

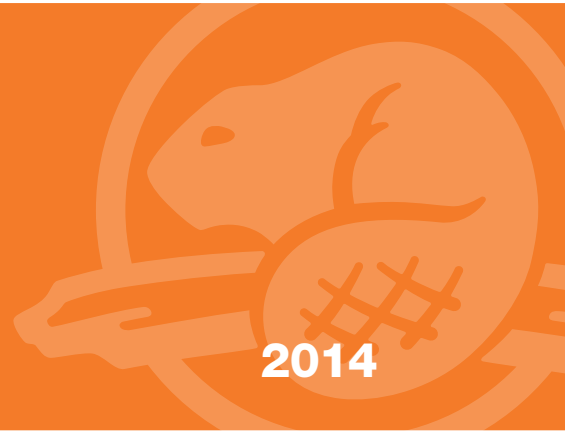


Jasper

National Park of Canada

Annual Report

2014



Également offert en français



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Superintendent’s Message

I am pleased to bring you the highlights of the work that Parks Canada and our partners have accomplished over the past year in implementing the Parks Canada mandate in Jasper National Park.

As always, maintaining and restoring healthy ecosystems remains our first priority and has included investments in ecosystem conservation focused on caribou conservation, wildlife-human conflict, fire management, mountain pine beetle monitoring, recovery planning for species-at-risk like whitebark pine and monitoring population numbers for grizzly bears.

To increase awareness of Parks Canada’s caribou conservation and species-at-risk program, Parks Canada collaborated with the Calgary Zoo and Vancouver Science Centre this summer, where students helped raise awareness of Jasper National Park as both - a protected caribou habitat and a spectacular tourism destination.

We have facilitated amazing visitor experiences by providing new and improved campground facilities, upgrading the existing facilities and continued trail work. New events have included: the launching of the Red Chair Program, Road to 2017, opening of the Brewster’s Glacier Skywalk, development of a new family wilderness campground at Maligne Lake, the new winter offer at Decoigne and new OTENTiks (cottage tents) at Whistlers Campground.

We have also focused on strengthening our relationships with the many Aboriginal communities who have historic connections to the Park. Over the past year we hosted a “Friendship and Forgiveness” gathering; had a very successful National Aboriginal Day; and saw the increased use of the Jasper Aboriginal Cultural Area for ceremonies and other traditional practices in the Park.

Moving into 2015, Parks Canada will remain steadfast in achieving meaningful and concrete results for all areas of our mandate - protection, providing learning opportunities, and for delivering world class visitor experiences that inspire and reward visitors and staff alike.

Thank you to all our partners and staff for their contributions to making this past year the success that it is.

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



Reporting On Implementation

This *Annual Report* summarizes many important accomplishments from October 2013 to September 2014. 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 and the goals of Canada's National Conservation Plan.

Annual Reports from previous years can be found on-line at:
<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/ab/jasper/plan.aspx>

Welcoming Visitors to Mountains of Opportunity

Attendance

Park attendance has increased for the 5th year in a row. This trend started in April with strong skiing combined with the increased use that comes with the Easter weekend. This resulted in a boost in visitation of almost 18% over last April; the month of May rose 2% over last year; and June and July were up by 9 and 7%, respectively. August numbers are strong with the busiest August long-weekend in memory. Attendance figures to the end of July indicated

Visitation

	2010	2011	2012	2013	% Change 2012 to 2013	2014 (Jan-July)	2014 projected
Attendance	1,924,283	1,940,606	1,991,482	2,022,878	1.58%	1,045,342	2,151,791
Camping	128,906	129,509	129,749	136,481	5.19%	76,161	149,784

that park visitation to date is up 6% from last year. If that trend continues into the fall, we are forecasting 2,150,000 visitors for 2014. Table 1 provides numbers for overall park visitation and campground use.

This increase in visitation is likely a combination of reasons: strong marketing campaigns by Tourism Jasper, Marmot Basin, Brewster Travel Canada, Travel Alberta and Parks Canada are paying off; people are rediscovering Jasper as a result of 2013 flood events in Calgary/Banff/Canmore redirecting traditional visitors of these areas to Jasper; there has been an increase in commercial travel, including train and coach; and we have had great weather this past summer.

Improving Facilities and Infrastructure

Over the past four years, Jasper National Park has been working on renewing and enhancing four main Signature Offers. The following are some highlights from this year:

1. Scenic Journeys

To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for our visitors, efforts for better facilities and the upgrading of our present offers are ongoing. This year, we focused our efforts on the Edith Cavell easy trail, picnic, interpretation and safety improvements; continued installation of more river and mountain pointer signs; continued implementation of the Icefield Parkway Action Plan; expansion of the Wildlife Guardian program; development and implementation of the Jasper National Park Red Chair program; recapitalization of park roads and highways; major improvements at the



Share the Chair



As part of this innovative project, Jasper National Park, Elk Island National Park and the Art Gallery of Alberta (AGA) worked together to promote a contest to simultaneously launch the Parks Canada red chair program and the Art Gallery of Alberta's 90th Anniversary with a 1924 Rockies art exhibit featuring photos and paintings by Byron Harmon, AY Jackson and Lauren Harris. The "ShareTheChair" contest featured a red chair in front of a Jasper area backdrop for visitors to "picture themselves" in Jasper. The AGA visitors took photos in the chair and submitted their entries using a specified

website, twitter and facebook. Contest prizes included weekly draws for Parks Canada Discovery Passes and a grand prize of a trip for 2 to participate in the Jasper National Park Dark Sky Festival - thanks to Tourism Jasper and the Sawridge Inn supporting the contest. The contest and the red chair program were a huge success and the Park plans on growing the number of red chairs in the Park over the next 2 years.

Maligne Canyon overlook; and a facelift of Stutfield and Tangle falls viewpoints with the help of Brewster Travel Canada.

2. Great Canadian Camping

Improvements to our existing infrastructure include renovation of seven washroom buildings and installation of 7 new OTENTiks at Whistlers Campground. This year, we expanded the Young Xplorer programs to teens and introduced Yoga in Whistlers campground.

3. Mountain Adventure for All

We continue the Three Valley Confluence Trail Plan implementation, completed the Hidden Cove Family canoe camp and upgraded bathrooms and change rooms and painted tables at Lake Edith and Annette.

4. Rocky Mountain Winter

Over the past winter the new Decoigne Cross-country ski trails were operational as were the easy snowshoe trails at Pyramid Lake. Parks

Canada continues to work to provide new on-site cross country ski signage and a winter trails brochure; flat pack several winter walking routes. For this winter, we are working with the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge to develop snowshoe trails bordering their lease, hosting winter outdoor concerts and a winter triathlon.

This past winter Parks Canada's Visitor Experience staff hosted a successful Winter Adventure Awareness Night with JasperLIFE and the Canadian Avalanche Association, combining winter safety and visitor experience information in one exciting evening during "Jasper in January" activities.

Signage and Orientation

To ensure that visitors know and understand the vast menu of opportunities available to them and to easily orient themselves to the Park offer, we have been investing steadily in welcome, arrival, way finding and on-site signage and activity brochures. This year, Parks



Canada refreshed all activity brochures, installed orientation signs at Lake Annette and Maligne Lake, and is progressing on directional signs for major day-use areas. In addition, most campground site signs have been purchased and are being installed as time permits.

In addition, an interpretive panel was installed at the Meeting of the Waters to help our visitors connect with the history of the Athabasca Pass National Historic Site.

Old Jasper Fire Hall

This past spring Parks Canada resumed custodial responsibilities for the protection and use of the old Fire Hall, a federal heritage building. The space was used for interpretive and cultural programming over the summer and connected with more than 30,000 visitors in town. These are visitors that Parks Canada would have likely missed contacting without the Fire Hall programs.



Road Improvements

During the Parks Canada invested over \$10 million of one-time capital funding on much-needed paving on Highway 16, rock scaling along Highway 16 and 93 and bridge repair at 12 Mile and Miette Bridges. Looking ahead, there will be more paving on Highway 16 and bridge work at Cavell for the spring of 2015.

Sense of Place Connections: New activities, programs and products

In 2014, construction on the Icefield Centre Glacier Gallery began and is scheduled to open in May 2015.

Road to 2017

To support Government of Canada goals, Parks Canada nationally launched a new program commemorating our Canadian heritage events and programs. Locally, *Remembering WWI* was a Saturday morning guided walk and talk about Jasper's contribution to WWI, including the naming of the Victoria Cross Range of mountains and the war heroes the mountains are named after. We also commemorated the Information Centre National Historic Site centennial with an updated PowerPoint presentation, a new interpretation panel and weekly guest appearance by Colonel Rogers himself to chat with visitors.

Aboriginal Connection programs

A new pilot "Aboriginal Crafts and Cultural Teachings" program allowed people of all ages to create their own authentic souvenir and learn about Aboriginal traditions and culture.

Promoting Signature Offers

Over the past year, Parks Canada worked with media partners such as Breakfast TV, Canada Plus Grande Que Nature, CTV Ottawa AM, Globe and Mail to increase national media coverage of Jasper National Park. Parks Canada is also working with tourism partners, like Tourism Jasper, Travel Alberta, the Canadian Tourism Commission and partnering on promotional filming projects that are reaching National and International destinations.

In addition the Park continues to organize and enhance the Jasper National Park digital image collection with professional, quality photographs and promotional videos.



Awards

In 2014 Parks Canada succeeded in winning two awards from TripAdvisor including an award of excellence for the Jasper Park Information Centre and for a second year an award for Whistlers Campground.

In September 2014, Parks Canada's short film *Through Ice and Time* won the Best Alberta Short Film - Documentary award in the Edmonton International Film Festival. This is the third international award for *Through Ice and Time*, which also won "Best Canadian Film" at the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival, "Best Photography" at the Matsalu International Wildlife Film Festival, and was an official selection of the Banff Mountain Film Festival, The New Zealand Mountain Film Festival, the Columbia Gorge International Film Festival, and the Jasper Short Film Festival.

Working with Partners

Brewster Glacier Skywalk

Brewster Travel Canada completed construction of the Glacier Skywalk in fall 2013 and the new attraction opened to visitors in May 2014. The first summer of operation has been busy, with an estimated 160,000 visitors to the Skywalk in the months of May, June and July.

As a result of the environmental and decision-making process, Brewster has been required to implement a suite of measures to reduce the impact of the project on wildlife and park visitors. Brewster is funding a multi-year program of goat monitoring at the site and a new team of Wildlife Guardians dedicated to the Icefields Parkway area, and has carried out improvements at the nearby Stutfield Glacier Viewpoint – including the provision of a new washroom building at this location, and improvements to the Tangle Falls parking area.

Tourism Jasper

Parks Canada continues to work closely with Tourism Jasper on the delivery of excellence in information services and promotions. Over the coming year we will work more closely with them and the Jasper Partnership Initiative on the implementation of the Jasper Event Tourism Strategy. Travel Alberta, Tourism Jasper and a number of other organizations have teamed up to pilot experiential travel training this coming February.

Learn to Camp 2014

The Learn to Camp program was a great success this year with 50 new Canadians experiencing the therapeutic power of nature and being inspired by the outdoors. Our partners provided incredible programs, and our new Canadian friends left changed- a bit more connected to nature and their new homeland. We had participants from many countries including the Phillipines, Iraq, Iran, Congo, Somalia, Ethiopia, Myanmar and Nepal. Our partners included: Brewster Travel Canada; the Catholic Social Services; the Junior Forest Wardens; MEC; Alberta Parks; Canadian Forces





Base Edmonton; Elk Island National Park; Friends of Jasper National Park; and Monika Schaeffer.

Volunteer Program

Volunteers from the Friends of Jasper National Park contributed hundreds of hours to Park-themed special events this past year including Parks Day, Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) bird banding, interpretive programs and through the Jasper Trail Alliance.

The Trail Alliance was very busy this year with over 40 certified volunteers and a grand total of 287 volunteers logging 1539 hours.

Parks Canada volunteers also contributed several hundred hours over the summer working as Park Stewards and Caribou Ambassadors; and assisting with special events.

Bringing Mountains to People Where They Live

Palisades Stewardship Education Centre

In the past year, the Palisades Stewardship Education Centre connected 1385 youth with conservation ethics through experiential education. We reached an additional 670 students through video conference, connecting students from places like Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver with Jasper National Park.

We also renewed our partnership agreements with Ski Marmot Basin and the Grande Yellowhead Public School Division, ensuring the Marmot Learning Centre with another five years of winter education programs. This year, 560 students took part in school programs on the ski hill.

The Palisades has also shown that it is an important place for other groups who continue to come for events such as teacher training,



youth camps, and National Aboriginal Day. This year the education team is working in partnership with the Grande Yellowhead Public School Division to develop a new First Nations/Métis school program, to be launched in 2014/2015.

YouTube and Videos

A short series of videos providing Nature watching tips were produced by Nature Alberta featuring locations in several areas throughout Jasper National Park.

Jasper National Park partnered with Tourism Jasper to produce YouTube videos for the October Dark Sky Festival.

Publications

Various authors of guidebooks, regional and national level travel publications worked with Visitor Experience staff to secure improved content, imagery, story ideas and videos to better support their efforts to produce accurate



and engaging material about Jasper National Park.

Social Media

Social media strategies for the Parks Canada Facebook and Twitter accounts were enhanced. Updates and improvements were made to our website enabling Jasper National Park to expand its reach with engaging ideas and timely suggestions for visitor activities.

Caribou volunteer program

Parks Canada's Caribou Ambassador Program, now in its third year, had another successful summer. Both new and returning volunteers received hands-on training and behind the scenes updates on caribou conservation in the mountain parks. Throughout the summer, the ambassadors shared this knowledge with visitors at trailheads and on the trails in areas of caribou habitat including Cavell Meadows and Maligne Lake. This year, Maligne Tours interpretive staff also took part in Caribou Ambassador training helping to foster increased caribou awareness among visitors to the Maligne Valley.

Urban Outreach

In collaboration with the Mountain Parks Caribou Conservation Program, Jasper National Park contributed to urban outreach initiatives at the Calgary Zoo and at the Vancouver Science Centre this summer. Parks Canada students at both locations helped raise awareness of Parks Canada's caribou conservation program, and of Jasper National Park as both protected caribou habitat and a spectacular tourism destination.

Parks Canada's Visitor Experience staff attended a variety of events this past year including RV shows in Edmonton and Calgary, and the Snowfest and the Bikefest hosted by Mountain Equipment Co-op in Edmonton. Thousands of contacts with urban audiences were made as a result.

Ensuring Healthy Ecosystems

Caribou Conservation

Parks Canada is taking action to address all five threats known to be affecting caribou in Jasper National Park as identified in the 2014 *Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou, Southern Mountain population (Rangifer tarandus caribou) in Canada*.

To determine predation risk for caribou, biologists continue to monitor wolves in Jasper through radio collaring. In January, five new radio-collars were placed in three wolf packs bringing the number of collared wolves in the Park up to 8. Unfortunately, two of these eight were killed by vehicles on highway 16 that same month.

In winter 2013, new delayed access areas were implemented to reduce the risk of human activity helping wolves get into three areas of important winter caribou habitat. Compliance in



Caribou Population Estimates

DNA from caribou scat collected in the park is being analyzed to estimate the size of local caribou populations. The 2013 scat numbers suggest that, for the first time since 2009, the Tonquin herd did not decline. These numbers are supported by the visual survey conducted last fall. It is estimated that there are 51 caribou in the park distributed amongst the Tonquin (38), Brazeau (8), and Maligne (5) herds.



these areas was excellent by both people and wolves!

To address the threat of Small Population Effects, Parks Canada continues to work with partners and stakeholders in the development of a captive breeding program. Discussions are underway to identify a source herd and determine a breeding facility.

Grizzly Bear Population Estimate

The Foothills Research Institute and Parks Canada staff spent May through early August setting up and checking hair corrals and rub trees throughout southern Jasper National Park. Bear hair was gathered and the DNA used to identify individuals and estimate population numbers.

Using hair instead of collars or tags has many advantages. This approach avoided putting the bear through the stress of capture and the researcher the risk of injury. More bears can be identified through hair collection as opposed to trapping and collaring.

The field work is complete and all the hair samples are at the Wildlife Genetics International lab. After the lab completes the process of sorting through samples, genotyping, and running the analyses, the results of our population estimate will be released sometime in 2015.

Rainbow Trout Revival

Athabasca Rainbow trout, Bull trout and Pygmy whitefish have all recently been listed by the Province of Alberta as "threatened". Parks Canada has contributed to research initiatives which have led to these designations and will continue to work in cooperation with the province to better understand these species.

Fire and Vegetation Management

Forest conditions this summer saw long periods of critical dryness. For June, July and August, the Park was in High or Extreme Fire Danger over half of the time. A temporary Fire Ban was put in place on the Saturday Night Lake Loop during the driest period for community protection. In spite of the conditions, the team only responded to eleven wildfires, ten of which were kept small and quickly extinguished. The Mt. Edith Cavell Wildfire was allowed to take its natural course with a safe, pre-determined boundary to achieve ecological benefits. Two of the wildfires (Short Creek wildfires) were located in caribou habitat in the northwest corner of the park. Jasper's Fire Management Team and Caribou Recovery Team work closely together to determine the best way to manage fire to ensure caribou habitat is maintained and protected.



Fire Restoration

In May, the Fire Management Team carried out approximately 30 hectares of fireguard burning



in preparation for the Vine Creek Prescribed Fire. This augments extensive, previously completed fireguard work, along with 50 hectares of key terrain burned last September. When complete, this prescribed fire will restore the fire's ecological benefits to this fire prone ecosystem, encourage whitebark pine colonization, help restore an historic open Douglas-fir forest and help to create a strategic firebreak /mountain pine beetle barrier across the Athabasca Valley.

Sharing Resources

All members of Parks Canada's Fire Management Team assisted the National Fire Management Program by lending their expertise to other national parks during a number of wildfire incidents located in the Northwest Territories, and Alberta.

Fire Education

This year, our Fire Management Team contributed to the public understanding of fire management program objectives by taking an interactive exhibit and activities to the Telus World of Science and the Royal Alberta Museum. Educational opportunities were also provided through field tours for college and university groups, and programming for elementary school classes.

Forest Insects and Disease

Parks Staff, in conjunction with the Canadian Forest Service, carried out the annual forest insect and disease survey in late August. The number of Mountain Pine Beetle affected trees has increased significantly; over 6000 hectares of Jasper National Park's pine forest have now been colonised. Parks Canada's management tool of choice to help stop or slow the eastward spread of the Mountain Pine Beetle is prescribed fire. Some burning was carried out in the Snaring Meadows complex and the Vine Creek unit this year with further burning planned for subsequent years as conditions allow. These prescribed fires help create



landscape level breaks in Mountain Pine Beetle habitat to limit the spread. Restoration of this important natural process results in younger, vigorous forests more able to withstand insects and disease.

In addition, for the sixth year, Parks Canada set up gypsy moth traps in campgrounds and some high use areas to tell us if this insect has been introduced to the Park. This survey is conducted in cooperation with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Vegetation Restoration

The Vegetation Restoration Team, which comprised of 16 university and high school students with a Parks Canada team leader, planted over 1500 saplings in Whistler and Wabasso campgrounds to help restore the health of forests damaged by trampling, site encroachment, drought, elk browsing, and forest insects and disease. The team used locally sourced saplings from areas such as the community fireguard, which has the added benefit of reducing fuels for fire protection.

The heavily used Whistlers Summit received a well-needed upgrade as the team helped with trail delineation and re-vegetation. They also helped with the protection of wildlife corridors and the rehabilitation of important wildlife



habitat through the planting of vegetation barriers, the removal of coarse woody debris, and the installation of signage about rehabilitation on illegal trails.

Fisherman's Bay now has three newly replaced tent sites placed in locations less detrimental to surrounding vegetation. The three old sites were reclaimed to natural vegetation to help restore grizzly and deer travel routes.

The team carried out a slope stabilization project on Municipality of Jasper lands along the water reservoir. They also promoted stewardship education with visitors at events like Parks Day and helping local community residents with identification and removal of noxious weeds in and around their residences. The vegetation restoration program would not be possible without funding from the Municipality of Jasper, Jasper National Park Visitor Experience program, ATCO Pipelines, Parks Canada National Fire program, and the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Species at Risk

Whitebark Pine

Whitebark Pine is both a Species at Risk and one of our measures of the ecological integrity of the Alpine Ecosystem.



This year over 250 whitebark pine plots from Waterton to the Willmore Wildland Park were monitored to assess the health of whitebark trees that are increasingly being infected by both an introduced fungus called blister rust and by mountain pine beetle.

In cooperation with the other mountain national parks, Jasper National Park has started on-the-ground restoration of whitebark pine communities. This is achieved through locating trees in the Park that have natural resistance to blister rust, and then collecting seed from these resistant trees to grow into seedlings and plant in the park. This season 25 potentially resistant trees were located. Cones will be collected after they mature in early October. Desired cones are caged to prevent animals from eating them.

Bats: Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis

This was an important year for improving our understanding of our seven bat species in Jasper National Park, two of which are listed as endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

Parks Canada completed a hibernacula count and used "roost loggers" to learn about activity patterns of bats and cave conditions. Four new hibernacula were located. The northern boundary was surveyed to document bat species distribution and important bat habitat using passive acoustic monitoring. This information will enable Jasper National Park to participate in a continental bat monitoring program that relies on acoustic monitoring to track trends in bats toward recovery.

Ecological Integrity Monitoring

Ecological Monitoring

The ecological integrity monitoring staff was very busy this year. Along with whitebark pine monitoring, a number of other monitoring programs were repeated this year, including breeding songbird surveys, Pyramid Lake Bird



Banding Station, aspen stand health, and glacier monitoring (in collaboration with the Canadian Geological Survey).

Parks Canada completed four years of grain spill monitoring and concluded that grain spill rates did not decline following a CN lead initiative to repair leaking grain cars. Recommendations to reduce grain spills, and as a consequence the number of animals struck by trains, include improved grain loading practices, inspection of grain cars, early spill detection and prompt clean-up of grain spills. Additionally, Parks Canada continued a partnership with the other mountain parks and university researchers to monitor wildlife, and in particular grizzly bears, using remote cameras.

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, several projects are winding down, including construction of the new Jasper Junior/Senior high school and demolition of the old school, the new maintenance building at Marmot Basin, replacement of overhead power line along Hwy 93 with underground cable, and the new Brewster SnoCoach Transfer Station. New projects for this year include, restoration of aquatic connectivity at Mile 9 lake, replacement of 5th Bridge on the Maligne River, asphalt paving and rock scaling on Highway 16, and several building upgrades in town, Lake Edith and at Outlying Commercial Accommodations.

Several projects are in the planning stage, including upgrades to the ATCO Astoria penstock, removal of the Icefield Centre stairs and replacement with a trail, and construction of a new hostel on the edge of town. Review and discussions over Trans Mountain Pipeline's proposal to reactivate the 24inch oil pipeline through JNP is also ongoing.

Contaminated Site Management

Long-term monitoring of Parks Canada contaminated sites in S-Block, Transfer Station, Tangle Creek and the Trade Waste pit continues. ATCO Electric completed remediation of hydrocarbon contamination at their Palisades Plant and in S Block. Brewsters Travel Inc. And Imperial Oil (Esso) contracted environmental consultants to determine the extent of contamination at their recently decommissioned transfer area and we anticipate a remediation plans to be submitted to us later this year. CN Railway installed additional monitoring wells and made significant progress on clean-up of diesel contamination under the railyard, removing over 100,000L of fuel to date.

Parks Canada is also working on a proposal and remediation plan for removal of a buried asphalt tank in the compound maintenance yard, using shared funding between the field unit and the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan.

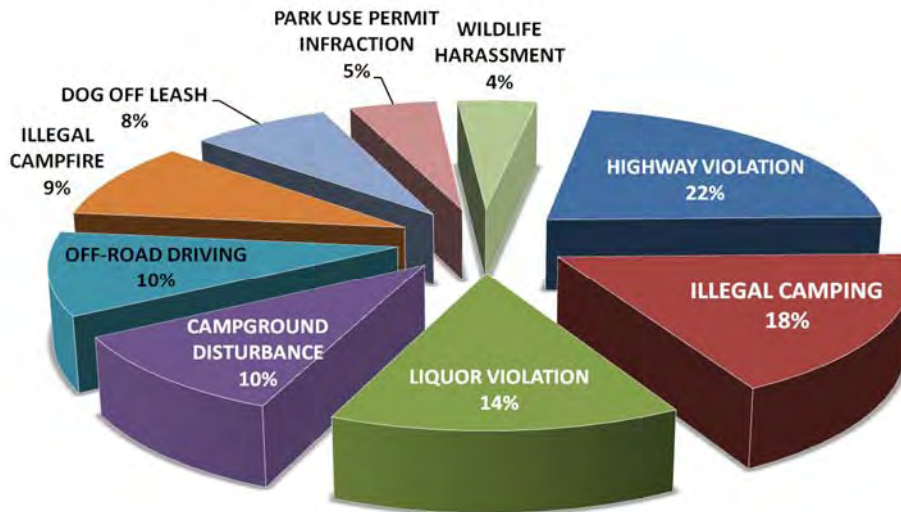
Spill Response

The summer season saw a few major motor vehicle collisions on Highway 16 and the Icefield Parkway. Some large spill cleanups resulted from these incidents, including a semi-truck rollover just west of town that resulted in a spill of approximately 250 litres of diesel.

Kinder Morgan Canada (KMC) conducted three spill response training sessions in the Park this year. One was a general awareness session, this was followed up with a tabletop discussion with local first responders to help inform the KMC Emergency response procedures and then a boat training session for deployment of spill containment booms along the Athabasca River.



Law Enforcement



During the past year there were 732 incidents in the Park. The majority of these incidents, 436 incidents occurred in June, July and August. Highway violations accounted for 22% of incidents; illegal camping 18%, liquor violations 14% and camping disturbances and off-road driving both accounted for 10% of incidents.

Celebrating History, Culture and the World Heritage Site

Over the past year there were a number of projects related to the vibrant culture and history of Jasper National Park. These projects included updating information on archaeological sites in the Park; working with researchers studying history of the Tie Camps and Athabasca Pass; film crews for *Project Habbakuk* and the WWI internment camp; a book being authored on the history of the Warden Service; liaison work with the Jasper Yellowhead Museum and Archives; assisting on the People of the Upper Athabasca Valley

Project; and the homestead project with the Upper Athabasca Elders Council.

People of the Upper Athabasca Historical research and oral history interviews with Aboriginal Elders were completed to capture the early ties and relationships of the Aboriginal and Métis people to this area. With this information in hand, a publication project is now underway.

Homesteads

Work is being done to create site markers for four former Métis homestead sites in Jasper National Park. This will be complimented with a townsite panel that describes homesteading in the Jasper Valley at the turn of the 20th century.



Athabasca Pass National Historic Site

An aging critical hiker bridge to Athabasca Pass National Historic Site was decommissioned last year thereby preventing hikers from travelling to the National Historic Sites for most of the summer. This year a new section of trail was



constructed which by-passes the old bridge site and re-establishes access to the Site for hikers.

of Aboriginal culture and customs in Jasper National Park.

The Jasper Aboriginal Forum continues to

Snaring Cultural Area

This spring, fire team members burned a 7-hectare culturally significant meadow at Snaring to restore historic values to this area. This initiative was part of a cultural exchange opportunity between indigenous youth, elders and Parks Canada.



Strengthening Aboriginal Relationships

Parks Canada continued to strengthen working relationships with aboriginal communities with historic ties to Jasper National Park. Events such as National Aboriginal Day, a caribou ceremony in the Maligne Valley and a profoundly moving Friendship and Forgiveness Gathering point to a growing awareness, understanding and appreciation of the richness

provide opportunities for positive working relationships to flourish. It maintains its commitment to share information on an extensive range of topics from park-based conservation and restoration programming to special projects, economic and employment opportunities.



Songs for the Caribou - A Cultural Conservation Ceremony

*"Today marks the first day of the caribou's return."
Elder John Wesley, Bighorn Chiniki Stoney First Nation*

On August 14th, a sense of hope and optimism for the future of woodland caribou was shared by all at a small ceremony in the Bald Hills region of the Maligne Valley in Jasper National Park. Led by Elder John Wesley, people from the Bighorn Chiniki Stoney

Nation reserve near Nordegg, Alberta and the Parks Canada caribou conservation team from Jasper and Banff National Parks, gathered to appeal to the spirit of the caribou through a traditional ceremony. The ceremony marks an important step in moving forward with caribou conservation actions in Jasper. The on-going involvement and support of Aboriginal partners is integral to the success of the caribou conservation program.



National Aboriginal Day

The theme of this year's National Aboriginal Day celebration was "All My Relations" signifying the coming together of communities from the four directions and the close knit ties that bind the peoples of Jasper and their families to this place they call home.

The event highlighted the culture of Aboriginal communities who work directly with Jasper National Park at the Jasper Aboriginal Forum. This year's host nations came from a diverse spectrum of communities within Treaty areas 6, 7 and 8 as well as the Métis Nation of British Columbia.

A Special Place for Reconnection

Increasingly recognized as a place for spiritual reconnection, the Jasper Aboriginal Cultural Use Area has seen more frequent use in 2014. Tipi frames, ceremonial sites and ribbon trees indicate that native groups and organizations with ties to Jasper are using the area for carrying out traditional practices while respecting the ecological health of the area and the health and safety of the people who use it.

Changing Relationships: People of the Upper Athabasca Valley Project

This extensive project is part of a national initiative to relate and celebrate Métis heritage in Canada's national parks and national historic sites. Locally, the project focuses on the historic contributions and stories of families who homesteaded in the Upper Athabasca Valley in the years leading to the park's creation. The project is aimed at enhancing visitors understanding of the significance of cultural heritage in Jasper.

Of importance, a Friendship and Forgiveness Gathering between Parks Canada employees and members of the Aseniwuche Winewak/Rocky Mountain People of Grande Cache occurred in May 2014 to discuss and mend the broken connections and

intergenerational hurt that has been carried by many of the descendants of Jasper's former homesteading families.

Fostering Open Management and Innovation

Maligne Valley Implementation Strategy

Parks Canada launched the first phase of the planning process to develop an Implementation Strategy for the Maligne Valley in November 2013. In the first phase, the public was invited to comment on the *Maligne Valley Situation Analysis* which is a summary of the current situation in the valley with respect to ecological integrity, visitor experience, and public appreciation and understanding. The next phase of the planning process, scheduled to begin this fall, will involve discussing potential actions to address the challenges and build on the opportunities identified in the *Situation Analysis*.



Maligne Tours Proposal

In July 2013, Maligne Tours announced its intent to redevelop its operations at Maligne Lake. Parks Canada provided guidance to Maligne Tours to prepare and submit a conceptual redevelopment proposal for



consideration, with opportunities for public and Aboriginal review and comment.

In the fall 2013 Maligne Tours conducted public and Aboriginal engagement in support of their proposal. Parks Canada announced the results of decision-making about Maligne Tours' conceptual proposal in July 2014. Parks Canada accepted 13 of the 14 proposal elements, including tent cabins, specialized boat tours, a wildlife-themed children's maze, storytelling programs and exhibits, for further consideration.

Should Maligne Tours decide to advance any of the 13 elements, they would enter Parks Canada's development review process which would include detailed planning and design work, preparation of a detailed environmental impact analysis and further opportunities for involvement of the public and interested Aboriginal communities, prior to a final decision by Parks Canada.

Advancing the tent cabin element would require Parks Canada to complete a management plan amendment, concurrent with the development review process, to enable a land release for the cabins.

Parks Canada determined that the proposed heritage themed roofed accommodation at Maligne Lake would not proceed for further consideration.

Marmot Basin Long-Range Planning

Marmot Basin released a draft Long Range Plan and associated Detailed Impact Analysis for public and Aboriginal review in June 2014. Four projects are proposed in the long range plan:

- Expanding snow-making in the mid-mountain area, including construction of a new mid-mountain water reservoir

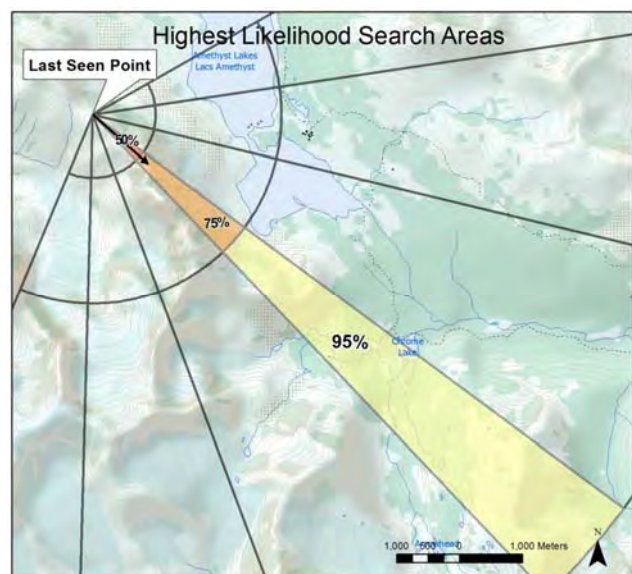
- Enhancing parking and transportation access, by expanding the four ski area parking lots and widening sections of the access road
- Upgrading the Caribou Chalet
- Glading on the slopes west of the mid-mountain chalet

Marmot Basin held public open houses in Jasper and Edmonton and met with interested Aboriginal groups to provide information about the proposals. The public review period for the draft Long Range Plan concluded in July 2014 and Parks Canada is currently reviewing the comments received. The Superintendent of Jasper National Park expects to reach a determination on the Detailed Impact Analysis in fall 2014, and to forward the Long Range Plan to the Minister for a decision.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) support for Search and Rescue

The Park's geomatics group has undertaken a number of projects this year to inventory resources, monitor ecological integrity and use trends, and to create tools to automate repetitive tasks and streamline processes.

One tool developed was a search and rescue GIS application to determine areas of highest probability of locating a lost person based on their profile, last seen point, and their intended





destination. This information is printed out on maps for the searchers to use. This product is intended to improve Search and Rescue efficiency, save time, money, and effort, and ultimately contributing towards an increased likelihood of the subject's survival.

Managing Growth and Development

Environmental Stewardship Program



The Municipality of Jasper and Parks Canada jointly fund the Environmental Stewardship Program in recognition of a common interest in promoting environmental sustainability and stewardship in Jasper. The Environmental Stewardship Coordinator develops programming and public awareness initiatives to continually improve environmental sustainability in Jasper. In June 2014 a three-year program offering rebates on energy efficient products was launched — the Jasper Residential Energy Efficiency Rebate Program. Rebates are available on Energy Star furnaces, refrigerators, washing machines and LED lights.

Stewardship Day – June 5, 2013

Every year during Environment Week, on Stewardship Day, Parks Canada and the Municipality of Jasper staff join forces to clean up litter that has accumulated alongside the park's major roadways. This year 2.89 tonnes of garbage was collected and graffiti was cleaned from walls and waste bins.

Community Development

The town of Jasper saw a few developments this year. The joint facility for Jasper Junior/Senior

Commercial Floor Area Cap 2001	9290 (m ²)	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%

High School and École Desrochers which began construction in 2013 was ready to welcome students in September 2014.

The construction for the building of Servus Credit Union began in June, 2014 and is slated to complete construction in December, 2014. *Commercial Development and Growth* For the seventh consecutive year, there was no new commercial development in the community.

The table given above summarizes the current



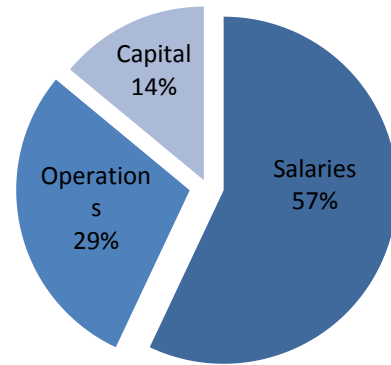


status of new commercial development in the Municipality of Jasper.

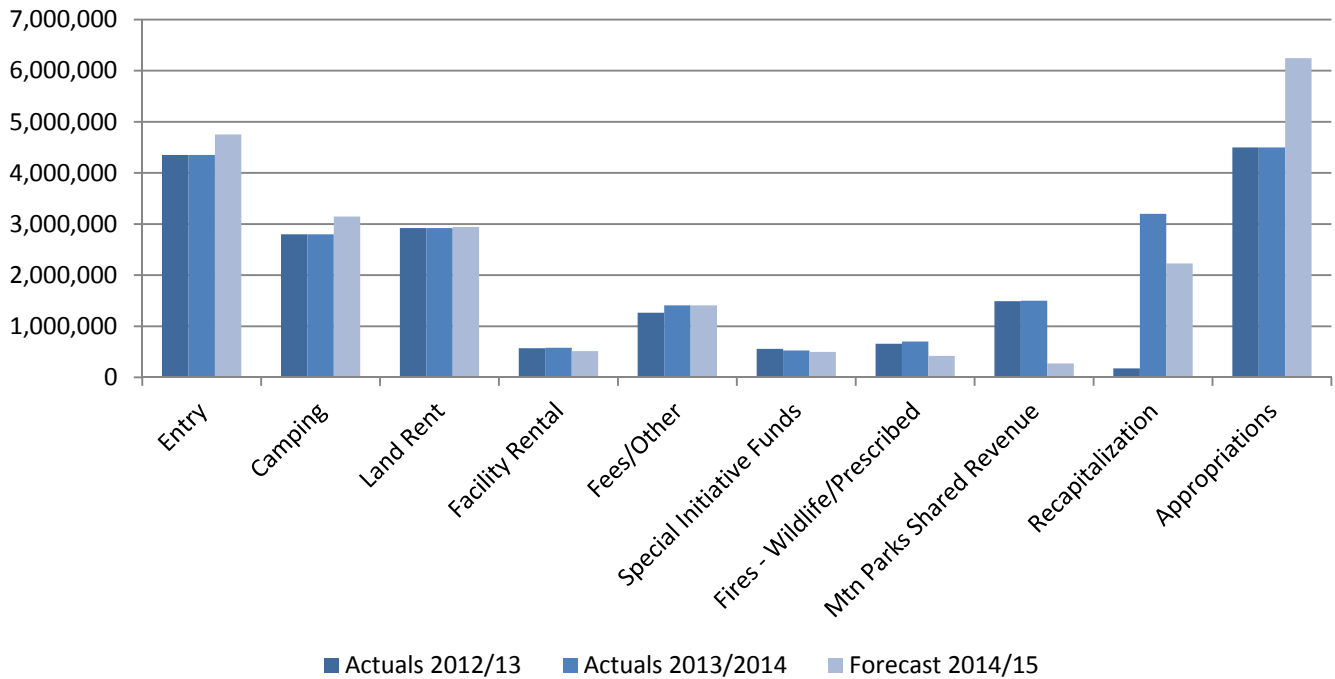
Finance

This past year (April 2013 – March 2014), the Jasper Field Unit, which is comprised of Jasper National Park and Fort St. James National Historic Site in British Columbia, operated on a budget of just over twenty-three million dollars. This year, the Park has received additional one time funding of nearly 15 million dollars for specific projects related to roads and bridges, conservation and visitor experiences.

2013/14 Expenses



Funding Sources



Note: \$6.4 million of revenue excluded as it is permanently allocated to other areas



Summary of Financial Expenditures

Program Activity	2012/13 Actual (in 000s)	2013/14 Actual (in 000s)	2014/15 Forecast (in 000s)	Major Expenditures by Program Activity in 2014
Heritage Resources Conservation (PA2)	3,970.3	4,390.40	5,300.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological Integrity Monitoring • Caribou conservation • Heritage Buildings
Promote Public Appreciation and Understanding (PA3)	1,625.2	1,754.40	1,750.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palisades Stewardship education program • Aboriginal relationships
Quality Visitor Experience (PA4)	7,917.0	9,538.80	11,000.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Icefield Centre recapitalization • Fire Hall restoration • Train Station roofing
Townsite and Throughway Infrastructure (PA5)	3,585.8	4,340.90	14,425.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock scaling/paving
Internal Services	3,585.8	3,303.90	3,200.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecom Repeater recapitalization
Total	20,684.1	23,328.40	35,675.00**	

**This forecast includes one-time capital/project funding of \$14.825M for the following during 2014

Heritage Resource Conservation (PA2)	
Caribou Conservation	\$900,000
Quality Visitor Experience (PA4)	
Firehall restoration	\$600,000
Icefield Glacier Gallery Recapitalization	\$2,100,000
Townsite and Throughway Infrastructure (PA5)	
River Bridge 1 Rehabilitation	\$500,000
River Bridge 2 Rehabilitation	\$500,000
Hwy 16 Paving and Guardrails	\$9,100,000
Rock scaling Icefield Parkway	\$375,000
Jasper Bridge repairs (Edith Cavell, Miette)	\$750,000
Total	\$14,825,000

We hope you have found this year's Annual Report informative. For more information on anything you have read, please contact:

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