

**BANFF HERITAGE CORPORATION
MEETING AGENDA
Ted Langridge Room – Banff Town Hall
Monday March 14, 2011 at 2 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 January 20, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Banff Heritage Corporation

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Heritage Communication Project Updates

- 5.1.1 Landmarks and Legends- Toys to Treasures- An Evolution of Banff's Bears (Attached)
- 5.1.2 Banff Heritage Corporation Website Updates
- 5.1.3 Parks Radio Interview- The Old Crag Cabin <http://tinyurl.com/45tncr8>
- 5.1.4 Heritage Plaques

5.2 Planning and Development Circulation and Updates

- 5.2.1 Bayne Residence (1913)- Municipal Designation- 202 Otter Street
- 5.2.2 The Becker Home, 555 Marmot Street
- 5.2.3 Planning Service- Staff Cuts/ Heritage Program Implications

5.3 Parks Canada Heritage Updates

- 5.3.1 Claremont House/ A.O Wheeler Property Demolition
- 5.3.2 Cave and Basin National Historic Site of Canada

6 REPORTS

7 CORRESPONDENCE

- 7.1 Calgary Herald- *Historic Banff House Razed Despite Protest*, Jan.18, pB2
- 7.2 Rocky Mountain Outlook- *Wheeler House Demolished*, Jan.20 p11
- 7.3 Calgary Herald- *Saving Our Heritage. Demolition by neglect is the wrong way to make decisions*, Jan 24.
- 7.4 Crag and Canyon- Letters to the editor. *Preservation before exploitation*, R. Locke, p12

8 NEW BUSINESS

- 8.1 New appointment- Program Director, Banff Heritage Tourism
- 8.2 2011 Heritage Awards
- 8.3 Sunday August 7 2011- Doors Open Banff
- 8.4 514 Buffalo Street (Crandell/ Peck Cabin)- Restoration & Rehabilitation Grant Update

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Banff Heritage Corporation is Thursday May 19, 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 – Ted Langridge Boardroom
Thursday, January 20th, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.**

CORPORATION MEMBERS PRESENT

Herb MacAulay	Public Representative – Chair
Roland Charpentier	Alberta Association of Architects
Grant Canning	Council Representative
Anita Battrum	Public Representative
Rob Crosby	Public Representative
Ralphine Locke	Public Representative

ABSENT

Steve Malins	Parks Canada Representative
Susan Kennard	Parks Canada Representative
Larry Pearson	Alberta Community Development Representative

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Randall McKay	Manager Planning and Development
Darren Enns	Senior Planner (present for item 8.2)
Claire Wilkinson	Planner
Sarah Ramey	Recording Secretary

MEDIA PRESENT

Suzanne White	Rocky Mountain Outlook
---------------	------------------------

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the January 20, 2011 regular meeting of the Banff Heritage Corporation to order at 1:35 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

HER10-34 Move by MacAulay to approve the agenda for the January 20, 2011 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 November 25, 2010 Regular Meeting

HER10-35 Moved by MacAulay to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2010 Banff Heritage Corporation regular meeting as presented.

CARRIED

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Minutes approved by: _____

5.1. Introductions & Administrative Notes

Sarah Ramey, an intern in the Planning and Development Department was introduced. She will be here until March 18, and will assist with the Landmarks & Legends program.

Tracey Wagner, the Administrative Assistant, will be away the following year on maternity leave. She will be temporarily replaced by Kerry MacInnis.

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

Mr. Roland Charpentier, the new representative from the Alberta Association of Architects, was introduced. He owns an architecture firm in Calgary, and is interested in learning more about the region. He is looking forward to working with the corporation.

5.3. Heritage Communication Project Updates

5.3.1. Landmarks and Legends

Next series will be on the Old Crag Cabin. Sarah Ramey will be working on the series for 2011. Possible topics include: History of Curling in Banff, Mr. A.O. Wheeler, the Frank Lloyd Wright Pavilion, the Evolution of Bear-Human Interaction, the Banff Zoo, the Royal Willows, and the Cemetery.

A meeting will be arranged with Ralphine to discuss these topics, and to plan possible radio profiles.

5.3.2. Heritage Plaques- Update

Council has endorsed moving the project forward, and grant funding is in place to update the plaques in the spring.

5.3.3. Documentary- 'A Window to the World'- Tokyo Broadcasting System

The documentary is now in YouTube format, and there are plans to post it online. Town staff members who are fluent in Japanese may be able to assist in providing translations.

5.4. Planning and Development Circulation and Updates

5.4.1. Bayne Residence- Municipal Designation- 202 Otter Street

A heritage designation and statement of significance needs to be drafted to be taken to Council. The Architectural Sub-committee could work with Roland Charpentier on preparing this.

5.5. Parks Canada Heritage Updates

5.5.1. Claremont House/ A.O Wheeler Property Demolition

No Parks Canada representatives were able to attend this meeting, although Steve Malins sent an email response regarding questions on the Wheeler House demolition. On Monday (January 17th), the house was demolished.

To commemorate Wheeler's contributions, Ralphine suggested a large cairn could be placed at the former Alpine Club House site, since it is visible from the road and away from the wildlife corridor. The cairn could include a description and picture of Claremont House. Concern was also expressed about an overall lack of response from Parks Canada and general reluctance to communicate with the Corporation on heritage issues.

Claire will draft a correspondence on behalf of the Corporation to communicate their position on the demolition, stating:

- 1) Disappointment over the loss of the building

- 2) The Corporation's willingness to continue to work with Parks Canada on future heritage initiatives
- 3) The suggestion of placing a Cairn commemorating Wheeler at the old Alpine Club site
- 4) Concern over the perceived breakdown of communication channels between Parks Canada and Corporation.

5.5.2. Cave and Basin National Historic Site of Canada

This was not discussed, as no representatives from Parks Canada were present.

6.0 REPORTS

A submission on behalf of the Heritage Corporation has been submitted to Parks Canada for the 2010 Annual Planning Forum.

7.0 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

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

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

Grant Canning spoke to council's decision to not renew the Heritage Planner's contract after its expiry in 2012. He described Council's belief that with the upcoming completion of the land use bylaw review and eventual commercial build-out, a fourth planning position would no longer be necessary. He explained that to date, there has been no formal discussion about the heritage implications of this decision, and suggested that the possibility exists to re-visit this issue during fall 2012 budget review.

Randall McKay expressed hesitation about the projected timeline for full commercial build-out and described the evolving nature of the planning department's work. He suggested that changes would be necessary if departmental staff reduced, with the worst case scenario being a dissolving of the heritage program. The planning department is currently preparing a report describing the breadth of their activities which will be presented to Council. When finalized, this report could also be made available to the Heritage Corporation.

Herb MacAulay stated his concern that Council may not be considering the role that heritage plays in defining the Banff community and preserving the continuity of the Town. Anita Battrum suggested that full commercial buildout could potentially *increase* the need for heritage planning, as more buildings may be considered for conversion, with potential heritage implications.

Grant Canning suggested sharing these concerns before Council, and reiterated that the decision could be re-visited during next budget cycle.

2:45 pm – Randall McKay left meeting.

8.2. Planning & Development: Circulation and Updates: The Becker Home, 555 Marmot Street - (Darren Enns, special presentation)

The heritage value of the Becker Home was reviewed, along with an ongoing development application that calls for the demolition of the structure. The home is considered a Class B heritage resource. The planning

department has encouraged the developer to incorporate elements of the home, such as building materials and stone, into a new building that is proposed for the site.

2:55 pm – Grant Canning left meeting.

MacAulay noted that much of the in-situ heritage value of the home came from the contrast between the relatively lavish architecture of the house compared to the nearby bungalow camp facilities. Since the bungalows no longer exist, much of this value is no longer present.

Charpentier suggested that the developer could consider incorporating additional heritage features from the home into the design of the new building. Suggested elements included the lower wooden wainscoting, the four square windows, and the solid balustrade. Some concern was also expressed over potential erosion at the site.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Banff Heritage Corporation is scheduled for Thursday March 17, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

HER10-36 Moved by MacAulay to adjourn at 3:07 p.m.

CARRIED

Herb MacAulay
Chair

Sarah Ramey
Recording Secretary

Minutes approved by: _____

LANDMARKS AND LEGENDS SERIES – APRIL 2011

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

FROM TOYS TO TREASURES – AN EVOLUTION OF BANFF'S BEARS

Then

Early visitors to Banff were often drawn by the opportunity to view wildlife. Although bears were officially protected from hunting from 1902 onwards, feeding and other forms of interaction were frequently encouraged. In some cases, steps were taken to ensure visitors were able to see these animals.

In 1907, Banff opened a zoo in what is now Central Park. The early zoo was an enlargement of the existing aviary, and showcased cougars, elk, monkeys, and a polar bear known as “Buddy.” In 1915, two black bear cubs were acquired after their mother was shot for aggressive behavior. Tourists were also encouraged to visit the town dump to view bears, and observing the dump bears was a popular summer pastime.

Some private operators used animals to promote their businesses. Mr. Casey Oliver, owner of the Sanitarium Hotel, kept a pet bear. One anecdote describes how the lonely bear crept inside during the night and curled up in bed with a surprised guest! Similarly, Norman Luxton kept a black bear cub outside the Trading Post to attract attention. He described the bear – known as Teddy - as “a sure drawing card for eastern city-slickers looking for a piece of the Wild West.” Feeding Teddy biscuits and chocolates was a fun activity for both visitors and locals, although one young boy took this too far. As a prank, he laced a chocolate with chili peppers before feeding it to Teddy. The spices made the bear cub so agitated that the RCMP requested his removal, and Teddy left Banff to live with a hotel keeper in Golden.

Now

The early treatment of Banff’s bears may seem shocking to us now. Increasing interest in conservation, and recognition of the potential harm of habituating wild animals, has significantly changed the way Banffites view and interact with local bears.

In 1937 concern over animal cruelty, coupled with tight economic circumstances, forced the closure of the Banff zoo and the animals were shipped to the much larger Calgary zoo. Also in the late 1930s, Parks Canada began to discourage visitors from feeding and interacting with wild animals and the idea of an education campaign and “no feed” signs were introduced. In 1944 a “Bears are Dangerous” pamphlet was published, and in 1951 it became illegal to feed, touch, or entice bears.

Today, no bears are kept as pets in Banff. Instead, Parks Canada, the Town of Banff, and local residents work to discourage human-bear interactions and to promote safe bear behavior. Secure garbage and recycling facilities discourage bears from entering town in search of food, while hikers are advised to make noise and travel in groups. For more information on current bear conservation and management, please contact Parks Canada at one of their visitor information centres or visit their website at www.pc.gc.ca/banff-bears.

In partnership with the Archives at the [Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies](#), The Banff Heritage Corporation is proud to profile these iconic reminders of Banff’s natural heritage 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.



“Teddy,” Mr. Luxton’s bear cub. Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies (NA29-406, George Paris), c.1895.



Town of Banff bear-proof waste bins. 2011. Sarah Ramey.



Photos, courtesy, Parks Canada

The historic A.O. Wheeler home in Banff as it appeared Sunday, the day before it was demolished. Known as Claremount, the deteriorating house had become a hangout for bush parties.

Historic Banff house razed despite protests

Parks Canada says wildlife corridor needed protecting

KELLY CRYDERMAN
CALGARY HERALD

The simple two-story Sulphur Mountain house was once owned by Arthur Oliver Wheeler, a pipe-smoking land surveyor who made his mark christening Kananaskis Country peaks and demarcating the boundary between Alberta and British Columbia.

Years after the Irish-born mountaineer died, the red and white house known as Claremount was owned by hockey legend Glen Sather. In 1994, it was designated as a recognized federal heritage building.

Despite its history, and outrage from some Banff residents and Wheeler's descendants, Parks Canada followed through Monday with long-standing plans to demolish the 90-year-old summer home.

"It's quite disrespectful to not acknowledge that piece of history," said Wheeler's great-granddaughter Jenny Crompton, a Canmore



Claremount was torn down on Monday, despite the protests of the original owner's great-granddaughter, Canmore resident Jenny Crompton.

resident who wanted the house restored. "That's the legacy they're just ignoring."

Banff Superintendent Kevin Van Tighem said Claremount, which was visible from the road leading to Banff's Upper Hot Springs, needed to be demolished to protect an important wildlife corridor.

In the 1990s, Parks Canada agreed to remove the house from key animal habitat to mitigate the expansion of homes in Banff.

"We had an unfinished commit-

ment," Van Tighem said Monday. "Our monitoring has clearly and irrevocably proven that is a very important wildlife movement corridor."

Van Tighem added that plans for private fundraising to move the deteriorating house never came through, and the site — next to habitation for rare Banff Springs snails — attracted bush parties.

"So much of its historic value... is associated with its location. Once you move it somewhere else, it's just an old bungalow that used to be in a neat place," Van Tighem said.

"We couldn't find a viable solution."

However, Crompton said Parks Canada didn't properly look after the house.

Banff amateur historian Jon Whelan said he believed the house could have been moved to another site within the park. Whelan said he understands federal finances are tight but that could have changed over time.

The house, he said, is now gone forever.

"They should be looking at the long term," Whelan said.

KCRYDERMAN@CALGARYHERALD.COM

Dump may fill up before requested 2013 extension

JASON MARKUSOFF
CALGARY HERALD

South Calgary's private garbage landfill will likely reach capacity well before the new operating deadline its owners are seeking, the city's subdivision and development appeal board heard Monday.

A ruling is expected late next month on the future of the BFI landfill near the community of Chaparral. The board will either force the facility to stop operating immediately or allow trucks to keep dumping there until December 2013.

But in testimony to the quasi-judicial city body on Monday, a BFI Canada official acknowledged the urban landfill has amassed far more garbage than expected, bringing it closer to the tonnage limit set by Alberta Environment.

"According to my calculations... the site would be filled sometime in 2012," appeal board member John Attrell said.

Howard Goldby, BFI's vice-president of environmental management, confirmed the 2010 tonnage collected at the dump was 700,000 tonnes, well above the tonnage predictions used to rationalize the company's bid for a permit. He added that forecasts call for about the same tonnage in

the coming years.

"I would hope for our shareholders maybe a little more," he said.

BFI had earlier predicted the landfill would be full by the end of 2010, when its permit expired. But the company warned that the decline in garbage collection in recent years meant it would need more time to fill it up enough to create the contoured park that will be constructed above the dry-waste landfill after it's closed.

Brett Birns, who leads a group of residents in Chaparral and Walden trying to shut the dump, said he doubts the landfill operation would stop any earlier than it absolutely had to, based on its past record of unfulfilled plans to close.

However, Birns said that he expects the appeal board to rule in BFI's favour, with a set of conditions that require the company to strictly control the birds, noise, litter, traffic, dust and other community irritants.

"Of course we'd like to see it go earlier — that's why we've been fighting so hard. But if we could make sure that they're locked into that time period, and they fulfil their commitment, I think that would be fantastic for all the areas," Birns said outside the hearing room.

JMARKUSOFF@CALGARYHERALD.COM

Fake passport leads to seven charges

CRIME • A tip has led border officials to charge a refugee with using a fake passport to get into Canada. An eight-month investigation by the Canada Border Services Agency has led to charges against Aminata Gnokane, 33.

It's alleged Gnokane used a fake passport to make a successful claim for refugee protection and obtain permanent resident status.

The agency won't disclose which country she came from.

Gnokane is charged with seven counts under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

The woman faces a maximum of 14 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

Gnokane appears in Calgary provincial court Feb. 28.

— Calgary Herald

TAX-FREE SAVINGS ACCOUNT

3.00%*

Want a faster, tax-free way to save for a family vacation, home renovation or a new car? Our Tax-Free Savings Account can help you achieve your goals.

Ask us for more details!



CANADIAN WESTERN BANK

The Working Bank®

www.cwbank.com

Member of CDIC

Foothills 403.269.9882
Northeast 403.250.8838
Chinook Station 403.252.2299
S. Trail Crossing 403.257.8235

*Rate subject to change without notice. West/Earnest® TFSA Account only. Interest calculated daily, compounded annually. Account in Canadian dollars.

SAIT student contracts...

was prepared to move forward without more deliberations.

Councillor Gordie Miskow put forward a motion to postpone the decision based on the number of options presented, including staff cuts and service level reductions.

"I believe council needs one to two weeks to run with this information and compare the options," Miskow said.

Coun. Ed Russell supported delaying the decision and asked for a working session of council to be scheduled as there are personnel implications.

Croteau said the new approach identified \$302,000 in additional savings, however, it will likely affect future budget surpluses.

"This new approach would likely see the surplus diminish in size, or it may not be there at all," she said.

Administration had recommended council find the additional \$533,000 from contributions to reserve accounts.

"The total reduction is not possible without service level changes to the community," Croteau said.

Wheeler House demolished

ROB ALEXANDER BANFF

The Wheeler House came crashing down earlier this week.

Built in 1920 by Arthur Oliver Wheeler, a surveyor and one of the founders of the Alpine Club of Canada, the Craftsman-style bungalow, also known as Claremount House, was demolished, Monday (Jan. 17).

John Rose, asset manager for Banff National Park, said demolition occurred after hazardous material, specifically lead paint and asbestos used in the heating system and ductwork, was removed the previous week.

"That was taken care of first and in the proper manner. Those materials will be taken to an appropriate waste facility," Rose said.

The rest of the material will be taken to the Francis Cooke Class III Landfill east of Exshaw.

While masonry steps and landings were removed, Rose said the foundation, which will be backfilled, would remain.

"The top of the foundation will be left exposed so it will be quite evident what the footprint of the building was. The site will be remediated if there is any damage done by the equipment and then it will be left as a green site," Rose said.

To access the site, crews cleared fallen trees and installed a culvert at the junction of Mountain Avenue. The culvert will be removed in spring after site remediation.

The work took a total of three weeks, Rose said.

Parks has had plans to demolish the house, a federally listed heritage building, for 15 years as part of an agreement to build the Middle Springs subdivision.

valentine's day

BEDAZZLED, BEJEWELLED, BELOVED



Flowers wilt and chocolates melt. Show your love with handcrafted CANADIAN JEWELRY and precious stones from Bejeweled, Historical Bead Jewelry, Earthly Paradise and others.



STONEWATERS

HOME · ELEMENTS

638 Main St., Canmore Ph (403) 609-4477
info@stonewaters.com www.stonewaters.com



CANMOREALBERTA.COM

Drive **more traffic** to your business website
with CanmoreAlberta.com.

Be visible on the worldwide web!

info@canmorealberta.com

Saving our heritage

Demolition by neglect is the wrong way to make decisions

CALGARY HERALD JANUARY 24, 2011



The historic A.O. Wheeler home in Banff on Sunday, Jan. 16, the last day of its existence.
Photograph by: Courtesy, Parks Canada

Natural heritage or historic heritage? Why must it be one or the other?

Parks Canada's demolition of the historic Wheeler house in Banff is the unfortunate outcome of a failure to balance competing pressures in the national park, namely between the needs of animals and those of humans.

It's also part of a bigger trend of demolition by neglect, a situation that has resulted in much loss of Alberta's historic buildings.

The dilapidated 90-year-old summer home of Arthur O. Wheeler was torn down a week ago, despite protests by Wheeler's great granddaughter, historians and at least one university professor, who believed innovative management could have allowed the house to coexist within the sensitive wildlife corridor upon which it sits.

The building was historically significant because of its association to Wheeler -- a surveyor, mountaineer and one of the principal founders of the Alpine Club of Canada. Wheeler surveyed large

areas of Western Canada, named most of the southern Canadian Rocky Mountain peaks, and was the B.C. commissioner for establishing the B.C.-Alberta border.

He built his mountain retreat in 1920, six years before retiring from surveying, and from where he ran a horse-packing and mountain guide business. It's also where he entertained many important guests, as the first president of the Alpine Club of Canada.

Thus, relocating the house from its original location, in the midst of lush forest and thermal springs, would have eroded its context and much of its historical significance as the mountain home of an important mountaineer. But, if it couldn't be preserved where it was built, then preserving it and moving it would have been the next best thing.

Opening the house full-time, at least, to the public, wasn't an option. The land is now part of a wildlife closure, established jointly by Parks Canada and the Town of Banff.

The 500 metre-wide band of forest above the Middle Springs housing development is legally closed to people, so that large carnivores can safely and easily move across the Bow Valley, and around the town.

Preserving wildlife corridors is extremely important to protect habitat and allow a safe route for wildlife to travel, find mates and denning sites, and take advantage of seasonal changes in food and weather.

However, it's most baffling that the historical value of the house was disregarded when its demolition was secured as a condition of approval for the expansion of the Middle Springs housing development, to protect the wildlife corridor. Phase 2 was approved in 1995, a year after Wheeler House was designated a Recognized Federal Heritage Building.

How could the house, under Parks Canada's care for 16 years, be abandoned so readily, and allowed to fall into such a dilapidated state?

Too much of our heritage is travelling down that same, dreaded demolition-by-neglect highway.

A recent report found most city-owned heritage buildings are falling apart in the absence of a management plan, capital budget or life-cycle funding program to maintain them.

Demolition by neglect also occurs because decisions aren't being made.

It's happening with the Calgary Brewing and Malting Co. site in Inglewood, which continues to sit empty more than 16 years after it stopped producing beer. Some of the significant early-Calgary industrial buildings are in poor shape, and worsening, while the province patiently waits for the owner to complete the Historic Resource Impact Assessment the minister ordered 19 months ago.

The assessment follows the owner's request for a demolition permit, but the legislation has no timeline

requirement, which is a problem. Owners who want a demolition permit, have an interest in delaying the process and allowing the buildings to fall into further disrepair.

According to a spokesman with the department responsible for Heritage, Culture and Community Spirit, the assessment on the Inglewood brewery was ordered in June 2009 and still hasn't been completed.

The province should do its own assessment to determine whether the site should be declared a heritage resource.

Its national importance is obvious to the Heritage Canada Foundation, which named four of the oldest buildings to its top 10 Canadian endangered historical sites.

While Parks Canada could have done a better job in planning and paying attention to the value of a significant heritage building in the national park, the provincial and city governments are also guilty of demolition by neglect.

The Wheeler house is dust but it can still leave a lasting legacy, if lessons are learned at the provincial and municipal levels.

© Copyright (c) The Calgary Herald

SDAY, MARCH 8, 2011

letters to the editor

Evaluating recreational needs

Does a \$34,000 spend on a skate park meet the immediate needs of this community?

I went online to fill in the survey about the skate park thinking it may ask if I, as a tax payer, think this is a good use of \$34,000. Nowhere did I see that. I am not a parent and I am not a young adult (and sadly I am no longer a child) and it seems like when it comes to the skate park unless I am one of those three things I have no say.

It is my understanding that an off-leash dog park would have to seek outside financing in order to move forward (plus finding that pesky land to put it on) - I was told that 700 people signed the petition that went to the town - which means the town generates at least

\$31,545 (I have two dogs) from fees, a tidy sum to start a dog park. I am also confident that the dog park would see more use then the rest of the Rec grounds combined: the skate park, bike park, baseball diamonds and soccer/rugby field. And that more people signed the dog park petition then will fill in the survey.

In no way am I against a skate park. Nor am I saying that a dog park is the most pressing need of this community - I do realize I have my own agenda. I do think that it is time to thoroughly evaluate the recreational needs and wants of this community before we spend what, in the 2011 budget, is a large sum of money on something that only a few can enjoy.

Liz Merchant Banff

Preservation before exploitation

One morning, after one of our many snowfalls, I walked through the Banff Square park on Banff Avenue. I was pleased to see that the sidewalk through the park had been cleared, but my eye caught a heap of snow that piqued my curiosity. When I brushed some snow away, I discovered what is probably the most significant plaque in the park. It read "UNESCO World Heritage Site." Thinking about this, I realized the whole experience was a metaphor for our concern about our own comforts and well being over the concern for the well being of the nature that surrounds us.

We need to think deeply about the extraordi-

nary place we live in, and what its future will be. We need to put preservation ahead of exploitation, protecting the natural beauty of the area and its four-footed occupants, both of which are recognized by the UNESCO designation. Too much development could result in cancellation of the designation, and diminution of the inspiring majesty that lifts the soul of all who visit the park. It's up to us to speak out about over-development and activities that are not keeping with park values. When we diminish nature, we diminish ourselves.

Ralphine Locke Banff

4 OUT OF 5 PEOPLE WITH DIABETES DIE OF HEART DISEASE.



CANADIAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU DIABÈTE

Better your odds. Visit getserious.ca

ALPINE MEDICAL CLINIC PHYSICIAN & SURGEONS

211 Bear St, Unit 201 A/ Bag 4000 Banff, Alberta T1L 1J8 T: (403)762-3155 F: (403)762-5797

Dr. Ian MacDonald M.B. Ch B. F.R.C.S.

Dr. Jane Fowke M.B. B.S.

Dr. Steve Shigeishi BSc.BA M.D. CCFP.

The Alpine Medical Clinic is pleased to welcome their newest female family physician,



ters to editor@thecrag.ca with ne "Letters to the editor" or online at banffcragandcanyon.com.

aurant
S
ES
light
\$5
briand
ad
2520
om

ERY GOAL, HEERING SECTION

ere for you. Our team of experts monitors your re it meets your goals so you can focus on what

inning portfolios, contact:

com

