

THE BULLETIN

June 2014



Editor: Judy Fleetham

Publisher: Stuart R. Watkins

MILESTONE IS REACHED OUTFITTER RETIRES AFTER 52 YEARS!

By Stuart R. Watkins



Photo courtesy: Ewan Nicholson
www.ewannicholson.ca/

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It is with very mixed emotions that I wish to publicly announce the sale of Warner Guiding and Outfitting Ltd. and the retirement of “Banff’s Cowboy,” Ron Warner.

Ron came to Banff in the late 1950’s and started working for Bud Brewster, the T.R.C.R.’s outfitter. Working his way through the ranks, Ron eventually bought the horse part of Bud’s operation and along with Mac MacKenzie, “Warner and Mackenzie Guiding and Outfitting Ltd.” was born. I had the distinct honour of working for Ron in 1977, 1978, and 1980, in the T.R.C.R. camp. I have

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Throughout this latest edition of the “T.R.C.R. Bulletin,” you will find our latest theme: “It is going to be a terrific summer!”

After a rather tumultuous winter, I’m very pleased to announce that we are alive, and it is indeed going to be a terrific summer! For those of you that booked earlier in the year, you will know that we had a change in venue areas. This was a result of lower-than-expected bookings and the realization that because of higher operating costs it made more sense to go to a different area. Our thanks go to our new outfitter Julie Canning who made us a new offer in April which as it has turned out, is a better deal for us. The catastrophic flooding that took place a year ago this month in Alberta has left our outfitter, Warner Guiding and Outfitting Ltd., not being able to use two of their three camps north of the town of Banff. This summer they along with Parks Canada, will be rebuilding trails and washed out bridges. The third camp in Flint’s Valley was left relatively unscathed by the deluge of water that came tumbling down the valley. Since the camp would normally be sitting empty this summer, Julie thought it only made sense to “put the place to work.”

Although the T.R.C.R. used these three camps 10 years ago, we never “base camped” in Flint’s Valley. As a result, we never explored the immediate area around the camp which is what we will be doing this year. In a nutshell, we’re going into areas that we have never been to before, our outfitter does not normally take people, and it is

very unlikely we will ever see these areas again. In this part of Banff National Park, we have more places to ride than days! The itinerary may change week to week, but expect to see any of: Rainbow Lake, Block Mountain, Flint’s Ridge, Badger Pass, Sawback Lake, Cuthead Lake. Rainbow Lake is in my opinion, one of the most beautiful lakes I have ever been to and definitely one of the top five places I’ve ever seen, after having ridden on over 40 rides.

We have been asked why the first three rides are closed. After we leave the trail head corral, we have to cross the wide, deep, swift and cold, Cascade River. The bridge was destroyed last year in the



worst natural disaster in Canadian history; the Alberta flood of June 2013. (damages were over \$6 billion in southern Alberta) Consequently in order for us to cross the river on horseback, we need to wait for the spring run off to end and for the water levels to drop to a passable level. We studied the historic levels of the river and that does not happen until the 2nd or 3rd week of July. We did not change the numbering sequence of the rides to avoid confusion. Therefore, the first ride going out is, ride number 4.

Please see the feature article in “The Bulletin” about our new Head Guide Dennis Orr. He and I go back 44 years and I’m on “cloud nine” that he is going to be part (a big part) of our summer. Your Board of Directors and I have worked very hard over the winter to make sure that we are living up to our slogan, “The Best Vacation of your Life!” We have two new theme

RON WARNER RETIRES....

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rides this year, photography and astronomy; we are bringing back our famous (or is it infamous?? LOL) horse packing competition; the Emcee's cocktail party, a tradition started by past President Lois Laycraft (I call her my trail ride "mom") has become a trail ride standard; and with Dennis and his team there, expect to enjoy our own special and unique brand of Western hospitality in our famous Doughnut tent each night. We had promised to have guest speakers during the week for educational talks, although at this point in time because of a change in campsites it may not be possible. (I'm still working on it...)

Without any question in my mind, I honestly believe that we are going to have the best rides we've ever had in 91 years. I will be attending rides number four and eight, and I look forward to meeting many new people; some from as far away as New Zealand and England! In addition, I will do my best to come to Banff for either the before or after dinner to meet as many of you as possible. I may be able to join two other rides mid-week. I look forward to that.

"It is going to be a terrific summer!"

Blessings and Happy Trails



S. R. Watkins
President, Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies

WWW.TRAILRIDEVACATIONS.COM



Tell us about your ride from last summer. Share your thoughts, pictures and questions about the T.R.C.R. We will keep you posted with the current news too!

watched his operation grow to become one of the largest outfitters in North America and after 52 years at the helm, he deserves some time off! Ron supported the T.R.C.R. with our issues with Parks, and helped to keep the club going through some very lean times, not always with a gratitude of thanks on our part. (or necessarily profits for him). Ron is the epitome of the true Canadian cowboy. His goal was always to make sure the guests had a good and safe ride. He introduced new features to our camps (like bear fences) and upgraded the Brewster stock, equipment, and the food menu. One of his favourite expressions which he liked to use was, "It's all part of the true Western experience." This of course was spoken when things were going well, but was also used in the middle of a hail storm in July or when pack horses "lost their load!"

As a former resident and businessman in Banff of 20+ years I personally saw Ron actively involved in the community and always supported it in any way that he could. His company was an excellent example of what being a "good corporate citizen" was all about.

As Ron "hangs up his spurs" (although I expect to see him in camp this summer!) I wish to express on behalf of the Board of Directors, and all club members, our deepest thanks and appreciation to him and his present and past employees for over 35 years of support to the T.R.C.R. Happy retirement Ron! You deserve it!

So who is "running the show?" Ron introduced me to the new owners of Warner Guiding and Outfitting last October. Jonathan Welsh, a businessman in Banff and Julie Canning the former President and C.E.O. of the Banff Lake Louise Tourism Bureau are taking over the helm at "Horse on Horseback" (a.k.a. Warner Guiding) on April 1st. We have been actively working with Julie over the past few months and I believe that Ron can rest easy knowing that the future is bright for his company, as it is in "good hands."

Note: There is a staff re-union and retirement party being held for former staff on Oct 4th for Ron. Contact Codee Kyle for details:

Email — warnerreunion2014@gmail.com

OUR COLOURFUL HISTORY...



MARY SCHAFER WARREN: A SEEKER OF UNTRODDEN PATHS



by M. Deborah Bialeschki

Mary Townsend Sharpies was born in 1861 to a wealthy Quaker family in West Chester, Pennsylvania, just outside of Philadelphia. Her father was an avid naturalist and encouraged Mary's life-long interest in natural history. She also excelled in art and studied flower painting under the guidance of George Lambden who was a renowned flower artist of the time. This talent proved invaluable in her later explorations when she published one of the first books on Canadian alpine flora. Mary's Quaker upbringing also became an inherent philosophy and attitude of mind throughout her life; it continually surfaced in the way she interacted with people she met and her attitude toward the country through which she travelled.



Mary first visited the Canadian Rockies in 1889 where she met her first husband, Dr. Charles Schaffer. Because of his poor health, their annual excursions to the Rockies were confined to easy rambles within easy access of the railroad. However, her love of the wilderness and her desire to truly pursue the untrodden paths were firmly implanted in her imagination.

After the death of her husband in 1903 she returned to the Canadian wilderness with ambitions to view those wild areas of which she had only heard. She had met a woman from New York, (Mary) Mollie Adams, who was a geologist at Columbia and a kindred soul who was also looking

for an opportunity to explore the wilderness of the Canadian Rockies. She and Mollie began to prepare themselves for their adventures by hiring men to teach them skills such as riding astride and camping. In spite of protests from anxious relatives and friends, they planned their first exploration - a four month trip during the summer of 1907 into the Athabaska and Saskatchewan sources. In 1908, they returned to the Canadian wilderness to explore much of the area that is now Jasper National Park. It was on this trip that they discovered Maligne Lake one of Canada's most well known natural treasures.

Her months long summer camping trips in the Canadian wilderness in the early 1900s were a direct contrast to her winter social world of elite Philadelphia families. At a time when women were considered frail and delicate, Mary and her companion, Mollie, were tramping through muskeg, mud, and downed timber in the often harsh conditions of the remote wilderness. These camping explorations were always for her pure enjoyment with little thought of self-gain or fame.



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However, in many of the areas in which she travelled, she and Mollie were instrumental in documenting the beauty and value of the wilderness that is now Banff and Jasper National Parks.

As an accomplished photographer, artist, and writer, Mary's contributions were far reaching; through her articles and narrated slide shows in the United States and Canada, she did much to promote an appreciation for the wilderness and encourage others to experience the beauty of the outdoors in as natural a way as possible.

Her trips of 1907 and 1908 were fully recounted in her book, *Old Indian Trails*, which was first published in 1911. Mary's attitude and philosophy toward their amazing accomplishments on these two expeditions were typical of the unassuming woman of the time. She insisted that it was a woman's right to make such trips, but was adamant that the trips were regarded as pleasure by her and Mollie and that they were only too willing to let their two hired men do all the work. She gave much of the credit for discovering Maligne Lake to the men and described her and Mollie's part as "like the tail to an active horse".

Mary returned to survey Maligne Lake in 1911 at the request of D.B. Dowling of the Geological Survey of Canada. Dowling had suggested Mary to Howard Douglas, Commissioner of Parks in Edmonton because the survey would provide needed information and, because of the increasing fame of Mary, it would help to advertise the beauties of the area. Now 50, this trip marked the end of her active explorations of the Canadian Rockies. She often lamented the encroachment of civilization and its effects on the wilderness.

In 1924 she became one of the initial supporters of the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, a Canadian Pacific Railroad sponsored organization that was formed to promote all aspects of trail riding in the mountains. Since she also became recognized as a leading authority on the wilderness areas of the Canadian Rockies, people often contacted her when planning their own trips. She thoroughly enjoyed this role and spent much time corresponding with people. However, she was quite outspoken against those explorers who sought glory and reputation for adventures



similar to hers that she had undertaken solely for her own pleasure and peace of mind. As she stated: "my own work was done just for the love of being in the open, not for the largest number of ascents, which seems a fungoid growth here ever since I came to the country".

Since her death in 1939, Mary has become a source of wonder and inspiration. One cannot help but be impressed by her respect for all things found in the wilderness and by her spirit and courage that allowed her to step beyond traditional bounds into her most loved world of the wilderness. In a letter to a friend, she once wrote: "They like to say 'explorer' of me; no, only a hunter of peace. I found it."

*Excerpt from: PROCEEDINGS: Sixth Canadian Congress on Leisure Research
May 9-12, 1990; University of Waterloo
Leisure Challenges: Bringing People, Resources and Policy into Play
Editor: Bryan J. A. Smale
©Ontario Research Council on Leisure 1990*

*Images courtesy The Whyte Museum of the Rockies,
Mary Schaffer Fonds.*

**"IT IS GOING TO BE A
TERRIFIC SUMMER!"**

Music On The Ride:

MEET OUR NEW (BUT NOT NEW TO THE T.R.C.R.) HEAD GUIDE!!!

(THE GUY WITH THE ACCORDIAN,
NOT THE HORSE...)

By Stuart R. Watkins

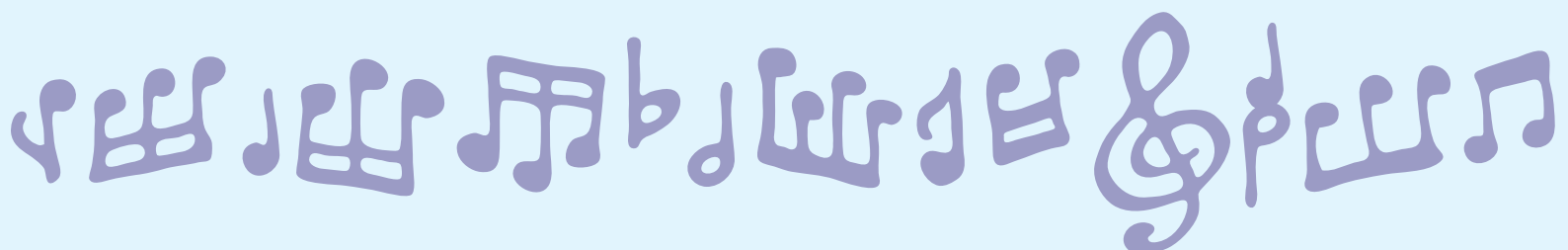
I am very please to announced that Mr. Dennis Orr has been appointed to the position of Head Guide by our new outfitter Julie Canning.

Dennis was my music teacher back in 1970 and I brought him on his first ride as official musician in the summer of 1971 when we had our camp on the Pipestone River. Dennis like all the rest of us, was enthralled with the T.R.C.R. and eventually became active on the board and held the office of President in 1975 and 1976. As a professional school/music teacher (just retired) Dennis has been able to enjoy his summers in the mountains and has spent the last eleven years as a guide working for Ron Warner of Warner Guiding and Outfitting. Dennis is an avid photographer, a professional accordionist and guitarist, and is very much a "P.R." person! In addition to being Head Guide, he has graciously offered to supply us with music this summer.

As your club President, I am breathing a huge sigh of relief knowing that Dennis is running our trips this summer. Thank-you Julie Canning! We are in capable hands with Dennis on board and we will have some great campfire entertainment too!



IT IS GOING TO BE A TERRIFIC SUMMER!



2013 TOWNSEND TROPHY

By Judy Fleetham

The history of this trophy goes back to the very first trail ride in 1923, not long after the first national parks were created. During those early years, Reginald Townsend, one of the original founding four of the T.R.C.R., was the official photographer for the rides. In 1929, he donated the Townsend Trophy to be awarded annually to the best amateur photograph taken on the trail.

This year, there were 82 entries in 3 categories:

- 16 in 'Flora and Fauna'
- 19 in 'Fun and Camp Life'
- 47 in 'On the Trail'

Our judges were 3 volunteers from the Calgary Camera Club:

- Mary Armstrong
- Bill Ramage
- Graeme Kershaw

Graeme has outlined below how the judges approached this task.

"Pictures were judged based on technical merit and WOW factor. The technical side included such things as pictures being sharp and in focus, proper exposure, good composition i.e. don't cut off a horse at the feet.

The WOW factor is what makes a picture stand out. It may be in part technique but is usually due to having a new or unusual subject or an old subject presented in a different way. Generally speaking technique is learned and planned. WOW factor maybe planned but is often just being in the right place at the right time.

In that regard, I was surprised there weren't any pictures of stormy weather. All of this year's pictures had good technique and attractive subjects. Many were great. The challenge was to agree upon the greatest of the great. I hope you agree with our choices." And the winners are...



The Townsend Trophy, inscribed "*Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies COUNTRY LIFE TROPHY for the best nature photography taken on the Official Trail Ride presented by Reginald Townsend*".

Reginald T. Townsend (1890-1977),
the editor of the American edition of *Country Life*





**Third Place: Judy Fleetham
'Mountains in Bloom'**



**Second Place: Judy Fleetham
'Heads in the Clouds'**



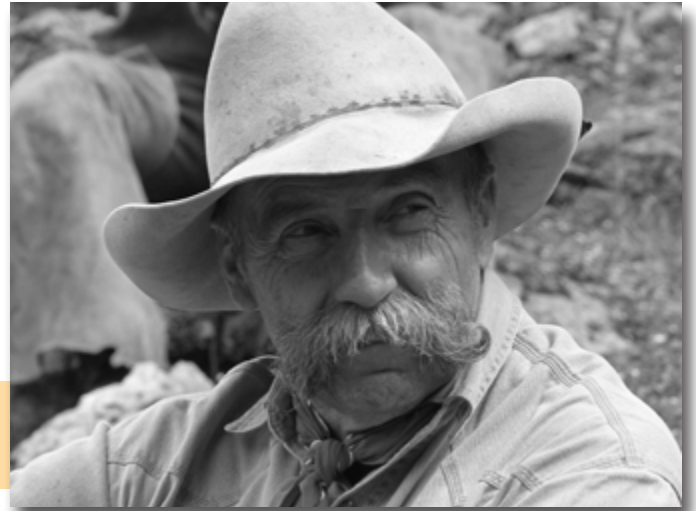
First Place: Judy Fleetham 'Friendly Fellow'

Sharp focus and a catchlight in the eye make this Richardson Ground Squirrel come to life. The composition was carefully thought out to leave space on the right side where this little guy's gaze is directed. Although similar colours throughout, the background was softened enough to allow the subject to stand out from his surroundings. It almost looks as though he's posing for the photo; he provided a special moment to be captured by an observant photographer.

Category: Fun & Camp Life



Third Place: Yolanda Schneider
'Love to Tell the Big Fish Story'



Second Place: Judy Fleetham
'True Grit'



First Place: Yolanda Schneider **'Naturally into Nature'**

Two water nymphs create a centre of interest in a spectacular mounting setting. The sharpness of the mountains, the expanse of crystal clear water, and the dark line of evergreens all contribute to the classic mountain lake scene, however the figures and their placement steal the show. Having the “mermaids” stretch their arms up was inspirational, and it makes a good picture, great.

Category: On the Trail



**Third Place: Judy Fleetham
'Mountain Magic'**



**Second Place: Judy Fleetham
'Riding High'**



First Place: Rod Butcher 'Trail Above the Tree Line'

BEST OF SHOW



Best of Show: Rod Butcher ‘Trail Above the Tree Line’ The winner of the 2013 Townsend Trophy.

Bright blue sky, clear air, beautiful scenery. The diagonal lines created by the slopes of the mountain and trail, and the line of riders, keep your eye moving around the photograph and suggest action that draws you into the distance with the riders. The photograph shows excellent composition, contrast, and crisp focus. Even the blue sky and blue shirts, and the line of dark bay horses, show the thought that went into capturing this dynamic scene.

Congratulations Rod. His photo epitomizes the joy of the Trail Ride. Many thanks to our volunteer judges for their time and expertise and special thanks to Mary for creating the slide show.

<u>Honorable Mentions</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Photographer</u>
On the Trail	‘Taking A Mid-Ride Break’	Toivo Kemppainen
Fun and Camp Life	‘Gutsy Gene Thurston’	Rick Godderis
On the Trail	‘Raised Up’	Diane Decker
On the Trail	‘Allenby Pass’	Ted Watchuk

TOWNSEND TROPHY SLIDESHOW

A slideshow of the 2013 submissions is available online at:
www.trailridevacations.com (look under the photos menu)

“IT IS GOING TO BE A TERRIFIC SUMMER!”

ROAD APPLES, LOOSE CINCHES & TEEPEE TALK...

A FULL SLATE OF EMCEES

We are pleased to announce that we have a full slate of experienced Emcees for the rides this summer. Thank you Matt, Rick, John, Joel, Ted, Stuart, and Robert for pitching in and helping to make our rides operate smoother.

AND THERE WILL BE MUSIC!

Stuart will be official musician on rides four and eight, (although Dennis says he wants him to take a break and enjoy the rides after a very long hard winter of Presidential duties!) Rick Godderis, a former President who kept our rides alive in the 1990s, is a “mean guitar player” and will be bringing his own special and unique brand of folk and country music to ride number five. Our ever efficient secretary-treasurer, Robert Vanderzweerde, without whom we would not have survived the winter, teaches guitar at Mount Royal University in Calgary. He is the Emcee and musician on ride number nine. We are most grateful that Dennis Orr will be filling in for the remaining two rides.

Ride 4 - July 21

Emcee: Matt Edgelow

Musician: Stuart Watkins

Ride 5 - July 28

Emcee & Musician: Rick Godderis

Ride 6 - August 4

Emcee: John Young

Musician: Dennis Orr

Ride 7 - August 11 (Theme: Photography)

Emcee: Joel Lipkind & Ted Wathuck

Musician & Shutter Bug Teacher: Dennis Orr

Ride 8 - August 18

Emcee & Musician: Stuart Watkins

Ride 9 - August 25 (Theme: Astronomy)

Emcee & Musician: Robert Vanderzweerde

Stargazer Teacher: Katherine Peterson

HOW TO HAVE A GREAT RIDE RIDE

As a club, we hope that our guests will want to contribute to the fun, frivolity and activities that we have during the each ride. The truth is, you will get as much out of your ride as you put into it! Please bring your joke books, skit ideas, your sense of humour, and leave your inhabitations and electronic gizmos (cell phones, iPads, iPhones, etc. - except if you are on the astronomy ride) at home! Do bring your camera with LOTS of extra batteries. Bring proper rain gear, a WARM sleeping bag, and if you enjoy a drink before dinner and wine with it, that as well. (see the “what to bring list” on the website or refer to your “Welcome Package” which you should have received by now.) Mostly, be prepared to have “the Best Vacation of Your Life!”

PASSAGES AND ‘HAPPY TRAILS’ TO YOU...

We noticed in the Calgary Herald a few months ago the passing of Art Fleming. He was an enthusiastic trail rider and attended a number of our rides in the late 70s and early 80s. Our condolences to his family. (SRW)

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/calgaryherald/obituary.aspx?pid=169888744>

Clem Gerwing was one of Alberta’s finest examples of a successful entrepreneur. He purchased Bletchers Shoe Company in the 1970s and then started producing his own brand of handmade in Calgary, cowboy boots. “Alberta boots” as it is now called is internationally known for producing the very best cowboy boots! My father started buying from Bletchers back in the 1930s, I would not buy my cowboy boots anywhere else but from Alberta Boots, (the official supplier to the Calgary stampede) and now my daughter Janessa is getting a new pair this month. Many trail riders over the years have visited their store before hitting the trails. Our condolences to Clem’s family. (SRW)

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/>

“IT IS GOING TO BE A TERRIFIC SUMMER!”



WHAT ON EARTH IS A **DOUGHNUT** TENT ?

(NO, IT IS NOT A PLACE WHERE WE HAND OUT TIMBITS!)

From our history (see the website)

“This interim executive was charged with organizing the first official ride to be held in 1924, and the first annual meeting to be known as The “Pow-Wow” (an Algonquin word meaning “get together”).

The Yoho Valley was chosen for this first Pow Wow because of its accessibility as well as for its majestic beauty. With the co-operation of the C.P.R., the accommodations at the Bungalow Camp at Takakkaw Falls were supplemented with twenty Indian teepees and a large circular tent decorated in Indian fashion as a Sundance Lodge. The decoration of the Sundance Lodge was completed by Chief Walking-in-the-Road of the Stoney Indians, assisted by two artists of his tribe whose skill and speed astonished not only the army of photographers on site, but also the noted artists in attendance. Two hundred and seven enthusiastic people attended the first Pow Wow.”

Today you can see an example of an authentic “Sundance Lodge” at the Luxton Museum in Banff. (www.buffalocationsmuseum.com). The early outfitters and founders of the T.R.C.R. saw the Indian Sundance Lodge at Takakkaw Falls, and they “put their heads together” and thought it would be great to have one of those in trail ride camp. A design was created, the canvas stitched together, and for 90 years now we have been packing in our “Doughnut” tent to every one of our camps.

The Doughnut is a round canvas tent, 36 feet in circumference with walls that are 5 feet high supported by 32 posts. At that point, a canvas roof, set at about a 45° angle and supported by 12, 18 foot poles, runs from the top of the posts towards the middle of the round walls. It stops short leaving a six-foot “hole,” (hence the term “doughnut.”)

Each evening in camp we light a bonfire in the middle of the Doughnut and the smoke appropriately goes out the “hole” in the roof. Our “creation” unique to the T.R.C.R. has been copied by our sister organization the Skyline Hikers, and many other outfitters as well. Have a look at the video on the homepage of our website for a brief glimpse of our famous Doughnut.



The Town of Banff, in Banff National Park, “the World’s Finest National Park”

Since our staging area this year is the Town of Banff, it would be a good idea to spend some time exploring one of the most beautiful areas of the world either before or after your ride. Banff has a resident population of 8,000 people, with over 4 million visitors per year, many of which are there during peak season which is of course July and August. Make sure you make your hotel reservations very soon! (www.banfflakelouise.com)

Email our office if you want any help or suggestions as to what to do and see in the area.

“It is going to be a terrific summer!”