

# STEWARDS OF ALBERTA'S PROTECTED AREAS ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER

No. 5

October 2001

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### AGM

Our first year of official existence has rolled around very quickly and it is time again for our next Annual General Meeting. This will be held in Red Deer on Saturday, 27 Oct; details are enclosed. And yes, we are now officially registered under the Societies Act. The Executive had to make one or two minor amendments to the Bylaws to satisfy the requirements. Copies of the Bylaws will be available at the meeting, or from Alison Dinwoodie (780-437-7183, or e-mail [adinwoodie@powersurfr.com](mailto:adinwoodie@powersurfr.com)).

We still have to ratify our Policies, particularly for categories of membership, as there was insufficient time at the last meeting. These of course can be changed at any General Meeting, so do not need the blessing of the Registrar. A copy of the Policies proposed by the Executive is enclosed. I hope we can get these cleared up at the AGM, so that we can get on with some real initiatives!

If you received this Newsletter, it means you are a fully paid up member for 2001, and therefore entitled to vote at the up-coming AGM. To save postage, we are enclosing a membership form for next year, so hope you will be able to renew your membership in SAPAA as soon as possible. New members are welcome at the AGM, - and please encourage them to come - but they would not be entitled to vote this year, under our Bylaws.

Also at the AGM we will be looking for new Board members, so please consider helping us - or twist your friend's arm!

### SPEAKERS

We are delighted to have as our principal speaker this year, the Department of Community Development **Assistant Deputy Minister, John Kristensen**. As you are aware, there was a major reorganization of the previous Dept. of Environment after the spring election, with a considerable degree of uncertainty as to how it would affect the Stewards. Mr. Kristensen is Head of the Parks and Protected Areas Division, so will be able to provide information on the real situation. His talk will be on '**Connections and Communications**' so I hope we will have a really good turn out to hear this valuable contribution. And invite your friends too!

Our second speaker is **John Rintoul**, also from the P/PA Division, who is the coordinator for the ANHIC (Alberta Natural Heritage Information Centre) data system. This is where all your Stewards reports information ends up, so he can tell us what is done with it, and how to make it more effective, including suitable projects.

In the afternoon, two Stewards will give a brief talk about their particular area, so that we can learn from them about their area's unique characteristics or particular problems. So it should be a good meeting, and I hope you can all come!

### **MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Three members of the Executive, John Woitenko, Marilyn Shannon and myself (Alison) met with the Minister of Community Development on 13 August, to discuss the implications of the new departmental reorganization on the Stewards Program, and how decisions would be made for the Natural Areas with different departmental land managers. We were pleased to see that in addition to the Minister himself, Hon. Gene Zwozdesky, the Deputy Minister, Bill Byrne and the ADM, John Kristensen, were also present. I hope this reflects the importance of the Stewards Program and SAPAA's influence in keeping it at the forefront of their minds!

They were in general very supportive and assured us that the Stewards Program was here to stay. They are trying to work closely with the other departments, and felt that it was a better situation than previously. We stressed the need for prior notification of the Stewards of any proposed developments in or near their Natural Area, so that our local knowledge can be used effectively. We also indicated the almost universal problem that Stewards have with OHV abuse of their areas; unfortunately there is no easy answer as enforcement also has problems! You should hear more of these details at Mr. Kristensen's talk at the end of the month.

### **OTHER NEWS**

The Minister announced in July the creation of five new Protected Areas under the Special Places Program, indicating that that program was now finished. Some of these may include existing Natural Areas. If you haven't heard what difference the new reorganization would make to your Stewardship, you should make active enquiries. And for all Stewards, particularly ask about development of management plans, so that you can be involved. As Stewards, we need to be pro-active, not reactive!

### **COMING UP?**

A new Parks and Protected Areas Act is somewhere in the works. This is the successor to the Natural Heritage Act, which fell by the wayside last year. It will probably affect the classification of Natural Areas, so we need to be ready for it!

\*\*\*\*\* **SEE YOU ON SATURDAY, 27 OCTOBER, IN RED DEER!** \*\*\*\*\*

# STEWARDS OF ALBERTA'S PROTECTED AREAS ASSOCIATION

## GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, October 27, 2001

at 9:30 am

Kerry Wood Nature Centre - Discovery Room  
6300 - 45 Ave. Red Deer

- 9:30 am Registrations and Introductions
- 10:00 **'Connections and Communications for Effective Stewardship'**  
Speaker: John Kristensen - Assistant Deputy Minister,  
Dept of Community Development.
- 10:25 Discussion
- 10:45 Coffee Break (Coffee etc. provided, but bring your own mug if you can).
- 11:00 **'Value-added Programs - how Stewards can provide valuable information'**  
Speaker: John Rintoul - Coordinator for the ANHIC data system.
- 11:25 Discussion
- 11:45 Lunch (Please bring you own bag lunch - there are no facilities on site).
- 12:30 **SAPAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** - see agenda on reverse
- Presentations: Highlights of two Stewards experiences.
- 1:30 **Hubert Taube:** NW Buderheim. A heavily used (and abused) sandhills area
- 2:00 **Aaron and Elise Bowersock:** Yamnuska and/or Bow Valley
- 2:30 Wrap-up.

**NOTE:** If you want to car-pool to Red Deer, please phone Alison, 780-437-7183

# STEWARDS OF ALBERTA'S PROTECTED AREAS ASSOCIATION

## Annual General Meeting

27 October, 2001 – 12:30 pm

### AGENDA

1. Acceptance of Minutes of 18 Nov. 2000
2. Business arising from the Minutes.  
Acceptance of Bylaws under the Societies Act. \*
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Acceptance of Policies, previously circulated.  
Main item for discussion - Categories of membership.
5. Liability insurance.
6. Report on the Meeting of the Executive with the Minister of Community Development.
7. Election of the Board \*\*  
Current members are:  
Chair - Alison Dinwoodie  
Vice Chair - John Woitenko  
Treasurer / Membership Secretary - Marilyn Shannon  
Recording Secretary - Vacant  
Directors - Beth Jenkins  
Andy Boyd  
Stan Kozyra
8. Other Business

\* If anyone wants copies of the Bylaws prior to the meeting, please phone Alison (780-437-7183)

\*\* Please come prepared with nominations. Individuals not present at the meeting may be nominated, provided their willingness to stand has been confirmed prior to the meeting.