



BC Parks - West Okanagan Volunteer Newsletter

Volume I, Issue I

June 2015

Special points of interest:

- Introduction of the BC Parks Ranger Team
- BC Parks Volunteer Logo Wear Contest!!!
- It's only June but see what we've done already!
- Summer Fun! Plans for this year

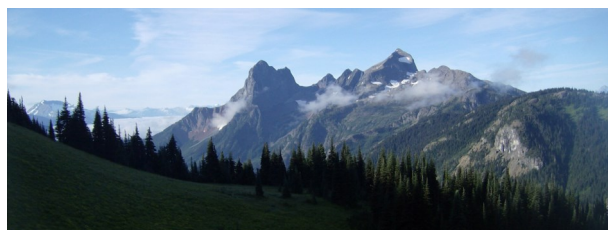
Inside this issue:

The Park Rangers	2
What's been accomplished so far	3
Parks Day 2015 Wildlife along roads and highways	5
Schedule of Events Reminder to Volunteers	6
Volunteer Organizations in the West Okanagan	7
How to Volunteer	8

Welcome Back!

Welcome to the 2015 West Okanagan Parks season! This year is shaping up to be one of our busiest and with our volunteer's help one of the most successful. The Volunteer Newsletter is going to be a great way to promote all of the hard work volunteers do in all the Provincial Parks in the West Okanagan. As well as keeping everyone up to date with plans for the future.

To start this issue, is the introduction of the BC Parks Ranger Team. This year all of 2014's BC Parks staff will be returning and everyone is looking forward to being back out on the trails and in the Parks.



Hozomeen Mountain view from Skyline Trail



Ed Atkinson is the Area Supervisor overseeing all projects and making sure everything flows as smoothly as possible. He works tirelessly in the Princeton office to make sure the rest of the staff and volun-

teers can focus on Park projects in the West Okanagan.

Ed wishes to personally welcome the Volunteers back for the 2015 season and is looking forward to another successful season.

Contact Information for Ed Atkinson:
email: Ed.Atkinson@gov.bc.ca
cell: 250 809 6362

Eddie Tennesco is returning for a 3rd season as the Senior Park Ranger for the West Okanagan. As Ed's trusty sidekick, Eddie has a key role as the field supervisor and point of contact for staff and volunteers. He is keen on supporting the volunteer initiatives happening in the Parks.



Contact Information for Eddie Tennesco:
email: Eddie.Tennesco@gov.bc.ca
cell: (250) 809-8727

Take the BC Parks Volunteer Logo on your adventure

Two contests to promote and recognize our volunteers.

BC Parks- West Okanagan is encouraging you to wear your BC Parks Volunteer Logo Wear*:

- 1) Show us where your passion is and what you have accomplished this year while volunteering in the BC Parks
- 2) Take us on your vacation! Show us landmarks from across

the Province and Country, or even around the world and the people you have talked to about our beautiful BC Parks.

Be sure to take pictures of you and your group and submit them to Eddie.Tennesco@gov.bc.ca

*Contact us for ball-caps and t-shirts for your Volunteers.

In October, later this year, we will show all the submissions and hold a draw for prizes at the End of Season Appreciation Luncheon.



The Park Rangers



Anne-Sophie (AnSo) Massard

Anne-Sophie (AnSo) Massard, grew up in France and studied Geography before moving to Canada. She worked as a tree planter and a lift operator before deciding to go back to school to gain more hands-on skills. AnSo graduated from BCIT Fish, Wildlife and Recreation program. She started with BC Parks last year in the West Okanagan after working for the City of Surrey: Parks Division.

AnSo has really enjoyed the variety of work offered by being a Park Ranger last year. Her highlights included:

- hiking most of the Park trails while clearing them with chainsaws and brushsaws

- the 'long brushing mission we did with the Backcountry Horsemen, rewarded by a night in the dreamy Paradise Valley cabin.'

- spending time in magnificent Cathedral Provincial Park.

Anne-Sophie kept herself busy over the winter with a trip back to France to see her family and friends. The rest of her winter was spent back in Canada, where she worked as a ski patroller on Mt Seymour. However due to

the lack of snow, she also chose to hike the Juan De Fuca trail and tree plant on Vancouver Island. AnSo is looking forward to returning to Manning Park and taking advantage of the low snowpack to be done clearing trails early and continuing the campsite restoration projects that she began last year. She is hoping to explore parts of the parks she hasn't been to yet. She's excited about working with Eddie, Isaac, and the amazing volunteers she met last year.

Isaac Gilbert started his career in BC Parks last year in the West Okanagan. Previously, Isaac spent 6 years working as an Arborist in Ontario and BC. Isaac is extremely outgoing and always a friendly face to meet on the trail.

Isaac really enjoyed his first year working as a Park Ranger and meeting all the people that work in and enjoy Parks in the Okanagan. His favourite part was being able to hike all the trails in Manning while learning about the Park's history and

wildlife. Isaac was happy to improve on his backcountry backpacking skills and is looking forward to continuing to improve all his skills as a Park Ranger this upcoming year.

Over the winter, Isaac took riding lessons with the Backcountry Horsemen, spent time with his family in Ontario, and enjoyed touring by bicycle from San Francisco, California through Seaside, Oregon, and up along much of coastal BC.

Isaac's knowledge and experience with a chainsaw was a welcome addition to the Park Ranger team with everyone learning valuable skills from him. With that impressive skill set, he has been now been asked to provide chainsaw training and review, for the Okanagan Section of BC Parks, during this year's upcoming Ranger Training Week.



Isaac Gilbert



What's been accomplished so far!



Ewart Creek Road Restoration

The Ewart Creek Road is the access to the Ewart Creek Trail Head, which parallels the border between Snowy Protected Area and Cathedral Provincial Park and provides access to the Centennial Trail that travels through both Parks.

BC Parks, in partnership with Argo Road Maintenance, has begun the much needed road maintenance and repairs, to allow for safe vehicle access to

the Trailhead parking lot.

An agreement was reached with Argo that had BC Parks providing the brushing of the road while Argo would conduct repairs to the tread surface and the chipping of the branches. Volunteers stepped up to help with the brushing of the three kilometers of road. Tawna Reed and Art Goerzen were a fantastic help over the course of the two day project. BC Parks would like to thank Argo for their contribution to this partnership.

Similkameen River Trail

The Backcountry Horsemen of BC—Yarrow Chapter, have a proposed project to restore parts of the Similkameen River Trail. The hope is to do some work to the wet sections of trail to allow for a more comfortable crossing for horses and other trail users. Rose Schroeder was scouting out the trail with Ed Atkinson to create a plan about how to best approach this project. Ed is currently considering the options.

442 Squadron Practice Exercise

442 Para-SAR Squadron from CFB Comox conducted a simulation training exercise in E.C. Manning Park on May 12th, 2015. Working with both BC Parks and Manning Park Resort, the iconic Cormorant Helicopter was able to land in the Resort parking lot while the Squadron prepared for

their training exercise. During this exercise, SAR Techs parachuted from the fixed wing of the Buffalo in order to access the volunteer training patient, Troy Davis, Manning Park Resort Assistant Manager. The terrain in Manning Park provides the perfect controlled environment in which to practice technical terrain access and to conduct high angle rescue simulations. 442

Squadron also spent time with the public and gave tours of the Cormorant Helicopter.



Allison Lake

During the month of April, The Allison Lake Rate Payers Association cleared a substantial amount windfall from the Campsite and Day Use areas at Allison Lake Provincial Park. This tremendous clean up effort has certainly been noticed and appreciated by BC Parks and the people that visit beautiful Allison Lake. This allowed for the opening of the boat launch and campground weeks before the Park maintenance contractor was scheduled to open the park. The windfall was piled in the service yard and with help from the Princeton Wildfire Protection Crew they began



burning all the debris. Some of the burn pile still remains, however the Princeton Crew has committed to finishing this project in the fall when the weather turns more favorable.



Whipsaw Creek Ecological Reserve

Charlotte Sellers is another devoted volunteer. Charlotte volunteers with The Friends of Manning Park and has also helped to place trail markers for the Fat Dog 120 Race. And if she didn't already have enough on her plate, Char is the Ecological Reserve (ER) Warden for Whipsaw Creek Ecological Reserve. She assists BC Parks staff to protect and manage the reserve by regularly going out and observing the area. As well as resolves any issues that arise, like the all too frequent broken fence line. Char also attended ER Warden training in Vernon in April.

Ecological Reserves are areas selected to preserve special natural ecosystems. These lands provide the highest level of protection while allowing for research and educational activities. Whipsaw Creek was established to maintain representative stands of Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir in the Interior Douglas-fir Zone.



What's been accomplished so far!

Manning Park, Hope Pass Trail

The Hope Pass Wagon Trail is one of five designated heritage trails protected in Manning Park. After the installation of a trail reroute to bypass a dangerous sloughing bank and the removal of unsafe boardwalks in 2013, work continues to improve the Hope Pass Trail. The Friends of Manning Park (FOMP) and the Backcountry Horsemen have put in countless hours to restore and open access to this historic trail. During the May long weekend, FOMP volunteers, lead by Kelley Cook, continued work on the trail. This time focussing on muddy crossings on the trail, created by the removal of rotted boardwalks in 2013. They attacked those sections with help from Eddie Tennesco to

create proper ditches and open culverts to allow for better water drainage and a more comfortable hike over the trail. Their efforts will also help to preserve and maintain the trail for long term use.

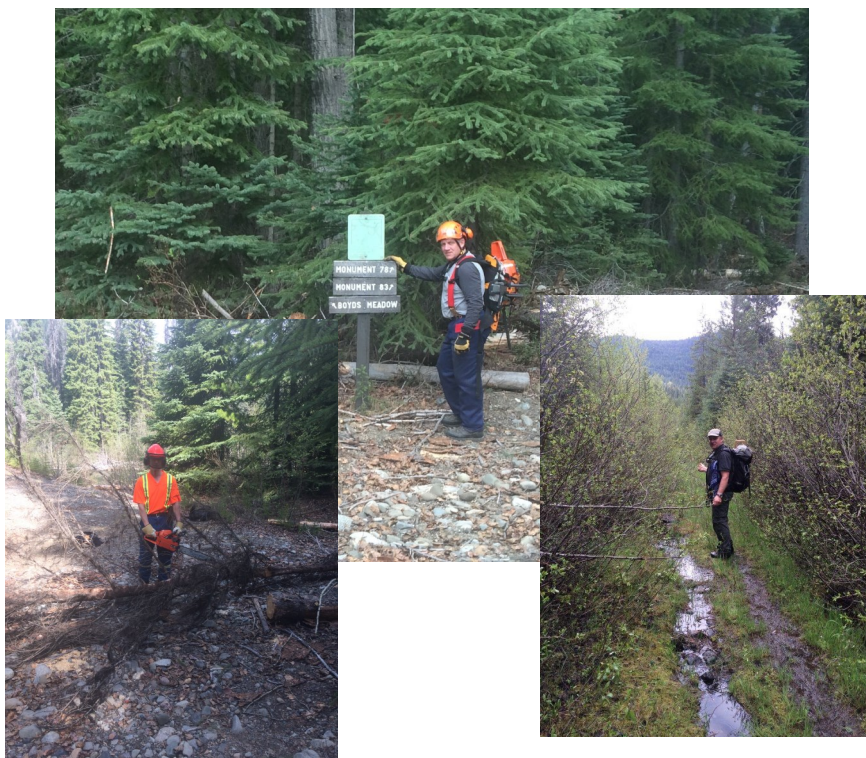
However, they didn't stop there. FOMP continued up the Hope Pass trail north of Granger Creek Camp to clear windfall and install kilometer marker signs up to the 19km mark of the trail.

FOMP had a very productive work bee, but just as impressive was there down time with each other. Friends sharing stories, songs around the campfire and an amazing potluck dinner enjoyed by all, especially the smallest volunteer!



Monument 78

Another dedicated FOMP volunteer was out for the May long weekend brushing and clearing the Monument 78 trail. Although, the trail is currently not maintained by Parks Staff and the access is closed, Roger Bean has been hard at work to find a safe bypass around a section of trail that has been washed out by Castle Creek. Roger, with his friend Bill, spent six hours clearing trail. There are many interested user groups that would like to see this trail re-opened and able to access the Monument 78 campsite close to the International border linking the Pacific Crest Trail to Mexico. Roger also returned the next weekend with Ed Atkinson to scout out his proposed bypass. Hopefully, in the near future, we will start to see Roger's efforts rewarded and the start of the trail restoration process and access for all.



BC Parks Day - July 18, 2015

Mark your Calendars!

Every year BC Parks—West Okanagan hosts a Special Event at E.C. Manning Provincial Park to celebrate Parks Day.

Last year's event had a number of different organizations come together and provide the public with a fun and engaging day. The Backcountry Horsemen of BC brought out horses and a mule, which were a big hit with young and old alike. The Friends of Manning Park had a booth with lots of information about the historic trails in the Park. WildSafe BC was

educating the public about safety in the woods, and Manning Park Resort ran a BBQ.

With help from the Park Operator and the Friends of Manning Park, BC Parks conducted a volunteer trail project, which saw repairs to the 20 Minute Lake trail. Volunteers that contributed their time and effort to the project were provided with a free lunch from the Manning Park Resort BBQ.

This year we'd like to focus on getting even more people in Parks and planning is underway to host another great

event.

We'd like to see another volunteer project take place this year. By working together and sharing resources we can take advantage of the wealth of knowledge, experience and commitment of those who make up the BC Parks volunteer community.

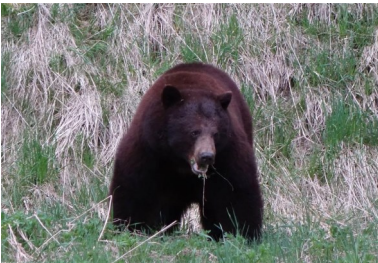
If you or your group would like to be involved in this event, please contact Eddie Tennisco.

Email: Eddie.Tennisco@gov.bc.ca
Cell: (250) 809-8727



Jerry the Moose with The Friends of Manning Park at Parks Day 2014

Do not stop to view Wildlife along roads and highways



*"A fed bear is a
Dead Bear"*

However, stopping along busy roads and highways is not the place to linger when you see an animal, especially bears at this time of year.

Bears are waking up from winter hibernation and have one thing on their mind. FOOD!

Most bears have lost a considerable amount of weight over the winter and are looking to replenish their fat stores. Bears are naturally attracted to road sides because of the new plant growth that occurs there in the spring. These road side areas are also snow free the earliest in the year due to the open sunlight. Imagine, waking up from six months sleep and being hungry. Likewise, bears are not really in the mood to be around people. Kind of like Ed be-

fore his morning coffee.

As a Park Ranger, I have two primary concerns when dealing with this issue:

Firstly, the public's safety. Stopping your car along busy roads and highways, to get out of your car and take pictures causes a distraction to other road users and puts you and everyone else at risk of a collision. Approaching dangerous wildlife, such as bears, is an obvious risk to the public's safety.

Secondly, I'm passionate about the conservation of the wildlife. When people stop to view wildlife at close range, the animal becomes stressed. Regular and repeated contact with people desensitizes wildlife to human presence, which causes the animal to lose its natural fear and avoid-

ance of humans. This can, and does, lead to future animal-human conflicts.

And please remember, NEVER feed wildlife!

Eddie Tennisco

Senior Park Ranger

BC Parks, West Okanagan

Schedule of Events

• June 1st	BC Parks	West Okanagan	Rangers start date
• June 13-14	BCHBC	E.C. Manning Park	Hope Pass trail, beyond Grainger Camp
• June 15-19	BC Parks	E.C. Manning Park	BC Park Ranger Training
• June 19-21	Hope Mth Centre	E.C. Manning Park	Bird Blitz
• June 19-21	Princeton SAR	E.C. Manning Park	Manning Park Trail Clearing
• June 27-29	BCHBC	E.C. Manning Park	Steamboat trail
• June 28	Mtn Madness	E.C. Manning Park	Skagit River Trail or Skagit Bluffs
• July 1	BC Parks	E.C. Manning Park	Canada Day Parade at Lightning Lake
• July 2-5	BC Parks	Cathedral Park	Trail work
• July 22-23	BCHBC	E.C. Manning Park	Dewdney Trail
• July 13-18	BCHBC	E.C. Manning Park	Repair work on M78 to Similkameen
• July 18	BC Parks Day	E.C. Manning Park	Special Day Event
• July 23-26	BCHBC	E.C. Manning Park	Paradise Valley
• July 26	Mtn Madness	E.C. Manning Park	Skyline 2 trail
• July 27-30	SCA Crew	E.C. Manning Park	Various Projects
• August 14-16	Mtn Madness	Cathedral, Skagit, Manning	Fat Dog 120 Race
• August 23-26	BCHBC	E.C. Manning Park	Paradise Valley
• September 24	BC Parks	E.C. Manning Park	Blackwell Peak Community Conservation Day
• October TBA	VolunteersTBA		Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

*All dates subject to change

Reminder to Volunteers

Please inform us of your upcoming projects in the West Okanagan and let us know what has been accomplished and how long it took.

This allows BC Parks to better plan future projects for staff and volunteers and provides us with data that helps contribute to future volunteer initiatives.

Thank you to those volunteers that have signed updated volunteer agreements for 2015.

Those that have yet to sign please contact Eddie Tennisco.

Eddie.Tennisco@gov.bc.ca
(250) 809-8727



Volunteer Organizations in the West Okanagan



Back Country Horsemen Society of British Columbia

The Back Country Horsemen Society of BC is a not for profit organization of volunteers with 17 Chapters across BC totaling approximately 700 members. The purposes of this Society are:

1. to work together with recreational groups, government agencies and the general public to promote awareness and understanding for a cooperative wilderness experience
2. to build new trails, trailheads and other facilities for horsemen
3. to maintain and preserve existing trails - wilderness or urban
4. to promote educational programs in safety, courtesy and environmental awareness
5. to preserve access for Canadians to use horses and mules (equines) on public lands

Website: www.bchorsemen.org



HOPE MOUNTAIN CENTRE
for outdoor learning

Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning

Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning is a registered charity working to strengthen people's connection with nature. Through shared outdoor experiences, we seek to improve people's health and the health of ecosystems. Building a love of the outdoors is the best way to inspire people of all ages to become better stewards. Volunteers are recruited for activities supporting our mission in the provincial parks and other areas of southwest BC. Hope Mountain Centre's work includes backcountry campground improvements, trail restoration and maintenance, educational programs and environmental monitoring.



Student Conservation Association (SCA)

Founded in 1957, SCA has 50,000 alumni around the world and SCA's volunteers annually provide more than 1.4 million hours of conservation service - including trail construction, wildlife research, habitat restoration and GIS mapping - in more than 500 parks, forests, refuges and urban green spaces in all 50 US states. SCA works in partnership with BC Parks Manning Provincial Park and Skagit Valley Provincial Park annually through our Canada-US Conservation Crew

Website: www.thesca.org



Friends of Manning Park (FOMP)

Friends of Manning Park are a not-for-profit coalition of recreational users that are passionate about and appreciate the historic, conservation and recreation values of E. C. Manning Park

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfManningPark>



Princeton Ground Search and Rescue Society

As volunteers in our community, the mission of Princeton Ground Search & Rescue Society (PGSAR) is to provide trained capability and well equipped volunteers to assist the RCMP in the search for, and recovery of, people or persons lost or otherwise unaccounted for. We also assist the BC Ambulance Service with medical rescues in the back country, Body recoveries for the BC Corners service, assist provincial, regional and local governments in emergency's, and mutual aid support to SAR teams through out the province.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/princeton.gsar/>



Allison/ Borgeson Ratepayers Association

To encourage business opportunities so that visitors and community members contribute to the economy of area H either by working with already established businesses such as AP Ranch or encouraging new businesses

To protect and preserve the watersheds of Allison and Borgeson Lakes by establishing permitted trails and ensuring that other areas are left as is.

To promote healthy recreational outlets for community members and visitors alike.

To encourage tourism opportunities for travelers entering area H from the Merritt area. This park could provide a stopping point for those visitors exploring BC via Highway 5A. The presence of the Douglas lake Ranch and other ranches along the way makes for a scenic route. Having a campsite and trails to walk may give travelers a reason to further explore area H and Princeton.

*Ministry of Environment
BC Parks, West Okanagan Area*

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102 Industrial Place
Penticton, BC
V2A 7C8

Phone: 250-295-4606
Fax: 250-295-3070
E-mail: Ed.Atkinson@gov.bc.ca

How to Volunteer with BC Parks

BC Parks encourages community involvement in helping to conserve natural values and provide recreational opportunities. Key to the BC Parks volunteer program is improved collaboration among the many individuals and organizations that share our goals. By working together and sharing resources we can take advantage of the wealth of knowledge, experience and commitment of those who make up the BC Parks volunteer community.

*If you have any questions, please email
BCParks.Volunteers@gov.bc.ca.*

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/>

Want to contribute to the BC Parks- West Okanagan Volunteer Newsletter?

We'd be happy to receive your submissions and articles to publish in our next edition of the BC Parks— West Okanagan Volunteer Newsletter.

We are currently seeking articles from volunteers about the work they have done in Parks or are planning on doing. Send in your pictures as well. (Remember there is a contest this year, so be sure you are wearing your BC Parks logo attire!)

Other submissions we'd be interested in including; important information, rare or unknown facts, tips and tricks, educational pieces, or anything that could be worthwhile to share with the volunteer community.

Keep in mind that this Newsletter reaches all the Volunteers for the West Okanagan Provincial Parks from the large backcountry sites like E.C. Manning Park, Cathedral Park and Snowy Protected Area, to smaller rest stop locations such as, Allison Lake, Bromley Rock and Stemwinder. Please don't forget Whipsaw Creek Ecological Reserve.

Or maybe you have an idea for a witty and clever name for our long winded title? Send in your suggestions.

Send your submissions in by June 26th for our July Newsletter, to:

Eddie.Tennisco@gov.bc.ca

