

Warden Ron Davies

Ron Davies was born in 1929 in Mission City, B.C. He went to school at Tweedsmuir, SK; Prince Albert, SK; and also took correspondence courses.

Note: My brother Len and I had 7 miles to go to school and 7 miles back, by bicycle winter and summer. I received my Grade 12 when I was 40 years old and a 2 year Resource Conservation course by correspondence when I was 43. Before that I worked at Yellowknife in a hard rock mine and served in the Korean War.



Warden Ron Davies parked on a new corduroy trail on an old fire trail. Fire trails went out when helicopters came in. Times changed.

I was a warden in Prince Albert National Park twice. I worked from approximately 1957 to 1970 then transferred to Kootnay National Park for four years. Came back to PANP about 1975. Transferred to Wood Buffalo National Park about 1980, then to Nahanni National Park, retired as Chief Warden in Nahanni National Park in 1990

Bear damage. Notice the back packs at the door. We called them pack sacks then. They were the same weights either way. Wasa Lake formerly Lake of Bays.





Pine Grove Warden Station. Lyle and Beverly Davies standing by one of the early snow machines. This machine was a total failure. It had trouble even going downhill.



Warden training camp in Banff, 1959. I was never a mountain climber nor have I ever pretended to be. Climbing was my worst nightmare.



Wardens Ron Davies and Andy Corrigan at Banff.



Cuthead College at Banff. We camped near Cuthead Creek and the morning ablutions were the cold creek. One was wide awake after this.

Scuba diving was around the park for a few years late 60s early 70s. Some of the wardens took some training. I could never call myself a scuba diver as not enough training. It was deemed expensive so the equipment was shipped to the West coast. There were 6 full suits, tanks and masks. An air compressor was capable of filtering the air for the tanks. Suits were of thin rubber and very cool if it ripped.

This is at the dock at Crean Lake and the diving equipment was used to locate some small beaver kits for shipment to Holland. We also took some bottom samples and explored under the beaver feed bed close to their houses.



Ron in full scuba gear



Ron and CWS employee

Getting to Tibiska Lake in the spring

The best way to get to Tibiska Lake was to drag a canoe on a sleigh over the lake ice and hope the rivers were open water. They were usually open. There were several other lakes to cross as well.

Patrols were made to protect beaver and muskrat that were in heavy demand at this time.



Left photo: Warden Ron Davies by McLennon River via Montreal Lake, this is before the highway to Lac La Ronge went on the west side of Montreal Lake.



Right photo: Warden Luther Ferguson by the fire along the McLennon River. We have just crossed Montreal Lake on our way to Tibiska.

Wardens Ron Davies and Luther Ferguson with their canoes crossing the ice on Montreal Lake. If you look closely you will see a small sleigh under the canoe. This protected the canoe because it was made of canvass. It was a long walk; sore back.



Left photo: Warden Ron Davies

Centre photo: Warden Luther Ferguson

Right photo: Ron Davies drying his clothes somewhere north of Crean. Who else but Luther Ferguson would catch another man drying his Long Johns? 1961

Life of a Warden's wife

We had been provided with a generator about 1960 so we had an early electric washing machine in the warehouse at Crean Lake. The water was provided by a fire pump from the lake.

Two children were in diapers. No Pampers back then and not for quite a while.



Reta hauling laundry 1958, and clothes on the line

Reta looked after hundreds of boat travelers while I was away. She gave first aid, directions, advice etc. No pay of course. This was a common practice among all of the wives of wardens while they were out on patrol. Wives and children were left on their own for long periods of time. It was a long period of isolation.

Living at the Warden Station

Two horse shelter at Tibiska Lake north of Crean. Formerly called Burntwood Lake.



We kept these barns maintained when we used horses and toboggans. They went out with the newer snow vehicles.



Cabin at Crean

Note: when we traveled by horse it seemed that the bears had it 'in' for the horse barns. We always had to repair the barns at the patrol cabins every year.

Mode of Travel



Left photo: Ron getting Beverly down to the canoe where Reta is making her a nest for both Lyle and Bev. 1959

Right photo: Reta and Lyle and Beverly in the freighter canoe. There was no road to Crean at that time. This was our summer transportation.

Additional pictures from Warden Ron Davies



Left photo: How to load trucks in the early days of the park. This was approximately 1930-33.

Right photo: First registration office around 1944-46. It was used first at the south end and when they built the new 'gate house' this was moved into Waskesiu. It was moved again to the Headquarters cabin as a storage shed.



Left photo: Warden Bill Jones at Kingsmere Lake. A.K.A "Wild Bill". He was with the Warden Service from about 1946-48.

Right photo: South end gate house. The office staff and park office were in Prince Albert from September to May. The Chief Warden looked after the day to day operations.

Note: Headquarters cabin was between the Meridian Station and Mackenzie Creek on the west side of the road. It was originally the engineer's cabin.



First Information Crew. The information crew was the four in the front row. From the left: Betty Tarr, Reta Davies, unknown, Beatrice Johnson.



Left photo: Kingsmere Lake. Hauling summer fuel and other heavy objects over the ice in early April. Most of the snow is gone in April and the ice is at its best.

Right photo: Kingsmere Lake 1959. This is what is called an 'ice heave'. It is now called a pressure ridge. They required some work with an ice chisel to cross. Horses didn't like these ice heaves at all. We also had to pick the right spot for a loaded truck or bombardier.



Doug Settee on the left and Ron Davies on the right. Never ending bear traps.



Warden Ron Davies, Mel and Sheila Brayford, Reta Davies reuniting at the Waskesiu Foundation Dinner 2006.