



The Jasper Signal

Jasper-Yellowhead
Museum and Archives

WINTER 2005-2006

Book Thursday January 26th, 2006.

for the 13th annual "TASTE OF THE TOWN"

The TASTE OF THE TOWN is a high profile evening, which showcases the world-class chefs and restaurants in this beautiful mountain community.



CN promotional brochure ca. 1920. (998.45.11a)

The Jasper-Yellowhead Historical Society is once again coordinating this successful event as part of Jasper in January. The money we raise with your help will be used to support the day to day operations of the Jasper-Yellowhead Museum and Archives.

This year we are encouraging a theme of "Romance of the Rockies" that harkens to a time when visitors expected wild adventures filled with leading ladies, singing Mounties, and gallant guides.

We invite you to taste the creations from Jasper's Chefs and support the Jasper-Yellowhead Museum and Archives. This year your membership in the Jasper-Yellowhead Historical Society gets you **FREE** admission to the event on Thursday January 26th, 2006 from 4:00-9:00 p.m. in the Jasper Activity Centre Multipurpose Hall. So be sure to renew your membership today and bring your membership card with you.

See you all at Taste of the Town!

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Festival of Trees

Get into the Christmas Spirit with a visit to the Festival of Trees and place your bid on a tree or wreath. We have also created an "Under The Tree" display to give our Showcase Gallery the feel of an old fashioned Christmas. Free Admission from December 3-11th, 10 am-5 pm. Join us for hot chocolate and cookies on Sunday, December 11 from 2-4 pm. Bids close at 4 pm. We are also hoping that the residents of Jasper will lend us their Christmas stockings to add to our display until December 18. Drop your stocking by the museum any time and we will return it by Decemebr 19th.

Proceeds from the Festival of Trees go to the museum and the Community Dinner Program. We will also be set up to receive donations for the Jasper Food Bank.





The Jasper Signal

is a publication of the Jasper-Yellowhead Historical Society that tells the story of Jasper's regional heritage both natural and cultural while presenting the activities and priorities of the Society. The Jasper Signal is named after Signal Mountain.

Submissions may be sent to:

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Next Issue deadline
February 22, 2006

Mission Statement

"The Jasper-Yellowhead Historical Society will promote awareness, understanding and appreciation of our regional heritage, both natural and cultural, to the residents and visitors of our community."

JYHS Directors 2005

Cynthia Ball
Mike Cameron
Mike Day
Laureen DiStefano
Fred Kofin
Roben Nurgitz
John Ogilvy
Herb Robinson
Ken Walker
Mike Wasuita
Warren Waxer

President's Message

On Saturday November 19th the Board of the Jasper-Yellowhead Historical Society, the staff and volunteers of the Jasper-Yellowhead Museum and Archives met for a planning retreat at The Pallisades. This event was a long-planned, long-postponed and long-overdue. The day was well attended, well-run and well... something we will have to do again. The session was facilitated by long-time Society member, ex Board member and municipal councillor Joe Couture. Joe did a great job guiding us through an ambitious agenda. The discussions included everything from looking back at our mission and vision statement to looking forward to our immediate and long-term goals. In between we sorted out some policy and "housekeeping" items.

We found the mission and vision statements stood up well after all these years, with a possible minor wording change. It was agreed that both were simple enough to encompass the varied efforts of the Society without risking having too broad a mandate. That led us into one of the more important items of the day - clarifying the roles and responsibilities of JYHS and JYMA.

It was discussed that the Board, Society members and the general public often think of these organizations interchangeably. While in most cases this is not necessarily a problem both have their separate mandates and budgets. Most of the participants at the retreat thought it was important to keep these two entities separate in the public's mind but even more important to clarify the distinct roles regarding the

work of the JYHS Board and the JYMA staff and volunteers. I would like to add that it is probably due to the great cooperation and generosity of spirit of all involved in these two organizations that we often think of them as one.

In the afternoon Joe lead us through an exercise that helped to determine future goals and priorities. The Board, staff and volunteers were well aware of projects that require our attention but this exercise allowed us to systematically prioritize the urgency of each. What developed from the afternoon was an agreement that the top priority of the JYHS should be increasing fundraising and revenues and exploring the idea of developing our second lot and/or moving the museum to a downtown location.

At the end of the day, literally, all agreed that the retreat helped to clarify some of the big issues that just don't get attention at the monthly board meeting. It was also a great opportunity for the Board, staff and volunteers to share ideas. Even with a whole day to talk there were many items that we didn't get around to. All the more reason to make this sort of day an annual event.

I would like to say a belated **THANKYOU** to all the volunteers that helped out this summer at our various fundraisers. Along with the perennial booksales and giant bake sale, we ran a BBQ at Centennial Park on Canada Day and a Castor Tail concession at the Jasper Heritage Folk Festival. Overall it was a great summer for fundraising and a credit to all the JYHS members, JYMA staff, board members and general volunteers who pitched in to help.

Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Warren



Manager's Report



As the holiday season approaches, the staff has been busy getting the museum ready for the Festival of Trees. Dee Dee and Val have created a magical

Under the Tree display to complement our Festival of Trees. Keith has been decking the halls (and Fred's heads) and making sure the gift shop is well stocked for holiday shopping. Meghan has been working on a new column for the Fitzhugh and a photographic display for the Alberta Winter Games.

We had wonderful exhibits by Allison Argy-Burgess and Sally Tatlow in the Showcase Gallery this fall and are looking forward to watching JAG work its magic this winter.

Last month we opened the doors to the museum on Wednesday mornings (from 10:30-11 am) and had a great turnout for our Coffee and Conversation. Please join us!

Museum and Archives

Winter Hours

Museum

10am-5pm Thurs. to Sun.

Archives

Monday-Wednesday

9 am - noon & 1-4 pm

Gallery Schedule

The Mini Gallery

On until Jan 24th

Stories from the Map

Explore Jasper's history through personal stories and see the hand carved lino cut map created by artist Fritz Brandtner for Jasper Park Lodge.

Feb 1st-Mar 12th

Out of the Archives

Some of the museum's best photographs and artefacts on display for the first time. New acquisitions and some of our old favourites.

Mar 17th-Apr 2nd

Nalia Minnebaeva—Premiere Show of Mixed Media

A teenage artist, Nalia's stunningly inventive mixed-media works have lured collectors and demonstrate a refined artistic sensibility well beyond her years.

Apr 7th-23rd

Janine Bednarski—"Illumination and the Human Form" Acrylics & Sculpture

Bednarski uses light to highlight the hidden (and sometimes explicit) beauty within her subjects.

Showcase Gallery

Jan 13th-29th

Alan Butler - "My Back Yard" Solo Watercolours

A Jasper resident for 25 years, Butler's first JAG solo show will consist of landscapes from the Jasper area.

Feb 3rd-19th

Peggy Hubley & Sylvie Pinard - Oils, Acrylics and Drawings

Two of JAG's finest mid-career artists collaborate on an exposition of landscape and abstract forms.

Feb 24th-Mar 12th

Marie Banville & Jill Murray - Encaustic, Clay Sculpture

Here are two artists who are interested in expressing their ideas through archetypes, symbols, and their connection to the earth.

Mar 17th-Apr 2nd

Tristan Overy—"Housebroken Wall Champions" Solo Acrylics

Overy's rogue-like graffiti and street influenced creations bring smiles to the faces of many. Don't miss this Jasper whiz kid's next art-aganza!

Apr 7th-23rd

Claude Boocock & Jenny Clark—"The Body Speaks" Mixed Media

This show presents the body as a vehicle of experience, a sensory conduit that mediates and translates between the subconscious and the outside world.



PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO THE TOWNSITE TRAIL

With construction of the trail around town almost complete, thoughts have turned to providing walkers and cyclists with a little 'entertainment' as they stroll the 8-kilometre loop. Representatives of the municipality, Jasper National Park, the Friends of Jasper National Park, the Green Space Committee and the Jasper-Yellowhead Museum and Archives have put their heads together to come



up with some interpretive panels, directional signs and maps that will help visitors and

residents better understand and appreciate the trail landscape and surroundings. The signs will also lead people through town, providing them with shorter options if they're not up for the 'whole meal deal'.



The trail has 4 thematic segments:

1) Within town – this walk is mostly within the town's commercial district. Panels will explain what it is like to live in a town within a national park and will include some 'then and now' photos using the recently completed town photo project. Historic buildings and the park's national historic sites will be highlighted.

2) East end of town – running from near the AMA building towards the east overpass, panels along this stretch will explain the early history of the park and the town.

3) West end of town – going the other direction to the west overpass, strollers will learn about the importance of the railway to Jasper.

4) The Bench – this part of the trail, which is also part of the Jasper Trails Project, has some excellent views of both the town and the Athabasca Valley. Interpretation will be minimal, focussing primarily on the view and the town below.

The 'start' of the trail will be an information kiosk near the AMA building. Two other orientation kiosks are planned, one near where the trail crosses Connaught Ave. at the east end of town and the other by the new traffic lights. Directional signs will be up first with the rest of the signs being installed next spring.



For further information please contact Ken Walker, Marcia DeWandel or any of the partner organizations.

Continuing Support from Museums Alberta



The Jasper Yellowhead Museum and Archives received a grant for \$4150 from the Museums Alberta to upgrade our computer equipment at the museum. With this money, donations of used equipment and volunteer hours we were able to add to our system of computers and link them all with a small server. Now our staff can access their files at any computer terminal and we can share files with other members of the staff. No more e-mailing up and downstairs!

The most important outcome of this project was to provide security for our valuable data. We can now limit access for researchers who would like to use our database without worrying about "accidents". We now also have a good backup system in place.



Museum Talks

Our fall series of museum talks got off to a slow start but ended with standing room only.

Our first talk featured Toni Klett, Gord Anderson and Rod Wallace and we heard some wonderful stories of the Warden Service in the distant and recent past. We even brought out an old sled made by Toni for his children during his time at Blue Creek. The Railroad Talk featured Harry Home and Arvon Hilworth but also had wonderful audience participation. We learned a great deal about many of our artefacts and heard some amazing stories from the days when there were still telegraph lines and the old stations at places like Geikie and Devona.

The last in our fall series was a book launch and slide show by Chic Scott. Chic presented an overview of his new book *Powder Pioneers, Ski Stories for the Canadian Rockies and Columbia Mountains*. It was great to see so many young people come out for his talk. We were lucky to have Chic drop by for our Wednesday coffee hour the next day where he signed more books for people who had missed the talk.



Toni Klett gives us the low down on the sled he built to help transport his children to town, when he was a warden stationed at Blue Creek. "It was more work after it was built" says Toni as he explained how he had to wear a yoke to pull it with while his wife Shirley, used a stick to push it from behind.

Jim Lane demonstrates the use of a mail delivery hoop, as he retells stories of his days as a telegrapher for CN in Albreda, BC.



Jasper Daze

The museum was lucky enough to host the Jasper Daze during their reunion on October 7 & 8. We brought out old photos, several displays and an assortment of artefacts and set up the Bridgland room for participants. We'd like to thank everyone involved for the generous donation given to the museum. We are planning to use the money to purchase a new digital camera.

New Additions to the Museum

Thanks to Mike Wasuita of Pine Bungalows we now have a new patio beside the museum. Mike arranged to have a beautiful brick patio created to replace the makeshift stair we had rigged up at the side entryway. Mike has also stripped down our post office doors and had them refinished and we hope to see them installed in the Showcase gallery in the near future.



Come to the Museum



For Coffee and Conversation
Every Wednesday
10:30 to 11 am



Another Christmas Carol

Adapted by M. Power, with my sincerest apologies to Mr. Dickens.

Yes, old Jack Brewster was as dead as one of his coveted trophy ram heads. I knew Jack was dead. I remembered appraising, describing, and arranging his papers. I had then filed them into acid free boxes and placed them on a shelf in the archives. The mention of Jack's name on a research request brings me back to the point I started from. There is no doubt that he was dead. This must be distinctly understood, or nothing wonderful can come of the story I am going to relate.

I pulled Jack's files from one of the many pale blue boxes. What was left to discover of this old Jasper character? Why was someone interested in this almost forgotten name? The family name still appeared on the side of tour buses, there were occasional stories in newspapers, and tourists were taken past his brother's (Fred) old haunts on historic walks.



Jack Brewster with one of his trophy ram skulls.
(PA7-25)

I sat busy at my desk; I was stuck in a basement; secret, self-contained, and solitary as an oyster on Christmas Eve. External heat and cold had little influence on me. No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill me. No wind that blew was bitterer than me; no falling snow was more intent upon its purpose, no pelting rain less open to entreaty. The heaviest rain, and snow, and hail, and sleet, could boast of the advantage over me in only one respect. They often came down handsomely, and I never did.

It was a cold, bleak afternoon, biting weather: foggy withal; and I could hear the people up above coming and going from the Festival of Trees, stamping their feet upon the mat shaking off layers of fresh snow and exchanging annoyingly cheerful holiday clichés. My computer clock only said three o'clock.

The door of my office was open, that I might keep an eye out for the researcher I expected. He had told me he would be sure to arrive before four, but I knew that more than nought appointments were easily forgotten here.

'A Merry Christmas!' I heard a cheerful voice cry. It was the last of the visitors upstairs.

'Bah!' I said, 'Humbug!' I reminded my self of Dickens' infamous Scrooge, except I had no intention of having my Christmas spirit (or lack there of) measured or addressed by a ghost of Christmas Past.

I took my melancholy dinner from the staff room fridge and warmed it in the melancholy microwave; and having read through *The Fitzhugh* for the fourth time that week, I quickly ate before returning to the basement and the archive files I had pulled on Jack, Spero, and Max. I slammed my office door close to help drone out the last of 'Merry Christmas.'

All of the sudden the my office door flew open with a booming sound and then I heard a noise much louder, on the floors above, then coming down the stairs; then coming straight towards my door. "Finally, It's my appointment," said I

As I opened the door, to politely chide his tardiness, I suddenly lost all sense of self. I felt my legs give way. I gasped,



The Jasper Signal

"I know him; Jack's Ghost!" The same face: the very same. Jack in his tall white cowboy hat, plaid flannel shirt rugged pants and piercing eyes. His body was transparent; so that I, observing him, and looking through could see the pockets on the back of his jeans.

In life I was Jack Brewster, brother of Fred Brewster, expert guide and outfitter. I am here as a ghost of Jasper's Christmas past and want to remind you, and all of Jasper about this community's tradition of generosity and Christmas Spirit and for those who may have forgotten.

He took me to an old leather photo album filled with old black and white pictures and opened it to a picture of children with huge smiles and sparkling eyes, gathered around a large tree sparkling with candles, tinsel and shiny balls. Each child was holding a doll, or trinket of some sort and the adults were casually gathered in the background.

"Well, this was a bit before your time. It was during the Great War, my brother was off serving his country and my other brother George and I had been left in charge of Tent City and had been living in Fred's Log house in town. George and I went shopping and bought a gift for every child in town. We invited everyone, including all clergy members, to the United Church on Christmas Eve. My gift was bringing the joy of the season to those children and I hoped that our warmth and love had traveled across the ocean to Jasper's favourite Brewster, my brother Fred.

Before I could respond, he flipped to another page and pointed to another black and white picture of a large group of men in uniforms. "These young men were recruits for the Royal Canadian Air Force training in Jasper and in British Columbia, awaiting notice to head into the thick of World War II. Max Garfin, owned the Chaba Theatre and made arrangements to have all the recruits, even ones that were training in B.C. to spend Christmas in Jasper. The recruits stayed with local families and on Christmas Day, Paul Andrew, local hotel and restaurant owner set up a Christmas Day dinner for the army boys and their hosts. Everyone gathered together for dinner and then the evening was spent singing and dancing. It was a most special occasion as many of those boys were sent into combat and never returned.

I quickly wiped a tear before Jack could see that his memories of holiday generosity had touched my cynical heart. I quickly glanced over to where he had been standing to see if he had seen my tear, but he was gone. As I walked home, the streets deserted, except for the warm glow emanating from people's windows. I saw giving of gifts and sharing of food and realized that Jack was right. I couldn't let my holiday cynicism destroy the heart of this holiday and my gift to Jasper would be making sure that Jack's memories of Jasper's generosity and Christmas spirit are not forgotten.



Royal Air Force group stationed in Jasper, Jasper National Park, Alberta. Christmas 1941 (993.37.30)



Save Fred the hassle of tracking you down, Bring in or Mail in Your Renewal TODAY!



Jasper-Yellowhead Historical Society Membership

Box 42

Jasper, Alberta

T0E 1E0

Phone: (780) 852-3013

E-mail: jymachin@telus.net

Name & Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail address: _____

Would you like updates by e-mail? _____

Membership Levels:

Individual: \$15 per year

Family: \$25 per year

Patron: \$100 per year

Membership entitles you to free unlimited admission, 10% off all purchases in the museum gift shop, the seasonal newsletter, use of the member's library and invitations to special events.

Date: _____