

## Welcome to Cathy McGregor Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks

Cathy McGregor was elected in the constituency of Kamloops in the 1996 general election.

Born and raised in Victoria, Cathy moved to Kamloops in 1977.

Prior to her election, she was an elementary school teacher for 19 years. She served as a director of the Kamloops Hospice Society, a director of the Kamloops Heritage Society, and as Chairperson of the BC Lottery Corporation. Cathy served as Member-at-Large on the BC Teachers' Federation Provincial Executive for seven years. She was also co-president of the Kamloops Primary Teachers' Association and served as an Executive Committee member and is a past-president of the Kamloops District Teachers' Association.

Cathy has one daughter, Cara, age 15.



## BC Parks Welcomes New Deputy Minister

Cassie Doyle was born and raised in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Cassie has served at the executive level of the British Columbia provincial government for the past five years. Before taking up her present assignment, Cassie served as Deputy Minister of Small Business, Tourism and Culture and earlier the Ministry of Housing, Recreation and Consumer Services. Recently, she was co-chair of the Royal BC Museum, and Tourism BC, two new special operating agencies of the provincial government.

Cassie returned to her home province from Ontario in 1992 after working for over a decade with local government, the last position as Director of the City of Ottawa's housing corporation, with 5,500 housing units under her management. As director she was responsible for managing the municipal land holdings for housing as well as all operations. While there she implemented a strategy for greening and the corporation which included introducing comprehensive recycling and energy and water conservation programs.

Throughout her career, Cassie has made it a priority to establish solid partnerships with sector and industry organizations. She has served on the Board of Directors of a number of non-profit and sector organizations, including OXFAM-Canada.

Cassie has a Master's degree in public policy and administration from Carleton University, and a BA from the University of Victoria.

Visions is produced six times per year by BC Parks, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, to maintain commitment to quality service and stewardship and to encourage innovation by everyone directly involved or interested in BC Parks.

Free subscriptions are available by writing: Visions, BC Parks, 800 Johnson Street, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4.

Articles from readers are welcome. Please submit articles to the above address attention Nancy Chave. Due to the retirement of our faithful editor, Ron Kerr, and other circumstances beyond our control, the next issue of Visions will be published in August 1997. That gives you lots of time to submit your articles - deadline for material is June 13, 1997.

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**MINISTER**  
CATHY MCGREGOR

**DEPUTY MINISTER**  
CASSIE DOYLE

**ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER**  
DENIS O'GORMAN

## Ron Kerr Receives Professional Excellence Award for Visions

Victoria resident Ron Kerr was honored at the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association's (NOWA) Awards Banquet in Seattle February 8. Over 200 individual entries in the organization's annual "Excellence in Craft Contest" were judged in 23 different categories by nationally recognized experts in each field of endeavor.

Editor for BC Parks Newsletter, Kerr, received Third Place, Publication Design, Layout, and Typography.

NOWA has approximately 200 members, including many of the most prominent outdoor magazine and newspaper writers, book authors, photographers, broadcasters, and artists in seven northwestern states and Canadian provinces. As a society of professional communicators, NOWA is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of outdoor journalism. Subject matter includes environmental and wildlife habitat issues, as well as all outdoor sporting and recreational activities, the products and services of related industries, and the work of involved governmental agencies.



**Editor's Note** - "Thank you" to all of you who have contributed to Visions over the years. It is your interest in the subjects you write about that have become the backbone of this publication. I would also like to extend a special Thanks to Carla Daggett for her dedicated work and to Parks Management Committee (PMC) for their support. I was proud to accept the "Excellence in Craft" Award on behalf of all of you.

As Editor of Visions for more than five years it is with sadness that I edit my final issue. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all of you. I have seen Visions change and grow over the years to a publication that people are proud to contribute to and one that others enjoy reading. Comments like "I've learned more about BC Parks through Visions than any other source" are not uncommon.

Thank you for your support!

RON KERR  
EDITOR

# QUEST -- The Renewal Initiative

## --PRINCE GEORGE/PEACE-LIARD DISTRICT F&A TEAM

QUEST works! The QUEST initiative has had a positive influence on district staff. The Finance and Administration staff from Prince George, Peace-Liard and Mt. Robson (8 staff) have completed Modules 1-3 and will be participating in the last module on March 19th. What this initiative has done for the F&A team is evident in how we have completed tasks in the last two months, by working as a team - we have become more aware of each others workloads; have become more cohesive as a team; have learned how to work through a process and eliminate unnecessary steps for more efficiencies; have learned how to focus on issues/problems and found solutions to these; our support for each other is tremendous -- we have become proactive which has created a healthier work environment. One important step in this process is that we have had the support of our District Managers, Rick Heathman and Don Roberts, which has enabled us to go ahead with this training. Our Operations, in both Prince George and Peace/Liard District, have completed Module 1.

The enthusiasm and participation during the first three sessions completed so far has been overwhelming and the results of the skills we have learned are visible every day in our work environment.

We were fortunate to have an excellent facilitator in Marilynne Hann who, with the help of Diane Kinnell and Renee Mounteney, made QUEST happen in the Prince George District.

## -- QUEST FOR SUCCESS!!

The Basic Principles

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Focus on the situation, issue, or behaviour,  
not on the person.

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Maintain the self-confidence and self-  
esteem of others.

\*

Maintain constructive relationships.

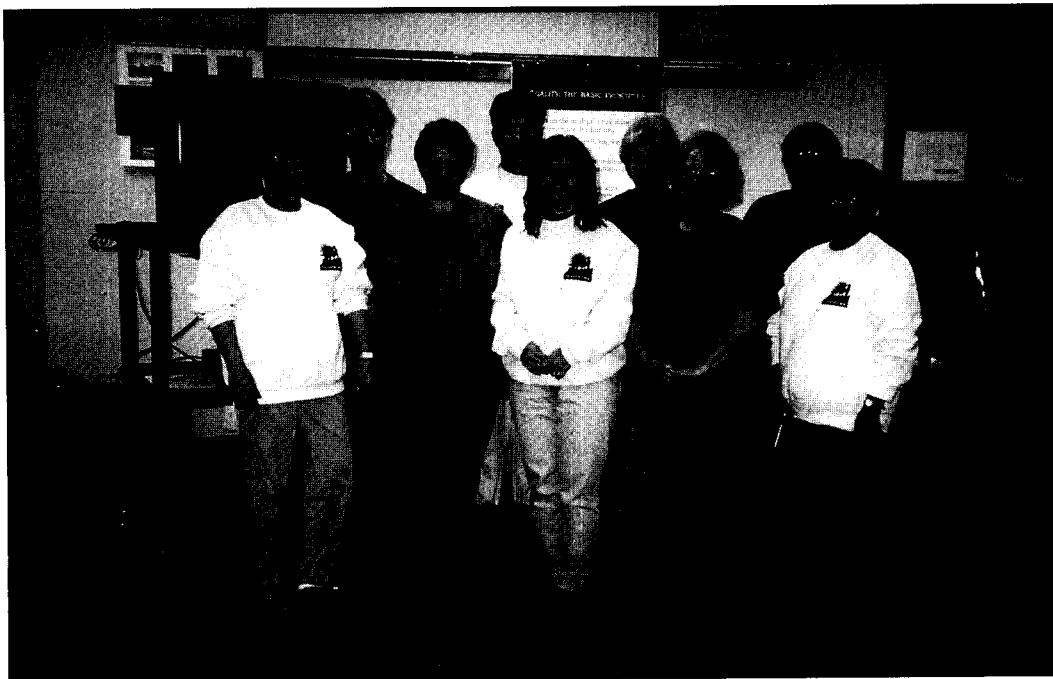
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Take initiative to make things better.

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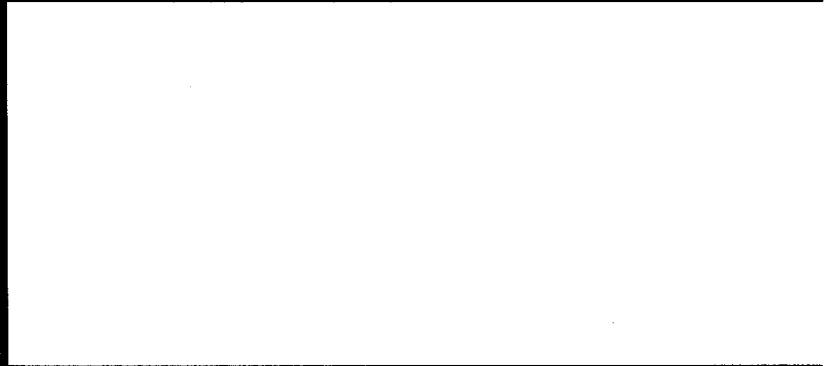
Lead by example

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*Back Row, Left to Right: Geri Knickle, Mary Pfeifer, Diane Kinnell, Jacki Clark  
Front Row, Left to Right: Heather Palsler, Lori Jeffrey, Laveme Rooker, May Torgerson, Marilynne Hann*

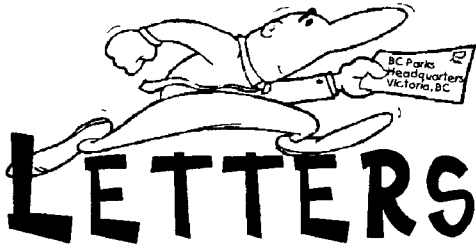
# Park Profile



## Fintry Park

Fintry Park, 22 kilometres southwest of Vernon, is a new protected area on northwest shore of Okanagan Lake. This park includes much of the Shorts Creek delta and forested upland. Natural features include superb sand and pebble beaches, Shorts Creek Canyon, impressive Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine stands, and wildlife habitat. Cultural features include historic buildings associated with farming. Park visitors can enjoy vehicle-access camping, picnicking, swimming, boating, hiking and viewing. Fintry Park is an outstanding addition to the protected areas system of British Columbia.

ROGER NORRISH



Dear Customer Relations:

I thought I would take this opportunity to discuss with you some of the most positive experiences both myself, and my family has experienced in BC Parks for many years. Unfortunately, it has taken me far longer to write this letter than I ever intended, but I hope despite the delay, the impact of what I have to say will not be reduced. My family and I have attended many BC Park's Programs at both Lightening Lakes and Haynes Point Provincial Parks over the last three years and we have always enjoyed the degree of professionalism and knowledge demonstrated by the attending Naturalists; however, we felt this year we had been treated to something a little bit special.

During the summer of 1996, from early August to early September my family and I had the pleasure of spending time in Osoyoos, BC. Despite not actually camping at the Haynes Point Provincial Campground, we managed to attend approximately 25 of the Park Naturalist Programs (based upon my two sons Jerry's Rangers Certificates)!! The Park Programs involved educational presentations, walks, hikes and slide shows. During the Park Programs we were very impressed by the knowledge of the Park Naturalist but more importantly, our family was especially touched by the Park Naturalist's ability to cultivate and develop special relationships with the children and parents that attended the programs. It is because of the manor in which the Naturalist conducted himself that I felt compelled to write you concerning our experiences with "Park Naturalist Mark Peters."

Our children are aged 6 and 8 and

as is typical of many children of these ages, they do not always have the longest attention span. Mark was particularly effective in his presentations in ensuring there was a plethora of interesting information relating to his subject matter, but more importantly, he was able to present it in a style that both appealed to the adults in the audience as well as the children. Mark always kept the children's attention with amusing stories about his subject, would often use children and adult volunteers to aid in his group demonstrations and would offer prizes to the children and adults in the audience who were able to answer questions relating to the subject matter given during the evening's program.

Mark's talks were interesting on many different levels partially because the subject matter varied so greatly and partially due to the style of presentation. There were talks primarily associated with wildlife such as "Bears, Wolves, Bird Watching and Turtles" to name a few, and there were talks concerning local historical significance such as "Billy Miner" presented in a most entertaining fashion by Mark's alter ego - "Uncle Willie"! There were highly informative talks given by the Pacific Space Centre Society and the Lifesaving Society and nature walks in the Pocket Desert as well as the Marsh.

When school resumed in September my children both insisted that we allow them to take their "Jerry's Rangers" Certificates to their "Show and Tell" period so they could show their classes what they had achieved during the Park Programs and also to impart some of the knowledge that they accumulated during the morning and evening Park programs.

Mark was very kind to all the children at the presentations and always answered all the children's questions during the program and after the programs as well. At times these question periods went on for quite some time, yet Mark never lost his patience, always answered the questions fully, or would defer some of the questions to the end of the talk so as to not disrupt the flow of the program. Mark even treated each question as if it was the first time he had heard it that evening despite the fact that often it was the second or third time!! No matter how insignificant a child's

question may have seemed to others in the audience. Mark always treated that child with respect and answered questions fully while encouraging the participation. During the course of all the programs our children developed a special relationship with Mark and they looked forward to going to as many programs as we could take them to, even if they were repeat talks.

It seems these days it is very popular to place criticism on the shoulders of individuals whose jobs lie squarely within the public eye; however, too often when a job is well done the public either expects it or appreciates it and doesn't take the time to acknowledge it. I hope that in some small way I can convey to you that despite this letter being sent much later than I ever intended, both my family members and I sincerely appreciated the kindness, passion, originality, openness and ability to share experiences and knowledge in such a positive manor while catering to all audience levels that we experienced from Mr. Mark Peters at BC Park's Programs this past summer. My children have already asked about returning to Osoyoos to share more rewarding experiences with Mark at the Haynes Point and Okanagan Falls Parks this summer and we are all looking forward to it!!!

STEPHEN L. TYE



# Uluru - Kata Tjuta National Park

BY KRIS KINNET

(PART 1 OF A 3 PART SERIES)

(In 1993, I had the opportunity of visiting Uluru and spend time with park managers, rangers and the Board of Management. I tried to convey some of what I learned. The interpretation may be simplistic but is my understanding of them.

*Kris Kinnett).*

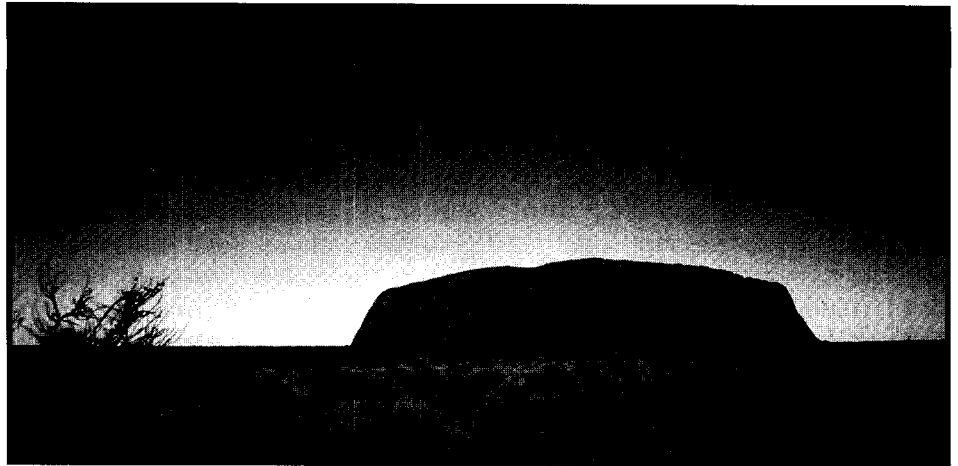
## Setting

Uluru - Kata Tjuta National Park is located in the Central Desert of the Australian continent, 300 kilometres southwest of Alice Springs. Internationally, it is better known as Ayers Rock. It is the most distinctive landscape symbol of Australia and figures prominently in the Australian psyche. It was declared a biosphere reserve World Heritage site in 1987.

The park is 132,566 ha and is dominated by monoliths. Uluru or Ayers Rock is 9.4 km in circumference and 340 m above the surrounding plain. Katajuta (or the Olgas) is made up of 36 rocky domes, the highest being 546 metres.

Primarily known as a tourist destination, these areas are ecologically important because of the permanent water bodies. Only a few large native animals including the red kangaroo, the dingo and the common wallaroo, and small marsupials, native rodents, birds and reptiles live in the area.

This area is of spiritual and practical significance to the Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara people and who have lived in the area for 10,000 years. The local people are known as Anangu. Uluru is the Pitjantjatjara name for Ayers Rock, and refers to one of the major water holes.



## "Handback"

The park is a model of cooperative management between the federal government and the Aboriginal people. The name of the park was changed from Ayers Rock - Mount Olga to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, recognizing the traditional owners and names.

In 1978, the Anangu set about to gain control over this important area. In 1985, under great political direct, the Commonwealth Government of Australia recognized the aboriginal claim to the area and granted title to the traditional owners. The "handback", as it is known, came with some strings attached.

Anangu had to sign a 99-year lease with the Commonwealth Government for cooperative management of the park. Until that time, the government of the Northern Territory had operated the park, and Anangu were not happy with how they had been treated.

The lease provides for an annual rental of \$75,000 to be paid to the traditional owners along with \$20 of the entrance fees. The provision of the lease, excluding the terms, are to be reviewed at least every five years. The Anangu are entitled to live in the park and conduct traditional activities, subject

to the Plan of Management. The lease provides for: the maintenance and use of cultural traditions; Aboriginal administration, management and control; Aboriginal training program; understanding of the tradition, language, culture and skills of Aborigines among non-aboriginal employees; and encouragement of aboriginal business and commercial initiatives.

## Board of Management

As part of the lease agreement, a Board of Management was established by legislation to make decision on the park. Six members are nominated by the traditional Aboriginal owners and are the majority. Another four members represent the Federal Minister responsible for Tourism, the Federal Minister responsible for the Environment, one scientist experienced in arid land ecology and management, and the Director of National Parks and Wildlife (ANPWS).

The chair is Yami Lester, a Pitjantjatjara person, who is not local to the area, but has been active in land rights in the Central Desert. Yami is an effective chair, particularly given his disability of blindness. Yami was blinded as a young man during the British Nuclear tests in the

## Central Desert.

The traditional owner nominated is another Aboriginal who is not local but knowledgeable in "whitefella" business. The remaining four aboriginal representatives are from the local community.

The Board of Management operates by the consensus-bases model. Discussions take place in both English and Pitjantjatjara, with transition being provided.

To facilitate consultation, two positions were created within the Mutitjulu community. The community liaison officer to provide expert advice on park management to the community and to channel the views of Anangu to the Board and ANPWS. The other is with aboriginal liaison officer to consult with Anangu on park management matters. A "Whitefella" who is an anthropologist and an Anangu occupy those position respectively and have an important role.

## Ranger Training Program

To meet the obligations of the lease back arrangements, the Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA) has implemented a program to train Anangu people to work as park rangers. At any one time, five trainees are in the program which has three main aims:

1. to develop a cross cultural understanding,
2. to share traditional knowledge,

3. to familiarize and train staff in ranger duties, such as interpretative walks and patrols.

A trainee may take from two to three years to complete the program.

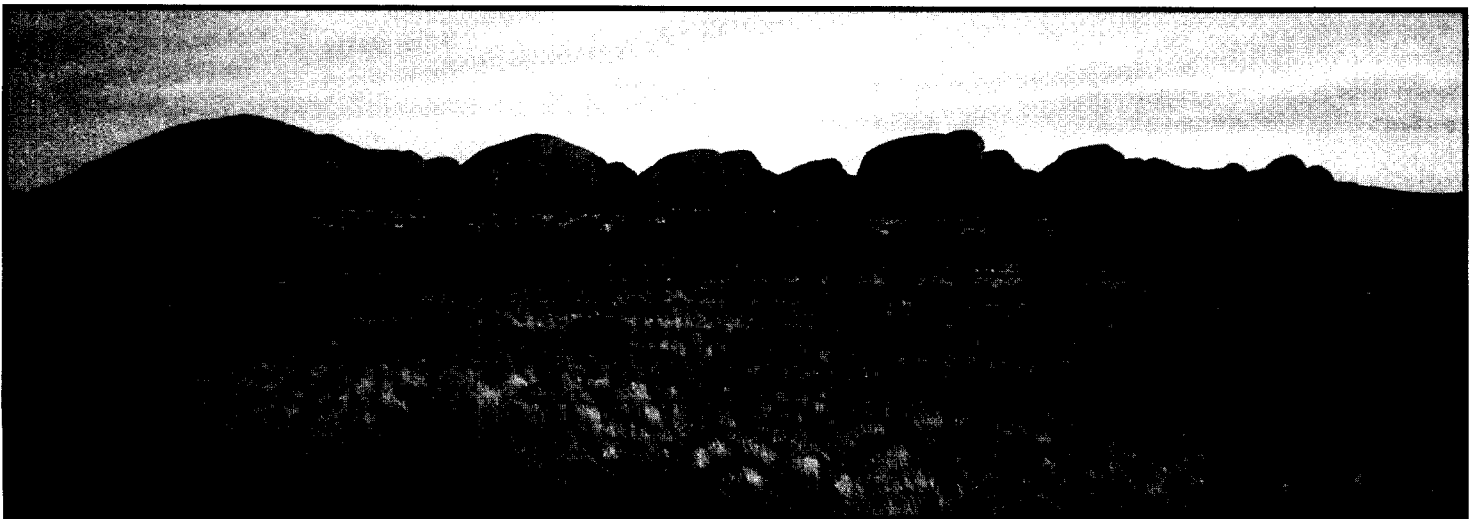
A challenge in the training program is to develop the language and education levels of the rangers. Many Anangu people are not proficient in English and have only a rudimentary education. The training program develops these skills, as well as providing "ranger" training skills. Another compounding factor in the training program is that the Anangu are extremely shy people, and conducting interpretative walks goes well beyond their comfort zone (*J. Barry, J. Wills, pers. comm.*).

Trainees who have a basic education and proficiency in English are encouraged to attend tertiary or technical college under the sponsored study program. Trainees are assured of positions once they have completed this program.

Trainees are well paid and are provided clothing and housing, which makes these positions attractive to the Anangu. Recruitment generally involves advertising the position, approaching and encouraging community members who would be potential candidates for trainees and interview prospective candidates.

When I visited, only one trainee has graduated in the six years since the inception of the program. There are two senior rangers that have not gone through the Ranger Training Program but were given the positions in recognition of their knowledge and skills. One is an expert on mosaic burning and the other is an ethnobotanist. Although these people do not have academic qualifications, their skills are recognized by ANCA.

Numerous people have joined the program but have dropped out for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is the lack of interest in the work being undertaken. The Mutitjulu Community Liaison Officer, Jon Willis, indicated that many of the Anangu do not like the routine of the "whitefella" work, which does not fit into their lifestyle, and prefer to work on a casual basis. He also indicated that it was most important to the Anangu that the park was being managed according to their Law and they could easily influence and direct park management through the Board of Management. Although the Ranger Training Program is not producing graduates, it is a good opportunity for the Anangu to understand the operations behind running the park, and the ANCA saw it as a way of educating future generations of Board of Management members (*J. Willis, pers. comm.*).



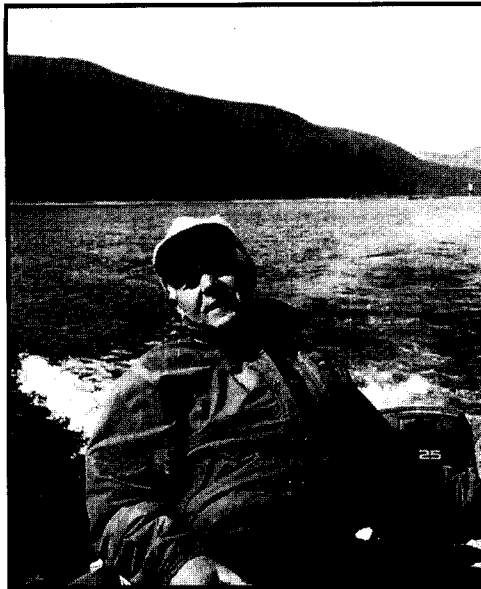
# A Man to Remember

Peter (Pete) Vereshagen was born in BC on December 20, 1929. He passed away at his home in Wasa, BC, on December 26, 1996. He will be sadly missed by his friends at BC Parks as well as the people of Wasa and surrounding communities.

After his retirement Peter still continued to be involved in one way or another with Parks.

He was the BC Parks advisor for the movie ALIVE which was filmed in the Bugaboos. He was also consulted on many occasions for information or advice on park facilities and even got in a bit of work in various parks.

The Wasa community is working towards creating a recreational facility in honor of Pete Vereshagen. Contact Karen Marsters at (250) 422-4200 in the Kootenay District office if you are interested in making a donation.



managed the Clydesdale herd. He was a very proud man when he climbed aboard the wagon and picked up the reins of the six horse hitch, all decked out in their show harness.

In 1973, Pete transferred to the East Kootenay District at Wasa as Zone Supervisor - which he held until he retired.

Pete was a superb employee: loyal, conscientious, well organized and always gave 100 percent or more. His organizational skills, innovative talents, problem solving abilities along with his wealth of experience were envied by many.

One aspect of Pete's job that he favored and thoroughly enjoyed - was sitting at his desk shuffling paper.

To Peter, any job worth doing was worth doing well. He took pride in all his projects and the parks he was responsible for. This pride was reflected in the end product, such as Premier Lake Park (Staples Creek) spawning channel complete with spawning beds, interpretive signs, creekside trail and viewing platform at the fish trap. Another example is the ski/horse trail into Top-of-the-World park, and the pleasant walking trail around Fish Lake.

He was a mentor to many and an inspiration to others.

With Pete in charge, you could always be confident the task would

be well done. It was often said "If all employees were like Pete, the only time I would have had to go to work was to pick up my pay cheque".

Pete was also generous with his time and energy when it came to others and the community, and you would often see Nellie with him. Remember the skating rink at Wasa - Pete and Nellie on many occasions worked long hours through the cold nights building ice for others to enjoy, while we slept in a nice warm bed.

Pete had a great sense of humor, and he often added a bit of laughter to most situations. He was so serious and dedicated yet able to enlighten any event or conversation with a humorous comment or anecdote.

He was a logical person and there were times while working with him, one required some patience. His persistence and logic at times could become a little irritable. However, the results of his persistence was usually a benefit to others.

He was always ready to share his logic and wisdom with you. I remember one time when we were discussing the urge to take advantage of a bargain at a sale and he turned to me and said, "Remember Norm, a bargain is only a bargain if you have a use for it". Even today, I still think of those words of wisdom when I get the urge to go bargain hunting.

Over the years Pete worked with a number of young people on various projects. I am sure there are many of them who look back and realize how fortunate they were to have had the opportunity to share his knowledge and practical skills.

There were times when Pete would get a little frustrated with some people as they seemed to have only two speeds: "SLOW and STOP". However, I am sure there were times when others felt frustrated with Pete, as he only had two speeds as well: "FAST and FASTER" and he was a tough act to follow.

A great guy and we will all miss you.

## Eulogy

BY NORM BLACKBURN

I have had the honor of knowing and working with Pete since the late 1960's.

Pete has been a close and personal friend, someone I consulted with and confided in on many occasions during the past 26 years.

He was a good husband, father and grandfather, a man strongly devoted and committed to family. I am sure Peter believed that the family that worked and played together - stayed together.

Pete loved the outdoors and enjoyed fishing and hunting. Horses were also an important part of family life and every family member had their own. Many enjoyable hours were spent trail riding and attending competitions.

It was Pete's love for horses which brought him to Fort Steele where he