



Jasper

National Park of Canada

Annual Report

2012





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A Parks Canada employee monitors aspen stand regeneration.

Superintendent’s Message

It has been a challenging year for the Parks Canada team in Jasper. Nature threw many curve balls at us, with high snowfall precipitating an active avalanche season, exceptionally high water during the spring and summer, and landscape-level disturbances, from mudslides across roads and trails to the remarkable Ghost Glacier icefall. The Parks Canada team did a remarkable job of responding to these extraordinary events and communicating about them with our visitors and community residents.

Decisions by the Government of Canada, reflected in Budget 2012, have resulted in changes to our budgets and how we will deliver the Parks Canada mandate. In Jasper National Park, positions have been eliminated and many employees have experienced a reduction in their season of work. The effects of these changes have been felt in the workplace and community of Jasper, as some of our colleagues and friends move on to other jobs or early retirement.

I would like to take this opportunity to draw attention to the dedication of all of our Parks Canada team members during this challenging year. In particular, I would like to highlight the exemplary commitment, in some cases lifelong, that our departing team members have demonstrated to our organization and the Parks Canada mandate. Their contributions to protecting park resources, facilitating exceptional visitor experiences and telling the stories of Jasper National Park have been significant. They will truly be missed.

**Sincerely,
Greg Fenton
Superintendent
Jasper National Park**



Reporting on Implementation

Every year, we take stock of our work to implement Parks Canada’s mandate; work directed by the *Jasper National Park Management Plan*. The *Annual Report* summarizes the main accomplishments from October 2011 to September 2012, and complements a public forum that provides interested Canadians with an opportunity to provide their feedback on Parks Canada’s performance and assist in setting priorities.

Reports from previous years can be found on-line at:

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/ab/jasper/plan.aspx>



Playhouse and interpretive panels along a new trail in Whistler’s Campground

Welcoming Visitors to Mountains of Opportunity

Attendance

Park attendance increased for the fourth year in a row. A great year for snow meant the winter months were busier than usual. This trend persisted through the spring until July, when visitor numbers dropped below last year’s figures, then rebounded in August. Table 1 provides numbers for overall park visitation and campground use.

Table 1. Visitor statistics

	Visitor Numbers						
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	% Change from 2010/11	2012/13 (Apr.–Aug.)	2012/13 projected
Attendance	1,867,059	1,870,332	1,916,677	1,958,206	2.2%	1,216,969*	2,006,020
Camping	127,102	137,126	128,910	129,597	0.5%	108,865	130,262

*Numbers are for independent travellers only and do not include commercial group numbers

Improving Facilities and Infrastructure

Campgrounds

Parks Canada built a new self-guided interpretive trail through Whistler’s Campground. The interactive trail features a lovingly crafted play house and fun natural obstacles that will delight curious children and tired parents.

New playgrounds were installed at Wabasso and Whistler’s Campgrounds.

Snaring Overflow Campground can now be booked by RV groups of five or more and continues to accommodate campers when the other campgrounds in the park are full.



What was our summer like?

Survival is one word that comes to mind! 2012 was a year that demonstrated the power of water in shaping the mountain environment. An above-average snowpack, rainy spring and warm July produced some of the highest river flows that park employees can remember. Medicine Lake rose 17 m and overflowed into the normally dry channel at the north end of the lake. Water last rushed down the channel in 1992, but not to this level since 1972, and this year it continued for an astonishing two months!

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While the water was incredible to watch, swift water carried away or destabilized numerous bridges, most notably Fifth Bridge at the downstream end of Maligne Canyon. The Parks Canada team is still taking stock of the damage in all affected areas, but more than a dozen major hiking bridges are out and many minor ones need to be repaired or replaced. High water also closed Snaring Road and campgrounds in late May.

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Mud slides closed Miette and Maligne roads several times. The largest slide occurred on August 7. Debris 15 m thick flowed down and over a 60 m stretch of road beside Medicine Lake. The road was closed for four days while the slope above the slide was assessed by a geotechnical engineer and the debris was cleared. Stranded visitors arriving back from the Maligne Lake and Skyline backcountry campgrounds were ferried across Medicine Lake by boat. Once one lane of traffic was opened just two days later, they were able to retrieve their vehicles from parking lots south of the slides.





What was our summer like?

Just as the Maligne Road reopened, a large portion of the Ghost Glacier broke away from Mount Edith Cavell and tumbled 1,000 m into the lake below. The resulting surge of water and debris flowing downhill destroyed the lower half of the Path of the Glacier trail, an outhouse and signage. Pavement at the entrance to the parking area was damaged and sand, gravel and boulders were pushed onto the road and picnic area below the parking lot. Fortunately this event happened in the middle of the night when no one was standing on the lakeshore or hiking the lower trail. Edith Cavell will remain closed for the rest of the season, until a risk assessment can be carried out and next steps determined.

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Preliminary estimates for event response and repairs total more than \$1 million. Many projects were put on hold or cancelled as Parks Canada staff dealt with the emergencies around them. The task in the coming year will be to set priorities for repairing and replacing damaged infrastructure and finding the funds to carry out this work.



Highways

Sections of a number of park highways and roads were paved in the early summer including:

- Whistlers Road
- Marmot Basin Road (including a new culvert and base repair)
- Highway 16
- Miette Road
- Old Fort Point Road

Publications

Parks Canada overhauled its flagship visitor publication, *The Mountain Guide*, which reaches about 750,000 visitors every year. The new, glossy brochure now features a clean, simple layout and more consistent, targeted visitor information.

Several other publications were updated, including the Backcountry Guide, Icefields Parkway brochure and townsite Points of Interest map.

A new Park Regulations brochure provides visitors with a condensed, user-friendly summary of various park regulations.



Trails

Five new trailhead kiosks were installed. Twenty-four new panels with detailed maps and trail information were placed in existing kiosks.

Colourful new signs now adorn the Easy Trails network near the Jasper townsite. The last section of the Easy Trail System—the **Woodpecker Trail**—was planned and temporarily signed. This trail provides a link between the Lake Annette/Edith Day Use areas and Jasper Park Lodge.



The Jasper Trail Alliance, a subcommittee of the Friends of Jasper National Park, was formed to assist with implementation of the Three Valley Confluence Trail Plan. The group focused on volunteer recruitment this year. They also worked to reroute more of the Ganges trail and built a short trail segment between Pyramid Lake Resort and Trail 2.

Columbia Icefield Area

Work on the parking lot at the Icefield Centre has been completed with the installation of a new wildlife walk, a new kiosk and brand new mountain pointer signs. Across the highway, a new kiosk was installed in the Toe of the Glacier parking lot.

Renovations to the interior of the Icefield Centre by both Parks Canada and Brewster Travel Canada will begin this fall, including construction of a new theatre in the Glacier Gallery.

As part of the redevelopment of the Glacier Gallery, Parks Canada has commissioned a film to connect visitors with the Columbia Icefield area.

Titled *Through Ice and Time*, the film follows fictional climbers' connections to the Icefield area throughout their lives, and will star Jasper residents.

Alar Kivilo, the cinematographer responsible for Tourism Newfoundland's current campaign, is directing the production. The film, like that campaign, will focus on natural beauty and emotional connections.

Through Ice and Time is being shot on site at the Columbia Icefield in September and should be ready for viewing in summer 2013.

Visitor Programs and Services

Interpretation

Parks Canada's suite of interpretive programs was similar to last year. Campground programs; roves at Athabasca Falls, Maligne Canyon, Maligne Lake and the Toe of the Athabasca Glacier; and walks and talks about astronomy, medicinal plants and aquatic critters rounded out the interpretive menu.



The Wildlife Guardian program entered its third year in Jasper, and it was a busy one! The program provides visitors with information about the wildlife they are watching and safe viewing practices, often at roadside wildlife jams.

Children were once again challenged to expand their knowledge of the park through an activity book and hands-on activities at the Xplorers tent at Whistler's Campground.

Glacier Discovery Walk

In 2010, Brewster Travel Canada (Brewster) approached Parks Canada with a proposal to develop a new visitor attraction at the Sunwapta Canyon viewpoint along the Icefields Parkway, to complement the services it provides in the Athabasca Glacier area, and services provided by Parks Canada and its many commercial partners along the Icefields Parkway. Parks Canada reviewed the proposal and determined that it was consistent with the Agency's legislation and policies, and could advance to the environmental assessment and development review processes.



Parks Canada received feedback regarding the project from across Canada and internationally, from representatives of tourism organizations, regional municipalities, environmental organizations, other non-governmental organizations and individuals. Although many comments reflected a lack of support for the proposal, numbers for or against were not the only factor that Parks Canada took into account when evaluating public response. Parks Canada considered the validity and scope of comments, as well as new information relevant to the environmental assessment. The process and the nature of public concerns helped to shape and clarify Parks Canada's decision regarding the project.

In February 2012, Parks Canada determined that the proposed Glacier Discovery Walk was not likely to result in any significant adverse environmental effects, with the implementation of a suite of mitigating measures. Since then, Parks Canada and Brewster have been working together to: refine the details of environmental follow-up programs; complete lease negotiations; complete construction and operational agreements to ensure mitigation measures are met, and issue the appropriate project permits. Brewster will be required to complete follow-up monitoring programs for mountain goats to evaluate the efficacy of mitigation measures and determine if any additional mitigating measures or restoration are required.

In July 2012, construction began on the 300 m walkway that will end in a glass-bottomed platform suspended over Sunwapta Canyon. The Walk is expected to be operating by 2013. More information is available at the Brewster Travel Canada website: <http://www.glacierdiscoverywalk.ca/> or at the Parks Canada website: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/ab/jasper/plan/plan16.aspx>



New Canadians Learn to Camp

For the second year in a row, a unique partnership between Parks Canada, Brewster Canada, Scouts Canada, Hostelling International, and the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers allowed 50 new Canadians to visit Jasper National Park for free and learn the fine Canadian art of camping! The participants, ages two to fifty-plus, were selected from 300 entrants who attend the Centre for Newcomers. They spent the first day and night in the park at the Whistlers Hostel, learning basic camping skills and enjoying a campfire. The next night they put their new skills into practice, with the help of Parks Canada and the Scouts, at Whistler's Campground.

A major documentary about the program, entitled *Nature's Invitation*, will premiere at the Toronto COMMFest Global Film Festival this September, and at other international festivals, including Nevada, later in the year.

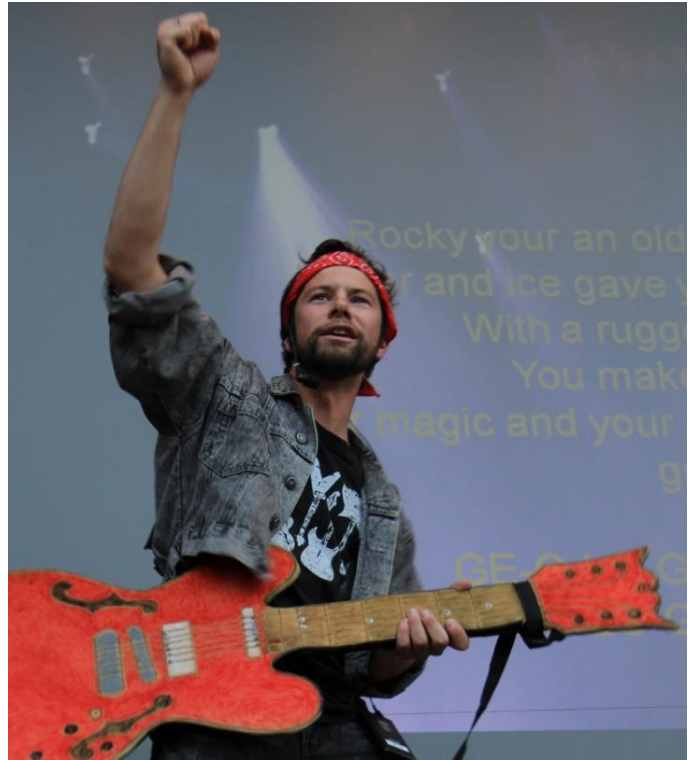
Visitor Safety

An above average snowfall, long winter and abnormally weak snow layer resulted in a busy avalanche season. The magnitude and location of some avalanches surprised even seasoned backcountry skiers, and served as a reminder that caution and self-reliance are essential.

In addition to multiple searches and rescues on land, there were a number of water-related incidents this summer, including one confirmed and two suspected drownings in Jasper lakes and rivers. Two back-to-back, but unrelated incidents at Horseshoe Lake spurred us to create a YouTube video aimed at preventing cliff-jumping accidents. The video can be viewed at:

[www.youtube.com/
watch?v=wBd701r6ORE&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBd701r6ORE&feature=related)

Visitor safety staff also responded to four separate incidents in Mount Robson Provincial Park, including a fatality on Mount Geikie and a spectacular rescue on Mount Robson that involved heli-slinging a climber stranded 11,500 feet up on the mountain to safety.



A scene from the new campground interpretive program "Geology Rocks!"

New Recreational Activities

In November 2011, Parks Canada released draft guidelines for a suite of new recreational activities that are being considered for Jasper National Park, including aerial adventure parks, non-motorized hang-gliding and paragliding, and traction kiting (e.g. kite surfing, kite skiing).

A public review period for the draft guidelines closed at the end of January 2012. We are reviewing and finalizing the guidelines, which must be approved by the Superintendent before implementation can begin.



Bringing the Mountains to People Where They Live



Gone social @ Jasper National Park

You can now stay up to date with Jasper National Park through our official Facebook page and Twitter feed. Since July 2012, Parks Canada has been sharing fun facts, images and videos on a variety of topics including wildlife, Dark Skies, and interpretation programs. The Jasper National Park website and social media feeds are a great way to stay connected with what is happening in the Park.

Visit our website at www.pc.gc.ca/jasper, follow us on Twitter, or 'like' us on our Facebook page in French or English.

Palisades Stewardship Education Centre

Approximately 3,000 youth participated in experiential education programs offered through the Palisades Centre this year. There was strong enrolment in the core programs offered to students in grades ten through twelve (e.g. Winter Experience, Stewardship of Protected Lands). Participants in other courses and specialized programs brought the total number of students who visited the Centre to 1,800.

Technology extended the Centre's reach significantly this year. In collaboration with 2Learn, an education society seeking to advance technology-enriched learning, the Palisades Centre presented a series of video conference sessions to 1,200 students in schools across the province. Session topics ranged from woodland caribou to forest health and fire management. It was many students' first interaction with Parks Canada.

This year's Water Experience course provided more proof of the power of technology. Students collected real-time digital data from various water sources in the park and then shared their experiences with youth in Australia, using online collaboration tools.

The Palisades Centre also hosted educators from Finland, school board trustees from all over Alberta, Parks Canada's Youth Ambassador and the Jasper Youth Sustainability Summit.



A Palisades team member connects with Torontonians via video-conference from Old Fort Point.

Palisades education team members supported national youth engagement initiatives in Point Pelee and Georgian Bay Islands National Parks and on Yonge Street in Toronto.

Celebrating History, Culture and the World Heritage Site

Restoration of the Jackman House, a recognized Federal Heritage Building, has been completed. A unique partnership approach with Tourism Jasper, who now occupy the house, has given new life to this important part of the historical centre of Jasper.



Ensuring Healthy Ecosystems

Wildlife

Caribou Conservation Update

In November 2011, Parks Canada released the *Conservation Strategy for Southern Mountain Caribou in Canada's National Parks* for public review. At the same time, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by Parks Canada, the Province of British Columbia and the Calgary Zoo, at an event held at the Calgary Zoo. The MOU outlines the intent to pursue a captive breeding program for Southern Mountain caribou conservation. The Province of Alberta was a witness to and supporter of the MOU.

Following the release of the strategy, the public, academia, provincial partners, and Aboriginal communities were invited to review and comment on the proposed plan. Feedback received during the public review period, as well as comments on the strategy from meetings with Aboriginal communities in Alberta and British Columbia who have a defined historic connection to the mountain national parks, will guide revisions to the strategy.

The *Conservation Strategy for Southern Mountain Caribou in Canada's National Parks* as well as a summary of public comments can be found at www.parkscanada.gc.ca/caribou.

On-going monitoring of Jasper's caribou herds and wolf packs over the past year had its high and low points. The spring caribou calf count showed the highest calf survival rate recorded in 8 years and we hoped that the population would show an increase this year. Then, GPS data retrieved from a collared wolf in the Sunwapta pack showed an unusual amount of time spent in the Tonquin Valley. Investigation of possible kill sites in the area found that the wolves had been successfully hunting caribou. The resulting high predation on the Tonquin caribou herd led once

again to a decline in caribou numbers, tempering earlier optimism.

The Maligne and Brazeau herds remain stable but all three southern Jasper herds have now reached critically low numbers. While further action is being considered to reduce the threats faced by caribou in Jasper National Park, it is

unlikely that these herds will persist without the augmentation of caribou numbers from an external source. Parks Canada continues to work with the Calgary Zoo and the province of British Columbia to determine the feasibility of implementing a captive breeding program.

Deer Study

Parks Canada is collaborating with the University of Calgary on new research into deer population dynamics in the park. The objective of the study is to determine if deer population dynamics are affecting caribou indirectly through predation by wolves or other carnivores. Researchers have collared and are now monitoring eighteen deer for the study.



Caribou near Mount Edith Cavell



Please Don't Feed the Bears!!

The large winter snowpack and cool spring delayed green-up at higher elevations. This forced bears (particularly grizzlies) into the valley bottoms, close to people and facilities, resulting in numerous bear-human conflicts. For example, an unprecedented number of grizzlies (9) spent May and June on the Jasper Park Lodge golf course.



The hot, sunny weather in July and August made for ideal growing conditions, which led to a bumper buffaloberry crop and many bear issues in Jasper's campgrounds. A major initiative is underway to remove buffaloberry bushes from Wapiti and Whistler's campgrounds.

Roadside bear jams and illegal feeding events seemed to occur more frequently and on a larger scale than in past years. Parks Canada is evaluating current protocols, in-park educational programs, and communications to see how we can more effectively communicate the messages not to approach or feed bears and cut down on bear habituation.

The winter was no less busy. A number of incidents in which dogs were approached, chased or killed by wolves led to a wolf warning for the entire Pyramid bench area. We believe that the pack of wolves that commonly uses the area between Decoigne and the Snaring river has become habituated to humans and has learned that off-leash dogs are easy prey. The main advice from Human-Wildlife Conflict Specialists is that you can reduce the chances of a wolf encounter and keep your pet safe by keeping your dog on a leash, and carrying pepper spray and a cell phone.

Vegetation and Fire Management

With record rainfall, it was another great year for plant growth, which helped with natural regeneration and native planting, but also gave a boost to existing weed infestations. The Parks Canada team tried some new strategies this year to recover native vegetation communities and limit the expansion of weeds.



A member of the restoration crew uses thermal treatment to eliminate weeds near the Jasper lumberyard.

1. Thermal treatment is an exciting and promising treatment strategy, especially in busy visitor and aquatic areas where we cannot use herbicides. Parks Canada is still evaluating its effectiveness in treating a variety of invasive species, but we expect to see more use of this technique in future, especially for species that cannot be controlled through manual or mechanical means.



2. Tree planting—Closed canopy coniferous forests often provide more resistance to invasion by weeds than do open areas, especially near sources of weed seeds like the townsite and highways. Through a municipal grant program, we were able to plant over 400 Douglas fir seedlings next to the Waste Transfer Station and in another location. The hope is that as the trees grow, they will become the cornerstone of a plant community that is more resistant to weed invasions.

Signal Mountain Wildlife Corridor Closure

In order to begin to restore key wildlife travel corridors in the Three Valley Confluence, take advantage of natural re-vegetation, and limit the spread of last season's abundant non-native invasive plants, the Signal Mountain shoulder was temporarily closed to human use. We are currently monitoring the closure; future closures are being planned for other priority wildlife corridors.

A host of organizations and volunteers helped the restoration crew with their work including:

- The Municipality of Jasper, through a contract to manage high priority invasive vegetation in and around the community.
- Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge staff
- Parks Canada Highways staff
- Junior Forest Rangers
- The Pyramid Stables horse riders association
- Voluntourists (visitors who spent part of their holiday volunteering for Parks Canada).

Fire Restoration Success!!

In 1999 and 2001, Parks Canada fire specialists burned over 200 hectares of land in and around the Jasper airfield to help restore historic grasslands. This summer, park staff and an Alberta botanist were excited to find that Plains Rough Fescue, a now uncommon bunch grass that has suffered great decline in the past century, had survived under the tree canopy and is making a recovery. Park biologists harvested seeds to be used for future grassland rehabilitation and, when conditions are right, fire managers plan to re-burn the 1999-2001 area.

Species-at-Risk: Whitebark Pine

The endangered whitebark pine has been added to Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*, which means that a recovery strategy for the species must be prepared by June 20, 2013. Environment Canada will lead the development of the recovery strategy; Parks Canada will play a collaborating role.



A Parks Canada biologist collects rough fescue seeds. The seeds will be used to propagate plants for future restoration.



Prescribed Fire – Preparation, Facilitation and Facility Protection

Parks Canada and the Upper Athabasca Valley Council of Elders have partnered for a facility protection / landscape restoration project in the Moberly Flats area. This summer, the park’s Initial Attack Crew thinned and removed vegetation near the historic Ewan Moberly homestead to help protect the buildings from wildfire and to prepare for a series of small, spring prescribed fires that will begin next year, if conditions allow. These fires will emulate the cultural burning that was carried out in the early 1900s.

Aquatics

In May, Parks Canada employees improved aquatic connectivity at Edna Lake (located along Highway 16 near Talbot Lake) by building a rock weir downstream the outlet culvert. The weir successfully raised water levels inside the culvert allowing fish and other aquatic creatures to move more easily through the culvert.

Law Enforcement

Although it seemed quieter in the campgrounds this year, wardens dealt with a spate of improperly stored firearms, investigated reported feedings of bears and wolves, and charged several people with entering closed areas at Edith Cavell. Wardens are also working on a speed enforcement strategy for the Icefields Parkway.

Following the theft of a trailer from the Parks Canada compound, wardens set up a Crimestoppers episode in conjunction with the RCMP. While in the park, the Crimestoppers crew filmed a series of shorts highlighting park regulations and do's and don'ts in the national parks, which were aired over several weeks on Global Television.

Fostering Open Management and Innovation

Research and Monitoring

Parks Canada has an active ecological integrity monitoring program in Jasper National Park. A number of monitoring programs were repeated this year, including invasive plant trail surveys on over 100 km of high visitor use trails, monitoring of amphibian breeding ponds, and breeding songbird surveys. We continued a partnership with the other mountain parks and university researchers to monitor wildlife using remote cameras.

Park ecologists also monitored aspen stand condition. Heavy browsing by elk limits aspen stand regeneration, which can affect other species that depend on aspen, such as songbirds and beavers. We measure the proportion of aspen stems that grow above the height where elk browse them; these are the trees that will form our future aspen stands.



Images of wildlife taken by remote cameras in Jasper National Park

Regional Planning

Parks Canada continues to participate in several regional initiatives, including the Foothills Research Institute, the Yellowhead Ecosystem Group, the Athabasca Watershed Council and a provincial initiative to develop a Rainbow Trout recovery plan.



Strengthening Aboriginal Relationships

An Area for Reconnection

“Support Aboriginal access to the park for spiritual and ceremonial purposes: Work with interested groups to identify a place or places in the park for ceremonies and cultural learning...”



Since this direction was established in the *Jasper National Park Management Plan*, Parks Canada has been working with members of the Jasper Aboriginal Forum and Upper Athabasca Valley Elders Council to establish an Aboriginal cultural use area. The cultural use area will provide a space for Aboriginal communities with documented historic use of Jasper National Park to carry out cultural activities—to gather, teach, convene, reconnect, celebrate, re-create, share and immerse in their cultures.

Since this direction was established in the *Jasper National Park Management Plan*, Parks Canada has been working with members of the Jasper Aboriginal Forum and Upper Athabasca Valley Elders Council to establish an Aboriginal cultural use area. The cultural use area will provide a space for Aboriginal communities with documented historic use of Jasper National Park to carry out cultural activities—to gather, teach, convene, reconnect, celebrate, re-create, share and immerse in their cultures.

Last winter, Aboriginal partners and Parks Canada identified a site that would meet the partners’ needs. It is close to where the Maligne River meets the Athabasca River, in an area known as the Old Fish Hatchery. The decision to establish this permanent cultural site was celebrated in August with a cultural blessing by elders and spiritual leaders from each community. This was followed by a traditional powwow, sweat lodges and feast with nearly 300 Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal participants—the sounds of drumming, singing and dancing filled the air. Further work is required to determine the future design and use guidelines for the site.

In addition to preparations for the cultural burn described on p. 11 and caribou consultations described on p. 10, we have worked in a number of ways with Aboriginal partners this year. For example:

- Work continues on the development of a local and regional Aboriginal commemorative exhibit or pavilion to be located in the community of Jasper.
- National Aboriginal Day celebrations featured the teachings, cultural demonstrations, interpretive displays and crafts of the Bighorn Chiniki First Nation.
- An agreement with Sucker Creek First Nation for Aboriginal passes for band members. This brings to four the number of Aboriginal groups using the pass, which grants them free access to the park to carry out ceremonies and reconnect.
- Parks Canada hosted a workshop with community and tourism partners interested in learning more about Aboriginal tourism products and programs.
- A University of Victoria student interviewed Elders in the Grande Cache area to gather their stories for a project that documents the history of the Métis of Upper Athabasca Valley.



Managing Growth and Development

The *Jasper Community Sustainability Plan* was tabled in Parliament in December 2011, completing the formal approval process by both the Municipality of Jasper and Parks Canada.

Community Development

Parks Canada, with the support of the Municipality of Jasper, was responsible for decisions related to land release for a number of projects in the community of Jasper:

- Caribou Creek Housing Corporation has completed the construction and landscaping of 19 affordable housing units. Construction of the next 45 units will begin this fall.
- The redevelopment of the Jasper library is nearing completion, protecting the character of the federal heritage building, while adding a complementary contemporary building that will meet a broad range of community social, cultural and municipal needs. Completion is scheduled for winter 2013.

- Construction of a new joint facility for Jasper Junior / Senior High School and École Desrochers will begin this fall. The target completion date for the project is August 2014.

Commercial Development & Growth

There was no new commercial development in the community in 2011. This was the fifth consecutive year in which the lottery process was not triggered. (The lottery process is only triggered when proposed combined development exceeds 1,700 m².) Consistent with direction in the *Jasper Community Sustainability Plan*, Parks Canada and the Municipality of Jasper are working together on a replacement process for the commercial lottery.

New development since 2001	3755 m ²
Maximum new commercial development (2001 <i>Jasper Community Land Use Plan</i>)	9290 m ²
Percentage of total new development utilised	40.4%



View from an upper window of the new wing of the Jasper library

Development Outside the Community

Minor projects were approved at several outlying commercial accommodations.

Marmot Basin Ski Area

Wildlife studies on mountain goats and caribou are continuing at Marmot Basin. The research will be used in the long term planning process set out in the *Marmot Basin Ski Area Site Guidelines for Development and Use* (2008).



Researchers from the University of Laval completed the second field season of a three-year mountain goat study. The study is collecting information about goat habitat, movement and use of the Marmot Basin area. Four goats were collared this summer, bringing the total number of collared goats to seven (two males and five females).

A caribou risk assessment using existing data began in December 2011. It is expected to take two years to complete and is being carried out by a post-doctoral fellow from the University of Alberta.



Opening day at Jasper's new Reuse-It Centre

Environmental Stewardship

Parks Canada and the Municipality of Jasper jointly fund the Jasper Environmental Stewardship Program. The program advances projects and public awareness strategies to improve environmental sustainability in the community of Jasper.

The program was instrumental in securing funding and a location for the Re-Use It Centre, which opened in May 2012. This second hand store houses furniture, household items and clothing donated by the community, that otherwise would have gone to the landfill.

Ninety-one Parks Canada and Municipality of Jasper employees participated in a very successful Stewardship Day, collecting more than 2,117 kg of garbage and recyclables this year.

Finances

The federal budget of 2012 confirmed that the Parks Canada Agency would be affected by a reduction in federal spending aimed at balancing the federal budget. While the majority of funding reductions will be gained through the consolidation and streamlining of Parks Canada's national office and four service centers, there will also be significant changes to the operations of individual national parks and national historic sites.

Parks Canada is adjusting the seasonality of its workforce at individual parks and sites to reflect changed work requirements in areas such as visitor services, resource conservation and asset management. Parks Canada will also focus investments on the periods of highest requirements. Key changes to how we operate in Jasper will include:

- The hours of operation during spring and fall periods will change for some facilities, such as the Jasper Information Centre, the Icefields Centre and some day use areas.
- Changes in wilderness trail standards, services and facilities will be implemented.
- Parks Canada will adjust staff presence in wilderness areas to match reduced use, and refocus natural resource protection and ecological monitoring in wilderness areas.



- Wilderness trail maintenance and visitor experience services will be refocused to iconic wilderness experiences, including: Tonquin Valley, Skyline Trail, Jonas-Nigel Loop and the Three Valley Confluence area.
- Science, monitoring, and reporting expectations will be focused on key indicators required for management decision making. Parks Canada will limit public opinion research to focus on corporate reporting needs; streamlined social science will monitor public appreciation and client satisfaction. For other social science needs we will make use of existing external market research carried out by partners and other organizations.
- Management plan reviews will change from every 5 years to 10 years.
- We have also initiated an asset infrastructure review to help prioritize maintenance, recapitalization and divestiture of assets.



Parks Canada will release a request for proposals in winter 2012-13 for the operation of Miette Hot Springs.

Moving to an alternative delivery model will allow Parks Canada to focus on delivering its core mandate to protect and present Canada's protected places. Parks Canada will initiate a request for proposals and a competitive tendering process during the winter of 2012-13. Parks Canada will ensure lease provisions reflect the location in a national park and do not compromise ecological integrity or cultural resources.

Third Party Delivery

Parks Canada will work towards third party delivery of campground cleaning services for Whistler, Wapiti and Wabasso Campgrounds by spring 2013. We will retain cleaning services for other outlying campgrounds and day-use areas.

Parks Canada will invite private sector proposals through a competitive process to take over operation of the Canadian Rockies Hot Springs, comprised of the Banff Upper Hot Springs (Banff National Park), Radium Hot Springs (Kootenay National Park) and Miette Hot Springs (Jasper National Park).

We hope you have found this year's Annual Report informative. For more information on anything you have read, please contact Amber Stewart, Land Use Planner for Jasper National Park, at (780) 852-6147 or amber.stewart@pc.gc.ca



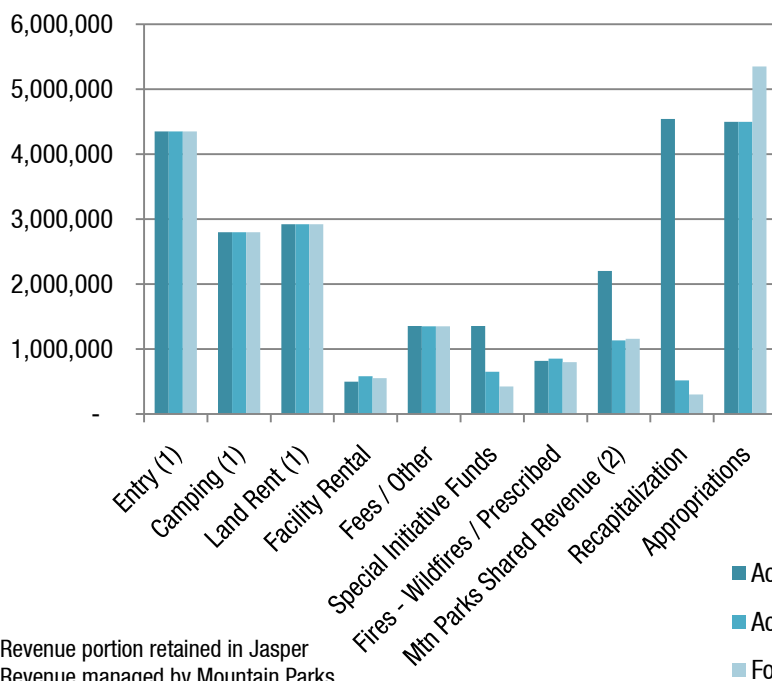
Summary of Financial Expenditures

Table 2. Alignment of Spending with Program Activity

Program Activity	2010/11 Actual (in 000s)	2011/12 Actual (in 000s)	2012/13 Forecast (in 000s)	Major Expenditures by Program Activity in 2011/12
Heritage Resources Conservation (PA2)	4,959.2	4,311.4	4,400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caribou conservation program • Fire restoration – prescribed burning • Lightning detection equipment
Promote Public Appreciation and Understanding (PA3)	1,760.0	1,921.6	2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Totem pole projects • Palisades Stewardship Education Program
Quality Visitor Experience (PA4)	13,557.3	8,912.1	9,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Icefields area redevelopment • Construction of municipal washrooms • Campground improvements
Townsite and Throughway Infrastructure (PA5)	3,386.2	3,363.9	3,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer Station operation • Realty and Municipal Services
Internal Services	5,519.7	3,528.4	3,600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT equipment (e.g. computers) • Parks Canada staff accommodations
Total	25,703.2	22,057.4	22,500*	

*Although Parks Canada has reduced spending, the budget for 2012/13 is forecast to be similar to previous budgets, primarily due to the costs associated with workforce adjustment. The budget for 2013/14 will more accurately reflect the new organizational structure and is expected to be smaller.

Funding Sources



- (1) Revenue portion retained in Jasper
 (2) Revenue managed by Mountain Parks and redistributed for specific projects

2011/12 Expenses

