

**BANFF HERITAGE CORPORATION  
MEETING AGENDA**

**Jim Bennett Room – Banff Town Hall  
Thursday January 20, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.**

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

**2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**3.0 DELEGATIONS**

**4.0 ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

4.1 Minutes of the November 25, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Banff Heritage Corporation

**5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

5.1 Alberta Association of Architects Representative to the Banff Heritage Corporation

5.2 Heritage Communication Project Updates

5.2.1 Landmarks and Legends- The Old Crag Cabin (Attached)

5.2.2 Heritage Plaques- Update

5.2.2 Documentary- 'A Window to the World'- Tokyo Broadcasting System

5.3 Planning and Development Circulation and Updates

5.3.1 Bayne Residence (1913)- Municipal Designation- 202 Otter Street

5.4 Parks Canada Heritage Updates

5.4.1 Claremount House/ A.O Wheeler Property Demolition

5.4.2 Cave and Basin National Historic Site of Canada

**6 REPORTS**

6.1 Heritage Corporation Submission to Parks Canada for the 2010 Annual Planning Forum  
(attached)

**7 CORRESPONDENCE**

7.1 Rocky Mountain Outlook- *Where it all Began*, Nov.25 p1,

7.2 Rocky Mountain Outlook- *Wheeler House Should be removed*, Letter to the Editor, Nov.25,  
p10&11

7.3 Rocky Mountain Outlook- *Wheeler House should still be saved*, Letter to the Editor, Dec.09,  
p12&13

7.4 Canadian Broadcasting Corporation-*Move the House*, Jan. 10

7.5 Crag & Canyon- *Last Ditch effort to save some history*, Editorial, Jan.11, p10

7.6 Rocky Mountain Outlook- *Postponement?*, Letter to the Editor, Jan. 13, p8

**8 NEW BUSINESS**

8.1 2010/2011 Municipal Budget- Planning Service- Staff Cuts/ Heritage Program Implications

8.2 Planning & Development: Circulation and Updates: The Becker Home, 555 Marmot Street

**9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Banff Heritage Corporation is Thursday March 17, 2011 at 1:30pm

**10 ADJOURNMENT**

Distribute to:

** Anita Battrum	Public Representative	Sarah Ramey	Recording Secretary
** Susan Kennard	Parks Canada Representative	Randall McKay	Manager Planning and Development
** Ralphine Locke	Public Representative		
** Stavros Karlos	Council Representative (Alternate)	Claire Wilkinson	Planner
** Grant Canning	Council Representative	Crag & Canyon	
** Rob Crosby	Public Representative	Rocky Mountain Outlook	
** Herb MacAulay	Public Representative	Public	
Roland Charpentier	Alberta Association of Architects	File: C05	
Larry Pearson	Alberta Community Development		

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BANFF HERITAGE CORPORATION  
Of the Town of Banff in the Province of Alberta  
Town Hall – Jim Bennett Boardroom  
Thursday, November 25, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.**

**CORPORATION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Herb MacAulay	Public Representative – Chair
Doug Gillmor	Alberta Association of Architects
Grant Canning	Council Representative
Anita Battrum	Public Representative
Rob Crosby	Public Representative
Steve Malins	Parks Canada Representative
Larry Pearson	Alberta Community Development Representative

**CORPORATION MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ralphine Locke	Public Representative
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**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT**

Claire Wilkinson	Planner
Tracy Wagner	Administrative Assistant (Recorder)

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**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the November 25, 2010 regular meeting of the Banff Heritage Corporation to order at 1:35 p.m.

**2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

HER10-34 Moved by MacAulay to approve the agenda for the November 25, 2010 regular meeting of the Banff Heritage Corporation as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3.0 DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

**4.0 ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS BOARD MINUTES**

4.1. Minutes of the September 16, 2010 Regular Meeting

HER10-35 Moved by Battrum to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2010 Banff Heritage Corporation regular meeting as presented.

**CARRIED**

**5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

5.1. Heritage Communication Project Updates

5.1.1. Landmarks and Legends-

Planning & Development is working on an application for 2 volunteer internships to assist with Heritage Communication Projects.

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

- HER10-36 Moved by Canning that the Heritage Corporation support an application for a volunteer internship to assist with Heritage Communication Projects.

CARRIED

5.1.2. Heritage Plaques- Update

Funding is in place for new and replacement heritage plaques.  
Production and installation of heritage plaques is set for Spring 2011  
BHC was successful in receiving a grant for plaque replacement

5.2. Planning and Development Circulation and Updates

5.2.1. Bayne Residence- Municipal Designation- 202 Otter Street

Council approved the addition of the Bayne Residence on the Banff Registry and authorized administration to begin the process of applying for Municipal Designation.  
The corporation has forwarded the homeowners more information about the grant funding that may be available once the property has received Municipal Designation.

5.3. Parks Canada Heritage Updates

5.3.1. Claremont House/ A.O Wheeler Property – (Steve Malins)

The EA of Claremont House is with Superintendent Kevin Van Tighem and the decision on the future of the home is still forthcoming.  
The Superintendent's Office has received a number of proposals regarding the property but none have been deemed viable.

5.3.2. Cave and Basin National Historic Site of Canada- (Steve Malins)

Work is progressing, new services being put into parking lot, water, sewer, electrical  
Welcome Center is progressing on the west end of the parking lot. Aiming to have the welcome center open in the spring.  
Construction on the bathing center is planned for early spring.  
Proceeding on design process of internment exhibit.

## 6.0 REPORTS

No reports were received.

## 7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

- 7.1. Crag & Canyon- *Bayne Residence a Historic Resource*, Sept.21, page29
- 7.2. Rocky Mountain Outlook- *Doors Open Growing in Popularity*, Sept.30, p28
- 7.3. Rocky Mountain Outlook- *Wheeler Demolition Passes Review*, Oct.21, p1&6
- 7.4. Crag & Canyon- *Artists help keep image of house alive*, Oct.26, p17
- 7.5. Rocky Mountain Outlook- *No government pennies directed towards saving Wheeler House*, Letter to the Editor, Oct.28, p13
- 7.6. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation-*Historic Banff House Faces Demolition*, Oct.29
- 7.7. Crag & Canyon- *Parks Canada should save house*, Letter to the Editor, Nov.2, p12
- 7.8. Rocky Mountain Outlook- *Still time to reverse Claremont decision*, Letter to the Editor, Nov.4, p11&12
- 7.9. Rocky Mountain Outlook- *What is Claremont's Parks status?*, Letter to the Editor, Nov.11
- 7.10. Crag & Canyon- *What would Wheeler think of this?*, Letter to the Editor, Nov.16, p14

**8.0 NEW BUSINESS**

8.1. Parks Canada Banff National Park Planning Forum

Parks Canada has asked Stakeholders for a submission to the Park Planning Forum, Claire has prepared a draft submission for the Banff Heritage Corporation, it will be sent out to members for comments before submission to Parks Canada.

8.2. Parks Canada 125<sup>th</sup> Day of Celebration

Full day and evening of celebration being held at the Banff Centre today (November 25, 2010)

8.3. Demolition – 5 Rabbit Street, McGregor Home (1926)

HER10-37 Moved by Battrum that on any future demolition development permits Planning & Development put as part of a condition of the development permit that any heritage components in the house be removed and saved prior to demolition and a Provincial Heritage Survey form be completed.

**CARRIED**

3:00pm – Grant Canning left the meeting

8.4. Demolition – Donald Cameron Hall (1953), The Banff Centre

Rundle stone from Donald Cameron Hall has been saved to be re-used in different projects around town.

HER10-38 Moved by MacAulay to go into Camera at 3:10pm

**CARRIED**

HER10-39 Moved by MacAulay to come out of camera at 3:17pm

**CARRIED**

8.5. Alberta Association of Architects Representative to the Banff Heritage Corporation

Claire to follow up with The Alberta Association of Architects regarding the new representative for the Heritage Corporation.

8.6. Business Corporations Act, 2010 – Annual Return

**9.0 NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Banff Heritage Corporation is scheduled for Thursday, January 20, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.

**10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

HER10-40 Moved by Battrum to adjourn at 3:18 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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Herb MacAulay  
Chair

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Tracy Wagner  
Recording Secretary

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

## LANDMARKS AND LEGENDS SERIES – JANUARY 2011

Brought to you by the Banff Heritage Corporation in partnership with the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies Archives

### THE OLD CRAG CABIN- 211 BEAR STREET

#### Then

For more than a century, this modest wood cabin has seen an impressive trajectory of uses. It was originally constructed between 1888 and 1890 by a young baker named Athanese Laurendeau who used the cabin as his home and bakery. Banff icon Norman Luxton purchased the building in 1902, and used it to publish the weekly edition of the local Crag and Canyon newspaper until 1929. Subsequent occupants included a butcher's shop, a gas station, a funeral home and a metal work studio.

The Old Crag Cabin was restored by Arctos & Bird in 1999. During the company's construction of the Bison Courtyard development, the Cabin was temporarily relocated to a property further down Bear Street. During site excavations near the cabin, workers unearthed two ancient bison skulls which are believed to be approximately 6000 years old. The Bison Courtyard and a nearby restaurant were named in honour of this discovery.

When construction was completed on the Courtyard in 2005, the Old Crag Cabin was returned to the site as the centerpiece of the development.

#### Now

The Old Crag Cabin currently serves as the Banff Centre's central storefront for tickets, books, art and souvenirs. It has been evaluated as having a high heritage value and is listed as one of Banff's most important heritage resources. Modest by today's standards, the Cabin is defined by its simple architectural elements with log walls and whitewashed vertical log corner posts. Built with lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce, which have been dated to 1886 and 1887, the cabin features walls that are 23 logs high, deep overhanging eaves, and a high pyramid hip roof.

The outstanding efforts to preserve this iconic structure were celebrated in 2008 when Arctos & Bird received the Town of Banff's Award for Restoration, Rehabilitation and Adaptive Reuse of a Heritage Building.

In partnership with the Archives at the [Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies](#), The Banff Heritage Corporation is proud to profile this signature local venue as part of its [Landmarks and Legends Series](#).

In recognition of the knowledge of Banff's history within the community, we welcome public input that may provide further insight into this or other profiles in the Landmarks and Legends series.

For more information, please contact the Town of Banff Heritage Planner at 403.762.1216.

Photo Credits:



**Park Funeral Home (Crag Cabin)**

Photo: Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies  
(V488/Lot4,5,6,Blk5 Parks Canada Fonds)



**The Old Crag Cabin**

Photo: Arctos and Bird

## Banff National Park Planning Forum

Submission from The Banff Heritage Corporation

Prepared by Claire Wilkinson, Heritage Planner, Town of Banff

### Question #1: What are your challenges in achieving the vision for Banff National Park

*Banff National Park reveals the majesty and timelessness of the Rocky Mountains – from the high peaks of the Continental Divide to the alpine meadows and quiet valleys of the Front Ranges, from headwater glaciers to the hot springs at Sulphur Mountain. This is a place where nature flourishes and evolves for all time.*

*People from around the world feel welcomed into the life of the park, finding inspiration, enjoyment, well being and understanding.*

*Canadians celebrate and renew Banff's mountain heritage- the natural rhythms of the land and its wildlife; the art and literature it inspires; and the traditions of wilderness adventure and ecosystem conservation that evolved here. Visitors are transformed by their own personal experiences of mountain ecosystems and culture, and inspired to become part of the shared enterprise of sustaining and presenting all that is authentic and valued about the Canadian Rockies. Banff National Park is, above all else a place of wonder, where the richness of Canada's mountain heritage is appreciated, respected and celebrated by all.*

The Banff Heritage Corporation faces a number of challenges in achieving the vision for Banff National Park including:

- The ability to maintain a strong, respected role as an active contributor and voice for the preservation, protection and promotion of heritage values in Banff.
- Working with partners to establish a collective recognition of what makes Banff National Park unique and what existing aspects of the natural and human history we have to celebrate and value.
- Maintaining the financial support and commitment of the Town of Banff to provide expertise, fund initiatives and related operational costs of the Banff Heritage Corporation.

**Question #2: Looking at the 5-year priority actions from the Park Management Plan, where can your organization/ sector actively contribute?**

The Banff Heritage Corporation looks forward to providing active contributions in the following priority actions areas:

**Heritage Resource Conservation:**

We continue to assist and provide feedback and support for the implementation of Management Plans for National Historic Sites of Canada in Banff.

**Public Appreciation and Understanding**

We continue to provide heritage planning expertise and advice to residents and visitors within the town of Banff and Banff National Park. The Banff Heritage Corporation also works with the Province of Alberta as part of the *Municipal Heritage Partnership Program* to utilize the *Canadian Register of Historic Places* and to apply the *Parks Canada Standards and Guidelines* document to Town of Banff development review and designation processes. The *Municipal Heritage Partnership Program* is part of a Canada wide conservation endeavour called the *Historic Places Initiative*.

We continue to work to improve access to the designation program for property owners and lessees. Our long term goal is to continue to expand our inventory of designated heritage resources. It is through designation that we can ensure the protection and preservation of heritage buildings in the Town of Banff. The latest designation of the *Grandell/Peck Cabin* as a Municipal Historic Resources in 2009 brings the total number of designations to nine, which, for a municipality of the size of Banff, is a significant achievement.

**Visitor Experience**

With respect to promotion, the Banff Heritage Corporation continues to work on a number of education and visitor experience initiatives. The highlights of our active contributions to date include:

- Successful fundraising for the manufacture and installation of new *blue heritage plaques*. These interpretive panels tell the story of built heritage sites of significance located within the Banff town site.
- A redesign and update of the '*Walking Through Banff's History*' brochure. An initiative that allows visitors to experience the roots of Banff's unique community character and human history by taking a self-guided tour of local heritage buildings.
- In August 2010 we hosted the sixth annual *Doors Open Banff* event as part of a weekend of culture and history for residents and visitors. This partnership with Banff Culture Walk, Parks Canada and Banff Lake Louise Tourism was very successful with record visitor attendance records. A total of 22 heritage sites opened their doors in 2010.

- In June 2010 the Banff Heritage Corporation collaborated with Parks Canada, Banff Heritage Tourism and the Interpretative Guides Association to host the seventh annual *Heritage Awards* event at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies.
- The Banff Heritage Corporation continues to collaborate with the archives at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies and the Eleanor Luxton Foundation with '*Landmarks and Legends*'. This is a series of one page profiles that are published in the newspaper or posted on the Town of Banff website to celebrate some of Banff's landmark buildings and locations, as well as the legendary individuals that are part of our rich history.
- In July 2010 the Banff Heritage Corporation worked with the Tokyo Broadcasting System on a special short television feature entitled '*A Window of the World*'. The show was broadcast nationwide in Japan on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

### **The Montane Heart of the Park- Town of Banff**

*With the town, develop a sustainability strategy in advance of commercial build out.*

As a town within a National Park and a World Heritage Site, Banff has both an opportunity and obligation to protect and enhance natural and cultural heritage resources. In an effort to preserve the heritage attributes that give Banff its unique identity and sense of place, the Town endeavours to achieve a balanced and sustainable community – one that accounts for social, economic, and environmental values.

The majority of heritage planning initiatives at the Town of Banff are guided by the Banff Heritage Resource Policy. Our heritage program supports and enhances Banff's sustainability objectives in a number of ways including:

- fostering retention and renewal of heritage resources that are deemed important to the community
- enhancing Banff's unique character and fostering a strong sense of place
- building upon Banff's rich architectural history
- fostering appreciation for the past and an awareness of future directions
- helping to reduce reliance on new materials, environmentally unfriendly building materials, and energy intensive production of new building materials
- encouraging the re-use of existing building materials by extending the life of a building, or rehabilitating damaged building materials
- supporting Banff's tourism economy, by meaningfully contributing to heritage tourism and the Banff Heritage Tourism Strategy

The Banff Heritage Corporation works closely with the Planning and Development department in reviewing all planning permit applications that may affect designated and potential heritage buildings. We also recommend buildings to Council for designation under the Alberta Historical Resources Act

November 2010

The Banff Heritage Corporation also monitors the effectiveness of legislation which affects heritage conservation objectives and proposes appropriate amendments wherever possible. We are actively involved in the current review/update of the Town of Banff Land Use Bylaw and Design Guidelines. We also provided a significant amount of input into the development of the heritage goals and objectives in new Banff Community Plan, the primary long range planning document for the Town of Banff that was approved in 2009.

We would like to thank you for the invitation to provide this submission and participate in the 2010 Banff National Park Planning Forum. The Banff Heritage Corporation looks forward to providing ongoing and active contributions to support Parks Canada's goals and objectives for the conservation of Historic Places in Banff National Park.



**Claire Wilkinson**  
Heritage Planner- Town of Banff

**Herb MacAulay**  
Chair- Banff Heritage Corporation

**Ralphine Locke**  
Public Representative

**Rob Crosby**  
Public Representative

**Anita Battrum**  
Public Representative

**Grant Canning**  
Councillor, Town of Banff

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# Rocky Mountain Outlook

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## Mercury on roller coaster ride in Valley

ROB ALEXANDER BOW VALLEY

Bow Valley Provincial Park, east of Lac des Arcs, tied Sundre, located north of Cochrane, for the dubious distinction as the coldest spot in North America, Tuesday (Nov. 24) with a temperature of -39.3 Celsius.

And, according to weather websites, the east end of the Bow Valley came near, tied or just beat the temperature in Antarctica.

While the Banff weather station broke two one-day weather records Tuesday and Wednesday.

Bill McMurtry, an Environment Canada meteorologist, said the Banff weather station registered -35.6 C on Tuesday, beating the 1950 record

of -33.3, and then on Wednesday morning, with a temperature of -35.1, Banff beat a previous record of -30.6 set in 1892.

"That is something when you are breaking those types of values," McMurtry said.

"So it has been cold. The good news is the cold air has been moving off. The cold Arctic air that has been entrenched over the prairies is moving off. It's not uncommon towards the end of November, early December, to get the first outbreak of cold air that comes through and you often get records," McMurtry said.

But what is unusual about this cold

**RECORD**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Ecological integrity top priority for Parks

TANYA FOUBERT BANFF

After 125 years the protection and preservation of landscape and wildlife is still the number one priority for Parks Canada.

Today (Nov. 25) marks the official 125th anniversary of Banff National Park and Canada's national park system.

Parks Canada Chief Executive Officer Alan Latourelle reaffirmed ecological integrity as the top priority for

the entire organization at the Association of Mountain Parks Protection and Enjoyment (AMPPE) annual fundraising dinner Saturday (Nov. 20).

He said with the management plan and corporate plan the Parks Canada agency has a vision, direction and priorities.

"We have a solid foundation to build from, but that is supported by people in this room," he said.

With three key priorities in the plan, Latourelle said improving ecological integrity in the national parks is number one.

With that in mind, working toward the future, he said reintroduction of bison and caribou is important to Banff's ecology.

"I look forward to the day bison and caribou range freely in Banff National Park," he said. "I think they are critical to our long-term success."

**PARKS**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



**WHERE IT ALL BEGAN** Banff National Park Superintendent Kevin Van Tighem looks over the document dated Nov. 25, 1885, ordering the creation of Banff National Park at the Banff Park Museum Wednesday (Nov. 24). The document is on loan to Parks Canada from the Library and Archives Canada to celebrate 125 years of national parks in Canada.

CRAIG DOUCE RMO PHOTO

**Clothing for Active Kids**

in the national park system, it is easy to assume these are protected in the right ways and for the right reasons.

Recently introduced legislation, the Alberta Parks Act, is a chilling step backward in how some of our lands are protected.

They say some, because as Parks Canada CEO Alan Coffin reaffirmed this week, the federal system and National Park's number one top priority is ecological integrity.

Provincial Bill 29, on the other hand, while recognizing ecological integrity, puts it in balance as a priority with tourism and recreation.

Parks and protected areas are for conservation and the ecological integrity of these important landscapes should be the first priority.

We're not saying there should be no recreating or tourism, just the opposite. Recreation and tourism in our parks only prospers if the parks are protected in the right way.

There is a back door way of allowing business and industry interests the chance to trump conservation when the lines are involved (read oil and gas exploration).

There is the definition of ecological integrity in Bill 29 which contains its own form of subtle doublespeak.

Alberta saw the need to practically copy verbatim Parks Canada's definition, save one phrase. It is "a condition that is determined to be characteristic of its natural region and to persist..."

It is that last clause, likely to persist, that has people worried.

There is an escape clause from responsibility if we ever need one.

Bill 29, of course, the main source of concern is the fact that the Act creates two types of lands - provincial parks and provincial rangelands - and sets out that zoning will be created by the Minister of Tourism Parks and Recreation through regulation.

Under the initial zoning, according to government officials, subject to public consultation, future changes remain in the realm of regulation.

The style of legislating is secretive, undemocratic and Regulations can be changed by a single person in a back door meeting and the only notice the public gets is a 30-day notice posted on a website - if one is paying attention.

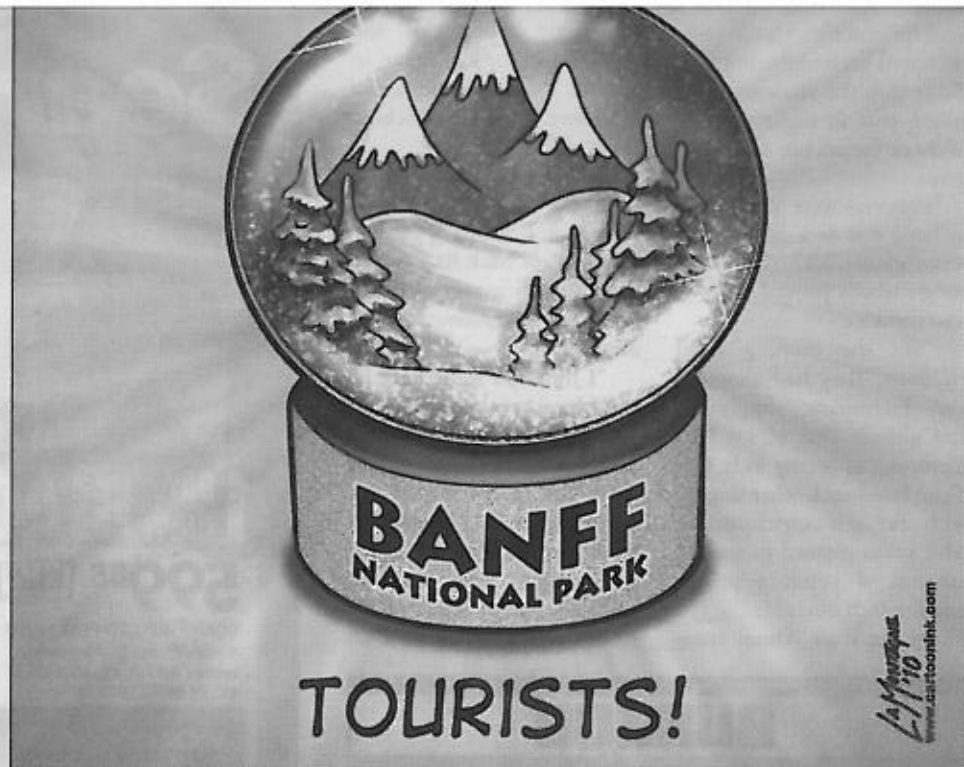
The argument that regulations provide flexibility does not go to enshrine protection and conservation.

These lands are too important, too critical for the health of the province being of every single Albertan to have determined by a single politician.

When something is as critical as protecting our natural resources, protection should be made law and put in the Act.

There is no argument Alberta needs new legislation, but it has become typical of this government, a chance to do something turned into a chance to concentrate power in the hands of politicians, subject to the ebbs and flows of power as we say, lobby and industry groups.

At the end of the day, this government is asking Albertans to trust them to do the right thing. Call us cynical, but our promise from this government does not hold water.



# vox populi

## Wheeler House should be removed

Editor:  
*Re: Support for removal of the Wheeler House from the Sulphur Mountain Wildlife Corridor*

In recent weeks, several letters to the editor have appeared in our local newspapers mourning the pending removal of the Wheeler House from its location in the Sulphur Mountain Wildlife Corridor.

Some writers have condemned Parks Canada for neglect leading to its condemnation of the building. Some have wondered aloud what A.O. Wheeler himself might have thought about these current circumstances.

None of these letters has noted for consideration the changes that have occurred in this part of the Bow Valley and on this part of Sulphur Mountain since the Wheeler House was built. But human pressures on the landscape have increased dramatically over those decades.

We only need to look back 20 years to realize how quickly things change. Until Middle Springs I was developed in 1989-1990, there were no houses between Cave Avenue and the

steepening slopes of Sulphur Mountain that rise above the Wheeler House.

Today, there are several hundred dwelling units occupied by at least 1,000 people. This is just one example, just one contribution to an accumulation of effects, but clearly the most pertinent to this particular site.

When the Town of Banff was evaluating possibilities for Middle Springs II, it hired an independent biologist to conduct the required environmental assessment. Concerns about the potentially significant effects on the ability of wildlife - especially wary species - to move around the town, to maintain connections through the Bow Valley above and below the town and between the Bow and the Spray were identified.

Mitigations, including permanent closure of the area above the housing, were attached to development approvals and accepted by Parks Canada and the Town of Banff. Both the environmental assessment and the Area Structure

WHEELER

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

The deadline for letters to the editor is Mondays at noon. Please keep letters to a maximum of 500 words. Letters can be emailed to [letters@outlook.greatwest.ca](mailto:letters@outlook.greatwest.ca), dropped off at suite 201-1001 6th Ave. in Canmore or mailed to Box 8610, Canmore, AB T1W 2V3.

Whether it was your article or in the assessment, the comment was made, "uncontrolled via ferrata routes can be established in remote backcountry areas accessible only by experienced climbers."

In reality, via ferrata is for those that aren't experienced climbers so that a bit more technical areas can be accessed by those with limited climbing skills. The history of via ferrata is that cables were bolted into the Dolomite mountains to

## Wheeler would have understood the need

WHEELER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Plan were subject to public processes.

In a finite world, not everything we want can be accommodated. In this case, hundreds of residents benefitted from much-needed housing. Consequences were acknowledged and difficult choices made. I won't celebrate the removal of the Wheeler House, but I commend Parks Canada for coming to terms with an unpleasant reality and taking necessary action.

A.O. Wheeler's life and legacy should be celebrated, not just by those who wish to honour his role as an individual in the rich human history of this place, but by those who share his convictions that national parks should be bigger, rather than smaller, and should be free of industrial development.

Wheeler was, after all, an ally of J.B. Harkin, the first Commissioner of National Parks, and with Harkin's encouragement was the prime mover, through the Alpine Club, in the formation of the Canadian National Parks Association in 1923, our country's first public conservation organization.

My imaginings around what he might have thought about the current controversy are as fraught with speculation as anyone's but I can't help thinking he would have recognized the pressures that have been imposed on this national park landscape and, without welcoming the removal of his house, would have understood the reasons.

Mike McIvor,  
Banff

Mary Huerlimann-Christie,  
Canmore

If Parks does approve this, it would be a great benefit not only for tourism, but for the local hiking enthusiast that wants just a bit more of a challenge.

With this in mind, hopefully the via ferrata they implement will be accessible and in inspiring places.

Steve Sellers,  
Canmore

## Legacy Trail not perfect

Editor:

Legacy Trail a big hit?

Mr. Shier says the Legacy Trail will be a big hit for Parks Canada, but fails to mention the number of potential injuries or the impact to the Parks Canada's budget due to recovering injuries and lawsuits.

I think the trail is great. I have been on it twice, but I am concerned with the accident potential once trails users become familiar with it and start travelling fast.

When baby chariots are attached, traffic volumes increase and kids demand more trail. Confusion arises; is half of the trail really yours? What if someone else thinks it is their side?

Idle thoughts... until you are taken out, crash, off your bike, so far from home, with what injuries?

It is unfortunate Parks Canada didn't make the trail wider (double) with a centerline like our familiar highways.

Dave Irwin,  
Crazy Canuck  
Canmore

## A wonderful concert

Editor:

What a wonderful Zither concert Werner Frey gave on Saturday evening. His beautiful music raises the spirit and takes it to faraway places in a faraway time.

Thank-you Werner, for sharing your precious talent.

Mike McIvor,  
Banff

Mary Huerlimann-Christie,  
Canmore

### Public Notice

Please note that the following  
**ROADS WILL BE CLOSED**  
on Saturday, November 27, 2010

To safely accommodate scheduled special event activities in the downtown area, the following roadways will be closed to vehicular traffic between the hours of 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- Main Street (8th Street)  
from 6th Avenue to 8th Avenue.
- 7th Avenue from the lane north of Main Street  
to the lane south of Main Street
- 6th Avenue from 8th Street to the lane  
north of Main Street
- Walk of Champions (9th Street)  
from 7th Avenue to 6th Avenue

For any additional information please contact:

Canmore Downtown BRZ 403-678-1917

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that giving and saving are part and parcel of the season.

ing in the sense of the Christmas Spirit and anonymous campaigns, which strive to make the an enjoyable and less financially straining

as savings is the policy most taxpayers would hope politicians keep in mind at this time of year while millions in spending on operations and capital

ek into December and already the Christmas Spirit is sounding the alarm that they are far from the needed to support those in the community facing

tough economic times are doubly to blame for both er of people in need and likely the amount that can be he rest.

e cannot, as a community, fail, and we need to dig a eeper. Maybe the hampers won't be as brimming as in but at the very least we need to ensure everyone has to celebrate.

ermore, that is one of the reasons why we love living w Valley – there is support here for families in good l bad.

there are the budgets.

this is the one time of year when it can be brought it local politicians are responsible for spending and r tax dollars.

nmore there is a proposed 2011 operational budget 4 million in expenditures, and that's not far behind the on on the table in Banff.

we haven't even included capital budgets in those either.

's elected officials and staff are hard at work looking to further trim their operational budget to reduce the x increase.

ore, meanwhile, has begun with a zero tax increase may not last.

ies in Canmore, we are told, show a major shortfall lion due to decreased development and off site levies. that amount through taxes would be akin to a six per cipal tax increase – if that's the route council chooses

risingly, after reviewing last year's staff reports ding Canmore's water and wastewater utility and that administration had reviewed the and concluded three years of eight per cent s will ensure the utility remains orting.

That's curious because instead, what is being proposed, r cent increase this year, if administration's recommen- followed, and that's just for residential ratepayers.

oks like no matter what route Canmore chooses, and t that matter, savings are again going to be critical in t palatable budget because people are already stretched ough as it is. Look no further than the struggling as charities for proof of that.



## vox populi

### Wheeler House should still be saved

**Editor:**

Re: Mike McIvor's letter "Wheeler House Should Be Removed", (RMO Nov. 25).

For many years Mike, who is president of the Bow Valley Naturalists, has worked very hard to safeguard our natural environment. He has now made known that he supports the removal of the Wheeler House, better known as "Claremount", from within the wildlife corridor within which this federal heritage building is located.

I am curious as to whether this is Mike's personal opinion, or if it is the opinion of the majority of BVN members.

In this instance, "removal" likely means the destruction of this last remaining vestige of the Alpine Club of Canada's presence in Banff National Park. "Last remaining" because, until 1974, the Alpine Club of Canada's Clubhouse dominated this site. Tom Heggie, then-Banff National Park superintendent, ordered destruction of this extraordinarily beautiful building.

Claremount, located at the edge of a wild- life corridor, occupies a very small area and is visible from the roadway leading up to the Upper Hot Springs, The Rimrock Hotel and the Gondola.

During the 1950s, Parks was seriously con- sidering demolishing the Banff Park Museum, which has since been designated a national historic site.

Frequently, people witness deer, elk, coy- otes and even bears wandering through the grounds of the museum. In most instances, these animals would have travelled through the wildlife corridor in order to access the museum grounds.

Some of these same animals utilize resi- dential areas to forage. As wildlife is obviously comfortable utilizing areas within the townsite, it seems logical to suggest that the presence of Claremount likely has a near zero impact on any animals, even "wary" animals, that com-

**WHEELER HOUSE**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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afterwards he signed books and met the congregation. Thank you for welcoming him into your community.

But disabilities use up tremendous amounts of energy, in physical or mental exertion, and time to recharge is vital. I was running late and the seat that I had specifi-

because of it.

Paul Franklin was also running late after pulling his shoulder showing the Eagles team, and all of us in the gym, the finer points of wheelchair handling. Yes, of course he could get in, there was a ramp up to the church door; but no, he wouldn't

aware of physical barriers, and attitudes that need to be changed, there are no excuses for not making the Town more accessible and truly welcoming.

**Robin Slater,**  
Canmore

## Better uses for heritage building

WHEELER HOUSE CONT'D FROM PAGE 12

mute through the Wildlife Corridor.

As was the case with the Banff Park Museum, Claremount should be restored. It should then be utilized to house wardens or resource conserva-

tion specialists. These Parks staff would ensure that their residence in this federal heritage building would enhance the security features already in place that help to safeguard the integrity of the wildlife corridor.

It's safe to state that everyone is

thankful that past Parks officials decided to preserve and ultimately renovate the Banff Park Museum. Future generations will be thankful if Kevin Van Tighem, currently Banff National Park superintendent, decides to preserve and renovate Claremount.

**Jon Whelan,**  
Banff



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# Move the house

CALGARY HERALD JANUARY 10 2011

It may already be too late to affect the demolition of the A.O. Wheeler house in Banff National Park, but I think the subject bears further reflection. Likely, Wheeler would have agreed with the decision to destroy a derelict building if it impeded wildlife migration. Wheeler was a pioneer surveyor in the Rockies, a mountaineer and a founder of the Alpine Club of Canada. One of the A.C.C. objectives is the preservation of mountain flora and fauna. My concern is whether all options for the future of this structure have been considered. Could there be too many players in the game?

If the house is really of historical significance, then it could be moved and reconstructed. Has a compromise such as moving the building within the Park been vetoed by bureaucrats on different teams?

Consider the Whyte family home and the cabins on the grounds of the Whyte Museum in downtown Banff where they can be appreciated by visitors from all over the world. Banff National Park is the logical location, but Heritage Park could be an alternative.

Funding for a restoration of Wheeler's house is apparently available. Surely, this house can find a new home.

Anne Belenkie,

Calgary

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our editorial

## Last ditch effort to save some history

**Y**ou have to hand it to Jenny Crompton. She's a fighter. The great granddaughter of A.O. Wheeler isn't giving up the hope of saving the Claremount/Wheeler House from destruction even though it's slated to be knocked down this month. Heck, it could be rubble on the ground by the time you read this.

But the Canmore woman, as well as many others, are giving it their all to see the historic home, tucked away in a wildlife corridor, given a reprieve.

At this point, though, that looks highly unlikely. Parks Canada got the thumbs up from an environmental assessment to tear the dilapidated home down.

But Banff history buffs aren't ones to sit and watch a piece of the past disappear without a fight.

Crompton has already sent a letter to newly minted Minister of the Environment Peter Kent asking for him to step in and save the house.

As a minister with a new, diverse portfolio, he's probably got a lot of letters piling up on his desk, and Crompton hopes hers reaches the top of the pile before it's too late.

Because once the Clare-

mount/Wheeler House is gone, that's it for that little piece of history on Mountain Ave.

The house has seemingly been there forever, a summer home for the founder of the Alpine Club of Canada.

Crompton views the land it's on as having the same importance as the home itself. But the lines of a wildlife corridor were drawn around it long ago, and Parks Canada wants it gone. The home is also in a dilapidated condition, left to deteriorate over time.

Some environmentalists are in favour of its removal so the landscape can be returned to its natural state, though those concerned about the loss of history can't fathom the destruction of this piece of Banff's heritage.

At the end of the day, what remains is an old home at the centre of controversy, perhaps too late to save, but one that people are hardly giving up on.

Crompton is hoping for a miracle. She may find one if voices are loud enough to reach Kent. Though after all this time, the clock is running out on the historic house.

letters

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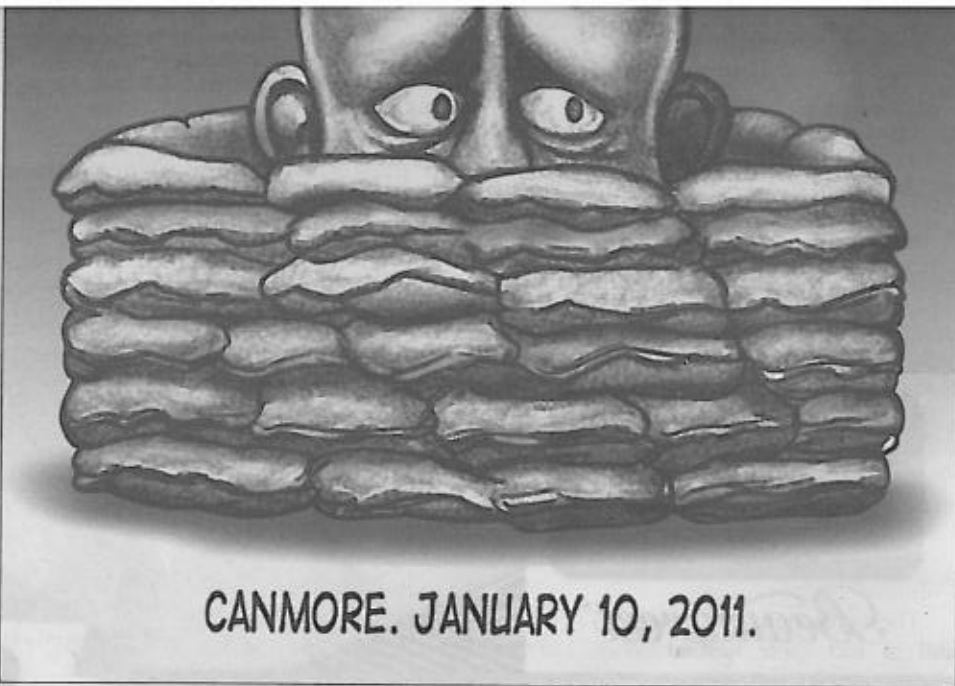
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ath, the media stance and professionalism, policing, gation results, replica weapons...  
 st, the fact that a crime spree ended up with a man in a snowy road in a residential/retail area is a tragedy highest order. No question.  
 However, once a person has decided to pick up a weapon eaten others in a series of armed robberies, it's difficult see any positive outcome of the actions. In the end, a term could have been considered positive. The fatal ne is not surprising.  
 At this point, we would urge our readers to take into it that, while we now know the robber's weapon of was a replica handgun, during the daylight armed ies and the shooting incident itself, for all intents and ses, the handgun was deadly. The RCMP had no choice treat it as such and, for the unfortunates working in ned robbery locations, a very real, very frightening n was brandished.  
 Public opinion should not be swayed by what we know, do hope the victims can take some solace now, after t, that the weapon was not real. In the end, the RCMP ers had to make a split-second decision in using force.  
 Then there is the whole issue of trauma which will result he event. RCMP members involved in the shooting offer post-traumatic stress symptoms for the rest of ives; as may the the civilian victims of the armed ies.  
 I would like to offer our best wishes to all those ally involved in the worst possible way in the armed ies and final deadly conclusion.  
 I also offer our condolences to the family of the ed, who will suffer emotional trauma of their own, members of the community at large who may well feel re is no longer the same small town it once was.  
 The community of Canmore, after all, witnessed a level nce on its streets that is unprecedented in its history. ees and employers were no doubt on edge wondering ore would be next, or if the suspect would escalate his beyond robbery.  
 Ironically, Monday's Canmore shooting took place on the ay the Mayerthorpe Inquiry began - a public exami- of the death of four Mounties almost five years ago. e members were gunned down by James Roszko, who ent on killing policemen and we'd be surprised if that t wasn't on the mind of our local members during the robbery situation.  
 The knowledge that the handgun was a replica Smith & u, which is capable of firing BBs with associated noise, he issue of whether anyone actually needs such a t and whether they should be manufactured and sold. a replica may be designed as a benign showpiece, the authenticity of the replication is cause for concern. ims of an armed robber who is waving it in their faces e hard pressed to determine whether a replica is real and police, from a distance, would see the weapon as l take accordingly appropriate action.  
 At this time, one extremely critical piece of information



# vox populi

## Book sparks memories of Black Friday

**Editor:**  
 Rob Alexander's recently-released book about Canmore's history is appreciated by many of us who remember Black Friday, the day Canmore Mines closed for good.  
 I was called by Ron Riva to go right away to the mine manager's office. I was selected by members of the United Mine Workers Union District #18 in Canmore to be the Employment Assistance Committee Co-ordinator.  
 It was an agreement with the provincial

and federal governments and Canmore Mines to assist coal miners to find other employment, training, relocation or retirement.  
 As co-ordinator, I had the honour of working with a great bunch of workers and subsequently was the co-ordinator for the employment assistance committee when Canada Lafarge laid off workers in the Exshaw cement plant.  
 Eileen Patterson,  
 Canmore

### Postponement?

**Editor:**  
 To Messrs Kent and Van Tighem.  
 I have just learned that The A.O. Wheeler Heritage House Foundation was formed recently and offered to pay the full cost of restoration in situ and future operations.

In light of the proposal offered by The A.O. Wheeler Heritage House Foundation, will Parks Canada postpone the planned demolition of Claremount?  
 It seems to me that postponing the demolition would be the prudent, and honourable, course of action.  
 Jon Whelan,  
 Banff

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