



WILD EXPOSURES



ROCKY MOUNTAIN MAJESTY

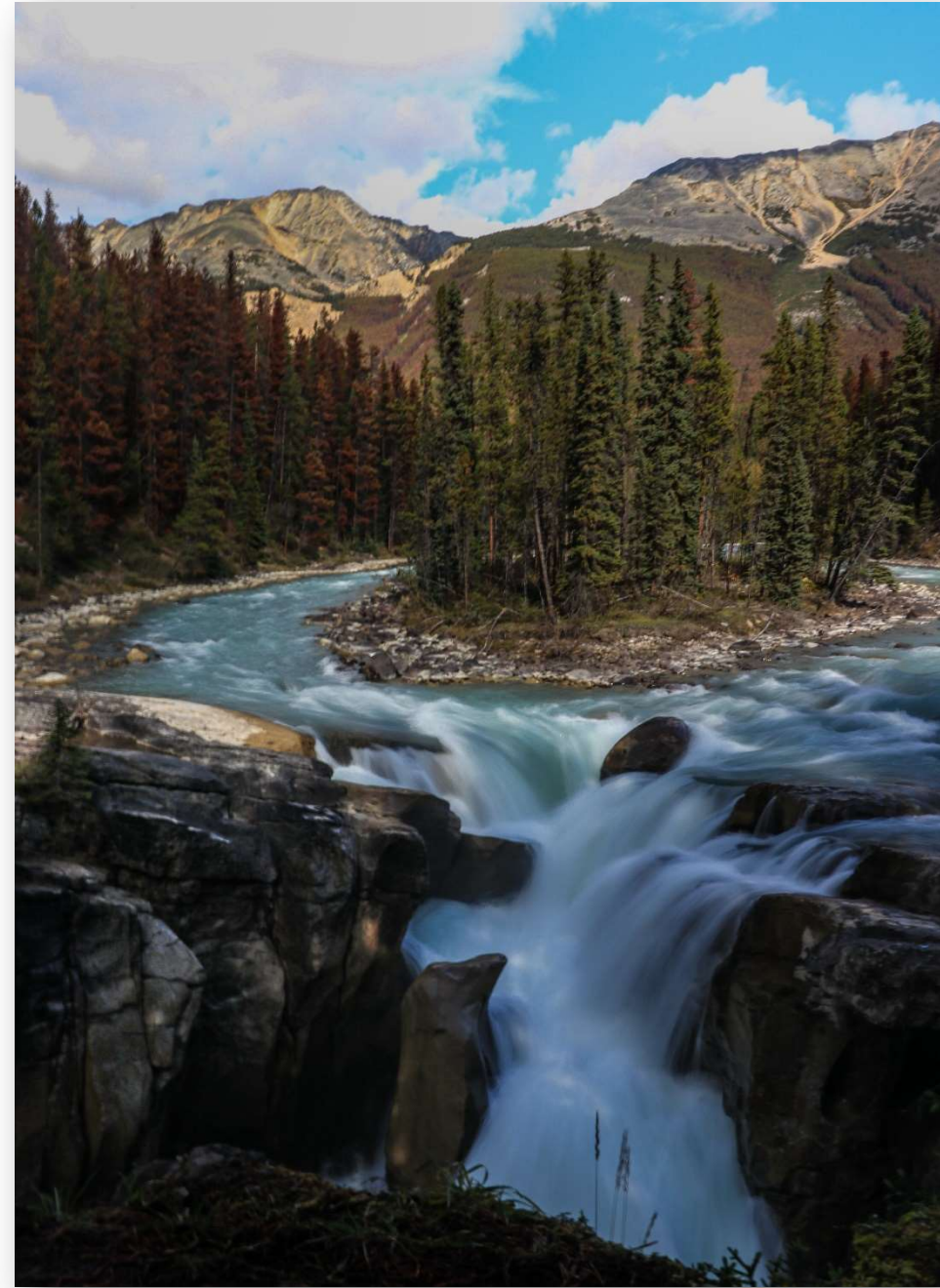
Newsletter Issue 2: Winter 2019

Canada's Rocky Mountain Jewels . . .

We had a very busy and beautiful autumn season! We travelled across Canada's most magnificent mountain range, exploring the quiet and scenic beauty of Banff, Canmore, Kananaskis, and Jasper. The fall season is a majestic time to visit these regions as the autumn colours are at their prime, crowds are much quieter, and wildlife is abundant and preparing for winter's grip.

There were several highlights on our recent journey; visiting some of the country's most powerful waterfalls, such as Athabasca and Sunwapta; and the pristine glacial lakes of Moraine and Peyto, and Lake Louise. Wildlife highlights were abundant as well, with sightings of coyotes, raptors, black bears, bighorn sheep, and the unparalleled majesty of the elk rut.

We were fortunate to observe huge bull elk in their prime bugling and cavorting harems of females and protecting them from rival males. When two evenly sized males meet, their powerful antlers are locked in a show of strength and dominance to further their own genetic bloodline. To witness these ancient rituals in nature is truly magnificent.



Wyoming Wilderness . . .

Shortly after the Canadian Rockies, we headed into the grand wilderness of Wyoming to visit the world's first national park, Yellowstone and its southern neighbor, the Grand Tetons.

At over two million acres, Yellowstone is one of the most diverse and grand ecosystems left in the entire continental USA. It is a land of geysers and grizzlies, hot springs and massive bison herds, and so much more. Yellowstone has more geothermal features than anywhere else on Earth with its central core, the pulsing heart of this great land.



Our wildlife encounters here were extraordinary, observing nearly all large North American species left on the continent! Grizzly and black bears, bison, elk, moose, pronghorn, black tail deer, bighorn sheep, and more. It's easy to see why the northern range of Yellowstone has been deemed the Serengeti of North America.



A memorable moment during our trip was observing the continent's largest land mammal, the mighty and endangered bison. This is a species brought back from the brink of extinction, and to now see the First Nation's "thunderbeast" roaming across the great plains was an awe-inspiring sight to behold. Bison in Yellowstone now number over 4000 individuals and it is our hope that their thundering hooves will be heard for generations to come.

To the south of this amazing region lies the lesser known but equally spectacular, Grand Teton National Park. This young and rugged part of the Rocky Mountain range is truly majestic and has inspired photographers, artists, and poets for decades. Autumn in the Tetons and specifically at early morning sunrise, offers both spectacular and serene views. Though not as large as Yellowstone, the wildlife sightings in this region are just as exciting and diverse.



CREATURE FEATURE: Pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*)

The Need for Speed ...

The pronghorn is the fastest land mammal on the entire continent and the second fastest land animal on Earth! These ungulates, or hoofed mammals, are able to obtain speeds of up to 100 km/hr and can even sustain this speed over a great many miles. They have many adaptations for their blazing speed, including huge heart and lungs to process oxygen, a barrel-shaped and aerodynamic body, and long and strong legs.

The Horned One ...

Despite physical appearances, pronghorn are not true antelope, which exist in the wild only in Africa and Asia, however, both genders do possess horns. Unique among all other species, the male's horns branch like antlers though are made of keratin, like all true horns. They are also the only species that sheds the keratinous layer of their horns annually.

Sweet Smell of Sage ...

Because pronghorn utilize their speed, their preferred habitats are wide-open spaces. Immense grassland and sagebrush flats are both important for their herbivorous diet and serve as their most comfortable homes. These areas also allow for the pronghorn's exceptional vision to come into its own, scanning the grasslands for potential predators, such as coyote and wolves.



What's New!



ULTIMATE BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA

May 31 ~ June 17, 2020

NEW TOUR!

Visit our [Community Events Page](#) for info about upcoming community education workshops and events!



Tina Antrobus is a seasoned practitioner and educator in the mental health field. She believes that connecting with nature is a pathway to healing the mind/body/spirit and incorporates her love of wildlife and nature photography into her wellness practice. Tina's growing body of imagery has been recognized and published by well-known wildlife media and print forums.



Darren Colello is a wildlife biologist, photographer and educator. With over 30 years of experience in the field, Darren has travelled to five continents and believes in capturing the animal's true essence and majesty in his photographic imagery. Darren's images have been widely published in *Africa Geographic*, *WWF Canada*, *Wild Planet Photo Magazine*, and more.

For tour information and upcoming community events: Please contact Darren and Tina, WILD EXPOSURES
Email: info@wildexposures.ca or visit www.wildexposures.ca



Conservation for the Holidays . . .

We had the utmost pleasure this past September meeting acclaimed conservationists and film makers, **Derek and Beverly Joubert**. Their conservation efforts and ground-breaking cinematography over the past forty years has brought the plight of endangered species to millions. Their passion, dedication, and tireless efforts to protect Africa's majestic wildlife is an inspiration and their humility even more endearing. They are the founders of the **Great Plains Foundation**, an organization that endeavors to protect endangered white and black rhino, elephants, and lions, through community education, species translocation, and expanding viable habitats.



Join Wild Exposures in making a donation to protect Africa's most iconic and endangered species this Holiday season!

Visit

Great Plains Foundation:

www.greatplainsfoundation.com

Rhinos Without Borders:

www.rhinoswithoutborders.com/

