Bruce has lived in the town of Banff for many years. He likes Banff. There are lots of good places to eat. He gets along well with most of the residents. The only thing Bruce may not like is all the attention. Throngs of curious onlookers often crowd around him — uncomfortably close at times — hoping to take his picture. Maybe it’s because Bruce is not your typical Banff resident. Probably it’s because Bruce is a large bull elk.

It’s the presence of Bruce and other wild animals that gives the town of Banff its unique flavour. Located in prime wildlife habitat inside a national park, the town is home to a diverse group of residents. People aren’t the only locals you’ll meet. Elk, deer, coyotes, and the occasional bear all live, or at least pass through, Banff townsite.

The town’s association with wildlife began more than 100 years ago when a reserve was established to protect the mineral springs on Sulphur Mountain. Back then, little emphasis was placed on protecting the park’s resources — development was, in fact, encouraged as a way to attract visitors. Before long, roads, stores, hotels, and houses had sprung up in the wilderness.

**Meet the Locals**

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**INSIDE THE MOUNTAIN GUIDE**

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS  Pages 8 & 9

BEAR FACTS  Page 4

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THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO!  Page 16

This is a free publication  Aussi disponible en français
Today, things have changed. Protecting our parks’ resources — particularly the wildlife — is a top priority. New national parks now have all major facilities located outside their boundaries. But here in Banff we still face the challenges posed by having a bustling townsites in the middle of a national park.

And to complicate matters, the townsites are located in the montane forest zone — the most important area for wildlife in the park. Although the montane covers less than three percent of Banff National Park, it provides critical winter range for many of the park’s large animals. Within this very limited area, wildlife must compete with roads, campgrounds, a railway, a major highway, and, of course, the town.

So Bruce goes about his business with a town in the middle of his backyard. Being somewhat of a gourmet elk, it doesn’t seem to bother him too much. He supplements his regular diet with hedges, petunias, and assorted other goodies he just can’t find elsewhere in the park. Of course, it also means being chased by stray dogs, getting his antlers tangled up in Christmas lights (It happened in 1987!), and putting up with all the attention.

First, there are the wildlife researchers who initially named Bruce. They’ve been keeping tabs on him for nearly four years as part of an elk study. Then, there are the town residents. Some of them don’t always enjoy having Bruce and other wildlife in their backyards. It can, after all, be quite a challenge trying to make a successful garden with elk around.

But most residents and park visitors love seeing Bruce. Having wildlife close by gives them an excellent chance to watch, photograph, and appreciate wild animals. But be careful. Although animals like Bruce appear tame, they are not. If approached to closely they may charge or lash out with their sharp hooves. Enjoy the wildlife, but from a safe distance!

Meeting some of the town’s more colorful locals, like Bruce, reminds us that Banff is no ordinary town. It’s a town located right in the heart of a national park!

EDITOR’S NOTE: Sadly, Bruce did not make it through this past winter. He again found himself tangled up in Christmas lights, but this time he was not so fortunate. The combination of stress, old age, and life in the townsites finally caught up with him. Bruce was over 10-years-old.

To see wildlife in a more natural setting you have to go where most of the animals prefer to be — outside the town. A drive along a parkway or a walk along one of Banff’s many trails may reward you with a glimpse of animals you’ve never seen before. Early morning and dusk is when many animals are active and visible. Some of the best places to look for wildlife include:

**Vermilion Lakes Drive** — Located just west of Banff townsite, this is the best place for watching birds, including osprey and bald eagles. It’s also a good area for seeing elk, deer, and coyotes.

**Lake Minnewanka Road** — THE place for seeing bighorn sheep. Also good for coyotes and elk.

**Bow Valley Parkway** — Good for seeing a variety of animals (see article on page 3).

**Icefields Parkway** — Possibly the best place in the park for seeing large animals. This spectacular highway between Lake Louise and Jasper offers sightings of bighorn sheep, mountain goats, moose, and both grizzly and black bears.

If you come across wildlife in your travels, please remember to pull your vehicle safely off the road and watch from a safe distance.

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**Help Preserve Banff**

- Certain areas are sometimes closed for management or safety reasons. It is unlawful to enter closed areas. Your safety and the safety of others is at risk.

**FISHING:**

A national park fishing permit is required to fish in any national park. More specific information can be found in the brochure, FISHING REGULATIONS SUMMARY.

**CAMPING:**

- Frontcountry (car) campers must purchase a camping permit from campground kiosks. Backcountry campers require a free backcountry use permit which is available at information centres or warden offices.
- Camping is permitted only in designated campsites, except in remote wilderness areas. Random camping is illegal.
- Campfires are permitted only in designated fireboxes, except in remote wilderness areas.
- Camping permit holders are responsible for both the condition of their campsite and the actions of their camping party members and guests. No objectionable disturbance or unreasonable noise will be allowed at any time.
- Food (including food in coolers) and garbage must be either stored properly inside vehicle trunks or bear-proof caches or disposed of in bear-proof garbage bins. Campsite cleanliness helps eliminate wildlife problems in campgrounds.

Violation of the national park regulations can result in eviction from the park or fines of up to $2000. Further information on regulations, trail reports, permits, brochures, and maps is available at park information centres and warden offices.
Welcome to Banff!

Welcome to Canada's first, and one of the world's best known, national parks. Within its boundaries, Banff protects and presents its visitors with some of Canada's most spectacular Rocky Mountain scenery. Few places on earth can match the majesty of her mountains, the sparkle of her emerald lakes, and the fascination of her plants and animals.

Together with the many park businesses that provide a full range of visitor services, more than 600 park staff are dedicated to making your visit safe and enjoyable. We take pride in protecting the natural and cultural resources of Banff National Park, and ask that you assist us in that trust.

Please do not feed park animals. No matter how small or big they are, maintaining them in a wild state is essential for their survival. It's important that we not crowd animals too much. Good photography is possible without putting yourself or your family in jeopardy. One of our saddest tasks is to have to kill an injured or aggressive animal as a result of careless human contact. If you have brought a family pet (we recommend you do not) it must be kept under control and on a leash at all times. With your support and help in these small but important ways, Banff National Park will retain its heritage values for future generations to enjoy.

Don't miss the many attractions and services that make your visit as exciting or relaxed as you choose. Miles of scenic parkways, trails that meet the abilities of all visitors, mineral springs, museums, interpretive centres — all await your discovery. Visitor information centres at Banff townsite and Lake Louise, and at the Chamber of Commerce office in Banff, will help you plan your day's activities and the services you require.

Enjoy your visit to Banff National Park and come again. We appreciate your suggestions and comments. Most of all, we look forward to saying, "Welcome to Banff!"

Dave Day
Superintendent
Banff National Park

The parkway is the best way

Driving between Banff and Lake Louise? Tired of all the traffic? Why not try a relaxing alternative to the busy Trans-Canada Highway — the Bow Valley Parkway.

Winding its way along the contours of the Bow Valley, the parkway allows views of towering peaks and wildlife. Elk, deer, bighorn sheep, and coyotes are commonly seen, and in recent years there have even been several sightings of wolves.

For most of its 50 kilometre (31 mile) length, the Bow Valley Parkway follows the route of the original road from Banff to Lake Louise, completed in 1920. After the Trans-Canada Highway was finished in the 1950s, the old road fell into disrepair. But, in the 1980s the parkway was given a major facelift. The old-fashioned experience of a slow-paced drive was carefully built into its design.

You'll find many places worth a stop along the way. Viewpoints, trails, and picnic sites provide enough diversions to turn a one-hour drive into a half-day adventure. Don't miss Johnston Canyon, where a short walk along suspended catwalks takes you right inside an exhilarating gorge.

There are three access points to the Bow Valley Parkway; 8 kilometres (4.8 miles) west of Banff, at Castle Mountain, and at Lake Louise. If you take the Banff access, be sure to stop at the Bow Valley Exhibit, 1 kilometre (0.6 miles) down the road. Here, four realistic relief models graphically display the evolution of the Bow Valley from an ancient sea bed to the broad, glacier-carved valley of today. The valley story continues to unfold as a series of colorful roadside exhibits. To locate them, look for the symbol on highway signs.

If, after your Bow Valley Parkway experience, you're ready for more highway adventure, try the Icefields Parkway. This 230 kilometre (140 mile) mountain highroad between Lake Louise and Jasper is a scenic drive of world renown. A brochure on the Icefields Parkway, as well as information on other scenic drives in Banff National Park, is available at information centres in Banff and Lake Louise.

List of contributors:

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Beyond the pavement

One of the best ways of getting to know Banff National Park is by hiking along one of Banff’s many trails. But even a short walk requires preparation.

Mountain weather is often unpredictable. You have to be prepared for cold, wind, rain, and strong sunlight. Here are a few suggestions to help make your walk safer and more enjoyable.

Before you start...

- Begin with a visit to a park information centre, where you can get information on trail conditions, pick up trail brochures, and purchase topographic maps. If you are taking part in an activity that may involve risk, you can register out at an information centre or warden office. This is a voluntary procedure, but if you do register out you MUST register back in, either by phone or in person. If you don’t register, tell a responsible person where you are hiking and when you’ll return.

- Wearing layers of clothing is the best approach for maintaining a comfortable body temperature. As you climb in elevation, where the air gets cooler, you can add layers, removing them as you descend. A windbreaker will help protect you from strong wind, and an umbrella or light-weight poncho can keep you dry during rain. ALWAYS be prepared for cold weather! Bring warm clothes along, even on a hot day. Sturdy, light-weight hiking boots are recommended for mountain trails.

- Sunlight can be extreme in the mountains, especially at high elevations. Sunglasses, a hat, and sunscreen can help prevent a sunburn.

- Bring food and water. High energy snacks, such as gorp (good ol’ raisins & peanuts) are recommended, and fruit is a nice treat on a hot day. If you don’t bring water, be aware that natural streams and lakes could possibly be contaminated by parasites. Select water from small streams that trickle out of side banks, or snow patches where the chance of picking up parasites is lower. When in doubt, boil water or use purifying tablets or filters.

- Bring a small first aid kit that at least includes band-aids, aspirin, adhesive tape, and moleskin for blisters. Mosquito repellent may be needed in the earlier part of summer.

On the trail...

- Watch for bear signs and make noise to warn bears of your presence. Read the free brochure, YOU ARE IN BEAR COUNTRY, for more information.

- Stay on the trail. Short-cutting on switchbacks leads to serious erosion problems and leaves ugly scars. And one misplaced step in fragile alpine areas may destroy a plant that has taken many years to mature.

- Above all, exercise good judgement. Never hike alone. Keep your group together, and recognize your limits and those of your companions. Choose trails that are suited to the level of ability of everyone in your hiking party.

If you visit the Banff Information Centre be sure to watch the 10-minute video, HIKING SAFETY, playing continuously on the Backcountry Information TV monitor. The video shows how three veteran hikers prepare for a trip, how they avoid potentially risky situations, and how they deal with an emergency.

HIKING SAFETY is one of four videos in a series called BACKCOUNTRY HINTS. The three additional videos are BEAR PRECAUTIONS, MINIMUM IMPACT CAMPING, and HIKING TIPS. The complete series takes 20 minutes to watch and is well worth the time. What you learn from them could help you avoid most hazardous situations.

If you’re staying in a hotel, tune in to Banff Cablevision (Channel 10) for the latest park and weather information. Videos on Banff’s natural and cultural history are shown daily from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Bear in mind!

To avoid attracting bears keep food locked in your car or high in a tree away from camp. Keep your campsite clean. Pack out all garbage or use the park’s bear-proof garbage cans. Hike with others or make noise if you are alone to warn bears of your presence. Remember — wild animals can be dangerous! Keep a safe distance from them. For more information about black and grizzly bears read the free brochure, YOU ARE IN BEAR COUNTRY.
Highway fencing a success

The fencing along the twinned portion of the Trans-Canada Highway is designed to do one thing — save lives!

Before the fencing went up, scores of animals (especially elk, deer, and bighorn sheep) were killed every year on the highway. In 1978 alone there were 139 recorded road kills. When the Trans-Canada was expanded in the early 1980s from two lanes to a four lane divided highway, there was concern that even more wildlife would be killed.

To protect both animals and highway travellers a 2.4 metre (8 ft.) high fence was installed along the twinned portion of the highway. Eight special wildlife underpasses were built to allow animals to travel safely back and forth across the highway.

Results of wildlife studies show that the fencing and underpasses are a success. Road kills are down by over 95% in the fenced portion, and animals are using the underpasses regularly to cross the highway corridor.

Of course, not all of our roads and highways are fenced off. But by slowing down and watching for wildlife along the roadsides, particularly in national parks, you can help reduce the number of wildlife road kills.

Wildlife Watch

Wildlife Watch is a new public awareness program designed to stop poachers before they kill priceless park animals.

The program began in 1987 and received added support in the fall of 1988 with the passage of new amendments to the National Parks Act. Anyone convicted of poaching in any of our national parks now faces a maximum fine of $150,000 and/or up to six months in jail.

You can help in the fight against poaching by reporting any suspicious activities involving people, guns, and wildlife to the Banff Warden Office at 762-4506. DO NOT APPROACH THE PEOPLE INVOLVED. Be discreet and accurately record the date, time, location, vehicle license number, description of vehicle and persons involved, and any other details of the occurrence.

New Bill Strengthens Parks Act

In 1930 the National Parks Act was passed dedicating the national parks to the people of Canada for their benefit, education, and enjoyment. The Act emphasized protection of the parks’ resources, and called for an end to all hunting, mining, and logging within the national parks.

Last fall, a long-awaited amendment to the National Parks Act, Bill C-30, became law. Some of the changes this bill brought to the Parks Act include:

- increased penalties for poaching and other national park violations.
- legal protection from development for wilderness areas.
- legislated boundaries for commercial ski areas.
- legislated boundaries for Banff and Jasper townsites.
- provisions for the establishment and management of national marine parks.
- extension of the rules governing the protection of flora and fauna to include soil, water, rocks, fossils, and air quality.

For more information on Bill C-30 or the National Parks Act ask a park interpreter or call 762-3229.

TREE TRIVIA

The oldest Douglas fir in Alberta is found right here in Banff National Park. And, because it’s growing inside the protective boundaries of a national park, this 679-year-old may still have a few good centuries left!

The Black marks on the Trembling aspen trees (the most common deciduous tree in the valley bottoms) are caused by elk chewing on the bark. A black scar grows over the opened area to protect the tree from further injury by insects or disease.

The Lodgepole pine, Alberta’s official tree, is well adapted to forest fires. The cones of a Lodgepole pine remain tightly closed until the heat from a fire melts the resin inside, causing the cones to open up and drop their seeds. The dense Lodgepole pine forests now seen along much of the Trans-Canada Highway are the result of forest fires that swept through the Bow Valley over 100-years-ago.
Curator had “scents” of adventure

What kind of person makes a successful museum curator? In 1892, when Banff’s fledgling Park Museum was looking for a curator, advice was sought as to just what qualities a good curator should possess.

Professor J. Macoun, a famous botanist of the day, answered the call with some frank recommendations. “You should have a man of wide intelligence . . . he should be energetic (not a hotel lounger) . . . a young man who could talk natural history, mineralogy, geology, and everything else with visitors . . . get a man who is willing to make something of himself.”

Just such a man drifted into Banff that same year, but it wasn’t until four years later that Norman Bethune Sanson took up the post as museum curator. Born and educated in Toronto, Sanson first came west with the Queen’s Own Rifles during the time of the Metis rebellion led by Louis Riel. He eventually came to Banff where he supported himself with various bookkeeping jobs while indulging in his favourite pass time, natural history studies. In 1896, succeeding the museum’s first curator, George Macleod, Sanson’s hobby evolved into his career.

“N.B.” (as he was known to the locals) threw himself enthusiastically into his work. In his 36 years as curator he travelled over 32,000 kilometres (20,000 miles) on foot and on horseback, collecting specimens for the new museum.

On one particular day, while exploring around Lake Louise, he spotted a skunk and, as there was no such specimen in his collection, he went to work. A piece of chloroform-soaked cotton was tossed in the animal’s path and in no time at all the curious skunk was out like a light. Sanson scooped the skunk into his pocket and hurried off to the train depot. The few remaining seats were in a car carrying several Canadian Pacific Railway bigwigs. N.B. slipped into a seat in the back and settled in for the return trip to Banff.

As the trip got underway, Sanson, thinking it would be prudent to administer another dose, reached for his chloroform bottle. One can only guess at the feeling of panic when he realized the chloroform was still back on the trail. Doubtless this revelation produced some earnest prayers, but they were in vain. The skunk came to, the C.P.R. officials were not amused, and Sanson got a little more exercise than he’d bargained for — walking the tracks the rest of the way to Banff. If an episode like that couldn’t dampen his enthusiasm, very little could.

With N.B. as curator, Prof. Macoun’s recommendations were fulfilled. Over the years, this intelligent, energetic “Nature’s Gentleman” saw his museum become a premiere attraction to the visitors of Banff National Park.

The Banff Park Museum is still a major attraction. It’s located on Banff Avenue, just before the Bow River bridge. The museum is open every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and admission is free. Stop in and visit what Norman Bethune Sanson called his “University of the Hills.”

The Magnificent Moose

What’s bigger than a bighorn, able to leap 2 metre (6 ft.) high fences in a single bound, and dives up to 5½ metres (18 ft.) under water? A moose of course!

Although there are only about 100 moose in Banff National Park, visitors travelling the Icefields Parkway stand a good chance of seeing this magnificent animal. Next to the bison, moose are North America’s largest land animal. They can weigh up to 635 kilograms (1400 lbs.) and stand 2.3 metres (7½ ft.) tall from the ground to the top of the shoulder.

The moose’s long, gangly legs, distinctive profile, and the long dewlap, or “bell”, that hangs below its chin all contribute to the animal’s unique character. Males also sport massive antlers for much of the year. A bull moose’s antlers can weigh up to 32 kilograms (70 lbs.) and span as much as 1.8 metres (6 ft.) from tip to tip!

A moose’s appetite, like its size, is truly impressive. In the summer a moose may devour up to 27 kilograms (60 lbs.) of aquatic vegetation per day. In the winter they eat up to 23 kilograms (50 lbs.) of tree bark, needles, and grass each day.

So as you drive the Icefields Parkway in the northern half of the national park, watch for the magnificent moose — a “big” part of Banff’s wildlife.
Hollywood in Banff

Hollywood and Banff are an unlikely pair. Yet the two have had a steady, if somewhat bizarre, relationship over the last 70 years.

Hollywood first discovered Banff as a film location when the Fred Stone Film Co. arrived in the park to shoot scenes for an early motion picture. The company bought an old car from Dr. Harry Brett, pushed it over the Buffalo Street cliffs, and filmed it as it was swept over Bow Falls.

Running the cascades of Bow Falls became a recurring theme for features filmed in Banff. Peter Lawford and Laddie were swept over the falls in the movie SON OF LASSIE (1944), while Marilyn Monroe, Robert Mitchum, and Tommy Retig ran the foaming torrent on a raft for the 1954 epic, RIVER OF NO RETURN.

But despite starring in over 20 major feature films Banff has seldom portrayed itself. Instead, its rugged landscape has been used as a backdrop for movies depicting the Swiss Alps, Alaska, Norway, the U.S. Rockies, and even Saskatchewan!

One of the few films where the park was allowed to play itself (the 1940 movie FORTY-NINTH PARALLEL) featured one of the most unlikely storylines in movie history. In the film, German sailors are stranded in Canada when their U-boat is sunk in Hudson Bay. Trying to make their way south to refuge in the United States (not then at war with Germany), the Nazis somehow find themselves in Banff as spectators at the annual Indian Days celebrations. When the Mounties discover them in the crowd, they are forced to flee into the mountains.

Many of Hollywood’s past excesses, such as building forts at the foot of Cascade Mountain, blowing up cabins on the shores of Moraine Lake, and demolishing cars in the Bow River, have been abolished. To protect the natural environment, national park policy now restricts film locations to developed zones of the park, such as Banff townsite and the ski areas. One of the films using Banff under these stricter rules was SKI LIFT TO DEATH (1978), though park ski areas were understandably reluctant to be identified with this terror epic.

Despite the continued use of the park for movie and television features, it’s unlikely that Banff will ever again experience the glitter of those golden years between 1920 and 1960, when the stars of Hollywood rubbed shoulders with tourists and park residents in one of North America’s most spectacular film settings.

Consolation Lake hike offers rich rewards

On a crisp, cloudless morning there are very few places as perfect as Moraine Lake. Spend a few minutes admiring this brilliant blue gem in its stunning setting, the Valley of the Ten Peaks.

A scenic, 20-minute drive from Lake Louise leads to this spectacular destination. A short walk up the “rockpile” gives you the very best vantage point, and interpretive signs highlight features along the route.

Then, continue your exploration of the Moraine Lake area by hiking to the Consolation Lakes. You can take the whole family on this gentle 6 kilometre (3.7 mile) round-trip hike. The trail’s modest 65 metre (210 feet) elevation gain offers views of glacier-clad mountains and frosty lakes, plus a rich array of wildflowers and small animals.

The trail begins at the parking lot or below the rockpile. As you cross the rockslide at the foot of the Tower of Babel, watch for golden-mantled ground squirrels and pikas scuttling among the boulders. Then, it’s a soothing walk through a cool spruce-fir forest beside the lively waters of Babel Creek. Above the murmur of the stream, listen for the single buzzing note of a varied thrush, or the muffled roar of an avalanche farther up the valley.

The forest is full of life. Wisps of lichen dangle from branches, while rich green mosses and yellow arnica brighten the shadows. You might surprise a porcupine as it shuffles across the trail, en route to a favourite feeding tree.

Just before Lower Consolation Lake the trail opens and crosses a wet meadow vibrant with Indian Paintbrush, heather, and elephant-heads in mid-summer. A few scattered alpine larch remind you that this lofty valley is close to the timberline.

When you reach the lake, the local residents will likely spot you before you spot them. Sprawled on top of large boulders, the chunky hoary marmots have a commanding view of all intruders. The boulders make an excellent viewpoint. You can see Lower Consolation Lake, the glaciated peaks of Mt. Bident and Mt. Quadra, and Mt. Temple — one of the park’s highest peaks.

There are few trails in Banff National Park that offer such a rich sampling of high mountain life for such a modest physical effort, so don’t miss the majesty and beauty of the Moraine Lakes area.

( Guided walks to Consolation Lakes are available twice a week — see page 9 for details.)

Did you know . . .

What do the Taj Mahal, the Galapagos Islands, and Banff National Park have in common? They’re all World Heritage Sites!

Places “of exceptional interest and universal value” can be designated World Heritage Sites by the United Nations. Banff, Jasper, Kootenay, and Yoho National Parks were honored with this status in 1985. A plaque on the shore of Lake Louise commemorates the designation of these four mountain parks as a World Heritage Site.
**Banff Townsite**  
*June 26 - Sept. 3*

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<th>Monday</th>
<th>1 p.m.</th>
<th>Cave &amp; Basin Discovery Hour (E)</th>
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<th>Vermilion Lakes Walk (A)</th>
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<th>Tunnel Mountain (hookups)</th>
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<td>Cave &amp; Basin Discovery (E)</td>
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<td>Information Centre Theatre</td>
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<td>Johnston Canyon Campground Theatre</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Johnston Canyon Campground Theatre</td>
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**Around the Town**

**A Vermilion Lakes Walk:** Varied lakeshore habitats make the Vermilion Lakes one of the richest bird and wildlife areas in the park. Learn more on a leisurely stroll along the shoreline of Vermilion Lakes. Meet at the turn-off on the Vermilion Lakes Drive, 1.3 kilometres (0.8 miles) from Banff townsite, for this two-hour return walk. Meet at the turn-off on the Vermilion Lakes Drive, 1.3 kilometres (0.8 miles) from Banff townsite, for this two-hour return walk. Monday 7 p.m. & Thursday 8:30 a.m.

**B Minnewanka Lakeshore Walk:** Minnewanka, "Lake of the Water Spirit", has witnessed an intriguing history of human activity. Discover why on this pleasant two-hour return walk along the shore of Banff’s largest lake. Meet just beyond the food concession at the Minnewanka picnic area. Tuesday 2 p.m. & Saturday 10 a.m.

**C Tunnel Mountain Walk:** This is everyone’s chance to climb a mountain in Banff National Park! Spectacular views of Banff townsite and the Bow Valley highlight this moderate, three-hour return walk to the summit of Tunnel Mountain. Meet at the trailhead parking lot on St. Julian Road, just before the Banff Centre. Sunday 2 p.m.

**D Historic Walking Tour:** Discover Banff’s unique mountain architecture and hear tales of rugged and often eccentric pioneers on this leisurely two-hour walking tour of Banff townsite. Meet in front of the Park Museum, 93 Banff Avenue, beside the Bow River Bridge. Friday 2 p.m.

**At the Cave**

**E Cave & Basin Discovery:** Discover something special about the Cave & Basin. You may meet a character from the past, learn how water creates rock, or explore the microscopic world of a drop of marsh water. Check the event board at the Cave & Basin entrance for the topic and meeting place. Monday & Tuesday 1 p.m.; Friday & Sunday 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

**F Exotic Aquatics:** Tropical fish in the mountains? You’ll find these and other wetland creatures when you take this evening stroll around the Cave & Basin Marsh. Wear sturdy shoes and bring binoculars for this 1 1/2 hour event. Meet at the entrance to the Cave & Basin Centre. Tuesday & Thursday 6 p.m.

**G Cave & Basin Nature Walk:** You may spot a bald eagle, discover signs of elk, or enjoy the many wildflowers in bloom. This easy two-hour stroll begins at the front entrance to the Cave & Basin Centre. Tuesday & Thursday 6 p.m.

**Film — Steam, Schemes, and National Dreams**

It all began in 1883 when three young railway workers discovered the Cave & Basin hot springs. Little did they know that Canada’s national park system would result from their discovery. This half-hour film at the Cave & Basin theatre tells the tale of steamng springs, schemes to get rich, and of national dreams the springs sparked. Wednesday & Saturday 2 p.m.

**At the Lake**

**H Plain of Six Glaciers Hike:** Exert yourself a bit on this six-hour, 13 kilometre (8 mile) round trip hike through inspiring scenery of mountains and glaciers. Meet at the large sign with the yellow bighorn ram’s head symbol near the shore of Lake Louise. Wear sturdy shoes and bring waterproof clothing. You can carry a lunch or buy one at the teahouse. Monday & Thursday 9 a.m.

**I Lake Agnes Walk:** This three-hour walk to a small hanging valley perched high above Lake Louise offers spectacular views of the area. Meet at the large sign with the yellow bighorn ram’s head symbol near the shore of Lake Louise. Bring your lunch if you like. Monday, Wednesday & Saturday 10 a.m.

**J Lake Louise Lakeshore Stroll:** Who was Louise? Are you interested in learning about Lake Louise’s colourful human history and natural features. Meet at the large sign with the yellow bighorn ram’s head symbol near the shore of Lake Louise. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Sunday 7 p.m.

**K Consolation Lake Walk:** Come on an easy, three-hour walk through a shady mountain forest to a sparkling glacier-fed lake. You may even see a marmot or a porcupine! Meet at the sign in the Moraine Lake parking lot. Friday & Sunday 10 a.m.

**On the Parkway**

**1. Parker Ridge Walk:** Panoramic views of the Saskatchewan Glacier and Columbia Icefield are the highlights of this moderately strenuous two-hour walk above treeline. Meet at the Parker Ridge trailhead, 5 kilometres (3 miles) south of the Jasper park boundary on the Icefields Parkway. Bring your lunch if you like. Thursday & Sunday 11 a.m.

**Roving Interpreters**

Watch for park interpreters in and around the Banff townsite area. Whether they’re on top of Sulphur Mountain, at Vermilion Lakes, or in Central Park, interpreters are ready to answer your questions about Banff. And be sure to look for the Great Banff Game trailer where you can test your knowledge of Banff National Park.

**Need More Info. ?**

If you have questions about programs or want further information on the natural and cultural history of Banff National Park, call an interpreter at 762-3229 (522-3873 in Lake Louise) or drop by the Interpretive office in the lower level of the Information Centre, 224 Banff Avenue.
A howl of a time

Some visitors to Banff National Park may be lucky enough to hear one of nature’s most exciting sounds — the howl of a wolf. It’s a sound you won’t soon forget — mournful, mysterious, and spine-chilling!

Are the wolves serenading a full moon, or is it the rallying cry of the hunt? Why do wolves howl? One reason is to call the pack, or family unit, together. And what better way to gather the troops than to belt out a hearty “Get over heeeere!”

Wolves will also howl to warn other wolf packs to stay out of their territory. A good round of “stay awaaaaay” can be heard by other wolves for miles around.

Wolves will even howl to identify different members of the pack. By listening to the tone or pitch of a howl, a wolf can tell who’s calling. This allows wolves to talk to each other over long distances; “Who are youuuuu?”

Sometimes when wolves get together they will howl just for the fun of it. A lot of tail-wagging and face-licking usually accompanies a howling session. Perhaps the wolves are excited because they haven’t seen each other for a while, or who knows... maybe they are excited by a full moon. Whatever the reason, there’s nothing like a chorus of “yaaaaaawww” to liven up an evening in the forest.

So wolves howl for a number of reasons. But it’s not just other wolves they’ll talk to. People imitating wolf howls can sometimes get a pack of wolves to respond, and if wolves don’t answer, coyotes just might. Their higher-pitched yipping and barking is often heard around the Banff townsite area. So why not try calling our canine friends. All it takes is a strong voice and a friendly “Helloooouu!”

A-mazing Tunnels

You see them everywhere — scurrying about campgrounds and picnic sites, darting across roads, or popping their heads out of holes. Are they mountain gophers? Prairie dogs? Actually they’re Columbian ground squirrels.

Although often seen by visitors, Columbian ground squirrels spend most of their lives in a world we cannot see - a world underground. They construct an elaborate maze of tunnels and chambers, sometimes totalling 20 metres (66 ft.) in length. These tunnels, usually found beneath grassy fields, allow the ground squirrels to escape bad weather, predators such as hawks or coyotes, and, most of all, winter.

For nearly eight months of the year Columbian ground squirrels sleep soundly in their winter dens. Their winter homes are built lower than their summer burrows for added insulation, and include a sleeping den lined with grass, a food storage chamber, and an escape hatch built almost to the surface. The squirrels even build a sump hole which drains off any water that may threaten to flood their cozy abode.

Even during the summer ground squirrels spend a lot of time underground. Their summer homes consist of sleeping chambers, nurseries, and many shallow passageways. The ground squirrels venture to the surface only during the daytime to search for food, never straying far from the safety of a tunnel. Extra entrances are hidden at the surface by rocks or vegetation. If a predator approaches too closely, a shrill “chirp” from an alert ground squirrel warns the entire colony of danger, and the concealed “plunge holes” become handy escape routes.

One of the best places to get an above ground look at a Columbian ground squirrel colony is at the entrance to the Buffalo Paddock. And although it’s difficult to resist the temptation to feed these friendly squirrels, please remember that feeding any wildlife in a national park is illegal! Even ground squirrels can bite (Hard!) and may carry ticks or fleas. They also fare much better on their own diet of seeds, leaves, roots, and insects. By keeping them wild you will be helping to protect the park as a natural, unspoiled place.
Clues Across:
1. This red-breasted bird is the park museum's oldest specimen.
4. Male bighorn sheep.
6. The curator, N.B. Sanson, first came west to fight in the Metis
8. Female bighorn sheep.
9. A horn is permanent, _______ drop off each year.
10. Medium sized cat with very large feet.
12. This little "rock rabbit" makes hay while the sun shines.
16. Comes in blue, spruce, and ruffed varieties.
19. Features a loon, worth a buck.
20. Big ones are pulled from Lake Minnewanka.
22. Dog family member, called gray but may be black.

Clues Down:
1. Sulphur is one example.
2. This big mammal is omnivorous. In Banff its diet is 90% vegetation.
3. Large bird of prey.
5. This native of the high Arctic is a relic of the last Ice Age.
7. A big-eared deer.
8. Short-tailed weasel.
11. Sanson's first name.
13. Both males and females of this deer species sport antlers.
15. Present day name of Canada's first national park.
16. This mountain climber is often confused with bighorn sheep.
17. Once thought to be the best place to see "wild" animals.
19. Female moose.

Solution
Golden-mantled ground squirrels can be seen scurrying about rockpiles. Their favourite foods are seeds, insects, mushrooms, and flowers. Why not draw them something good to eat?
Yaks in Banff?

In the early days of Banff, wildlife watching offered little challenge. Visitors could tour the park via horse-drawn buggy and be guaranteed a good close look at “wildlife.”

Park superintendent Howard Douglas made every effort to ensure that well-heeled visitors would catch more than a fleeting glimpse of the park’s animals. He build outdoor enclosures in a broad grassy area at the foot of Cascade Mountain, brought in a bizarre menagerie of animals, and set up a primitive zoo.

At a time when most government efforts were geared toward pleasing tourists and “improving” the park, few people questioned the wisdom of confining animals for public display.

Visitors could meet Moose Billy, Tom — Lord of the Elks, a tribe of angora goats, and even a resident yak. Supt. Douglas saw nothing strange about importing foreign species to share his animal paddock with native wildlife. Tourists could also stare accusingly at the national park’s much-maligned “bad” animals—a coyote chained to a post, or a caged cougar.

While these animals were popular, the highlight of any park tour was the buffalo paddock. With the great prairie herds hunted almost to extinction, few people had seen a living buffalo. Thanks to private donors, the national park sheltered a small but growing herd. Visitors could drive through a large enclosure in search of Sir Donald, a massive 910 kilogram (2000 lb.) bull, his herd of cows, and their numerous offspring.

Inside the paddock, visitors peered into aspen groves and out across open grasslands. They passed well-worn trails and bushes thrashed by buffalo horns. Sometimes the buffalo were cooperative; other times, elusive. Fortunately for the tourists, Howard Douglas had hired Ed Ellis as keeper of the herd.

Ellis was a “true type of the Western cowboy.” He greeted visitors and provided alfalfa and salt blocks for his charges. If the buffalo refused to appear, it was his job to coax them, cajole them, round them up, or even stage a mock stampede. When the dust had settled, startled tourists found themselves eye to eye with a whole herd of buffalo.

Today, the zoo is gone, but the buffalo still roam in their paddock, often hiding in the aspen stands away from the road. The best time to see them is early in the morning or in the evening. Take binoculars, drive slowly, and listen to Canadian Parks Service Radio 1490 for information. Patience, perseverence, and a little knowledge of buffalo habits may reward you with a glimpse of one of Canada’s living legends.

With the zoo gone, wildlife watching is a bit more challenging these days. But that challenge brings with it the reward of seeing the animals in their natural setting — the beautiful scenery of Banff National Park!

New Visitor Centre for Lake Louise

Appropriate to its majestic setting, the visitor centre will present a story unique to the mountain parks, the building of the Canadian Rockies. A walk through the exhibit galleries will take you on a journey through 600 million years — from a shallow sea to high ice-capped peaks.

Completion of the Lake Louise Visitor Centre is scheduled for the fall of 1989, with the grand opening in the spring of 1990. This will conclude a 10-year development program at Lake Louise, and mark the opening of a centre that will provide a unique and memorable experience for visitors to Banff National Park.

Mountain Bikers!

Anyone interested in mountain biking should be aware that only certain trails are open to cyclists. For more information, pick up the free brochure, TRAIL BICYCLING IN NATIONAL PARKS IN ALBERTA & BRITISH COLUMBIA.
**Historic Hut Welcomes Mountaineers**

Perched on a windswept pass between Mt. Victoria and Mt. Lefroy, one of Canada’s highest buildings, the Abbot Pass Hut, has offered shelter to mountain climbers in Banff National Park for over 65 years.

The solid stone hut sits 2929 metres (9600 ft.) above sea level on the continental divide between Alberta and British Columbia. It was built on Abbot Pass, named for Philip Abbot, a young Boston lawyer who fell to his death in 1896 while attempting the yet unclimbed Mt. Lefroy. Abbot’s death was the first in North American mountaineering history, and today many mountaineers follow the route he pioneered to the summit of Lefroy.

Swiss guides working for the Canadian Pacific Railway undertook the monumental task of building the Abbot Pass Hut in 1922. Two tons of supplies were rafted across Lake Louise, then carried on horseback up the trail and over the lower part of the Victoria Glacier.

Once in the “Death Trap” (the gap between Mt. Victoria and Mt. Lefroy), large crevasses made further horse travel impossible, so everything was hauled up on the guides’ backs under the constant danger of rockfall from Lefroy and avalanches from Victoria. Cement, bolts, windows, timbers, stoves, tools, beds, mattresses, and food were carried up in loads weighing as much as 34 kilograms (75 lbs.).

Today, the hut is under the guardianship of the Alpine Club of Canada. Facilities include a combined kitchen and common room, a bunk room, and an outhouse with one of the most spectacular views in the world. A custodian manages the hut throughout the summer, and reservations can be made through the Alpine Club office in Banff.

Experienced climbers can reach Abbot Pass from Lake Louise via the Plain of Six Glaciers trail, the Victoria Glacier, and the Death Trap. From B.C., climbers reach the pass from Lake O’Hara in Yoho National Park via a steep and grueling climb up a scree slope behind Lake Oesa. Mountaineering experience or a guide is essential — neither route is suitable for hikers! However, anyone with the energy and interest can view the Abbot Pass Hut (and the outhouse!) from a safe distance by hiking the Plain of Six Glaciers trail from Lake Louise to the viewpoint beyond the tea house.

(B Guided walks up the Plain of Six Glaciers trail are offered twice a week — see the schedule on page 9 for details.)

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**Banff’s Tiny Treasures**

The word orchid conjures up images of steaming Amazonian jungles dripping in multi-colored flowers exuding a thick perfume. And while it’s true orchids do grow in jungles, they are also found throughout the world, and are one of the most common plants.

Here in Banff National Park there are 16 species of orchids. Most are small, delicate flowers found in moist forests and wetlands throughout the park.

The Venus’s Slipper or Calypso orchid, with its small purple flower, is one of the most exquisite to be found in Banff. It blooms in late spring for a short period of time amid Lodgepole pine forests.

The Round-leaved orchid has flowers resembling small angels. It can be found in June growing in the calcium rich soil that surrounds areas such as the Cave and Basin Centennial Centre or near the Vermilion Lakes.

An orchid once common around the townsite, but now very rare, is the yellow Lady’s Slipper. A large, showy orchid, it has been picked almost out of existence — serving as a reminder that we should leave wildflowers alone. Picking flowers not only means that the bloom is gone, but, as in the Lady’s Slipper’s case, it may also kill the plant.

These are only a few of the orchids to be found in Banff National Park. If you wish to discover more about Banff’s orchids there are a number of good field guides available, or ask a park interpreter for more information.
Tune in to Banff Cablevision, (Channel 10) any hour of the day, for the latest park and weather information. Videos on Banff's natural and cultural history are also shown from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Banff's hostels

Banff National Park is home to six hostels operated by the Southern Alberta Hostelling Association.

Open to everyone, regardless of age, these hostels have their own unique style and individual charm, ranging from the luxurious Banff International Hostel on Tunnel Mountain Road to the cozy Hilda Creek Hostel, south of the Columbia Icefields.

The hostelling association, in cooperation with the Canadian Parks Service, has developed information resource libraries and displays at each hostel.

For more information and reservations call the Banff International Hostel at (403) 762-4122, or the Southern Alberta Hostelling Association in Calgary at (403) 283-5551.
Camping guide to
Banff National Park

Where to Camp:

Tunnel Mountain: 
- Trailer Court: May 19 - Sept. 25
- Village II: Open year round
- Village I: May 19 - Sept. 25
- Two Jack Main: May 19 - May 22, June 16 - Sept. 5
- Lakeside: June 30 - Sept. 5
- Johnston Canyon: May 19 - Sept. 11
- Castle Meadows (group tenting): May 19 - Sept. 11
- Castle Mountain: June 23 - Sept. 5
- Protection Mountain: June 23 - Sept. 5
- Lake Louise: May 19 - Sept. 24

Winter camping after Sept. 24

Mosquito Creek: June 16 - Sept. 11
(No winter camping charge)

Waterfowl: June 16 - Sept. 11

Rampart Creek: June 23 - Sept. 5

Cirrus Mountain: June 23 - Sept. 5
(No charge from Sept. 6 to snowfall.)

Sites in these campgrounds are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Demand is heavy through July and August. Johnston Canyon and Tunnel Mountain are often full by noon, other campgrounds by 4 p.m., so it's best to arrive early. Camping is allowed only in designated campsites.

Recreational vehicle sewage disposal stations:
- Government industrial compound - Banff townsite
- Tunnel Mountain campground - all three sections
- Two Jack campground - main campground
- Johnston Canyon campground
- Protection Mountain campground

Legend

- campground
- youth hostel
- picnic area
- information centre
- warden station
- services
- roadway
- park boundary

Directory of Park Facilities & Services

Information Centres:
- Banff townsite, 224 Banff Ave 762-4256
- (Information in French) 762-4834
- To June 2 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- June 3 - Sept. 4 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- Sept. 5 - May 31, 1990 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Lake Louise Information Centre 522-3833
- May 19 - June 18 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- June 19 - Sept. 4 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- Sept. 5 - Oct. 9 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- David Thompson Gate June 16 - Sept. 5

Park Warden Offices:
- Banff 762-4506
- Lake Louise 522-3866
- Saskatchewan River Crossing No phone

Park Interpretive Offices:
- Banff 762-3229
- Lake Louise 522-3873

Upper Hot Pool, Mountain Avenue:
- To June 1 Monday - Thursday 2.30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- Monday - Thursday 8.30 a.m. - 11 p.m.
- June 2 - Oct. 9 Daily 8.30 a.m. - 11 p.m.
- Oct. 10 - June 2, 1990 Monday - Thursday 2.30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- Friday - Sunday 8.30 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Cave & Basin Centennial Centre:
- To June 9 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- June 10 - Sept. 4 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Winter hours 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Cave & Basin Swimming Pool:
- June 10 - Sept. 4 (Closed in winter) 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Park Museum (No charge):
- Banff Avenue next to the bridge 762-3324
- 8 a.m. - Noon
- Monday - Friday 1 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Banff National Park Administration Building:
- South end of Banff Avenue 762-3324

Emergencies:
- R.C.M.P. Police, Banff 762-2226
- R.C.M.P. Police, Lake Louise 522-3811
- Mineral Springs Hospital, Wolf Street 762-2222
- Ambulance 762-4333
- Fire Dept., Banff 762-2000
- Fire Dept., Lake Louise 522-2000
- Veterinarian, Canmore 678-4425
- Alberta Motor Association (A.M.A.) 762-2711
LET US GUIDE YOU

Hike to a mountain lake, find out what grizzlies really eat, or meet a costumed character from Banff’s past! Throughout the summer, park interpreters offer a variety of free events to help you enjoy Banff’s natural and cultural history. Activities take place in and around Banff townsit, at Lake Louise, and along the Icefields Parkway. See pages 8 & 9 for a complete schedule of events.

A park interpreter on a guided walk up Tunnel Mountain.

STEP BACK IN TIME

Explore the mysterious cave, swim in a warm mineral springs pool, or look for tropical fish along the Marsh Trail boardwalk. The Cave & Basin offers all this — and much more! Take in an interpretive event, bicycle to Sundance Canyon, have a snack at the teahouse, or stroll along the Discovery Trail. And remember, if you don’t have your own swimsuit you can always rent one of our old fashion bathing costumes!

THE WATER’S HOT

The water’s hot! Why not take time for a relaxing soak in the hot springs of Sulphur Mountain? (Average temperature — 38°C or 100°F.) Swim suits, towels, and lockers are available for a fee, and there is a massage clinic as well.

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