

Jasper

National Park of Canada

Annual Report

2013





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Cover Photos from top left, clockwise:
Olivia Robinson, Nicole Gaboury, Ryan Bray, Ryan Bray



Photo: Ward Hughson

Stream survey for native Rainbow Trout

and New Canadians to their natural heritage through both the Palisades Centre and *Learn to Camp* programming; fostering a culture of stewardship with increased volunteer opportunities; providing new and enhanced visitor programs; and on-going collaboration with partners including new schools and housing in the community of Jasper, enhancing winter ski opportunities at Marmot Basin and exciting new visitor opportunities on the Icefields Parkway.

As in the past, partnerships and collaboration continue to be an important theme. Working together successfully is critical in supporting natural and cultural resource conservation, and in connecting Canadians in a meaningful way to the stewardship and enjoyment of national parks and historic sites.

I would like to thank all our staff and partners for their exemplary contributions to Jasper National Park over the past year. Together, we continue to accomplish great results!

Sincerely,
Greg Fenton
Superintendent
Jasper National Park

Superintendent’s Message

In the 2012 Annual Report, my messages focussed on achieving results in a time of significant challenge, from large scale natural disasters to reductions related to Budget 2012 decisions of government. This year, the Parks Canada team continued to work through the events of last year, resilient and adapting to outcomes of budget decisions and doing an incredible job restoring the Edith Cavell Day Use area and other sites, hit hard by Mother Nature.

In 2013 significant progress has also been made in advancing priorities set out in the park management plan, including: increasing winter recreation opportunities, building upon a strong foundation of caribou conservation; connecting communities and celebrating aboriginal culture with the establishment of a permanent cultural camp at the old Fish Hatchery; connecting youth



Reporting on Implementation

This *Annual Report* summarizes many important accomplishments from October 2012 to September 2013. It complements the annual public forum that provides interested Canadians with an opportunity to provide their feedback on progress and priorities in the implementation of the management plan and in delivering quality programs and services that are expected of us in the course of achieving results that support the Parks Canada mandate.

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

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



Photo: Ryan Bray

Campers enjoying one of the new Interpretive programs this summer: Songs and Stories, the Métis Way

Welcoming Visitors to Mountains of Opportunity

Attendance

Visitation and camping continued to grow in shoulder seasons. Due to flooding in the southern areas of the province, June saw the largest increase in visitation. During this period wilderness permits were up 20%, to over 16,670 enthusiasts. Some of the increase is attributed to flooding events in the Central Rockies. We hope

a taste of Jasper wilderness will bring any newcomers back time and time again, to discover more of Jasper. The Skyline and Maligne Lake trails remain the most sought after experiences in the Park.

Improving Facilities and Infrastructure Campgrounds and Day-Use Areas

Financial and human resources continue to be put towards campground management to ensure an enjoyable and safe camping experience. Efforts included the renewal of interpretive programs and campground activities, the BARE campground program, organized and consistent prevention patrols and vegetation management.

Other facility improvements included new washrooms, change rooms and a new orientation map at Lakes Edith and Annette; a

Visitor statistics by Calendar Year

	Visitor Numbers						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	% Change from 2011 to 2012	2013 (Jan. – July)	2013 projected
Attendance	1,858,584	1,924,283	1,940,606	1,991,482	2.6%	982,716*	2,031,311
Camping	137,396	128,906	129,509	129,749	0.15%	69,912	129,749

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



new washroom for Wabasso campground; a new playground for Wapiti campground; and the initiation of a sign plan with new directional signs at campgrounds, day-use areas and along roadways.

Wayfinding Signage and Orientation

A comprehensive sign plan will be completed by the end of the year, which will direct our work in updating directional signs in all campgrounds, day-use areas and secondary roads for more effective and consistent visitor orientation.

The trailhead kiosk project is now complete, with approximately fifty trailhead kiosks around the Park fitted with information panels.

Other completed signage projects include:

- Numbered parking lots in the Three Valley Confluence area
- Lac Beauvert interpretive panels (in partnership with Jasper Park Lodge)
- Spirit Island interpretive sign upgrades
- Maligne Overlook interpretive signs
- Numerous yellow diamonds and wayfinding signs on trails

Mount Edith Cavell

After early spring repairs to the parking area, access road and new viewing areas, the iconic day use area re-opened June 15, on schedule, as part of a larger Parks Canada project with temporary signage. Summer work included consultation with the trail guiding community and the completion of a new shorter loop trail that avoids the high risk areas around the tarn and lower trail. The completion of this new trail will provide more opportunities for interpretation.

Interpretative exhibits were updated to include the human and natural history of the area and the results of the glacier risk assessment. A roving Parks Canada interpreter was stationed at the tarn viewing area seven days/week all summer.

- Restoration signs on Parker Ridge
- Snaring Campground welcome sign
- Maligne Lake directional signs

Publications

Over the past year many of the Park’s publications were updated including *Living with Elk*, *Bare Campsite*, *Backcountry Camping*, *Winter Offer* and *Icefields Parkway*.



Photo: Jurgen Deagle
Deck replacement on the Old Fort Point bridges

Highways

During the fall of 2012 highway projects focused on concrete repairs and joint replacement on the Athabasca Bridge (Hwy 93N), as well as deck replacement on the Moberly Bridge (Maligne Lake Road). During the summer of 2013 the focus then turned to the replacement of decks on the three bridges to Old Fort Point, and on rock scaling along Hwy 16 west of Jasper.

Google Streetview

Google Streetview staff visited Jasper National Park and documented all secondary roads and a number of campgrounds and trails. Some of the areas covered included Whistler, Wapiti, Wabasso and Pocohontas campgrounds; the Valley of the Five Lakes, Maligne Canyon, Playground Path, Bighorn Alley, and Pyramid Island. The data will be available online next spring, if not earlier.



Trails

New Trails

Our three new trail crews were kept busy sweeping and opening trails and repairing flooded trails and damaged bridges on the Wabasso and Brazeau trails. Besides the routine maintenance of over one thousand kilometers of trail, implementation of the Three Valley Confluence (TVC) Trail Plan continued with the following accomplishments:

- The Woodpecker Trail was completed, connecting the Lake Annette day use area with Jasper Park Lodge. Fire interpretative signs line this new trail.



Photo: Nicole Gaboury

Bridge replacement on the Brazeau Trail

- Trail 2j (aka the Pony Express) is a multi use route that takes trail users through the Pyramid Bench area, accessing two stunning overlooks.
- HochiMini, Five to Five (Five Mile Bridge to Valley of the Five Lakes trailhead) and two routes through the commercial horse area were officially signed.

Wildlife Only Corridor Zones

Similar to the Signal wildlife corridor closure last year, the priority wildlife movement corridors of the Pyramid Lake and Maligne Valley entrance areas were also closed to all human use. The protection of these corridors fulfills Parks Canada's Trail commitment to the

Jasper TVC Plan and is helping to restore three critical wildlife movement areas by securing additional lower elevation montane habitat. Eliminating use within key wildlife corridors helps to ensure secure habitat and movement areas for wildlife; facilitated wildlife avoidance of areas frequented by trail enthusiasts and, in turn, helped to reduce encounters or conflicts between wildlife and people.

Jasper Trail Alliance (JTA)

The JTA, a subsidiary of the Friends of Jasper National Park, certified over thirty trail volunteers. This certification allowed volunteers to complete tasks including trail sightline clearing and the removal of small trees.

Fifth Bridge

Efforts to replace Fifth Bridge, which was damaged during the high waters of 2012, are ongoing. A temporary bridge will be provided once again while we complete bridge design and then construction in 2014.

Winter Trail Offer

The winter trail offer in Jasper provided over forty kilometers of groomed cross country ski trails, an updated winter brochure and a new self-serve information counter at the train station. Work has begun on the Decoigne cross-country ski area that will add another twenty kilometers of groomed trails, a small warming hut, parking, signage and other comfort facilities.

Visitor Programs and Services

Interpretative Programs

This year interpretive capacity continued to increase with the hiring of six students. Diverse talents, experience and good leadership blended with enthusiasm to create solid programs ranging from multi-media shows to dance, skits, campfire songs, and corporate programs for bus tour audiences.



“Dark Skies” programming was expanded to include two highly successful “sleep under the stars” events during the Perseid Meteor Shower at Whistlers campground in August.

Other programs at Whistlers campground featured seven evening shows weekly at Whistler Outdoor theatre ranging from formal presentations to theatrical performances involving audience participation. Several new programs were launched this year including *Facebook of the Forest* and *Metis Fiddle and Dance*.

The nightly experiential Xplorer programs for

families continued to ‘explode’ with interest and participation by children and their parents. Not surprisingly, *GPS Hunt* and *Adventure Video* were the most popular programs as they kept kids connected to their devices while on the wild side.

Programming expanded into the Town of Jasper with a new offer focussed on Metis culture. Enthusiastic visitors learned the fine art of tipi raising, beading and drumming.

Campfire Programs Ignite

Wilcox and Wabasso campground campfire programs continued to delight and engage

Through Ice and Time Film Launch

The award winning Stonehaven/Parks Canada production and Alar Kivlo film *Through Ice and Time*, takes the audience on a 15 minute journey featuring stunning landscape in the Columbia Icefield area. The film is inspirational, dramatic and, at times, tender. *Through Ice and Time* made its film debut at the Chaba theatre in late June 2013 and will be premiered daily when renovations are complete at the Icefield Centre. At press time, the film had already won ‘Best Photography’ in the ‘Man and Nature’ category at the Matsalu Film Festival and has been shortlisted as a finalist for the Banff Mountain Film Festival in November.

Renovations are currently underway for a new 100 seat theatre and exhibit gallery in the lower level of the Icefield Centre and a new information desk on the main level. The opening of the theatre and gallery will conclude a 5 year capital investment project of more than \$4 million, that realized improvements to parking, privy and day-use facilities; enhanced arrival, orientation and welcome features; and expanded interpretation and learning opportunities at the Icefield centre and in the greater Icefield area.





families. Traditional bannock on a stick and hot chocolate fed and warmed appetites while interpreters nurtured curious minds and built emotional connections through storytelling, dancing and sing-a-longs.

Roving, Point Duty and Wildlife Guardians

Professional park interpreters continued with roving, point duty and Wildlife Guardian programs. These programs used props and drew on the knowledge of staff to connect visitors with the natural and culture history of the Park and passed on important safety information as they enjoyed the sights and the abundant wildlife-watching opportunities.

Brewster Glacier Skywalk

Brewster’s second season of construction at the Mt. Kitchener/Sunwapta Canyon viewpoint is nearing completion. The Brewster Glacier Skywalk will welcome visitors starting in May 2014. Also starting in 2014, Brewster will provide five years of funding for: a Parks Canada Wildlife Guardian team dedicated to the Icefield Centre area; improvements to Tangle Falls and Stutfield Glacier viewpoints; and a bicycle service for the Icefields Centre area.

For more information, visit the Brewster Travel Canada website: www.brewster.ca

Bringing the Mountains to People Where They Live

Twitter, Facebook and YouTube continue to be used to help people get connected, learn what is happening in the Park, what staff are working on, to view images and videos, and to stay up to date with Jasper National Park and Parks Canada.

A new video play list was created for Jasper National Park and is available at: www.pc.gc.ca/jasper.

facebook.com/JasperNP

twitter.com/JasperNP

youtube.com/ParksCanadaAgency



Palisades Stewardship Education Centre

The Palisades continues to lead the country in connecting youth from across Canada with conservation ethics through experiential education. This year over one hundred groups, that is twenty five hundred youth, took part in multi-day programs!

In addition, the Palisades worked with two school boards: the Grande Yellowhead Public School Division to revise the nine credit course delivered through the Palisades Centre; and the Canadian Rockies School Board to assist in replicating the success of the Palisades Centre in the Bow Valley area.



Photo: James Bertram

Youth Ambassador at the 'Duke of Edinburgh's Award' 50th Anniversary Expedition

The Palisades Centre continued to expand its video conference programs to reach into urban areas by partnering with the Canadian Wildlife Federation. They also hosted the 'Duke of Edinburgh Award' 50th Anniversary Expedition,



which brought youth from every territory and province to explore Maligne Lake by kayak; the Tonquin Valley by horse pack; and to traverse the Saskatchewan glacier. This initiative empowered youth leaders through sharing their Jasper experiences with high-profile, inspiring Canadian guests.

The Centre also hosted groups from Norway, Finland, Hawaii and Japan; and, closer to home, it hosted several First Nations groups and events including the Aboriginal Forum; the Athabasca Valley Elders Council; and the Sucker Creek First Nation preparation meetings for the National Aboriginal Day festivities in Jasper.

Volunteer Program

This summer, the Park introduced two new volunteer programs: the *Park Stewards*, part time, occasional volunteers helping on projects ranging from resource conservation to special events; and the *Caribou Ambassadors*, volunteers who acted as trailhead and hiking trail hosts in key Caribou habitat areas, such as Mount Edith Cavell, Maligne Lake and the summit of The Whistlers.



Photo: Kevin Gedling

Caribou Ambassadors were located at popular trailheads and the top of the Jasper Tramway

These programs, along with those administered by the Friends of Jasper National Park, provided the opportunity for volunteers from around the world to assist in the delivery of a variety of

programs including restoration projects; bird banding; trail work; Learn to Camp programs and many different community events.

To help facilitate park volunteer experiences new community relationships were forged with: *JasperLIFE*, to assist in the recruitment and advertising of volunteer opportunities; *Hostelling International*, who traded free nights for volunteers in HI hostels for campfire talks; and the *Jasper Tramway*, who provided free tramway use for Caribou Ambassadors to the top of The Whistlers.

Celebrating History, Culture and the World Heritage Site

Because of Grande Cache's strong historical connection with Jasper, this year the Grande Cache Historical Society decided to have their second semi annual field trip in Jasper National Park. One outing in the fall of 2012 travelled up the Maligne Valley; and the other outing this spring explored Devona and Jasper House NHS.

Jasper National Park has a number of designated federal heritage buildings, buildings that have been deemed to be of heritage significance. Over the past year the following heritage buildings have received attention to maintain their character:

Twin Tree Warden Cabin- in September the Mountain Parks Heritage Carpenter crew accompanied by one of the Park's carpenters stabilized the foundation at the Warden Cabin and did a complete rebuild of the floor system.

Palisades National Training Centre (the Lodge and the Research House) - in October of 2012 the Heritage Carpenters replaced rotted logs at or near the foundation level of these two buildings.



Jasper Fire Hall- in partnership with the Municipality of Jasper, the cedar shake roof will be replaced, with more exterior work planned in 2014.

A final cultural note, Parks Canada has been maintaining the trail to the Athabasca Pass National Historic Site by clearing over three hundred trees a year.

Ensuring Healthy Ecosystems

Rainbow Trout Revival

Once thought to be native only to the west side of the mountain cordillera, rainbow trout are now recognised to be native to the upper

Caribou Conservation Update

In July 2013, Parks Canada announced the implementation of new caribou conservation actions concurrent with enhanced winter recreational opportunities in Jasper National Park.

Starting in winter 2013-2014, recreational access will be delayed until February 28th in the À La Pêche (northern Jasper) and Brazeau caribou ranges (southern Jasper) in the Park, and until February 15th in the Tonquin caribou range. The goal is to reduce the threat of facilitated predator access, one of five key threats to caribou identified in the *Conservation Strategy for Southern Mountain Caribou in Canada's National Parks*.

Parks Canada has also committed to new and expanded winter recreation activities in two areas: Decoigne (Highway 16 West of Jasper) and Pyramid Lake. Opportunities to enhance winter recreation in these areas will include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, winter walking and increased access to new subalpine and alpine ski touring terrain that is not in important caribou habitat.

Parks Canada engaged backcountry users in two workshops held in Edmonton and Jasper, to inventory winter recreational use in the Park and identify potential areas for enhanced winter recreational opportunities. Input from these workshops and the subsequent public review period was used to adjust the original delayed access proposals and to identify new recreational opportunities.

Parks Canada also met with a group of stakeholders in a collaborative working session to review the



Photo: Mark Bradley

recommended options for both caribou conservation and enhanced winter recreational opportunities. The final decision for implementation combined with the review of potential alternate areas represents a balance between caribou conservation gains and maintaining a variety of quality winter visitor experience opportunities.



Athabasca drainage, including portions of the Park. However, as a result of historical widespread fish stocking, native rainbow trout stocks became genetically mingled with non-native hatchery fish. Currently, only one genetically pure native rainbow trout population is known to exist within the Park.

During the spring and summer aquatics crews concentrated on researching this remaining native population. Work focussed on gathering population data and identifying risks to the fish and their habitat, including restoring a degraded stream bank. The Park is also working cooperatively with the province of Alberta on a regional native Rainbow Trout Recovery Strategy.

Other aquatic activities included ongoing water quality monitoring and the identification and restoration of stream crossing structures that impede the natural movement of fish.

Fire and Vegetation Management

This spring, the Park's Initial Attack Crew conducted a prescribed burn to promote the cultural and ecological integrity of the historic Ewan Moberly homestead. The Crew finished burning the brush piled from last year's forest thinning which re-opened the meadow traditionally associated with the homestead. This cultural burn is part of a five year cultural exchange opportunity for indigenous youth, Elders and Parks Canada.

Both in the spring and in September, Jasper's fire team carried out prescribed fires on one hundred and thirty hectares of the Vine Creek prescribed fire unit. Fire specialists restored the important role of fire and its benefits to the area, helped cap off the west side of the Athabasca Valley and contributed to the Park's Mountain Pine Beetle Control Strategy.



Photo: Ryan Bray

Prescribed burn at Vine Creek this Fall

Sharing Resources

The Park's fire management team assisted the National Fire Management Program by lending their expertise to other national parks during the floods in Banff National Park; during prescribed fires in Waterton Lakes and Banff National Parks; and with wildfires at Grasslands, Wood Buffalo, Prince Albert and Mount Revelstoke/Glacier National Parks.

Fire Education

This year, Jasper's fire management team contributed to the public's understanding of fire management program objectives by offering a new educational GPS game: *Fiery Geocache Adventure*, a multi-cache with short games and activities in each cache that reveal the world of fire and regeneration. As mentioned earlier the recently completed Woodpecker Trail has educational fire and forest related interpretive signage.



Forest Insects and Disease

Jasper's Fire and Vegetation Specialist, in conjunction with the Canadian Forest Service, carried out the annual forest insect and disease survey. While the number of Mountain Pine Beetle attacked trees has increased from last year, these numbers remain very low compared to Banff, Yoho and Kootenay National Parks.

Vegetation Restoration

Over the past year priority weed species increased their distribution for all species measured. At least three remote wilderness areas developed new small infestations of Oxeye daisy.

Despite staffing challenges, 2013 had many successes in large part due to partnerships with the Municipality of Jasper and several park lease holders who enabled students to work on park restoration projects. Restoration projects included:

- Aboriginal cultural camp unofficial trail reclamation.
- Jasper Park airstrip day use area installation of parking barriers to protect sensitive vegetation.
- Atco Electric Mile 9 construction site grassland re-establishment.
- Fisherman's Bay (Maligne Lake) campsite reconfiguration to restore grizzly and deer migration routes.
- Patricia Lake Aspen Stand reclamation of three trails and the removal of an old culvert.
- Assistance to the Pyramid Lake Monitoring of Avian Productivity (MAP) project with the creation of travel bridges over areas prone to vegetation damage.
- Wabasso Lake Trail berm and horse bridge building to restore water flow to the stream.
- In partnership with the Municipality of Jasper stabilizing the water reservoir slopes with berms and native vegetation matting.

Species-at-Risk

In addition to Eastern Mountain Caribou, the species at risk program over the past year focused on: the Whitebark Pine and bat conservation. Highlights from each of these initiatives include:

Whitebark Pine

- Collected whitebark pine seeds for vegetation restoration and the growing of whitebark pine.
- Contributed to the Environment Canada led recovery planning for whitebark pine.
- Co-published results of mountain park-wide whitebark pine monitoring from the past ten years in the Canadian Journal of Forest Research.
- Collaborated with researchers studying the regeneration of whitebark pine.

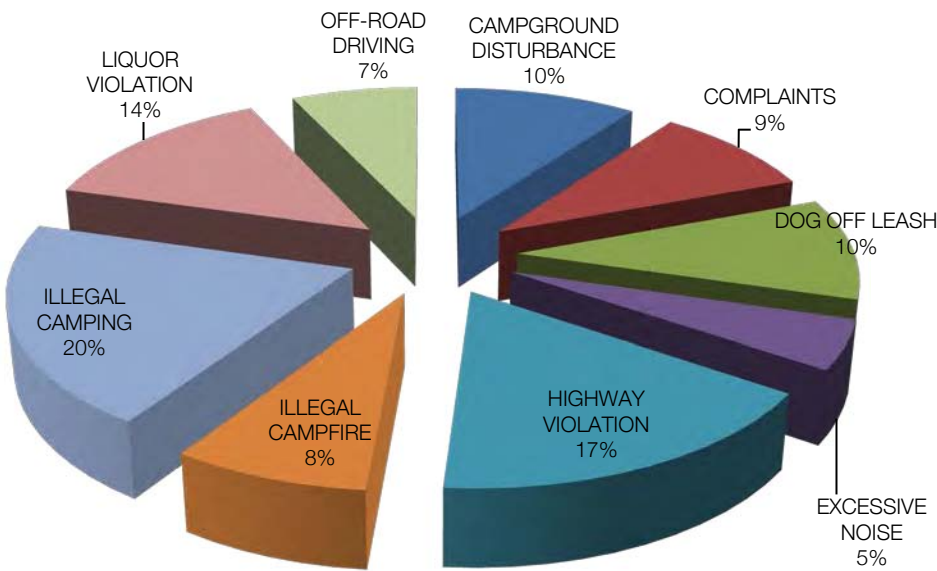
Bats: Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis

- Installed Bat Roost Loggers to identify new bat hibernacula in the Park. This was part of a pre-White-Nosed Syndrome habitat evaluation.

Law Enforcement

In Jasper National Park there were six hundred and forty six law enforcement incidences from October 2012 to September 2013. The busiest months for incidents were the summer months. Law Enforcement events with over twenty incidents during this time period accounted for 64% of the law enforcement incidents and totaled four hundred and thirteen occurrences. These events break down into nine categories with the most frequent of these events being illegal camping, highway violations, liquor violations, dogs off leash and campground disturbances.

The warden service now has a full complement of six park wardens.



Categories of Law Enforcement events with over 20 incidences *N* = 413

Ecological Integrity Monitoring

A number of monitoring programs were repeated from previous years including: breeding songbird surveys, aspen stand health, whitebark pine response to fire, and glacier monitoring (in collaboration with the Canadian Geological Survey).

Wildlife

In addition, Parks Canada continued a partnership with the other mountain national parks and university researchers to monitor wildlife using remote cameras. Remote camera monitoring sites have been distributed across the Park. As part of monitoring trips staff service all cameras, inventory trails for invasive plants, repair and maintain patrol cabins and crossing structures, clear and maintain the trail, visit campsites, and speak with park visitors.

Bird Populations

The Pyramid Lake Bird Banding Station is part of a monitoring program Parks Canada completes in cooperation with the Friends of

Jasper National Park. This Banding Station joins five hundred other locations across the continent. Over six dates, more than forty local volunteers assisted staff at the station. Data collected helps to understand trends in species survival and birth rates.

Park Construction

To minimize the environmental effects of approved projects, monitoring and surveillance was conducted on construction projects in the Park. This included pre-job orientations, on site surveillance and post work follow-up. This year there

were four formal inspection notices issued for: inappropriate storage of waste, storage of materials outside approved workspace, blockage of a key wildlife corridor, and dumping of waste concrete off-site.

Brewster Glacier Skywalk construction was monitored through weekly on-site meetings and on-going liaison. Other significant projects included a new power line to the Astoria Power plant, the Caribou Creek Housing Development, removal of an abandoned pipeline along Jasper Lake, campground upgrades, and a new operations building at Marmot Basin.



Photo: Jurgen Deagle

Site monitoring of the Brewster Glacier Skywalk



Fostering Open Management and Innovation

Wastewater

Ongoing monitoring of wastewater treatment facilities in the Park included the occasional sampling of effluent from third party sewage treatment facilities for Columbia Icefield Discovery Centre, Sunwapta Falls, and Marmot Basin. It also included a review of in-house and municipal sewage reporting. There was also an ongoing investigation related to the release of a large amount of untreated sewage from one site during the summer of 2012.

Contaminated Site Management

Park staff worked with partners including CN, ATCO Electric and Kinder Morgan to manage impacts from their contaminated sites.

Contaminated sites inside the Park were managed through assessment and remediation. Over the past year one site was assessed and will be closed this year. There has also been continued long-term monitoring at several other contaminated sites such as at the Transfer Station, the Trade Waste Pit, and at Tangle Creek Camp.

Spill Response

It has been a relatively quiet year with around thirty reported spills. The largest spills involved semi trucks that lost portions of their fuel, one entering a wetland near Talbot Lake and requiring intensive management by the insurance company's clean-up crew.

In addition, spill response training was provided to staff; and staff participated in spill response preparedness and emergency response exercises with CN, Kinder Morgan, and the Municipality of Jasper.

Community Collaboration

As part of renewing visitor opportunities, Parks Canada, Tourism Jasper and Travel Alberta collaborated to fund a two hour tourism workshop open to all private, non-profit and public sectors within the community and Park. As follow-up, a group representing Jasper public, private and non-profit sectors will attend a three and a half day “Edge of the Wedge Experiential Tourism” workshop this fall.

Parks Canada has also been working with the Municipality of Jasper, Tourism Jasper, the Jasper Chamber of Commerce, Marmot Basin and Hotel Association within the newly created Jasper Partnership Initiative to ensure ongoing social, economic and environmental sustainability.

The “Friends of Jasper National Park” celebrated their 30th anniversary year of fostering learning, experiences and stewardship of the Park. They also renewed their agreement with Parks Canada for another ten years to maintain a gift shop at the Information Centre, with the proceeds supporting the stewardship of the Park.

The “Jasper Yellowhead Museum” also renewed its agreement with Parks Canada for another year to safeguard Parks Canada’s cultural resource collections and collaborated on a number of programs and displays.

Parks Canada began holding “Wild Jasper speaker’s presentations” with the Interpretive Guides Association at the Jasper Legion to engage interested people in discussions around wildlife management issues.

With collaboration from various partners in the community and from Edmonton and Hinton,



Parks Canada hosted forty-five new Canadians and eight international volunteers at the third annual “Learn to Camp” event. Brewster Travel Canada supported the activity by providing a coach and Ice Explorer tours, MEC provided equipment, Catholic Social Services



Photo: Kevin Gedling

recruited the new Canadians, Scouts Canada provided programming and the Friends of Jasper coordinated a group breakfast.

Learn to Camp participants were asked "Did you have a good time?" seconds before this parting image

Parks Canada collaborated with the Municipality of Jasper to provide vegetation restoration and education within the municipality. This partnership was instrumental in battling the spread of non-native plants from resident’s gardens, industrial areas, and the busy road and rail areas within the town site. Three hundred and fifty Douglas fir saplings were planted along Connaught Drive to provide a future plant community more resistant to weed invasion.

Maligne Valley Implementation Strategy

Parks Canada is preparing an Implementation Strategy for the Maligne Valley, which will guide Parks Canada’s implementation efforts in the valley over the next five to eight years. The 2010 *Jasper National Park Management Plan* outlines broad direction for enhancing visitor experience and achieving conservation goals in the valley; the Implementation Strategy will identify specific actions required to achieve those objectives. This fall, Parks Canada will launch a public engagement process for the

Maligne Valley. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months.

Strengthening Aboriginal Relationships

National Aboriginal Day

This year’s celebration was reported to be the biggest and best ever with over 2,000 people attending the colorful cultural and educational event. A feature presentation by Sucker Creek First Nation included a spectacular Chief’s headdress and naming ceremony.

Aboriginal Passes

A Memorandum on Access Agreement was signed between Parks Canada and Nakcowinewak Nation of Canada. The agreement provides band members with Jasper National Park Aboriginal Passes. This increases the number of Aboriginal groups using the pass to five. The Aboriginal Pass grants complimentary access to the Park and enables



pass holders to designate individual band members to collect plants and medicines for ceremonial and traditional purposes.

opportunities to be informed and involved throughout the planning phase of the Brewsters' Glacier Skywalk project.

Changing Relationships

Work is being done to compile Elders stories for “Changing Relationships”, a project documenting the history of the people of the Upper Athabasca Valley.

Ribbon trees

Once relatively uncommon in the Park, Ribbon Trees are being seen more frequently in recent years. They are important symbols of the long-term and evolving relationship that Aboriginal people have with the landscape now celebrated as Jasper National Park.

Aboriginal Consultations

Parks Canada and Brewster Canada worked with nine Aboriginal communities to facilitate



Nanabusho Interpretive sign at Maligne Overlook

Indigenous Interpretive signage

Parks Canada has asked Indigenous people whose ancestors once lived in the area of the Park to share their deep understanding of nature and spirit of place with the intent of creating new interpretive signage. An example of this is

A Special Place for Reconnection

Over the past year Provisional Use Guidelines for the Jasper Aboriginal Cultural Area were developed by Parks Canada and the membership of the Jasper Aboriginal Forum. Phase One of the cultural area is in place with basic facilities such as a water cistern, panabode toilet, information kiosk, firewood enclosure and garbage and recycling infrastructure. The cultural site at the old Fish Hatching Site saw its first formal use for National Aboriginal Day.



Photo: Greg Deagle

"I'd like to thank the Parks people for letting me back on my land. I think we can all work together. We can build something good here."

Henry Alexis, councilor for the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, The Fitzhugh, Aug. 23, 2012



at Maligne Overlook where new interpretive signage includes a panel that identifies a symbol and place name of significant cultural importance to the Foothills Ojibway people.

Managing Growth and Development

The Municipality of Jasper and Parks Canada, through the Jasper Community Housing Association, held a series of open houses regarding affordable housing in the community. Residents who attended expressed a desire to have smaller self contained units for rent and purchase; and businesses stated they would like to own apartment and townhouse style housing to rent to their staff rather than relying on others to provide the housing. Plans are in the works to densify two underutilised pieces of land to provide up to seventy additional housing units in the next few years.

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 almost completed construction of forty five units of residential housing. This coupled with the nineteen units completed last fall and the seventy units mentioned above should satisfy some of the short and medium term housing shortage.
- The redevelopment of the Jasper library, originally scheduled to be completed by January 2013, saw some delays but is expected to be complete by January 2014.
- Construction of a new joint facility for Jasper Junior / Senior High School and École Desrochers is well underway. The target completion date for the project is August 2014.



Ongoing development of the Caribou Creek condos will provide 45 new housing units in Jasper

Commercial Development and Growth

There was no new commercial development in the community in 2012. This was the sixth consecutive year in which the lottery process was not triggered. 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. The table below summarizes the status of new commercial development in the Municipality of Jasper since 2001.

Summary of Commercial Development in the Municipality of Jasper

Commercial Floor Area Cap 2001	9290	100%
Developed Commercial Floor Area (CFA)	4387.55	47%
CFA Not Developed but Allocated	2020.64	22%
C1/C2/C3/C4 CFA available for Allocation	2529.21	27%
S Block CFA available for Allocation	371.8	4%



Development Outside the Community Marmot Basin Ski Area

In spring 2013, Marmot Basin Ski Area announced the anticipated release of its Long-Range Plan for public review in fall 2013. The Long-Range Plan will have four components:

- Expanded snowmaking in the mid-mountain area, including the construction of a mid-mountain reservoir and burying existing snowmaking lines on the lower slopes
- Expanded parking areas and transportation access
- Upgrades to the Caribou Chalet
- Glading on three mid-mountain slopes

All of these proposed projects would occur within Marmot Basin’s developed area. A Detailed Impact Analysis (a type of environmental impact analysis report) will accompany their Long-Range Plan. Marmot Basin and Parks Canada are still working to finalize the draft Long-Range Plan, but it should be available for public review later this winter.

A graduate researcher from the Université de Laval completed his third and final field season studying mountain goats in the Marmot Basin area this summer. The results of this research will be made available to Parks Canada and Marmot Basin in winter 2014. A caribou risk assessment led by a University of Alberta researcher is also nearing completion. Both wildlife studies are expected to inform Marmot Basin’s second Long-Range Plan in 2016.

Maligne Tours

Maligne Tours announced its intent in July 2013 to redevelop its operations at Maligne Lake. Parks Canada is willing to consider a proposal from Maligne Lake Tours in principle, on the basis of its potential contribution to enhancing visitors’ experiences and connections with the iconic Maligne Lake landscape, and to improve

communication and interpretation about the Maligne Valley.

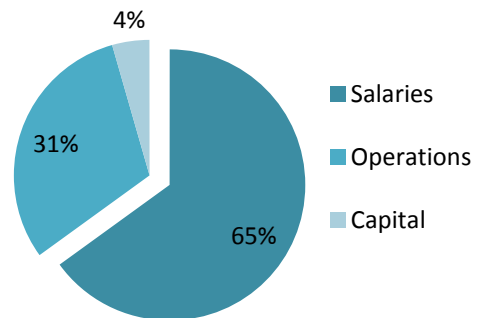
Parks Canada has asked Maligne Tours for a detailed concept proposal that will be released for review by the public and Aboriginal groups, later this fall. Parks Canada will consider all feedback received before making a decision about whether or not the proposal or project elements can proceed to the development review process, at which time a more detailed proposal and environmental assessment would be required.

For more information, please contact:
maligne@malignelake.com

Finances

This past year the Jasper Field Unit, which comprises Jasper National Park and Fort St. James National Historic Site in British Columbia, operated on a budget of just over twenty million dollars. Sixty five percent of these dollars went towards staff salaries. This was up by two percent over the total budget available the previous year (2011/12). Operations were the next largest allocation of resources (31%) and capital projects represented four percent of the budget.

2012/13 Expenses





Third Party Delivery

A competitive process for third party delivery of cleaning services in Whistlers and Wapiti campgrounds has begun with the potential of a contract being awarded in 2014, in time for campground operations in the spring.

Parks Canada also intends to invite private sector proposals through a competitive process for the operations of the Canadian Rockies Hot Springs that include Miette Hotsprings. The request for proposals process has been delayed as discussions continue with several First Nations communities.

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 ensure lease provisions reflect the locations of third party delivery in the Park and do not compromise ecological integrity or cultural resources.

The two main sources of funds for the Park were appropriations (tax dollars) and Personal User Fees (entry fees). Land rent and camping were the next greatest sources of funds for the Park. These are expected to remain stable sources of funding in the upcoming year.

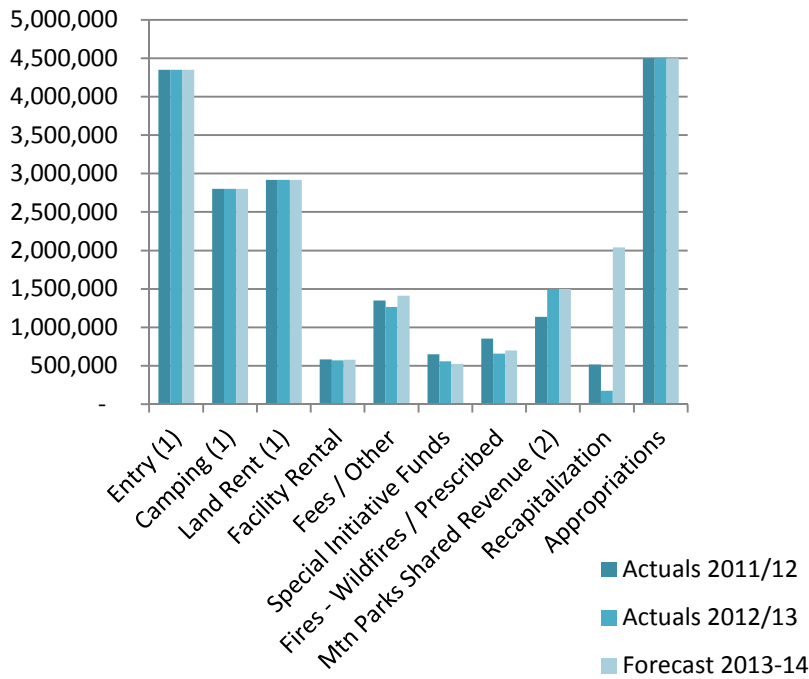
Summary of Financial Expenditures

Alignment of Spending with Program Activity

Program Activity	2011/12 Actual (in 000s)	2012/13 Actual (in 000s)	2013/14 Forecast (in 000s)	Major Expenditures by Program Activity in 2012/13
Heritage Resource Conservation (PA2)	4,311.4	3,970.3	4,000.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caribou conservation Federal Heritage Buildings Cavell Slide and Recovery
Promote Public Appreciation and Understanding (PA3)	1,921.6	1,625.2	2,100.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palisades Stewardship Education program Aboriginal relationships
Quality Visitor Experience (PA4)	8,912.1	7,917.0	9,000.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Through Ice and Time</i> movie production Day Use Area redevelopment
Townsite and Throughway Infrastructure (PA5)	3,363.9	3,585.8	4,164.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garbage Trailer Highway #16 West Rock scaling
Internal Services	3,528.4	3,585.8	3,350.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks Canada staff accommodations Compound security
Total	22,057.4	20,684.1	22,614.0	



Funding Sources



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

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