

## *Acknowledgements*

ACKNOWLEDGING THOSE WHO contributed to a book that took 40 years to write is no simple matter. It is rather like determining who should be mentioned in one's last will and testament. You know there are so many to whom you owe acknowledgement but you know also that time and space will not permit you to include everyone who deserves to be recognized.

I would be remiss if I did not begin by acknowledging those who helped build the foundation of my great passion for that part of the mountain West that has been protected in the form of national and provincial parks that inspired this book. It is amusing to look back to when I was hired as a Park Naturalist in Banff National Park in 1970 and to recall the words of the personnel officer that offered me the job. "You were not our first choice," she said. I am indebted even to this day to Assistant Chief Park Naturalist Bruce Gordon for accepting a chemistry student into his service and for encouraging me immediately into the field to observe what was happening rather than trying to learn about landscape solely by reading scientific journals in the park library. From Bruce Gordon and from park wardens like Jim Rimmer and Larry Gilmar I quickly learned that direct experience is required to give

meaning and value to science and vice versa. I am equally indebted to Bob Johnston, Doug Eastcott, Don Karasuik, Don Cockeron, Gail Harrison and so many others of that early era from whose example I learned that the only way to overcome your physical and intellectual awkwardness in any given mountain landscape was to spend every possible moment you could in it. Only by allowing yourself to be enlarged by the experience of the Canadian Rockies could you have any hope of comprehending such monumentality.

Early in my career I also spent two formative years in Jasper National Park where fortunately I came under the influence of great number of people of remarkable character. Among these I include Rory Flanagan, Dave Pick, Bob Pot, Bruce Rodger, Sue Wolfe, Jenny Clark, Bob and Pat Haney, Don Sears, Doug Wellock, Dale Portman, Bob Barker, Gordon McLean, Tony Klettl, Willi Pfisterer, Hans Schwarz and Gord Irwin. It was an expansive period in my own life and in the history of the parks service. For me it marked the beginning of a period of some seven years during which I spent months on end on trails and in the backcountry throughout what later became the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage Site. For Parks Canada, it marked a period of transition from early organizational structures and an explosion in visitation.

After Jasper I returned to Banff. I now had enough experience to realize that all of the contradictions that had been sewn into the purpose and function of our national parks system at its creation were manifest in our first national park which was in essential a Canadian version of Yellowstone. Banff was the place you went – and still go – if you want to work at the very leading edge of balancing landscape protection with broader human desires and ambitions. It is a microcosm of the larger reality in which human interests collide with planetary ecological life-support function. I met and worked with many highly competent and utterly committed people then and from that period on who were up for the challenge of balancing human use with ecological integrity. In addition to those named in the book, I must also acknowledge the influence, support and example of people like Andy Anderson, Tim Auger, Don Mickle, Peter Fuhrmann, Marc Ledwidge, Jim Davies and Lance Cooper.

This was followed by a brief but highly formative three years in Yoho where I was much influenced by the residents of Field, one of the most remarkable communities in the mountain West. Among those who influenced me most I include Gord and Bev Rutherford and their daughters, Karen and Lianna; Glen and Irene Brook and their sons Sid and

Alex; Men Camistral; Randall Robertson; Albert and Winnie Ashley; and a host of wonderful neighbours too many to name.

I would like to acknowledge the influence on my life and this book of a number of particularly influential mountain writers and artists. These include poets Charles Noble, Peter Christensen and especially writer Sid Marty. It also includes painters Illingworth Kerr, Ted Raftery, Terry McCue, Alice Saltiel Marshall, Marilyn Kinsella, Robert Sinclair and photographer Craig Richards. I owe a special and lifelong debt to Jon Whyte for the encouragement he offered that started me down the road ultimately to this book. I must also acknowledge the on-going artistic and aesthetic influence that Vi Korcsmaros, now Vi Sandford, has had on this book and indeed on all the books that led up to it.

This book also owes a debt to a number of other prominent scientists. I am much indebted to Dr. Stephen Herrero, Dr. Michael Gibeau and Colleen Campbell for all they taught me about grizzly bear biology and ecology. I owe a debt of gratitude to Ian Pengelly of Parks Canada for all he has taught me about fire ecology and to Dr. Cliff Whyte for all he has shared over time about how ecosystems in the mountain parks have functioned in the past and in the present. In terms of aquatic ecosystem science I am indebted to Shelley Humphries, Charlie Pacas and Jim Murphy. I am indebted also to Dr. Michael Demuth of the Glaciology Division of the Geological Survey of Canada and Dr. Shawn Marshall of the University of Calgary for all the encouragement and information regarding glaciation they have shared. I would also like to thank Dr. David Schindler of the University of Alberta, Dr. John Pomeroy of the University of Saskatchewan and Dr. Henry Vaux of the Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy for their refreshingly candid perspectives on the importance of upland watersheds in all the Canadian West and for the valuable information they have shared on matters hydrologic.

I owe also a very substantial debt to senior people in Parks Canada who offered me the opportunity to experience all of the mountain parks and, indeed, most of the national parks in Western Canada. Without these opportunities I could not have written this book. Those I would especially like to acknowledge include Gaby Fortin, Don Sears, Jillian Roulet, Ron Hooper, Sandra Davis, Darro Stinson, Ian Church, Charlie Zinkan and more recently Bill Fisher. For the final chapter on the potential expansion of the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage Site I am particularly indebted to Mike Murtha of Parks Canada for allowing me to be involved at early stages of that planning process.

In terms of ongoing support in the field of interpretation, I owe a great deal to Bruce Bembridge and also to Dave Verhulst of the Interpretive Guides Association. I would also like to acknowledge the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies in Banff and the Jasper-Yellowhead Museum for all their support. I am especially grateful to Leslie deBie, of the Friends of Banff, who waited patiently for a decade for this book to come into existence. For making that happen, I owe a great debt of thanks to Walter Hildebrandt for agreeing to publish this book and for his patience and understanding in guiding me through peer review and other processes related to publication by an academic press. This book simply wouldn't exist were it not for his advice and support. I am also indebted to the President of Athabasca University, Dr. Frits Pannekoek, who took a special interest in the subject of this book and offered valuable advice and support for its publication. I want also to thank Brenda Hennig of Athabasca University Press for her patience and support through the more than two years it took to bring this book into existence. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of Scott Anderson who performed the difficult service of cutting an initial manuscript of some 275,000 words down to a manageable and comprehensible size. I want to especially recognize Kathy Killoh for the very pleasant and highly encouraging manner in which she orchestrated all the steps leading to publication. I also owe a great deal to Renata Brunner Jass who offered valuable and patient editorial advice at the very detailed level of copy editing. It was a challenge and a pleasure to answer her questions about the manuscript. This book would not be as elegant and pleasant to read as it is had it not been for the design genius of Virginia Penny. I would also like to thank Farahnaz Bendelli of Athabasca University for all her support in this project. I must also thank Ali Buckingham of Parks Canada for her cooperation and patience in creating the maps for this book. It was a pleasure to work with such a competent and enthusiastic person.

Finally, I must especially thank my wife Vi and children Reid, Amery and Landon for their sacrifices during the long commitment associated with the writing of what started out as a book and became a life's work. Without the unconditional support of my family this book would not have been written. In this I wish also to acknowledge the early and very critical support of my brother Walter and all the encouragement I have received from my nephew Randall McKay who works as a town planner in Banff.

While all of the above, and too many others to name, offered information and support that was ultimately expressed in the form of this book, none is responsible for any errors or omissions that may exist in this manuscript. For these and for all interpretations of current scientific knowledge stated herein, the author alone must take sole responsibility.