



Wild Lands Advocate

The Alberta Wilderness Association Journal

<http://AlbertaWilderness.ca>

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Celebrating 30 Years of Alberta Wilderness



Vivian Pharis remembers her husband Dick (the one and only Dr. Richard Pharis) coming home one day in the late 60's after a meeting and announcing that he was now Vice President of the AWA. "What? What's that?" exclaimed Vivian. Well, she soon found out. Newly wed and starting her first year of teaching high school biology, she says she got "sucked in" to the newly formed association along with everyone they knew. She was to become one of its most active and hard-working members and is still doing strong advocacy work 30 years later. Vivian figures it was Dick who first started the newsletter, a natural tendency for an academic, and he was probably the one who started the trend of long, but thorough, articles. The early newsletters contained a wide variety of items such as briefs the AWA wrote for such things as the Wilderness Act, reports from government, association news and voluminous correspondence to and from the government.

Vivian wasn't involved in writing the first issues of the newsletters. These were written on plain paper with plain typing. The title was simply the A.W.A. Newsletter and there was a little bear in the corner on the first page. But writing was only one aspect of getting a newsletter produced. There was collating, stapling, folding and mailing to be done - the sort of job that everyone knows is necessary but few will take on with even a hint of enthusiasm.

One year, when the Eastern Slopes hearings were going on and there was a lot of mail to be sent to members, the mailing responsibility somehow fell right in Vivian's lap. In the midst of this overwhelming task, Vivian had a brilliant idea: she had a captive workforce right there in her science class, full of energy and ready to tackle a challenge - a challenge just like these mailings. Stacks of paper were lined around the classroom and for the last 15 minutes of many, many classes the students ran around the room collating the papers into neat piles ready to be mailed. Well, except for the students who turned the assembly line into a race and ended up with balls of crumpled sheets. Then they sat down, folded and stapled the piles, wrote out addresses by hand and even licked the stamps. The students laughingly said,

"Hey, this isn't Science 11, this is Letters 11". But no one seemed to mind. Dorothy Dickson, listening nearby, chimed in at this point in the story with her memories of endless folding sessions as well, after joining the AWA to fight Village Lake Louise in 1971.

The newsletter took on the form of a magazine for a short time and then went to a tabloid form on newsprint, eventually taking on the name of Wilderness Alberta in 1985. Vivian and Ron

Hooper were the editors and Vivian started writing in earnest and hasn't stopped since. The tabloid form was Vivian's idea, which she borrowed from *High Country News*, a newspaper out of Montana that focused on people and land issues in the U.S. West. She dreamed of creating a similar newspaper covering eastern B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan that would have the same kind of deep and far-reaching investigative reports.

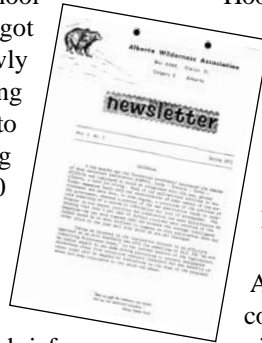
She recalled the heady times of those early days of the AWA with evident nostalgia. In those days the newsletter contained provocative material that would bring the deputy minister and assistant deputy minister out to the annual conference and AGM where they joined in heated battles with AWA members over questions asked and articles written. AWA members knew government and industry representatives personally and had more contact with them. They in turn were more responsive to the people and they used to come to the AWA for the

gauging of public sentiment. There were only two main conservation groups at that time, the Fish and Game Association and the AWA. People from ranching, outfitting, industry and others who loved to hunt formed the AWA because they did not think the Fish and Game Association was doing the job of protecting wildlife habitat, the key to preserving the wildlife they wanted to hunt. The AWA worked

closely with Fish and Wildlife Officers to

protect important wildlife habitat from development until 1979. At that time the right to say "no" to development was stripped away from Fish and Wildlife and they could no longer freely associate with the likes of the AWA.

I asked Vivian what her vision was for the Wild Lands Advocate at this time



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President's Report

By Floyd Stromstedt, Spring 1971

Hi Members!

"These times were sent to try us." I do not know who said that originally but he must have been a conservationist. It is discouraging to read of Government statements like "... Yes, we will have Wilderness Areas, but we will develop minerals in them." One of the basic facts of life is the old cliché: "You cannot have the cake and eat it too!" In actuality, our view of Wilderness is not too different from that of the Government. We want to have the cake and they want to eat it!

And yet, there is encouragement. As more and more of the general public begins to realize how their natural heritage is being sold out from beneath them, more and more people are joining conservation groups, writing letters to the editors, writing letters to their MLA, attending public meetings, etc. This is all for the good. The political mind is sensitive to the public wind, and tends to sway accordingly. Although Governments arrogantly insist that they are right and everyone else is wrong, they do initiate programs that have an appeasing effect on public uproar. So, it is encouraging to see more public uproar.

I must say that the response to our appeal for operating funds was also most encouraging. I am pleased that you care and I thank you.

One of the major difficulties in an organization like ours is administration. It is easy to prepare briefs, write to politicians, attend conferences, etc., but considerable effort is required to handle the mail, answer inquiries, keep track of memberships, publish a newsletter, hold meetings, organize projects, etc., etc.! Some people have more aptitude for administration than others, and I am happy to note that more of these types are making themselves available. As more individuals become familiar with the past, present, and proposed operations of our organization, our cohesiveness, member participation, and consequently our effectiveness will increase.

I am also tickled to notice a considerable reversal in attitudes displayed by other citizens' organizations, as they begin to suspect that the "goose that lays the golden eggs" may be sick and could die.

There! That is the best I can do as an exercise in positive thinking. The best idea for these trying times is to keep trying!

The focus of the AWA should be to enhance public awareness of wilderness issues so that the public can demand from the politicians the protection that is required.

- Clint Docken (Director)

The Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) is dedicated to a protected system of ecologically representative wilderness landscapes throughout Alberta. AWA is a federally registered charity and functions through member and donor support. Tax-deductible donations may be made to the association at Box 6398 Station D, Calgary, AB T2P 2E1.

For more information or to volunteer view our website

www.AlbertaWilderness.ca

We must develop the environmental leaders of tomorrow, because the same people have been carrying the battle for the last 10 - 20 years. We have to activate the natural constituency of people that support environmental protection. We need the voice of the people of Alberta to demand their environmental right.

- Peter Sherrington (Past President)

Editorial

By Shirley Bray

Surprise members! We have changed the layout and the content of the Wild Lands Advocate (WLA) without warning you. But it is all in a good cause - the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the AWA Journal. We would like your response and there is a survey on the last page we would like you to fill out. The editor of the WLA, Wendy Adams, has resigned. She told us that she knew changes were around the corner and she didn't want to stand in the way. Thank you, Wendy, your dedication to the WLA has given the AWA a solid foundation to build on. We are grateful for your hard work and commitment these past four years! Indeed, changes are in the wind and we have established a communications advisory committee to deal with them. Numerous thoughtful comments about communications have come our way and we are willing to chart a new course. We have an idea where we want to go, but we want YOUR input first. This is VERY important.

In the meantime, we have prepared a special issue of the newsletter to celebrate its 30th anniversary. Thirty years ago in October 1970, the first numbered issue (volume 1, number 1) was published. We have copied the magazine format from issues published in the 1970's and we have republished an early "President's Message". We also introduce our current Board of Directors and staff members by including some of their thoughts about the AWA throughout the Journal.

The WLA has gone through a number of changes during its evolution and we would like to take it to a new level and integrate it with our online communications. Tell us what you think. We are also looking forward to sending the WLA out via email for those of you who would prefer to receive it that way. Remember that all articles will be archived in the Resource Centre. So sit back and enjoy reading about some of the history and history-in-the-making at the AWA.



We don't seem to be making people more aware of the environment and we should, because it's worth caring about.

- Jane Kennedy (Treasurer)

Alberta Wilderness Watch

Talisman Spending Millions in Bighorn Country

By Vivian Pharis

Talisman Energy has a large gas gathering and future drilling program slated for the Chungo area, north and west of Nordegg, in Bighorn Country. A 3-D seismic program covered much of the northern portion of Bighorn Country this past summer, threatening more gas leases and development. Bighorn Country is a 3000 sq km area that extends east of the Bighorn Wildland to the Forestry Trunk Road.

AWA and CPAWS have been actively engaged with Talisman through the summer and fall, trying to reach some equitable agreement. We have now issued Talisman and other petroleum operators with leases in the Bighorn Country, notice that we have a zero tolerance for new industrial activity west of the Forestry Trunk Road. The northern half of Bighorn Country is one of the most pristine portions of the entire Foothills Natural Region within Alberta. This is an area where there is an international obligation to work to retain the uniquely intact qualities and diversity of life. Development west of the Forestry Trunk Road is unnecessary in this rich province; we need to leave some parts untouched.

We are currently attempting to work through the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers and the Energy and Utilities Board to meet our ends, and we will be approaching Alberta

Environmental Protection to do assessments and immediate new land planning in Bighorn Country.

The Bighorn Country Wildland Coalition proposed Bighorn Country to the Alberta Government in the past year as a buffer zone to help protect the Bighorn Wildland. We have been met with stony silence. Why? The Alberta government itself proposed David Thompson Country in the early 1980's. It was to be west-central Alberta's equivalent to Kananaskis Country, and it covered a larger area than that proposed by the Coalition.

Meanwhile, industry continues to press westward, fingers crossing the Forestry Trunk Road and grasping for whole handfulls of Bighorn Country. In addition to natural gas development, Sunpine has been logging up the Clearwater River to the west of the Forestry Trunk Road and in high elevation Cripple Creek, up against the Ram Range. Other logging threatens the area around Crescent Falls on the Bighorn River and the Country's northern borders. (For further information see <http://AlbertaWilderness.ca/issues/BH/Bhorn.htm>)

(Vivian Pharis is AWA's representative on the Bighorn Country Wildland Coalition.)

The Bighorn is my favorite Eastern Slopes region because it is big, gorgeous and almost untouched wilderness. Here, it is still possible to adventure for days or even weeks through landscapes reminiscent of what Alberta was like 100 years ago. - Vivian Pharis

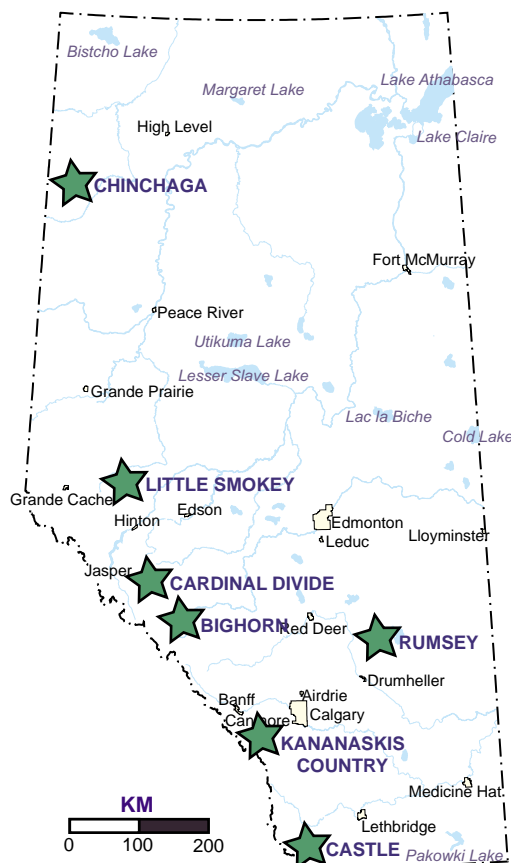
Spray Lake FMA

Rumors have been circulating since early summer 2000 that Spray Lake Sawmills will have its quota holdings rolled into a Forest Management Agreement (FMA). With an FMA, their holdings would range along the Eastern Slopes from the James River drainage west of Sundre, south to the Crowsnest Pass. Parts of Kananaskis Country and the headwaters of the Oldman River would be included. FMAs require no public input or environmental assessment. Furthermore, should more than a small percentage of the FMA be withdrawn for other purposes, such as protection, Spray Lake Sawmills must be well compensated.

Cardinal Mountain Park

The AWA coalition is awaiting responses to two letters written to federal and provincial authorities. One letter to the federal government advised that approval of the Cheviot mine, without any development proposed for the foreseeable future, would contravene the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. Another letter to the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board asked that the provincial mine permit be withdrawn, as conditions of the permit will no longer be met. The existence of the permit would block any other significant use of these public lands, such as their designation as a Wildland Provincial Park that would help protect the ecological integrity of Jasper National Park, a World Heritage Site.

The AWA and the Canadian Nature Federation sent a briefing paper to the United Nations World Heritage Committee. In an accompanying letter we requested that the Committee ask the



Government of Canada to consider not approving the mine and to work with the Province of Alberta to implement the recommendations that Parks Canada gave to the Review Panel. We also requested that the Committee extend to the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta an invitation to consider the site's addition to the Whitehorse Wildland Provincial park and its nomination for inclusion with the Canadian Rocky Mountain parks World Heritage Site designation. Once new federal ministers have been appointed, we will be requesting meetings to discuss the matter. (For further information see <http://AlbertaWilderness.ca/issues/CDMP/cheviot.htm>).

Castle Wilderness

The Castle Crown Wilderness Coalition, of which AWA is a member group, has issued news releases on logging concerns and the recent applications by Shell Canada Ltd. for a pipeline and sour gas well within the Castle. A current campaign initiative aimed at convincing US companies to stop buying lumber from the Castle and the remainder of the C5 management area of the Forest Reserve, which includes the headwaters of the Oldman river, was reported in the *Globe and Mail*. Just as the Coalition was moving forward with some new campaign initiatives, funding from grants from two foundations was canceled. The AWA is assisting the Coalition with finding new funding sources. The Coalition is working towards having the entire area legally protected and restored as wilderness. (For further information see <http://www.ccwc.ab.ca/>)

Foothills Rescue Mission

The AWA will soon be unveiling the third phase of this campaign. During the first phase planning was done, strategies were developed and background information was collected. The second phase involved outreach through the creation of promotional materials, including a brochure, and developing liaisons with local community groups. The third phase will focus on developing consumer awareness within and outside of Alberta. (For further information see <http://AlbertaWilderness.ca/issues/FH/Foothill.htm>)

Kananaskis

The Kananaskis Coalition continues to meet regularly, the first Tuesday of each month. Activities at this time include planning for the Evan-Thomas region, investigation into the compensation package being demanded by Genesis Development, marketing initiatives in the gateway communities, letter writing regarding the Spray Lake Sawmills road over Lost Creek in South Kananaskis Country and a public awareness alert regarding a possible Spray Lake Sawmills FMA within Kananaskis Country. (For further information see <http://AlbertaWilderness.ca/issues/KC/KC.htm>)

Little Smokey / Solomon Valley

Weldwood is planning to build a road and log the trees in Solomon Valley which lies within their FMA, but also right in the backyard of several nature based tourism operators. Solomon Valley lies within the Little Smokey candidate area. The AWA is interested in this area because of its rich wildlife habitat, including core habitat for Woodland Caribou. Local tourism operators

depend on the scenic quality of Solomon Valley and the abundant wildlife for their livelihood. Its closeness to Jasper adds to its tourism potential. Tourism provides an opportunity to diversify and stabilize the local economy. Jillian Tamblyn of AWA attended a Weldwood open house and noted that they were not forthcoming about their plans for the area; for example, they did not provide maps of their plans. The AWA would like to work with concerned local citizens to ensure some landscapes are secured for preservation and for tourism operators to use. Jillian also met with the Athabasca Bioregional Society in September to discuss possible cooperative plans.

The Human Touch

by Shirley Bray

Herb Kariel was in a state one day as he came in for our monthly library committee meeting. He had been reading the *Wild Lands Advocate* and he had a bone to pick with the Editor - a great big bone. The problem with the *Wild Lands Advocate*, he said in his quiet but emphatic way, is that it doesn't focus on people. Huh? What do you mean, I asked, after all what did I know about the secrets of journalism? He tried to explain by comparing the way articles in the *Wild Lands Advocate* were written from the way they were written in *High Country News*, a newspaper about the land issues in the U.S. West. Right away I could see what he was getting at, but he thought I was still clueless. Well, I wasn't for long. I read through 30 years of *High Country News*. I read 30 years of stories about people who were living, working, fighting for, and dying in a land they loved and a land they continually saw being torn apart by competing interests, including their own. I got to know those people, the politicians, and strange things like the soul-searching of the U.S. Forest Service, and I got to know the issues too but from the eyes of many beholders.

Out of this little kernel of knowledge grew a deeper understanding of what a conservation organization like the AWA is really all about. We are about people, people and their relationship to wilderness. After all, I reasoned, without people there wouldn't be any wilderness per se, because there wouldn't be anything that was not wilderness. Besides, trees don't write letters to Ralph Klein, and caribou and owls don't think about wilderness, although they may think about home.

A number of us who work regularly at the AWA have been thinking a lot this past year about what this organization is all about. What can we do to be not only the most effective and productive organization possible, but to enable enthusiastic people who join our efforts make meaningful and personally fulfilling contributions? Many new ideas and many old ideas in new and better guises for education and outreach have been brought forward. We are hoping to put many of these ideas in place as a major focus of the organization. Education and outreach programs will help us to network with a wide variety of people and through these relationships we hope to get more and more people asking questions and thinking about conservation ideas and what they can do. In a past survey of the membership, you told us that advocacy was the number one activity and education and outreach the number two activity that the AWA should be

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The Hillhurst Room

by Shirley Bray

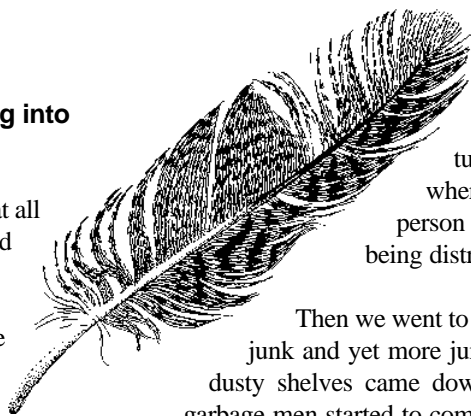
Or how one woman turned an ugly duckling into a swan in spite of the preservationists.

The way Christyann Sloan tells this story is that all she wanted to do was "organize that library once and for all" and "just get that back office painted". Let me place the story. The AWA Calgary office is located in an old two-story schoolhouse called the Hillhurst Cottage School, a delightful heritage building that we lease from the city in the district of Hillhurst. The second floor houses the offices and the administrative part of the organization. The main floor is a meeting area and used to house the library. And the old cracked concrete basement - well, that's a story in itself. The broad staircases that stretch from floor to floor have been well worn by the hundreds of little children who once trod them. The building has gone through several "owners", was once the youth hostel, for example, and bears the marks of many curious renovation ideas.

When Christyann showed up to volunteer at the AWA she was looking for her niche. As she went about, she listened to endless complaints about how "we can't find anything" and discovered the time-consuming sport of searching for essential nuggets of information herself. She looked around her at the fraying posters on the walls, the grayish-green paint on the doors and windows, the lackluster quality of the walls, the cracked linoleum and drywall in the tiny bathroom, the old pamphlets plastered along the walls of the stairway, the tall shelves of a half-ordered neglected library in a dark corner, the decaying corkboards, the over-stuffed filing cabinets, the mismatched furniture, the dirt, the cobwebs, the general hodgepodge and mish-mash of 20 years of accumulated disorder. A realization flooded through her that was both terrible and wonderful to a mind that loved order and elegance around it. I could change all this, she thought, all I need is a little money and a few people. Like a true artist, she had a vision, a renovation vision, and as all homeowners who have attempted the bugaboo of renovation know, the journey was not a straight road and might have killed us all if the result hadn't been like a divine revelation.

Of course, everyone thought she was nuts to want to try organizing the library - it had never worked before - and as one person remarked, "When I heard you were going to put the library in the basement, I thought you had lost it!" Even I, the faithful trooper she hired to organize the library, had doubts. The cold, murky basement was something out of a horror movie. Big dusty shelves with big dusty boxes, old filing cabinets, tiny stuffed closets flung here and there, a bathroom that only the brave would dare to use, junk and dirt and grime everywhere, all encased in a crumbling, cracked foundation that was home to much arthropod wildlife. "You want to put the library down here? And I'm supposed to work here? Gross."

Well, the money came and the people came, and when the people couldn't come there were still Christyann and her faithful companion toiling away day after day. Now if you are a packrat, stop here. You won't be able to stand the rest of the story. As I started organizing the library, Christyann started to paint the back



office upstairs. Now you can't just paint one room, so the other rooms started to get painted, one by one and then the ceiling and the windows. The whole upstairs was turned into a bright open clean place where things could be found and where a person could just think for a moment without being distracted by the siren song of chaos.

Then we went to the basement and started to throw out junk and yet more junk. Whole closets were removed, the dusty shelves came down, recycle bins overflowed and the garbage men started to complain. "I promised them cookies next time," said Christyann. Then one day I told her, "You've got umpteen filing systems in this place and all of them a mess. All you need is two." Filing cabinets were emptied and removed, walls were cleared and repaired for painting, experts in carpentry, plumbing, and electrical were called upon and even more junk was thrown out. It kept coming, from every nook and cranny, from places we were sure we had looked several times. Secretly, we knew some of it was even beloved junk, but we knew it had to go.

We went through that place like a whirlwind. The stairways were painted, the basement was drywalled, the ceiling stuccoed, the walls and floor were painted, the bathroom transformed into a warm and cozy haven, shelves were installed and the library taken to its new home. It took 20 hours to move all that material; thank god we were taking everything downstairs and not upstairs. I remember standing in an empty basement, finishing the last coat of paint on the floor, and marveling at the transformation. A dark, cold place had been turned into something warm and inviting. Christyann hadn't been crazy after all.

But that wasn't the end. The last task before us was the main floor of the building. The tall windows surrounded by carved wood had peaked out at us from behind shelves and other encumbrances. The room was cleared out, the old library shelves, the old furniture, all the old stuff that wasn't part of the heritage. Christyann worked her magic to get new furniture, a beautiful new boardroom table with matching chairs, fresh from the TD Bank, and tasteful artwork on the newly painted walls. The old room was transformed from a frumpy ugly duckling into a warm, inviting open space with all its heritage charm that is there to welcome you, whenever you care to drop by. We stand there sometimes in the elegant calm and just admire what we have done. To us it is not just a well-kept room, it represents an opening up and a reaching out, creating a fine image to match the fine minds working in conservation and so many possibilities for outreach and sharing. We call this room The Hillhurst Room.

Thanks Christyann.

We have a responsibility to leave a legacy for our children's children so that they too will have the opportunity to know and experience the true meaning of wilderness. Through thoughtful awareness and positive action, I hope to do my part.

- Christyann Sloan (Director)

The Alberta Wilderness Association Institute And The Alberta Wilderness Trust

by Shirley Bray

The Alberta Wilderness Association Institute (AWAI) was born during the turmoil of 1991 when the AWA was embroiled in the battles of the Daishowa court case, the Three Sisters hearings and the Oldman River Dam issue. Vivian Pharis recalls that year as "the worst year of my life." She was the president that year and many onerous responsibilities fell on her shoulders. So perhaps it wasn't surprising that a battle-weary group came up with the idea of forming an arm of the AWA that would devote itself to the far less rancorous but equally demanding tasks of education and outreach, leaving advocacy to the main organization.

By 1993 those battles had dissipated and the AWA was on a new track. The AWAI, although registered as a society in 1992, was shelved but not forgotten. Now, seven years later, education and outreach activities have been infused with new energy and are growing rapidly. They are considered to be an essential foundation for effective advocacy. On November 30, 2000, the AWAI was firmly established as a functioning entity by Christyann Sloan and Vivian Pharis during the first meeting for the AWAI in the Hillhurst Room. They have put together a seven-member Board and have applied for charitable status for the AWAI. Vivian believes that Norm Conrad, the lawyer who originally set up not only the Institute but also the Alberta Green Party, probably suggested the name of the Institute. He got involved in environmental action when his family's land was expropriated for the Oldman dam. He has written a mighty history of Alberta spanning the time from the Ice Age to the present political scene and we have a copy in our Resource Centre.



The main functions of the AWAI are twofold: education and endowment. The objectives of the first function are to promote the protection of wildlands through education, stewardship and the facilitation and encouragement of more effective communication between Albertans and government and industry.

The AWA has been fortunate to have the Orval Pall Foundation as part of its resources. Established in 1986, the fund is in memory of the young cougar biologist who died in a plane crash in Kananaskis while tracking bighorn sheep. The monies going into the Foundation were initially designated for cougar

research. The AWA has now established an endowment fund with a broader mandate named the "Alberta Wilderness Trust", which will be managed by the Calgary Foundation. This endowment fund is an important milestone for the AWA. It will play a significant role in meeting our goal of financial stability and freedom. We welcome your inquiries and your bequests.

To honour the memory of Orval Pall, who was a dear friend to many in the AWA, the AWAI will be establishing an annual lecture in his name to be held each fall starting in 2001. Eventually we hope to establish an annual conference around this lecture that will serve as an open dialogue on important environmental issues in Alberta.

(Board members for the AWAI are: Vivian Pharis (President), Christyann Sloan (1st Vice President), Stephen Legault (2nd Vice-President), Dr. Herbert Kariel, Peter Sherrington, Cliff Wallis and Dr. Shirley Bray (Directors)).

"If you plan for a year, plant rice. If you plan for ten years, plant trees. If you plan for 100 years, educate your children."

- Chinese Proverb

AWA
is grateful for donations made
in memory of infant
Brooks Terran William Hanna

*If you would like more information
about bequests or would like to make
a memorial donation
please contact Ava Morasch
in our Provincial Office
(403) 283-2025.*

We need to develop more community awareness of the issues of wilderness and wildlife habitat protection, public lands, old growth forests, watershed protection and the linking of human health to the environment.

- Vivian Pharis (Director)

We must concentrate on awareness of conservation issues. This will yield an informed public that is more likely to participate in protecting the wilderness and waters that they enjoy and require for a healthy lifestyle. I intend to continue making the AWA administration more efficient and better able to support our staff and volunteers.

- Ava Morasch (AWA Office Manager)

Action in Edmonton

by Jillian Tamblyn

Members and volunteers in Edmonton will be happy to know that an office has reopened here. It is located at The Environmental Resource Centre at 10511 Saskatchewan Drive in Old Strathcona. It's one stop shopping for environmental groups.

The office is out in the "Carriage House" at the back of the property, otherwise known as the "shack in the back". However, it is quiet, big enough for me, and there is also a boardroom in the main house for workspace and meetings. The Foothills Rescue Mission will be the main campaign out of the Northern AWA office for this year.

I have already contacted some of you about volunteering. If you are interested there is a great deal of work to be done and I need some creative, enthusiastic people to help get the Foothills message out to the public here and abroad, in a big and bold way!

Thanks to our talented volunteers, Ray Blanchard and Chris Bruun, we have recently obtained aerial video footage and slides of the Clearwater region from the air showing extensive clearcutting. Barbara Brownhold and Vivian Pharis helped with the organizing and Steven Haupt acted as guide of the area. These views can be used to show people what is happening in the Foothills Region and as they say "a picture speaks a thousand words". We hope to incorporate this footage in a professionally created video.

If you are interested in finding out more about what is happening in the North or with the Foothills Rescue Mission please contact me at (780) 988-5487 or by email at northernawa@hotmail.com. I am looking forward to meeting more members and friends!

Profile - Jillian Tamblyn

I joined the staff of AWA in September, from warm Kamloops, B.C. You might wonder how I got to freezing Edmonton from the interior of BC. Well, after graduating in 1998 with a Bachelor of Natural Resource Science - Coop, I set my sights on traveling. In the Fall of 1998 I went to Costa Rica for four months through AFS Intercultural Canada's Dialogue Across the Americas Program. While I was there I worked with a Regional Association dedicated to agro-forestry. Upon my return to Canada I swore I wouldn't do that again despite the rewards ... until I had the opportunity to work for TIES (Turtle Island Earth Stewards) in BC that spring. As their international coordinator I headed down South to Grenada, WI to work with a Capacity Building and Environmental Education project for six months of my job. After my contract had finished with TIES the Executive Director forwarded me an email about a job working with the Alberta Wilderness Association in Edmonton...so here I am today, in the shack in the back! (Jillian Tamblyn is our new northern conservation manager).

Most people seem shocked that there is development in parks. We need to get the message out to people that this is happening and is not acceptable. We need to make the government realize that having large protected areas is important and economically viable.

- Jillian Tamblyn (Northern Conservation Manager)

Digital Wilderness

Colin Young, an enthusiastic member from Edmonton, constructed the first AWA website in 1996. It was an exciting innovative approach to information dissemination for the AWA. During the following years, we learned more about web communications and began to realize its potential. In 1999, with the capable assistance of Steve Swettenham, our old website was transformed into a complete website, which can be found at AlbertaWilderness.ca. Becoming a top level Canadian domain name on the Internet was an enormous task; however, even more challenging is maintaining the site to meet the needs of Albertans and the global community.

Providing a sustainable AWA website that is open 24 hours a day, all year round, requires financial assistance together with long volunteer hours in research and creative development. It is a "virtual ecosystem" of wilderness information.

Many Internet file standards have been included: PDF documents, a consistent navigational framework, and a custom theme layout. Legendary symbols of the AWA, The Great Horned Owl and the Lodgepole Pine, have been employed as icons for navigating the website. Coincidentally, these are also official emblems of Alberta adopted in 1977 and 1984. Today, we are incorporating digital communications in all aspects of the AWA's work. Steve is constantly challenging us to understand and explore the potential of the Internet to serve our members and the global community more effectively. He won't let us stand still. "This grassroots environmental website," he says, "is a webolution in progress."

(Steve Swettenham owns and operates QBIZ and can be contacted at qbiz.ca)



It's time for the AWA to be innovative in its approach to conservation and learn to market itself effectively in these times. We need to get out and talk to people.

- Shirley Bray (Director Alberta Wilderness Resource Centre)

The Alberta Wilderness Resource Centre

"I need everything you have on the swift fox," said the boy's message. This is a typical request at the AWRC. It is one of the challenges we face as we do our best to serve our users while organizing the valuable mass of information stored on the shelves and developing the collection at the same time. Peeking out from behind an unorganized stack of papers, and trying not to dislodge the numerous piles around me, I know and can assure you that progress is definitely being made. While the task of organization seems daunting to many visitors, I am discovering such a wealth of interesting information that has been buried for years that it is more a journey of discovery than a tedious mission. Please be patient. The jewel of an online catalogue will be achieved. We have just learned that the Calgary Community Lottery Board has approved the AWA's application this month for the development of a cataloguing system and database for our library collection. We expect to receive \$60,000.00 from the board in the New Year.

Volunteering With AWA

A few years ago the AWA placed an ad calling for volunteers. Little did I know what awaited me when I first walked through the door of the old Cottage School House in Kensington to chat with the Office Manager/Volunteer Co-ordinator of the day. We talked about so many different areas where help was needed, and decided I would start by helping out around the office. And I'm still here.

Over the years, I have set my hand to a bit of almost everything that needed doing, from answering phones through to building renovations. I have been involved with bookstore orders, Display Committee, Tower Climb, annual Banquet, and landscaping, among other tasks.

In the course of all this, I have had the privilege of working with wonderfully enthusiastic and committed people, staff and volunteers alike, who have managed to turn hard work into a lot of fun. I am constantly learning more about current and past conservation issues in Alberta, and developing skills I never thought I had. I have had the opportunity to attend many public educational events; slideshows by people such as Stephan Legault with his incredible Kananaskis photos, and illustrated talks given by people like Charlie Russell on his bears and Peter Sherrington and his eagles. I have also been out on guided walks to places familiar and quite new to me. I even went on a camping/canoe weekend, when the river turned out to be too low to launch the canoes (almost a relief to a complete novice!) and it didn't prevent anyone from having a wonderful time.

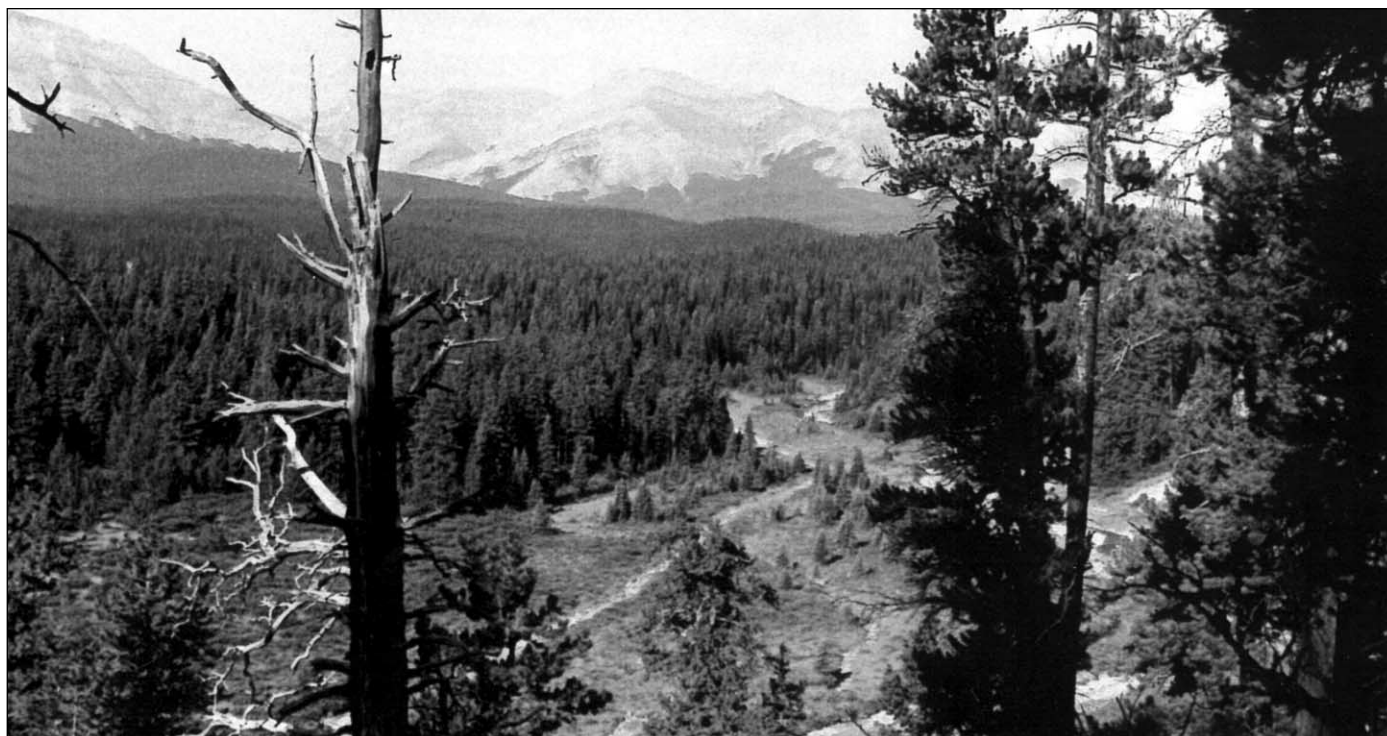
So for anyone with a love of wild places wanting to do something useful, if you have a few hours to give, either regularly or on a short-term basis, come out and get to know us. - **Margaret**

We salute our volunteers

The AWA is known for its grit, for maintaining the corporate memory and for moral fiber. We could not have this reputation or the tenacity to continue without the support of volunteers. During the fall season, the AWA takes time to reflect on the work that has been done and recognize the volunteers, staff and directors for the contributions they make. This year the AWA is proud to have thanked more than 265 individual volunteers. Each one has done their part, contributing to our work of "Defending Wild Alberta Through Awareness and Action".

Much of the AWA's volunteer work is done independently, in the field, on committees and as grassroots volunteers. Other work includes maintenance and improvements to the building where our offices are located, including landscaping and cleaning. Fund-raising is a major undertaking. Our administration is supported with data entry, filing and phoning and general office duties. Our display committee attends functions and our communications committee sponsored very successful events. The Wilderness Resource Centre Steering committee is working to obtain grants and necessary funding to continue developing an exemplary resource centre within the offices of the AWA. The Wild Lands Advocate is faithfully prepared and distributed.

The staff of the AWA is also recognized for the long hours, the endless tasks and their hopeful approach to our work. At a volunteer recognition Open House on November 28th, the AWA recognized Dianne Pachal, our Southern Conservation Manager who has been employed with the association since 1979. Dianne has "true grit" and is well known throughout the province for her devotion to Alberta's wild lands. *Congratulations Dianne.*



Cripple Creek - Bighorn Country, Alberta

Montana Wilderness Association Convention

Dianne Pachal attended the 42nd Annual Convention of the Montana Wilderness Association in Great Falls Montana Dec. 2000. This year's theme was Great Landscapes! Wild Prairies, Grasslands and River Breaks. Herbert Chao Gunther (president and executive director of the Public Media Centre, a non-profit agency for strategic marketing and communications), the keynote speaker, gave a talk on "The Ten Principles of Effective Advocacy Campaigns". One of the things he emphasized was that if you want to be an effective advocate, get comfortable with standing up and speaking out for what you believe in, with taking on the fight, and with being criticized for being controversial. Dianne asked him afterwards if his organization would like to take on the challenge of working with a joint conservation initiative in Alberta. She will be following up with him and local Alberta groups on these ideas.

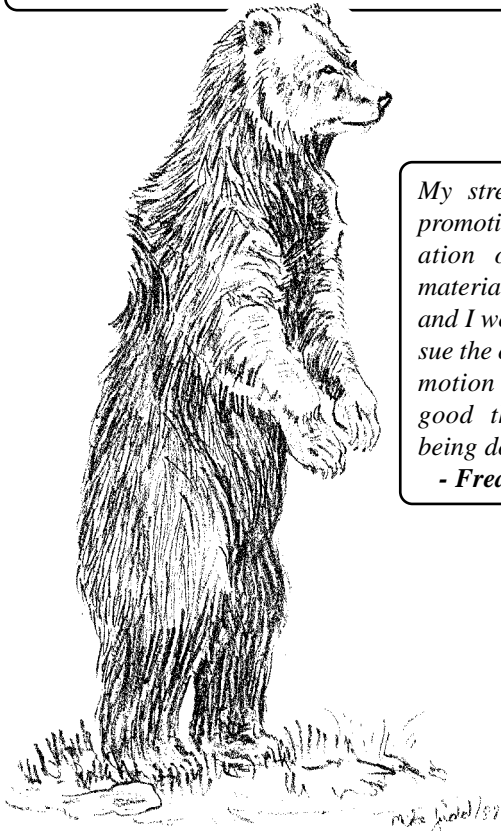
I think our challenge is to work together strategically; both within the AWA and with affiliate groups, to take a long-term view and carry out innovative programs in three areas:

- developing a provincial campaign to push for the goal of more parks and wilderness areas
- fostering consumer awareness and international action
- strengthening the AWA's ability as a grassroots defender of wilderness.

- Dianne Pachal (Southern Conservation Manager)

We have been working on protection in the Foothills for 30 years. Let's get it finished!

- Stephen Legault (1st Vice-President)



My strength is in the promotion and the creation of promotional materials for the AWA and I would like to pursue the objective of promotion beyond those good things that are being done now.

- Fred Vos (Director)

Continued from page 1



and it hasn't changed. She would like to see it "become something that is more in depth and investigative" in looking at environmental issues in Western Canada. "We need to delve into the root causes of the troubles behind the environmental issues today - digging deeper and opening channels further. There is a long and complicated history involving serious neglect on the part of government agencies and industry because they can get away with it.

I would like it exposed." There is no mechanism, she continued, for doing this through the regular or other media. "High Country News is the only one, the others don't do it regularly." She laments that the AWA never had the resources to hire people to create that kind of publication.

Wilderness Alberta changed its name to *Wild Lands Advocate* in 1993 when Cyndi Smith, a Banff warden and harlequin duck researcher, was editor. In the inaugural issue, Cyndi wrote: "The name change to *Wild Lands Advocate* came about when we realized that everyone referred to the former *Wilderness Alberta* as simply "the AWA newsletter." Even some of the directors didn't know the title! It was felt that we needed a stronger, more recognizable title." Most people approved of the new name, but Dr. Stewart Rood from Lethbridge stated his preference for the old name. "Wilderness Alberta," he wrote, "indicated that the journal has a provincial theme and is linked with the AWA. *Wild Lands Advocate* seems rather generic and reminds me of the *Farmer's Almanac*." In 1996 the newsletter changed from a 24 page quarterly to being published 10 times a year in a shorter format with the intent to be timelier. Erosion of our readership has forced us to examine the *Wild Lands Advocate* from all angles and we are looking at yet another change both of format and content. These days, fresh from accomplishing seemingly impossible things at the AWA, we are seriously looking at the possibility of making Vivian's vision a reality.



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concentrating on. We believe that more productive education and outreach will ultimately yield more productive advocacy.

The *Wild Lands Advocate* has long been an integral part of our outreach activities but has suffered declining readership. We think we can improve it by taking Herb's advice and following Vivian's vision (page 1). What do you think? If you're not quite sure what we're talking about, don't worry you are not alone. But the ideas are coming thick and fast. We think we could put out a new journal that will truly engage you - a journal that would inform you of the issues from many perspectives, that would tell you what the AWA is doing and that would tell you the stories of everyday Albertans and their relationship to the land. Do we have your support? Please tell us, answer the survey at the end of this newsletter.

(Dr. Herbert Kariel is a retired professor of Geography from the University of Calgary and one of our new directors.)



I would like to see us test which types of actions, including consumer awareness campaigns, have the greatest degree of success in protecting big wilderness and pursue greater networking with other groups at home and abroad. I intend to work towards making the AWA financially self-sufficient so we are independent of external funding vagaries and can continue to do our conservation work long into the future.

- Cliff Wallis (President)

Albertans need to start examining their value system and realize that individuals need to act for the public good. The AWA needs to sell a clear message of wilderness conservation to people and have people send that message to the politicians. Politicians only respond to pressure, they tend to be followers rather than leaders. I intend to learn about the AWA and help get our message out.

- Herbert Kariel (Director)

"I believe we could accomplish more by channeling our resources into the Wilderness Preservation Program and the work of the Conservation Managers, developing financial stability and improving our networking with regional groups. The AWA needs to work toward global awareness and put pressure on the Alberta government and resource industries."

- Wendy Adams (2nd Vice-President)

Promoting Wilderness Awareness

by Brad Watts and Craig Schmidt

How do you attempt to promote environmental awareness across different age groups? In a very different fashion!

We were lucky enough to represent the Alberta Wilderness Association giving presentations on ecoregions and endangered species to all three public school levels in the Calgary area. We gave ten presentations in November to students in grades 3 & 4, 7 through 9, and 10 through 12. Classes varied from Science 20 to Outdoor Education to an elementary environmental awareness class. In many of the situations we provided the introductory lesson that started a unit. One of our challenges was to create an age appropriate presentation that was valuable and interesting to each class involved.

In the grade 3 & 4 class we brought lots of visual aides to reinforce what we are saying about Alberta's wilderness. This topic was very appropriate and the elementary students were engaging and involved. This age group showed true concern for the endangered species and they were excited about furthering their knowledge on this topic.

Our junior high experiences were definitely challenging ones. I think all teachers who have taught at this level would agree that it's a unique experience. There were many different interests at this level; some students are genuinely interested in

environmental issues, while others are less interested. The students who had previous knowledge, experience, or who were exposed at an earlier grade level to these issues were more attentive and interested. We found the activities we developed helpful in keeping students active and focused. These activities also helped to keep the classroom atmosphere lively.

The high schools were a new situation for both of us. Neither of us had previously worked in a high school. The classes were longer and the students were older. We concentrated our presentation on conserving the habitat, environmental laws in Canada, and less information on endangered species. The older groups of students were harder to keep on task - generally as a group they seemed less interested in environmental issues, and less impressionable than the younger age groups.

We found our presentation was useful to all age groups. It either reinforced previous knowledge and understanding, or students were able to learn new information. After our ten presentations, we feel the biggest impact regarding environmental education can be made at the elementary level. At this age, children are more impressionable and willing to accept new ideas and new ways of thinking. If students are exposed to this type of education at an earlier age, the more likely a positive foundation can be laid, and hopefully along with this foundation a lifelong interest in the environment is developed.

(Brad Watts and Craig Schmidt are Masters of Teaching Students at the University of Calgary. They did a practicum with the AWA this fall.)

Wild Lands Advocate (WLA) Readership Survey

We have listened to feedback you have shared both formally and informally and we are in a transition phase with the *Wild Lands Advocate*. We need your feedback to let us know if we are heading in the right direction. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey about the WLA that you have been reading *during the last year* and return it to us by **January 18th, 2001**. All responses will be kept in confidence and the results of the survey published in the WLA.

General Overview

For each of the following please check only one response:

Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree
nor Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree
Don't Know

1) Overall, WLA is valuable to me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2) WLA keeps me informed about important wilderness issues.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3) WLA is a good name for the news journal of the AWA.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4) The information I get from WLA encourages me to be involved.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5) The information I get from WLA helps me feel more connected to the AWA.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6) What I read in the WLA is relevant to my interests.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7) I believe what I read in the WLA.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8) I look forward to receiving the WLA.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9) There needs to be more people focused stories.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10) There needs to be more investigative reporting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11) There needs to be more original material.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12) There needs to be more philosophical articles.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13) There needs to be more opinion articles.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14) The language in the WLA is easy to understand.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15) It is good to publish opinions that are contrary to the AWA's viewpoint.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16) The graphic design of the WLA for the past year appeals to me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17) Including related website addresses in articles would be helpful.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18) I would like to read the following:						
a) An editorial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) A president's message	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Updates from conservation managers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Updates from the Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Memorials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Stories about volunteering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Volunteer opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Conference Ads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Activity reports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) Stories about outdoor adventures in Alberta	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Continued on next page

About You

1) I would prefer to receive the WLA:

- ☐ Every month ☐ Every two months ☐ Every three months
☐ Other (please specify) _____

2) I read the WLA

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, please tell us why.

3) I have access to e-mail at my home

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

4) I have access to internet at my home

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

5) I have viewed the AWA website (AlbertaWilderness.ca)

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

6) Electronic mailing of the WLA would save the AWA valuable postage dollars. I would prefer to receive the WLA by e-mail.

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide your name and e-mail address.

We will provide the Advocate to you by e-mail beginning with the next issue.

Name _____

e-mail address: _____

7) My age is:

- ☐ Under 20 years ☐ 20 - 29 years ☐ 30 - 44 years
☐ 45 - 54 years ☐ 55 - 64 years ☐ 65 + years

8) I live in:

- ☐ Northern Alberta ☐ Central Alberta ☐ Southern Alberta

9) I live in

- ☐ a rural area ☐ an urban centre ☐ a small town

10) The WLA is keeping up with the way that I like to receive information.

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

11) If no, what can the WLA do to keep up with you?

12) The Board of Directors is planning to provide the WLA to all readers free of charge. The cost of this project will be dependent on the donations of our supporters. I think this plan is...

13) What is the single most important improvement WLA should make?

14) Other Comments?

Thank you for giving us your views on WLA! Please complete the survey and return by January 18th, 2001 via:

Fax: 270-2743
E-mail: a.w.a@home.com

Alberta Wilderness Association
Box 6398 Stn. D
Calgary, AB T2P 2E1

*this form can be downloaded
at our website
<http://AlbertaWilderness.ca>*



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