



Willmore Wilderness Newsletter

President's Report

Hi Everyone:

We had four successful fundraisers in February and March that were located in Edson, Grande Cache, Grande Prairie and Edmonton. We will be adding one more convention in 2009 which will be held in Drayton Valley.

There will be a trapper's course held in Grande Cache late 2008 or early 2009. The Willmore Wilderness Foundation will be sponsoring several youths to attend this. We are also sponsoring two youths to attend a horseshoeing clinic with farrier Dale Printup. We feel that it is imperative to teach the younger generation the traditional skills of this area, so that this knowledge is not lost.

The Foundation sponsored a memorial lunch for Elder Fred Wanyandie, a Willmore Trapper, guide and outfitter. Fred passed away suddenly.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation will be sending a representative to the Land Use Framework Workshops this May and June. We are also staying vigilant on the UNESCO World Heritage Site land grab on the Willmore and Alberta's eastern slopes. There is an article in the Newsletter called "Concerns About Alberta's Eastern Slopes". We feel that this is a definite threat to the traditional values that we all enjoy in the



backcountry—hunting, trapping and horse use. This will be an ongoing battle with Parks Canada and UNESCO. We intend to work closely with the Alberta Outdoor Coalition (AOC) on this and other related issues. Rob Miskosky has an excellent article regarding this in the May Alberta Outdoorsman that is well worth reading.

The Alberta Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan 2008-2013 has proposed some very severe restrictions on access in grizzly bear habitat—supposedly to save grizzly bears. This will not solve the grizzly bear problem. We will keep you up to date on this with future emails. There is an article in the Newsletter that addresses this issue called "Grizzly Bears: Science Fiction or Science Fact".

I just wanted to let everyone know that we have moved our office. We are now located at 4600 Pine

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Plaza in the old Medical Building in Grande Cache. Don't forget about the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Sunday June 8, 2008, in our new office at 1 p.m.

Spring is finally here after a long, drawn-out winter. We are looking forward to heading for the Willmore. We have a couple of trail clearing projects this summer. The first one will be June 9–21 and the next is August 1–21.

Basil Leonard, President.

Photos by S. Feddema-Leonard
Old photo Dave McDonald courtesy Fay McCready



Fundraising Breakdown

Edmonton Roundup Revenue

Live Auction Income	\$ 14,480.00
Silent Auction Income	\$ 3,340.00
Maps	\$ 190.00
Books	\$ 540.00
Memberships	\$ 75.00
Pre-paid Tickets	\$ 3,900.00
Tickets Paid at Door	\$ 1,820.00
Wheel Barrow Raffle	\$ 890.00
Texas Mickey Raffle	\$ 470.00
Ruger Rifle Raffle	\$ 1,060.00
Savage Rifle Raffle	\$ 1,060.00
Rifle Raffle	\$ 500.00

Overall Total \$28,325.00

Grande Prairie Rendezvous Revenue

Wheel Barrow	\$ 727.00
Crown Royal	\$ 280.00
Ruger Gun	\$ 1,050.00
Bow & Case	\$ 980.00
.303 Winchester Riffle	\$ 1,045.00
Tickets Custom Gun	\$ 150.00
Ticket Sales	\$ 900.00
Llive Auction Sales	\$17,525.00
Silent Auction	\$ 4,548.00
Donation - Chuck Stojan	\$ 1,000.00
Books/Maps/Member	\$ 255.00
Pre-event Ticket Sales	\$ 7,150.67
Clothing	\$ 1,385.00

Overall Total \$36,995.67

Edson Shindig Revenue

Live Auction Income	\$ 8,860.00
Silent Auction Income	\$ 3,006.00
Maps	\$ 275.00
Books	\$ 840.00
Clothing	\$ 45.00
Memberships	\$ 100.00
Pre-paid Tickets	\$ 3,350.00
Tickets Paid at Door	\$ 2,750.00
Bow Raffle	\$ 560.00
Rifle Raffle	\$ 780.00
Texas Mickey Raffle	\$ 260.00
Liquor Tickets	\$ 1,780.00
Winchester Raffle	\$ 1,080.00

Overall Total \$23,686.00

Income Grande Cache Gala

Live Auction	\$ 14,449.00
Silent Auction Income	\$ 3,674.00
Cash Donations	\$ 2,270.00
Chainsaw Raffle	\$ 790.00
.22 Rifle Raffle	\$ 1,040.00
Savage Rifle Raffle	\$ 1,040.00
Ticket Income	\$ 4,200.00

Total Income \$27,463.00





Views from Sheep Creek

Brian Bildson - Executive Director

Greetings, fellow Foundation members. It's spring in the mountains and the snows are starting to recede. Typically this is the time of year that our Foundation volunteers take a deep breath and evaluate our banquet season. An incredible amount of work takes place in a very short time to facilitate all four banquets. This year we held events in Grande Cache, Grande Prairie, Edson, and Edmonton. All of our banquets went very smoothly thanks to the efforts of our volunteer crews. Big thanks to Sue who seems to not need any sleep at this time of year. We know that folks are interested in the results of our banquets, so we'd like to share the information with you. Remember though that these are gross amounts and expenses do need to be paid out of them.

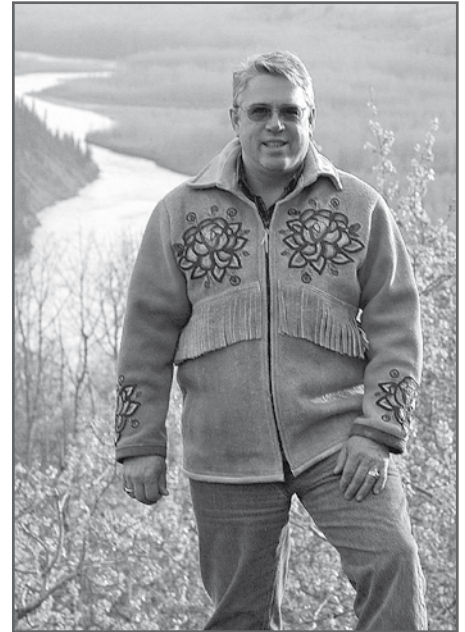
Edson - \$23,686.00
 Grande Cache \$ \$27,463.00
 Edmonton - \$28,325.00
 Grande Prairie - \$36,995.67

As you can see, all our locations are pretty close in revenues, although I do feel obligated to point out that once again *Grande Prairie has kicked butt* (sorry I couldn't help myself).

These funds will ensure that we can keep up our good works this year, and we look forward to turning those dollars into on-the-ground activities.

Another big news item for us is our new office space. We were very cramped in our last location and have been fortunate enough to secure some first class lease space in Grande Cache. While negotiating for the space, the realtor came out in me and we did add in an option to purchase the space at anytime over the next two years. Whether or not that happens remains to be seen, but at least we have the option.

In closing I wish you well and hope to see you in the Willmore!



Photograph courtesy of
 Brian Bildson, May 2007

I do feel obligated to point out that once again *Grande Prairie has kicked butt!*



A Special Three-Course Gourmet Dinner

by Jim Babala



Author Jim Babala

Photo by Susan Feddema-Leonard

February 2007

Jim guided hunting parties in Willmore Wilderness Park until 1972 when he took his outfit north to the Yukon. Jim still lives with his wife in Whitehorse Yukon.

George Woods was an Englishman who was a gourmet cook. He was banished from his family on account of his drinking habits and chasing about with undesirable women. George was sent to Canada and paid a yearly sum of money to stay away from family and home. Once George received this annual sum of money, he was always good for a lengthy drunk.

On this particular occasion, George was hired by an outfitter to cook a gourmet dinner at the outfitter's camp. The outfitter had a group of very wealthy hunters arriving from Germany. George was asked to cook up a gourmet dinner with moose meat as the main meat dish.

George had taken the patience to marinate a roast he had selected a few days earlier. He had all his fancy dishes made ready and put away in the ice box and was cooking the moose roast when the hunters arrived. The Germans were of noble birth and upon hearing George was a gourmet cook from England, they wanted to meet him. They were impressed while they talked as they had heard of George's family, who were also of noble birth. George was invited to have a drink with them. He had a drink with them and a couple more. By now George was in the mood to drink and not cook. The outfitter could see George was well on his way for a drunk. He escorted George back to the kitchen and told him to set the table, which he started to do. The outfitter saw that George seemed OK so went back to visit with the Germans.

Once the outfitter left, George thought he should have another drink. He drank what cooking wine there was. That not being enough, he resorted to his old standby: vanilla

and lemon extract—when nothing else was available. To make a long story short, George drank what extract there was, and that put him out of commission.

Jeff, one of the crew, came by and looked into the kitchen. There he saw George sitting on the floor in a drunken stupor and could smell burning meat. He opened the oven and pulled the roast out, then hurried over to where the outfitter was visiting with the Germans. He advised the outfitter of George's condition and that the roast was burning. They hurried over to the kitchen and found George stretched out on the floor with the empty wine bottle and extract bottles around him. The outfitter muttered, "The old S.O.B.!" They packed George over to the adjacent room and flopped him on his bed, leaving him there.

They looked at the roast, the top of which had just started to burn and was somewhat over-done. The outfitter, now excited, said, "What the hell do we do now for meat for dinner?" They looked into the ice box and all was fine with the additional food George had prepared—all was well, except for the meat.

Jeff said, "I'll cut away the burnt part of the roast and see what the inside is like." He cut away a good portion of the roast. The inside seemed fine. They tasted it and it was delicious. The outfitter said, "But now there is hardly enough to go around. We'll be short of meat!" Jeff said, "I guess we'll have to fry up some ham or something." "No way can we serve ham!" said the outfitter. "It has to be wild game."

Jeff commented that the boys had brought in a load of moose meat a couple of days ago and said, "Let's see



what there is.” When they got to the meat house, they saw the meat was hung and well taken care of.

“That’s it,” said Jeff. “Look at those tenderloins! Last week George cooked some sheep tenderloin for Dave and me and was it ever tasty. He has his own mixture of special spices and herbs to season with. I know the jar he keeps it in. I saw how he cooked the tenderloin. He cut it into thin strips, seasoned it then stir fried it. I am certain I could cook it the same as he did.” Jeff had cooked on the trail before. The outfitter said, “OK, Jeff, you are now my only hope—you are now the gourmet cook.”

They were on their way back to the kitchen with the tenderloin when a fresh breeze brought in a smell of delicious mouth-watering meat barbecuing. Just back of the meat house was Indian Dave and another old time hunter, Howard barbecuing.

The outfitter asked, “What are you guys barbecuing? Does it ever smell good!” “Porcupine,” replied Howard. “The best meat there is. Dave and I have cooked up a couple of feeds every year I’ve been here. Wouldn’t think of going home without having a feed of porcupine—best meat there is.”

Jeff said, “When I went to the kitchen and found George on the floor, I was going for salt and pepper for our feed here. We were going to have porcupine with bannock, blueberry jam and tea while you and the Germans enjoyed George’s gourmet dinner.”

Jeff continued, “Hell, lets finish barbecuing the porky and serve it as well.” Howard added, “You can’t beat the taste; you’ll see when its ready.” Dave and Howard continued barbecuing.

Jeff and the outfitter left for the kitchen and immediately began to prepare the tenderloin. The outfitter commented, “Jeff, that’s a lot of tenderloin you seem to have cut up.” “Yep,” said Jeff. “Howard, Dave and I got to eat too. Our porky is going to feed Germans, so there won’t be any left for us.” The outfitter said, “You think so?” Jeff replied, “I don’t think so, I know so. I’ll make a bet they eat every last bit of that porky.”

Jeff dug out George’s special seasoning, seasoned the meat, saying, “George lets the meat season for about a half hour before stir frying it. Take some of the seasoning over to Dave and have him season the porky with it as well.”

The outfitter took out two of George’s aprons and wedge cook caps and said to Dave, “You are now a gourmet porcupine cook. You and Jeff will look after the kitchen and serve the table. Howard will join us.”

The three-course gourmet meat dinner was served. The Germans made many fine comments regarding the meal, all remarking that the meat was the most delicious wild meat they had ever tasted. They all asking for more porcupine until it was totally devoured. The Germans sang and drank for sometime. They then asked if Dave and Jeff could come and join them in a toast to the animal for the fine wild game dinner they had enjoyed. The outfitter agreed, saying, “Only one drink for Jeff and Dave.” He knew they both were staunch members of the “Vanilla Club” as was George. Once they got started, they went all out drinking—nothing else mattered. Jeff and Dave were invited in. They drank a toast to the dinner. The Germans tipped Dave and Jeff

generously, again commenting on the delicious meat, and telling Dave he must barbecue another porcupine dinner before they left. Dave agreed—two porcupines next week, may be three—adding that Howard, Jeff and he liked porcupine too.

Jeff and Dave left for the kitchen. The outfitter came in with two bottles of German beer courtesy of the visitors, who were still saying how delicious the “pork in spine” was—that’s what they called it. Jeff said, “That’s right: pork in spine—all that is left is the spine, not enough left to feed a jaybird.” The outfitter said, “They sure are looking forward to another feed.” Dave said, smiling, “If they tip me good like this, I cook porky every day for those Germans.” Dave and Jeff sat there drinking the beer and eating tenderloin, when Dave said, “You know, Jeff, if I had George’s special spice, I would be best porcupine cook in Canada.” Jeff said, “Yes, that spice mixture sure makes the porcupine more tasty.” Dave continued, “I’m going to ask George how he mix that spice up.” Jeff looked at Dave, “He won’t tell you how; he’ll give you some when it’s mixed, but won’t tell you a darn thing. He guards it like Col. Sanders’ chicken recipe. No way will you get it out of him. I tried last week when he cooked the sheep loin up for us.” Dave replied, “Sure he will. Next time we drink together, I ask him. He will tell me.” “No way he will,” said Jeff. “I sure would like to be there when you and George are sharing a bottle of vanilla and you try to get that recipe out of him.”

Dave, now looking more serious than ever, pointed his finger straight at Jeff and said, “Jeff, when you come to George and my party, you better bring your **own bottle of vanilla!**”



The Moccasin Telegraph

Concerns about Alberta's Eastern Slopes



Susan Feddema-Leonard
May 3, 2008 at the Brule Rodeo.

Photo by Jaeda Mae Feddema

At the changing of the Premiers in 2006, the Kakwa-Willmore Interprovincial Agreement was signed with NO public consultation. At the same time, many secret Orders in Council were signed, which created Rock Lake Provincial Park, Pierre Grey Lakes Provincial Park, the Sulphur Gates Recreation Area and other Provincial Parks throughout Alberta. Hunting was completely banned in all these Parks. This was done under the radar of the West Yellowhead MLA, Ivan Strang and was also done without ANY public consultation. Outfitters, guides and hunters were affected as a result.

This clandestine action was a particularly harsh assault against Outfitter George Kelley whose family historically used the area and had non-resident elk tags in there. In fact he was lying on his death bed at that time. George advised the Willmore Foundation that he had never been consulted at any time about the change in designation of Rock Lake nor the Kakwa/Willmore Interprovincial Park. After doing some research, we were alerted through the discovery of a B.C. Kakwa Management Plan that there was a move to nominate the area as a World Heritage Site.

In January 2007, the Willmore Wilderness Foundation and the Grande Cache Métis Local wrote letters of inquiry to the government expressing concern about the underhanded way the Interprovincial Park was created.

Both groups were reassured that NOTHING was happening.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation received emails and phone calls advising us that Willmore Wilderness Park was going to be nominated as a World Heritage Site. Bazil Leonard decided to ask Kyle Clifford, Acting Executive Director of Parks and Protected Areas if there was any truth to these rumours. Kyle sent Archie Landals an email and Mr. Landals responded as follows.

From: Archie Landals [mailto:Archie.Landals@gov.ab.ca]
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2007 1:06 PM
To: Kyle Clifford; Heather Lazaruk; Scott Jones
Cc: Andy Vanlmschoot; Erin Mikaluk; Brian Bildson
Subject: RE: trapper cabins

We are in the initial stages of discussions with Parks Canada and BC Parks to consider expanding the current Rocky Mountains World Heritage Site. This will not be done without consultation. UNESCO requires consultations before any site is established as a World Heritage Site or prior to any boundary changes. As an organization, I am sure that Alberta Parks will not recommend or agree to any of our protected areas being added if it adversely impacts current uses or management practices. We will certainly make sure that the Willmore Wilderness Foundation is involved in the discussions if it is decided that Willmore is a suitable candidate for consideration as an



addition. There is currently a lot of misinformation floating around about World Heritage Site status. Designation as a World Heritage site does not transfer management or authority away from the province nor does it specifically preclude any activities that are currently permitted in our various classes of protected areas. All of this will be discussed in detail with any interested parties with respect to any of the parks in BC and Alberta, if the decision is made to consider them for addition to the Rocky Mountain World Heritage site.

Again there was more correspondence by the Grande Cache Métis Local and the Willmore Wilderness Foundation asking about the UNESCO designation. On Jan. 3, 2008, the Foundation received a letter from Ivan Strang (MLA) re-assuring us that NOTHING was going on.

In January 2008, Susan Feddema-Leonard received a phone call from Chris Wearmouth of the Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA). Sue shared her concern with Chris about the mixed messages the Foundation was receiving regarding the World Heritage Site status of the Willmore and Kakwa areas. Shortly thereafter, the Willmore Wilderness Foundation received an invitation from AWA to attend a UNESCO World Heritage Site Information Session. A Draft Agenda outlined presentations by Mike Murtha

of Parks Canada and Heather Lazaruk of Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation. We could NOT figure out why AWA was calling a meeting for a World Heritage Site Information Session. We were perplexed, as to the January 17, 2008, UNESCO Information meeting—when a January 3, 2008 letter from Ivan Strang MLA advised that NOTHING WAS GOING ON.

Bazil Leonard, Susan Feddema-Leonard and Brian Bildson went to the meeting with an open mind. Alvin Findlay of the Grande Cache Métis Local and Tom McDonald of the Aseniwuche Winewak Nation did not attend. Michel Short, a media person came to the meeting but was NOT allowed in the meeting. A synopsis of the UNESCO-Willmore Information Session revealed the following critical points:

Mike Murtha stated that he had involvement with the World Heritage program going back to his previous career with Parks Canada. In '78-'79 he looked at the possibility of nominating Waterton plus "big 4" national parks (Yoho, Kootenay, Banff, Jasper) as World Heritage sites. There was no appetite in federal government for large areas, so only Burgess Shale was included and accepted by UNESCO. Mike stated that he was not with Parks Canada when the nomination for Banff et al was prepared in 1983 and for Waterton in 1994. The B.C. government was invited to nominate three provincial

parks at this time; however, this did not happen. Murtha also wrote the application for Mt. Robson Park, Hamber Provincial Park and for Tatshenshini Park. One of Murtha's tasks was to write a Six Year Report on Waterton and the Canadian Rocky Mountain Park sites. As a result of Murtha's Six Year Report, UNESCO is now looking at expanding the Rocky Mountain Park World Heritage Site.

Murtha stated that when a site is inscribed on the World Heritage Site list, it does not change the legal status of the property. Parks Canada is one hundred percent responsible for their four mountain parks. **"The World Heritage Site Committee is a gatekeeper and acts as watchdog to make sure a government is keeping the values of a World Heritage Site."** Murtha stated, "When World Heritage Site committee inscribes a site, it is agreed that the activities that have gone on in the past should continue. For example, Banff has many businesses operating in it. Mount Assiniboine Provincial Park still has guided hunting. Tatshenshini Park still has trophy hunting for grizzly bears. Alaska Park still allows hunting for First Nations and non-First Nations in Alaska. Murtha conceded he was certainly the primary writer of the Six Year Report; however, many

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Do we want to give away the sovereignty of our watershed to international interests?

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others reviewed/revise the Report, and it was finally submitted as the official report of the Government of Canada. It was not something that Murtha independently wrote and submitted by himself. However, the Six Year Report is one example of his direct involvement with the World Heritage Site program.

It became apparent that Murtha was facilitating the process to nominate an expansion of the UNESCO Rocky Mountain World Heritage Site—at the request of UNESCO—and not Albertans.

In 2007, Mike Murtha put together a steering committee to look at an expansion of the Rocky Mountain Park World Heritage Sites. The **Canadian Rocky Mountain Park (CRMP) World Heritage Site Steering Committee** is looking at an area from Monkman Pass to Elk Lake in southern Alberta. Murtha stated that this would be one of the biggest UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the world. Murtha stated he wanted a DRAFT APPLICATION to expand the current Rocky Mountain Park by LATE SPRING OF 2008. (This has since been revised to a year later). This draft application would be sent to UNESCO IN FRANCE and would include the Willmore, Kakwa and other areas.

Mike stated that the CRMP World Heritage Site Steering Committee thought Willmore was a wonderful area as a nomination,

as it has a component of wildlife species that is unique. Willmore has the eastern slopes habitat that was missing from Banff and Jasper. This is why Mike was interested in Willmore—for ecosystem diversity and unique biodiversity.

Heather Lazaruk of Parks and Protected Areas stated that she would work with the CRMP World Heritage Site Steering Committee on the nomination process. She would participate in broad public consultation, which would include First Nations and Métis.

Brian Bildson asked, “What happens when a global view is in conflict with the local species and a way of life? One example is the harvesting of seals. How do we know that there will NOT be international interference with our local resources? Is there a potential of international interest coming into conflict with what our grandchildren or great grandchildren may do?” Brian stated that, “International pressure will influence local governments.”

Susan Feddema-Leonard stated, “UNESCO did interfere in the Cheviot Mine Hearings. UNESCO wrote letters to put pressure on the Alberta Government to create a BUFFER ZONE to protect the grizzly bear that may travel outside the World Heritage Site. UNESCO lobbied to stop the mine. They wanted a buffer zone next to Jasper, which had a World Heritage

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Site designation.” She continued, “Humans have long been a part of the biodiversity of the region. So many environmental organizations are discounting MAN as a part of the ecosystem. The mine supported families and children. If there is good reclamation legislation, the land base will be restored. UNESCO and Parks Canada overstepped its bounds lobbying for a buffer zone. Will UNESCO and Parks Canada want a buffer zone all along the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks?”

Mike stated, **“UNESCO only asked the question - will the mine interfere with the world heritage site universal values?”** Parks Canada advised the Alberta Government that Cheviot Mine would have an impact on the grizzlies.

Bazil Leonard stated, “I now realize that there would be two more levels of protectionism: first from Parks Canada who will formally sign the agreement—and second from UNESCO.

Brian stated that he encouraged Parks and Protected Areas to develop a Willmore Wilderness Management Plan that specified the traditional activities of the area. Brian acknowledged having previously worked with Mike Murtha. Brian stated “My concern is that my children and grandchildren have the same opportunity—but there have been changes in the Kakwa on the B.C. side. You wanted those trapline cabins out of the park and you’ve made no secret of it.”

Mike Murtha responded by saying, “That’s different than trapping. Those cabins were not legitimate cabins. They were being used as recreational cabins, not just as trappers’ cabins.”

Brian responded by stating, “You could have chosen to discipline the inappropriate uses of the cabins – and NOT removed the traplines from the inventory. You effectively eliminated trapping completely because of infractions. The trapline could have been turned over to a legitimate trapper.”

On Feb 24, 2008, Premier Stelmach came to Grande Cache thanks to PC candidate Robin Campbell. Bazil Leonard, Alvin Findlay and Ken Groat briefed the Premier regarding the UNESCO nomination of Alberta’s eastern slopes. The Premier stated, “You have my and Robin Campbell’s (MLA) commitment to work for you – especially if there is outside influence in the Province of Alberta. We have had enough of that over the past couple of months.” (Comment quoted from video taped footage, which is in Willmore Wilderness Foundation video library.)

On March 12, 2008, Hon. Cindy Ady was newly appointed as the Minister of Tourism Parks & Recreation. On March 13, 2008, TPRC Deputy Minister Fay Orr was moved to Children Services, and Bill Werry was appointed Deputy Minister of Tourism, Parks, & Recreation. Robin Campbell (West Yellowhead) MLA was appointed

Deputy Whip and the Chair of the Northern Alberta Development Council.

Recently the Tourism, Parks and Recreation Areas website had this statement, which has now been taken off the Internet:

Question: “How are World Heritage Sites safeguarded?”

Answer: “When the characteristics for which a site was originally inscribed on the World Heritage List are threatened by natural conditions or human activity (i.e. armed conflict and war; natural disasters; pollution; poaching; unplanned construction), inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger can be a powerful tool for conservation. The ‘in danger’ list **calls the world’s attention to endangered sites and mobilizes international resources for emergency preservation measures.**”

After reading this I wondered what the statement meant? What are emergency preservation measures?

We need to ask ourselves, do we want another layer of protectionism through the designation of a UNESCO World Heritage Site? Do we want to give away the sovereignty of our watershed to international interests?

Susan Feddema-Leonard



TALES & TRAILS IN THE WILDERNESS: *Part 3- by Ethel Miller*

Chapter Four: The Northern Boundary

A story by Ethel Miller (deceased) printed by permission of her husband, Charlie Miller (since deceased in 2007). The story will be continued in succeeding issues of this newsletter

In 1970, we decided we should do the Northern Boundary trip but would be doing it with only the one packhorse. That took some careful planning in packing our supplies for the trip, as it involved several miles, and we were not sure how many days it would take. Our neighbours offered to come with us to Rock Lake and bring our truck and trailer back to Hinton. Then when we got to Mt. Robson with the horses, we would phone them. They would then bring our trailer to pick us up. Things were looking great, as the weather was splendid.

On August 2nd, we were on the trail early and headed out on a new adventure. We were able to travel as far as the Welbourne's cabin the first day and made camp near the cabin. The fish were not biting that night. In Jasper Park you had to obtain a travel permit, fire and grazing permit and plot out where you were planning to be each night. The total amount of permits only cost about a dollar and eighty cents but you needed to be in possession of them. At that time, the fishing license cost five dollars. Most times the plotting of your camp spots each night worked great, but if your horses turned back or you had some unseen problems, it was harder to stick to

the plan. That night at Welbourne, the horses decided to turn back and head for home. As you leave the Willow Creek Warden's area there is a gate, and we had closed it behind us, so it didn't take us too long to get them back to camp. That night after they had eaten for several hours, they were snubbed up to the hitching rail, so we knew exactly where we would find them the next morning.

The next day, we made it to Blue Creek's cabin and stopped for awhile to let the horses feed. We would have a visit with the Warden while we enjoyed a cup of coffee. In those years, there were not that many people traveling on the trails. We always found the Wardens friendly and anxious to share their hospitality. One of the Wardens at Willow Creek had a couple of small children. He and his wife and the two little children shared the two-room cabin. At Blue Creek, the field near the cabin was covered with wild strawberries and beautiful wild flowers. That night we camped near the cabin at Three Slides. Mushrooms were plentiful around the cabin. It was not much of a camp spot but with only three horses, we didn't need too much room.

The next day we went on to Twin Tree Lake. There was a nice camp spot there but I guess the horses decided they had enough of the traveling, so decided to turn back again after grazing for only a

short time. One hobble had come undone on my saddle horse, so with Sandy in the lead, the other two followed. Finally, Charlie's horse, Casey stopped down the trail. Bareback riding was not something that we did much of unless we had to. But as Casey made the mistake of stopping near a stump, Charlie made a quick mount and soon was able to catch up with the other two. He only had to lead Sandy as Joe was used to just following along. It was a comfort to know that there was a closed gate further down the trail. At least we hoped it was still closed. The drift fences hold horses pretty good, but if the horses are determined enough, they can get around them. The weather was hot and dry so once supper was over with, we enjoyed sitting around the campfire. In the bush you never felt alone, as there was always a couple of "camp robbers" or "whiskey jacks" at the camp. It was amazing how fast they knew there was someone on the trail who would give them something to eat. Even if you did not intend to feed them, they soon would be swooping in and stealing something. As we rode down the trails, they would fly along and never seemed to be too far away. Most times there were a couple of them. It was not long before you could have them taking stuff off your hat on your head. Squirrels would be nearby chattering and scolding you if you did not give them some of your crumbs or whatever you could spare.



Sunshine greeted us the next morning and as noon hour approached, the temperature rose to about twenty-five degrees. When the warm temperatures come, the horse flies are not far behind—even in the high country. We got to the Lower Smoky cabin quite early in the day and camped not too far from the cabin. Later on in the day, another big outfit came in and they camped right by the cabin. It was not long before some of the dudes were making their way to the water with a borrowed washbasin that had been hanging on the outside wall of the cabin. I am not really sure why it was outside as most times the cabins in the Park are closed up with the shutters locked and nothing left outside. It was a balmy evening, so I decided I would be able to wash a pair of jeans and get them dried before morning. With the help of some dish soap and elbow grease, I soon had my jeans hanging on a tree branch drying in the breeze.

I had always read about how high Mt. Robson was and expected to see it from a long ways back, but it was not until we left the Lower Smoky and got near Lake Adolphus that we could see it towering up above the trees. The backside of the mountain was covered in ice but the top of the mountain was visible as there was not a cloud in sight. What a grand view! If it had been a cloudy day, I doubt that a person would even recognize it from the backside, as it is not nearly as majestic looking



Camp at Adolphus Lake courtesy of Ishbel Cochrane

as the side you see from Highway 16. Rearguard Mountain is tucked right in behind and slightly conceals how high Mt. Robson really is.

At Lake Adolphus, many backpackers came in that night. They had little tents of all kinds and were camped all over the place. They had come up from Kinney Lake. In those years, the trail was different than it is today. The hikers and horse traffic used the same trail but that has been changed now. Hikers did not like to use the same trail as the outfits with horses but the feeling was mutual. The hikers always carried a bunch of stuff hanging off their packs to create noise so that bears or whatever could hear them coming. These noises also spooked

the horses, especially when the high packs would hit the low hanging branches. Some hikers were really courteous though and would let you pass and even step off the trail to give you extra room.

The next day when we got up, it was overcast and heavy clouds were hanging around the peak of the mountain. We certainly considered ourselves lucky that we had arrived the day before to see that sight. The descent from Lake Adolphus to Kinney Lake was steep and the morning was cold, quite a difference in temperature from the previous days. We walked down a good part of the trail leading



Premier Stelmach Visits Grande Cache



We insisted that Premier Stelmach put on a hat from Norman Willmore Men's Wear.

Norman Willmore ran a clothing store before he became the West Yellowhead MLA in the 1950s, instigating a piece of legislation called the Willmore Wilderness Act.

As Administrative Assistant of the Willmore Wilderness Foundation I was excited when February 23 rolled around, along with the Tory Campaign Bus. Premier Ed Stelmach and his wife Marie stepped off of the Greyhound and walked right into the Willmore Wilderness Foundation office. Everyone chatted for a while and took pictures. P.C. Candidate Robin Campbell, who was later elected as the West Yellowhead MLA, enjoyed the honors of shaking hands. I soon noticed all the security guys, but I was not sure of the proper name for them. My mother and author presented the Premier with a copy of *People & Peaks of Willmore Wilderness Park*, which featured the history of the Mountain Métis, guides, outfitters, trappers, mountain men and the indigenous people of the Rockies.

We insisted that Premier Stelmach put on a hat from Norman Willmore Men's Wear. Norman Willmore ran a clothing store before he became the West Yellowhead MLA in the 1950s, instigating a piece of legislation called the Willmore Wilderness Act. That Act ensures the traditional activities of hunting, trapping and horse use in the area now called Willmore Wilderness Park.

Shortly thereafter, everyone went next door to the Premier's luncheon, which was hosted by the Willmore Wilderness Foundation

and the Grande Cache Métis Local. The Premier, Marie and Robin Campbell mingled with everyone, and then we showed our first short film, *Métis Willmore Wilderness Youth Trip*. For most it was kind of gross, because the movie detailed the traditional activity of how to trap and eat gophers! I always get a kick out the expressions on some people's faces when they watch the documentary. I mean in some cultures, people eat calamari, moldy cheese, prairie oysters, etc. So gophers are the least of my worries! The Premier, who was a farm boy seemed to really enjoy the film.

After the movie, our Mayor Louise Krewusik said a few words on behalf of the Town of Grande Cache. Ken Groat was the M.C. for the luncheon and he explained to the Premier that his great-grandfather had donated the 80-acres that the Alberta Legislature sits on and joked that his family might want the land back if Alberta votes Liberal! Alvin Findlay, descendant of Jacco Findlay, David Thompson's guide, provided the Premier with a unique perspective of the eastern slopes. Both Ken and Alvin advised the Premier that their families were evicted from Jasper in 1907 when the Canadian Government made the area a National Park. My father Basil Leonard also shared a thought provoking talk on the UNESCO World Heritage Site issue, which the Premier took notes on. Basil



wished Premier Stelmach and Robin Campbell every success in the upcoming election in which by now you know the Premier and Robin did very well.

As soon as Premier Stelmach left, my co-worker Heather Devoe and I went to work at the Willmore Wilderness Foundation's Fundraiser called the Grande Cache Gala. This event was held only hours later! About a dozen volunteers showed up, much to our relief. Everyone went to work turning the Métis Hall into an auction fundraising event!

The Grande Cache Gala was co-hosted by the Willmore Wilderness Foundation and the Grande Cache Trappers Association with the Grande Cache Métis Local providing the meal and bar. All-in-all the entire Gala was a great success, selling out completely. The prime rib dinner was outstanding. Thank you Alvin Findlay for the excellent dinner and kudos to all our Volunteer helpers!

Chehala Leonard

Pictured from left to right: Marie & Premier Stelmach Chehala Leonard, Danika Sedore & Heather Devoe.
Note: Chehala & Heather are Willmore Wilderness Foundation staff.





Saving Sugar

A True Story about a Family & Their Horse - by Judy Tailby

It was in the summer of 2007, July to be exact, when Marshall Wild and Mark Sloan, two long-time Edson, Alberta residents headed off with their families on a horseback trip into the mountains. The trip began at the Rock Lake trailhead into Wilmore Wilderness Park, about an hour drive north of Hinton, Alberta on the Grande Cache highway. The group consisted of Marshall and his wife Candice and their three children, as well as Mark and his wife Sherry and their three children.

The group departed from the Rock Lake staging area on the morning of July 18, 2007, the weather was sunny and inviting, and the group was in good spirits. The next couple of days went well as the group of riders enjoyed the spectacular scenery and exhilarating experience of riding the mountain trails. It was on the afternoon of the third day that the trip took an unexpected turn. After a day trip up the Carson Creek drainage, they returned to their camp on the main trail only to be greeted by one of their pack horses that had snapped its lead shank. He was easily caught and they returned to camp to find their other pack horse, Sugar was gone. Marshall and Mark quickly headed down the trail back towards the staging area. They found Sugar's trail by identifying his shoe markings and

because he was dragging his lead rope. It seemed that the horse was slowed by the lead rope because about every few strides, he would step on it, slowing his progress. Marshall led the way in a full gallop, only stopping to check that he was following the right tracks. For Mark it was all he could do to keep up on his 24-year-old gelding that he had worked really hard climbing a small mountain that same morning. About three kilometers into the pursuit, Marshall came across a group of hikers.

When he asked if they had come across a brown and white horse running loose along the trail, they replied that yes, about half an hour previously, they did see the horse running down the trail towards them, dragging its leash. The hikers explained, "We were concerned for the horse's safety, so removed the rope and let it go," while handing back the lead rope to Marshall. Marshall cringed, knowing this had been the only way of tracking the lost animal, as there were horse tracks everywhere. Marshall was instantly angry but realized that the horse was only thirty minutes away, so he didn't have time to share a piece of his mind with the hikers. He was down hearted but felt that if he didn't leave quickly, he might find a new way to use the "leash". Mark caught up with Marshall in time to hear the tail end of

the conversation, and they were off again at an even faster pace. Marshall rode ten kilometers at a lope, all the way to the staging area and back to Mark who had slowed his willing horse to a trot. Marshall had lost the trail before crossing the Wild Hay River but had kept going in hopes of finding Sugar. The two returned to camp, tired and empty handed, to their sad children and wives.

Before their return to Edson, Marshall and Candice decided to stop at a local outfitter, "George Kelly Outfitters." Unfortunately, George passed away early that year, and the Outfitters was now run by George's son Kipp Kelly. The short visit consisted of letting them know about the missing horse Sugar and asking that if anyone had information of his whereabouts to please contact them.

I became aware of the story after the families returned to Edson. My husband Bill and I had ridden with Marshall in the past, and Bill had also ridden Sugar. I was saddened by the loss of this animal that we were all so fond of. Over the summer months, I, as well as others, hoped and prayed that Sugar would be one of the animals you hear about finding its way home. We told everyone we knew, who was heading up to the Wilmore Wilderness, of the lost horse in the hopes he would be found. As



Sugar safe at home.

photo courtesy of
Judy Tailby

summer faded into fall, there was no sign of Sugar. Marshall headed back in the fall to look again, fearing for the horse's safety during hunting season, but still no sign of Sugar.

Winter was upon us now; Alberta's most brutal and cold month of the year is January. The hopes of finding Sugar in good health were dwindling. There were many phone calls made to many people about this situation. Finally, John Saunders a helicopter pilot with Peregrine Helicopters out of the Hinton, Alberta called Erin Geymonat and informed her that he had spotted a horse on one of his "fly-overs". Erin told us that Hilary Shannon was the "go-to lady" and if there was a missing animal, she would know how to get it back to its owners. It was January 25, 2008; Marshall received a phone call from John. John said the horse was in Seep creek drainage but gave GPS coordinates that did not quite correspond to that drainage. The

two discussed the sighting, and John gave a description of the horse. "It sounds like Sugar," thought Marshall, who then decided he would have to ride back in and see if, in fact, Sugar was there.

The next day, Saturday morning, Marshall, Mark, and another friend Luke as well as Marshall's Blue Heeler Rip and three horses headed back up to Rock Lake to look for Sugar once more. The men rode first into Seep Creek and found no horse sign. They decided to go back into another drainage that was identified by a sign on the Mountain trail as Jackson Creek. It was more likely to fit the GPS coordinates that John had provided. Within about two kilometers, they found horse sign but nothing really fresh. Marshall had been told of a meadow up in this drainage, and they believed that it could be Sugar's hangout. They rode for another couple of kilometers and saw less and less horse sign. It was

getting late in the day, and the boys were losing hope. They still knew how long a ride out they had, and the weather was going to get worse. Marshall finally said that maybe they should think about heading back.

At the same time, Mark was mucking around with his GPS and noticed that the topographical map on his GPS showed that there might be a meadow 600 meters ahead. They decided to ride the 600 meters before heading for home. As they approached the meadow, Mark was slightly ahead of the others. As he rode in, Mark saw the sweetest thing, Sugar! He called out to Marshall "Hey, I found your horse!" Marshall didn't believe Mark; he thought he was stringing him along. "No, really, I see a black and white horse." Well he was wrong about the color but he was right about it being Sugar. Sugar recognized Mark's horse

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Grizzly Bears: Science Fiction or Science Fact

By Susan Feddema-Leonard

The Fraser Institute Report also outlined that, “The total grizzly bear population in British Columbia is estimated to be between 10,000 and 13,000 animals.”

(BC Ministry of Environment, Lands & Parks 1995)



Photo taken by Larry and Nellie Chapman's hunter of Packsaddle Adventures in 2007. The photo was given to the Foundation by Hugh Ashwell.

In March 2008, the Alberta Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan 2008-2013 was released. The Plan detailed actions to be implemented during the next five years. Many good suggestions were outlined however there were areas in the report that were of grave concern.

Let me begin my story back in time. In 1988 and prior, the grizzly bear was a hunted animal. Historically, grizzly and black bear hunts were an accepted activity. The bruin as a species was wary of 'man' and often retreated when confronted with human contact. Some environmentalists were concerned about the plight of the bear and lobbied the government to stop the grizzly hunt. The last hunt to take place in Willmore Wilderness Park was in 1987; and a year later, the last hunt in Alberta took place in the Chinchaga Hills. I was a cook for the last of the grizzly hunts in both of these areas.

A spring grizzly hunt was a very challenging adventure. The grizzly is a very intelligent animal and would often outsmart those in pursuit of him. There were times when the bear would circle around and follow the hunters. When someone shot a bruin it had to be registered with Fish and Wildlife. Statistics were kept on the grizzly harvest. Archived files would show between fifteen and twenty-five grizzlies were taken each year in all of Alberta. In the Willmore and Kakwa areas for example, an average of four to eight bears were taken annually, which was a sustainable harvest.

There were benefits to the spring hunts. Many times a grizzly bear would kill the young cubs. The annual harvest reduced the conflict where the male bear would take the life the young ones in the litter. A second benefit was that the hunt made the grizzly reluctant to encounter man. These majestic animals ranged deep in the Canadian Rockies and were rarely

seen. The bear as a species knew that they were being hunted and had a dislike of human interaction, choosing to flee at the sight of man. Last, the grizzly hunt brought in tourism dollars from the American hunters who came to hunt the species.

Both American and Albertan sportsmen played a hand in grizzly management, which played a key role in keeping the bear attacks to a minimum. During this period of time, problem bears existed primarily in the parks where they were protected. Prior to the creation of parks like Jasper National Park, bears were hunted and there were few problems with the species encroaching on man's territory. Bear problems developed over the years after the 'protectionism policies' of the National Parks were put in place.

During the last hunt of 1988, we knew that the government was closing the species down and that the bears could only be hunted on a draw basis. I distinctly remember a conversation



that took place during one supper. Bazil Leonard, as well as others, predicted that the grizzly would become a more bold and aggressive animal.

Three years ago, the environmentalists lobbied again for a moratorium on the grizzly hunt and got it. This was the icing on the cake, and the bears have been having the last laugh ever since. This has only resulted in the grizzlies having no fear of man. The bruins have increasingly been more aggressive in trashing camps and becoming a nuisance to the backcountry traveler. There are no consequences for their actions now, and the bears have lost their healthy fear of man!

Grizzlies do not understand boundaries and travel to rural communities. A Native Elder by the name of Louis Joachim had a disturbing encounter with a group of grizzlies. Louis is a long time trapper, guide and an original descendant of the aboriginal population that was forced out of Jasper in 1907 when it became a National Park. Louis and his wife Elizabeth reside in Muskeg, twenty miles south of Grande Cache. Louis' grandchildren were playing outside of his home when three grizzlies walked into his yard. The bears were only yards from the small children. Louis was by his front door. He ran inside, grabbed his gun and shot one of the bears. The two other ran away. Louis phoned Shane Ramstead, Fish and Wildlife Office and reported the incident. This situation that was far too close for comfort.

Tom Wanyandie, a native friend, will not go for a walk anywhere without a gun or axe to defend himself. I am also aware of one young mother who lived on a local Native Co-op, who would take her children to the school bus with a loaded

rifle over her shoulder. She too was worried about the aggressive grizzlies. These concern have arisen since the grizzly hunts were terminated. In previous times, there was less worry about a bear encounter as the grizzlies were wary of man. I never worried about bear problems during the years we were hunting these bears, as they stayed far away from our camps and were hard to find. There is a sharp contrast today where the bears seek out camps and approach them with no fear.

Our forefathers were smart enough to know that they needed to hunt the grizzly in order to coexist with them. Modern day urban dwellers are so quick to make decisions and are not aware of the way of life in the mountains. Sadly, they offer solutions that are based on unrealistic, emotional ideas that are not grounded in fact. They rarely, if ever, talk to the people who live and work with the grizzly populations.

The Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan suggests that the only way to solve the problem is to 'restrict human access in grizzly country.' This recommendation does not take into consideration the communities of Mountain Métis and Aseniwuche Winewak (Rocky Mountain People) who live on the eastern slopes and who have encountered grizzlies that visit their communities.

It's time that Urban Alberta listened to their rural cousins. If we had their ear, we would tell these learned urbanites that there is a very healthy population of bears on Alberta's eastern slopes. In fact the Fraser Institute, which is a research-based organization, has found that the Grizzly bear population in Alberta is on the increase. In 2002, the

Fraser Institute issued a fifty-nine page report called, "Critical Issues Bulletin: Science Fiction or Science Fact? The Grizzly Biology behind Parks Canada Management Models."¹ The Bulletin was co-authored by Barry Cooper, Jason Hayes and Sylvia LeRoy. The Willmore Wilderness Foundation certainly support's the Fraser Institute's finding's "that the grizzly bear population is healthy and expanding in Alberta."

The number of grizzly encounters points to an increase in population in Alberta, rather than the bear being a species at risk. Some environmental sources have said that there are only five hundred bears left in Alberta. If this fact were true then Elder Louis Joachim had a good number of these so-called 'endangered species' in his own backyard. In fact, the Fraser Institute Report also outlined that, "The total grizzly bear population in British Columbia is estimated to be between 10,000 and 13,000 animals."² The Bulletin goes on to state, "In 1998, Canadian Parks and Wildlife Society (CPAWS) spent \$74,440 on political advocacy."³ The fact that an environmental agency is spending thousands of dollars lobbying for their own agenda makes one wonder if we are being fed **fact or fiction** with respect to these bears.

The Fraser Institute Report also states that, "The Banff and Lake-Louise-Kootenay-Yoho (LLYK) Field Units have produced 'in the order of ten peer reviewed publications a year.' Of all the twenty-eight people listed as having been interviewed, over 80% were Parks Canada employees, recipients of Parks Canada contracts or environmental activists."⁴

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One seed, fed and watered, grew to over \$1 million

By Shirley McFall - Past President, ATRA

Two members of The Alberta Trail Riding Association (known to many as ATRA) can be credited with planting a fund-raising seed that has grown into a tree with many strong roots and lots of branches over the past 30 years.

Back in 1977, Sharon Breitkreuz and Carolyn Nickels pursued the idea of ATRA organizing a horse trail ride that would raise funds for a worthy charity. It was thought that the club in its 5th year could manage a new project in addition to the successful educational clinics, competitive, endurance and recreational rides.

The result was the first fund-raising trail ride for cancer, which was held at then President Merrill McDonald's property out of Devon. Breitkreuz and Nickels successfully lobbied to bring the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) on board, and this was the beginning of a very long and productive relationship between the two organizations. A relationship, we are proud to say, continues to this day.

After proving that the rides could be successful and receiving requests to help other horse clubs, the ATRA *'Trail Ride Ladies'* made several presentations throughout Alberta. Breitkreuz and Nickels provided information to the Calgary CCS, then to Forestburg, Ardrossan/Tofield area and Drayton Valley horse clubs. All of these groups have made significant donations to the Cancer Society since 1984. The charitable fund raising ride for the *'Peace Area Riding for the Disabled'* also was a spin off of the ATRA ride format and has been going successfully for over 20 years.

With strong roots of support from the local horse community, ATRA has coordinated 29 successful rides. 2008 is our 30th ride year. We celebrate the size of our fund raising tree: Its branches have reached out to raise over \$1 million in 29 years to support the fight against cancer. Hundreds of riders, horses, families,

businesses, club members and volunteers have fed, watered and contributed to this worthy cause.

The *'30th Anniversary Cancer Fund Raising Trail Ride'* planning is well underway for a special celebration. We welcome back former riders. All participants are reminded that no alcohol or smoking is allowed on the trail. It is recommended that riders be at an intermediate level of competency; in control of their horse at all times and be riding a mature, trustworthy horse in good condition. For more information go onto the ATRA website at atra.ca or register with the Cancer Society, 455-7181.

Douglas Baker, Vice President Regional Services for the Canadian Cancer Society, says that CCS has been extremely fortunate to have a partnership with ATRA that spans three decades. During that time, the members of ATRA have raised over \$1 million dollars, which has greatly impacted cancer research in our province. Thanks to their generous support, 59% of people diagnosed with cancer today survive their disease, compared to only 33% in the 1960s. We couldn't have done it without this amazing organization and their members. The Canadian Cancer Society looks forward to the next 30 years and the remarkable advancements in research that will be made possible thanks to the support of the Alberta Trail Riders Association

The club's history of worthy activities over 35 wonderful years is a testament to dedicated volunteers who have fought, struggled, soared and succeeded. There have been many lofty hopes — some realized, some still in progress — with many fun and educational times, friendships, and common bonds discovered within the club.

Like many things run by passion, ATRA is kept breathing by the soul work of a group of hard working people. Some people have been involved since the beginning, and their names seem to



appear everywhere in ATRA's history. Sharon and Wally Breitkreuz have assisted and ridden in every cancer ride and are now bringing their grandchildren. Len Hodgson at his Aquarius Ranch out of Bruderheim has generously hosted the cancer ride for 25 of the 30 years. John Van Horn is the dedicated chef who has helped solicit the food donations and serve superb barbeques for 28 years. Long time member Harvey Nelson has participated in over 23 rides. Nelson knows that cancer touches all of us. Because he believes the ride is for a worthy cause, each year he and his grandson Jonna McPhee try to beat the previous year's pledges. His 2008 goal is set at over \$12,000. For one rider, raising over \$100,000 in 23 years is phenomenal. It bodes well for the club to have so many supportive long time members and second generation participants.

Right from the beginning, ATRA was a community oriented horse organization. This support has included donating money to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine research fund for many years. ATRA has also been an avid supporter of the *'Little Bits Therapeutic Riding Organization'* and *'Camp Horseshoe'*, which provide



Grizzly Bears: Science Fiction or Science Fact

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The fifty million dollar question is, did the Alberta government create the grizzly bear moratorium based on emotional environmental activism and propaganda? Should the environmental groups be held accountable for the misinformation they disseminate which results in unsafe policies for the public? Who is going to be responsible for the next person who is mauled by a bear? People who live and work near these magnificent animals view them in a different way. It is easy to theorize from an office in Edmonton or Calgary about life on the land. It is very different when your back yard is the wilderness.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation is doing an independent Grizzly Bear Survey from May 1 to October 31, 2008. The Final Report and Recommendations will be sent to Robin Campbell MLA who will brief the Alberta Government Caucus. Please contact the Willmore Foundation office to add your

input to this inventory. Please report any grizzly sightings, tracks, scat or sign. Also note the following:

- date, time of day & location of the bear (GPS or provide land description).
- the number of bears.
- the colour of the bear.
- picture of the bear, scat or tracks.
- describe tracks or scat - date, time & place.
- What was the bear doing - activities?
- email as much information as possible to info@willmorewilderness.com.

The Willmore Wilderness Foundation feels that the common sense solution to issues outlined in the 'Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan' is to bring back a limited grizzly hunt to put the 'fear of man,' back into the 'hearts of bears.'

by Susan Feddema-Leonard

Footnotes:

1. For a copy of the Critical Issues Bulletins call the Book Sales Coordinator at 1.800.665.3558

ext. 580 or email sales@fraserinstitute.ca

2. Page 50 'Notes' Bullet #4 - Critical Issues Bulletin: Science Fiction or Science Fact? The Grizzly Biology behind Parks Canada Management Models.

3. Page 56 under 'Notes' Bullet #1.- Critical Issues Bulletin: Science Fiction or Science Fact? The Grizzly Biology behind Parks Canada Management Models

4. Page 47.- Critical Issues Bulletin: Science Fiction or Science Fact? The Grizzly Biology behind Parks Canada Management Models

Willmore Wilderness
Foundation
is doing a
Grizzly Bear Survey
May 1 to Oct 31/08
for information call
1.866.WILMORE

One seed, fed and watered grew to over \$1 million - Continued from Page 18

opportunities for people with disabilities to ride and interact with horses. ACT Telerama, the Muscular Dystrophy Society and Rainbow Society have received assistance from many ATRA members.

Educating its members has also been a passion for ATRA, with its monthly meetings from September to May hosting many educational speakers. Talks on horse care, ranging from hoof to health to pasture management, have been presented. Clinics have been held on horsemanship, packing, saddle fitting, and driving. Clinicians Monte Foreman, Pat Wyse and Linda Tellington Jones appear in our history, and more recently local experts have made appearances at ATRA's meetings and clinics.

One ATRA goal is to be active in educating about, and practicing safe and responsible horsemanship. We believe our responsibility also lies in showing positive trail etiquette and respect for the environment. The club is concerned about diminishing equestrian trails in local areas as well as in the mountains. Many members continue to contribute hours to local, provincial and federal working committees. We believe there is a need to be the eyes, ears and voice of trail riders with the government and other recreational users.

A second club goal is to practice what we believe: To this end ATRA has formally adopted the Allenby (South Ram) Trail under the Alberta Government Adopt-A-Trail program

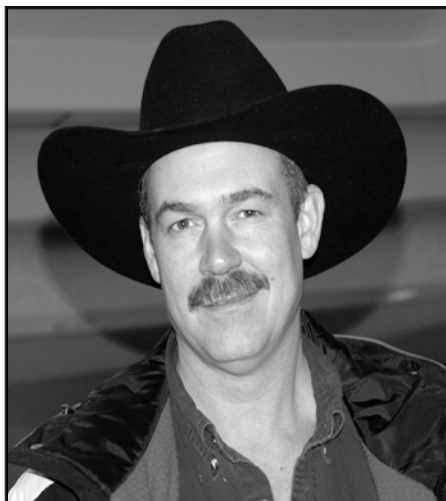
for a yearly clean up and maintenance ride. We raise funds to make a yearly donation to the Alberta Equestrian Federation Trail Support Program which funds and directs trail improvement in coordination with other user groups.

If you are interested in knowing more about ATRA, brochures are regularly handed out to other horse folk at camps, events, trail rides, drives and at Alberta's Annual Horse Breeders & Owners Conference. For more information you may access our website and newsletters at www.atra.ca.



Willmore Wanderings

By Mark Engstrom



Mark Engstrom 2007

Photo by Susan Feddema-Leonard

Editor's Note: Mark Engstrom is on the Board of Directors of the Willmore Wilderness Foundation.

Big Grave Flats

Of all places in the Willmore, "Big Graves" as we call it, holds a special place in my heart. I have traveled to this place more often than any other place in the wilderness. I have spent countless nights in this large grassy meadow, with countless family and friends. All of the horses I've owned know this place intimately and look forward to arriving there.

Big Graves lies some 25 km almost straight south of the town site of Grande Cache as the crow flies. It is a large, flat, grass and willow meadow on the east bank of the Sulphur River. It was named for the grave which lies in the meadow. The grave belongs to Pierre Delorme, who was buried there in about 1907. As the story goes, Pierre fell off his horse and hit his head while riding through Rocky Pass, but managed to ride farther down the trail before dying at the place now named after him. As he was a large man, standing 6'8", so the grave, built with the traditional spirit house over it, was a large one, resulting in the name. The spirit house remains to this day, looked after by relatives. The Delorme family has a long history in the Grande Cache area.

An old Forest Service cabin is also present on the flats. The Sulphur cabin has been there since the 1930s, if I remember correctly.

It is still a fine and functional cabin. It is set back against the trees on the edge of the flat, with a nearby creek containing good drinking water. The cabin sees many guests each year. A log book is present in the table of the cabin and holds some very interesting reading. Apparently an old logbook, which would have contained much history and included some famous names was stolen at one point but has been replaced.

The cabin is a cozy affair and is especially welcoming when arriving after a long ride in the rain, and if it is not occupied. I have spent many nights in the warmth of the cabin. Always interesting are the names of guests who sign the walls inside and outside of the cabin. The cabin also has a resident population of mice and packrats who seem to revel in keeping guests awake throughout the night. I will often pitch a tent outside of the cabin or at another camp on the flats just for the peace of mind that I won't be woken up at 4:00 a.m. by the rodents having a party in the ceiling or running across my face.

Big Graves is a great place to visit during the summer months. There is grass for horses, water, and a great view. If you are staying for

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Mark Your Calendars

The AGM is Sunday June 8/08 at the Willmore Wilderness Foundation office.

4600 Pine Plaza
Grande Cache, Alberta T0E 0Y0
(780) 827-2696
info@willmorewilderness.com
www.WillmoreWilderness.com

CUSTOM MADE RIFLE DRAW

Karl Schmid (lt) of K& S Arms in Edmonton donated a Custom Made Rifle- Pre-64 Model Winchester 375 H & H Caliber with octagon barrel & black walnut stock. The gun was handcrafted by Karl who is one of the finest gunsmiths in western Canada. Thank you, Karl.

Robin Campbell, West Yellowhead MLA pulled the ticket on May 3, 2008 in Edson. The lucky winner was Dale Dryherb of Grande Prairie. On hand to help Robin were Cliff Henderson, Deputy Minister SRD, Heather Devoe of the Willmore Wilderness Foundation and Bazil Leonard, President of the Willmore Wilderness Foundation. Photos by Susan Feddema-Leonard.

Willmore Wanderings

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a while, there are many great day rides or hikes to be taken from the flats. Kvas Creek trail, Whistler Creek, Rocky Pass and Monaghan trail can all be accessed from there. During hot weather, the Sulphur River can easily be crossed in many places, and it is great for a refreshing swim or tanning on the shore.

There is good hunting in the area, and although the area was more heavily used in the past, I have seen fewer people in recent years on the flats during hunting season. Many old outfitters loved the area, and a couple of notable hunters to pass through Big Graves were Jack O'Connor and Bing Crosby. For the

first time in years, I will miss my annual spring trip to Big Graves, due to work. As I write this, I wish I were packing up and heading out there right now. If you decide to go, you will enjoy this special place too.

By Mark Engstrom.



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 Estella Cheverie, Editor
 Brian Bildson, Regular Columnist
 Mark Engstrom, Regular Columnist

A person may become a member by a favorable vote passed by a majority of members at a regular meeting of the Foundation, and upon payment of the fee. Written notification will be sent to accepted members with a membership card.

\$25.00 for the 2007-2008 year.
 Life Time Membership is \$500.00
 Corporate Membership is \$100.00 per year.
 The membership year runs from June 1 to May 31.
 Annual General Meeting in June of each year.

An independent newsletter published in December & June.

ADVERTISING RATES:
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 full page colour - \$500.00
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circulation 5000

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Join Our Membership -

Find out about what's happening in Willmore. Get the latest news, issues and developments! We will keep in touch with our members in a newsletter twice during the year. We keep you up-to-date on important events and information. Articles or letters to the Editor are always welcome. Join today!

A person may become a member by a favourable vote passed by a majority of members at a regular meeting of the Foundation, and upon payment of the fee. Written notification will be sent to accepted members with a membership card. Membership renewals will be sent out 14-days prior to this meeting, along with a formal notice. The membership year runs from May 31 to June 1.

Yearly Membership is as follows:

- \$25.00 Individual Membership
- \$35.00 Family Membership
- Life Time Membership \$500.00
- Corporate Membership \$100.00

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year	
date	



Saving Sugar - continued from page 15

Bob, a pasture mate, and came to meet his rescuers. So they had found him: with three shoes left on, hobbles around his neck, and about 250 pounds lighter—but alive!

They wasted no time as they knew they would be riding out in the dark for at least two hours, and the threat of -40° C weather was only a couple days away. The day ended back at the truck, after

a 38-kilometer ride in the snow, with the strut of those cowboys to prove it. After six months, eleven days and a long ride out, Sugar was back in the trailer for the long ride home.

Sugar is doing fine and the family would like to thank everyone who passed on the word that Sugar was missing and for the care and sharing in getting him

back home. Sometimes a little help goes a long way.

Thank you to everyone for not giving up hope, for all the phone calls made and for the prayers that were answered. We will never really know Sugar's great adventure in the wild, but now he's safe at home. For the Wild Family, I'm glad Sugar's home.

Judy Tailby

TALES & TRAILS IN THE WILDERNESS - Part 3

continued from page 11

our saddle horses, as it was quite narrow and very winding. Joe the packhorse picked his way down very carefully, and we never had to lead him at all. As we got near Berg Lake, there were many more backpackers. Until we had reached the Lower Smoky, we had not met another person on the trail, but quite a different story between Lake Adolphus and Mt. Robson parking lot. Lots of people just hiked up from the parking lot to Lake Adolphus, as the trail was well marked and well kept.

When we got to Mt. Robson, we got quite a surprise, as there was no telephone. We could not camp at Mt. Robson either. Our neighbours were going to bring our horse trailer, but they had no idea when we would arrive. So we had to ride on until we came to Mt. Robson Ranch and were able to rent a cabin for the night. The only way we would be able to reach our neighbours would be to

send them a telegram. At the Ranch, they took Charlie to the train station where he was able to send a message. We thought it would not be too long before we were heading home. We had nearly used up our supply of food but were able to eat at the dining room at the Ranch. We didn't have much money along with us, and our plastic card was at home. Our clothes were in need of a good wash, and we were anxious to get home to our own bed.

The next day, we waited around and even went for a horseback ride around the ranch, just putting in time until we would get picked up. Things were not happening the way we thought they should, so finally we got the people at the Ranch to drive Charlie into Tête Jaune where the nearest phone was. As it turned out, our neighbours had left early that morning to pick us up but they were waiting at Valemount and Red

Pass. When the telegraph message arrived at their house, it must have had Red Pass on it and one of the children took the message, misread it and told their parents that we were at Red Pass. It was later that day, as they waited at Valemount that they decided maybe they should check again to see what the message said, seeing we were not there. What a relief when they drove into the ranch with our horse trailer. They stayed the night with us in our little rented cabin and we laughed about it then. We also cleaned up any of the food and cigarettes we still had in our pack. We did not have much to unload when we got home from that trip. If cell phones had been invented in those days, things would have been a little different!

Ethel Miller

People & Peaks

of Willmore Wilderness Park

.... a hot seller

Travel back in time and re-live the experiences of true mountain men.

This manuscript promises to captivate your very soul and transcend the time-line to a simpler era where all one needed was a saddle horse, a few packhorses, supplies, a gun and some mountain know-how.

There is fascination in knowing that you can still enjoy the same trails and way of life today—thanks to the *Willmore Wilderness Act*.

This Act has preserved an alluring mountain park in which you can still hunt, trap, fish and ride horses. I hope that you enjoy *People & Peaks* of Willmore Wilderness Park as much as I found pleasure in writing it.
Happy Trails, Susan Feddema-Leonard RN

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Registered Charitable Organization #89655 0308 RR001
Books \$60.00 plus shipping and handling - Visa, MasterCard & Amex



Grizzly Bear Survey

May 1 to Oct 31, 2008

If you have had a grizzly sighting, seen tracks or scat, the Willmore Wilderness Foundation is doing an inventory. Please note the following:

- date, time of day & location of the bear (GPS or land description).
- the number and the colour of the bear.
- If possible please get a picture of bear, scat or tracks.
- describe tracks or scat- date, time & place. What was the bear doing?
- email as much information as possible to info@willmorewilderness.com

The Report will be presented to the Alberta Caucus by Robin Campbell MLA.

Photo taken by Larry & Nellie Chapman's hunter of Packsaddle Adventures in 2007.
The photo was given to the Foundation by Hugh Ashwell.