The Lives and Legacy of Peter and Catharine Whyte
Holy Dog: Karen Whyte
Journeys in the Landscape: Brad White

Peter Whyte, Lake O'Hara, 1930, oil on canvas, collection of the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, gift of the Catharine Robb Whyte Estate, 1979
**Director’s Message**

This year the Whyte Museum celebrates a double anniversary. Not only will 2005 mark the centennial of the Province of Alberta, but it is also the 100th birthday of our founder, Peter Whyte. We intend to celebrate at every opportunity, and hope our members will be able to join us more than once.

Indeed, we have already kicked off our centennial events. On January 22nd, we hosted a 100th birthday party for Peter Whyte, complete with historic children’s games, such as pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey, crocinole, and checkers for our younger visitors, and tours of the collection and a “sneak preview” of this summer’s upcoming exhibition, *The Lives and Legacy of Peter and Catharine Whyte*. No birthday party would be complete without a birthday cake, and one capable of feeding a multitude and, through the marvels of modern technology, adorned with an amazing reproduction of one of Pete’s cartoons was cut by Board President Brad White to feed the hungry partygoers. A week later it was time to open our first major exhibition of the centennial year, an amazing retrospective and contemporary photographic extravaganza *Exposure 2005: The Banff-Calgary Month of Photography* which includes four Whyte Museum exhibitions: *Folio Gallery Revisited; Through the Lens: A Retrospective; Sound And Light: Dianne Bos and Temporal Traces: Myles Zarowny*. Over 300 photography enthusiasts attended the gala opening of these exhibitions.

So far, then, we are off to a great centennial start, but there is much more to come. In April, the first part of the *Lives and Legacy* exhibition, our effort to pay homage to the work of our founders in creating the Whyte Museum and its wonderful collections, will open in the Main Gallery. It will be accompanied by some work of the younger Whyte/White generation, an exhibition of painting by Karen Whyte entitled *Holy Dog* and an exhibition of the fine adventure photography of Brad White, *Journeys in the Landscape*. In June we will open the second part of the *Lives and Legacy* exhibition in the Heritage Gallery which will form the centerpiece for our 38th annual *Back to Banff Day* celebrations on Father’s Day, June 19th. This weekend will be one of the focal points for Banff’s centennial celebrations and we expect crowds similar to those of our last big “centennial” in 1985 when Banff celebrated its 100th birthday as a national park. Lots of other events will be occurring at this time, including, for its second year, *Doors Open Banff*, an opportunity to visit and hear about the history of some of the town’s heritage residences.

I could go on, but by now readers will have got the idea. Come and see for yourself and join in on the party!

Ted Hart, Executive Director,
*Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies*
MUSEUM CONSULTS ITS COMMUNITIES

Don Bourdon, Head Archivist

Cairn readers may be aware (see Summer/Fall, 2004) that the Whyte Museum has been immersed in Museums Alberta’s Museums Excellence Programme. Part of the programme’s “Museums and Society” unit involves actively soliciting public opinion on how well the Museum is meeting its responsibilities, helping us to recognize our strengths and weaknesses. Last fall and winter, Museum staff members assembled lists of stakeholders, developed a questionnaire and conducted face-to-face interviews. The interview candidates’ names were sorted into categories and were selected using highly sophisticated “draw from a hat” methodology. The process was fascinating and rewarding. Interviewees felt their comments were valued and we learned a great deal. Responses were very positive, candid and in some cases passionate.

Several themes began to emerge out of our conversations. We heard that the Whyte Museum is highly valued among various communities for access, services, and programs related to collections. People generally thought we should do more in several areas: more emphasis on the care and acquisition of materials related to the culture of the mountains of western Canada; more emphasis on making resources and collections available, especially to children, youth, schools and communities; more public programs and more opportunities for collaboration.

Throughout the winter, we continued to solicit responses through the survey process. Ultimately, the trends and themes we discover, as we speak with more people, will be brought to a public forum in the fall of 2005 and we will report on how we plan to respond to your dreams for the Museum. If you would like to have your thoughts on the Whyte Museum’s future noted, please visit our website: www.whyte.org, select “Contact Us” and enter “Request for Survey” in the subject line. Or, stop by the Museum and request a copy of the survey from our Front Desk staff. We plan to advertise this Community Forum in the fall of 2005 in the local newspapers. Hope to see you there.

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY LAUNCHES ONLINE RESOURCE: SILENT NARRATIVES

Don Bourdon, Head Archivist

The Byron Harmon fonds is a wonderful resource made available to us through the generosity of the Harmon family. Since its donation in 1978, thousands of people have gained a new appreciation for the renowned mountain photographer. Our goal to scan his 6500 principal original negatives as an access and preservation measure and to introduce a new generation to Byron Harmon’s life and times has now been accomplished through a grant from the Government of Canada. We are pleased to launch Silent Narratives: the Byron Harmon fonds.

Silent Narratives is an online teacher’s guide to the Byron Harmon fonds held by the Archives and Library, Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies. During his nearly forty-year career, Byron Harmon’s photographs of western Canada’s mountains became known throughout the world. Today, they continue to inspire admiration and help us understand unique Canadian mountain landscapes. The goal of this teacher’s guide is to provide educators and students with a variety of ways to explore, view, compare and appreciate these historical photographs.

This online teacher’s guide consists of eight Activity Sets, each with elementary, intermediate and senior-level components. Each Activity Set makes use of one or more Image Sets that consist of digital copies of Byron Harmon photographs selected from the archival fonds. Activities are also supported with Information Sheets on a wide variety of relevant topics. Extra activities, a Resource List of publications and websites, and numerous links provide opportunities for further exploration. Online access to description and content of the Byron Harmon fonds is also provided.

We greatly appreciate the financial support of the Department of Canadian Heritage through the Canadian Culture Online Program, Library and Archives Canada, and the Canadian Council of Archives. We also acknowledge the support of the Archives Society of Alberta and the Alberta Insight Database in making this project possible. Please visit Silent Narratives at: www.whyte.org and select: “Online Exhibitions and Study Guides.”

CENTENNIAL KICK OFF

The Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies kicked of its Centennial Celebrations in style with two very special events. On January 22, we celebrated the 100th birthday of museum founder Peter Whyte (1905 – 1966) with a birthday party. The 15th Annual Jon Whyte Spelling Bee and Trivia Challenge followed on January 25. This year’s quizmaster, Leslie Taylor, was tough and relentless putting all teams to the test. The Off Centres, one of two entries from the Banff Centre, beat out tough competition to take home top prize. The Whyte Museum team, The Isle of Whyte, put in an impressive performance ending up in 6th place.
Exhibitions

It was not in Peter and Catharine's nature to pursue recognition for their talents and good works. This exhibition provides an opportunity for these achievements to be presented in their proper perspective. The Whytes' community involvement, philanthropy, and their roles as our founders form a unique chapter in Alberta history. Their artistic achievements are an as-of-yet unrealized but important chapter in Canadian art history. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Peter Whyte and the centenary of the Province of Alberta, the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies is pleased to present a series of exhibitions exploring the life and works of our founders: Peter and Catharine Whyte.

This exhibition will open in two parts. On April 9th, the first portion focusing on the art legacy of Peter and Catharine Whyte will debut in the Main Gallery. On June 18, the second portion of the exhibition focusing on their life legacy will open in the Heritage Gallery.

A rich and fascinating collection of artifacts including portions of the Japanese collection acquired by Catharine's grandfather Edward Morse (1838 – 1925), and Peter's and Catharine's travels to Japan in the 1930s, will fill the Heritage Gallery.

The Lives and Legacy of Peter and Catharine Whyte

March 25, 2005 – January 09, 2006

Main Gallery

The story of Banff painters Peter and Catharine Whyte is the tale of two lives lived in a place of great beauty, surrounded by the inspiration of a magnificent mountain landscape. It brings together the daughter of one of Boston's most distinguished families and a Banff-born skier and outdoorsman. It is the tale of two painters who met at art school, and of their shared artistic pursuits. It is the tale of a love of skiing and ski jumping, of friendship and social life, of widespread interests and an appreciation for the simple beauties of life. This story tells us of a unique friendship with the Stoney people, shows us images of both world travels and local explorations, and provides us with a vision for philanthropy and community building. The exhibition The Lives and Legacy of Peter and Catharine Whyte explores the legacy that the Whytes have left to the people of Alberta and Canada.

Art and photography will also be included in this exhibit to tell the captivating stories of Peter and Catharine. Their very different childhoods, a secret courtship at art school, the building of a home, friendships, community and the museum are some of what will be featured. Excerpts from their countless letters and journals will form a personal and intimate part in the exhibition.

Photography was the perfect medium for Peter and Catharine, and allowed them to express their love of portraiture and the landscape. They were fans of the newly available, miniature 35mm handheld camera which allowed the versatility of candid or action photographs versus the traditional larger format tripod mounted photography.

For Peter and Catharine, painting and photography were separate but complementary pursuits. Like their painting, photography was another form of creative expression and something they could do together. Part of the charm of their art is not being certain who did what.

Their common interests and generosity motivated them to contribute their lives and resources to the local community and visitors. Their foresight and gift has kept alive the history of life in the Rocky Mountains. Come and be captured by The Lives and Legacy of Peter and Catharine Whyte.
Holy Dog: Karen Whyte
March 25, 2005 – January 09, 2006
Elizabeth Rummel Room

“My family’s heritage is intimately linked to the history of Banff. My father, Don Whyte, filled my childhood imagination with magical and incredible stories of wilderness adventures. My great aunt Catharine Whyte inspired awe and wonder. I too wanted to be an artist.”
– Karen Whyte, 2003

The vibrant work of British Columbia painter Karen Whyte is a perfect complement to the Lives and Legacy exhibition of the art of Peter and Catharine Whyte, and is a part of the 2005 centennial celebrations hosted by the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies. Demonstrating the impact of having an artistic lineage, Karen directly vests her great aunt Catharine Whyte with inspiring her to become a painter. And, as her great aunt Catharine’s subjects – most often the Rockies – were just out her back door, so too are Karen’s subjects – horses – stabled just behind her home. Karen creates her works from drawings, cropped and enlarged as they grow to fill her canvas, in her Saanichon studio home. Leaving any pretence of a western art genre often associated with ‘horse art’ behind, Karen has developed a fascination with the movement and poetry of the horse in motion, its moods and habits, and the unique emotions of each individual. Her dreamlike portrait studies give us a sense of the physical presence of the horse as much as the form of its body and the movement implied in each work. Velvety soft and yet imbued with strength, seeming to breathe with life yet statuesque, Karen’s horses are sensual and alive, each an individual portrait of the character of the horse it depicts.

In addition to being a painter, Karen is also a Coordinator in the Arts and Writing Cooperative Education Program at the University of Victoria, and will be in residence at the Banff Centre in April of 2005. This is the first showing of her work in Alberta.

Journeys in the Landscape: Brad White
March 25, 2005 – January 09, 2006
Swiss Guides Room

For over 20 years, Brad White has focused his camera on the extraordinary light and scenery that he has encountered during his travels. His commercial photographic work for companies such as Patagonia, Marmot, and Canadian Mountain Holidays Heliskiing have allowed Brad a myriad of unique opportunities in out-of-the-way places. In addition, his work as a certified guide, mountain rescue specialist, and his own adventures as an avid hiker and climber have taken him into remote regions of Canada’s mountain parks. His camera has become a vehicle for storytelling and has opened a window that allows others to appreciate and share his unique backcountry experiences.
Peter Whyte,

**Lake McArthur**, 1930, oil on canvas
Gift of the Catharine Robb Whyte Estate, 1979

**Mrs. Tom Simeon**, 1931, oil on canvas, gift of the Catharine Robb Whyte Estate, 1979

**Skoki Lodge**, c.1933, oil on canvas, gift of the Catharine Robb Whyte Estate, 1979

**Girl, Bali**, 1934, oil on canvas, gift of the Catharine Robb Whyte Estate, 1979

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THE LIVES and LEGACY of PETER and CATHARINE WHYTE

Peter and Catharine Whytes' Home, ca.1995
Catharine Robb Whyte, *Teepee at Num-Ti-Jah Lodge*, c.1950, oil on canvas, gift of the Catharine Robb Whyte Estate, 1979

Peter Whyte, *Hans Gunnerson ski jumping at Norquay*, n.d., silver gelatin photograph

Japanese Miniature Lantern Shop, 1870 – 1890
Ex. collection E.S. Morse Ex. E.M. Morse

Peter Whyte, *Takakkaw Falls*, c.1930, oil on canvas
Gift of the Catharine Robb Whyte Estate, 1979

Catharine Robb Whyte, *Mount Victoria, Lake Louise*, c.1950, oil on canvas, gift of the Catharine Robb Whyte Estate, 1979
Donors, Sponsors, and Supporters
January 01 – December 31, 2004

The WHYTE MUSEUM OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES gratefully acknowledges the support of the following government agencies, foundations, corporations, businesses, individuals, and other friends. Your ongoing support is vital to our collections, exhibitions, programs, and operations. We move forward secure in the knowledge that with your support, the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies will continue to celebrate and serve mountain communities, and by so doing continue to enrich Canada’s cultural heritage. Thank you!

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Charles Comfort (1900 – 1994), Hommage, 1965, oil on canvas, gift of C. Fraser Jackson, Kathren W. Jackson, Martha R. Jackson, and Suzanne F. Jackson, 2004

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January 01 – December 31, 2004

The WHYTE MUSEUM OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES gratefully acknowledges the gifts and services of the following organizations, businesses, individuals, and friends. Your gifts enrich our services and the collections of the Archives and Library, Cultural Heritage, Photography, and Art, ensuring the understanding and sharing of our mountain culture today and in the future. Thank you!

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Barbara Amos
Anne Anderson
Mary E. Andrews
Mary G. Andrews
Armstrong Spallumcheen Museum and Arts Society
Ed Bambling
The Banff Crag and Canyon
Banff Park Lodge
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New Acquisitions

Fredrick Brigden
By Lisa Christensen, Curator of Art

Frederick Henry Brigden, RCA, OSA, CSGA, CSPWC, (1871 – 1956) was born in London, England and moved to Toronto in the 1890s where he studied with William Cruikshank and George Agnew Reid. Working in the traditional methods of English watercolour, Brigden was influenced by the scenery of the Canadian north and by an exhibition of Scandinavian art that he saw in New York in 1912. His work is of interest to the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies in particular because of his early associations with regions such as Lake Louise, Lake O'Hara, and Assiniboine, where he worked in the 1920s with Walter Phillips and Fred Niven. Purchased with funds from the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies Gala Fundraiser, this small watercolour titled Lake Near Mount Assinaboine (sic), is a wonderful addition to the Whyte’s growing collections of historical mountainscape painting.

Programs

Tanya Bouchard, Head of Education and Interpretation

This year’s programs and events are all about celebrating the lives and legacy of Museum founders Peter and Catharine Whyte. Our centennial celebrations continue on April 9 with a talk by artist Karen Whyte, grandniece to Peter and Catharine. Starting in May, look forward to special talks and workshops with Museum conservators and curators, behind the scenes tours, and special events such as Over for Tea, in celebration of the 99th anniversary of Catharine Whyte’s birthday, Peter’s Path, Catharine’s Cairn, a special curator lead walk/hike at Bow Lake.

Children and their families will be pleased to see a series of three new Museo Packs (activities in a backpack) complementing our centennial exhibits. Museo Packs are designed so that families can explore the Museum together. The packs include a series of educational activities for children ages six to twelve. Our new line of Museo Packs will be available starting in April, with two additional sets coming out during the month of June. These new Museo Packs will be kept available even after the centennial year, so that children and their families can learn more about Museum founders Peter and Catharine Whyte as well as other Rocky Mountain artists.

Please visit our website for program/event listings and details. Happy 100th!
Peter and Catharine skiing in the Rockies, c. 1935, photographer unknown.
CELEBRATE the LEGACY of PETER and CATHARINE WHYTE with UNIQUE GIFTS DEVELOPED from the ART COLLECTION

Books, Note Cards, Magnets and much more!

The Whyte Museum Shops have two locations – corner of Banff Avenue and Buffalo Street and at the Whyte Museum, 111 Bear Street, PLUS we are online at www.whyte.org/shop

Peter and Catharine Whyte with an unidentified friend on the Lake O'Hara Road, c.1935

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