PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

WILLMORE WILDERNESS PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	19,285.31	0.00
Accounts Receivable	14,521.90	11,697.80
Security Deposits	200.00	200.00
	<u>34,007.21</u>	<u>11,897.80</u>
Capital Assets		
Building	287,000.00	287,000.00
Equipment	15,175.20	15,175.20
Office Equipment	6,062.85	6,062.85
Camera, Video & Film Equipment	66,605.20	72,649.40
Computer	73,471.55	73,741.55
Furniture & Fixtures	18,933.71	18,933.71
	<u>467,248.51</u>	<u>473,562.71</u>
Less: Accumulated Amortization	133,081.50	132,689.06
	<u>334,167.01</u>	<u>340,603.65</u>
	<u>368,174.22</u>	<u>352,501.45</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Bank Overdraft	0.00	6,411.28
Accounts Payable	54,368.94	72,904.57
	<u>54,368.94</u>	<u>79,315.85</u>
Equity		
Retained Earnings	313,805.28	273,185.60
	<u>368,174.22</u>	<u>352,501.45</u>

WILLMORE WILDERNESS PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
STATEMENT OF EARNINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
REVENUE		
General Sales	390.00	20.00
Grants	384,122.93	392,598.79
Memberships	790.00	3,136.00
Book Sales	3,202.00	8,390.00
DVD Sales	693.50	612.50
Donations	4,151.00	180.00
Contracts	75,581.00	86,952.95
Rental	2,250.00	0.00
Gain (Loss) on disposal of Assets	-738.29	0.00
Interest	18.44	92.01
	<u>470,460.58</u>	<u>491,982.25</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Accounting & Consulting	500.00	1,357.57
Advertising & Promotion	19,990.61	23,990.52
Donations	7,189.86	0.00
Amortization	13,470.62	13,942.35
Bank/Credit Card Charges & Fees	2,878.12	2,089.58
Insurance	2,330.73	2,479.05
License, Fees & Permits	1,796.27	2,497.77
Supplies	40,000.78	34,845.48
Conventions, Banquets & Meetings	6,015.23	10,092.15
Training & Clinics	5,023.35	59,312.08
Office	19,211.59	17,618.22
Utilities	5,173.55	4,696.42
Book & Film Production Costs	39,714.36	27,932.39
Telephone & Fax	4,644.11	3,953.68
Basement Reno Costs	0.00	19,474.74
Maintenance & Repairs	6,081.72	2,126.96
Travel	9,882.16	10,800.82
Wages & Benefits	150,667.20	149,748.13
Contract Services	95,270.64	96,252.46
	<u>429,840.90</u>	<u>483,210.37</u>
EARNINGS (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS	<u>40,619.68</u>	<u>8,771.88</u>

Financial statements reviewed & approved by:

Title President

Signature 

Bazil Leonard

Title Secretary-Treasurer

Signature 

Arthur Vietch