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Fifth edition updated to include landscape change

ROB ALEXANDER INVERMERE

More than 30 years ago, when former Canmore resident Brian Patton published the first edition of *Parkways of the Canadian Rockies*, cold and snowy winters were the norm, creating the idea a little ice age could be on the horizon.

Instead, for the fifth edition of Patton's kilometre-by-kilometre guidebook to the roads and highways in the Rocky Mountain national parks, Patton found he was updating his text to include elements of global warming, including the spread of mountain pine beetles and shrinking glaciers.

Regardless of the direction the change took, given its longevity, *Parkways of the Canadian Rockies* has become – albeit not purposefully – a chronicle of landscape change.

When Patton, co-author with Bart Robinson of *The Canadian Rockies Trail Guide*, wrote the first version in 1975, forest fires were fought vigorously and the notion of starting fires or letting fires burn was laughable, as was the thought that tiny beetles could destroy huge swaths of forests.

"Before I first did the *Parkways* in 1975, the only time you saw a red tree was red burn and red burn was a factor of cold winters," Patton said Tuesday (Aug. 19) from his home in Invermere, where he has lived since 2001.

"In '75, I was in my early 30s when I did this book originally. You think there's going to be historical things that happen, but do you really see the landscape change that much in a person's lifetime? And we all seem to think that landscape change happens

over generations, but boy... (we) are seeing changes occurring," Patton said.

Parkways of the Canadian Rockies, published by Banff-based Summerthought, is a comprehensive guide to Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho that shares the human and natural history found along each road.

Given the volume of information packed within this 144-page guide, Patton said he's found it is easier to use in some ways as a resource rather than road guide.

"It was always a little too dense for the average tourist. You couldn't drive steadily and cover all of the text," he said.

"I would launch into the history of David Thompson when you get to that area and by the time you've read that you've already passed five more points of interest."

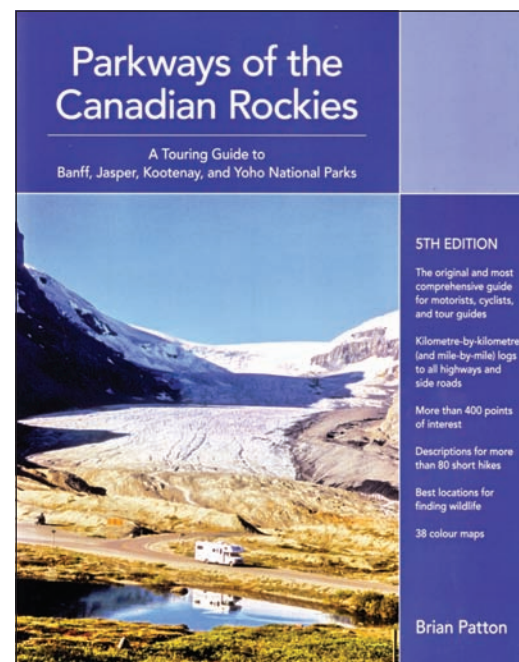
Even so, *Parkways* makes an effective road guide if readers do what Patton advises in the introduction: take your time and stop frequently.

As a former Parks Canada naturalist, an author and historian, Patton is a recognized authority on the Rocky Mountains,

which is certainly a strength he brings to the guidebook, making it a useful and informative tool.

Along with documenting new ideas – pine beetles, shrinking glaciers and Kootenay forest fires – the current edition features new maps and new photographs, by necessity, Patton said, as the book's original digital files were corrupted and many of the photographs went missing in the mail.

The fifth edition of *Parkways of the Canadian Rockies* retails for \$24.95.



Banff Centre hosts night of choral music

Fans of choral music are in for a serious treat this Saturday (Aug. 23) when participants in the Banff Choral Workshop, under the guidance of master conductor Jon Washburn, join forces with the Vancouver Chamber Choir, one of North America's most celebrated choral ensembles, in a performance of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

The 20th century piece, originally composed by Orff in the 1930s, is one of a handful of landmark choral works that make up the most performed and popular in today's concert world. In 1956 Orff devised a version for chorus, soloists, two pianos and six percussionists, a version that highlights the music's drama and clarity as well as the role of the chorus, making it a perfect repertoire for

the Banff Choral Workshop. The performance will feature Banff Centre alumni performing the piano, percussion and soloist parts.

The Banff Choral Workshop allows passionate amateur choral singers the chance to rehearse and perform with Washburn and the Vancouver Chamber Choir in a week-long residency. The workshop was designed for singers with significant choral background who are looking to refine their skills through an intensive professional performance experience.

Saturday's performance is at the Rolston Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$13 for students and \$9 for children, available through the Box Office at 403-762-6301.

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