



THE CAIRN

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Peter Whyte Foundation — The Dream Fulfilled

With this our maiden issue of The Cairn it seems appropriate we should begin by explaining to those of our readers not already familiar with our organization the background of the Peter Whyte Foundation.

The Foundation had its genesis in the early 1950s with the decision of Peter and Catharine Whyte to attempt to preserve some of the cultural heritage of the Canadian Rockies. Artists in their own right, it was natural the art of the region should be one of their major considerations. However, they had over the years collected numerous manuscripts, photographs and other items of historic interest and were intent on preserving these as well.

Eventually their concern led to the setting up of a trust embodied in the form of the Wa-Che-Yo-Cha-Pa Foundation (Stoney for "place where all things good, wise and beautiful are brought together in harmony"). The collection was originally kept in the basement of a house owned by the Whytes' which stood on the site of the present building but it quickly became apparent it was not a suitable long term answer to continued growth. As a result a new solution began to form, the idea of a building which would not only accommodate the collection but also allow the public to have access to it. In addition, it would be able to house the Banff Library which was also badly in need of expanded quarters.

Although Peter had conceived the idea of the building he was by this time too ill to be involved in the actual planning. That was left to Catharine and Maryalice H. Stewart, the Foundation's Director, who with Philippe Delasalle, an architect interested in expressing the indigenous qualities of the mountains in his work, laid out the de-



Sketch by Holly Middleton

tails of the 15,000 square foot structure. Unfortunately Peter passed away before the actual construction was initiated, but Catharine's zeal to see the project through to completion increased all the more. The dream was fulfilled on June 16, 1968 when a large number of guests gathered to see "the grand old man of the mountains," Jimmy Simpson, officially open the building. Immediately afterward the guests entered to inspect the facilities, which included the Archives of the Canadian Rockies, the Peter Whyte Gallery and the Banff Library.

In a relatively short span of years since the opening of its new building the Foundation, renamed to honour one of its founders, has gone from strength to strength. Not only has it welcomed an incredible number of visitors (some 67,000 in 1975 alone) but has continued to add to its collections and increase the scope of

activities (to be elaborated on more fully in future editions of The Cairn). One significant change which has occurred recently is in the operation of the Banff Library; now funded through the local school board, it continues to occupy its former space in the building by the grace of the Foundation.

It was originally Peter's and Catharine's intention that the building be for the people and that has always remained the guiding principle of its operation. For those of you who have visited us previously, we look forward to seeing you again; for those of you we have not yet had the privilege of meeting we look forward to that occasion.

Archives of the Canadian Rockies



The Archives is pleased to announce it has received the Ray Bagley Plaque from the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies.

Those of you who were fortunate enough to have met Ray a few years back during one of his several decades of rides with the Trail Riders will remember him for his genial good nature and down-to-earth, homespun philosophy. The latter was perhaps best expressed in his poetry, published in 1969 in

a volume entitled Those Other Days containing such favourites as "The Brewster Cayuse" and "Those Trail Riding Buddies of Mine." Ray passed away in February 1973 at the age of 93, leaving to mourn a host of friends from along the foothills and through the Rocky Mountains of Alberta.

The plaque, which measures approximately 20" x 12", is constructed on a backing of barn board taken from Ray's Crowsnest Ranch at Coleman, Alberta. Mounted on this is the last in a numbered edition of 50 bronzes depicting a pack horse done for long time members of the Trail Riders by Malcolm "Mac" McKenzie of Cochrane. Framing the broze are three beautiful pieces of driftwood taken from the waters of Bow Lake. Also included are two inscriptions, one honouring Ray and the other quoting a few of his best known lines of poetry:

Time and stress will make or break;
Keep smiling though through tears,
For it matters not the years you live
But how you live the years.

Tastefully designed and mounted by Mrs. Bunny Robinson, herself a member of the Trail Riders for over thirty years, the plaque now hangs on the wall of the Archives research room. It makes a fine addition to the Ray Bagley Collection which includes, among other items, manuscript copies of much of his poetry, a scrapbook and a taped interview with him done by Archives staff in January 1967.

The building will go on a new schedule of hours beginning September 19th:
Banff Library and Peter Whyte Gallery

Sunday 1 pm - 5 pm

Monday Closed

Tuesday 1 pm - 5 pm, 6 pm - 9 pm

Wednesday 10 am - 5 pm

Thursday 1 pm - 5 pm, 6 pm - 9 pm

Friday 1 pm - 5 pm, 6 pm - 9 pm

Saturday 10 am - 5 pm

Archives of the Canadian Rockies

Sunday, Monday - Closed

Tuesday 1 pm - 5 pm

Wednesday 10 am - 5 pm

Thursday 1 pm - 5 pm

Friday 1 pm - 5 pm

Saturday 10 am - 5 pm

Building will be closed on all statutory holidays.



Ike Mills taking stove into Skoki, Oil by Peter Whyte, 1937

The Peter Whyte Gallery

Prior to the formation of the Peter Whyte Gallery in 1968, artists of Banff and area had no gallery in which to exhibit their works. Public showings took place at the United Church Hall, where artists propped their paintings up on church benches, and at the old Mount Royal Hotel. Needless to say, there was a great need for exhibition facilities in the town, especially since the artists' community was of such high quality. As concerned artists of Banff, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Whyte funded the development of the Gallery. Their concern was to encourage the townspeople toward the visual arts and to allow them the opportunity of viewing works pertaining to their area in relaxed and comfortable surroundings.

Paintings of Rocky Mountain landscapes and wildflowers, sculptures of animals and events, artifacts such as Indian headdresses; these were among the first items donated to the Gallery.

Today the Peter Whyte Gallery houses approximately 1000 works of art and welcomes over 60,000 visitors a year to its exhibitions. The Gallery is still intent on exposing to local residents and the tourist in the area top quality art. Towards that end works by such great artists as Belmore

Browne, Carl Rungius, A. C. Leighton, Charlie Beil, W. J. Phillips and the de Grandmaisons form a major part of our permanent collection.

It is hoped that visitors to the Gallery enjoy our attempts to provide them with the best of the art world, be it traditional or modern, and feel free to offer their opinions to any member of our staff.

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September 23 - October 20: A. Y. Jackson in the Gallery. Maurice Jones watercolours in the Swiss Guides' Room. R. J. Hope drawings in the Belmore and George Browne Room. October 21 - November 24: Into the Silent Land (Survey Photography in the Canadian West, 1858-1900, circulated by the Public Archives of Canada) in the Gallery and the Swiss Guides' Room. Selections from the Permanent Collection in the Belmore and George Browne Room.

November 25 - December 15: Owls (circulated by the Natural History Division of the Provincial Museum and Archives of Alberta) in the Gallery. Tom Gallie wood sculptures in the Swiss Guides' Room. Selections from the Permanent Collection in the Belmore and George Browne Room.

Greetings from Catharine Whyte

My greetings to our friends of the Library, Archives and Peter Whyte Gallery. It seems a long time but at last we have our newsletter, The Cairn. (A real cairn "shows the way" and "marks a summit in the mountains". It indicates as well that someone has been there before, and part of our purpose is to remember the pioneers.)

We hope you enjoy The Cairn and find it as interesting as all the things that are taking place here. Pete and I always felt it was a way of telling our friends what is going on here and encouraging us all to work together.

We would be glad to have your comments and ideas, and later on we hope you feel it worthwhile to subscribe - to cover the cost of printing and postage. If we have missed anyone anxious to receive it, please write to the Peter Whyte Foundation, Box 160, Banff, or pick up a copy at the front desk and leave your address. It will also contain a calendar of future events.

We expect to have a Christmas number the first part of December, a Spring one in March, the Summer issue in early June, and an Autumn one in September. With this schedule, each issue could be greeted with a snow flurry in the Rockies!

The next number should contain a story of the wonderful grant from the Devonian Group of Foundations in Calgary to make it possible to build our photo lab on the lower floor and hire a technician so we are able to accept the Byron Harmon Photographic Collection from the Harmon family and give it the proper care and use. It's wonderful to have as there are thousands of photographs taken in the Rockies and Selkirks during the early decades of this century

We also have the Vaux collection of glacier photographs, and subjects taken by George Noble in the Banff area, as well as many other photographers' works.

This winter we plan to continue showing films on Friday evenings. Our Archivist, Ted Hart will be giving his community class on the exploration and development of the Canadian Rockies, and we may have a class in art by our curator Ann Ewen as well. As the building is open some weekday evenings, the Trustees and staff hope we can also arrange slide shows and talks in the Gallery. Because of our central location we hope for more involvement in our activities from both resident and visitor alike.

Beverley White Memorial

Many of us who loved and admired Bev White want to do something tangible to perpetuate the memory of the active, talented person she was and the time and effort she gave to community endeavours. She was a wonderful friend to us all.

She would have liked the idea of a Microfilm Reader for the Archives of the Canadian Rockies, and would have been interested in its use for all manner of research. Reading through all old copies of newspapers on microfilm protects the originals and the rolls of film are much easier to store and take up less space. An attached Printer can easily make a printout of the image on the screen.

We in the family would like to contribute to such a fund for a Microfilm Reader to honour Bev; and as some of her friends have already expressed a wish to be included, we thought others might like to give too, if they knew about it. No matter how large or small a contribution a person would like to make, it would all add up to a wonderful memorial and we would have a plaque on the machine to show our appreciation of Bev and all she meant to us, and to Banff.

Contributions may be made to the Peter Whyte Foundation and marked "Bev White Memorial". Official receipts for Income Tax will be forwarded to you.

The Banff Library

The Banff Library is generally speaking a recreational reading library with stress on fiction and non-fiction dealing with the surrounding area. For those who wish to delve deeper into any particular subject we have established a network of inter-library loans with the University of Alberta. If the requested book is not in their stacks, the search continues to other libraries, first in Alberta and then further afield. Rarely have we been unable to supply a requested book or a satisfactory substitute. To take advantage of this service one must only be a member in good standing; there is no extra charge.

The Cairn is published quarterly by the Peter Whyte Foundation, Box 160, Banff, Canada. Editor: E. J. Hart