

Famous Rockies Trail Guide Turns 40

Review by Meghan Ward

If it wasn't for Brian Patton and Bart Robinson, you might reach the 20-kilometre mark on a hike and realize that, based on your map, you should have reached your destination five kilometres ago.

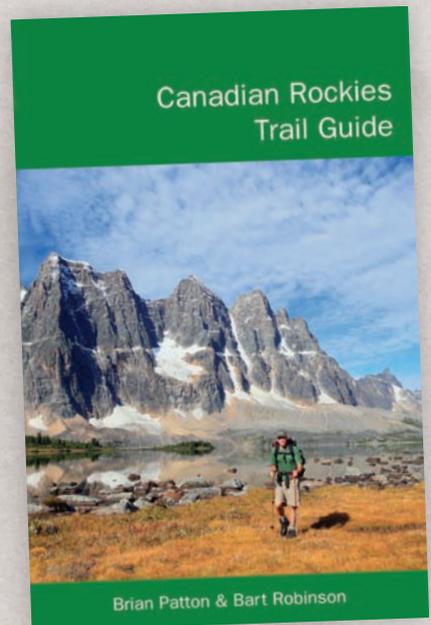
Back when they were researching trails in Banff, Jasper and Kootenay National Parks for the 1st edition of *Canadian Rockies Trail Guide*, Patton and Robinson took on the arduous task of accurately measuring distances with a trail wheel. Thank goodness they did. Prior to their valiant efforts, distances were mostly estimated by wardens on horseback.

When the guidebook was published in 1971, it was the first comprehensive hiking guide to the Canadian Rockies. Now in its 9th edition, the 40-year-old *Canadian Rockies Trail Guide* is considered "the Bible" by outdoor enthusiasts. It has been recommended by Fodor's, Frommer's and Lonely Planet—the only hiking guide to the region that has received impressive endorsements from some of the travel industry's most trusted sources.

But, for these authors the hard work has been worth the hours spent behind the computer. As Patton explained, "The trail guide has been a great excuse to get out and wander into every corner of the mountain parks."

The 40th anniversary edition of *Canadian Rockies Trail Guide* is available from Summerthought as of May 2011.

H WORD UP



The Will of the Land

By Peter Dettling

Rocky Mountain Books, Copyright 2010

At first glance, Peter Dettling's *The Will of the Land* looks like another Rocky Mountain wildlife coffee-table book. But behind the cover lives a controversial and tragic story about the wolves and grizzlies who struggle to share the mountain parks with us. This is not an account for the faint of heart.

Unbeknownst to many, a local wolf pack known as "the Bows" was made extinct last year by a deadly series of run-ins with vehicles on Banff National Park's highways. Despite ongoing efforts by Parks, CPR, and numerous environmental lobby groups, highway traffic and railway collisions continue to be the leading causes of death for large predators.

The Will of the Land raises the question: if environmental and wildlife protection are the highest mandate of the national parks, then are we willing to accept mortality levels that threaten our dwindling wildlife populations? And if not, what can we do about it?

The book's morbidly graphic images of the once majestic animals (now piled up in Parks' deep freezers) provide deeper meaning to the apparently easy-to-ignore statistics we have all heard before.

Dettling will certainly be criticised by many for his personification and close emotional attachment to the animals he spent years photographing. However, seen through this up-close perspective, readers will find it difficult to remain detached from the wild creatures and their plight. ☐

