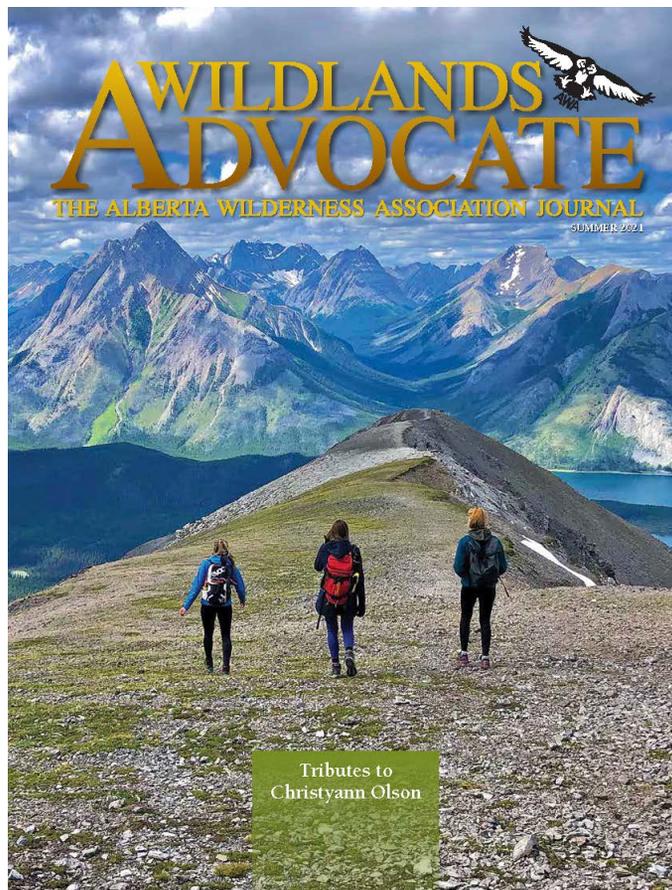


## The Latest Issue of Wild Lands Advocate is Now Online

September 30, 2021



The most recent issue of *Wild Lands Advocate* is now online at <https://albertawilderness.ca/publications/wild-lands-advocate/>.

This is a very special issue of your magazine. It features a section of tributes to Christyann Olson, AWA's long-serving Executive Director, who retired from that position at the end of June. If you're new to AWA, or you would like a reminder of what a positive force Christyann was for AWA and for conservation in Alberta, please read those tributes.

Much of the remainder of the issue is devoted to what has become the main focus of our summer issue – stories about getting out there, stories that explain why AWA and our members care so deeply about protecting this land's wildlife and wild spaces. Jerry Osborn offers you two superb essays. In the first one he writes about the first summer of the COVID-19 pandemic and how fortunate he was to have one of the world's most spectacular mountain landscapes available to explore. His second essay introduces you to Emma, a future steward of those landscapes. Emma combines the magical imagination of early childhood with the stamina of a seasoned hiker in her trips to the mountains.

One of the enriching aspects of my life has been meeting the Wilsons:

Marni, Niki, and Taggart. The *Advocate* is how I came to meet Niki and Marni and you've seen their contributions to this magazine in times gone by. I met Taggart at the University of Alberta and reconnected with him in this issue. If you wanted to hike into Mount Robson this year but couldn't, read Taggart's piece to see what you missed and ask yourself if his view of such an adventure coincides with yours.

In addition to the tributes to Christyann, our Association news section introduces you to our two new conservation specialists, Devon Earl and Phillip Meintzer. Devon contributes a handful of updates to this issue: the Fish and Forests Forum, OHV impacts in McLean Creek, and myths about old growth forests. Phillip writes an update about AWA's comments on the province's bull trout recovery plan. And, in the Features section, he shares his ode to Fish Creek – one of Calgary's urban natural treasures.

The remainder of the magazine's first section gets you back into the policy realm where we spend much of our days at AWA. AWA Director Chris Saunders used our Adventures for Wilderness program to explore the impacts of coal mine exploration in the Crowsnest Pass, specifically on Vicary Ridge, part of Montem Resources' proposed Chinook project. His encounter with the mess left behind by what passes for regulated coal exploration activity in Alberta leaves him demanding accountability from the relevant cabinet ministers for sanctioning these activities.

Carolyn Campbell introduces you to the Moose Lake Management Plan, a land-use plan affecting some of the traditional lands of the Fort McKay First Nation. After years of persistence, the Fort McKay First Nation secured the first Alberta land-use plan that sets specific mandatory limits on cumulative industrial land disturbances in order to protect biodiversity. Carolyn believes this is a momentous achievement.

For my part I look critically at what some will try to tell you is a win for a greener future – EPCOR's solar farm in Edmonton's river valley. It's not a win at all. It unnecessarily sacrifices a portion of Edmonton's greatest natural resource – the North Saskatchewan river valley. My other contribution looks at whether or not there's much chance of Benga Mining prying open the lid of the coffin the Alberta Energy Regulator put the Grassy Mountain Coal Project in this past June.

We also hope you'll appreciate the creations of jeweler/artist Albertine Crow Shoe that we're very happy to feature in this issue of the *Advocate*.

Finally, we deeply appreciate Mark Boyce's tribute to David Schindler who passed away in March. We look to David's passion and rigour, like we do to the landscapes and wetlands he cared so much for, to animate our actions on behalf of nature.

- Ian Urquhart,  
Editor



Dedicated to the conservation of wilderness and completion of a protected areas network, AWA inspires communities to care for Alberta's wild spaces through awareness and action.

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