

# Jasper...

## *A Walk in the Past*



### Jasper's Self Guided Tours

Fancy yourself a drifter? Channel your inner-explorer and lose yourself in time. You're steps away from discovering historic Jasper, where dusty pack-horses rested near pool halls, wanderers found one-off shacks nestled within the pines, and weary travellers swapped tales of new frontiers.

Just what kind of characters were passing through, you wonder, as the train whistle hints at forgotten places, vagabond faces and a time gone by forever? The morning light casts a pinkish hue on Mount Tekarra and a mule deer trots across a path where a campfire once blazed and sizzled in the chill of the alpine air.

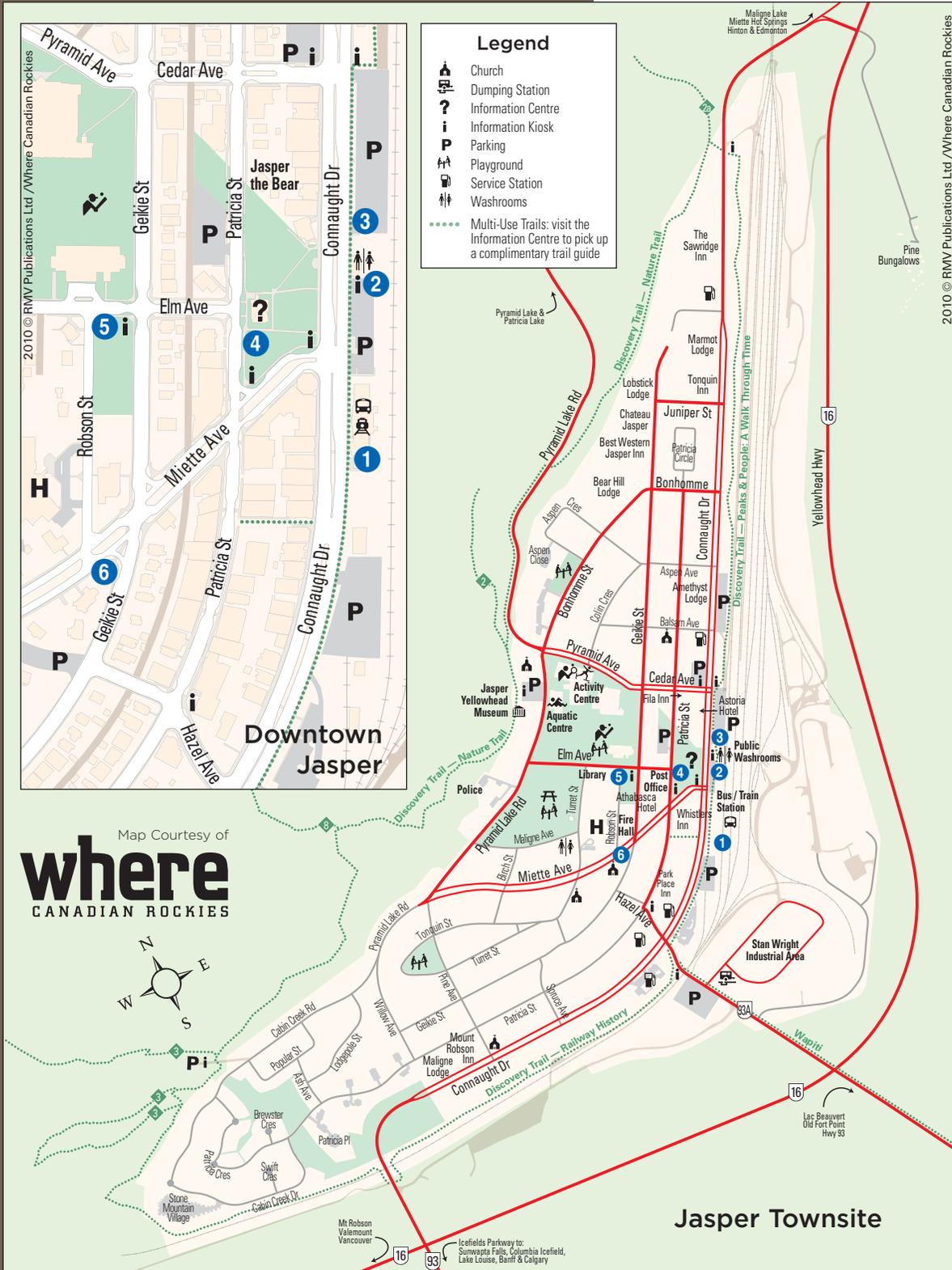
### Amble on Through...

Welcome to our self-guided tour of the town site of Jasper, located in the heart of Jasper National Park. Take on the town we call home.

### Jasper National Park – Our rise to recognition

Jasper National Park garnered world attention once Canada deemed our rocky oasis federally protected land in 1907. At the time, it was known as the Jasper Forest Reserve until 1930. And half a century later, UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) declared Jasper National Park a World Heritage Site along with the National Parks of Banff, Kootenay, and Yoho, and the Provincial Parks of Mt. Robson, Mt. Assiniboine, and Hamber. In 2007, Jasper National Park celebrated 100 years as the cherished, protected land we continue to celebrate.

Step into the past no matter where you point your shoes:  
you're never far from Jasper's historic town centre.



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## Jasper Heritage Railway Station

JYMA 994.56.1292

Located at the corner of Connaught Drive and Miette Avenue

### 1 All Aboard!

Start your engines... your train engines, that is. What better way to imagine how weary travellers were introduced to the town of Jasper than its historic Railway Station? Kick off your tour in the spot on the map that Grand Trunk Pacific Railway (GTP) chose to divide the Rocky Mountains. Imagine boarding Jasper's first passenger train back in 1912 or witnessing the grand inferno that burned the station to the ground a decade later, prompting the construction of the station that stands today. Inspired by pre World War I English cottages with tiny-paned windows and uncut cobblestone, the site was deemed a Heritage Railroad Station by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

The original name of our town was "Fitzhugh". But after the GTP President went down with the Titanic, his protégé Fitzhugh fell from favour and was

forced to resign. The town received a new name – Jasper, after Jasper Hawse who operated a fur trading post near here called "Jasper House".

Canadian Northern Railway also operated a line through Jasper, and after World War I they amalgamated with GTP to become Canadian National (CN).

A CN publicist wrote in 1937, "*The pen, the brush, the lute nor the camera can catch the magic of Jasper. That magic is only for the hearts and souls of men and women who have been to Jasper and found it*". We hope that you will catch some of the magic!

### 1 Totem Pole

To promote its northern route across the mountains, Grand Trunk Pacific Railway acquired some fine Haida poles for its Prince Rupert and Jasper stations. For 94 years, the Raven Totem Pole was an important Jasper landmark and a colourful reminder of the community's early railway history. The original pole was built by a master carver in the Queen Charlotte Islands sometime in the 1870s-80s.

Over the years, weather and other elements damaged the pole and it became unstable. Parks Canada

conservation specialists attempted to save it but the massive wooden carving was beyond repair. A new totem pole is being built on the Queen Charlotte Islands and the final touches will be done in Jasper as part of an "Aboriginal Carver in Residence" public education event. A totem pole raising ceremony and a commemoration of Jasper's local aboriginal history will take place in Jasper in the late summer or fall of 2010. Take a look around to see if the new totem pole has arrived.



Photo courtesy of Parks Canada



### Locomotive 6015

Located next to the Heritage Railway Station

Let off a little steam while you marvel at a symbol of the end of an era. This steam engine was one of 16 Mountain Type engines built by the Canadian Locomotive Company of Kingston, Ontario in 1923, and used by Canadian National in fast freight and passenger service. Once upon a time it pulled the Canadian version of the Orient Express, a passenger train with exquisite wood-paneled cars and fine antique furnishings.

This type of engine chugged away at 100 miles per hour through the rugged Rockies, needing about 10,000 gallons of water and 17 tons of coal. By the late 1950s, the steam engines were replaced by diesel locomotives. The 6015 stands today as the mark of a time long gone by but never forgotten.



### Jasper's Pool Hall

Now the location of Barefoot in the Park and Parkway Gifts, located across the street from the train station.

Hard to imagine, but this little building was a one-stop shop for everything from a buzz cut to cutting the rug. Here stands Otto's Hall built in 1915. Brothers Closson and Jack Otto had a billiards room on the right, a barber shop on the left and a dance floor upstairs.

Those looking for a little alcohol might have gotten lucky on days the liquor inspector was out of town. And while some came to dance the night away or play a little cribbage, it was also a place where the community pulled together to lend a helping hand: the Ottos would open their hall to the folks of Jasper who pooled their musical talents, time and money for charity events and collected donations for families in need.



### Chaba Theatre

Located next door at 604 Connaught Drive

For a place that was named after the Stoney Aboriginal word for 'beaver', in 1923 you were more likely to have a Santa Claus sighting or spy a star on the silver screen than spot any long tails and tall teeth.

The Chaba theatre was built for \$5000 and worth every penny for the families who enjoyed this still-cherished community landmark. Talent shows, stage performances and free movies lit up the stage that was also used for Christmas visits from Santa, who would delight the little ones with candies and stories.



Renaissance Men: Closson and Bruce Otto

Walk to the north, towards the Information Centre.  
Stay on the east side of Connaught Drive (the train station side).



## *Jasper Information Centre National Historic Site*

JYMA PA18-38

### **2** Jasper Information Centre National Historic Site

This Jasper treasure is best viewed from across the street. You should view it at the plaza/compass dedicated to sharing National Historic Site information

Knock on the door of classic Canadiana! The mark of hearty and welcoming cobblestone and timber will most surely tell you you're in one of Canada's National Parks.

One of the most influential examples of rustic architecture makes for Jasper's most handsome landmark: Jasper National Park superintendent, Colonel Maynard Rogers had a dream for the town and Edmonton architect A. M. Calderon designed what we now call the Jasper Information Centre, built in 1914. Their vision engaged a unified theme using local materials and the result was this solid woodsy facility that originally housed park administration offices and living quarters for the park superintendent nearly one hundred years ago.

The warmth and character of the Jasper Information Centre greeted train visitors and set a precedent for many other rustic buildings that followed. Take a peek inside; today you'll see Jasper Tourism and Commerce, Parks Canada trail office and The Friends of Jasper Gift Shop.



Lieutenant Colonel Maynard Rogers and his wife on the porch of his home.



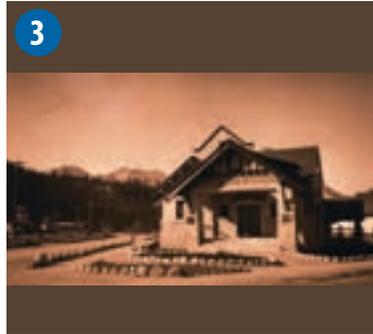


### Friends of Jasper National Park Office

Located on Connaught Drive across from the Jasper Information Centre

If you've been to Pyramid Mountain, you might be having a déjà vu. The same pink iron-rich quartzite limestone was used to build The Friends of Jasper Headquarters. Back in 1949 it was constructed as the town's first information centre, but now it's where all of the behind-the-scenes action happens for all the volunteer-run programs, projects and special events.

Want to be a Jasper insider? When talking to the locals, call our building "Nature calls" – it also houses the public restrooms. Cheekily, "Nature Calls" is also the name of the Friends of Jasper's newsletter.



### CIBC Bank

The name changed, but the money stayed...

How does the saying go? Once a bank, always a bank? It happens to be true for this two-story building that opened in 1928, but back then there was a wee issue with some "funny money".

Over a century ago the manager ran the Imperial bank while living on site with his family, who reportedly had a mischievous sense of humour. The children played tricks on staff and customers and feigned bank hauntings with the slight of hand of a little furniture rearrangement and dangling string from the upper floor to tickle the ears of passers- by.

Now the CIBC, the facility lends the most credit to the bank executives who had the foresight to build such a large bank: despite the small size of the town, Jasper is now an international destination that attracts almost two million tourists a year.



### W.S. Jeffery's Store

Located on Connaught Drive just east of the CIBC; now the perfect stop for a little sushi.

Bring the goods and the people will come. In 1914 the opening of the W.S. Jeffery's store was well-received by the residents of Jasper.

Willard Jeffrey left his home in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia in 1911 and headed out west, following the development of the railroad lines and setting up temporary supply depots. He finally settled in Jasper, built the town's first grocery and general store and loaded it up with food, hardware, dry goods, boots, shoes, and outfitting supplies.

The date 1927 on the top of the building marks the year the expansion was added to the store. Today, you won't see any sacks of flour, but you will be offered a menu.



JYMA PA 18-3

Jasper's first fire hall with a team of fresh horses at the ready.



## Athabasca Hotel

To reach the Athabasca Hotel, walk through the park to the back of the Information Centre. The hotel is located on the corner of Miette Avenue and Patricia Street.

If you were a guest of the Athabasca Hotel in the 20s, you were living large! Douglas Woolley was an entrepreneur with a plan. The building was initially a grocery store, a ladies wear shop and a boarding room.

He expanded with an adjoining building in 1921 and converted the entire space into guest accommodations, calling it the Athabasca Hotel. In 1928, Calgary Brewing and Malting Company Ltd., purchased the building and replaced it with the current three-story brick structure.

The new Athabasca Hotel soon gained the reputation of Jasper's finest place to stay. In the mid 1930s, guests were doled out \$1.50 to \$2.50 per night for luxurious accommodations. Take a peek at the lobby to see the architectural charm that remains.



## Jasper Post Office

Located right behind the Information Centre

This place fit for a king? You decide. This post office got the King's personal stamp of approval—literally. Designed by W.C. Sylvester for the Department of Public Works, the date of the building's completion is shown above the doorway—1939.

The initials G.R. found in between the '19' and '39' stand for King Georgius Rex VI. His majesty personally arrived to inaugurate the building, making the Jasper Post Office the only Alberta Heritage structure to make reference to the reigning monarch. The extension on the left side was added in 1956.



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## Jasper Fire Hall

Now the home of JAG (Jasper Artist Guild) where beautiful works of art are on display and available for purchase.

Big ideas burned bright in Jasper. This is the second firehall ever built; the first one was a small, rustic log cabin constructed at a cost of one thousand dollars in 1914. But it didn't fit in with the growing surroundings of the town and gave way to a bigger and better firehall that could also provide staff housing, offices, the weather bureau and even the town's courtroom.

Today, The Municipality of Jasper is protected by a volunteer fire department. When the siren sounds, our residents know to make way for our dedicated volunteers.



### Jasper Library

From the Post Office, walk along Elm Avenue, cross Geikie Street and you'll see it located right across from the elementary school.

How does real-life cops and robbers become mystery novels and self-help books? Take a charming 1926 building and add offices, a messroom, living quarters, bedrooms, recreation rooms, a kitchen and a few jail cells – then completely renovate and add shelves, books and happy children. RCMP enjoyed these homey quarters for many years until more modern digs were made available in 1974.

Some interesting tidbits in Jasper's policing history: the first recorded patrol of our area took place in 1893. But, it wasn't until 1913 that a member of the force was stationed in Jasper permanently. In the same year, Jasper recorded its first murder, resulting from a dispute over a \$5 bet in a local pool and gambling hall.



### Superintendent's Residence

Walk along the one-way lane towards the church

Those that oversee our majestic lands are rewarded with some pretty fancy digs rich with character and history. A government architect crafted the charming and elegant Jasper landmark for the superintendent of Jasper National Park and since its construction in 1936, every superintendent of the park has lived in this house.

Stonemasons used local fieldstone on the foundation as well as the large stone fireplace in the living room in what is considered one of Jasper's most beautiful homes. Hardwood floors, circular and octagonal windows add charm to the appearance of the house, as does the surrounding stone fence.



### Anglican Church of St. Mary & St. George

Cross Miette Avenue and gaze at the beautiful stained glass windows and the "Edith Cavell Tower".

Intrigue and architecture go hand in hand with the mysterious beginnings of this 14th century English Gothic church constructed in 1927. With the support of a figure known only as Anonymous Donor, Reverend Edwards of Jasper obtained the 14th century sketches from an architect in England, and forwarded them to Edmonton architect Alfred Calderon for design completion.

The church was one of the last in Alberta designated in the traditional Anglican gothic revival style, though Calderon did add qualities from nineteenth century architecture—such as contrasting textures. He combined local stone with rough stucco and half-timber work on the exterior, creating a building well-suited to the rugged mountainous areas.

The Province of Alberta designated it as a Provincial Historic Resource in 1985.

**A stroll through our town wouldn't be complete if we didn't tell you about a few mountains...**



Artist: Alan Butler

### **Mt. Edith Cavell**

Canadian loyalty looms large as the impressive 3300-metre peak reminds us of this mountain's name sake, British nurse Edith Cavell, who was executed during World War I for her part in helping Allied prisoners escape occupied Brussels.

An earlier moniker, "La Montagne de la Grande Traverse", was given to the peak by French-Canadian voyageurs using nearby Athabasca Pass as a fur trade route.

A narrow 14 km road brings hikers close to the mountain's awesome north face, an area famous for interesting moraines, the whimsical wildflowered Cavell Meadows and spectacular views of Angel Glacier.



Artist: Ray Syrja

### **The Whistlers**

There's a lot of noise in these here parts. The Whistlers are named after the call of the Hoary Marmots, who make loud whistling sounds to each other across the vast wilderness of Jasper National Park.

Smack on top of this mountain is the top of Jasper's Tramway, the longest and highest aerial tramway in Canada. Visitors to this attraction ascend more than 1000 metres to an elevation of 2200 metres above sea level.

The Whistlers was the site of Jasper's first ski hill, but soon made way for the superior alpine action of Marmot Basin in 1964. Most recently in 2009, Marmot Basin opened the longest high speed quad chair in the Canadian Rockies.



Artist: H.A.(Sandy) Robinson

### **Old Man Mountain / Roche Bonhomme**

Our buildings around here are short for a reason! Height restrictions make certain that no one will miss out on the stunning views of our mountain ranges.

Northeast of town on the Colin Range is Old Man Mountain, named for the prominent side-profile of a man's face visible on most days. Starting at its base, trek along the Discovery Trail and learn a little history about our people & peaks, railway ties and the unpredictable life on the wild side.

# Jasper's Shapers & Shakers

They journeyed from all corners of the world and ultimately hung their hats in the little Town of Jasper.  
Some notable early settlers with a lasting legacy:



JYMA PA 38-8

## Outdoorsman Extraordinaire: Curly Phillips

(1884-1938)

Reverend Kinney's attempt on Mt. Robson and A.O. Wheeler's survey of Mt. Robson brought Curly to town in 1910. He built a life around his wife Grance Inskter and their four children and set up an outfitting business that included projects with the Alpine Club of Canada. Curly built boats and secured a lease to operate them on Maligne Lake in 1928. The boat-house he built there still stands today.



JYMA 984.457.7a

## Mr. Jasper: Frederick Archibald Brewster

(1884-1969)

A railway construction job had this Banff native packing his bags and leaving a life-long impression on the townsters who came to call him "Mr. Jasper". Fred parlayed his Brewster family name and his engineering degree into work as a freighter during railway construction. After serving overseas in World War 1, brothers Fred and Jack purchased Tent City in 1919 on Lac Beauvert, later developed into Jasper Park Lodge. Fred retained the horse concession there and encouraged trail riding as a major tourist attraction. He built the Maligne Lake Chalet at Maligne Lake and had camps at Medicine Lake, in the Tonquin Valley and at other backcountry locations.



JYMA 990.63.15

## Trailblazers: Mona and Agnes Harragin

Culture shock was a mere distraction for sisters Mona and Agnes, who ventured from Trinidad to Canadian soil to work as cooks for the Brewster Rocky Mountain Camps in 1927. Within a year, Fred Brewster hired them as the first-ever female guides licensed in Jasper National Park. Colourful neckerchiefs, monogrammed chaps and Stetsons adorned the popular duo, who happily led tourists from Jasper Park Lodge to Maligne Lake and settled into the community with their outfitter and warden husbands.



Photo courtesy of George Andrew

## Host with the Most: Papa George

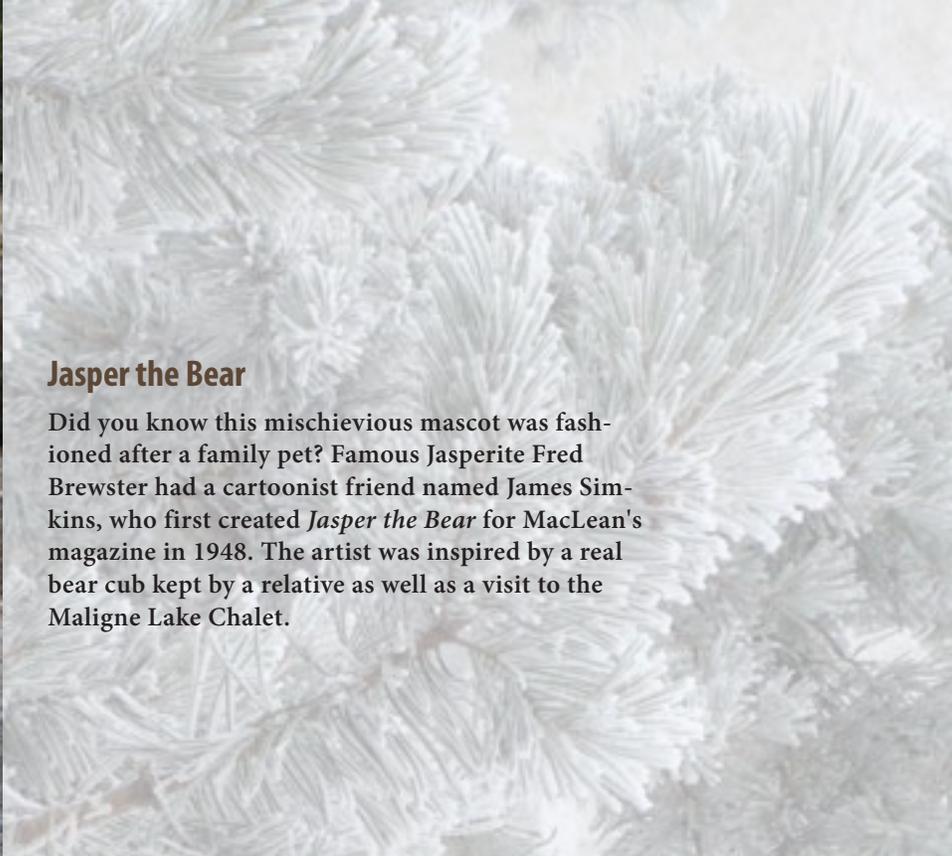
(1895-1970)

How did Papa George's Restaurant get its name? Greek-born Papa George Arthur Andrew immigrated to Canada in the early 1900s. Hospitality was evidently in the family blood: he purchased the Astoria Hotel from his brother Paul in 1944. His son Socrates George, became general manager of the Andrew Motor Lodge in 1960 and his grandson, George Randolph, continued the tradition in taking over the Astoria in 1994. Over a century of hosting town visitors and locals have made The Andrew's a favourite Jasper family. Old stories can still be heard over a drink at the D'ed Dog in the Astoria.



## Jasper the Bear

Did you know this mischievous mascot was fashioned after a family pet? Famous Jasperite Fred Brewster had a cartoonist friend named James Simkins, who first created *Jasper the Bear* for MacLean's magazine in 1948. The artist was inspired by a real bear cub kept by a relative as well as a visit to the Maligne Lake Chalet.



## Be a Part of History! More resources for your walking tour:



### Jasper-Yellowhead Museum and Archives

From the Post Office, walk along Elm Avenue, cross Geikie Street and you'll see it located right across from the elementary school.



### Jasper Discovery Trail

The best place to start is at the corner of Cedar Avenue and Connaught Drive - from there you can select which route to discover.



### Jasper Library

located on Elm Avenue. Find stories about our history, including "Jasper... A Walk in the Past", a book published by the Friends of Jasper.

### Add Some Friends:

Join Friends of Jasper for a guided walk to hear more stories of our past. Look for other Friends groups on your Rocky Mountain adventure: You'll find them located in Information Centres in Banff, Field, Rogers Pass, Revelstoke, Waterton and Radium. Visit the Jasper Information Centre for details.



### Friends of Jasper Nature Boutique

GIFT SHOP: 500 Connaught Drive (in the Information Centre)  
Open daily.  
PHONE: 780.852.4341  
EMAIL: [giftshop@friendsofjasper.com](mailto:giftshop@friendsofjasper.com)

A unique selection of books, maps, gifts, souvenirs and Canadian-made jewellery. All proceeds from sales support events, programs and projects in Jasper National Park.



## Who are the Friends of Jasper National Park?

We rely on good friends to get things done. Friends of Jasper is a registered charity dedicated to promoting understanding, appreciation and respect for the natural-history and cultural heritage of Jasper National Park.

Join us for these free special events and programs:

- ☞ Parks Day (3rd Saturday in July: guided hikes, special exhibits, activities & warden demonstrations)
- ☞ Bird-watching
- ☞ Historical Walking Tours
- ☞ Full Moon Hikes
- ☞ Junior Naturalists
- ☞ Volunteer Trail Days

\*Details and schedules in the Information Centre gift shop

Enjoy the hard work of our volunteer friends and visit our latest projects:

- ☞ Pyramid Island
- ☞ Cavell Meadows
- ☞ Discovery Trail
- ☞ Jasper Trails Project

\*Details and schedules in the Information Centre gift shop

Show your support for Jasper National Park by becoming a friend today.

### Friends of Jasper National Park

OFFICE: 415 Connaught Drive (in the pink stone building)  
 P.O. Box 992, Jasper, Alberta T0E 1E0  
 PHONE: 780.852.4767  
 EMAIL: friends@friendsofjasper.com

GIFT SHOP: 500 Connaught Drive (in the Information Centre)  
 Open daily.  
 PHONE: 780.852.4341  
 EMAIL: giftshop@friendsofjasper.com



**Friends in High Places**

Banff • Jasper • Kootenay • Mt. Revelstoke/Glacier • Yoho

Selected images courtesy of the Jasper Yellowhead Museum and Archives. Printed in Canada for Free Distribution

### Friends of Friends

Friends of Jasper National Park thank our friends for their help with this brochure:



Jasper-Yellowhead  
Museum & Archives

*jasper*  
Wonderful. By Nature.

**where**  
CANADIAN ROCKIES

Local artists

Alan Butler, H.A. Sandy Robinson and Ray Syrja