

BC Parks Employee Wins Public Service Award

by David Glockzin, Human Resources Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks

The Public Service Awards for the Lower Mainland region were presented on December 15th at a luncheon held at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver. I am very pleased to announce that **Jeff Such**, Area Supervisor in the Lower Mainland District, was recognised in the category of **Service to the Public (individual)**.

Over 500 attended the luncheon, representing a broad range of the public service: nominees, nominators, adjudicators, MLAs, civic leaders, regional and executive management. The awards are a celebration of the public service, an opportunity to salute and showcase individuals, teams, branches and programs for specific achievements. Forty-six awards were presented in 12 categories.

Jeff was honored for his work in establishing GETPARC (Golden Ears Trail Preservation and Restoration Club). He conceived the idea of an organization to preserve and restore over 60 kilometers of trails in Golden Ears Provincial Park. He worked extremely hard for two years, much of it on his own time, to make such an organization a reality. By convincing representatives from a wide variety of trail user groups to work together, he was able to foster the establishment of the GETPARC non-profit society. The society also functions as a consensus-forming body to facilitate trail upgrading, resolve potential conflicts, raise funds and make recommendations on trial projects. Jeff recognized that trail user groups are often in conflict over use of trails, the level of trail development, environmental impacts and other issues. By bringing representatives of user groups together, Jeff was able to:

- Avoid inevitable trail use conflicts in the parks by having user groups work together;
- Create an organized body to coordinate effective trail upgrading projects and set priorities for trail projects;
- Access the membership of each trail group for volunteer trail projects, fund raising, trail monitoring, etc.



Jeff Such (left) wins Public Service Award for GETPARC after being nominated by Jim Cuthbert (right). Both are from BC Parks, Lower Mainland District.

GETPARC has thus far received \$530,000 in Forest Renewal BC funding for trail restoration, and has raised over \$50,000 in non-BC Government funds for trail projects. Jim Cuthbert, Extension Officer for the Lower Mainland District, nominated Jeff for this award. Congratulations Jeff. □

Trial by Fire: Grasslands of Junction Sheep Range Park Restored by Prescribed Burns

by Kate Alexander, Cariboo District

Encroachment and In-growth: while these sound like mildly embarrassing personal problems, at Junction Sheep Range Park they have become serious issues which threaten grassland ecosystems. The Junction, as it is known to locals, is at the confluence of the Chilcotin and Fraser rivers. Its ecosystems range from the dry, hot sagebrush grasslands down on south-facing slopes near the rivers, up to Douglas-fir forests on higher, cool north aspects.

Encroachment is the gradual expansion of forested areas as little "Christmas" fir trees sprout in previously open grasslands. In-growth occurs in the open canopy forests near the upper limit of grasslands where upstart young trees begin to fill in the open spaces beneath the old, fire-scarred veteran firs.

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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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Articles from readers are welcome. Deadline for material in the next issue is March 1, 2001.

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("Trial by Fire..." continued from page 1)

The loss of grasslands in the Cariboo-Chilcotin is enormous. Since the 1960s, an estimated 11% of the grassland area, or 20,000 hectares, has become forested. From about 1900 to 1960 it is likely an even larger percentage was lost. Thirty-six percent of species at risk in BC depend on grasslands, and threats to grassland species will increase further if this loss of habitat continues.

Why are in-growth and encroachment happening? Because grasslands are fire-maintained ecosystems. Before European settlers arrived in large numbers there were frequent fires that kept the young trees at bay and rejuvenated the grasses and herbs. Some of the fires were set deliberately by First Nations people in order to maintain grazing areas for their game animals and good growth conditions for food and medicinal plants. Others occurred naturally, started by lightning strikes. Modern fire suppression has halted this process. (Grasslands also require hot, dry summers. Cooler, moister weather in recent years has been another factor encouraging the spread of conifers.)

To reclaim some of the loss of grasslands and their biodiversity, the Cariboo District is planning to re-

introduce fire to the Junction (There is little we can do about the weather). Resource Officer Glen Davidson has led the development of a detailed plan. In a nutshell, we hope the prescribed fire will restore the grasslands of the Junction to 1975 conditions, killing off encroachment and in-growth and rejuvenating the bunchgrass to improve grazing for wild sheep and deer.

Another aim of the project is information gathering: consultant Kristi Iverson has set up research plots, including control plots. Over time, the unburnt plots' species composition will be monitored and compared, to see if the burn results in an increase in native grassland species. She also determined nesting sites of vulnerable species such as the flammulated owl and sharp-tailed grouse so these can be avoided.

The burns are planned to take place during March and April 2001. Dates will be determined by weather conditions. The detailed operational plan addresses the *Who, What, When, Where and Why*.

To learn more about the Junction Burn Plan's "Five Ws", contact Glen Davidson at (250) 398-4414, or watch this space and the BC Parks website (www.elp.gov.bc.ca/bcparks) or the Junction for updates. □



Encroachment is obviously affecting this grassland slope. Near the top, small trees filling in the spaces between the large, old ones demonstrate in-growth.

CHRIS HAMILTON PHOTO

Randy White – E-Team Supervisor



Randy White (right) supervised a crew, including Pamela Harlow and Christopher Oliver, that worked on the Trans Canada Trail in North Vancouver.

While most Environment Youth Team work crew participants finish a contract and move on to something new, many of their supervisors keep working in the program, becoming familiar faces in BC Parks.

Take Randy White. During the last four years he has been “lead hand” on some 16 work crews for Ecoworks, a community organization based in Abbotsford. Most of those crews have worked in BC Parks in the Lower Mainland.

“It was just the start of life for me,” says White, recalling how he started with Ecoworks. “It turned me around. It made me happy to go to work for a change.”

For 15 years he had worked at a mill in Richmond. When the mill closed its doors he briefly worked for the post office before joining a Forest Renewal BC trail building crew in Squamish. The experience included paid training time, and he says the training helped him get his job with Ecoworks.

“I appreciate the chance people have given me,” he says. “I’m excited about what I’m doing.”

“He’s great,” says Hugh Ackroyd, the area supervisor for Garibaldi Provincial Park, where White has supervised a few crews. “He’ll go out of his way to please you. He’s a really conscientious guy.”

In fact, on a January Monday that White was spending fishing, his main complaint about the E-Team was that 12 weeks lay-off in the winter was too much. Over the years, that positive attitude has helped White become popular with the 16 to 24 year olds on his crews.

“I like to be the boss I always wanted to have,” he says. That means staying grounded, not grumbling when things don’t go as planned, keeping a sense of fun and treating the youth on the crew with respect.

“I try to talk like a big brother, not a counselor.”

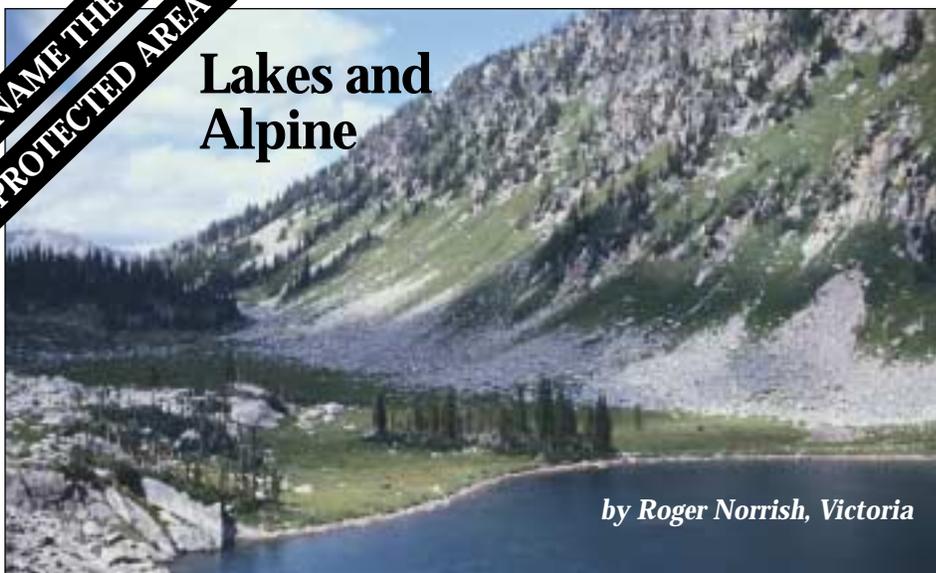
The crews stay together 10 to 14 weeks. By the end of that time, he says, “even the girls” will be flexing their muscles to show what physical labour has done for them. He says they also gain confidence, and often their attitudes shift.

“Lots of them have become hikers,” he says. “Instead of going out to the pubs or the bars or whatever, they’re getting out in nature and doing good stuff.”

Supervising E-Team crews and working with youth is something White says he’d like to do until he retires. “It is a great program. I hope it goes on a long time. A lot of people really benefit from it.” □

NAME THE
PROTECTED AREA

Lakes and Alpine



by Roger Norrish, Victoria

Small tarns and alpine lakes, spectacular mountain scenery, family backcountry hiking through alpine meadows.

The West Kootenay of British Columbia contains many of the province’s outstanding wilderness parks. This protected area is located 34 kilometres northeast of Nelson. Established in 1922, this park is among the oldest in the provincial protected areas system. The park includes such interesting place names as Sawtooth Ridge, Sapphire Lakes and Insect Peak. This wilderness park protects a rich natural environment including high elevation forests and alpine meadows. In years past, what is now Class A provincial park was the centre of mineral exploration and small-scale mine operations. In the summer, family groups often visit this park to experience the backcountry and mountain vistas. In winter, the park attracts ski touring parties, many of which stay at the historic Slocan Chief cabin in the heart of the park. Can you name this provincial park? And can you name the Olympic ski champion who trained in the park with the Canadian National Ski team during the late 1960s? (Answers on page 7). □

25th
Anniversary

Wooden Broom
Bonspiel



at **Kamloops** Curling Club

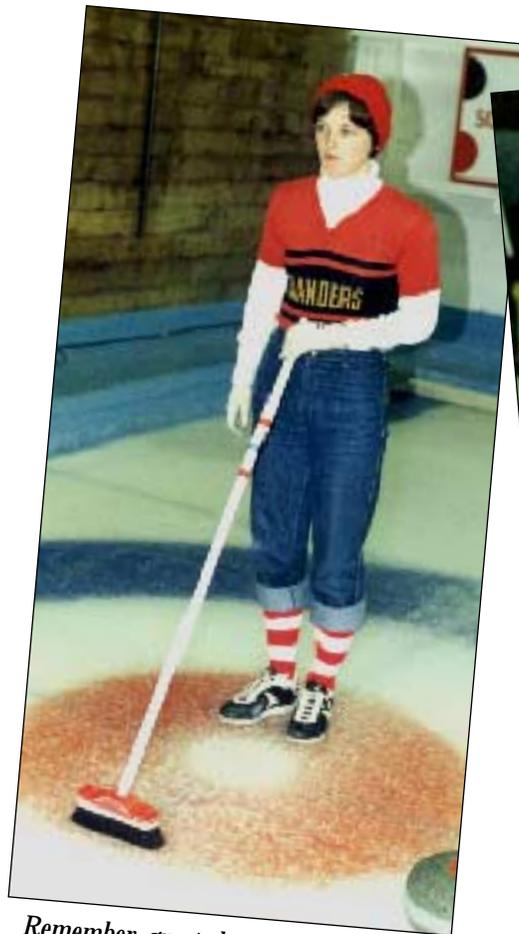
Come and help celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the BC Parks
Wooden Broom Bonspiel on Saturday and Sunday

March 3 and 4, 2001

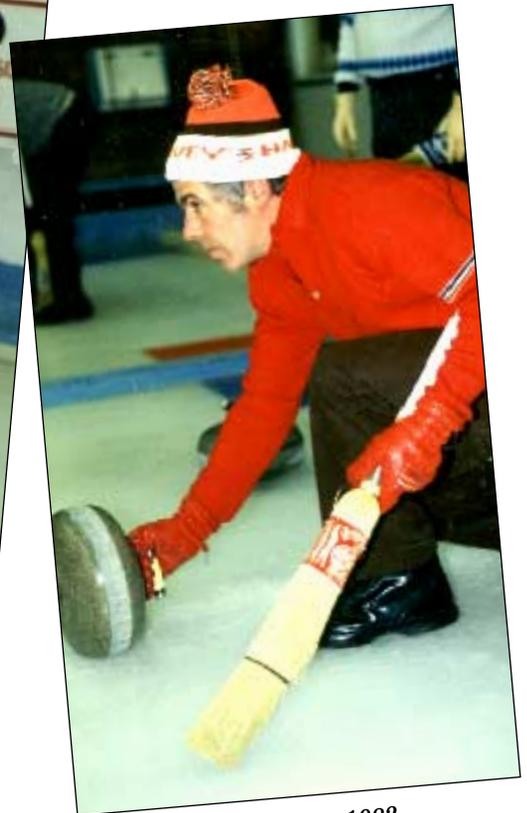
The bonspiel is a wonderful social event and remember
this is a **fun event**. You do not need any previous
curling experience, so don't miss out this year.



Merv Honey, 1981



*Remember, great things can happen at
the bonspiel. Here is Cheryl Noble in
1981. She got her curling start
right at this very bonspiel, now she is a
world curling champion!*



Tom Moore, 1982

Even if you don't want to curl, come
celebrate the 25th year of this great
BC Parks tradition. We would sure
like to see all those original curlers!



Shirley and Des Desrosiers

Costs

\$32.50 per person
(includes curling, 2 Anniversary mementoes, souvenir pin, Friday night social, Saturday dinner/dance!)

\$12.00 per person
(dinner/dance only)

Anniversary Mementos: This year everyone will receive an engraved mug and a team photo/certificate to mark this 25th Anniversary occasion!

Registration

Please phone, fax or email registrations (then **quickly** follow with cash!) by **February 16, 2001** to Ron Routledge:

Mail: 1210 McGill Road,
Kamloops, BC
V2C 6N6

Email: Ron.Routledge@
gems5.gov.bc.ca

Tel: 250-851-3012

Fax: 250-828-4660

Late registration: (after February 16, 2001) **an additional \$5.00 per person**

Register as an individual, pair or trio and we will put a team together for you to curl with.

Friday Night

We have a gathering spot in the lounge at the curling rink, munchies will be provided!

Prizes

As usual everyone is guaranteed a prize for every curler plus a few special gifts for hoppers and others!

Accommodation

Thompson Hotel (located next door to rink): \$55 for standard room; \$60 for executive floor (extras: microwave, pantry, room safe, computer dataport, voice mail). These are flat rates for 1 to 4 persons. Phone: 1-800-561-5253 and mention you are coming for the BC Parks Bonspiel.

The Executive Inn (located 2 blocks from rink): \$60 flat rate per room. Phone: 1-800-663-2837 and mention you are coming for the BC Parks Bonspiel.

The bonspiel ends at around noon on Sunday so there is lots of time to return home!

A Special Request

If you have any photos or memorabilia that you would like to pass on to the committee for this special year of the bonspiel, let us know. We would love to borrow them for the festivities this year.

More Information

Contact any of the bonspiel committee:

Monty Downs, Thompson River District, (250) 851-3009

Don Gough, Okanagan District, (250) 494-6506

Ron Routledge, Thompson River District, (250) 851-3012

Earl Sinclair, Thompson River District, (250) 851-3014

Ken Morrison, Headquarters, (250) 356-0536

Debby Funk, Headquarters, (250) 387-4356

Alice MacGillivray, Headquarters, (250) 387-4660

New Camping Party Definition

by John Furney, Victoria

BC Parks' camping party definition comes into effect for the 2001 camping season. It's shorter, easier to understand and more equitable than the previous version. BC Parks' staff, park facility operators, campers and *Discover Camping* campground reservation service all provided valuable input as we moved from the first rough drafts to final approval by Cabinet. This sign is what you'll see at your local park this summer. ▼

Welcome to British Columbia Parks

Please select a campsite. The fee is (\$X) per camping party, per night, including GST. An attendant will collect the fee.

Camping Party ■ 1 - 4 persons (16 years of age or older).
■ Maximum of 8 persons including children (15 years of age and younger).

Vehicles per Camping Party ■ One vehicle and trailer. Either one (but not both) may be an RV.
■ A second vehicle (non-RV) may be allowed on site for an additional nightly charge of 1/2 the campsite fee.

Campsite Maximum ■ 1 camping party per site, unless otherwise authorized.

Check Out ■ 11:00 a.m.

Maximum Stay ■ 14 days per calendar year at this park.

BC Seniors Camping Fees ■ Half rate, except June 15 to Labour Day when full rates apply.

How is this definition "new and improved"? In previous years, campers paid fees based on their marital status, their place of residence, their blood ties, and the registered addresses of their on-site vehicles. Many complained, pointing out that these criteria resulted in identical parties in adjacent sites paying widely different fees. Park facility operators were uncomfortable asking for such personal information, and many campers saw such questioning as extremely invasive and irrelevant to visiting a provincial park.

(continued on page 6) ►

("New Camping..." continued from page 5)

Who did we consult? We held camper focus groups, we talked to our park facility operators and their staff, and we counted vehicles. We talked to other provincial and state park agencies as well as tourism representatives. We wanted a definition that was not only fair and simple, but also one which would not effect the fees paid by the majority of campers.

So the net result? With our new definition, the only personal information required by the park facility operators (other than the booking camper's name and address) is the ages of the children in the party. Fifteen year olds (and younger) camp for free; sixteen year olds are considered adults. Four adults allowed in the party, and the party may have a second vehicle on-site for an additional charge of one-half its nightly camping fee.

Will all campers pay exactly what they paid last year? No. A small percentage will pay more, a small percentage will pay less. Overall, though, we don't forecast any net change to revenue.

Special thanks to campers, park facility operators, district staff and *Discover Camping* who expended much time and energy in designing this definition, an enormous improvement over what we all laboured with before. Happy camping. □

Change Monitoring Inventory: A New Measuring Stick for the Forest

by David Kilshaw, Resources Inventory Branch, Ministry of Forests

Society has reached a general consensus that the rhythm and balance of nature is changing. While this generalisation is widely accepted, politicians, environmentalists, public at large, and resource managers have not reached a parallel consensus on what is changing, how fast is it changing, and which of those changes are good, neutral or bad for us.

These are complex questions. "We need to know what we have now, and have a clear vision of our desired future state, if we want to plan effectively for the future" says Dave Gilbert, Director of the Resources Inventory Program for the Ministry of Forests.

In the summer of the year 2000, the BC Ministry of Forests, along with provincial agencies from across Canada embarked on a National Forest Inventory. British Columbia has enhanced this project with a sophisticated system of field measurements called the "Change Monitoring Inventory". This work will provide a base line description of the quantity, quality and extent of the forests across Canada. Subsequent surveys of the same area will indicate if, how and how fast the forests are changing.

Working together with BC Parks:

Our fragile environment spreads across the hills and valleys irrespec-

tive of land ownership. "For this inventory to work properly, we need to survey the whole province, not just the lands that the Forest Service traditionally manages," Gilbert said. Eighteen of the 315 sites randomly chosen for field surveys fall in provincial parks. Ministry of Forests, Resources Inventory Branch staff and BC Parks staff co-operated in developing strict guidelines for establish-



Dale McLean records measurements on a Vegetation Resources Inventory (VRI) sample in the Alex Fraser Research Forest at Knife Creek in the William's Lake area.

ing the surveys in the specific provincial parks before a Park Use Permit was awarded. Under these guidelines, we will measure the trees, identify the vegetation, and dig a soil pit to take soil samples. No material will be cut and removed from the site.

More than trees:

The surveys are designed to measure more than just trees. Mosses, shrubs, herbs and grasses are included in the survey. Coarse woody debris, the large rotten logs and branches from dead trees, is measured as well because it plays such an important role in the nutrient cycle. Old growth characteristics of the forest are also noted. All of this information is combined with data on soil richness and moisture availability to produce a very complete description of the whole forest environment.

Measure, and re-measure:

The first set of measurements will provide an idea of 'what we have'. Subsequent re-measurements, planned on a 5 or 10 year cycle, will indicate if 'what we have' is changing. Gilbert concluded, "Just as an individual is able to check their financial well being by comparing bank statements from month to month, we will be able to report on changes in the condition of the forest." □

Trans Canada Trail Face Lift

by Master Warrant Officer Peter Pitcher, 192nd Airfield Engineering

On September 30th, 2000, 192 Airfield Engineering Flight (AEF) Abbotsford in cooperation with BC Parks took on the grueling task of repairing portions of the Trans Canada Trail from Post Creek to Green Drop Lake. This deployment would help to exercise the soldiers in basic field survivability, as well as utilizing the surrounding environment to complete common engineering tasks.

In order to get the project off the ground, 192 AEF met with Park Rangers from the BC Parks Cultus Lake office to discuss the task of repairing the Trans Canada Trail as a community relations project. Both parties saw that completing such a task would be beneficial to the public and would also provide 192 AEF with an excellent training venue. A recognizance was conducted and possible tasks and problem areas were identified by BC Parks. Once the recognizance photos were examined and the task list completed, it soon became evident that we were getting ourselves involved in a major undertaking that would test the mettle of every person.

Two problems presented themselves early in the planning stages. The first was how to get approximately 1000 pounds of stores, hard rations and 60-pound field packs to the site, which was located 5.5 kilometres in the mountains with an elevation of 1200 metres straight up. The second problem was communication between the command post at Post Creek and the Air Field Engineers in the mountains. Communications were absolutely vital as the possibility of casualty due to the heavy loads and mountainous

terrain was ever present. Given the rugged terrain and distance the soldiers had to travel it was decided that the only solution to the first problem was brute force. We would employ an advance party of six of 192 AEF's fittest soldiers as porters to carry awkward and heavy stores items such as chainsaws, spikes, ropes and fuel into the work site one or two days prior to commencement of the task. The second problem was solved by utilizing portable FM radios from BC Parks and implementing a relay system in conjunction with a command post monitor at Post Creek.

In order to get all the required stores to the site, the advance party had to make two trips carrying packs in excess of 60 pounds. Communication was also established during this time and relay points set.

The following day the advance party and main party amalgamated at Post Creek for a final ascent to the work sites. The three hour 'body burn' to Green Drop won't soon be forgotten by most of the 192 AEF members and certainly made

them appreciate the work done by the advance party. Once on site the Flight went about its business of setting up improvised shelters, two man dome tents, and a common gathering area for the nights to follow.

The first morning after devouring a delightful military breakfast, tasks

were assigned and work commenced. Soon the air was filled with the smell of burning chain saw fuel and the unmistakable roar of a 'Husky' chain saw ploughing its way through snags and dead falls that were blocking the trail. Although most of the tasks were comparably simple there were some tasks that definitely tested the Flight's ability to apply their engineering knowledge and tool handling skills. The biggest test came when the Flight was faced with building a footbridge over a 6-foot deep washout that spanned 25 feet from bank to bank. It didn't take long for the Flight OC (Officer Commanding) to sniff out three excellent dead falls that were of a consistent diameter and long enough to utilize for the bridge stringers. Using come-alongs, levers, log rollers and good old fashion bull work the

logs were pulled into position and the bridge constructed. After two days of listening to the steady roar of chain saws, quiet once again fell on Green Drop Lake. The trail repairs were complete one day early and without even

BC Parks, Lower Mainland District, would like to thank the 192 Airfield Engineering Flight for their great efforts on this project.

as much as a single minor injury. Sitting around the camp fire you could see the sense of satisfaction on everyone's face as they quietly contemplated the final trip back to Post Creek and the knowledge that they had indeed taken on the mountain and won. □

NAME THE PROTECTED AREA: Answers (from page 3): The protected area is Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park. The Olympic champion is Nancy Greene Raine.

Farewell to Carol Berryman After 25 Years

by Selma Low, South Vancouver Island District

In Goldstream Provincial Park, the Freeman King Visitor Centre is dedicated to a long time naturalist, Freeman King, who died in 1975. Over the past 25 years the name, Carol Berryman, has also become synonymous with the Visitor Centre.

Carol began her career with BC Parks in 1975 as a park naturalist at Manning Provincial Park. She spent a month at Garibaldi Provincial Park before arriving at Goldstream for the salmon run of 1975 and stayed until 1981. After a year off in 1982, Carol was senior park ranger at Newcastle Provincial Marine Park and Rath Trevor Provincial Park.

She returned "home" to Goldstream in 1988 as an employee with the interpretive contractor, Arenaria Research and Interpretation and has been at Goldstream till she retired this November 2000. The Visitor Centre is truly Carol's home as she and her partner, Randy Dixon, live on-site in their trailer as caretakers.

Before Carol was an interpreter, she often took her young children camping and always went to the nature programs. This introduction to the profession set Carol on her future path as an interpreter. She has likely set a few of the thousands of children and adults she has provoked and challenged in her programs, on a similar path.

While Carol is well known for her work with children and her knowledge of nature, she may be lesser known but equally loved, for her portrayal of the ghost of Emily Carr who returns to Goldstream to visit her beloved trees. As Emily continues to grace us with her presence, undoubtedly so will Carol. Happy sailing from BC Parks staff. □



Carol Berryman (right/centre) captivates all ages with her interpretive programs.

Retirement Claims Another 'Happy' Victim

The Wicked Witch of the North, Marilynne Hann, is not at all the wicked witch as many of her colleagues and friends have discovered over the last ten years. Marilynne Hann began her career with BC Parks at the Regional Office in Prince George and has made her home as the Human Resources Coordinator at the Prince George District Office for the last six years. This energetic, outgoing, friendly, caring and dedicated individual has brought not only outstanding work ethics to her job but has emerged as a friend, confidante and an exceptional team player that has deeply touched all of those who have come to know her. Marilynne's retirement adventures officially begin on Saturday, January 20, 2001, as her last day of employment will be Friday, January 19, 2001.

In writing this farewell, BC Parks (Prince George District), along with all her colleagues and friends would like to wish Marilynne and her husband Gailand all the very best as they travel the world to exotic locations such as Puerto Vallarta, the Oregon Coast and other breathtaking settings. We will truly miss you Marilynne! □



**The clock's been punched
For the very last time.
The daily grind
Has been left behind.
No more meetings or LMTs to fax,
It's time to kick back and relax!**

Scarecrow – Christine Jones
Lobster fisherman – Gord Borgstrom
Pumpkin – Geri Knickle
G.I. Jane – Suzanne Kobliuk
Pirate – Pam Castle
Bunny – Laverne Rooker
Witch – Marilynne Hann
Cat – Cheryl Livingstone-Leman
Panther – Klee Leman