

WILLMORE WILDERNESS FOUNDATION

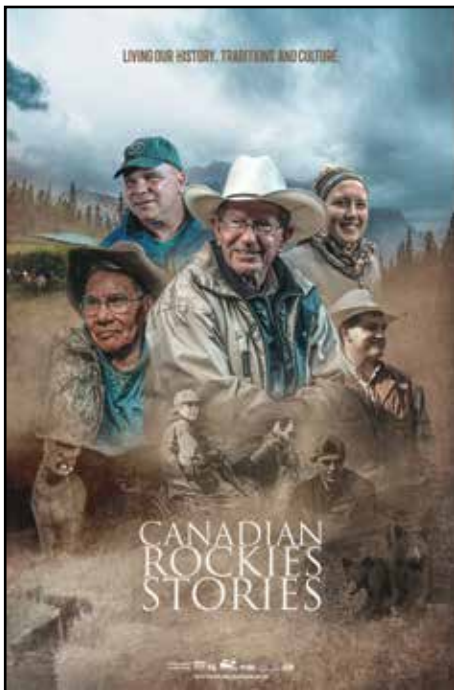
2022 Annual Newsletter

Pictured above: Roy Hargreaves and daughter Margie Hargreaves Duncan on the upper Smoky River (1936).

Photo courtesy of Ishbel Hargreaves Cochrane

Soon to be Aired: **NEW** CANADIAN ROCKIES STORIES

People & Peaks Productions has produced the Canadian Rockies Series (3 X 1/2-hour HD · Documentary Mini-Series). The Series will be aired on Wild TV, RFD TV and The Cowboy Channel Canada. Find out about broadcast dates on our social media platforms at <https://CanadianRockiesSeries.com/>.



February 2022

Willmore Wilderness Foundation Annual Newsletter

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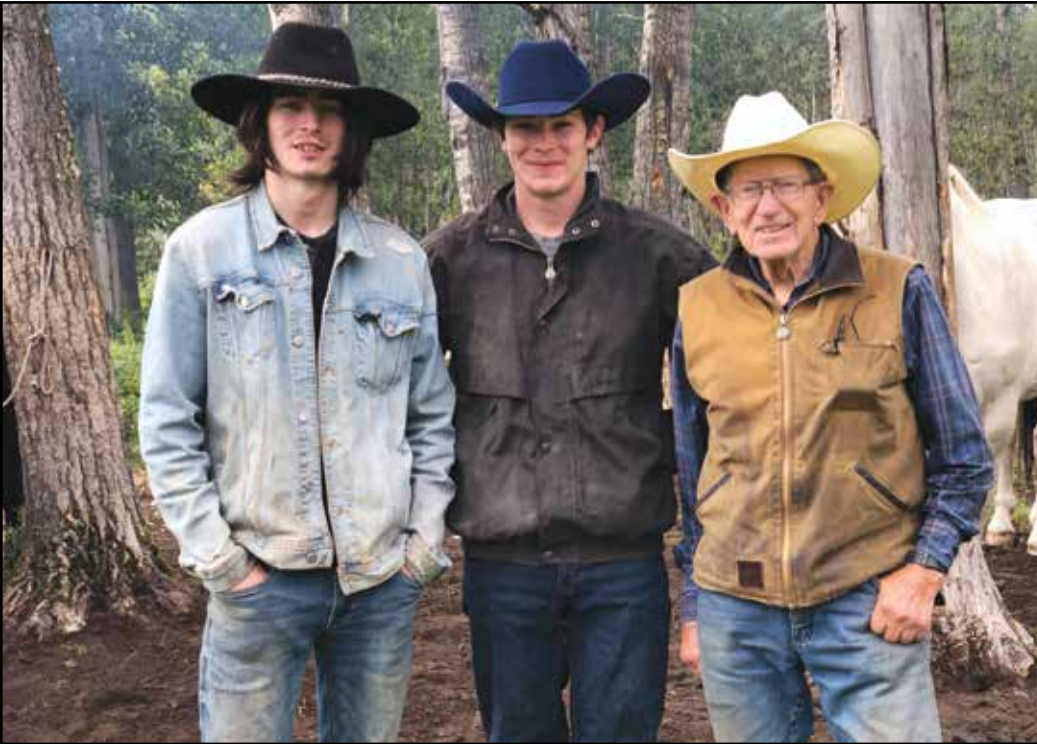


Inside This Edition

President's Report	3	Willmore Wilderness Foundation 2020 Financial Statement	16-17
Traditional Tales	6	Willmore Wilderness Foundation Membership Renewal	18
Women of Willmore Wilderness	8	Randi's View Point	19
From Willmore's Wild Camera	10	Book Sales Information	20

President's Report

by Bazil Leonard



Pictured left:
Wranglers Martin Hallock
and Braiden Hallock
with Outfitter Bazil Leonard.

Martin and Braiden were
employed by the
Willmore Wilderness Foundation
as members
of the trail crew in 2021.

Photo by Susan Feddema-Leonard

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. I am very grateful that our 2021 trail crew had an opportunity to travel deep into scenic Willmore Wilderness Park during the summer and fall months. Riding the historic packtrail transported our trail crew back in time 100 years. The expeditions opened a window into the amazing natural world. It was a breath of fresh air to work in the deep recesses of the Canadian Rockies, and never think or speak of life back in the modern world.

Our trail crew spent over 60-days refurbishing camp grounds, clearing trails and cleaning up garbage in the Park. I want to thank Martin Hallock, Braiden Hallock, Gabe McDonald and Dallas Watson, who were hired on as our summer staff. A special thanks also goes out to Josh Hallock, Kristina Hallock, and their children Konnor Hallock and Helen Hallock for their invaluable help on the trail. Josh led Martin, Braiden, Gabe and Dallas on campsite restoration initiatives. Josh provided valuable leadership to the

trail crew. Special thanks goes to Jaely Willow Moberly who joined our camp to share her knowledge of trail life with Konnor and Helen.

I wish to acknowledge 90-year-old Elder Tom Wanyandie who mentored our trail crew. Tom travelled over 200 kilometers deep into the Rocky Mountain Wilderness and never missed a beat. He helped teach our young trail hands the old ways of the trail.

Another thanks goes to Tyler McMahon and his trail crew for their continued support. Tyler is a much appreciated neighbour and a talented Outfitter and Guide. I wish to also thank Nanette Hamilton Moseley, who helped pull camp in early September. Her assistance was invaluable when we were short handed.

There is so much to share about our organizational accomplishments over the past year. Our film production team completed the 13-part one-hour Canadian Rockies Series. The 13-episodes were produced over a 13-year period. We followed young

people as they grew up in a horseback culture, being mentored by Elders and old time mountain men or women.

The series portrays a collection of stories sharing the history, culture and traditions of Alberta's eastern slopes. The narratives reveal the tales of many of the trail hands who have lived and worked in some of the most remote regions of the Alberta Rocky Mountain wilderness.

The Canadian Rockies Series has been nominated for twenty-two (22) Alberta Film and Television Rosie Awards. Nominations includes; Best Documentary Series; Best Documentary; Best Cinematographer, Best Director, Best Musical Score and Best Overall Sound. In 2021 Pieces of the Sky, #13 of the Series was nominated by the Alberta Film and Television Rosie Awards for the BEST DOCUMENTARY SERIES and the BEST MUSICAL SCORE.

... continued on page 4



President's Report

... continued from page 3

Thanks goes to Producers Heather Devoe, Chehala Leonard and Susan Feddema-Leonard, Cinematographer/ Editor Alexandre Moretti, Writer Kristina Shrestha-Hallock and Art Director Randi Lester. We wish to extend a big congratulations to Chehala Leonard who left our creative team in August of 2021 to work as a Producer for the National Film Board of Canada (NFB).

The Canadian Rockies Series has been/will be aired on The Cowboy Channel Canada, The Cowboy Channel USA, RFD TV and Wild TV. You can purchase books, DVDs, the Canadian Rockies Series box set, posters and Willmore Wilderness memberships at the online store <https://willmorewilderness.com/shop/>.

We have also completed three ½-hour documentaries that will be aired on the same networks 2022. These are called *Willmore's Wildlife*, *Discovering Mount deVeber* and *Living the Dream*. Our editors are in post-production of *Heart of the Rockies*, a three ½-hour documentary series. We are also in production for *Packsaddles Along the Great Divide*, yet another three ½-hour documentary series. We are promoting these three different mini-series under the Canadian Rockies Stories brand.

Our creative team has been busy filming the first families who arrived in Grande Cache in 1969. We also shot interviews of key professionals who helped shape our community like Fish and Wildlife Officer Shane Ramstead and 34-year Native Counselling Services of Alberta staffer Loretta Belcourt. We also interviewed former Mayor Louise Krewusik and her husband Bob Krewusik. These one-on-one interviews will be invaluable archives that will be used in the future. We interviewed many Elders including Joe Karakuntie who was a Municipal District of Greenview representative for many years.

Caitlind Delorme and Allylee Lamb were hired this fall on a Canada Summer Jobs project. Both ladies have proven to be invaluable assets. Caitlind has been helping transcribe Cree interviews into English. These interviews were filmed years ago, and were archived in our in-house servers. We are grateful for Caitlind and Allylee's contribution to our success.

In 2002, our Founding President Julian Kinisky insisted that the Foundation's formal name be registered as the Willmore Wilderness Preservation and Historical Foundation. We have abbreviated our name to Willmore Wilderness Foundation for every day use. One of the original objectives of the Foundation has been to do historical research and

archive the information on our in-house servers. We also keep old fashioned physical files in several filing cabinets. The Foundations has been a major contributor in providing various groups historical data for various purposes including the Mountain Metis Center.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation has been renovating the recently purchased Grande Cache Bottle Depot. We have named this building the Willmore Wilderness Traditional Training Center. Thanks goes out to the Federal Gas Tax Credit for the funds to complete the restoration of the building. The exterior/ interior metal replacement has been completed, along with a new heating and plumbing system. We have upgraded the electrical work to code. We have secured a contractor who has built a wheel chair accessible bathroom, along with a second bathroom and a coffee area.

On a personal note, I am pleased to say that I am looking forward to travelling Willmore Wilderness park in 2022, as I recently had a cataract operation on both of my eyes. This miraculous surgery has given me my vision back. This is a gift from our talented health care professionals. I feel grateful for the opportunity to travel and experience the wonders of Willmore Wilderness Park.

Happy Trails in 2022, Basil Leonard.



The Value of the Willmore Wilderness Foundation

by Tom Thackeray, Vice President

I became involved with the Willmore Wilderness Foundation in 2014. This was shortly after my wife, Kathy, met up with Susan Fedema-Leonard at their nursing class reunion. We were invited to join Susan and Bazil on a trail ride to Kvass Flats and then explore the Willmore from there for a few days. It was an interesting time as neither Kathy nor I had much experience with horses. But we survived and that started our love affair with the Willmore. Later that year we became members of the Foundation and attended our first Annual General Meeting the next summer. At that time, I joined the board and later became the Vice-President.

As I started to learn more about the Foundation, I was amazed at the amount and type of work that was accomplished. The amount of time that is spent every summer clearing trails within the park to make it more accessible for all to enjoy. They also build and rehabilitate Spirit Houses to acknowledge the ancestral heritage of the region. Work is also done to improve and rebuild campsites to enhance the experiences of visitors. Their dedication and enthusiasm in completing these tasks is truly amazing. I only wish that I was more accomplished in horsemanship and trail clearing so I could be a part of the team.

Shortly after I became a member of the Foundation, I was surprised to learn that we owned a film production company – People and Peaks Productions. I have viewed the majority of the documentaries that have been created and am always amazed at the beauty of Willmore and the fascinating stories of the people associated with the park. The documentaries have been nominated for quite a few "Rosie Awards" which are sponsored by the Alberta Motion Picture Industry Association. It is quite an honour for a small production company to be held in such high esteem.

All of these activities provide employment for the people who live in or around Grande Cache. The work being done by the Willmore Wilderness Foundation provides opportunities for not only local people but also showcases what the Willmore has to offer to visitors to the area. We have provided film footage to the town as well as the Municipal District of Greenview to incorporate into their tourism initiatives.

Being a member of the Board of the Willmore Wilderness Foundation is truly an honour. I look forward to my continued involvement with the foundation in promoting the beauty and unique history of the area.



Some of the 2020 Trail Crew

Pictured on left page:

Left: Tyler McMahon,

Middle: Gabe McDonald and Elder Tom Wanyandie.

Right: Josh Hallock.

Pictured on right page:

Left: Helen Hallock, Elder Tom Wanyandie, Konnor Hallock, Braiden Hallock and Jaely Moberly.

Right: Dallas Watson, Martin Hallock, Gabe McDonald, Bazil Leonard and Elder Tom Wanyandie

Above: Tom Thackeray, Vice President Willmore Wilderness Foundation

Traditional Tales

By Caitlind Delorme



Above: Caitlind Delorme
Administrative and Research Assistant
Willmore Wilderness Foundation

Pictured on right page:
Left: Elizabeth & Louis Joachim

Hello, my name is Caitlind Delorme and I was born in Grande Cache, Alberta. I was adopted by my Great Aunt and Uncle Louis and Elizabeth Joachim who I have come to call my Mom and Dad. Both spoke Cree and lived in traditional ways "off the land" on the Muskeg River Co-op, where I was raised. I learned English after I started attending school. I had been taught the basics of English a little before that, but the main language I spoke was Cree. My first language is Cree.

My Parents were very hard working people. From a young age, from the moment I was able to help, I did. My parents would take me everywhere, even to work. From the time I was an infant, to the day I turned sixteen (16), there was no such thing as a babysitter. Over the years my parents worked in the bush picking cones for the Forestry companies. I was out there with them picking cones, from the age of four (4). As I got older I learned about the areas on the back roads, and the old names that were given to certain places that my ancestors travelled or lived. There were not many places that dad didn't share a story about. He has the knowledge and the history of this area. He knew the people that lived in this area. It has been a blessing for me to hear all of the oral history and teachings that he carries.

My mom taught me to make traditional meals, sewing, beading and how to read syllabics in Cree. She also taught me how to trap

and track animals. Dad took me out hunting and taught me how to track animals as well. Mom and dad worked together and they managed to finish making traditional smoke tanned hides in no time at all. The process is quite long but they made it look easy. I am lucky to have been taught this set of skills. Mom has this certain way of making the hides feel super soft and giving them that beautiful golden tan hide color. She really knew her stuff.

Mom and Dad both taught me how to gather from the land, be it food, or plants for medicine. Mom worked with herbal natural remedies and medicines that were handed down to her for many generations. She knew so much about the land, and it was always awesome going out to the bush with her. Sadly, she had passed before I started my journey on learning more about my family history with the help of the Willmore Wilderness Foundation. My Dad continues to help me learn and understand the land-based medicine and oral history of my ancestors.

There wasn't much they didn't know. Land based knowledge is a big part of our survival. They taught me how to make tools from animal bones, that were used to help make the hides. They taught me how to be resourceful. If you didn't have it, you made it.

Growing up in a place surrounded by nature was by far the best way to be raised. I learned so much and I can say I had a



great childhood. I believe that I am able to keep my culture and traditions going. I want to keep the Cree language alive. I am fortunate to have been given the chance in life to keep these important values and lifestyle alive.

I was always told to never forget where I came from, and to embrace who I am. Being able to practice my traditions and being able to speak the language of my ancestors is a big thing for me. It gives me a great sense of connection to everything my Elders have passed onto the younger generations. I am grateful for all the things that have been handed and passed down through oral history. I feel privileged to learn the traditions my ancestors passed on

for us to know today in a modern society. As our Elders slowly start to pass away in our community, many things I have come to learn from my parents are no longer being done.

I wanted to further my knowledge and get a greater understanding about where my ancestors came from. I wanted to know who they were and how they lived. I started doing my own research and started finding out more and more. It has been the beginnings of an adventure, learning about my family and ancestors. I started to gain a window into who they were and what they did along the way.

I am definitely feeling rich in

culture. Its exciting getting to learn more as I work doing historical research with the Willmore Wilderness Foundation. I think this is going to be a great learning experience and the atmosphere is very welcoming, making you feel at home, all the while working in a busy environment. As the years go on, I believe that I will have a greater sense of my ancestors, and have a better idea of who we are as a community. I will come to know more of who I am, deep down. Each day is exciting, not knowing what's to come.

Women of Willmore Wilderness

Sophia Hargreaves' 1936 Journal of 'Range Trip' from Mt. Robson to Corral Creek

prepared by Susan Feddema-Leonard

My favourite book is called the Women of Willmore Wilderness. The publication details the journals and photos of four women over a 100-year period who travelled extensively in the western portion of Willmore Wilderness Park. The narratives reveals the secrets of the almost forgotten trail network, routes of summer pack trips, historical camp sites, hunting trips and game patterns.

The following is an excerpt of Sophia Hargreaves 1936 Journal, the wife of legendary Guide & Outfitter the late Roy Hargreaves. Her journals detail an annual horse round up, from Mount Robson to Grande Cache. This was a four-day trip, one way. This is a re-print of Section Two of Women of Willmore Wilderness, by Susan Feddema-Leonard.

The Hargreaves brothers (*Frank, Roy, Jack and George*) were some of the first settlers in Jasper in 1912 and made a living as building contractors, constructing the new town. Roy Hargreaves and his brothers became friends with Curly Phillips, another new settler in the area. The boys worked in the outfitting business during the pre-war years, and Roy made his first trip to the north base of Berg Lake in 1913. He and his brothers outfitted hunting parties out of the Mount Robson area between 1913 and 1917.

One notable early expedition was one that Curly Phillips, Jack Hargreaves and Mary Jobe took to the Kakwa River in 1917. I do believe that William C. Taylor, author of *Tracks across my trail: Donald "Curly" Phillips, Guide and Outfitter* was incorrect when he penned that the 1917 trip went to the Wapiti River. The following is an account that Sophia Hargreaves and her sister-in-law, Gladys Hargreaves and Jack's wife, co-authored and signed in 1976:

In 1917, Jack went with Curly Phillips and Miss Mary L. Jobe on a trip to the Porcupine (*Kakwa*) River. The purpose of this trip was to build a trapper's cabin for Curly to take in his winter's supply of food (*on the Jackpine River*) and to show Miss Jobe the country around the Porcupine River.¹ When this was accomplished,

the party started for home. They found a very heavy snowfall had occurred, so horses and men moved very slowly. Curly and Jack took turns at breaking trail, the snow being belly-deep for the horses. They had little food for either man or beast and they returned through Grande Cache, an Indian village. Jack and Curly were known by some of the Indians and were given fine treatment. Miss Jobe, being a white woman, was of great interest. The party arrived back in Jasper many days overdue.²

The Hargreaves brother's time in the Rockies was interrupted, when they had to go to war between 1917 and 1919. Sophia and Gladys Hargreaves' notes account of the post war period:

Jack and Frank took adjoining homesteads at Robson in 1921. George, Frank and Jack built log buildings for their homes, saddle shed, barn, store, icehouse, bunkhouse, and corrals.

from Curly's Ptarmigan cabin, which is built on the banks of the Jackpine River, which is a twenty-minute ride on the pack trail to Ptarmigan Lake. Cody Leonard found this cabin on a Willmore Wilderness Foundation trail clearing expedition in 2003. Cody and his mentor Tom Wanyandie found the old blaze trees that marked the trail to the glacial fed lake.

² Hargreaves, Gladys & Hargreaves, Sophia. (1976) transcript signed in 1976 by Gladys Hargreaves & Sophia Hargreaves; Willmore Wilderness Foundation, Grande Cache, Alberta.

Jack married Gladys Guild, a teacher from Edmonton, June 30, 1922. Roy followed suit the next year and married Sophia MacLean, a teacher in Jasper, May 9, 1923. Jack and Gladys began their married life at Robson. Also from Robson, the Hargreaves began their early outfitting business of big game hunting in the fall, trail trips in the summer, plus tourists to Berg Lake.

Curly Phillips and Frank built the first cabin at Berg Lake. This cabin was known as Curly's cabin and was shared by the Hargreaves for overnight stops. It was always left unlocked and many people used it. Built at the foot of Mount Mumm, it had a fine view of Robson Glacier.

Many hunting parties began from the home ranch at Robson. George and Frank handled one outfit, usually two or more hunters, using extra guides, with Dave Henry as cook. Jack took a second outfit with a single hunter, using Ted Abraham as cook.

New houses were being built in Jasper in order to move the town of Lucerne to Jasper. Roy was working on these houses, carpentering. When construction ended, Roy went to Mount Robson with his wife Sophia and became a B.C. guide and outfitter. The following year (1924), Jack sold his share in the company of Hargreaves Brothers at Robson to Roy and moved to Jasper to begin outfitting from there.

Before having his own outfit, Jack had worked with Otto Brothers and

¹ The trapline cabin was built at the confluence of Meadowland Creek and the Jackpine River in 1917. This cabin is located two hours upstream



Curly Phillips on hunting parties and trail trips. Some of the early outfitters here were: (*Curly*) Phillips and (*Bert*) Wilkins, Otto Brothers, (*Stan*) Kitchen and (*Red*) Creighton, Johnnie Unland, Brewsters, etc. Jack's partner was Don Guild who worked with Jack as guide for several years. Don had also worked at Robson as guide for Roy's outfit.

After Jack moved from Robson, George and Frank each took a homestead and also bought six hundred acres of land near Jackman, B.C. In 1923, Father (*Edward Hargreaves*) took a homestead near Robson. The boys built him a cabin on the banks of the Fraser River. Roy, at Mount Robson, carried on with the good help of his wife Sophia. Roy's daughter Ishbel was born Feb. 18, 1924. Marguerite (*Margie*) the younger daughter was born Sept. 26, 1927.³

3 Hargreaves, Gladys & Hargreaves, Sophia. (1976) transcript Signed in 1976 by Gladys Hargreaves & Sophia

Sophia was a mother who worked alongside her husband. She was the bookkeeper, accountant and the hostess who ran Mount Robson Ranch. She was also an essential ingredient in Roy's guiding and outfitting business. Ishbel and Margie grew up at Mount Robson Ranch helping their mother and became a critical component to Roy's hunting operation during World War II. Men were scarce during the war years, resulting in Ishbel and Margie working in place of the usual male packers and cooks from 1942 to 1946.

Outfitting hunters on thirty-day expeditions required many horses and Mount Robson area had harsh winters with deep snow. Roy had a herd of more than a hundred horses, and he found an ideal winter pasture for them. There was good grassland over the Continental Divide in an area that was dubbed the Range, located

Hargreaves; Willmore Wilderness Foundation, Grande Cache, Alberta.

Sophia and Roy Hargreaves crossing the Smoky River while in flood in 1936 on a "Range Trip."

Photo courtesy of the Ishbel Cochrane Hargreaves.

continued on page 10

Women of Willmore Wilderness continued from page 9

downstream in the Smoky River valley. Rocky Mountain Natives lived in this area and were descended from the families that were evicted from the Jasper area in 1907 by the Canadian federal government. These people were extremely skilled in mountain survival and were living a traditional lifestyle by hunting, trapping and gathering.

Roy struck up friendships with Smoky River and Grande Cache Natives. He hired men like Henry Joachim, Louis Delorme, Frank McDonald, and other mountain Cree to help move horses from the Range on the Smoky River back to Mount Robson Ranch.

Sophia usually went with her husband on the yearly trips each spring to help round up horses. The Range was ninety miles north of Mount Robson Ranch and was located from Mile 1 to Mile 6 on the Smoky River—the mileage started at the Muddy Water River heading eastward. Hargreaves' winter pasture can still be seen today when riding the Smoky River trail between Eaton Creek and the Muddy Water River. The lush mountain grasslands remain excellent grazing habitat for horses, deer and elk.

Each May long weekend, Roy Hargreaves packed up and headed out on the trail for the annual Range trip. He trailed from Mount Robson down the Smoky River to his base camp on Corral Creek. This creek is located an hour and a half downstream from the Muddy Water River and was named after the corrals that Roy built to round up his horses in.

Roy could usually look at the mountains and judge the snow conditions. The hardest part of the ninety-mile trip to the Range was getting over Mount Robson's shoulder and through the trails located beside the glacial fed Berg Lake. The snow conditions could be high in the spring when Roy took his annual pilgrimage. The other difficulty he faced was the rising waters of the Smoky River and the

Muddy Water River. These two rivers could be treacherous and had to be taken seriously.

Sophia was known by the local Aboriginal people and trail men to be a skilled mountain woman who rode an English saddle. She was a legend in her own right and many a story has been told about this woman. Sophia was reputed to take difficulties in stride and never lost her composure. She was revered as a skilled trail hand and an excellent trail cook who was also a competent horsewoman.

In the spring of 1936, Sophia decided to take her two young daughters on a Range trip. She took Ishbel and Margie out of school in May so that they could accompany their parents on their annual pilgrimage. It was to be the two youngsters' first excursion down the Smoky River drainage. Chuck Chesser also accompanied the Hargreaves family on their yearly pack trips to the Range. Chuck was Roy Hargreaves' outfitting partner, and he eventually married Sophia's sister Anne.

It would take three to four days to ride the old pack trail from Mount Robson Ranch to Corral Creek. Time would be needed to round up the horses and, of course, there would be the ride back upstream.

The following represents a journal that Sophia Hargreaves wrote on her 1936 horseback trip from Mount Robson to the Range. She did not complete the journal due to the extremely high water levels and a fire across the Smoky River. The documentation of this journey was concluded in an interview that the author had with Sophia's oldest daughter in 2004. Ishbel (*Hargreaves*) Cochrane vividly remembered her first trip to Corral Creek.

I have taken some editorial liberty with the consent of Ishbel to annotate Sophia's journals, which were written in a shorthand style. The following is a factual and historic account of Sophia's travels through the areas that are now called Mount Robson Park, Jasper National Park and Willmore Wilderness Park down the mighty Smoky River.

Sophia's Shorthand Journal

Sunday, May 24, 1936

To Kinney Lake

Roy, Ishbel, Margie, Chuck and I started on a pack trip for the Range to round up our horses for our summer and fall operations. We decided to make our first day's camp at Kinney Lake. There is a cabin there that had a small stove in it, with a little fence and rails close to the structure. The rails or bars were essential, as they prevented the horses from wandering back to Mount Robson Ranch.

Monday, May 25 1936

To Pamm Creek

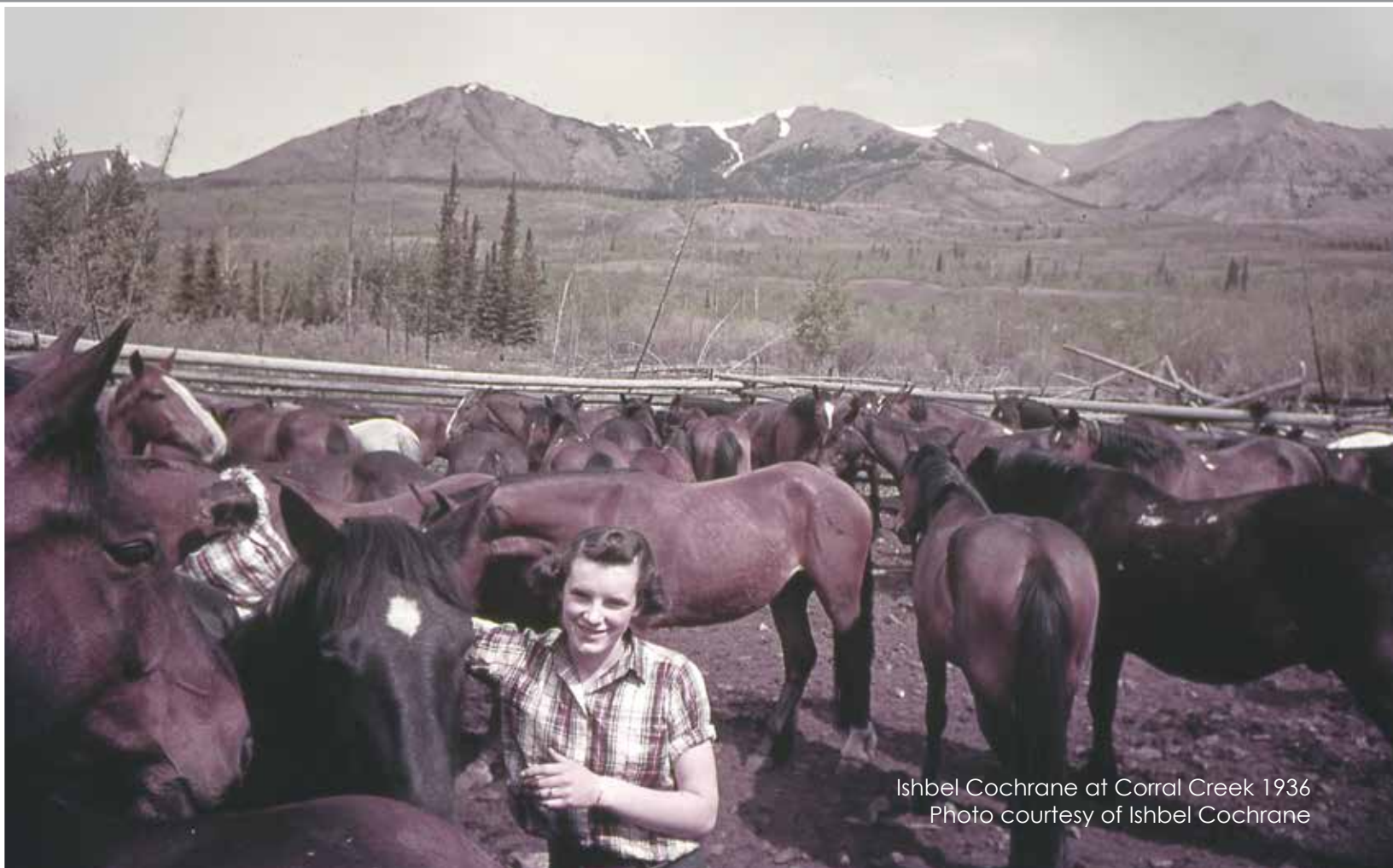
We were up early and the horses were found immediately. We had breakfast, packed up and were away at 7:30 a.m. There is snow in the canyon and it is good going on the hill (*up Mount Robson*). The Berg Lake side of the hill was OK except for a few banks of snow. One packhorse called Maude had her usual tumble.

It was dreadfully hot once we reached the Smoky River gravel bars. We rode in to Pamm Creek about 4:00 p.m. and there we made our camp.⁴ The trip went well, but Margie lost her leather coat on the trail somewhere.

As luck would have it, Chuck found our neighbour GMD's (George Dennison's) gun at the "bars."⁵ The "bars" is where the Jasper Park

⁴ Mount Pamm was renamed Mount Swoda in 1923. Swoda Mountain is 3003 meters or 9853 feet and is located at the head of Swoda (*Pamm*) Creek in Jasper National Park, Alberta. Swoda (*Pamm*) Creek is one of the major headwaters of the Smoky River. Swoda Mountain is located WNW of Calumet Peak and north of Calumet Ridge. "Swoda" is the Stoney Indian name of the nearby Smoky River. This mountain was first ascended in 1913 by Donald (*Curly*) Phillips, A.F. Armistead, K.D. McClelland, H.H. MacCarthy.

⁵ George had a homestead at Mount Robson Park and was a neighbour. George applied for the homestead in 1910 and it was granted to him in 1913, just before Mount Robson Park was created. George wintered approximately one hundred head of horses on the Range, farther downstream than Roy's herd. George Dennison and his nephew Harold Britton established a guiding and outfitting business that was called *Dennison and Britton* and their brand was Diamond DB.



Ishbel Cochrane at Corral Creek 1936
Photo courtesy of Ishbel Cochrane

Wardens put up rails to keep the horses from wandering away.

Tuesday, May 26, 1936

To Short River

We packed up and left Pamm Creek camp at 8:00 a.m. A few minutes after leaving camp, a mare called Pearl bucked everything off—so more delays.

We stopped at the Ranger's cabin to fix the pack.⁶ We had to stop to sign a register and tried to phone the warden Don Hoover.⁷ *(It was necessary to report every time the family trailed through the area. The Parks staff*

⁶ The Ranger's cabin was at the junction of the Smoky and Twin Tree Lake. They were traveling downstream on the Smoky River.

⁷ Don Hoover eventually left the Jasper Park Warden Service and guided for Stan Kitchen on the 1947 Bing Crosby hunt. See Chapter Sixteen of *People & Peaks of Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park: 1800s to mid-1900s*.

wanted everyone to voluntarily sign the book so that the District Warden knew who was traveling through the country.)

We traveled farther downstream and cut a new trail back of Frank's old cabin at Short River. Another packhorse called Sadie lost her blankets, so we decided to make camp at Short River.

Wednesday, May 27, 1936

To the Fish Hole

The boys were up at 4:00 a.m. and were away looking for horses. It wasn't long before Roy brought some back into camp. Chuck rode a mare called Lilly over to one of our other camps located at the foot of a big hill to bring back Jessie and Kay.

We didn't leave until 9:00 a.m. We forded the Smoky River at Short River without swimming.⁸ It is very hot, and

⁸ The Resthaven Glacier feeds Short River.

we shed all the clothes we could! There is lots of water in all the back channels, to say nothing of the main channel.

We traveled all the way to the Fish Hole on the north side of the Smoky. There is lots of cutting to do. The Fish Hole is as muddy as the Smoky. Muddy water everywhere, so we drank it and ate it.

Sadie bucked off her pack in the river, so the bread is rather wet.

Thursday, May 28, 1936

Across the Smoky by a Rock Bluff upstream from the Muddy Water River

We were up early again and the boys set off to cut trail on the east side of Coyote Cliff's (Faulk) cabin.⁹

⁹ This cabin is located on the east side of the Smoky River across from an island that is south of the Boulder Creek confluence. Remnants of the cabin are still evident today.

...Continued on page 12

Women of Willmore Wilderness

continued from page 11

They arrived back in camp at 10:30 a.m. There was trouble with one horse called Shorty.

I made dinner and left two packs behind when we broke camp at 2:00 p.m. We blew up a (yellow) rubber boat at the ford and swam the outfit over. Margie and Roy continued down river in the boat to the "Swim" while the rest of us trailed the outfit downstream. Such water and such heat!

We led the loose horses around the island and Jessie caught up. Shorty pulled the horn off of Roy's saddle after he lunged back on the halter shank, which was dallied to the saddle.

Chuck and Roy crossed the roaring Smoky River, taking the tent, and made a good landing. Roy came back for me and two panniers. He was back again for Margie and more equipment. Chuck went back in the next trip; but before returning, he and Ishbel drove horses into the swim (river).¹⁰ Lily started into the river but turned back, and all the horses followed her; so Ishbel and Chuck had to push them into the Smoky again. There was no sign of Kay or Sadie who were without packs.

Chuck rowed back across the Smoky with Ishbel and the beds and went back again for the remainder of the etc.

The horses stopped their ford on the island, so Chuck took the boat over the rock bluff to meet Roy who rowed out to drive the horses off the Island. Chuck and Ishbel caught them once they crossed the small channel of the Smoky and brought them over the rock bluff.¹¹ There we tied all of the horses to a tree.

We ate supper at 10:00 p.m. and went to bed. There were five of us

¹⁰ This crossing was upstream from the Muddy Water River confluence.

¹¹ We believe that the rock bluff is what is now called "The Rock." We feel that they were crossing the Smoky on the islands upstream from "The Rock." This is a very dangerous trail to cross and is blocked by a beaver dam today.

in one tent, but we were glad to be there.

The end of a perfect??? Day!

Friday, May 29, 1936
To Corral Creek Camp

Roy and Chuck were up at 3:30 a.m. Chuck saddled his horse while Roy rowed the rubber raft over the Smoky River for the remainder of the equipment. We had breakfast at 5:00 a.m. and were away at 6:30 a.m. Roy floated the rubber raft down the Smoky River and met us at the Muddy (Water River). We trailed the pack outfit downstream. There is muddy water everywhere. We found Kay, Trixie and Lollypop and their colts. There is no sign of Sadie, however.

We rolled up the boat and turned Jessie loose (Margie's horse) and Margie rode behind Chuck with the instructions to "hold tight." First and second fords (Muddy Water) were as bad as main channel at usual times. We found we could ford in the regular place, so we followed the gravel bar—then Roy crossed. The water was over the horses' back—it was so swift and rocky. Our packhorse Maude went next and the pack was sometimes covered with water. Chuck and Margie went next, and Chuck was almost cut in two by Margie's clutch, but we all made it and reached Corral Creek at 9:30 a.m.

We unpacked and let the horses go. There is not a drop of clean water anywhere, since we left the Jackpine country. I made dinner at 11:00 a.m., and at 12:30 p.m., I took tea pail and went up the hill and found clear water! I drank lots and brought back to camp. All were resting. Showers started, and all jumped to gather stuff. A big smoke appeared at the lower end of the Range about 2:30 p.m. After supper Chuck walked down and found that a fire is burning across the Smoky. All to bed early

Saturday, May 30, 1936
Corral Creek

We all slept and rested till 7:00

a.m., as it was Sunday today. Roy and Margie went out looking for horses and brought in Wampus and Curly. We could see flames across the Smoky River on the skyline.

(The Hargreaves had a good fenced in area at Corral Creek to round up the horses in. They would ride to Findlay Flats and would round up 100 head. The horses were taken back to Mount Robson Ranch to use for the summer trail rides and hunting trips.)

Sunday, May 31, 1936
Corral Creek

Chuck rode off towards Grande Cahe this morning. Roy and Margie went looking for horses and brought in a gelding called Buster and company. Chuck rode back into camp at 2:00 p.m. He could not pass the lower end of the Range as there is too much water and driftwood.¹² Fire is in sight.¹³

Corral Creek is lower today than when we arrived in camp, and the Smoky River is about an inch lower. We were waiting for the Smoky to drop a lot more—but more so for the Muddy.

Nothing rounded up yet today. It is cooler today. We rode down country—bringing Nigger and Jake back. The fire is still raging on the opposite side of the river and is about five to seven miles downstream (on Knife Mountain).

Monday, June 1, 1936
Corral Creek

It was chilly this morning and Corral Creek is down to its lowest point yet. The Smoky River is at the same level as about 3:00 p.m. yesterday. It was hot at 8:00 a.m. and there is smoke everywhere. Roy, Chuck and Ishbel went up country in search of horses.

Sophia stopped writing her journal at this point; however, Ishbel remembered many of the events

¹² The lower end of the Range would have been at Eaton Creek.

¹³ The fire was on Knife Mountain, which lies between Mount Mawdsley and Mount Braithwaite. You can see the fire line today if you look at the mountain in the right light.



of the 1936 trip. The following is an excerpt taken from Ishbel's 2004 interview with Susan Feddema-Leonard regarding this memorable excursion.

Ishbel's Memories of the 1936 trip.

"My dad loved to float in his rubber boat and there were times that he waited until he got past the Smoky River Falls and floated it all the way downstream. The Smoky River Falls were about halfway down the river between Mount Robson and the Range.

"Mother always liked to stop and fish in the Fish Hole. One time she got a big fish and ended up carrying it on her saddle all the way to the Range. It was so big that its tail was slapping on the horse's legs. It was all we could do to lift the catch up onto her saddle.

"On the 1936 Range trip, we had

to chase the horses across the river, floating our gear and crew across in the boat. We loosened the saddle cinches before they crossed so that the horses could blow up their bellies in order to swim.

"On my first trip in 1936 to the Range—that was when my sister Margie was 8 years old and I was 12 years old—I was riding a horse that swam high up in the water, but there was no swimming there. My horse was just trying to keep her feet on the ground and the water washed over my saddle. My mare wasn't swimming at all.

"Dad and my Uncle Chuck used to check to see if we could safely cross the river or not. Once the riders came back, we would stay a little longer because they didn't want to chance crossing the river when it was so high.

1936 Range Trip

Ishbel Hargreaves Cochrane (front)

Chuck Chesser (rear).

On the trail from Kvass Flats near

Grande Cache to

Mount Robson Ranch

Photo courtesy of

Ishbel Hargreaves Cochrane

...Continued on page 14



...Women of Willmore Wilderness continued from page 13

We spent a few days at Corral Creek. You can look at a river and judge it. Sometimes when you crossed you would go downstream—sometimes you would ford it by going upstream. If you've traveled in the wilderness a lot—you would know that you're not going to go straight across.

"One time my Uncle Dick Hargreaves went to the Range and was coming back to Mount Robson Ranch. His horse sank down and tried to walk on the bottom of the Smoky instead of swimming. Dick ended up in the river without his horse. This little colt was floating by and Dick grabbed the colt's tail. The colt pulled him up on the bank and took one look at Dick and swam back to the other side of the river. The colt ended up a packhorse in Dad's outfit and we named him Trailer.

"When my family arrived back at Mount Robson Ranch in 1936, my Uncle George Hargreaves was just about to leave the ranch to look for us, as the water was very high and my sister and I were very young. He was worried about our safety. Uncle George was going to bring Murray Cochrane with him in order to find us. Murray was from Croydon, B.C. and was working for my Uncle George at that time. We arrived home before they had packed up. My Uncle George would always say, "That darn Roy—he shouldn't take those kids down there!" George did not want his nieces out on the Range—especially in high water. It's funny because years later, I ended up marrying Murray Cochrane.

"Uncle George died in his sleep that same fall (1936) while on a hunting trip. He was outfitting hunters and was camped at the confluence of Sheep and Casket Creeks. Art Allen was guiding for my uncle at that time. Art had to phone my mother from the Lower Smoky Cabin where the Jasper Park Wardens were stationed at Short River. It was a sad day when the outfit came back to Mount Robson Ranch with an empty saddle on old Smoky.

"My sister Margie and I grew up on the trail. I traveled to Berg Lake when

I was four years old and rode a horse called Black Beauty all the way. My sister grew up the same way and she rode Black Beauty after I did. Going to the Range was no big deal, as it was part of our life. Our family lived on the trail and coped with adversity whenever it came up. We learned how to live with the elements. My mother was a pretty tough woman and could adapt to any situation. The first time my mother went on the outfit, she learned from an old trail cook called Dave Henry. She learned a lot from that man."

Roy and Sophia Hargreaves sold Mount Robson Ranch to Miss. Alice Wright in 1959. Miss Alice Wright was from the United States and had been a guest at the Ranch for twenty years previous to this. Miss Wright hired Roy's daughter Ishbel and her husband Murray Cochrane to run the ranch. Alice Wright eventually turned the property over to Ishbel and Murray who operated it until the 1990s. Mount Robson Ranch grew into a going concern during the years that Roy, Sophia, Ishbel and Murray managed it. During the 1990s, Murray and Ishbel sold their ranch and moved to an acreage near Valemount, B.C.

The Hargreaves family traveled the pack trails between Mount Robson and Grande Cache for over fifty years. The Mountain People who include the Mountain Métis and the Aseniwuche Winewak have traversed this same landscape for many years on horseback. Sadly, horses are not welcome today in Mount Robson Park. Jasper National Park also has restricted rules on horse use, which has been imposed since the federal government took this land base from the indigenous people in 1907. The only trails that remain horse friendly are in Willmore Wilderness Park. The right to hunt, trap and use horses has been protected by the Willmore Wilderness Act.

Top:

Ishbel Cochrane Hargreaves

Bottom:

Margie Hargreaves Duncan.

Ishbel and Margie are the daughters of Roy and Sophia Hargreaves. The girls are at Corral Creek. (1936)

Photo courtesy of Ishbel Cochrane



Peavine Lake

Photo by Arthur Veitch

From Willmore's Wild Camera

by Arthur Veitch

"When you get older, you'll be listening to country music," my friend warned me.

I was tuned to punk and hard rock. Country music was banal and mainstream. To be tapping my toes to a country tune was to lose my growl.

"It'll never happen," I promised her.

The same was true for landscape photography.

When I first picked up a camera, it was as a news photographer. I loved the intensity of shooting hard news events. Capturing the "moment" at a fire or rescue was pulse-pounding. Sports photography was next. This required intense concentration and quick reflexes. I followed the action while ducking pucks and baseballs. The long lens skills easily translated into my life-long passion for wildlife photography.

Landscapes were for more sedate photographers. They ambled up

mountains and hung around for the right light. Landscape photographers ate granola and listened to country music. It wasn't the right fit for an adrenaline-junky. I would snap a few "environmental" shots to complete a story but I didn't put much consideration into them.

I then became addicted to camera trap photography. Setting a camera over a kill, knowing the cougar was likely just out of sight, fulfilled my need lust for a rush. The resulting images were often excellent. After a while, it became evident that I was lacking something. I was missing a fuller appreciation of composition. Without placing my subject in a compelling environment, I wasn't producing anything better than a spotlighted critter against a bland backdrop.

I went back to school, watching how-to vlogs on YouTube. Now I'm hooked. I have taken to the woods with a new drive. I walk slower looking for compositions. I wait for good light. More than that, I plan for it.

There are some favorite locations that have I have mistreated. They need better photographic care. One such location is the Sulphur Gates. I've been dreaming of shooting the Milky Way as the galactic core blooms behind the cliffs. There are the stone people that can only be separated from the rock face by shooting from the east side of the Smoky River.

I'm determined to go back to these well-trodden locations with a new eye and I'm eager to find new spots to plant a tripod. I'll hopefully blend this with camera trapping to get my best wildlife images yet. My new mission is to fully represent the wild around Grande Cache and not just its furry denizens.

Do I listen to country music? No, not really. There are a few tunes (Seminole Wind and Blown Away) that are among my all-time favorites but I usually avoid that honky tonk twang. I guess I still have some growing to do.

Willmore Wilderness Foundation Financial Statement For the Year Ending 2020

WILLMORE WILDERNESS PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATION BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	23,881.66	0.00
Paypal	1,273.61	0.00
Accounts Receivable	5,529.04	58,964.15
Advances to People & Peaks	57,208.17	0.00
Security Deposits	200.00	200.00
	<u>88,092.48</u>	<u>59,164.15</u>
Capital Assets		
Building - 4600 Pine Plaza	287,000.00	287,000.00
Building - 10014-97 St.	175,000.00	175,000.00
Equipment	15,175.20	15,175.20
Office Equipment	8,218.01	6,062.85
Camera, Video & Film Equipment	73,831.33	70,553.86
Computer	84,839.91	84,010.97
Furniture & Fixtures	18,933.71	18,933.71
	<u>662,998.16</u>	<u>656,736.59</u>
Less: Accumulated Amortization	<u>157,559.24</u>	<u>145,011.88</u>
	<u>505,438.92</u>	<u>511,724.71</u>
	<u>593,531.40</u>	<u>570,888.86</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Bank Overdraft	0.00	8,093.42
Line of Credit	0.00	45,372.30
Accounts Payable	47,104.83	41,932.71
	<u>47,104.83</u>	<u>95,398.43</u>
Long Term Liabilities		
CEBA Loan	60,000.00	0.00
Community Futures Loan	134,685.31	143,181.82
	<u>194,685.31</u>	<u>143,181.82</u>
Equity		
Retained Earnings	<u>351,741.26</u>	<u>332,308.61</u>
	<u>593,531.40</u>	<u>570,888.86</u>



ANNUAL EDITION - 2022

WILLMORE WILDERNESS PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
STATEMENT OF EARNINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
REVENUE		
Grants	243,294.00	188,723.95
Memberships	1,096.95	915.00
Book Sales	2,179.00	4,661.00
DVD Sales	287.00	363.51
Donations	500.00	4,071.00
Contracts	103,086.00	304,020.00
Gain (Loss) on disposal of Assets	0.00	-275.90
Interest	11.03	12.83
	<u>350,453.98</u>	<u>502,491.39</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Accounting & Legal	550.00	3,119.52
Advertising & Promotion	217.96	12,306.67
Donations	100.00	0.00
Amortization	12,547.36	13,134.16
Bank/Credit Card Charges & Fees	1,238.37	1,058.29
Loan Interest	9,060.53	5,531.11
Insurance	3,637.07	3,043.90
License, Fees & Permits	766.68	3,060.95
Trail Clearing Supplies & Expense	21,033.34	22,939.67
Conventions, Banquets & Meetings	0.00	3,654.34
Training & Clinics	1,741.22	12,281.84
Office	27,934.25	23,696.39
Utilities	10,377.54	7,743.24
Property Taxes	0.00	1,064.12
Book & Film Production Costs	21,128.88	36,417.29
Telephone & Fax	2,970.34	2,808.48
Maintenance & Repairs	2,122.38	19,794.03
Travel	825.89	8,343.06
Wages & Benefits	143,331.56	191,772.05
Contract Services	71,437.96	112,218.95
	<u>331,021.33</u>	<u>483,988.06</u>
EARNINGS (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS	<u>19,432.65</u>	<u>18,506.33</u>

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 5, 2022

2:00 pm

**Smoky River Ranch
for good weather
or the**

Willmore Foundation

Office

if raining.

**Meal to follow the
meeting.**



Willmore Wilderness Travellers

Pictured from left to right:

- Braiden Hallock

- Kristina Shrestha-Hallock

- Tyler McMahon, Landon Ozga and
Paydon McMahon

- Lois McMahon,

Hamilton Nanette Moseley

Tyler McMahon



Willmore Wilderness Foundation

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Vimeo.com/PeopleandPeaks



Margie Hargreaves Duncan
on a 1936 Range Trip.

Photo courtesy of Ishbel Hargreaves Cochrane

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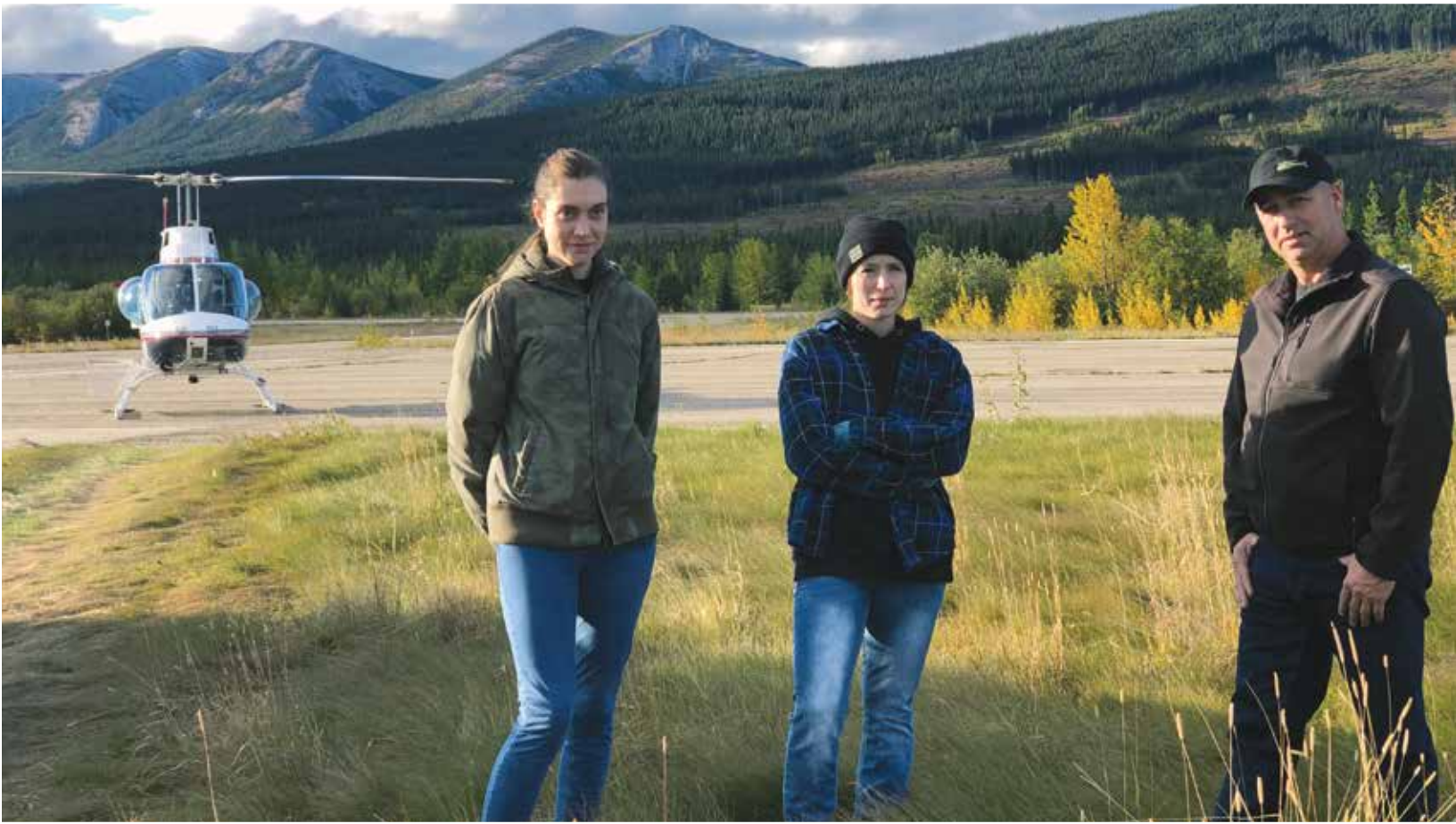
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mail a cheque or money order to the Willmore Wilderness Foundation:

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



Randi's View Point

By Randi Lester

This year has been a busy one for those of us at the Willmore Wilderness Foundation. This year I had the pleasure of working with our team, flying over the Willmore and assisting our field crews. A view of the Willmore Wilderness Park from the sky is incredible. Suddenly the far reaching view broadens and the expansive wilderness is seen in all its glory. Below the chopper I watch as a cow moose and her calf slowly saunter along the soon to be frozen landscape.

Hidden waterfalls, pools of bright blue lagoons, cliffs, ridges, and the ever expanding sky greet us as we glide above. In the chopper it took all of 10 minutes to cover the same amount of ground it had taken me 10 hours to cover on horse back. Flying high above I get the sense of what 'wild' truly means. Seeing the Willmore Wilderness Park in its true scale brought about a new kind of appreciation for this gem, and place that I call home.

Pictured above:

People & Peaks Production Crew:

Heather Devoe, Randi Lester and

Pilot of Adam Shular,

Gemini Helicopters

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Books feature the tales of trail men and women who have made their living hunting, fishing, trapping and guiding in and around Willmore Wilderness Park. The intimate stories of the tenacious mountain people are humorous and riveting.

For more information call us at
1-780-827-2696.



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