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KEVIN GILL PHOTO

Jasper Heritage Tourism Award Winners: Randy Clement of Rocky Mountain Voyagers, Glen Charron of the Jasper-Yellowhead Museum and Archives, Mel Billings of Brewster Tours, Mike Wasuita of Pine Bungalows, and Joe Couture of Jasper Tourism and Commerce.

Grin and Bear it

First ever Heritage Tourism Award winners announced

By KEVIN GILL
Reporter

The first ever Jasper Heritage Tourism Awards were handed out at the Jasper Tourism and Commerce regular meeting held at the Maligne Lake restaurant on Sept. 10.

Local businesses and organizations received awards in five categories celebrating the Park's natural culture and heritage.

The big winner was Pine Bungalows, which was nominated in more than one category, and took away the National Park Heritage Excellence Award. That award was the grand prize, and went to the organization that best exemplified heritage tourism values and objectives.

"Pine Bungalows has made significant contributions in all our awards categories and is the

embodiment of heritage in Jasper," said George Andrew, chairman of the local Heritage Tourism Council.

The Jasper Heritage Stewardship Award went to Brewster Tours for the Icefield Centre. Brewster runs a large scale operation and has to deal with serious problems associated with altitude, human use and the extreme sensitivity of the site. The award was given to the organization that demonstrated the best environmental practices illustrating commitment to addressing common ecosystem concerns.

The award for Heritage Products and Promotion was presented to the nominee that had the best program(s) celebrating cultural and environmental values consistent with the mountain park heritage. It was awarded to Rocky Mountain Voyageur for the authenticity and consistency of its product.

The Jasper National Park Heritage Communication Award recognized innovation in interpretation, staff orientation and training as well as ensuring visitors know that they are in a National Park and World Heritage Site. The winner of that award was the Jasper-Yellowhead Museum and Archives for its permanent historical gallery, significant temporary exhibits and extensive archives.

In the category of Heritage Architecture, it was Jasper Tourism and Commerce that came away with the award, for the Robson House. It represented the best architectural design reflecting heritage in construction or renovation.

Other award finalists who made significant heritage contributions in the last year included: Alpine Village Cabin Resort, Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, Friends of Jasper National Park, Jasper Heritage Theatre, Mountain Park

Lodges, Municipality of Jasper, and Ski Marmot Basin.

New Tourism and Commerce executives
The presentation of the Jasper Heritage Tourism Awards wasn't the only big event at the last Jasper Tourism and Commerce meeting.

The new executive board for the organization was officially sworn in by Mayor Richard Ireland.

The new executive includes President George Andrew, Vice-president Bert Journault, Treasurer Doug McPhee, and Secretary Brian Higginson.

As Andrew assumed the role of president, taking over from Roy Everest Jr., he took the opportunity to praise the outgoing executive members and thank them for their many accomplishments.