



Reinvesting in Built Structures - A Progress Report

Jasper National Park has an infrastructure asset base worth more than \$300 million, but most was built between 30-40 years ago and is nearing the end of its life cycle.

A reinvestment plan involving both the government and visitors was developed and to this end, the 2005 federal budget provided Parks Canada Agency with \$209 million over the next 5 years and \$75 million per year. Jasper National Park was a recipient of some of this money and so far, approximately \$300K was spent repairing the Snaring Bridge over highway #16. Over the next few years, the Information Centre National Historic Site will also benefit from restorative efforts. Parks Canada will be able to fulfill its municipal transfer commitments for the new water wells and the clean-up of several contaminated wells. While this funding must be divided between the many priorities within Parks Canada, JNP is expected to benefit further. As a part of the overall reinvestment strategy, fees were increased as of June 22, 2005 that corresponded with an increased investment on roads, day-use areas, picnic sites and washrooms. Any reinvestment will focus first and foremost on public safety issues and high use visitor areas.

For the fiscal year of 2005/06 and to date Jasper National Park has been

National Campground Reservations System - A progress report

For the first time ever, this summer Whistlers, Wapiti and Wabasso campgrounds in Jasper National Park accepted reservations through a NEW national on-line and toll free campground reservation system. Pocahontas campground test piloted this new system successfully last summer of 2004.

Use of this new system was higher than expected and Albertans in particular took advantage of the convenience, approximately 55% of the reservation system users were from Alberta. While approximately 50% of campers are still being accommodated as walk-ups, the lack of supply and high demand for serviced sites is noticeable. In fact, campers

able to invest the following amounts:

Road Work: \$725K

Highlights:

- spot patching of failing road surfaces: extensive coverage on Pyramid Lake road, Edith Cavell road and highway 93A
- Edith Cavell road culvert and drainage repair
- sight line brushing on the Icefield Parkway (to be completed this fall)

Day Use Area Upgrades: \$50K

Highlights:

- 3 new panabode privies: Goat Lick, Mount Christie, and Bubbling Springs
- garbage bin replacement program
- repair of Medicine Lake stairs

Campground Upgrades - \$125K

Highlights:

- Whistler/Wapiti lift station replacement
- road patching
- levelling and upgrading sites

Trails - Will be reported at a later date

Apart from the significant number of fee dollars spent on operating and maintaining visitor facilities, the money invested this fiscal year to date in improvements is \$900,000. For further information please contact Pam Clark at 852-6193.

required a reservation to obtain these sought after sites during the peak periods of July and August and the long weekends in May and September.

The most common area of concern among campers was the fact they didn't know about the system. With the other Mountain National Parks of Banff, Kootenay and Waterton Lakes going on-line next year and an increase in marketing initiatives planned, the awareness level should significantly rise.

For further information please contact Pam Clark at 780-852-6193.



Birds Eye View

Wildlife Festival

Don't forget that Oct 14th-16th is the Behind the Scenery Wildlife Festival. With events like a J.A.G. art show, wildlife guest speakers, free guided tours, and more there is something for everyone to enjoy. If you'd like more information on this weekend or on how to get involved, call Gloria with Parks Canada @ 852-6150 or Marina with the Chamber of Commerce @ 852-3858.

Road Closure Reminders

- Edith Cavell - October 15 or first lasting snowfall
- Miette Hot Springs - October 15
- Moab/Celestine/93A Meeting of the Waters to Athabasca Falls - October 15 or first snowfall

Changes to The Mountain Guide

Parks Canada would like to thank the businesses that have previously advertised in The Mountain Guide, Parks Canada's official guide to Banff, Jasper, Kootenay, Yoho and Glacier National Parks for their support of this publication. The Treasury Board's new "Federal Communications Policy" directs that advertisements are no longer allowed in any government publications, therefore beginning in April of 2006 The Mountain Guide will no longer contain advertising.

Parks Canada will continue to produce an official Visitors' Guide to be distributed at park gates and other facilities. This fall we are evaluating The Mountain Guide to determine what that future guide should look like and what will best meet the needs of park visitors. If you have comments or suggestions about The Mountain Guide, please contact Darlene Skehill at 852-1886.