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SPIRIT OF THE LAND AND PEOPLE OPENS AT WHYTE MUSEUM
July 1 - October 10, 2010

Banff, Alberta – The **Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies** presents ***Spirit of the Land and People***, an exhibition in the Rummel Room that helps to celebrate Parks Canada's 125th Anniversary [banff125.ca].

Developed in consultation with First Nations elders, this exhibition honours Peter and Catharine Whyte's relationship with First Nations people throughout their lives here in the Canadian Rockies. The exhibition will highlight the life of their close friend Chief Walking Buffalo, who through his work as a peace activist, created important bridges between cultures.

Michale Lang, the Whyte Museum's chief curator and executive director, speaks about highlights of this exhibition. "For me, the most revealing part of ***Spirit of the Land and People*** is the reverence with which Tatanga Mani, Walking Buffalo, is held by both the Stoney people and Aboriginal people throughout the world. His story is incredible! In his late 80s, he travelled around the world bringing a message of peace to Aboriginal and other world leaders. He was a remarkable man and his story should not be forgotten."

A replica archaeological wall pull from the Vermilion Lake excavation is also featured. Parks Canada undertook a three-year program of archaeological research and mitigation in the 1980s, in response to the twinning development of the Trans-Canada Highway. One of several prehistoric sites examined was the Vermilion Lake Site. Says Lang, "The other side of the exhibition story is that First Nations people have inhabited this area for over 10,000 years! This is also something we should not forget. Parks Canada's 1983 discoveries revealed this story and this exhibition is a wonderful way to celebrate both First Nations people and Canada's national parks."

EXHIBITION RELATED EVENTS

Opening Reception
July 1, 2 to 4 PM, FREE

The opening begins with a performance in front of the museum by Eya-Hey Nakoda singers and drummers. Inside, Stoney Elders will participate in the ceremonies, including a blessing offered for the exhibition.

About the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies

The Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies welcomes those who are drawn to the power and inspiration of these mountains. We are the gateway for experiencing and enjoying its art, culture and history in order to inspire and cultivate knowledge and the exchange of ideas. Visitors from near and far experience the Museum's galleries, programs, archives and library, heritage homes, museum shop, guided walks, tours and special events.

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