

Sixth monitoring report contains some changes

➤ An increase in the children and youth in Canmore, a change in employment rates and a decrease in water production and consumption are just a few of the highlights from the Biosphere's report on the community

By Hamish MacLean
Canmore Leader

The Town of Canmore is now offering insight into the latest data that produces a snapshot of the community.

The Biosphere Institute of the Bow Valley has produced another compendium of information about Canmore.

Bruce Gleig called the document a lot of work for a lot of people.

"There's a surprising range of people who use it," he said. "Some people who work in different fields have a big interest in certain topics in there."

The report covers a range of topics, but even when it reiterates data from the

Town's census it adds to it. "The census is very much just the census," Gleig said. "It's just the numbers, here we provide some context and interpretation."

There were 24 people involved in the committees who created the document and two staff from the Biosphere Institute as well as all those who provided the data.

"When I collect the data from them, I get commentary from them as well," Gleig added.

He noted that the considerations and the recommendations made in the report are not from the Biosphere, but rather come from the considered opinions of the committees.

The Canmore Community

Monitoring Program is now in its sixth iteration since 1999 — it was then called the Threshold and Monitoring Report.

"The idea at that time was that they would develop a threshold for everything, and if it passes X per cent, then we should all be concerned and panic — or we should be happy," Gleig said. But in 2001, it was changed to the Community Monitoring Report, he said. In 2003, the Biosphere Institute took on the responsibility of producing the report.

The Town of Canmore initiated the project from its growth management strategy from 1995.

There was a vision for Canmore for 2015 therein, a vision Gleig called brief com-

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— Bruce Gleig,
Biosphere Institute
of the Bow Valley

pared to today's vision.

Today's vision is based on the 2006 document, Mining the Future.

"We sort of look at it through the lens of that," he said.

It is though, a snapshot,

a moment in time, and not necessarily wholly indicative of Canmore right now, Gleig warned.

"Any data you get is always historical," Gleig said. "I don't mean historical as in 100 years ago, but it's all from the past. There are very few of these things that are real time."

The 2010 report includes municipal census data from 2009, he offered as an example, such that the population data in the report is not necessarily up to date.

The 2008 report collected data from a period of economic boom and reported it in a time when "economic cracks began to appear."

But this year's report still has limitations.

"If you are in a world that is always in consistent trends it's much easier to analyse it," he said.

This year, the report includes easy to interpret graphical representations of trend directions.

There were surprises though for Gleig.

From 2008 to 2009 there was a slight increase in the children and youth in Canmore, he said. From 2003 to 2008 there were large drops in the numbers of children and youth in the Canmore. But in the last reported year, he said there was an increase.

"I'll be very interested to see this year's census," he said. "If that upward trend is continued — I certainly hope it is, the population of children is a really important indicator, it tells us a lot about what is going on."

"Cost of living and affordability is a big component of that."

There had previously been a rapid growth of the town's non-permanent resident population, which, he said, has slowed down.

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Reconnaissance, restitution et réconciliation

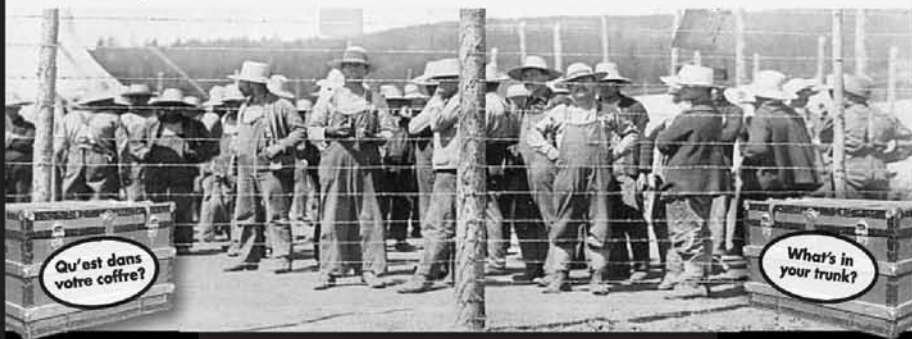
Lors des premières activités nationales d'internement au Canada en 1914-1920, des milliers d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants ont été stigmatisés comme étant des «ennemis étrangers». Plusieurs furent emprisonnés. Dépouillés du peu de richesses qu'ils possédaient, forcés d'effectuer des travaux difficiles dans l'arrière-pays du Canada, ils ont également été privés de leurs droits et soumis à d'autres censures sanctionnées par l'état - non pas à cause de quoique ce soit qu'ils avaient fait, mais uniquement à cause de l'endroit d'où ils venaient et de qui ils étaient.

En mai 2008, des représentants de la communauté ukrainienne du Canada ont conclu un accord avec le gouvernement du Canada qui a mené à la création d'un fonds de dotation pour financer des projets commémoratifs, éducatifs, académiques et culturels ayant pour but de rappeler à tous les Canadiens cet épisode dans l'histoire de notre pays.

Recognition, Restitution & Reconciliation

During Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920 thousands of men, women and children were branded as "enemy aliens." Many were imprisoned. Stripped of what little wealth they had, forced to do heavy labour in Canada's hinterlands, they were also disenfranchised and subjected to other state sanctioned censures - not because of anything they had done but only because of where they had come from, who they were.

In May 2008 representatives of the Ukrainian Canadian community reached an agreement with the Government of Canada providing for the creation of an endowment fund to support commemorative, educational, scholarly and cultural projects intended to remind all Canadians of this episode in our nation's history.



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