

# **Ben Gadd**

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**Résumé to July 2011**

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## ***Education***

BA.Sc. (Earth Science) University of Lethbridge, 1972

## ***Experience***

2004 on: President, Verdant Pass Ltd.

2000: Sessional Instructor, Environmental Science, Lakeland College  
(at Yellowhead Region Educational Consortium, Hinton, Alberta)

1988–2003: Sessional Instructor, Grant MacEwan College  
(at Yellowhead Region Educational Consortium, Hinton, Alberta)

1987–1994: Resource Instructor, Blue Lake Centre, Hinton, Alberta

1986–2004: owner/manager, Corax Press and Ben Gadd Interpretive Services

1986–2004: cave guide, Cadomin Cave, Whitehorse Wildland Park

1986 on: co-owner/co-manager, Corax Press and Ben Gadd Interpretive Services

1985 on: federally licensed interpretive guide, Jasper National Park

1981–1985: Seasonal Park Interpreter (naturalist), Jasper National Park

1976–1980: Instructor, Communication Arts Dept., Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Calgary  
Also Sessional Instructor, Journalism Dept., Mount Royal College, Calgary 1977–1979

1969 on: freelance writer, editorial consultant, graphic designer

## ***Awards***

Lauran L. Goulden Memorial Award (provincial natural-history award), 2000

Andy Russell Nature Writing Award (national award), 1995

Three awards, Banff Mountain Book Festival (international), 1995, 2001 and 2003

Interpretation Canada Award of Merit (national award), 1991

## ***Affiliations***

Master Interpreter life designation, Interpretive Guides Association, 2006  
Board Member, Friends of Jasper National Park, 1989–2005  
Member of various conservation and natural-history organizations

## ***Main area of expertise***

Authority on the natural history of the Canadian Rockies. Geology a special interest.

## ***Guiding and natural-history interpretation***

Evening programs, guided walks, bus tours, slide shows, prop talks, literature, exhibits, interpretive-trail design and signage. Favorite topics: natural history of the Canadian Rockies and mountain recreation.

## ***Public speaking***

Talks on conservation issues and the value of wilderness.

## ***Teaching***

Natural-history courses and field trips. Post-secondary instruction in writing (especially technical and business writing), graphics and speech, park interpretation. Course design, preparation of teaching materials, presentation of lectures and workshops.

## ***Writing, editing, radio and television, film***

Writing and media work for the public on technical subjects (especially natural history of the Canadian Rockies), recreation and conservation. Books, magazine articles, commentaries, speeches, essays, book reviews, fiction. Interpretive writing, public-relations writing. Technical editing, copy editing. Working with printers. Author readings and literary presentations. Interviews and appearances in radio and television documentaries.

## ***Graphics and design***

Literature and interpretive-sign design. Museum exhibits. Electronic layout. Maps, graphs, diagrams. Interpretive signs, brochures, posters, advertisements, books. Photography.

## ***Business***

Interpretive consulting and guiding. Publishing. Operation of non-profit organizations. Familiar with operating in national parks.

## ***Personal***

Born 1946. Canadian citizen. Married to Cia since 1965, with two adult sons and three grandchildren.

## ***References***

Sherrill Meropoulos, Heritage Program Officer, Jasper National Park 780-852-6154

Sue Cesco, General Manager, Friends of Jasper National Park 780-852-4767

Roger Macqueen, Senior Research Scientist, Geological Survey of Canada 403-292-7145

James Little, Editor, *Explore* magazine, Toronto 877-874-5253

Jackie Flanagan, Publisher, *AlbertaViews* magazine, Calgary 403-243-5334

Theresa Agnew, Manager, Grant MacEwan College Writing Works, Edmonton 780-497-5366

Ken Mezerecky, Alberta Community Development 403-845-8595 (interpretive panels)

Andy Van Imschoot, Manager, William A. Switzer Provincial Park 780-865-5600 (interpretive panels)

## ***Representative publications and projects***

Since 1970 I have written, edited, designed, published or otherwise helped to produce many books, periodical articles, technical reports, contract proposals, consultant's studies, government submissions, briefs, brochures, graphics, teaching materials and interpretive signs. Here are some selected examples.

1975 *The Century Calgary Historical Series*. A major municipal/provincial publishing project that produced 40 simultaneously released titles on Calgary's history. My job: editorial and production coordination.

1977 *The Geological History of Yoho Valley*. A Parks Canada exhibit near Field, British Columbia. Conceptual design, writing and maquettes for three accompanying geological models.

1978 *Mountains and Valleys: a Guide to the Landscape of Waterton Lakes National Park*. Twenty-two-page booklet for park visitors. Writing, design and layout of this Parks Canada publication.

1978 *The Columbia Mountains (Interior Ranges) of British Columbia: a Summary of Geology and Geography*. Lengthy technical report for Parks Canada, for use by planners and park naturalists at Glacier and Mt. Revelstoke national parks.

- 1980 *Lake Louise Exhibit Texts*. Writing and suggested graphics for 22 Parks Canada exhibit panels in Banff National Park.
- 1980 *Climbing at Wasootch Slabs*. Thirty-six-page climber's guidebook published by Rocky Mountain Books, Calgary.
- 1981 *The Maligne Lake Factsheet*. Poster-size information sheet and map for Parks Canada.
- 1981 "Uphill from Jasper," article in *Today* magazine, Victoria Day issue. First publication in a national magazine. Light account of a father-and-son bicycle trip between Jasper and Banff. With photo.
- 1982 *Jasper National Park*. Parks Canada map tailored to supply often-requested visitor information. Design, layout.
- 1982 *Rivers on Borrowed Time*, by J. Eisenhauer and B. Kolar. Editing, design and layout of this Alberta Wilderness Association publication.
- 1983 *Bird's-eye View of Jasper National Park*. Cartoon-style map for kids, showing park highlights. Design, artwork
- 1983 *Mount Edith Cavell Exhibit Texts*. Writing for 18 interpretive signs along the Cavell Road in Jasper National Park.
- 1986 *Handbook of the Canadian Rockies*, Corax Press. A comprehensive (831-page) multidisciplinary guide to the region for naturalists and recreationists. Winner of national and international awards. Writing, design, graphics, production and marketing. A Canadian 50,000 best-seller, now in its second edition (1995, reprinted 1999 and 2003).
- 1989 *Bankhead: a Story of Coal-mining in Banff National Park*. Text for this Parks Canada book, originally co-published by the Canadian Coal Association and now reprinted by the Friends of Banff National Park.
- 1989 *Nature's Wonderlands: National Parks of the World*. Technical editing of the chapter on Canadian Rockies parks in this National Geographic Society book. (After guiding the *Geographer's* authors and photographers, I was surprised to find myself written up and pictured in the text.) I have done other guiding and editing work for the society.
- 1990 *The Blue Lake Centre Nature Trail*. Design and guide booklet for an interpretive trail at Blue Lake Centre, an outdoor-education facility run at that time by the Alberta government. I have done similar work, including the design and placement of interpretive signs, for other self-guiding trails and roadside interpretive stops throughout the Canadian Rockies.
- 1992 *The Rockies: Canada's Magnificent Wilderness*. Text for this 128-page pictorial book on the Rockies between Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park and Mount Robson, co-published by Firefly and Beautiful America. Photographs by Paul Lally and John Winnie. A best-seller.

- 1993 *Glaciers*. Script-editing and technical consulting on this educational film by the National Geographic Society. I have worked on three other films for the society: *The Rocky Mountains* (1991), *The Northlands* (1992), and *Signs of Nature* (1995).
- 1994 “The Gathering Place,” short story read on CBC Radio’s *Alberta Anthology* program two years in a row at Christmas.
- 1995 *Of Rocks, Mountains and Jasper: a Visitor’s Guide to the Geology of Jasper National Park*. Co-author with Chris Yorath (*Where Terranes Collide*) of this 150-page book, co-published by the Geological Survey of Canada and University of Toronto Press.
- 1998 *Day-hiker’s Guide to Jasper National Park* and *Summer Trails*. Writing, design, maps, electronic layout and printing coordination of this brochure, published by Parks Canada and updated annually. Was also responsible for the major trail-signage project that preceded it.
- 1999 “Dad does the Dolomites,” feature in *Explore* magazine, September 1999. One of several articles and items appearing in this periodical over the years. Photos.
- 2000 “Untamed Canadian Rockies: going wild in Jasper National Park,” article in *National Geographic Explorer* magazine, May/June 2000. I have done other writing and editing for the magazine, and I have edited articles for *National Geographic Traveler*.
- 2001 *Raven’s End*, my first novel, published by McClelland & Stewart, Toronto. A national best-seller in its first year. Winner of the Canadian Rockies Award, Banff Mountain Book Festival 2001. Translations thus far: German, Italian, Dutch, Danish and Japanese.
- 2003 *The Yam*. Co-author with Chic Scott and David Dornian of this book on Yamnuska, a favorite peak in the Rockies west of Calgary. Contributed natural history, human history and trail-guide sections. Published by Rocky Mountain Books. Winner, Canadian Rockies Award, Banff Mountain Book Festival 2003.
- 2004 “The Meatmaker,” feature on twinning the Trans-Canada Highway through Banff National Park for *AlbertaViews* magazine, March 2005 issue. I have written a regular column for this magazine and have done other features.
- 2005: Series of geological interpretive signs for provincial parks in west-central Alberta.
- 2008: *The Canadian Hiker’s and Backpacker’s Handbook*, a how-to book for hikers and backpackers, published by Whitecap Books, Vancouver.
- 2008: *Canadian Rockies Geology Road Tours*, roadside geology of the Canadian Rockies for lay readers and geologists alike. Published by Corax Press. Should see a lot of use in field courses.
- 2009: *Eric Mountjoy, Pioneer Geologist of Jasper National Park*, exhibit at the Jasper-Yellowhead Museum. This exhibit has since travelled to other venues.
- 2011: *Canmore Rocks!* Exhibit for the lay public about the geology of the Canmore-Banff area, mounted at the Canmore Museum and Geoscience Centre in Canmore, Alberta.

2011: In *National Geographic Guide to the National Parks of Canada*, individual write-ups on Waterton Lakes, Elk Island, Kootenay, Yoho, Glacier and Mount Revelstoke national parks.

***Photographs appearing in exhibitions***

1994 “Climbers on Mt. Robson,” shown in *The Rainbow Range*, exhibit at Whyte Museum Gallery, Banff.

1995 “Mountaineer in storm on Mt. Athabasca,” shown in *Images of Hope*, a travelling Hope Foundation exhibit shown at the Laverty Gallery, Edmonton, and elsewhere.

2006 A number of images shown by the Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., at the “Alberta at the Smithsonian” event.

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