

VISIONS



BC Parks Newsletter

January, 1991

Vol. 2, No. 1

Parks Plan 90 Popular

Thousands of British Columbians are interested in Parks Plan 90, the review of our provincial park system. Already, our mailing list has grown to 7,000 ... and people are calling about more than 100 meetings which we're holding throughout the province from February 11 - 27.

BC Parks has joined forces with the Ministry of Forests for these meetings. Together, we'll ask what people want in **Parks and Wilderness for the 90s**. BC Parks will present our plans for the future of the park system and the Ministry of Forests will present its study of potential wilderness areas; then we'll receive presentations from the audience.

Juliet Proom

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Executive Changes

Parks Minister Messmer becomes Top Cop



Marge and Ivan Messmer take their final bow with Jerry

As this newsletter was being prepared for the printers, the **Premier** shuffled the provincial cabinet. Among other changes, the new cabinet lineup included the Honourable **Ivan Messmer's** transfer to become BC's Solicitor General, and former Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable **John Savage**, as our new Minister of Parks.

At our Victoria office's Christmas party that same evening, **Stephen Stackhouse** gave **Mr. Messmer** a very eloquent send-off on behalf of us all, and presented him and his wife, **Marge**, with a half-sized picnic table.

The minister responded in the inimitable style that all of us have experienced first hand over the last year, expressing his deep appreciation for the hard work and responsiveness of the employees of BC Parks.

He concluded by thanking all of us for making his year as parks minister "the happiest year of my life" and encouraged us to stay the course on Parks Plan 90.

Earlier in the week, in response to a question at a meeting with the cabinet staff, he approved the exemption of "Visions" from the recent budget freeze. We look forward now to getting back on track with our newsletter.

Jake Masselink

Planning

Babine Mountains Master Plan

Strong interest in Smithers in the Babine Mountain Recreation Area has led to the master plan being produced by Skeena District staff, led by Visitor Services Coordinator **Ken Zimmer**, with guidance from the Regional office planning section.

Ken and District Manager **Hugh Markides** are setting up a study team representing a wide range of local interests, and public meetings will be held throughout the winter. Major issues include the future of mineral exploration, adjacent logging and conflicts among users, and possible Class "A" park status. The background report is available now, and the draft plan is scheduled for summer 1991.

Resource Management

Marbled Murrelets

Marbled murrelets are in the news these days because of their association with old growth forests. Although they are seen fairly frequently along the coast, their nest sites remain elusive. Only a few have been found throughout the world, and the first BC nest was only recently reported.

A cooperative study has been undertaken in the Queen Charlotte Islands this year to find out more about the Marbled Murrelets' use of the old-growth forests. Funds were provided by four forest companies, three federal agencies, three provincial agencies, and a nonprofit organization. The project was coordinated by the BC Conservation Foundation and conducted by researchers from the Canadian Wildlife Service.

Part of the fieldwork was in Naikoon Park and BC Parks contributed \$5,000 to the project. Gerry Ferguson assisted the researchers in the park.

Study results are being compiled and should soon be available.

Mike Murtha

Native Issues

Cooperative Resource Management

BC Parks increasingly finds itself involved with native groups in the management of traditional activities within park boundaries. The recent government decision to participate in land claim negotiations will herald a new era of cooperation, and experience elsewhere may well assist the process.

Last winter, **Mona Holley** from Headquarters, accepted a five-month secondment to the Northern Region. One of her tasks was to research existing instances of cooperative resource management. She collected and reviewed 47 references throughout North America and as far away as Australia. Her annotated bibliography has been compiled into a report called "*Principles of Joint Management Agreements: a Literature Review*". The report is being used as a reference at the ministry's conservation school and plans are underway to publish it as an occasional paper. In the meantime, a copy can be obtained from the Northern Regional office.

Mike Murtha

Resource Management

The Gitnadoix' Treasures

The Gitnadoix River Recreation Area is one of only three confirmed trumpeter swan nesting sites in BC. Located in the Kitimat Ranges of the coast mountains between Terrace and Prince Rupert, and with Alastair Lake as its headwaters, the recreation area occupies a scenic U-shaped valley, forming a complete natural drainage system encompassing some 58,000 hectares.

The trumpeter swan is the province's largest waterfowl, weighing up to 20 pounds and measuring six feet from bill to tail. Although it's close to extinction, it's still a fairly common sight in the Pacific Northwest where a few hundred winter.

About 35 trumpeters include the marsh areas of the Gitnadoix River as part of their wintering grounds but the upper region of the valley is crucial habitat throughout the year.

The Gitnadoix is known for more than trumpeter swans, however, and has in fact many outstanding biological features to be discussed in future issues!

Gordon MacDonald

VISIONS is produced five times per year by the Ministry of 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 1X5.**

Articles from readers are welcome. Deadline for material is February 15, 1991.

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Minister of Parks: John Savage
Deputy Minister: Stephen Stackhouse
Assistant Deputy Minister: Jake Masselink

Resource Management

A Roadside Attraction - or Distraction?



With seventy-five percent of the world's stone sheep in British Columbia, both Stone Mountain and Muncho Lake Provincial Parks are excellent viewing sites.

These parks are bisected by the Alaska Highway and, as the number of travellers increases, so does the number of roadside sheep fatalities. More than 15 sheep were struck by vehicles in the two parks in 1989, leading parks staff to identify six zones where the sheep are especially vulnerable.

There are, for example, traditional travel corridors where the sheep cross the highway. The calcium applied to the highway during the winter to control ice builds up along the right-of-ways, attracting sheep in search of minerals and creating a roadside hazard.

Potential solutions include high-impact warning signs; speed-reduction zones where sheep concentrate; fencing (which has worked in Banff and Jasper); and spraying the roadsides with non-toxic chemicals to discourage sheep from licking the calcium. This also saves other species like caribou and porcupines.

This year six artificial mineral licks were constructed away from the highway. They were dug into side hills and filled with natural and artificial minerals. Staff are researching natural licks to help develop the artificial ones and if the program is successful, it will be expanded.

Public education is important, too. Drivers are asked to obey speed limits and to watch for animals. They're discouraged from feeding or attracting them to the road for a better picture. They're asked to pull well off the road when stopping to view or photograph wildlife and to check their rearview mirror before hitting the brakes.

The Peace Liard district is constantly seeking new ways to provide visitors with world-class viewing opportunities while protecting the animals. Working with scientists and with the public will ensure that there will be more to explore in our parks for years to come.

Derek Connolly

Resource Management

Marine Inventory

Marine parks are important to the park system but they're difficult to plan and to manage.

Without the special training and equipment of SCUBA divers, few can experience the subtidal environment.

Last October, eight divers from the newly formed **Marine Sanctuary Society** volunteered to help us by spending three days conducting an inventory of the subtidal resources of Princess Margaret Provincial Marine Park. The group included experts in several fields of marine plant and animal identification.

Working from several boats, including the *Park Ranger*, the divers swam pre-selected areas of the park's foreshore, identifying the type of bottom, the slope, plants and animals encountered. This information was collected at 20 key sites around the island. From this data, the subtidal habitats will be described and mapped.

The project was a dual trial - of the inventory system used in Washington State, and of the feasibility of using volunteers to assist with the inventory of underwater portions of the park system.

Success was enjoyed on both counts - and we look forward to future projects with the **Marine Sanctuary Association**.

Rik Simmons

Customer Research

Rathrevor Beats All!

Results from the 1990 visitor satisfaction surveys put the Rathrevor service rating as Excellent or Above-Average from 74 to 88% for the 13 categories.

This is the first year for park facility operator **Elden Davis** and his group at Oceanside Holidays and BC Parks offers sincere congratulations!

Bill Merilees

Recognizing Merit

President's Award

Scott Alexander, a BUFO employee, was presented with an award by the President of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, for saving the life of a 17-month old girl.

This past summer, when Scott was performing for Bear Creek Park visitors, he responded to an urgent plea for help. Leaving his program and rushing to the picnic area, he found a man holding an unconscious toddler. Quickly determining that the child was not breathing, he put his first-aid training to practise and by the time the doctor arrived, the girl was breathing on her own and could be transported to the local hospital. In the doctor's opinion, Scott's quick and correct actions saved the infant's life.

After the incident, Scott returned to a standing ovation at the amphitheatre where an audience of more than 120 park visitors had waited for him to continue his program!

Ron Routledge and Jennifer Beckett

Recognizing Merit

James Chabot Provincial Park

The Honourable Ivan Messmer officiated at the James Chabot Park Dedication Ceremony on October 5, 1990. The family, including eight grandchildren, gathered with friends, officials, and parks staff to dedicate this provincial park on Lake Windermere to the late James Chabot.

Mr. Chabot was an MLA for 23 years. He was appointed Minister of Lands, Parks and Housing in 1978 and, during his term as Minister, established the day use parks at Athalmer and Canal Flats.

James Chabot Provincial Park is visited by 125,000 people each year. Both local and travelling public enjoy swimming, windsurfing, and picnicking at this East Kootenay park.

Ida Cale

Recognizing Merit

Charlie Darkis Honoured

The first superintendent for the parks on Vancouver Island was honoured at the 50th Birthday Celebration at Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park. Charlie, who retired from BC Parks in 1976 after 26 years of service, continues to reside with Gladys, his wife, in Qualicum Beach.

Bill Merilees



Charlie Darkis and Jane Fraser with Jerry and Jay and Friends

Chris Sadleir Recognized

A mountain peak in Hamber Provincial Park was named for Chris Sadleir at a ceremony on July 6, 1990.

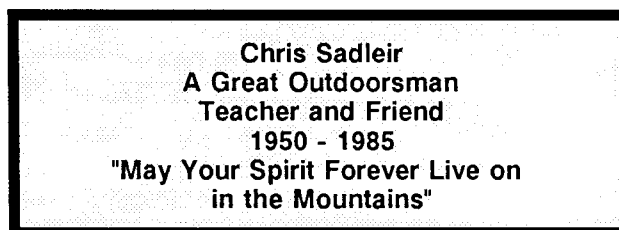
Chris lost his life while working in Hamber in June of 1985.

He started his career as a seasonal at Manning while studying at BCIT. When he graduated, he worked fulltime, and the bridge at Lightening Lakes stands today in partial testimony to his skill and accomplishment.

In 1972, the 22-year old Chris transferred to the East Kootenay as the youngest 2 i/c in the history of BC Parks. He distinguished himself as an ardent and accomplished outdoorsman, and as a strong family man who worked and played hard. He was active in the community, volunteering many hours to recreation, fitness, scouting, and outdoor safety education.

Within Parks, he was recognized as an excellent administrator, manager, and "hands-on" supervisor who was clearly dedicated to his work. His most notable contributions were in backcountry park management and the need for recognition of professional standards.

Those who worked with Chris remember him as a man who challenged others with his strength, his conviction, his character and the example he set. It seems fitting that a mountain peak which stands out against the skyline near Fortnes Lake be named Mount Sadleir.



Ida Cale

Staff Profile

New Operations Officer

Robin Draper, former Executive Director of the Outdoor Recreation Council and founder of the Outdoor Recreation Foundation, joined BC Parks this past summer as the northern operations officer. It took Robin a while to realize where his true vocation lay. As a young man in England, he spent three years in the Metropolitan Police College in London and a year with the VSO in Sarawak, Borneo.

When he came to Canada in 1965, he began a new career in the audio visual field and cultivated an interest in sailing and cross country skiing. He became the production supervisor for the a/v department of Vancouver Community College and then realized he *really* wanted to work in the Great Outdoors. He enrolled in the outdoor recreation program at Capilano College and spent the next two years studying in company with **Gail Ross** and **Scott Benton**.

In 1976, he began a two-week project with the Outdoor Recreation Council and stayed 11 years! He initiated a mapping program for outdoor recreation, safety brochures, and the youth corps concept, among others.

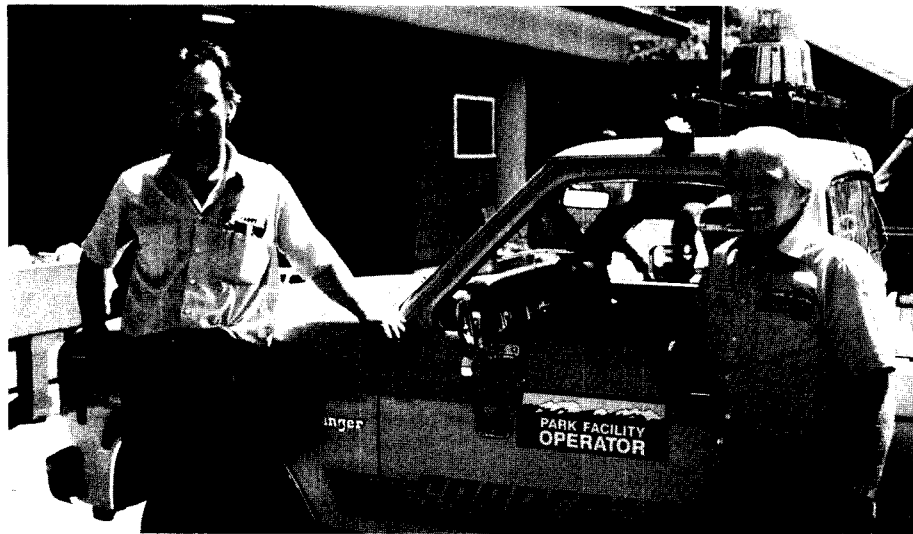
One project, the Outdoor Recreation Foundation, peaked with a budget of six million dollars and over a thousand employees!

Robin has currently developed a taste for crow...he once said there were two things he would never do: live in Prince George and work for the Government. The crow must taste good though, because he seems to be enjoying both experiences!

Rick Heathman

Employment Equity

Meet Paul Lindt



Paul Lindt and Charlie Francis

Paul works for Charlie White, park facility operator of Peace Arch Provincial Park and does such a superlative job that Charlie wants us to recognize him in the newsletter.

"Paul is very dedicated," says Charlie. "He's always willing to help and he's always cheerful. He contributed in many ways to helping Peace Arch Provincial Park maintain its reputation as one of BC's showplace gardens."

Paul has a disability that makes his achievements even more impressive, although he certainly doesn't let it interfere with his work or his hobbies. He plays hockey and swims and enjoys dining out with his wife.

Al Grass

Nobody Said It Was Easy

Park Ranger Judi McConnell

The job of a park ranger can be difficult and stressful, and the way in which rangers do their job has a profound and far-reaching effect on the reputation of BC Parks.

Park Ranger **Judi McConnell** works at Shuswap Lake Provincial Park, one of the busiest in the province. She's been an auxiliary employee since 1978 and has worked on a trail crew, as an assistant surveyor, collector, and now in security.

On July 26, Judi was faced with the unenviable task of breaking up a fight between several males in the day use area. She dealt with the combatants quickly, with self-confidence and professionalism and earned the respect of all who witnessed the incident.

BC Parks Rangers deal with thousands of such incidents every year and the fact that 21 million people visited our parks this year is a fair indication of how well Park Rangers like Judi perform.

Cecil Simpson

Introducing Staff

New Area Supervisors in the North

Doug Wilson became Area Supervisor for Tweedsmuir on June 25, 1990. He started as a patrolman at Cultus Lake Municipal Park, then worked in Cultus and Chilliwack Lake areas, and assisted in supervising the newly-established operations permit in Sasquatch Provincial Park.

Cam Hill is Area Supervisor for Toad River in the Peace Liard District and began his duties on October 29. He comes to us from Alberta and his last position was with Alberta Recreation and Parks, Kannanaskis East District where he was a park ranger in the Elbow West area.

Innovative Solutions

Video Value

If it's an old truism that a picture is worth a thousand words, then the new truth is that a video's worth a million! As a tangible display of audio and visual information, it has the power to enable the viewers to feel that they are right on site, personally experiencing the problem.

Staff at Kokanee Glacier recently videoed problem areas on the 80-km access trail. The sound of boots being sucked from feet in wet areas, and of Grizzly bears chomping huckleberries was good accompaniment to the prints, maps, slides and film footage that illustrated problems faced by visitors. The finished product was 7 minutes long and was shown to Parks Management Committee to consider in the 1991 budget prioritization exercise.

Video may seem an expensive tool but it's worth that little extra to get team players on side when seeking solutions to big problems!

Kirk Shave

Staff Development

Fam Tours

Thompson River office staff schedule time each year to explore their district.

In the past three years they've done a one-day overview of the Kamloops Zone, a day-long tour of Wells Gray corridor (where all learned how to make orange soda pop at the Ray Mineral Springs), and two separate one-day tours of Shuswap Zone.

This year they were oriented to Roderick Haig-Brown Park's preparations for *Salute to the Salmon*, before touring Shuswap Lake by vehicle and by boat.

The tours provide the opportunity to meet the people so often on the other end of the phone. Equally importantly, firsthand knowledge of a park lends credibility and enthusiasm to the thousands of answers office staff provide. It's one more way that we can provide the "Quality Service" we guarantee!

Ellen Hodson

Special Events

Of Sand and Sandcastles



The 6th Annual Miracle Beach Sandcastle Contest attracted 4,600 participants and watchers! The super-low (minus .1') tide, and ideal weather, provided superb conditions.

Park Assistant Debbie Lister and 3:33 Maintenance did a "bang-up" job of organizing and lining up a great array of prizes. Characters, including "Snoopy", "Gumby", and a "Sphynx" were among the winners while an eight-metre traditional totem pole by the Chicktle family, (Max, Jessica and Barb) took the Grand Prize.

Bill Merillees

Making Parks Better

Princess Louisa International Society

One of the most beautiful spots in the Pacific Northwest is the focus of the longest and most successful cooperative effort with which BC Parks is involved.

The Princess Louisa International Society was formed in 1953 so that James "Mac" MacDonald could ensure the protection of his property in Princess Louisa Inlet by deeding it to a group established to protect it.

"Mac" had purchased the land in the 1920s and took pleasure in sharing the incredible beauty he owned with visiting mariners from around the world, a tradition he wanted perpetuated.

In 1963, the Society decided it could best protect the land by having it established as a provincial marine park while still maintaining an active interest.

Since Princess Louisa Marine Park was established, the Society has installed overnight floats, a dinghy float, mooring buoys, and stern pins, as well as providing materials, equipment and funds for a variety of projects, including additional land.

In 1990 the Society provided materials for float and walkway repairs and to upgrade a fresh water system. It also purchased a small boat for use by park staff and society members.

The society's effectiveness lies in its dedication to the park as well as in the commitment to communication by both Society members and BC Parks. There are spring and fall meetings, followed by onsite meetings throughout the summer.

Members are primarily from British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest but are welcomed from around the world. For more information, contact the *Princess Louisa International Society at 1770 Rockland Avenue, Victoria, BC V8S 1X2.*

Tom Bell

New Directions

Nisga'a Park Update

Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park near Aiyansh moved a step closer to reality when Skeena Cellulose Inc., agreed to give up over 2000 ha of TFL which will preserve views from the proposed park.

The Nisga'a Tribal Council and BC Parks set up a joint committee to negotiate the establishment of the park and to oversee management when it's designated. The committee, chaired by **Chief Harry Nyce**, and comprising **Karen Mercer, Frank Calder, and Nelson Leeson** from the Tribal Council, and **Hugh Markides, Gordon MacDonald, and Mike Murtha** from BC Parks, recently visited *Craters of the Moon National Monument* in southern Idaho to observe the management of visitors in a fragile volcanic environment.

The proposed park will commemorate the loss of Nisga'a villages and ancestors in the volcanic eruption 250 years ago, and it will also introduce visitors to the vibrant Nisga'a culture in the Nass Valley. It overlaps the traditional territories of three Nisga'a title holders who have consented to the creation of the park under the unique joint management concept.

This summer, the committee was assisted by **Bev Mackie**, a Native Carrier from Fort St. James, who has prepared a background report and draft concept plan. Plans for the park and adjacent reserve include an interpretive and cultural centre, trails and viewpoints, campground, motel, restaurant, and a workshop for traditional arts and crafts.

Mike Murtha

Resource Management

Volunteers Attack Knapweed

When accidentally-introduced knapweed began to threaten the delicate grassland of Haynes Point Provincial Park in 1983, the Oliver and Osoyoos Naturalists helped to set up an educational program for the students at Osoyoos Elementary School.

Bussed to Haynes Point, the students pulled and piled knapweed while Parks staff took it to the local landfill. The students were rewarded with cold pop.

The program was so successful that the children looked forward to their Grade 7 year so they could get involved.

The Oliver and Osoyoos Naturalists also had work groups to pull weeds for two or three evenings each week.

Campers, seeing the activity, became aware of the problem and did their share. They were encouraged by displays of knapweed with the request to pull this pesky weed and dispose of it. Campers would ask to change sites when they cleared the area around their campsite and wanted another area to work on! Dedication of this kind was contagious and the campground improved each year.

Problems developed with the school program due to lack of funding for buses to transport the children. As members of the Naturalist Clubs aged, the involvement lessened and both projects ceased.

Many locals walk through Haynes Point and they still pull knapweed and pile it up for disposal. One local couple is particularly dedicated and, on their regular evening walks, they're equipped with gloves and diggers and pull and pile the weed by the truckload.

Knapweed is becoming manageable. In a few years the park could be free of it, but now there is a new introduced weed, purple loosestrife, invading the park, so volunteers will always be needed.

Don Hellyer, PFO

Think About It



The Pink and Purple Tree

There was a boy who had a dream
as real as real could be.
Of orange skies and light blue grass
and a pink and purple tree.

So he drew a picture of his dream
For all the world to see.
This lovely scene in this beautiful land
with its technicoloured tree.

But at his school his teacher said
"Lad, the sky is blue,
Grass is green and surely trees
don't look that way to you."

So in great shame he hung his head
hurt to his very soul.
And vowed the finding of that tree
would be his only goal.

And oh! Tis sad to tell
of the search he undertook.
The things he did! The things he saw!
The places he did look!

He searched the wide world over
without a moment's rest.
Though oftimes he was tempted
He never once gave up his quest.

Years have come and years have gone
and he has grown older.
He's been discouraged, he's seen defeat
and his dream has grown colder.

Yet still he continues with his search
though he knows he may never find.
That colourful tree in the wonderful dream
that keeps running through his mind.

For the searching made him realize
that dreams can set you free
And it never really mattered
what others thought about *his* tree.

Gordon Rathbone

Visitor Programs

Salute to the Salmon 1990

Approximately 300,000 visitors visited Roderick Haig-Brown Provincial Park on the Adams River this year to *Salute the Salmon* who are part of the biggest return of natural sockeye in the world.

The *Salute* happens every four years on the peak runs and is a joint venture of BC Parks, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the local community. While the bright red sockeye with pea green heads are the centre of attraction, the park takes on a festive air with displays and concessions during the three-week event.

The Honourable **Ivan Messmer**, then-Minister of Parks, attended the opening, as did **Chief Ron Ignace** of the Shuswap Tribal Council, and the Honourable **John Savage**, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, and **Cliff Michael**, the Minister of Tourism. MP **Dave Worthy** represented the Federal Government.

Cecil Simpson

Increasing Efficiency

Stikine Ranger

Early this spring, BC Parks and the ministry of environment co-purchased a 6.6 metre Alicraft Jet Boat. Based in Dease Lake, it's shared on a rotating basis by Park Rangers and Conservation Officers.

The *Stikine Ranger* allows easy access to 150 km of the Upper Stikine and Spatsizi Rivers due to its jet drive, shallow draft, and teflon bottom.

Both rivers are popular with canoeists, kayakers and rafters, and in late summer and fall, are also used by hunters in jet boats. The *Stikine Ranger* allows quick access to all users and provides local Park Rangers with a high level of contact over areas of BC Parks' jurisdiction. Conservation Officers travel an additional 200 km on the lower Stikine River and 100 km of small local waterways.

In the small community of Dease Lake, the boat sharing has been well received by the public, and by the two ministries. It's a fresh approach to cost-effective management.

Alex Green



Hugh Markides and Crew on the Stikine Ranger

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