

EI COURSE HISTORY SECTION

Banff Field Unit

AFTER INTROS WE JUMP INTO THE ICEBREAKER:

9:30 am - 9:45 am HISTORY CARDS GAME

We're going to begin Module 1 with an activity designed to reveal of the History of EI, in a collaborative/competitive way, with the History Cards challenge. We'll break you up into two groups and working together in each of your groups, the object of the game is to match up these [show] history picture cards with the appropriate [show] date cards -- BEFORE the other group. So ACCURACY and SPEED are important. Find a place to lay them out all in a row, in correct order. You will have 10 minutes. As soon as you think you have them in the right order, let us know. The other groups will then be invited to review your responses and consider if they want to change any of theirs (consultation is good!).

[HAND OUT quote cards DURING this activity]

9:30 am - 10:30 am HISTORY QUOTES SECTION

Did you use the park-culture clues or the societal-culture clues more? Are you still not sure what the right answers were? Stay tuned, we will be covering all that (and much more) in the next 45 minutes.

One of the things that activity was designed to illustrate is that there is a connection between our society's history and our park history. As [manager of the day] said [in the introduction], EI is all about people, and one of the traits common to ALL of us, is that we all have OPINIONS.

Have you ever noticed that whenever there's a discussion of Park Issues and Management, everyone seems to have an opinion about what *should* or shouldn't be done, or *how* it should or shouldn't be done? For all of us, whether we're park managers or front line staff or behind the scenes staff – public opinions are a reality, a reality that we all have to accept and work with. And it's not just "other people" who have opinions about how parks should or shouldn't be run. WE have them too, as I'm sure we'll discover over the next two days.

People have been having opinions about parks for as long as there have been parks. It was somebody's opinion that this particular place was worth "setting aside" that led to it becoming Canada's first national park back in ... when was that? (History Card:1885)

I'd even go so far as to say that it has been public opinion that has shaped this park more than anything else over the past century. What's your opinion about that – am I right or wrong?

One way to trace how our expectations of national parks have evolved over the past 116 years, is to look at the words that have defined our Canadian National Parks during that time period. Or, I should say, *listen* to those words...

QUOTE # 1: Let's start where it all began, around the steamy, bubbling, sulphurous Hot Springs at Banff. [Hot Springs person] is going read to us the words that defined Canada's first national park RESERVE back in 1885.

*"...it is hereby ordered, that whereas near the station of Banff on the Canadian Pacific Railway... there have been discovered several **hot mineral springs** which promise to be of great **sanitary advantage** to the public, and in order that **proper control** of the lands surrounding these springs may be vested in the Crown, the said lands... including said springs and in their immediate neighbourhood, be... hereby reserved from sale or settlement or squatting..."*

[OVERHEAD: 1885 Quote: - proper control - hot mineral springs - sanitary advantage]

Discussion: So, it all began as a giant bathtub. Why? What was medicine like at that time? Plumbing? And what did fashionable society like to do in the Victorian era? Travel and 'take the waters'. For the wealthy classes who travelled the world by rail and ship, the location of Banff on the CPR route through the wilds of Canada to the Orient was highly convenient. What resorts were set up in Banff to accommodate this fashion of soaking in natural bathtubs with great views? Cave & Basin, Banff Springs Hotel, GrandView Villa (became Upper Hot Pools later), Brett Sanatorium (where Park Administration building now sits), and the Banff Mineral Springs Hospital (now the YWCA-- the room we are sitting in now was the chapel of the original BMSH!).

Transition: While the Order in Council which first set aside 10 square miles around the hot springs as the "Banff Hot Springs RESERVE" was tabled in November 1885, the legislation passing Canada's first national PARK into law didn't occur until 19 months later, in June of 1887. Let's see how that definition of the purpose of this park changed in that short time.

QUOTE # 2: [campground person] _____ will proclaim to us the dedication clause of the Rocky Mountains Park Act of 1887:

*"The said tract of land is hereby reserved and set apart as a **public park and pleasure ground** for the **benefit, advantage and enjoyment** of the people of Canada... and shall be known as the Rocky Mountains Park of Canada." [The ACT also made provisions for the...] "**preservation, from injury or spoilation, of all timber and mineral deposits, natural curiosities or wonders... and their retention in their natural condition.**"*

[OH: 1887 Quote - public park and pleasure ground - benefit / enjoyment + preservation]

Discussion: Also: New name (Rocky Mountains Park) and new size (couple hundred sq. km. now vs. 10 originally, to include some of scenery around the springs). This mandate shows a considerable expansion of the park idea since the first 'draft' - Why? Anyone read the Yellowstone legislation? Well, looks like someone in Ottawa did, because Canada's first NP ended up with very similar wording in its legislation as the world's first NP (Yellowstone 1872).

Ottawa for the required man-power to “protect” these vast, remote mountain parks.

Transition: Who better to illustrate the park management concerns of that era than the head honcho of the time, JB Harkin (equiv. of Tom Lee then, but only a handful of parks to oversee). Appointed to the new position of Commissioner of the Dominion Parks Branch in 1911, he knew nothing about parks when he took on the job. “All the better”, said his boss, “you won’t be hampered by preconceived notions [or opinions!] and you can learn”. He was a quick study,

QUOTE # 5: as [finance/admin]_____ will now illustrate. Here are Harkin’s words about what he learned about park management in the early 1900s :

“My first problem on taking office was the economic one. How was I to get the money for developments that were immediately necessary? To restore the disappearing wild life, an efficient game protective service... should be built up. Eight thousand square miles of the sublimest scenery in Canada had been placed under my protection and I lay awake at nights thinking of the damage one bad fire might do. Hundreds of miles of new trails and forest telephone lines were needed at once. In 1911 Canada was still in the horse-and-buggy era, but... already enthusiastic motorists on the prairies were urging that the old ‘tote road’ from Calgary to Banff should be made suitable for cars. Motor roads within the parks could not long be denied. All this would cost money – a great deal of money.”

Discussion: Some things don’t change... His obvious concerns about fire and game show that he took the “protection” part of the park mandate seriously. What did Harkin do to meet the “benefit and enjoyment” part of mandate? (Road building - 1A, 93 S, 93 N). Technology allowed more local, democratic use, which he believed was a good thing -- all Canadian citizens should be encouraged to experience the uplifting wonders of our national parks. How did Harkin solve his economic dilemma? He argued economic value of tourism in Ottawa, and even went so far as to calculate how many tourism dollars each park was worth (4X the worth of an acre of wheat, and the capital was never depleted -- or so he thought at the time).

Transition: He has been called the “Father of Tourism”, but I think he was the father of what we might call “Heritage Tourism” today. Money certainly wasn’t the only value he saw in parks,

QUOTE # 6: as [interpreter]_____ will now demonstrate. Here Harkin is answering the self-imposed question, “Why should we have national parks?”, circa 1930:

“National Parks are maintained for all the people – for the ill, that they may be restored, for the well that they may be fortified and inspired by the sunshine, the fresh air, the beauty, and all the other healing, ennobling, and inspiring agencies of Nature. They exist in order that every citizen of Canada may satisfy his craving for Nature and Nature’s beauty; that he may absorb the poise and restfulness of the forests; that he may steep his soul in the brilliance of the wild flowers and the sublimity of the mountain peaks; that he may develop in himself the buoyancy, the joy, and the activity he sees in the wild animals; that he may stock his mind with the raw material of

Transition: We also modified our legislation, with the first appearance of the words ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY in our legislation. The term had appeared earlier in a Policy Document (History Card 1979) but it didn't become enshrined in LAW until an amendment was made to the National Parks Act (History Card 1988), which...

QUOTE #8: _____ will now read to us.

*“Maintenance of **ecological integrity** through the protection of natural resources shall be the first priority when considering Park zoning and visitor use in a Management Plan.”*

Discussion: Enter the term EI, what does it mean? Well, we were still trying to figure that out during the '90s, and one thing that really helped us to define what EI is was a certain study and a certain report that was referred to in the History Cards... EI Panel, study initiated in 1998, report released in 1999. Part of that report was a proposed definition of EI.

Transition: As a result of all this concentrated thinking on EI, we got a whole NEW National Parks Act, called the CANADA National Parks Act, in October of 2000. In this new Act, the sentence about maintaining EI has been slightly changed from the 1988 amendment we just heard. See if you can spot the 3 differences...

QUOTE #9: as _____ will now read to us the wording of our new legislation:

*“Maintenance **or restoration** of ecological integrity through the protection of natural resources **and natural processes** shall be the first priority when considering **all aspects of the management of parks.**”*

Discussion: What are the 3 differences? [SHOW OH with both] Strengthened to add: OR RESTORATION and NATURAL PROCESSES and ALL ASPECTS of park management. One of the reasons this is important is that there will be a quizz on this on Day 2. It's also important to know that the dedication clause of the 1930 Act [SHOW OH] has been retained in our new legislation. We still have a mandate for “benefit, education and enjoyment” -- which is probably good news to those of you who, directly or indirectly, contribute to these visitor services! The change is that now we have a tighter definition of what “maintain unimpaired” means.

FINAL QUOTE: Finally, it is important to know that there is now a LEGAL definition of EI enshrined in our Canada National Parks Act, and here it is:

[OVERHEAD definition]

“Ecological integrity” means, with respect to a park, a condition that is determined to be characteristic of its natural region and likely to persist, including abiotic components and the composition and abundance of native species and biological communities, rates of change and supporting processes.”

AND What does all this mean? THAT'S the subject that we'll delve into for after the break.

But first, a quick review of how we got to our modern idea of conservation, to make sure you got all those history cards right:

REVIEW: Summary of 3 MAIN IDEAS of HISTORY SECTION (MODULE 1):

1. Conservation mandate has been with us since beginning, just redefined/evolved as society's circumstances, needs, values and opinions have changed.
2. Increasing human impact increases the need for protection – this is national and global concern, not just in this park, not just in Parks Canada, but also in BC, in US, in global organizations concerned about sustainability of the planet
3. What can history teach us? Context (so that's how we got here...). Humility (how will our actions be seen in 50 years?). Responsibility (“they” are really “us”!).

Thanks for your participation, it's coffee time! Please be back in 15 minutes, at ___ am.

