

For Immediate Release – June 6, 2011

***Women Adventurers of the Rockies* opens at Whyte Museum**
June 19 – November 15, 2011

Banff, Alberta – The **Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies** is pleased to present our newest exhibition *Women Adventurers of the Rockies*.

The exhibit, opening on June 19, tells the story of 10 women – five trailblazers from our past and five contemporary women – who have all played an integral role in shaping our mountain culture as explorers, botanists, guides and mountaineering mavens.

The inspiring stories of these incredible women and their respective accomplishments including first ascents, first female warden in a mountain park, and first North American woman certified as an international mountain guide will be on display at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies until November 15 along with a selection of their personal items including belongings and images.

These amazing women are:

Historic

Mary Morris Vaux Walcott (1860 – 1940)
Mary Schäffer Warren (1861 – 1939)
Elizabeth von Rummel (Lizzie Rummel) (1897 – 1980)
Eleanor Luxton (1908 – 1995)
Catharine Robb Whyte (1906 – 1979)

Contemporary

Nancy Hansen (1969 –)
Kathy Calvert (1947 –)
Dorothy Carleton (1919 –)
Diny (Diana) Harrison (1958 –)
Fran Drummond

Special Note: Two of the contemporary women featured in this exhibition are available for media interviews. Please get in touch with them by e-mail in advance, to set up an appropriate time.

Kathy Calvert portman.calvert@shaw.ca
Diny (Diana) Harrison dharr@telus.net

EXHIBITION-RELATED EVENTS

Exhibition Opening and Back to Banff Day
Sunday, June 19, 1 to 4 PM, FREE

Main Gallery Tour – A Walk with the Women Adventurers
Daily, June 20 through September 5, 11 AM, 1 and 3 PM

30 minutes, Included with Museum admission, FREE for Museum Members

Take a walk through the inspiring lives of *Women Adventurers in the Rockies*, past and present. This tour features the diverse stories of five women from our colourful history and five contemporary women who have pushed the boundaries of their time and place.

Book Launch

An Adventurous Woman Abroad

The Selected Lantern Slides of Mary T. S. Schäffer

Thursday, June 23, 7 PM, FREE

Join us for the launch of the Whyte Museum's new book by Michale Lang. *An Adventurous Woman Abroad* features more than 200 of Mary Schäffer's colourful, hand-painted lantern slides from the archives of the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies. Enjoy a reading accompanied by some of the most intriguing images from the book.

Banff Culture Days – A Conversation with Women Adventurers

Saturday, August 6, 1 to 4 PM, included with Museum admission

Meet a number of the contemporary women featured in the *Women Adventurers in the Rockies* exhibition. Hear the stories behind their adventures. **A Conversation with Women Adventurers** is part of the 9th annual *Banff Culture Days* celebrations. For more information about *Banff Culture Days*, visit www.banffculturewalk.com.

Alberta Arts Days – Curator Tour

Saturday, October 1, 2:30 and 3:30 PM, included with Museum admission, FREE for Museum Members

In celebration of Alberta Arts Days, the Whyte Museum will host a Curator-led tour of *Women Adventurers in the Rockies*. Michale Lang will share stories of her discoveries about the women of the past and her encounters with the contemporary women featured in 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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For more information about the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies or to set up an interview with two of the contemporary women adventurers, contact:

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