

For Immediate Release – August 27, 2009

**A WAY OF LIFE, A LEGACY TO PROTECT: 100 Years of the Warden Service**  
**September 12 – November 15, 2009**

Banff, Alberta – The **Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies** is pleased to partner with the Jasper Yellowhead Museum and Archives, Parks Canada, the Town of Banff, and the Warden's Alumni in celebrating the proud history of the Warden Service during its 100th anniversary year.

The Jasper Yellowhead Museum and Archives first developed an exhibition, featured there from May 17 to September 7, 2009, which tells the story of the Warden Service during the time when each park was divided into districts, each with a warden headquarters in the form of a simple log cabin. Cabins, horses, packsaddles, and a life of isolation, eventually tempered by primitive telephone communication, exemplified the warden experience during that era.

The Whyte Museum uses this storyline and some key artifacts from Jasper, but has augmented the exhibition to briefly tell the story of life beyond the district warden era. We have also added the story of the warden's climbing expedition which was part of the celebration for the 1985 centennial of the establishment of Canada's national park system. This expedition to the far reaches of McConnell Creek was mounted to honour wardens who died in service.

The exhibition here also emphasizes the essential supporting role of wardens' families. We are very grateful to Ann Dixon who loaned us the beautiful quilt that she crafted in honour of the 1985 centennial of the establishment of Canada's national park system. It visually tells the story of the many different roles of wardens. Her book, *Silent Partners*, inspired this section of the exhibition. We are also grateful to her daughter, Peggy Dixon, who illustrated the book and has also kindly loaned her original drawings for this exhibition. The Mitchell family has contributed a lasting legacy by donating Bruce Mitchell's diaries from the 1940s and 50s. Mitchell was Chief Warden in Banff National Park during the 1940s. They have also loaned and donated artifacts, artworks, and photographs.

The warden centennial is also the perfect opportunity to retell the story of Windy Lodge – No. 3 Warden Patrol Cabin, situated on the Whyte Museum's riverside grounds. Built in 1911, Windy Lodge represents one of the first one-room warden patrol cabins built in the Canadian national park system.

We look forward to celebrating 100 years of the Warden Service with *A Way of Life, A Legacy to Protect: 100 Years of the Warden Service*.

## **Exhibition-Related Events**

### **Opening Reception**

Saturday, September 12, 2009, 7 to 9 PM

### **Warden Service's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Centennial Celebration**

September 11-13, 2009

This three-day event takes place on the back lawn of the Whyte Museum in a Brewster Tent. FREE

Wine & Cheese, Meet & Greet

Friday, September 11, 6 – 8 PM

Songs, Skits, Stories, Demonstrations, Memorabilia, Silent Auction

Saturday, September 12, 11 AM – 3 PM

Pancake Breakfast, Closing Ceremonies

Sunday, September 13, 8 – 11 AM

### **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 this exhibition, and the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, please contact:

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