

BC's Park Legacy Project – Essay Contest for Youth

During the first phase of public consultation of BC's Legacy Project, the Legacy Panel wanted to ensure they heard from BC's youth, as they are the future stewards of our parks and protected areas system. To help achieve this the panel member representing youth, Jennifer Goodman, designed an essay contest for young people to help incorporate their views and opinions into the work of the Legacy Panel.

Three categories for consideration included post-secondary, senior secondary, with junior high and elementary combined.



Brandon Longson, Grade 6

Post-secondary students were invited to write an essay on a variety of topics ranging from the commitment they would like to make to ensure BC's protected areas system remains as a sustainable legacy for their children, through to comparing and contrasting potential business opportunities within parks in terms of their ethical appropriateness.

Senior Secondary students were asked to write an essay on subjects ranging from their vision of what BC's provincial parks system should be like

in the year 2050, through to analyzing the problem of determining the appropriate balance between public use and conservation in parks. **Elementary and Junior High students** were asked to write a letter to youth of the future explaining the park legacy they would like to pass on to them and drawing a picture portraying that vision.

Congratulations to the winners:

Category: **Post-secondary School**
(Essay Contest)

Prize: A trip this summer into the Kitlope with Kitlope Ecotours

Winner: **Tim Ennis** of Victoria
Age: 23

Category: **Secondary School**
(Essay Contest)

Prize: \$500 educational bursary

Winner: **Jillian Youds** of Kamloops
Age: 17

Category: **Elementary and Junior High School**
(Letter/picture)

Prize: Framed wildlife print and a letter of recognition from Premier Glen Clark

Winner: **Peter Latta** of New Westminster
Age: 13

The Legacy Panel wanted to share some of the insights of the many letters they received from youth as well of some of the visions young people hold regarding the future of our protected areas system. □

See pages 4 and 5 for more "Dear Youth of the Future" entries.

Park Legacy Panel Releases Interim Report

On July 8th the Park Legacy Panel released it's report: *Sustaining our Parks and Protected Areas: Interim Report of the Legacy Panel*. The report is a milestone marking the end of the panel's extensive public process of province-wide open houses and workshops.

The report makes a number of preliminary proposals on the five themes the Legacy Panel was asked to address: vision, management and planning, public involvement, and resourcing our protected areas system. The panel also suggests the need for a new administrative structure for BC Parks. The Legacy Panel would like public input to the preliminary proposals described in their interim report. Comments from the public will be considered in the drafting of the panel's recommendations which will be released for public review in November, 1998.

To receive the interim report, visit the website at www.parklegacy.bc.ca or call (250) 387-1968. Public response is requested by the end of August. □

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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.

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- call (250) 952-6709
- send an email note to ParkInfo@prkvictoria.elp.gov.bc.ca
- write to: VISIONS, BC Parks, 800 Johnson Street, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4 Canada

Articles from readers are welcome. Deadline for material in the next issue is September 1, 1998.

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Minister

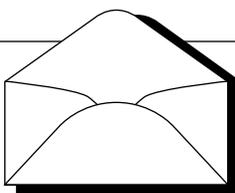
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Letters

I would like to take this opportunity to write to you in regard to my visit to Mt. Robson Park. For the past two days I have had the pleasure of touring the area and attending interpretive talks. Based on these observations, I feel comfortable in submitting the following remarks.

The area is beautiful and abounds with majestic beauty. I thank you for that and for the preservation put forth in securing its' place in the future. As for the interpretive talks and activities, I must say that they are second to none. I have been all over the world and honestly can say no other park program holds a candle to the interpretation and programming that I have seen at Mt. Robson. Last night I listened to a program on avian interests. The professional demeanor the interpreter possessed coupled with her outgoing personality are characteristics which I

deem highly necessary for success in today's world. The support staff and management staff that assisted were as good as the best I have ever seen.

I have found throughout the past two days that these people have an enthusiasm for their profession, a desire for excellence and a concern for making a worthwhile contribution to society for the preservation and enjoyment of your park. They are fine role models for all of us in regard to what nature and management is about. The symbiotic relationship that I have seen here is exceptional.

Needless to say, I would like to thank you for a memorable experience and would hope that others will follow in their place as time moves on.

Sincerely,

*Jeffrey B. Zeiger, Professor
 Recreation, Parks and Tourism
 Spearfish, South Dakota*

Life is a Beach

By Elna Thibeau (from *Transition Magazine*, March 1998)



In the fall of 1995, Campbell River Access Awareness Committee was approached by the maintenance department at Miracle Beach Park with the idea of building a ramp that would enable folks with disabilities to access the sand at low tide. The committee quickly adopted this project as one of our main priorities because of its uniqueness and the enthusiasm of several committee members. These members were excited with the thought of finally being able to go down on the beach with their children.

Two years and many telephone calls later, the project was completed! This ramp would not have been put in place without the help and support of BC Parks. Campbell River Access Awareness Committee members, several service clubs from both Campbell River and Tahsis, BC and many, many Campbell River businesses who donated supplies and labour.

It took about a year to study the tides and find the proper location for the ramp. When the tide was right, it had to be done immediately to allow for the construction of the forms and the pouring of the cement. Everyone worked hard and fast and did an awesome job! It brought tears to my eyes to see our committee members rolling down the ramp and onto the sand for the first time in many years and for some of them the first time ever!

If you should find yourself wandering up the island this summer, drop into Miracle Beach and check out the ramp and the wonderful beach. You won't want to leave! □

Outdoor Recreation is Important to British Columbians

by Donna Selbee, Parks Division Services Branch, Victoria

BC Parks is a major supplier of outdoor recreation opportunities in British Columbia. The agency is responsible for managing over 11,500 campsites, backcountry huts, cabins and shelters, nearly 24,000 parking spaces in over 400 day use parking areas, and boating facilities that include boat launch sites, boat docks and mooring buoys. In addition, BC Parks provides over 4,000 km of hiking and other trails.

One factor that can affect the use of these facilities is the number of British Columbians who value outdoor recreation and who participate in outdoor recreation activities.

To identify trends in several areas of interest to the agency, BC Parks periodically sponsors a telephone survey with a random sample of 500 adult British Columbians from across the province. One focus of the survey is participation in selected outdoor recreation activities in the 12 month period prior to the survey. In 1998, for the first time, participation in mountain biking and recreational diving were included in the survey.

The table (top right) presents the percent of British Columbians who indicated they participated in selected outdoor recreation activities in 1998 and, where applicable, 1995. Following are a few of the highlights from the 1998 survey:

- Outdoor recreation is important to British Columbians. When residents were asked how important outdoor recreation is compared to their other interests, over eight in ten British Columbians (86%) said that

outdoor recreation is either "very" or "somewhat" important.

- Day use activities were the most popular of selected outdoor recreation activities in the 1998 survey. Those activities with the greatest rates of participation were: going to the beach (77%); day hiking (60%) and outdoor swimming (58%).

- The least popular of the selected outdoor recreation activities included in the survey were: hunting (10%), kayaking (10%); sailing (10%); snowmobiling (8%) and recreational diving (8%). However, since 1991 the percent of British Columbians indicating that they have kayaked has tripled in size – from 3% in 1991 to 10% in 1998.

- Slightly more than five in ten British Columbians (53%) indicated they took a camping trip during 1997. The average number of trips taken was five during the twelve month period. When campers were asked what "type" of campsite they had used, more campers had used a provincial park campsite than any other type – provincial park campsite (53%), private site (47%), forestry site (42%) and national park site (29%). The three most often mentioned reasons for never, or not recently, taking a camping trip were: "too busy"; "too old/sick" and; "don't like camping".

These findings demonstrate that:

- As a major supplier of outdoor recreation opportunities, BC Parks plays a significant role in contributing to the quality of life of British Columbians.

- BC Parks needs to be cognizant of emerging outdoor recreation trends to ensure programs and facilities are relevant to the needs of provincial residents.

For further information, contact Donna Selbee, Program Evaluation Analyst, Business Research and Evaluation Services (250) 387-4502. □

Percent of BC Residents Participating in Selected Outdoor Recreation Activities (in past 12 months): 1998 and 1995

Activity	1998 (n=500)	1995 (n=502)	Percent Change
Going to the beach	77	80	-3
Day hiking	60	65	-5
Outdoor swimming	58	62	-4
Camping	53	55	-2
Fishing	37	46	-9*
Mountain biking	32	n/a	n/a
Power Boating	24	31	-7*
Overnight backpacking	22	19	+3
Downhill skiing	21	24	-3
Canoeing	21	19	+2
Cross-country skiing	12	13	-1
Hunting	10	13	-3
Kayaking	10	7	+3
Sailing	10	15	-5*
Snowmobiling	8	10	-2
Recreational diving	8	n/a	n/a

n= number of respondents

n/a = not available

* = figure represents a significant change 1998 compared to 1995

Park Forum



As a follow-up to the April 1997 **Park Forum**, the BC Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society is hosting "Working Together on Innovative Approaches to Sustaining Protected Areas", from November 19 – 22, 1998 in Vancouver, BC.

This conference continues where the April 1997 forum left off and will focus on hands-on, practical approaches for maintaining ecological integrity, educating parks users, paying for parks, and working together on stewardship initiatives to maintain them. This is an excellent opportunity to learn from other participants and speakers working in parks across Canada and internationally about developing innovative tools, models, and partnerships that will help ensure the future of our parks.

For more information, contact: CPAWS-BC, 611 – 207 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1H7. Telephone: (604) 685-7445, email: communication@cpawsbc.org □

BC Parks Legacy Project



Samantha Smith, Grade 6

This is the park legacy that I want to pass on to you. One thing we have parks for is to have fun. Having fun includes cooking over fires, exploring, being outdoors, watching wildlife and other camping things. Parks are always places where you can have lots of fun.

Katie Jasper, Grade 5

I enjoyed the park programs they put on some afternoons at our B.C. Park Bear Creek here in the Okanagan. I learned a lot about wildlife and how to take care of it. I'm sure other parks may have programs such as these. It is important for people to know about their surroundings, for many people come to parks and campgrounds not knowing how to have fun without hurting wildlife.

Samantha Smith, Grade 6



Melissa Chan, Grade 8



Meredith Hannen, Grade 8

I want youth of the future to have a clean environment and I would like people of the future to have a lot of wildlife parks like I do. I would like the parks to have whiskey jacks and deer and etc.

Brandon Parker, Grade 6

Winning Submission:

by Peter Latta
Age 13

Dear Youth of the Future,

This is the Park Legacy that I want to pass on to you. I would like to pass on the beauty of the land, the rivers flowing through the park, fish swimming up stream. I want the wildlife to stay as well the birds singing, the wolves in the forests and the eagles flying. I

love the scenery and would like that preserved. Our youth should have the chance to run through tall grass fields and build a secret hide-out in the woods. They should be able to have a chance to see mother nature in full colour and smell the flowers and pick the wild

- Youth Involvement



Katie Jasper, Grade 5

I think that we should have clean, clear water and green trees in our parks. To do that we must not pollute our parks. I think that there should be a garbage can on every path so that people will throw away their garbage. Also that way ponds, lakes, rivers and streams will stay clean.

Blake Ricciuti, Grade 6

BC parks may not seem important to you, but they have brought families together. They have also brought people away from their televisions, work and stress.

Melissa Chan, Grade 8



Michelle Sokolowski, Age 8

berries and fruit. Our youth should have a chance to a beautiful world and a beautiful life and beautiful parks, so try to keep them alive and in full colour.



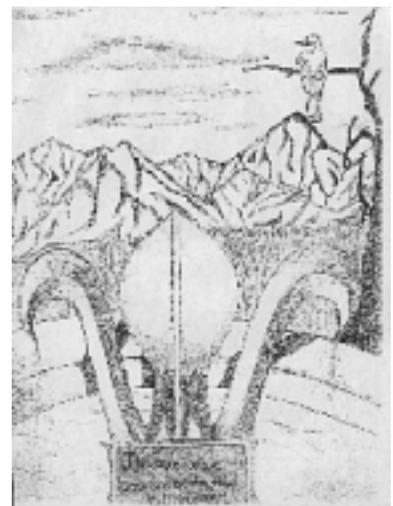
Valerie Corbett, Grade 8

In conclusion the legacy that I want to pass on is: to see more trees in the parks and also to see the ground stay clean. If this could happen I think people would enjoy visiting the parks more often.

Dylan Palmer, Grade 8

Special Recognition:

Peter Latta
Grade 8



NAME
THE PROTECTED AREA
by Roger Norrish, Victoria



Ocean views from windswept grassland high atop sandstone cliffs where cormorants nest and eagles soar.

Sandstone and Ocean

Provincial marine protected areas provide some of the most impressive and special ecosystems in British Columbia. This protected area is located on a Gulf Island north of Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. Visitors to this park are always impressed by the diversity of its land and water ecosystems. It contains grassy open areas, stands of old-growth Douglas-fir and arbutus trees, cactus, and spectacular sandstone cliffs and rock formations. A large marine component of 2,803 hectares was added to the park in 1992. Can you name this protected area? And what was the special circumstance surrounding the original establishment of the park's land area in 1966? (Answer on page 8). □

People at Parks

by Paula Sibbald, Parks Division
Services Branch, Victoria



Mike Gall
Resource Officer – Kootenay District

Mike was raised in the Castlegar area. After graduating from high school, he worked for a couple of years and then attended Selkirk College for four years, completing two courses, Regional and Community Planning and Wild Land Recreation. It was important to Mike to stay in this area of the province, because his parents died when he was in his teens and he had two younger sisters and wanted to keep the family unit close.

After graduation, Mike started his career with BC Parks in the Southern Interior Regional Office in Kamloops as a Planning Technician. After 1 1/2 years with BC Parks he moved over to the Ministry of Forests Recreation Program for another 1 1/2 years. He then moved back to BC Parks as a Planning Technician in the Northern Regional Office in Prince George. It was here that he developed a love for the northern remote parts of British Columbia.

He says he worked with a couple of "icons" of BC Parks – Jake Masselink and Tom Moore and feels he got a "full exposure". About this time Mike married (Lise) and moved even further north up to the Alaska Highway. Here he worked as an area supervisor and, in his spare time, pursued his love of hunting, fishing and hiking.

He then won a competition with the Ministry of Forests as a Recreation Officer in the Chilcotin District at Alexis Creek. The Chilcotin District was really special to him because it was very large and spread out and he was able to travel to remote areas.

With kids starting school, a desire to move to a larger centre landed him back at BC Parks in Kamloops where he worked as the Visitor Services Coordinator. One of the highlights was that he met and worked with Monty Downs who had quite an influence on him as a BC Parks employee. One of the most memorable projects for Mike was coordinating the 50th Anniversary of Wells Gray Park.

Mike then headed up to Fort St. John as he had won a competition as a Zone Manager in the Peace Liard District. He spent the next six years driving thousands of kilometers on the Alaska Highway. Resource projects dealing with stone sheep, black bears and mountain cariboo also kept him busy.

With BC Parks' reorganization, Mike found himself with a golden opportunity to take one of the new positions as a Resource Officer and he chose the Kootenay District where he has been for three years. Some unique opportunities have included bear management plans for BC Parks, protection and management plans for the rare and endangered grassland/pine ecosystem in the East Kootenay trench and wildlife inventories for recently created wilderness parks.

With his varied background, Mike feels he brings to the team at the Kootenay District some outside perspective. With ten to 15 years left he says there are a few more positions he'd like to try but hopes to remain with BC Parks for the duration of his career. □

Okanagan Partnership

By Darryl Paquette, Okanagan District



302 steps to Fintry Provincial Park's Shorts Creek waterfall.

One of the Okanagan District's newest provincial parks is safer and has more recreational opportunities because of a partnership funded by the FRBC program at Fintry Provincial Park. The partnership involved the Okanagan Indian Band and BC Parks. A team of six to eight workers was involved over a period of three months.

There were two major projects with funding at the \$90,000 level. The first was the removal of approximately 100 pylons that were just above and below the waterline along the shore of the park. From a safety perspective they were an accident waiting to happen. The second project was the construction of a 200 metre network of stairs (302 steps) and viewpoints to allow visitors easy access to the scenic Shorts Creek waterfall and canyon area of the park. The previous existing trail was very steep and potentially dangerous.

One of the primary objectives of this program was to provide training

which could eventually lead to future fulltime employment. In this situation one of the crew demonstrated skills and a desire to work that more than impressed a local contractor working on the project. Once the job was complete, the contractor offered employment to the fellow – the makings of a real success story!

We hope to continue with phase two of the trail improvements, including another set of stairs. Improvements are currently in progress as part of our district's E-Team work program. The workers are continuing to learn new skills and there is the satisfaction of knowing that their accomplishments will be appreciated and protected in the future.

Our local TV station in Kelowna recently did a profile of the park indicating it was a hidden gem nobody knew about. Well, now the secret is out and since the program aired we have had a steady stream of visitors wanting to see the stairs, all 302 leg-burning steps. □

"Waste Deep"

By Chris Platz, Garibaldi/Sunshine Coast District

Septic waste that is – the inevitable by-product of human visitation to our parks.

In 1994, the septic tile fields in Alice Lake Provincial Park began to fail due to age and increased use. I was about to learn more than I ever wanted to know about dealing with "effluent", as the BC Environment Waste Management guys call it. Over the next two years, four large tile fields were rebuilt at a cost of around \$240,000. Needless to say we began looking for ways to extend the life of our existing and newly rebuilt fields.

How do you provide the same level of service and decrease the amount of effluent? Two options: flush less often or decrease the amount flushed. With increasing visitation, flushing less often was not feasible. That left option B, decreasing the amount flushed. Low volume toilets seemed to be the answer. I spoke with building inspectors, plumbers, plumbing fixture manufacturers, operations managers of large public facilities like civic centers and swimming pools, but the same answer kept coming back. Yes, building codes required commercial style low volume fixtures in new construction and some manufactures had produced low volume lines, but no one said they had to work! During a phone conversation with a building inspector in sunny, water-wise California, it was mentioned that one company had produced an ultra low volume toilet that actually worked called a Hymont 2 ULF by Crane Canada. Yes, made in Canada, but primarily sold in the USA. The difference between conventional and ultra low flush was significant: 22 to 26 liters per flush for conventional compared with six liters per flush for the ULF. This was the

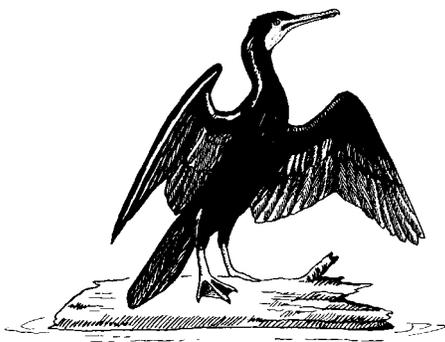
(continued on page 8) ►

("Waste Deep" continued from page 7)

ticket! An added bonus was that it worked with conventional flush valves, lowering our replacement costs as we could use our old flush valves.

Over the next two years we replaced all the flush toilets in four of our high use parks at a cost of \$300 per toilet installed. To complement the effort, we also set in place other water reduction strategies, such as closing showers between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., installing low volume shower heads, push-button metered shower taps and sink faucets, and posting water conservation notices throughout the toilet buildings. We then monitored the amount of waste produced and compared it to our previous flows. The results? It showed a 40% decrease in volume produced. Hopefully we will get a 40% longer life out of our fields while using less water and energy resources to provide the same services.

If you have this problem seeping up in a park near you, and would like more information, call Chris at the Garibaldi/Sunshine Coast District (604) 898-3678, where we waste less – 40% less. □



NAME THE PROTECTED AREA:
Answer (from page 6)
The protected area is Helliwell Provincial Park on Hornby Island. The special circumstance is that the land was donated by the Helliwell family to the Crown for provincial park purposes.

Bowron Operations Permit

by Brian Carruthers, Cariboo District



John Hager of Hager Business Services launches one of the new boats for the Bowron Circuit.

May 15, 1998 saw the full implementation of a new operations permit for the maintenance and operation of the Bowron Lake Canoe Circuit. A trial operations permit had been in place for the previous two seasons. This trial allowed district staff to evaluate the feasibility of the initiative prior to making a long term commitment.

Hager Business Services of Quesnel was the successful proponent and has operated the Barkerville campgrounds, Bowron registration centre, reservation service and campground for the past five years. The new permit involves continued operation of the registration centre, reservation service and campground and includes maintenance of all facilities on the circuit, provision of firewood and enforcement. Two of the circuits four patrol cabins have also been assigned to the Park Facility Operator (PFO).

The operations permit included the requirement to purchase a

number of new boats and motors for the PFO as some of the existing boats dated back to the seventies and were rapidly becoming unsafe. This has resulted in a quality fleet of boats for the PFO and BC Parks, including a number of quieter, cleaner and more efficient four-stroke outboards.

The implementation of the operations permit has allowed the redeployment of surplus ranger staff to provide a much needed presence in the districts new parks and protected areas. It has also allowed the remaining ranger staff to focus their efforts on assisting the PFO with enforcement and responding to public safety issues such as river rescues, medical emergencies, fire control, problem bears and conservation monitoring.

BC Parks and Hager Business Services are looking forward to a long partnership in providing a safe, quality backcountry experience for the visitors the Bowron Lake Park. □