

2008

Canadian Parks for Tomorrow: 40th Anniversary Conference: Introductory material

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CANADIAN PARKS FOR TOMORROW: 40th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Canadian Parks for Tomorrow: 40th Anniversary Conference
Assessing Change, Accomplishment and Challenge
In Canadian Parks and Protected Areas

University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
May 8 to 11, 2008

Mission Statement

“An international conference to describe, analyze and assess the history, current status and trends and future directions of protected areas, landscapes and heritage resources and their role in Canadian society”



Parks for Tomorrow

Conference on Canadian Parks & Protected Areas
Calgary May 8-12, 2008



Co Chairs—Dr Dianne Draper, Professor of Geography and Dr Robert Scace, Consulting Geographer
Co Hosts—Departments of Geography and History, Faculty of Environmental Design

30 April 2008

Dear Delegate

We take great pleasure in welcoming you to the 40th Anniversary conference. The conference celebrates the inaugural *The Canadian Parks: Today and Tomorrow* conference of 1968 and provides a forum to consider and address parks and protected areas of the future. We are pleased to welcome delegates from all parts of Canada and extend a special welcome to those who have joined us from abroad. We trust you will all find the conference to be thought provoking, stimulating and productive.

The conference includes approximately 130 presentations, as well as panels and discussion sessions. The range of subject matter reflects the complexities inherent in identifying, planning for, managing and using parks and protected areas across a spectrum of public, private and traditional lands. Chronic issues, emerging challenges and at the same time heartening accounts of research findings, innovative approaches and cooperative arrangements weave their way through the presentations.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the people and organizations that have supported the conference in many ways, including those on organizing committees, those who have supported the conference in material ways and of course, those who have contributed their research and insight through papers and presentations is valued. We recognize these valued contributions elsewhere in the conference program.

We live in a world of change and uncertainty. What *is* certain is the importance of parks and protected areas to environmental and human health alike. We trust this conference will provide a clear foundation for future research, planning and decision making in Canada and abroad and sustain our collective commitment to protection of the heritage others have passed down to us.

Dr Dianne Draper
Co-Chair
Department of Geography

Dr Robert Scace
Co-Chair
Consulting Geographer

Canadian Parks for Tomorrow: 40th Anniversary Conference

Introduction and Guide

Preamble

Parks and protected areas play a crucial role in society, in Canada and internationally. In a world of rapid change wherein human societies, landscapes and biomes are transformed in numbers and timeframes and on scales once unimagined, the transfer of conservation area knowledge and action must be equally swift. Thus we have the mounting in digital space of contributions made at the *Canadian Parks for Tomorrow: 40th Anniversary Conference*. These contributions consist of commissioned and contributed papers and presentations, and abstracts in lieu, for which we have received permission to post the contributions on DSpace. These materials are reproduced in the form in which they were provided by their respective authors/presenters and in advance of the more timely undertaking of document selection and editing for purposes of more traditional publication activity. They are made available here; (a) to inform the world about those who participated in the conference and to provide insight regarding their research, their findings, their opinions, and (b) to encourage that essential dissemination of knowledge that must underpin efforts throughout the global community to assert and sustain the role and value of parks and protected areas as constituents both of heritage and future wellbeing.

Rationale

Forty years ago the University of Calgary's first international conference, *The Canadian National Parks: Today and Tomorrow*, helped define the role of parks in Canada in light of international experience. Since then, Canada has emerged as a world leader in parks and protected areas. In May 2008 the *Canadian Parks for Tomorrow: 40th Anniversary Conference* celebrated the inaugural conference, analyzed what had transpired during the succeeding decades and where we are now, and sought to examine the future role of parks and protected areas in Canada and internationally in light of 21st century realities.

Much has changed since 1968. On the global stage Canada has become more significant economically, socially and environmentally. World wide tourism, recreation and development pressures continue to increase. Canada faces challenges common to many countries; the disappearance of wilderness, species extinction, collapsing fisheries, threats to clean water and air, growing populations and human environmental health issues and climate change. Our parks, protected areas and open space systems range from urban to remote, from well managed to neglected, in concert with these major challenges. Yet Canada's wealth, natural and resource capital, institutions and experience provide the opportunity to lead the world in the parks and protected areas field.

In 1968 the University of Calgary in collaboration with government agencies and NGOs took the lead to organize an international conference to consider the past and set an agenda for park policy, research and planning needs in Canada and reflect upon activities in other countries. Later gatherings in 1978 and 1985 continued that work. Today's challenges require parks and protected areas to provide many more meanings and services to society at local and international levels. It was timely, therefore, in 2008 to once more gather at the

University of Calgary parties interested in the future role and direction of parks and protected areas, to consider and address challenges in the years ahead of us.

Objectives

The conference sought to engage the community at large in a civic dialogue grounded in state-of-the-art knowledge that will provide a clear foundation for improving planning and decision making in Canada and abroad. Desired outcomes included:

- The conference as a monitoring tool and assessment vehicle for 40 years of parks and protected areas history
- Revitalization of university networks relating to parks and protected areas
- Engagement among academics, government agencies, aboriginal peoples, NGOs, industry and business, media and the general public
- A published synopsis of state of the art knowledge for applied use by students, professionals, industry and business, political decision makers, NGOs and those owning and holding land to address 21st century challenges
- Identification of research, education and planning needs and approaches on topics of value to all parties
- Heightened understanding across society of the vital roles protected areas play in human health, cultural identity and economic, social, spiritual and environmental wellbeing
- Identification of Canada's opportunities to support and learn from other countries in meeting these objectives.

Subject matter prepared for the conference casts a wide net, a reflection of just how much has changed since 1968, yet also affirming the chronic issues that remain with us. The plenary papers in part address matters little or lightly considered at the time. Examples include Canadian environmental history, relationships between aboriginal peoples and protected areas and the role of private lands and easements in conservation. These are matters of immense contemporary interest and activity. The contributed papers similarly reveal shifts in thinking and associations that impact directly or otherwise on parks and protected areas. Theme sessions on climate change, research foci, large ecosystems, trans-boundary and co-management arrangements, and "people and parks" attest to the extent to which natural environments and human societies and cultures are inextricably bound in the planning, management and use of protected landscapes.

Conference Structure

The *Canadian Parks for Tomorrow: 40th Anniversary Conference* was organized in two parts. The conference began with sets of commissioned papers presented within broadly described theme areas, as follows:

- Setting the Stage: Legacy and Prospect
- Setting the Stage: Chronic Issues and Emerging Challenges
- History and Ideology
- Future Directions: Roles of Authorities, Institutions and Citizens

Panels followed the plenary presentations, those so engaged reflecting diverse points of view on the contents of commissioned papers and interacting with authors and conference delegates on the points raised.

The second part of the conference involved presentation of over 100 titles contributed by conference delegates and their co-authors. These contributed materials were organized in four groups; within each group there were multiple concurrent theme sessions:

Group A

- Water Environment
- Historical Perspectives, Future Implications (I)
- Research and Protected Areas (I): Science Research and Reporting
- Philosophy, Policy and Legislation
- Habitats and Ecosystems (I): Fire
- People and Parks (I): Consultation, Participation, Problem Solving

Group B

- Aboriginal Peoples and Protected Areas (I)
- Historical Perspectives, Future Implications (II)
- Research and Protected Areas (II): Monitoring
- Rocky Mountains World Heritage Site Ecosystem
- Climate Change
- People and Parks (II): Multiculturalism, Perception and Stewardship

Group C

- Aboriginal Peoples and Protected Areas (II)
- Leisure, Tourism and Recreation
- Research and Protected Areas (III): Signposts to Ecological Integrity
- Planning Processes and Ecosystem Integration
- Habitats and Ecosystems (II): Species and Processes
- People and Parks (III): Special Events, Special Needs

Group D

- Trans-boundary Arrangements
- Perspectives on Landscape
- Research and Protected Areas (IV): Technologies
- Co-management and Co-operative Arrangements
- The Built Environment: Urban Places and Industrial Infrastructure
- People and Parks (IV): Accreditation, Commercial Operations and Education

The commissioned and volunteered papers were prepared by a spectrum of stakeholders, persons who value our parks, protected areas and open spaces and who variously responded

to the objectives set out for the conference according to their respective research, policy and management, user, consultative, volunteer and other interests and experiences.

Guide to Materials on DSpace

A number of files have been created:

- Introduction and Guide
- Conference Program, including Contributed Papers Table
- Commissioned Papers, **with permission to display**
- Contributed Papers/Presentations or Abstracts, **with permission to display**
- Conference Organizing Committee
- Supporting Organizations
- Awards at Conference
- Parks Conferences/Assemblies – 1968-1978-1985-2008
- **Participant List**
- **Disclaimer.**

Commissioned papers appear in the order in which they were presented at the conference. Contributed papers/presentations appear alphabetically within the theme sessions to which they were allocated at the conference. **These are processed files; additions are possible in the event permission is received to mount additional conference materials to the site.**

Future Activities

A book based on the work and findings of the conference is in the planning stages. It will include a selection of papers submitted at the conference, together with introductory essays and reflections on conference discourse.

Prepared by:

Robert C. Scace, Ph.D.

Conference Senior Editor