

## Ross Watson Says Farewell to the William Watson Lodge

After a 33 year association, I have announced my resignation from the William Watson Lodge effective August 1, 2015.

My first day at the Lodge was May 1, 1982 where I had come to work for the summer before continuing onto Vancouver. My hope was to spend one summer in the mountains before moving to the coast. However, at the close of the summer that year, I ended up going south to spend the winter hiking the Sierra Madres in North West Mexico.

Coming back to Alberta after this trip, I needed a quick job so I came back to work one more summer at the Lodge before following my original plan of going to the coast. I met Dolina that summer of 1983 while she was visiting the Park. Dolina would later become my wife. The same winter I found a job that would allow me to stay in Alberta to be close to Dolina. That job was managing recreation facilities for the Calgary Armed Forces Base (CFB).

In the summer of 1984, Dolina moved to Cochrane and I quit my job with CFB to start full time at the Lodge.



During the past 33 years, I have witnessed the evolution of Kananaskis Country.

In 1982, the William Watson Lodge had four buildings and eight units which provided 40 beds. By 1986, within the span of only four short years, four more buildings were added, giving the Lodge 22 units for a capacity of 80 beds.

In 1982, the Kananaskis Village with the Delta Hotels, the Nakiska Ski Hill and the Kananaskis Golf Course had not yet been built. Calgary was a half a million people and the trails in Kananaskis could be hiked without running into other hikers.



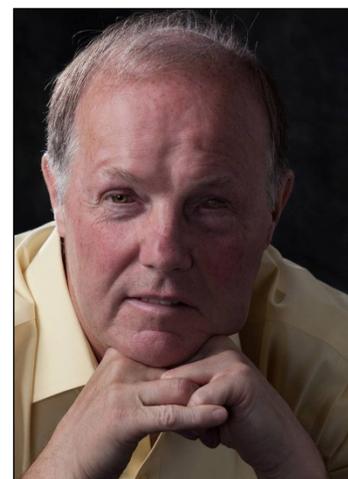
For the next eight years, I hiked, scrambled and climbed the mountains in Kananaskis gaining vital skills and ultimately met fellow climbers that I eventually climbed with on Mount McKinley in 1990 and Mount Logan in 2000.

While managing the Lodge, a duty I took on in 1992, I became a Counselor for the Town of Cochrane where Dolina and I raised our family. I served seven years with the Alberta Human Rights Commission, and in 2011, I received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Lethbridge.

The William Watson Lodge Society was incorporated in 1992. Over the next two decades, the Society would build trails to the lake, build an award-winning Interpretive Trail, expand the campground, constructed a gazebo over the group fire circle and much more.

I would like to thank the many Society Board Members I have worked with, the staff that have made the William Watson Lodge the welcoming place that it is, and the guests that I have met and shared so many good times and memories with.

I confess that when I first started working in the Park and at the Lodge I never expected to make the Lodge and the Park my life's work. I guess sometimes you just get lucky.



~ Ross Watson

Inside this Issue:	
	Pages
Changing Landscape at WWL	3
WWLS Board of Directors	4
Financial Statement	4
Flood Recovery Update	4
2013-2016 Business Plan Update	5
Leaving a Legacy	6
Mobility Cup 2014	7
Alberta Abilities Lodges Society Update	8

## Our Mandate

To enhance the experience and promote the accessibility of the William Watson Lodge and outdoor environment for the benefit and enjoyment of persons with disabilities and senior citizens of Alberta

***William Watson Lodge Society***

## Contact Us

William Watson Lodge Society  
Box 30344 Chinook Postal Outlet  
6455 Macleod Trail SE  
Calgary, AB T2H 2W1

[www.williamwatsonlodgesociety.com](http://www.williamwatsonlodgesociety.com)  
Email: [wwlodgesociety@shaw.ca](mailto:wwlodgesociety@shaw.ca)

## 2015 Annual General Meeting

William Watson Lodge Society  
At William Watson Lodge  
Saturday, June 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Followed by an Open House and  
Dedication to the new Fire Circle  
Gazebo at 1:00 p.m.

**Please Join Us**

## Gifts

Your membership and donations, as well as bequests or legacies, are gratefully received and appreciated.

Gifts may be made at the Lodge or through our contact addresses above.

## Accommodation Reservations

Cabins, RV Sites, Main Lodge Day Use  
Call (Rite) toll free 310-0000,  
Then (403) 591-7227

## Volunteers – Camp Hosts

During the camping season you may wish to volunteer as a camp host for two weeks. The WWL front desk will provide the duties of a host upon arrival. There are 13 full service sites. One is set aside for the hosts.

The Lodge Manager selects the hosts.

## For More Information

William Watson Lodge  
(403) 591-7227  
Brochure: Peter Loughheed Visitor  
Information Centre (toll free)  
310-0000,  
Then (403) 591-6322  
Kananaskis Park Website  
[www.parks.gov.ab.ca/kananaskis](http://www.parks.gov.ab.ca/kananaskis)

### Additional Photo Credits

Alberta Parks	Gwen Ross-Cieslak
Ross Wein	Carol Page
Frank Peck Family	Donna Talbot

*Photo courtesy of Gwen Ross-Cieslak*

# The Changing Landscape at William Watson Lodge

## New and Improved Cabins on the Horizon

Cabin B was one of the original cabins built at the William Watson Lodge in 1981. It consisted of two 3-bedroom units and each unit could sleep 6-8 people. These types of units are used the most by groups as they have an adjoining door between the units.

In 2013, deficiencies were detected in the building that made it unsuitable for guests to stay in. As a result, in the fall of 2014, the entire building was torn down, in less than half an hour to make way for a new one!

The Lodge staff has been working on a new design for the replacement building that will be completely updated with all the current accessible adaptations, as well as some additional improvements.

The new building will include a gas fireplace which has been a request by guests for years. We are currently putting the job out to tender and will hopefully have a new cabin in the near future.



*Demolition equipment beginning its reach over the top of Cabin B*



*30 minutes later the cabin had been leveled to the ground*

## New Gazebo Covers Fire Circle

The William Watson Lodge has had a large group fire circle since its inception. This area has been used by our guests in the summer season. The mountain weather is often rainy in June and everyone tended to stay indoors during these times. Covering the fire pit was an opportunity to allow our guests to enjoy the beautiful outdoor Kananaskis even during inclement weather.

The WWLS Society and Lodge staff began the process in 2013 by finding a suitable design and a contractor to do the work. We were looking for a structure that would need little maintenance but was still accessible, attractive, and safe. We broke ground in July 2014 and it took about four weeks to complete the project.

The cedar benches were replaced as well as the original ones had reached the end of their life.

Before the project was complete guests were already using it! During the sailing regatta in September it snowed and was used every night. We hope it will be a well-used by all and enjoyed as a social meeting place in the future.

A dedication ceremony of the new Fire Circle Gazebo will be held at the Open House following the Annual General Meeting on June 20, 2015. We hope to see you there.



*Preparing to raise the roof structure*



*Breaking ground for the support posts*



*Finished Fire Circle Gazebo complete with new benches*

**William Watson Lodge Society  
Board of Directors  
2014-2015**

President	Wayne Pelletier
Vice President	Vacant
Treasurer	Farhood Rahnama
Director and Secretary	Erin Pelletier
Director and Membership/Donations	Donna Fox
Director and Newsletter	Carol Page
Director and Newsletter	Peter Cosentino
Director and Northern Alberta Liaison	Ross Wein
Director	Sandra Sebree
Director and Grants	Vacant

**Technical Resources**

William Watson Lodge Manager	Ross Watson
WWL Staff Resource Associate	Gwen Ross-Cieslak
WWL Staff Resource Associate	Patti Johnston

*The Board wishes to extend a thank you to Terry Garvin for his service on the Board. Terry was instrumental in the development of the Interpretive Trail and the annual newsletter.*

**Financial Statement  
William Watson Lodge Society  
Balance Sheet  
As of March 31, 2014**

**ASSETS**

Cash and Bank Accounts	
Bank Operating Account	\$98,571.14
Casino Account	47,022.77
ING Savings	99,399.66
	-----
<b>TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$244,933.57</b>

**Other Assets**

Account Receivable	-
GST Receivable.	\$346.66
Interest Receivable	-
Prepaid Expenses	-
	-----
<b>TOTAL Other Assets</b>	<b>\$346.66</b>

<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$245,280.23</b>
---------------------	---------------------

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

**LIABILITIES**

Other Liabilities	-
Account Payable	-
Deferred Revenue <sup>1</sup>	\$47,017.66
Recycle Program	929.72
	-----
<b>TOTAL Other Liabilities</b>	<b>\$47,947.38</b>

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$47,947.38</b>
--------------------------	--------------------

<b>EQUITY</b>	<b>\$197,332.85</b>
---------------	---------------------

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$245,280.23</b>
---------------------------------------	---------------------

**Farewell to Frank Peck**

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of one of our colleagues. Frank Peck served on the WWLS Board in 2013-2014 as the Grants Portfolio Director. Frank passed away on April 9, 2014 in Red Deer, AB.



Frank played a key role in moving several Grant submissions forward, one of which was the successful acquisition of the \$31,000 Community Initiatives Program Grant the WWLS received in 2014.

**Recovery Update on Flood of 2013**

The major focus of last year's WWLS newsletter was the coverage of the 2013 Southern Alberta flood and its devastating impact to Kananaskis Country, including how it affected the William Watson Lodge. With the sheer commitment and dedication of Alberta Parks staff, contractors, countless volunteers and others, it is truly amazing what a difference one year makes. While there is still work to be continued in the coming year, following are a few updates:

- At the beginning of camping season in 2014, only 2 per cent of front country campsites remained unavailable.
- Approximately 87 per cent of backcountry trails were open, with three crews working through summer 2014 to work on remaining damaged trails in Kananaskis.
- The Peter Lougheed Provincial Park Visitors Centre was repaired following extensive flood water damage.

*Photos Courtesy of Alberta Parks*



*After multiple days of setup and prep, the Bill Milne pedestrian bridge is moved to its new location over Evan-Thomas Creek*



*Volunteers work on repairs to the Pocaterra Trail in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park*