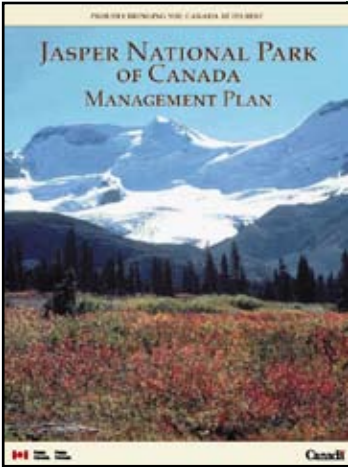




Jasper National Park of Canada



2008 Annual Park Report

On behalf of the Parks Canada Agency, I am pleased to report on progress in the implementation of the Jasper National Park of Canada Management Plan (PMP), approved in 2000. Park Management Plans are approved by the Minister responsible for National Parks and are tabled in Parliament. Annual reporting allows us to share important information and evaluate progress in the implementation of the PMP. Parks Canada hosts an annual public forum to report on performance and seek advice on priorities for upcoming years. Additionally, management plans are required by legislation to be reviewed every five years to determine if any major adjustments or changes are required. Reviews of the management plans for Jasper, Banff, Kootenay, Yoho, Mount Revelstoke, Glacier, and Waterton Lakes National Parks are being conducted in a common timeframe to improve coordination of strategies and alignment with Parks Canada Agency priorities. Beginning in 2009, we will be seeking the active participation of the public and Aboriginal groups in updating the management plans. To inform the PMP review process, a State of the Park Report was completed for Jasper National Park in 2008. The updated plan, expected to be completed in early 2010, will build on the strengths of the 2000 plan and set the stage for the next 15-year period in the history of Jasper National Park.

The public has important roles to play in the implementation of the PMP: to share its views, aspirations, knowledge, and recommendations; to keep us all informed and aware of changing circumstances that affect the Park; and to participate in the Plan's review and updating. Public involvement is ongoing, and evident in all facets of Park management planning and operations. The planning forum is held annually, and is one of many opportunities to be involved and participate in the management and future of Jasper National Park of Canada.

Greg Fenton, Superintendent
Jasper National Park of Canada

Jasper Community Sustainability Plan

The Municipality of Jasper and Parks Canada are engaging the public in the creation of the Jasper Community Sustainability Plan (JCSP), which will replace the Jasper Community Land Use Plan. The JCSP was initiated following the completion of a State of the Community Report (2006), which summarized results, and the approval of a project charter by the CEO of the Parks Canada Agency and the Mayor of the Municipality of Jasper. Public consultation began in October with a kick-off at the Jasper Activity Centre, which was followed by a workshop on sustainable tourism and multiple slideshow nights where residents were encouraged to produce presentations about sustainability and Jasper. As well, Jasperites were given opportunities to review the existing Jasper Vision Statement, to identify elements of the community that are valued and worthy of protection, and to give input into which elements require improvement.

The planning process is being steered by a working group of local residents who meet regularly to provide community-based leadership in the development of the sustainable community plan. After confirming the vision, principles, and themes for the process, the next stage of the program began in January 2009 and will see goals, targets and indicators selected to guide the process of plan implementation.



For additional information on the planning process and upcoming events, please visit jasperplan.wordpress.com or contact Neil MacDonald (Parks Canada) at (403) 292-6619 or Verne Balding (Municipality of Jasper) at (780) 852-4724.



A Place for Nature

Shared Regional Ecosystems



Grizzly Bears

This summer, the Foothills Research Institute and Parks Canada combined efforts to estimate the grizzly bear population north of Highway 16 as part of an effort to estimate the population in Alberta. Bear hair was collected at 100 scent sites for DNA analysis. At each site, a strand of barbed wire was attached around trees to catch the hair of bears investigating the site. JNP staff also set up 60 barbed wire sites on bear rub trees along trails (left). A bear rub tree usually lacks lower branches, is smooth, is sometimes discoloured, has bear hair on the rub surface, and sometimes lacks vegetation around the base of the tree where the bear stands. Extracting DNA from the collected hairs can identify individuals and the sex of bears who donated hair, and give an overall estimate of the population.

Forest Insects

The number of newly-attacked mountain pine beetle (MPB) trees remains relatively low in JNP. We can attribute this to management initiatives such as prescribed burns both inside and outside of the Park and a Parks Canada beetle crew that surveys, cuts, and burns affected trees during the winter. As well, while winters have been mild (a major contributor to beetle colonization success in western Canada), cooler local spring and summer temperatures have helped suppress populations by fragmenting the late-summer beetle flight to find new host trees, and by reducing reproduction.

Within the Athabasca and Miette Valleys, the rate of beetle colonization remains light and sporadic. Beetles appear to be killing trees in the Smoky district of the Park, but not reproducing, surviving, or spreading there. Efforts to stop or slow the spread of the beetle will remain concentrated along Highway 16, where spread potential is greatest.

Douglas-fir beetle (DFB) activity has been mapped in JNP since the early 1990s. In 2008, 20 locations were identified compared to 32 in 2006. Approximately 300 newly-killed trees were found, similar to 2006. DFB continues to affect trees on the Pyramid Bench, along Cottonwood Creek, and around Lakes Edith and Annette. A fall brood assessment indicated an expanding DFB population.

Grain Spills

Canada's two major railways are working to reduce grain spills by improving the maintenance and operation of



hopper cars. In February, Parks Canada began monitoring the quantity of grain spilled to establish if the upgrades will result in less grain on the tracks and fewer wildlife mortalities. At numerous sites, grain is monitored by placing window

screen between the tracks; grain is collected and weighed weekly. So far, data are showing that the quantity of grain spilled is seasonal, increasing during the fall and winter shipping periods. In 2009, Parks Canada will continue to monitor grain spilled to determine if the hopper upgrades are starting to show results on the ground.

Species at Risk - Woodland Caribou

Throughout much of the woodland caribou's range, many old-growth forests that formerly supported caribou have been harvested and now support more elk, deer, and moose. When these populations increase, wolf numbers also increase, and caribou populations decrease. In JNP, forestry is not an issue, but it is likely that the community of Jasper increases elk populations and thus wolf populations as well, as elk use it as a predator refuge. Part of Parks Canada's caribou recovery strategy is to address the hyperabundance of elk in the community of Jasper.

South of Highway 16, the caribou population is approximately 125 and stable, although some herds are shrinking and others are expanding. North of the Highway, the population is thought to have been stable over the last decade, but as of yet there are no concrete data.

We have accomplished much in 2008; plans for 2009 include continuing to:

- work with the Universities of Montana and Calgary on a caribou/elk/wolf study that spans the Rockies. It will provide much-needed data on wildlife densities and wolf kill rates that will aid the evaluation of caribou persistence probabilities, and therefore will be used to fine-tune management efforts.
- work with the University of Montana on fire/elk/wolf modelling, which will help enhance caribou survival through fire management by increasing the separation between caribou and wolves.
- evaluate the use of DNA collected from caribou pellets as a population monitoring tool. If effective, the scat technique will allow us to cease caribou collaring, thus reducing their handling stress.
- enhance public understanding of caribou conservation.
- implement the 2005 Caribou Action Plan.
- develop the Mountain Parks Caribou Conservation Strategy to complement the JNP Action Plan and mesh with Alberta and British Columbia provincial efforts.



Caribou in the Brazeau area, October 2008

A Place for Nature

Fire Management Plan

Key elements of the Jasper National Park Fire Management Plan achieved in 2008 included:

Wildfires

The Jasper Initial Attack crew actioned 17 wildfires this summer. Nine were ignited by lightning strikes and eight were human-caused. Much of the Park started out in drought this spring and, though much of the summer seemed cool and wet, dry forest conditions prevailed throughout the fire season.



Henry House II prescribed burn, May 2008

Prescribed Fire

- A successful 330-ha burn named Henry House II, located between the Palisades Centre and Snaring Campground, helped to restore open, montane grasslands; contributed to future wildfire control strategies; and assisted in efforts to stop or slow the eastward spread of mountain pine beetle. A fire viewing interpretive station was operated at the airport and answered the questions of many travelers as the Victoria Day fire raged.
- Fireguard work was conducted in the Vine Creek area in preparation for future burns.
- Maintenance was performed on the Signal Mountain fireguard to connect natural fire breaks of open meadows and aspen stands, thereby providing the community of Jasper protection from a wildfire approaching from the south.
- An experimental burn was conducted in the Jackladder area to assist with future prescribed burning plans for grassland restoration.

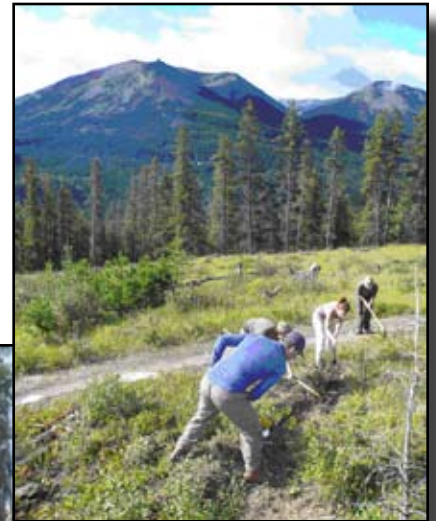
Jasper Trails Project

The Jasper Trails Project has completed a Draft Three Valley Confluence Trail Plan which details proposed changes to the trail network that will improve the ecological condition of the area and the recreational experience, and provide new and interesting educational opportunities.

The Draft Plan was developed with significant input from trail users. The Jasper Trails Project Working Group contributed countless hours towards the Plan's development and feel it achieves the project's goal of improving ecological integrity while enhancing visitor experience.

This winter, Jasper residents, trail users and Park visitors were consulted on the Draft Three Valley Confluence Trail Plan. Based on public feedback, changes will be made where necessary before finalizing the Three Valley Confluence Trail Plan early in 2009.

While trail planning continued throughout 2008, trail construction and re-routing was commenced by the Parks Canada Trail Crew and the Jasper Trails Project Volunteer Trail Program. Parks Canada crews completed the new Pyramid Trunk Trail which takes trail users from the end of the sidewalk on Pyramid Lake Road all the way to Pyramid Lake Resort – a distance of approximately 8 km. Over 80 volunteers worked on a number of trails throughout the summer, contributing over 300 man-hours.



Above: Volunteers working on the Pyramid Bench



Left: Mountain bikers on the new Pyramid Trunk Trail

A Place for Nature

Aquatics

Aquatic Connectivity

Restoring aquatic connectivity provides improved passage for fish and other aquatic wildlife. Results to date include:

- evaluating all stream crossing structures in the Park.
- completing the database of water crossing information.
- remediating the Cabin Ck. culvert under Highway 16W.
- removing the hanging culvert on Cottonwood Creek.
- removing the concrete sluice and restoring Cottonwood Creek under the east train overpass.
- removing culverts and replacing the bridge at the Pyramid Lake outlet.
- holding a public presentation on aquatic connectivity.



Pygmy Whitefish

Pygmy whitefish are a candidate for consideration as a Species at Risk. Two individuals were located in JNP in 1980, but the species had not been observed since. In preparation for an anticipated status assessment, JNP and Alberta Fish and Wildlife collaborated to conduct a search for pygmy whitefish in the Athabasca River. Survey results indicate that the species is present, but in small numbers.

Pyramid Lake Loon Restoration – A Success Story

In collaboration with volunteers, JNP has been monitoring loons on Pyramid Lake since 1993. For the first seven years of the program, no chicks were hatched. In 2001, in an attempt to restore nesting success, Parks Canada constructed a floating nesting platform and anchored it in an area removed from heavy human use. As a result, young loons have been successfully raised every year since for a total of 13 chicks in the last 8 years. Thanks to all lake users who have helped make this program a great success.

FireSmart-ForestWise

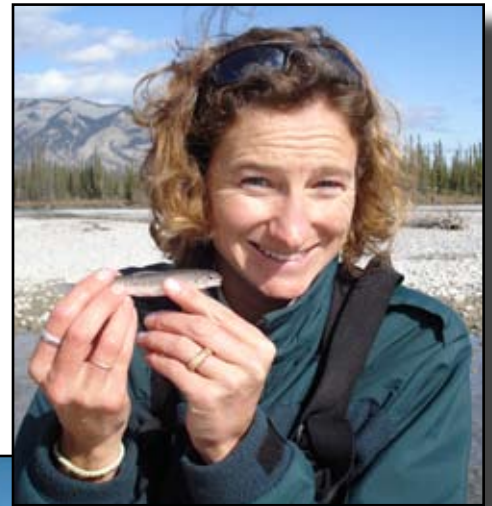
Last summer, a four-person summer crew completed rehabilitation and fuel reduction work in high-visibility areas that received thinning treatment last winter. Key activities included removing flagging, cleaning up forest debris, repairing small amounts of trail damage made by machines, rehabilitating burn piles with native seeds, and conducting neighbourhood FireSmart work bees at Lake Edith and Cabin Creek.



State of the Park Report

The 2008 State of the Park Report (SOPR) was released in August. A SOPR is prepared every five years to evaluate the condition of the Park, report on key results, and prepare for a Management Plan review. Some information gaps exist, but as the system is refined SOPRs will become more robust.

Ecological Integrity is, overall, rated in **fair** condition with a **stable** trend. Cultural Resources are rated in **fair** condition, with **stable to improving** trends. Visitor Experiences and Learning Opportunities are rated **fair**, with **improving** trends. Long-term monitoring programs are being developed, particularly for visitor experience and public understanding and education.



Top Left: Cottonwood Creek restoration, before & after.
Top Right: Resource Management and Public Safety Specialist with a pygmy whitefish.

Above: Loon nesting platform on Pyramid Lake.
Left: FireSmart work bee at Cabin Creek.

A Place of Historical and Cultural Significance

Archeological Resources

The focus of JNP's archaeology program in 2008 was on updating the Archaeological Resource Description and Analysis. Archaeologists use this database to record and map archaeological locations within the Park. Two backcountry archaeological surveys were carried out during July and August. The first survey occurred in the Southesk/Cairn region of the South Boundary Trail. About a dozen sites were surveyed with two new pre-European contact sites found. One of these was particularly exciting and warrants further investigation, as it indicated the presence of a historic quarry nearby. There are very few known pre-contact quarries within the Rocky Mountain National Parks. Several interesting wooden structures were also recorded in the area.

The second backcountry survey occurred along the Smoky River on the North Boundary Trail. The survey covered selected portions of the Smoky valley from a few kilometres south of the northern Park boundary to the Alberta/British Columbia border. This work resulted in the recording of four historic horse camps, a historic drift fence and a new pre-contact site. A previously recorded pre-contact site was also revisited.

Jasper House National Historic Site Interpretive Trail

Jasper House National Historic Site is a place of profound importance to Canada. For a half-century, it was a main support site for the fur trade route across the mountains and an important point for all persons journeying through Yellowhead and Athabasca Passes. Although the Site itself is difficult to reach, its story is important to tell.



Above: Jasper House in 1872. Top right: Jasper House today.

Parks Canada has initiated a project to develop a short interpretive trail from an existing roadside pull-off on Highway 16. The trail will run to a viewpoint on the Athabasca River which will look across the River to the site of Jasper House. The trail and a viewing platform will be constructed and installed by August 2009. Interpretive panels are currently being designed to tell the stories of Jasper House and the people who visited it. Consultations with aboriginal communities regarding the importance of the site to their history and culture are ongoing, with the intent of incorporating their stories into the interpretive media.

Jasper Park Information Centre

This fall, work began on a conservation and rehabilitation plan for the Jasper Park Information Centre National Historic Site. The \$1.4 million reinvestment includes the installation of a fire sprinkler system, stabilization and waterproofing of the foundation, new roofing, and improvement of the ventilation system.



Above: Original steps unveiled by the restoration. Left: New roofing.

A Place for People

Services and Facilities

Icefields Parkway Planning Initiative

In anticipation of the Park Management Plan review, Parks Canada staff and a diverse Stakeholder and Aboriginal Advisory Committee have developed a draft Strategic Concept for the Icefields Parkway. Following public review, the Concept will be finalized and added to the Management Plans for Banff and Jasper (pending Ministerial approval).

The draft Strategic Concept for the Icefields Parkway has addressed ecological integrity, cultural resources, learning, and visitor experience in an integrated manner. The scope of the planning initiative was limited to the road itself and the opportunities, facilities, and services immediately adjacent to the road. The Strategic Concept, and an Action Plan once it is completed later in 2009, will guide long-term investment in the Parkway, day-use areas, campgrounds, and interpretation and learning opportunities. Periodic reviews of the Strategic Concept will be undertaken as part of the five-year reviews of the Management Plans.

Campgrounds and Day-use Areas

- A new, fully-accessible washroom and shower facility for the Wapiti Winter/RV Campground is being constructed in 2008-09 at a cost of \$1.15 million.
- After two years of planning, a \$6.0 million recapitalization of the water and sewer infrastructure in Whistler and Wapiti Campgrounds is now underway. The work will be completed in two phases; the first started this fall and will be completed in June 2009, while the second will start in September 2009 with a completion date of December 2009.
- At Kerkeslin Campground, \$50 000 was spent to remove the three existing privy structures built in the 1970s and replace them with 4 panabode structures.
- New playground equipment was installed at Whistlers Campground.
- New fire rings, picnic tables, and garbage bins were installed at some campgrounds and day-use areas.
- Some campsites were brushed for hazard trees and to enable easier site access for large camper units.
- Year-round camping was designated in the Icefields area.
- Area planning is underway for the Mt. Edith Cavell, Highway 93A, and Lakes Edith and Annette areas.
- Brushing took place at several lookouts on the Icefields Parkway to improve views.
- New panabode privies were purchased for installation at Snaring Overflow Campground in spring 2009.

Attendance and Camping

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 Jan-Sept.	2008 Estimate	
						Total	% change since 2007
Visitors	1 871 686	1 908 008	1 988 561	2 039 082	1 525 124	1 983 671	-2.7%
Camper Nights	121 264	128 072	130 297	132 778	126 174	127 174	-4.2%

Backcountry

During 2007-2009, 38 new trailhead kiosks are being installed at every trailhead with a parking lot in JNP. Many of the kiosks were installed this summer; look for new trailhead information in them beginning next year. Other backcountry enhancements in 2008 included:

- two new suspension bridges on the South Boundary Trail.
- new hiker bridges in the Tonquin Valley, along the Fryatt Trail, and at Blue Creek.
- installation of over 80 m of boardwalk in the Tonquin Valley.
- reconfiguration of the Wilcox Pass Trail.



Trail Crew constructs a new bridge at Blue Creek, August 2008

Communications

This was a summer of experimentation for the interpreters as they tried to find the best ways to make contact with visitors within the community of Jasper and at other high-use areas. Roving interpretation was a success on the Info Centre lawn, in the campgrounds, at the Tramway, and at popular day-use areas such as Athabasca Falls and Maligne Canyon. Evening programming at the Info Centre and weekly French programming were also successful.

Interpretive programs at Whistlers Campground entertained and educated an average of 1800 people per week. In partnership with the Foothills Research Institute and the Jasper-Yellowhead Museum and Archives, a special presentation was held in support of the Museum's summertime bear exhibit.

The two-day, 4th annual Wildlife Festival peeled back the layers of Jasper's wildlife management and research programs, providing visitors and residents with opportunities to meet with and learn from Park scientists, Resource Management and Public Safety Specialists, and researchers.

A Place for People

Palisades Stewardship Education Centre

2008 was an exciting year for the Palisades Stewardship Education Centre. Achievements included:

- partnering up with Grande Yellowhead Regional Division and Marmot Basin to open a high-tech educational facility at Marmot's mid-mountain chalet. As part of the collaboration, Parks Canada Resource Management and Public Safety Specialists and scientists will provide education sessions on site, on topics ranging from mountain ecology to avalanche safety training. In March 2008, the facility hosted its first videoconference by linking up GYRD students with students in Nunavut and Saskatchewan to discuss species at risk, with an emphasis on Jasper's woodland caribou.
- celebrating the fifth year of its award-winning youth engagement Stewardship Program for all local Grade 10 students; schools from across Canada and the world are now beginning to participate.
- hosting the GYRD Youth Environmental Leadership Summit. This three-day workshop welcomed youth from across the region to join together, network with and learn from experts, and have fun. The pilot program has been extended as an annual event for the next five years.
- hosting students from international Round Square schools as part of their international conference.
- initiating a master redevelopment plan (to be completed in 2009) to guide future recapitalization and programming.



Above: Grade 10 Stewardship Program, Sept. 2008

Below: GYRD Youth Environmental Leadership Summit, April 2008



Maligne Canyon Redevelopment

After a summer of hard work, the Maligne Canyon trail improvement project is complete. Park fees helped pay for \$1.3 million in renovations. Crews worked long hours under various weather conditions to paint railings and benches, install stairs and fences, and level and rehabilitate the trail. The task was long and hard – it's a long way to haul equipment – but the result is remarkable:

- areas of poor traction have been paved and are safer and more enjoyable to walk on.
- stairs have been installed in places where trail users previously had to climb over rocks.
- sections where water erosion had exposed roots and rocks have now been covered with gravel and asphalt, minimizing the slipping and tripping hazard.
- concrete ditching and water drains have been installed to mitigate water erosion.
- trampled vegetation areas which are now protected by new fencing have been rehabilitated.
- railings and fences have been improved to increase safety and aesthetics.

New directional and interpretive signs are currently being designed and will be installed beginning in 2009.

Right: Maligne Canyon in the early 1900s.



Above and Right: Maligne Canyon trail improvement, before & after.



A Place for Community

In July 2001, the Agreement for the Establishment of Local Government in the Town of Jasper was signed by the Minister responsible for Parks Canada and the Jasper Community, enabling the formation of local government. Parks Canada continues to provide a governance role in the areas of land use planning and development and in environmental matters. To facilitate the relationship between the two governing organizations, a Relationship Agreement was developed in 2003. As a result of Municipal elections in 2007, this Agreement was reviewed and updated in 2008 with a signing ceremony of this renewed commitment on Parks Day, July 19, 2008.



*Above: New building for the Cottage Medical Clinic.
Below: New Alpine Summit Seniors Lodge.*

Sustainable Housing

Parks Canada and the Sweetgrass Cooperative have agreed on a release price for the three parcels of land slated for development. A submission of plans is anticipated this winter, with development expected to commence in Spring 2009. This project will provide approximately 65 units of affordable housing to the community, in addition to the 69 existing units at Southview Co-op and the Mountain Park Condominiums.

Construction of the Alpine Summit Seniors Lodge was completed in fall of 2008. This facility complements the existing Pine Grove manor and provides additional independent living units for 24 seniors wishing to remain in the community upon retirement.

Another ten-unit condominium project is under construction at the north end of Connaught Drive. These units contribute to the available housing pool by providing a market-value option for interested home buyers. As well, four residential lots in the Snape's Hill area were released by Parks Canada in a lottery for immediate development.



Commercial Development & Growth

New development in 2007-08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 62 m² of minor renovations • 163 m² of new commercial accommodation development awarded, but not yet developed
New development since 2001	3980 m ²
Maximum new commercial development (2001 Jasper Community Land Use Plan)	9290 m ²
Percentage of total new development utilised	42.8%

A Place for Open Management

Aboriginal Forum

The Jasper Aboriginal Forum is sending a positive message that Aboriginal partners are prepared to collaborate with Parks Canada in an ongoing process of mutual respect and in the best interest of Jasper National Park of Canada, its environment, and Aboriginal communities.

Established in 2006, the Forum has served as an interest-based common ground between Parks Canada and Aboriginal partners with a defined interest in Jasper National Park. It has provided an opportunity for Aboriginal communities to discuss and influence Parks Canada management decision-making in Jasper National Park of Canada.

The last two Aboriginal Forums have signified a movement from talk to action by taking the results of the previous productive Forum meetings and the interests that were identified at them in order to develop a results-based action plan. Those mutual interests include:



Aboriginal Forum participants, Oct. 2008

Formalizing our Relationship

A Terms of Agreement that will formalize working protocols and effective communication between Parks Canada and Aboriginal communities will be completed in 2009.

Access to Jasper National Park of Canada for Specific Purposes

Parks Canada is prepared to waive the requirement for a Park user pass through the creation of an Aboriginal or indigenous pass for Aboriginal Forum community members in order to carry out traditional, spiritual, ceremonial, and cultural pursuits.

Cultural Programming

Focus on ensuring greater involvement of Aboriginal communities in events and programming that help them to tell the stories of Aboriginal culture and history and their strong links to Jasper National Park.

Traditional Land Use Studies

Traditional land use studies are recognized as the critical foundation for the realisation of all other key areas for involvement. They provide clarity for communication

protocols and effective cultural programming.

Working groups with administrative support from Parks Canada have been established to develop specific recommendations for actions in the above areas of interest, and provide products directly applicable to amendments in certain sections of the JNP Management Plan.

In the coming year, continued discussions, working groups, open houses, and a newsletter will help Forum participants to identify where changes are needed and to prepare and discuss plan amendments.



Beaver skinning demonstration, Parks Day 2008

Council of Elders of The Descendants of Jasper Park

The Council of Elders of The Descendants of Jasper Park is a family-based group consisting of representatives of the oldest living generation descended from the Moberly, Joachim, Kwaragkwante, and Findlay families - the original homesteaders of what is now Jasper National Park. The Council is involved with preservation of the homestead sites and in telling the story of the Descendants.

Development Review

In the 2007-08 fiscal year, in the Municipality of Jasper, JNP issued 33 development permits, of which 17 applicants received building permits. Total development value was \$4.7 million, with residential development representing 73% of that figure, commercial development representing 24%, and the balance allocated to institutional or other development.



Of particular note to the community are improvements to a local grocery store (above), which represents the bulk of the commercial improvements in the community in 2008.

Outside the town boundary, an additional seven permits for \$1.2 million in development were issued. These included a permit for the redevelopment of a Lake Edith cottage and a permit for the construction of three new duplex units for an outlying commercial accommodation.

The Planning and Development Advisory Committee met eight times during the year and heard 48 applications. There were 20 variance requests, 24 discretionary use requests, two re-zoning requests, one development appeal, and one change in use to an existing land use agreement.

A Place for Environmental Stewardship

Environmental Management

- Work began this fall on the upgrading of the below-ground wastewater infrastructure at Maligne Lake. Completion is estimated for June 2009, with a total investment of \$665 000.
- Removed 400 tonnes of hydrocarbon-contaminated soil at Maligne Lake Warden Station.
- Monitored contamination in groundwater wells at six sites around the community of Jasper and developed a risk management strategy for each site.
- Replaced of the diesel electrical generator at Maligne Lake Warden Station with a solar-powered system.
- Completed inspection of all Parks Canada fuel storage tanks for compliance with new storage tank regulations, including the installation of a new diesel tank at Sunwapta Warden Station.
- Responded to and cleaned up 30 hazardous spills in 2008, mostly vehicle-related.
- Rehabilitated the Wabasso Army Camp along Highway 93A and reduced the footprint reduction of the Snaring Overflow Campground.
- Initiated discussions with the Municipality regarding management options for the Transfer Station.



Wabasso Army Camp rehabilitation

Environmental Stewardship Program

The Environmental Stewardship Program is funded by both Parks Canada and the Municipality of Jasper.

Waste Audit and Waste Composition Study

In 2008, the Municipality of Jasper received the final report from AET Consultants on their waste audit study. This baseline data will help highlight areas of concern for future diversion program improvements, and will also help assess the success of future program improvements. The audit revealed that 50 to 60% of waste bound for the Transfer Station could have been diverted into existing compost and recycling programs. Acceptable organics were the highest contributor to the divertible portion of the waste stream. Research is being conducted to upgrade organics

processing methods in Jasper. With a more sophisticated processing facility, acceptable compost could be expanded to include meat, dairy products, bones, and biosolids. Other significant contributors to the divertible component of the waste stream were paper and paper packaging materials.

Beverage Container Recycling Bins

Parks Canada and the Municipality of Jasper have partnered with the Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Commission to install new blue beverage container recycling bins. Ten bins will be installed around town, while another 50 will be situated at popular day-use areas such as Maligne Canyon and Athabasca Falls.

Environment Week 2008

Environment Week 2008 was extremely busy. The Take It or Leave It event was like a huge community garage sale, only everything was free – the ultimate reuse and recycle event. Unclaimed items were distributed among charities. On Stewardship Day, Parks and Municipality staff joined forces to pick up litter and recyclables along Park roadways. Other highlights included a native plant workshop, a panel discussion on glaciers and climate change, the Enviro-Fair, a performance from John Acorn (The Nature Nut), Bike Town, and the Household Hazardous Waste and Toxics Roundup.

Towards Zero Waste (TZW) Events

The goal of a TZW event is to eliminate garbage from a special event – garbage that would normally be shipped to the landfill. Techniques include reducing the amount of waste brought to the site, using compostable foodware, and recovering resources for reuse, recycling, and composting. TZW events are also an effective vehicle to raise awareness about waste reduction. Successful TZW events in 2008 included the Chili Cookoff, Taste of the Town, the Canada Day Pancake Breakfast, and Warden Days.

Reduction of Plastic Bag Use

Jasper is taking steps to reduce plastic bag use. Public meetings and an online survey were conducted to determine whether residents would prefer only education, a bag fee, or a bag ban to achieve a reduction in plastic bag use in Jasper.

The Plastic Bag Reduction Committee is currently considering the development of a strategy.

Recycling

In 2008, the recycling program expanded plastics collection. The Transfer Station now accepts left-over paint and containers for free recycling. Bike tire recycling was implemented at the Recycling Depot in the Industrial Park.



Take It or Leave It Event, Environment Week, June 2008

Transportation and Utilities

Trans-Mountain Pipeline

The Kinder Morgan Canada – Anchor Loop Pipeline Project (TMX) Jasper section went into operation on April 25, 2008 with oil flowing through the new loop. Final cleanup and restoration began in June and was completed in October. The Parks Canada TMX Environmental Surveillance Team assisted Mount Robson Provincial Park (MRPP) with environmental surveillance during the pipeline construction through MRPP in 2008.

Within JNP, the entire right-of-way has been re-seeded with native grass seed. To date, the following vegetation has been planted:

- 10 361 conifer trees
- 5 875 deciduous trees
- 63 017 shrubs
- 13 515 wildflowers
- 462 rare plants

Gravel pits used as storage sites for TMX have been fully restored to their natural habitat. Restoration will continue into 2009, while follow-up monitoring and weed control will continue for the next five years.



Top: Helicopter seeding on Windy Point, July 2008
Above: TMX native seed greenhouse, July 2008
Left: Athabasca River crossing, February 2008



Highways

Parks Canada highways crews were busy in the summer repairing signs and guiderails, painting lines, mowing, patching roads, installing sign kiosks at trailheads and other points of interest, and cleaning and installing culverts.

Other major projects included:

- resurfacing the south end of Highway 93A and the Sixth Bridge Road.
- brushing along Highway 93A and the Icefields Parkway.
- structural repairs to the Moberly Bridge.
- removal of East Gate trailers.
- rehabilitation of the trade waste pit and old woodlot.
- emergency work on the Toe of the Glacier road due to flooding.
- continued progress on the Salt Management Strategy.

Repairing Moberly Bridge, February 2008

Summary of Financial Expenditures

Alignment of Spending with Program Activities and Government of Canada Outcomes

Program Activity	2006/07 Actual (in 000s)	2007/08 Actual (in 000s)	2008/09 Forecast (in 000s)	Alignment to Government of Canada Outcomes
Heritage Places Establishment (PA1)	0.2	7.6	4.0	Vibrant Canadian Culture and Heritage/ Clean and Healthy Environment
Heritage Resources Conservation (PA2)	6 820.3	5 799.3	7 000.0	Vibrant Canadian Culture and Heritage/ Clean and Healthy Environment
Promote Public Appreciation and Understanding (PA3)	943.5	704.2	700.0	Vibrant Canadian Culture and Heritage/ Clean and Healthy Environment
Quality Visitor Experience (PA4)	6 431.8	8 219.4	13 000.0	Vibrant Canadian Culture and Heritage/ Clean and Healthy Environment
Townsite and Throughway Infrastructure (PA5)	4 034.2	2 938.8	3 221.0	Safe and Secure Communities/ Clean and Healthy Environment
Internal Services	3 602.0	3 508.3	3 500.0	
Totals	21 832.0	21 177.6	27 425.0	

