

Maintaining the ponderosa pine - bunchgrass ecosystem through a prescribed burn in Tranquille Ecological Reserve.

Tranquille Prescribed Burn

by Bob Scheer, Thompson River District

On April 1, 1999, BC Parks conducted a successful prescribed burn to maintain the ponderosa pine – bunchgrass ecosystem at Tranquille Ecological Reserve. This was a cooperative project undertaken by BC Parks and the Ministry of Forests Kamloops Fire Zone. Others participating in planning, implementation and research were the Forest Service District Range staff, University College of the Caribou, Agriculture Canada and Eric McAlary the Ecological Reserve Warden.

Ecological Reserve #29, located on the mountain slope above the Dewdrop Road near Kamloops, was

set aside to protect a representative example of open ponderosa pine forest and associated grassland habitats. This ecosystem has evolved in the presence of periodic wildfires and has experienced Douglas-fir in-growth as a result of fire protection in the last half century. In the long term and without fires, Douglas-fir would have gradually replaced the ponderosa pine and filled in the remaining grassy openings. In this landscape and biogeoclimatic variant the “natural” fire frequency averages out to approximately 18 years. Of course, natural fires would neither have burned in equal intervals of 18 years, nor would each fire have had the same severity or intensity. Many small fires in short intervals would have alternated with major fires, some of them in longer intervals. Left unburned, the accumulated dry wood and needles of at least 50 years and the younger trees, with low reaching branches, would have created the potential for a catastrophic wildfire.

This type of wildfire could have consumed all of the old growth Ponderosa Pine in the Reserve, taking with it the preferred habitat of other plants and animals. A burn postponed much further would also have required much more extensive

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Articles from readers are welcome. Deadline for material in the next issue is July 1, 1999.

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("Tranquille..." continued from page 1)

site preparations, including felling of intermediate-sized trees that would have acted as "ladder fuels", before a fire could have been conducted in a safe and controlled fashion.

Long term success of the burn will be measured through a number of research projects designed to monitor

changes brought about by the burn. Primary initial concerns included the potential for weed invasion and the impact of wildlife on fresh new growth stimulated by the fire. BC Parks is particularly indebted to the Kamloops Fire Zone staff for their assistance in facilitating the project. □



BC Parks Website – Better than Ever

by Lisa Anderson

Explore the new and improved BC Parks website at www.elp.gov.bc.ca/bcparks. This website is being designed to be user-friendly and provide provincial park information.

New additions to the site include new, expanded information for many park pages. Mount Robson and Bowron Lakes are a couple of the larger ones. We have also added park maps for most coastal marine parks.

Other information that is now on the site includes the Legacy Report; 1999 camping fees information; and various management planning documents: Callahan Lake Background Report, Cape Scott and Scott Islands Background Report, Jedediah Island Marine Background Report and Draft Management Plan, Fintry Management Plan, Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Master Plan, Tunkwa Management Plan and Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Draft Management Plan.

And of course, we also post VISIONS Newsletter on the website. You can save paper, recycling and \$\$\$ by accessing VISIONS via the website, rather than in printed form – let us know if you would like to be taken off of the mailing list (see contacts on this page). If everyone in your office receives a copy of VISIONS, consider sharing. □

Raymond D. Huckin: 1929 – 1998

by Jake Masselink

During my 30-year sojourn with BC Parks, I experienced a simple truth that the American philosopher, Waldo Emerson, observed about our human race: “everyone is my master (mentor) in some respect”. Ray Huckin was my first BC Parks mentor. Being first and, most fortunate for me, being the kind of person he was, Ray significantly influenced my life. He helped me to believe in myself. He instilled in me a sense of self-confidence. In fact, Ray had that kind of an impact on nearly all who met him.

Upon joining the Park System Planning Section as a park officer 1 in 1966, my first task was to assist in reducing the backlog of UREP (Use, Recreation and Enjoyment of the Public) reserve requests to BC Lands. Since the creation of parks was not a priority with the government of the day, the next best alternative was to seek UREP reserve map designation for anything that BC Parks staff had evaluated as having possible park potential. Every park-planning recruit, I quickly found out, was apprenticed to Ray as the point man in this process. He was the expert in determining the status of the lands involved. He was also BC Parks “cartographer”. Our “green” (land status) files harbour his sketch-map handiwork; each carefully autographed with “R.D.H.”.

In a vain attempt to make us into his equal, he personally took us through the pertinent government vaults and file rooms to get the maps, photographs and information we needed for this tedious task. Then he humoured us through the map making process of integrating the survey details of existing maps and the geographic features from air-photos through an epidiascope (manufactured by BC Parks’ Langford workshop). In spite of Ray’s valiant attempts at cloning us as “cartographers”, most of us remember him best for his ability to take the tedium



“Petie” (Carla) and Ray Huckin.

out of a monotonous task or a weary workday.

Ray was an exceptionally entertaining raconteur! His captivating abilities at story telling made even the most gifted park interpreter take note. Every land staking trip with Ray to the various government offices was an entertaining adventure. Every staff coffee break that Ray attended turned into a boisterous roar of laughter and merriment. You see, Ray was endowed with a very active, insightfully creative, and well-balanced right-brain left-brain mind. He knew how to reveal the humour in one’s negative experiences based on his own unenviable setbacks in life.

Ray was born in 1929, the year of the stock market crash. His folks were unable to financially care for their children during the ensuing depression. They placed Ray in Victoria’s Protestant Orphanage. There he quickly became the entertainment ringleader; usually at the expense of the matrons’ dignity and the neighbourhood’s tranquillity. The structured school system was also challenged. It could not accommodate his constitution. He elected, instead, to pursue a self-directed studies of Nature more in tune with his free-spiritedness. With rod, bow, or gun in hand, he reconnoitered the wilds around Victoria donating whatever he “bagged” to the orphanage’s larder. At the age of 16, he struck out on his own. He picked up a job in a local sawmill. There he

tragically had a serious accident that cost him his right arm and very nearly his life. Efforts at rehabilitating him with an artificial limb proved futile. It was at this stage in his life that Denis Podmore recruited him into the Park System Planning Section. No, not to work outdoors; but to draw maps.

Ray’s right-brain left-brain configuration enabled him to switch from right-handedness to left-handedness and acquire the skills of map-making with the same ease and accuracy as he could shoot a gun or cast a fly rod with either hand. However, it also stretched his abilities to adapt to a structured office environment, in spite of the encouragement from people like Yorke Edwards, our first parks naturalist, to diversify his output with wildlife sketching. In the end, that frustration with structure, coupled with a developing heart condition, resulted in Ray taking leave of BC Parks in 1972.

Ray was most fortunate in having a kindred spirit in his friend and spouse, “Petie” (Carla). They were in sync in terms of their love of Nature and in providing a home and family environment that met the individual needs of their three children – Carl, Troy and Larisa. Ray died on November 24 of heart failure. Very understandably, his parting has left a deep hurt in this close knit family. He instilled in them a sense of self that he sought for himself lifelong.

As I reflect on Ray and his contribution to BC Parks and the people with whom he worked and lived, more than the truth of Emerson’s observation comes to mind. Ray displayed a sensitivity towards others that made us believe in ourselves as we are by nature; not as the “systems” inflicted on us try to remake us into as something that we are not. It’s an attitude worth championing as human beings and as human organizations! □

1999 Wooden Broom Bonspiel

by Earl Sinclair, Ron Routledge, Monty Downs, Don Gough, Ken Morrison, Debby Funk, Mona Holley, Alice MacGillivray

Well, we had the last bonspiel of this century in February! And a great one it was, there were 14 teams from all over the province out on the ice having lots of fun.

The four event winners:

A Event: Ron Routledge, Elaine Gustafson, Scott Benton, Wendy Renwick

B Event: Jeanne Wutzke, Maurice Wutzke, Drew Carmichael, Melanie Carmichael

C Event: Darcy McGifford, Beth McGifford, Julie King, Bill King

D Event: Wendy Neville, Dave Bacon, Brenda Christian, Peter Walters

The Sportsmen Award went to the Eamer team of Wally, Gil, Gwen, and Struan.

These winners include Parkies from the Thompson River, Kootenay, Garibaldi-Sunshine and Okanagan districts, as well as ex-Parkies and folks from BC Lands.

The BC Parks Bonspiel Committee, along with all the curlers that participated, would like to recognize and thank the following sponsors of the event: Canadian Mountain Holidays Inc., Banff, AB; Park Environmental Groundskeepers Ltd., Chase, BC; North Okanagan Cross Country Ski Club, Vernon, BC; Thompson Hotel and Conference Centre, Kamloops, BC

These sponsors provided the plaques for each event that the winners receive. The sponsors received a curling pin and a mini Type-A sign with a "Thank You" plaque.

We would also like to express our thanks, on behalf of all the participants, to the districts and headquarters program areas that contributed prizes this year. Everyone who participates in the bonspiel takes home one of these prizes and it is great to see the different T-shirts, caps, etc. that districts



*A Event Winners:
(Left to right) Scott Benton, Wendy Renwick, Elaine Gustafson, Ron Routledge.*



*B Event Winners:
(Left to right) Maurice Wutzke, Drew Carmichael, Melanie Carmichael, Jeanne Wutzke.*



*C Event Winners:
(Left to right) Darcy McGifford, Beth McGifford, Julie King, Bill King.*

produce. Also, thanks go to the Kamloops Curling Club, it is an exceptional facility for the event!

The committee is looking for some assistance with sponsors for next year. If you know of a potential sponsor contact Earl Sinclair (250-851-3014) for more information. The cost of the plaques is about \$150 for each event and the sponsor will

receive recognition at the event and in this newsletter.

The dates are set for the Year 2000 bonspiel! Calendars can be marked; new sneakers and curling shoes can be bought; applications for extension to personal credit lines can be made.

**Saturday and Sunday,
February 26 and 27, 2000! □**

Gone Batty in the Okanagan

by Todd Shannon, Okanagan District

Here in the Okanagan valley we have some of the best habitat for bats. These animals tend to be very sensitive to human interference and with the large number of people now living in the Okanagan, bat populations have either declined or adapted into new niches.

One of the areas where bats have adapted to human presence is Fintry Provincial Park, about 40 km. North of Kelowna on the west side of Okanagan Lake. Three bat species have been observed in this park: Yuma Myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*); Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*); and Townsend's Big-eared (*Plecotus townsendii*). Yuma Myotis is the most common species and has been observed in all areas of the park including the historical manor house. The Little Brown Myotis bats have also been observed in a variety of areas but are less common. Five Townsend's Big-eared bats have been spotted in the historical dairy barn only. Due to the increase in human presence the Townsend's Big-eared bat population has declined to the point of being placed on the Blue List.

The bats have accessed, through small openings, the manor house attic and the rafters in the other historical buildings. They roost in these locations leaving large amounts of guano below. To protect the historic buildings and the bats, the Okanagan District has worked with Environmental Youth Teams and local schools to construct and install bat houses at various areas throughout the park. The bat houses are designed to provide alternate roosting areas for the bats, away from the historic buildings, which will be restored, and the unstable buildings, which may eventually be taken down.

Local expert Dr. John Stelfox, with the assistance of Gary DeLeenheer, has been monitoring the success of the project. The first bat houses were placed in the park in the fall of 1997. During the summer of 1998, large numbers of the bats were observed in the bat houses located near the manor house. Some of the bats were still roosting in the manor house but the majority had relocated to the new houses. The bats have already been seen at these houses this spring.

By providing more bat houses and sealing all access to the buildings we should be able to control where the bats are roosting. This will provide safer habitats for the bats, reduce the impact on the historical buildings and may lead to an increase in the bat population in this park. The bat houses may also be valuable in enabling us to better manage the blue-listed Townsend's Big-eared bat. □



Bat houses in Fintry Provincial Park provide alternate roosting areas for bats.

Perspectives on Time

by Wayne Van Velzen,
Prince George District

In 1451 a baby was born in the Italian seaport of Genoa. Christopher Columbus would be destined to become a fixture in our history books as the one generally credited with discovery of the new world. While Columbus was busy seeking a shorter route to the far east, natural processes in North America continued as they had for thousands of years previously. Imagine this. In 1492 when Columbus set sail to cross the Atlantic Ocean, a Whitebark Pine, located at the headwaters of the Fraser River in what is now Mount Robson Provincial Park, had already witnessed over 300 summers come and go. Think for a moment what affect we have had on the land, water, air, plants and animals in this short period on time. Countless species of plants and animals have disappeared. Air and water has been impacted to the point where we can no longer take their quality for granted.

We as humans have some how come to the conclusion that the natural resources that once abounded were put there for our exclusive use. Our approach being that if we don't use them for our benefit or profit, that they are going to waste.

While that single Whitebark Pine continues to grow, we are finally starting to recognize the importance of maintaining the health of our natural world. Perhaps the real measure of our success as a species will be our ability to consider and manage for the needs of the various plants and animals with which we share the planet. Within the greater context of time, we as humans have only been here a very short while. The opportunity exists, in this part of the world at least, to ensure we have clean water, clean air and a

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("Perspectives..." continued from page 5)

level of genetic and species diversity that will not only sustain us but enrich us for many generations to come.

The people of British Columbia should feel very proud that by the year 2000, 12 percent of this incredible province will be protected for all time in a system of protected areas envied by the rest of the world. From small road-side parks that focus on our human recreational needs to vast tracks of undisturbed wilderness where natural processes are allowed to run their course. Where the management priorities are directed at the well-being of the non-human users that are so dependent on the wilderness. Where relationships between predator and prey remain intact. Where the most important users do not walk upright.

People have accomplished some amazing things in the short time we've been here. We have stood on the moon. We have extended our average life span. We can communicate on a global scale with the touch of a button. We cannot, however, bring back an extinct species or grow food with our fertile soil and abundant water.

Next time you think about protected areas or parks, don't consider them as areas that are simply unavailable for resource extraction, but look at them as areas that are providing an insurance policy to protect the very things we as a species depend on. The challenge for the future lies in our ability to conserve and protect the remaining plants and animals, the water, the air and the land. We should tread lightly and cherish the natural world around us, for that will be what, over time, determines our success as a species.

That 800 year-old Whitebark Pine in the headwaters of the Fraser River will be watching our progress. □



Jerry the Moose smoozes with Canadian Junior Nationals Cross Country Ski race participants.

Moose Makes it to Canadian Junior Nationals

by David Brown, Skeena District

Jerry, our BC Parks' moose, and his fellow ungulates have weathered a very difficult winter this year. Heavy snowfall throughout the province challenged even the hardiest of moose. Average snowfalls in the Bulkley Valley and the chance to smooze with world class athletes must have been the attraction for Jerry during the second week of March. The Pine Creek Cross Country Ski Trails, south of Smithers, was host to the Canadian Junior Nationals for Cross Country Skiing. Approximately, 250 athletes from across the country first celebrated with Jerry and then focussed on a week of intense competition. At the end of the competition coaches and athletes alike complemented the Bulkley Valley Ski Club on a well-run competition with plenty of activities for all involved. □



Trail Host Program a Success

by Andy Smith, Strathcona District

Strathcona District has developed a new volunteer program in Strathcona Park. The Trail Host program was initiated to provide a much-needed BC Park presence in one of the province's oldest and highly visited park. With limited park staff available to provide information and attendance, with its resulting impacts, continuing to rise annually, the need for improved extension initiatives were identified as being crucial.

Lacking a Visitor Centre or a nearby park office, visitors to the Forbidden Plateau/Paradise Meadows area of the park had to, in the past, rely only on information provided on trail signs. The new Trail Host program recruited community support, rooted in local pride, to provide volunteers for walks through the more popular day-use trails and/or staff for a small informa-

tion hut (donated by the local ski club) at the trailhead. A pool of interested people ranging from high school students to retirees was developed to provide information services on an informal, unscheduled basis. People who would normally be coming up to Strathcona Park for a day hike, were encouraged to do so while being a volunteer at the same time. An individual would simply sign in, pick up a volunteer vest and small day-pack full of appropriate information, then head out for their intended recreational walk. Identified by the volunteer vest and hat, the trail host became a walking "sign" re-affirming that the area was a provincial park and providing an opportunity for visitors to ask them questions.

Other volunteers not necessarily interested in hiking, could staff the

information hut distributing brochures, explaining maps and answering questions. The hut has serviced up to 400 people a day. All volunteers were provided training and an orientation to the area. In addition to providing information to visitors, the Trail Hosts also recorded visitor statistics.

The program provided an immediate volunteer project within the capabilities of most people, easy to implement, providing a much needed visitor service, promoting community pride and a real sense of helping, and all without any long term scheduled commitment on the part of the volunteer. Building on last year's success, the trail host program will be implemented again this year and if possible, extended into the winter nordic skiing season. □



Long Service Awards

by The Quarter Century Kids

◀ (Left to right) Greg Betz, Kathie Eldred, James Hopkins, Minister Cathy McGregor, Carl Powell, Ida Cale, Dave Fauville, Deputy Minister Cassie Doyle, Steve Mazur.

You know you're getting old when this occasion happens! Who would have thought the time would go so fast? For those of you who may have experienced this gala evening in the past I'm sure the memories are unforgettable, for those of you not quite there in years it's something special to look forward to. There were seven parkies that were honored on the evening of April 20th, Steve Mazur, Dave Fauville, Ida Cale, Carl Powell, James Hopkins, Kathie Eldred and Greg Betz. Environment, Lands and Parks Minister Cathy McGregor and Deputy Minister Cassie Doyle joined us in congratulations. I'm sure they enjoyed themselves as much as we did. It was a great evening and we would like to thank everyone involved. Anyone interested in 35 years? I hear it gets better. □

Reclamation, Restoration, Renovation

by Dave Chater, South Vancouver Island District

BC Parks, South Vancouver Island District, is practising the "3 Rs" in the development of new campsites as part of the government's announced *Campground BC* Program.

Campground developments in 1998/99 at Goldstream, Gordon Bay and French Beach Provincial Parks have uncovered several "nuggets" from the land that predated the establishment of the park. In the preplanning for the campground developments, Parks staff were cognisant of locating these new facilities in areas of the park that had been previously impacted by other non-park uses. Parks' staff have consciously avoided naturally and culturally sensitive areas in this development planning process.

In the case of Goldstream Provincial Park, the new group campsites were located in a former gravel pit that was in operation in the 1940s and 1950s as part of a highway construction project. During excavation work for the new facilities an old car dump was uncovered near a watercourse. Project staff under-



Cleaning up an old car dump that was uncovered during excavation work for the new group campsites at Goldstream Provincial Park.

took to remove approximately fifteen car bodies from the site and then begin to restore the site to its natural state. The former gravel pit itself has been reshaped, replanted and

renovated into new group camping and picnicking sites for the use of visitors to the park and South Vancouver Island.

In planning of new projects for 1999, a former gravel pit and mill site at China Beach (Juan de Fuca Provincial Park) is being targeted for a major new vehicle-accessible campground. Large components of these projects involve major landscaping initiatives to facilitate BC Parks' facility standards.

The government's *Campground BC* program is providing significant capital funds to expand the provincial park campsite system throughout the province to meet the need for additional recreational opportunities for the residents of B.C. and contribute to the tourist industry of the province. The program is also paying dividends in providing the opportunity to reclaim, restore and renovate many previously impacted areas within the park system. □



A Most Unforgettable Character

by Bob Broadland

Further to the excellent "Parks Profile" by Roger Norrish in the April 1999 VISIONS, I want to show a larger picture of how Chess Lyons influenced the inter-connectedness between our province's natural and cultural environments. But just before looking at that, let me set the stage by recalling the old feature started many years ago by *Reader's Digest* called "My Most Unforgettable Character" – particularly one from the mid '50s written by BC's eminent author and emeritus journalist Bruce Hutchinson. His "character" was long-time Wells Gray Park guide and legend Ted Helset, who Chess had met during his extensive reconnaissance of Wells Gray. Coincidentally, both Hutchison and Lyons had published books on the Fraser River, in 1949 and 1950 respectively. In those halcyon days, as the Parks Division's first Regional Recreation Officer in Kamloops, I became a disciple of Hutchison, and Chess became my most unforgettable character.

In my view, there was a relatively significant shift in Chess's Parks Branch career in 1957 toward human heritage objectives. This was the result of governmental preparations for province-wide celebrations planned for 1958 to mark the Centennial of the creation of the Crown Colony of mainland British Columbia. A number of major projects were proposed by the British Columbia Centennial Committee, which came under the superb organization of General Chairman Deputy Provincial Secretary Lawrie Wallace. It was decided that the BC Government's own project, as approved by Premier W.A.C. Bennett, would be the Restoration of the gold-rush "ghost" town of Barkerville. Thus Barkerville was created the province's first Historic Park, which would be developed and managed

by the Provincial Parks Branch. In view of Chess's long-term activity in historic matters, he was the obvious choice to plan and implement the project. In addition, it was also decided that he would undertake a province-wide Stop-of-Interest plaque program adjacent to main highways. The success of these projects subsequently led to other heritage sites such as Cottonwood House, Fort Steele, Hat Creek Ranch, Keremeos Grist Mill, and Kilby Historic park.

Perhaps buoyed by the success of the 1958 Centennial projects, and looking for more challenge than the government bureaucracy then offered him, Chess decided to turn to the private sector where he could apply some of the knowledge he gained in 23 years with Parks. Thus in April 1963, Chess departed from the Department of Recreation and Conservation in favour of private pursuits. He lectured throughout North America with his own slides and films on behalf of the New York-based Audubon Society, produced films for television such as the CBC's series *The Open Road* and *Klahanie*, and travelled the world as a travel-tour guide, this latter activity even into his last years.

While I wholeheartedly agree with Roger Norrish as to the immense

contribution made by Chess Lyons to the history and development of BC's Provincial Park System, in my opinion his greatest legacy was through his intuitive understanding and application of the basic principles to life of the inter-relationship of nature and man. And I believe that spark came by his growth through boyhood in the idyllic setting of the fruit basket of the South Okanagan in the 1920s and '30s. His park experiences in the '40s served as a catalyst to his natural abilities as a communicator leading to the production of four remarkably popular books: *Milestones on the Mighty Fraser* in 1950, *Trees, Shrubs and Flowers to Know in B.C.* in 1952, *Milestones in Ogoopogo Land* in 1957, and *Milestones on Vancouver Island* in 1958. Popular is hardly strong enough with respect to the 1952 book, as it went through many reprints and revisions including a major revision in 1995 with Bill Merilees co-authoring. Unbelievably, Chess's *Wildflowers of Washington* was published in November 1998, just weeks before his demise in Honolulu a few days before Christmas. A reprint of the BC book was scheduled for 1999, to be followed by wildflowers of Oregon. Think about that. A productive publishing career spanning 50 years! Talk about inter-connectedness.

(continued on page10) ►



The author, Bob Broadland, with a display commemorating Chess Lyons.

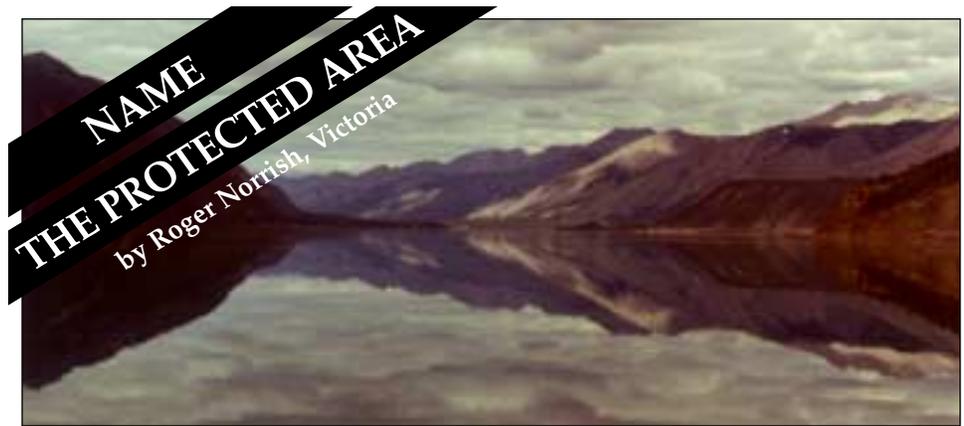
("...Character" continued from page 9)

Unquestionably, Chess Lyons was obsessed with a determined need to share with anyone his abiding belief that a better understanding of the relationship between nature and humans was fundamentally important to the betterment of our individual and collective views of all life.

As somewhat of a postscript, I am pleased to report that on the beautiful sunny day of Sunday, April 11th, some 70 friends of Chess's met at Goldstream Park Nature House north of Victoria to exchange reminiscences about the focussed yet folksy way that he served as an inspiration and a mentor to many British Columbians in all walks of life.

And as a personal note, I cannot help but remember a warm epitaph that Chess included in his editorial of the British Columbia Museums Association's Volume 1 Number 1 issue of January 1961 of its brand new Lyons-designed quarterly, *Museum Round-Up*. He claimed it came from an ancient tombstone in Kentucky. It covers my view of how Chess looked at life - "*He done the best he knowed*"

Au revoir Chester Peter Lyons! □



Hoodoos, black spruce, moose, braided streams, a vast lake and a former military highway define this protected area.

Moose and Mileposts

This Class A provincial park protects the most northerly extension of the Canadian Rocky Mountains. During the early 1940s, American and Canadian armed forces and local citizens built a military road connecting Alaska to the rest of North America. This protected area lies astride some 80 kilometres (50 miles) of this road. Visitors to this park marvel at its mountainous beauty and the wildlife. Moose, caribou, grizzly bear, black bear, timber wolf and Stone sheep are often seen traversing the park or congregating at mineral licks. Along the east shore of the lake from which the park takes its name, resorts have sprung up to welcome highway travelers. If you are adventuresome, you can hike into the backcountry where mountain alpine and black spruce and pine forests greet you with the quiet of wildness. Or equally challenging, is the opportunity to launch your canoe into the cold waters of the park's main lake and paddle to its distant western shores. Can you name this protected area? And what is the name of the highway the American and Canadian army built here during World War II? (*Answer on page 12*). □

This article was published in a Vancouver newspaper in 1939.

Provincial Parks

In a recent address to the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers at Victoria, Mr. Chester Lyons of the B.C. Forest Service pointed out that British Columbia had now 49 provincial parks with a total area of over 9,000,000 acres or 14,000 square miles. The area is considerably greater than the park area administered by the Dominion if one omits the great Wood Buffalo Park in Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories, which is really a wilderness abode for the buffalo and not a park in the ordinary sense.

The forest service of British Columbia has a double job, now.

First is the protection and administration of forests, which provide the material for the province's leading industry. Then comes the protection, development and administration of the provincial parks.

The protection and administration of the forests is of prime importance and rightly occupies the principal attention of the forest service. But the parks are important, too. At present, very little is being done about them. They are being protected to some extent, but they are not being developed and there is not much attempt at administration.

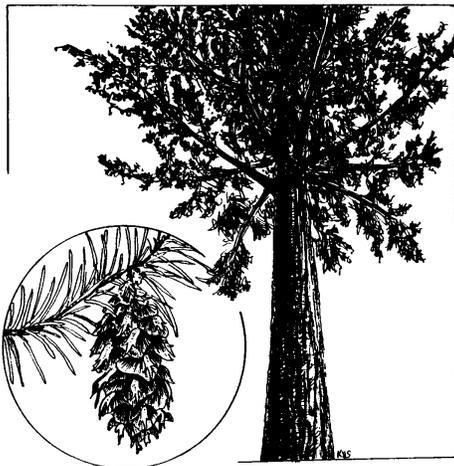
All the same, they are a highly valuable provincial asset, and, as Mr. Lyons pointed out in his address, the value of these preserves for hunting, fishing, camping and picnicking will become more evident after the war when there will be more time for outdoor recreation.

Meantime, the government might spend a little effort and money, letting the people know about their 49 parks and making them more accessible. The people can not appreciate the value of their parks unless they are able to visit them. □

David Douglas

by W. Young, *David Douglas Society of Western North America*

June 25, 1999 will mark the 200th anniversary of one of western North America's most distinguished pioneer botanists. During his time in the Pacific Coast region, David Douglas collected, identified and introduced to Britain several hundred species of plants. Many of these now bear his name – not the least being the magnificent Douglas fir.



Douglas was born in Scone, Scotland on June 25, 1799. Leaving school at an early age, his first job was as an apprentice gardener in the gardens of Scone Palace. His reputation grew as his botanical career developed, until he was appointed as botanical collector representing the Horticultural Society of London.

It was in this capacity the David Douglas arrived at the mouth of the Columbia River on April 17, 1825. He would soon make his headquarters at the newly established Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Vancouver – near present-day Portland, Oregon. Ranging out from Fort Vancouver, he became a prolific collector of botanical specimens which he shipped back to the Horticultural Society in Britain.

David Douglas made two trips into what is now British Columbia in search of botanical treasures. The first was part of his arduous journey from Fort Vancouver across Canada to

Hudson Bay in 1827. This journey took Douglas up the Columbia River system, through the Arrow Lakes, past present-day Revelstoke and on to Boat Encampment where he crossed the Rocky Mountains by way of Athabasca Pass.

His second journey into British Columbia was part of a long preoccupation to collect botanical specimens on a trek from North America, across Siberia, to Europe. He began his "dream journey" in 1833. Travelling northward through the Okanagan Valley to Fort Kamloops, past Fort Alexandria and Fort George on the Fraser River, he reached Fort St. James on June 6, 1833. Beginning to realize the folly of his Siberian dream, he decided to return to Fort Vancouver. On his ill-fated return journey, his canoe overturned in the Fraser River's Fort George Canyon. Although able to save himself,

Douglas lost all his journal notes and botanical collections comprised of some 400 plant specimens.

Heartbroken and depressed, he returned to Fort Vancouver where he made plans to return to Britain via the Hawaiian Islands. Landing on the Island of Hawaii on July 9, 1834, he started an overland hike along the flanks of Mauna Keo to Hilo where he was to meet friends. He never arrived.

On July 12, 1834, his body was found in a pit that had been dug to trap wild cattle – trampled and gored to death by a trapped bull. A tragic end for Western North America's greatest pioneer botanist.

In 1984, a Memorial Monument was erected in MacMillan Park on Vancouver Island to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Douglas' untimely death. □



Churn Creek Wilderness Watch Conservation Stewardship Program

by Kate Alexander, Cariboo District

BC Parks has managed Churn Creek as a Protected Area since 1995. In 1998, the province bought the Empire Valley Ranch, which forms the core of the area, bringing the total area to 36,100 hectares.

Churn Creek's rolling grasslands with steep drop-offs into canyons provide ideal habitat for California big-horn sheep and mule deer. The area has been extremely popular with hunters for years. The problem faced by BC Parks was managing for conservation, while still allowing hunting access. The grasslands are easy to drive over, and since ranchers and logging had created roads throughout the area, the public had road access to much of the Protected Area. In fall 1998, BC Parks deactivated several of the roads that led to fragile grasslands, after consultation with the BC Wildlife Federation. We signed the closures to encourage input from users to the upcoming management planning process.

One of the groups most active in hunting Churn Creek is the Williams Lake Outdoor Sportsmen's Association. Area Supervisor Herb Carter met with them to explain the interim road policy.



Churn Creek Protected Area.

It turned out they were already active with a program known as Wilderness Watch, through the BC Wildlife Federation. Wilderness Watch members take time out to "Observe, Record, and Report". They distribute leaflets to let people know they are being observed. If they see any suspicious behavior, they report it to the local Conservation Officers or RCMP.

BC Parks felt we could apply this program to Churn Creek. The volunteers were keen, too, and signed a Conservation Stewardship agreement. When they went to Churn Creek to hunt, they assisted

Parks by explaining the road policies, distributing maps, and running information booths, as well as by carrying out regular Wilderness Watch duties. They were not given any direct enforcement role.

This program was very successful, with a lot of information generated, as well as the good will created by involving a group that could have been opposed to Parks' policies. Next hunting season, we hope to work with the Williams Lake Outdoor Sportsmen's Association once again, and we also have some interest from a similar group in Clinton. □

Ray Huckin

Here is one of our office personalities,
about whom there are many exciting possibilities,
to write verses and poems and stories,
describing his bountiful activities.

His exploits receive appreciation,
by all who enter his habitation,
for he needs no initiation,
to begin an interminable dissertation.

Mapping is his specialty,
he pursues it with assiduity.
And his maps are notably accurate,
Why, these maps even Lands appreciates.

The universal transverse mercator projection,
is drawn with pious reverent affection.
From lettering he obtains much gratification,
such neatness commands our admiration.

Exciting experiences he can relate,
many anecdotes he will initiate.
The strength of helmets he will demonstrate,
their nationality he would negotiate.

Tales he can tell of archery,
which led, however, to anarchy.
So he gave up his bow and arrow,
for a life on the straight and narrow.

From a poem prepared by Doug Kielau, Christmas 1968.

(Also see Jake Masselink's article on Raymond D. Huckin on page 3.)

Answer (from page 10):
The name of the highway is the
Muncho Lake Provincial Park.
Alaska Highway built in about
18 months during 1942 and 1943.

NAME THE PROTECTED AREA.