



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada



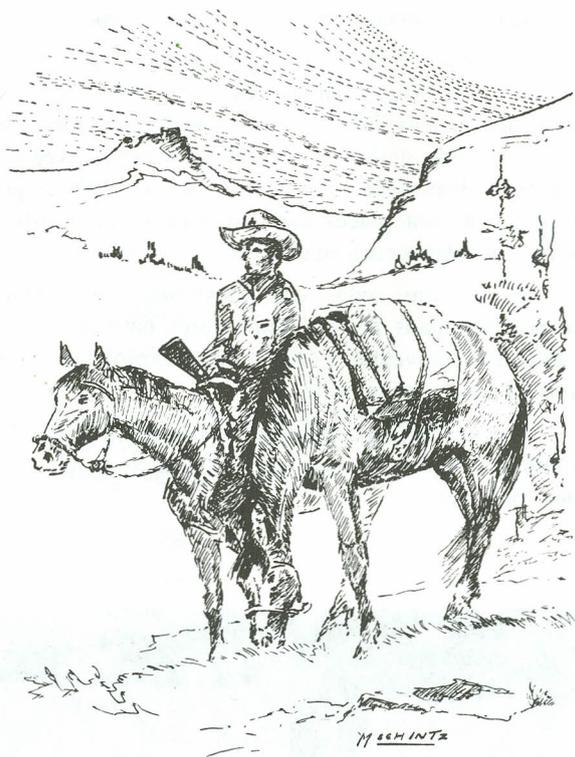
NATIONAL PARK  
WARDEN SERVICE

**Who We Are**  
**What We Do**  
**How To Join**

## History of the Warden Service

In 1909, 24 years after the first Canadian national park was formed, Howard E. Sibbald was appointed Chief Fire and Game Warden of Rocky Mountains Park (now Banff National Park). The first force of men were hired the following year to act as Fire Patrolmen and Game Law Enforcement Officers.

The Warden Service has undergone many changes since those early days when the force consisted of former trappers, mountain men and even reformed poachers. They performed their duties in districts larger than many of today's small national parks and they did it on horseback, by canoe and on foot in summer and on snowshoes in winter.



The wardens themselves built the patrol and headquarters cabins which ranged from simple wicki-ups to more elaborate log structures. Windy Cabin No. 3, built in 1911 in Banff National Park has been moved to the grounds of the Whyte Foundation in Banff and is open to the public for viewing.

The first warden's convention was held in 1923 in Banff National Park providing an opportunity for the wardens of Rocky Mountain parks to exchange ideas. An important outcome of that meeting was the first wardens' training school held in 1925. This system of meetings and training schools is still used today.

The service continued through this formative period with little or no regimentation until 1938, when wardens were issued their first uniform. The dark green wool whipcord uniforms were topped off with a light brown hat with a rolled brim. In 1938 a warden's issue included a tunic, breeches, slacks, Stetson hat, high-lace boots, ankle boots, shirts, belt, ties, parka, raincoat and overalls.

Park wardens, then and now, as uniformed employees with peace officer status are expected to set a high standard of dress and deportment.

The 1950s saw advances in both avalanche and mountain rescue training as park wardens took over these duties from Swiss guides hired by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

In the late 1960s, an important document entitled the Park Warden Function in the National Park Service was prepared, reflecting and giving direction to the changing role of the park warden. Because of this report, the wardens were required to accept more responsibility for resource management, search and rescue activities, public relations and park protection than previously had been required.

As Canada's park system expanded so did the Warden Service. There are parks in every province of the country, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon and just over 300 wardens working in them.

From its 1909 beginning, the National Park Warden Service has enjoyed a comradeship and an esprit de corps in keeping with its record of distinguished performance.

## WHO WE ARE

The Warden Service is comprised of a uniformed group of men and women employed by Parks Canada for the purposes of natural resource management and protection, visitor safety, law enforcement and public relations.

## OUR OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Warden Service is to protect for all time those significant natural areas of Canada which have been designated as national parks and to encourage public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the natural heritage so as to leave it unimpaired for future generations.



## WHAT WE DO

A breakdown of the four major responsibilities of the Warden Service follows:

**Natural Resource Management and Protection** A variety of tasks fall under this category including wildlife monitoring, habitat evaluation, water quality evaluations, monitoring of predator/prey relationships; monitoring of animal disease outbreaks and investigating their causes; monitoring of forest insect infestation and recommending action; forest fire suppression, weather monitoring and recording, forest stand enhancement, flood and avalanche control, implementation of the environmental assessment and review process, compilation of park conservation and management plans as well as the production of various resource management plans and reports.

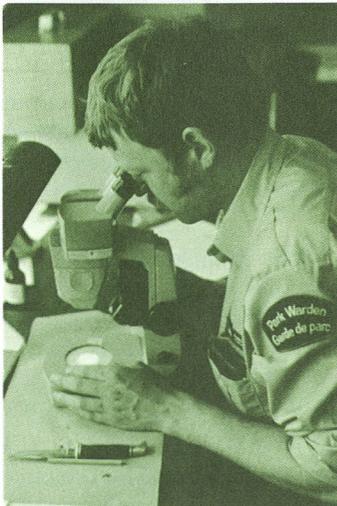
**Public Safety** A variety of mountaineering rescue techniques, avalanche search and rescue, water search and rescue, emergency first aid skills, use of tranquilizing drugs to control wildlife, use of explosives for avalanche control; emergency evacuation and pollution control skills; structural fire

suppression, ground search and rescue techniques fall under public safety.

**Law Enforcement** Park wardens perform a variety of duties which include conducting investigations, search, seizure and arrests; giving testimony in court, issuing of summons and legal documents, enforcing the National Parks Act and Regulations, sections of the Criminal Code and various provincial and federal statutes.

**Public Relations** The very nature of a park warden's duties necessitate frequent contact with the visiting public. Wardens are often required to answer questions and provide direction in relation to park regulations, national resource management programs and policies, public safety guidelines and a variety of other park related information.

In addition, wardens are often required to speak to specific groups such as high school and university students, Girl Guide and Boy Scout associations, other special interest groups and at park orientation programs.



## WHO CAN JOIN

Qualifications needed to become a park warden include successful completion of both high school and two years post secondary training in natural resource management or one of the natural sciences. Experience is desirable in one or more of the following disciplines – natural resource management and backcountry and wilderness travel in a variety of climatic conditions using a variety of personal and mechanical equipment and techniques is also desirable.

Conditions of employment include possession of a valid driver's licence and a pre-employment medical.

## HOW TO JOIN

Parks Canada usually conducts annual warden competitions at the GT-01 level in each of Parks Canada's five regions. GT-01 is the first level of the general technical category and is the level at which park warden recruitment begins. This level involves seasonal and term employment. From that point, advancement to permanent positions and promotions are achieved through in-service competitions.

Job posters for recruit levels are approved and their distribution sanctioned by the Public Service Commission. The posters are circulated to education outlets such as colleges and universities, Canada Manpower Centres, post offices and throughout other federal government agencies.

Candidates wishing to apply, should submit their resumes to the personnel section of the regional office of Parks Canada in whose region the competition is being held. See appendix.

The candidates' resumes are screened and those who qualify are granted interviews. The candidates are judged on their ability to answer oral and written questions relative to the advertised position. The successful candidates are placed on an eligible list in accordance with the rating they obtained in the competition.

As positions become available in the national parks, candidates are selected from the eligible list in order of merit.

Interested candidates are advised to register at Canada Manpower Centres well in advance of prospective competitions.



## APPENDIX

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Historic Properties  
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Ontario Region  
Parks Canada  
111 Water Street East  
Cornwall, Ontario  
K6H 6S3  
(613) 938-5873

Quebec Region  
Parks Canada  
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P.O. Box 6060, Haute-Ville  
Quebec, QC  
G1R 4V7  
(418) 648-4843

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Confederation Building  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
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Western Region  
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