

# Canmore Community Contributors

Canmore's population is a mosaic of individuals who have chosen to live here, plus a number of born-and-raised locals. It is also a town with an impressively high per-capita number of creative, motivated, industrious and original-thinking people who enrich their community through their contributions, not just in their hometown, but often on an international stage.

## **BOB SANDFORD - [WWW.RWSANDFORD.CA](http://WWW.RWSANDFORD.CA)**

From his nature-inspired beginnings as a Parks Canada interpreter, Bob's life has been shaped by western Canada's mountains. Canmore residents for more than 30 years, Bob and his wife, Vi, who was elected as a Town of Canmore Councillor in 2012, have raised three children here. As EPCOR Chair of the Canadian Partnership Initiative in support of the United Nations Water for Life Decade, Bob engages with world experts on water and water-related issues, translating the scientific outcomes of research on glaciers and rivers into language that helps politicians to craft effective public policy. Bob's other positions include: Director of the Canmore-based Western Watersheds Climate Research Collaborative [www.wwrc.ca/](http://www.wwrc.ca/); co-chair of the Forum for Leadership on Water (FLOW) [www.flowcanada.org](http://www.flowcanada.org) ; and advisor on water issues to the InterAction Council <http://interactioncouncil.org/>, a global public policy think-tank composed of more than 20 former Heads of State including Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and U.S. President Bill Clinton. Bob has authored more than 25 books, including several on water and on the history and heritage of the Rocky Mountain home he dearly loves.

## **CORI BREWSTER - [WWW.CORIBREWSTER.COM](http://WWW.CORIBREWSTER.COM)**

Born to Bud and Annette Brewster, Cori is a true daughter of the Alberta Rockies. Bud's great-grandfather, John, followed the newly completed CPR from Ontario to settle in Banff in 1886. Born into a hardworking family of backcountry outfitters, Cori and her two sisters, Janet and Alison, were helping to cook for groups of hungry trail riders and feeding oats to the horses as soon as they were old enough to lift the buckets. While Cori's sisters and their husbands run the family businesses, which include Shadow Lake Lodge [www.shadowlakelodge.com/](http://www.shadowlakelodge.com/), Brewster Mountain Lodge [www.brewstermountainlodge.com/](http://www.brewstermountainlodge.com/) and the Kananaskis Ranch and Golf Course [www.kananaskisranchgolf.com](http://www.kananaskisranchgolf.com), Cori is a successful Alberta singer-songwriter. Her engaging and romantic lyrics flow as if everything Cori ever needed to know about life could be learned from her family's ranch sitting in the magical transition zone between the foothills and burly Rocky Mountain peaks. With her acoustic guitar and honey-smooth voice, Cori sings of the Bow Valley's special places and colourful characters in songs such as Buffalo Street, Across the Great Divide, Diamond Hitch, Trono and William Twin.  
(Note: Brewster Travel Canada, which runs the Columbia Icefield Centre, was sold by the family in 1967. Run by a US company, it maintains no connection to the Brewster family).

## **KARSTEN HEUER AND LEANNE ALLISON - [WWW.NECESSARYJOURNEYS.CA](http://WWW.NECESSARYJOURNEYS.CA)**

They met in kindergarten while growing up in Calgary then reconnected as young adults enamoured with wilderness. Long-time Canmore residents, in 1998 and 1999 Karsten hiked, skied and canoed for 3,400 kilometres, with Leanne joining him for half the journey, along proposed wildlife corridors from Yellowstone, Wyoming to Canada's Yukon, an epic adventure detailed in Karsten's book, Walking the Big Wild. In 2003, they followed a migrating caribou

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herd for five months on foot across the Yukon and Alaska in effort to raise awareness about how drilling for oil in the herd's calving grounds would threaten their survival. Karsten related their incredible journey in his book, *Being Caribou*. Leanne's film by the same name—her first—earned a Gemini Award. Then in 2007, they paddled, portaged and sailed across the country with their son Zev, who was just two, to meet iconic Canadian writer Farley Mowat. Leanne's film, *Finding Farley*, garnered several awards, including the coveted People's Choice at the 2009 Banff Mountain Film Festival [www.banffcentre.ca/mountainfestival/](http://www.banffcentre.ca/mountainfestival/). Leanne's 2012 film project, *Bear 71*, is an interactive documentary produced by the National Film Board of Canada which reveals the daily challenges of a grizzly's life in the Bow Valley, while looking critically at technology's effect on man's relationship with nature. A long-time Parks Canada wildlife biologist, Karsten now serves as President of the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative <http://y2y.net/>

#### **SHARON WOOD - WWW.SHARONWOOD.NET**

On May 20, 1986, Sharon Wood stood on Earth's highest point, the summit of Mount Everest. Unlike nearly all of the many hundreds of climbers who have followed fixed ropes to reach that point since, for two months Sharon's team of highly skilled, experienced climbers ferried all their own gear up the mountain, making numerous trips to successively higher camps. Add to that, they did so by climbing a technically difficult route that had never been climbed before, and has never been repeated, marking their own unique Canadian stamp on the mountain. Not stopping there, after becoming mother to two sons a few years later, Sharon teamed up with several other Bow Valley parents to climb a different mountain. After much hard work, the group founded Mountain Gate Community School, a fully-accredited, non-denominational private school which embraced a proactive model of parents and teachers working together to create a vibrant learning community. Operating from 1996 to 2007, the school provided a unique educational opportunity for families keen to immerse themselves in a hands-on learning environment. A highly sought-after motivational speaker, in recent years Sharon has returned to her roots, working as a professional ACMG [www.acmg.ca/](http://www.acmg.ca/) guide and climbing instructor, sharing the inspiring mountain environment.

#### **BEN GADD WWW.BENGADD.COM & WILL GADD WWW.WILLGADD.COM**

After 30 years in Jasper, Alberta, Ben and his wife, Cia, moved to Canmore to be close to their son, Will and his wife, Kim Csizmazia (a former world champion ice climber), and their two daughters. Author of the incomparable—and indispensable—*Handbook of the Canadian Rockies*, Ben has written nine other books, including his endearingly clever award-winning novel, *Raven's End*. Educated as a geologist and a recognized authority on the Canadian Rockies, Ben employs his affable nature and sharp sense of humour while working as a freelance interpretive guide sharing the wonders of the region's natural history. As a young teen in Jasper, irrepressibly energetic Will dug his first snow cave and climbed his first mountains. Three decades later, Will is recognized around the world as a professional multi-sport athlete. He's twice set world distance records flying his paraglider. He's flown over the Grand Canyon, and across the US from California to North Carolina. He's made dozens of first descents paddling his kayak down frothing white water creeks. Four-time Canadian sport climbing champion, he's won X-Games gold medals and demonstrated his ice climbing prowess on frozen waterfalls in abandoned Swedish mine shafts and on bobbing icebergs off the coast of Newfoundland. Closer to home, Will made the first one-day ascent of the Rockies' highest peak, Mount Robson, solo. And he manages to find time to write the adventure community's most provocative and worthwhile blog <http://willgadd.com/>.

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**JEFF HORVATH - [WWW.CHANGEMAKERS.COM/USERS/JEFF-HORVATH](http://WWW.CHANGEMAKERS.COM/USERS/JEFF-HORVATH)**

An Anishinabe—Ojibway in English—who's called Canmore home since 2000, Jeff appreciates the value of education. His mother, Florence, suffered severe hardship at St. Mary's residential school in Kenora, Ontario. Literate with a Grade 3 education, at the age of 22 she left her reserve, Onegaming First Nation, for Toronto, where Jeff and his two brothers were born and raised. In the summers, Florence returned to Onegaming where her sons learned to fish and canoe and connect with the land of their ancestors. Now in Calgary, Florence has since earned three university degrees. En route to becoming a teacher, Jeff travelled to the mountains of Peru and Nepal. Working with Outward Bound, he led canoe trips in Ontario's Wabakimi Provincial Park. Those experiences led him to create SAGE – the Stoney Adventure Group Experience. As Aboriginal Liaison Teacher at Canmore Collegiate High School, through SAGE Jeff aims to improve high school completion rates for First Nations students living on the Stoney-Nakoda reserve east of Canmore. Using the mountains as a classroom, Jeff leads his students on challenging backpacking and sea kayaking trips through which they are encouraged to develop skills that will empower them to find academic and personal success. A husband and father of two, Jeff has generously, albeit not yet successfully, run as an NDP candidate in the past two federal elections.

**AMANDA LINDHOUT - [WWW.GLOBALENRICHMENTFOUNDATION.COM](http://WWW.GLOBALENRICHMENTFOUNDATION.COM)**

While working as a freelance journalist, Amanda travelled to Somalia with the intent of writing about the crisis faced by that country's citizens. Three days after she arrived in the capital, Mogadishu, in August 2008, she was kidnapped by teenage criminals and held hostage for 460 days. Through her ordeal, she understood that her captors, some as young as 14, were products of their environment—shaped by decades of war, famine and extreme poverty. To get through her experience, Amanda promised herself that if she survived she would dedicate her life to helping create a better future for people in Somalia. She was released in 2009 and soon after began building the Global Enrichment Foundation [www.globalenrichmentfoundation.com](http://www.globalenrichmentfoundation.com), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting peace and development in Somalia through sustainable educational and community-based empowerment programs. In 2011 she returned to Somalia, leading famine relief efforts and raising millions of dollars in aid for 200,000 people. In 2012 Bill Clinton invited her to share her message of forgiveness and compassion at the Clinton Global Initiative, and the Women's Executive Network nominated her as one of Canada's 100 Most Powerful Women. Amanda and her organization are both based in Canmore, from where she works tirelessly to provide opportunities for the people of Somalia to improve their lives and re-build their communities.

**PETER FUHRMAN**

As a young man in 1955, Peter and his climbing partner, Heinz Kahl, journeyed from their native Germany to Canada, spending their first night sleeping on a bench in Banff. Soon Peter was working as surveyor, eventually graduating to the position of regional draughtsman for the Department of Public Works. Not long after Heinz passed the exam to be a certified mountain guide, Peter applied himself and earned his certification. In 1968 he applied for, and was appointed alpine specialist responsible for public safety and mountain rescue in Banff National Park. After a trip to Germany in 1971, where he witnessed the use of a helicopter to deliver rescuers directly to an accident site by a long-line attached to the belly of the machine, he introduced the procedure to Rockies wardens. Together with pilot Jim Davies, Peter and his counterpart in Jasper, Willi Pfisterer, pioneered the helicopter rescue techniques that make Parks Canada's public safety teams [www.pc.gc.ca/progs/np-pn/sp-ps/index.aspx](http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/np-pn/sp-ps/index.aspx) among the most highly trained and skilled in the world. During his long career, Peter led climbing expeditions, trained generations of Parks Canada rescue wardens, served as president of the Alpine Club of Canada [www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/](http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/), was a founding member of the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides [www.acmg.ca](http://www.acmg.ca), and initiated construction of the system of high alpine huts the ACC operates on the Wapta Icefields.

Sara Renner and Thomas Grandi  
<http://blog.paintboxlodge.com/>

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**SARA RENNER AND THOMAS GRANDI - WWW.PAINTBOXLODGE.COM**

Between them, they've competed in eight Winter Olympic Games; Thomas as member of Canada's Alpine Ski Team [www.alpinecanada.org/](http://www.alpinecanada.org/), Sara as a Cross-Country Canada [www.cccski.com/Home.aspx](http://www.cccski.com/Home.aspx) team member. In Thomas's 14-year career he accomplished nine World Cup podiums, including two Giant Slalom wins, making him the first Canadian male to win a World Cup technical race. With nine World Cup medals, Sara won Canada's first Nordic World Championship medal, a bronze in cross-country skiing. With teammate Beckie Scott, she won the silver medal in the team sprint event at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy, the country of Thomas' birth. After years of staying at hotels—in addition to Sara having grown up at Assiniboine Lodge [www.assiniboinelodge.com](http://www.assiniboinelodge.com), the historic backcountry lodge now run by her brother, Andre—Sara and Thomas turned their pursuit of excellence toward running Canmore's intimate boutique hotel, Paintbox Lodge <http://blog.paintboxlodge.com/> . Parents of two young daughters who started skiing as soon as they could walk, both Sara and Thomas are Athlete Ambassadors with Right to Play [www.righttoplay.com/](http://www.righttoplay.com/) a global organization that uses the transformative powers of play, including sport and games, to educate and empower children facing adversity.

**CRAIG RICHARDS - WWW.CRAIGRICHARDSPHOTOGRAPHY.COM**

A Canmore resident since 1980, Craig Richards' dramatic black and white photographs have been featured in more than 40 solo exhibits and nearly 50 group exhibits at public and commercial galleries, as well as museums around the world. Using an old-fashioned, cumbersome 4X5 camera combined with traditional silver gelatin printing process, Craig creates evocative art by capturing the mountain landscape in its most mysterious and ethereal moods. His interests as an artist, avid hiker and photographer all coalesce to form a uniquely engaging body of work. He's taught photographic workshops in Canada, the US, Mexico, Europe and Africa, and has worked on numerous projects for the Museo Nazionale Della Montagna in Torino, Italy. His projects have captured the people and landscapes of Guatemala, Italy, Uganda's Rwenzori Mountains, the US and Czech Republic. Through his position as Curator of Photography at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies [www.whyte.org/](http://www.whyte.org/), since 1997 Craig has run the highly successful Through the Lens outreach program. Created to introduce photography to students from Banff, Canmore and Morley, on the Stoney-Nakoda First Nations Reserve, the program has encouraged and inspired more than 600 youth to explore their world, their community and themselves through film and digital photography. With the program including the magic of working in the darkroom, students develop not just images but self-awareness and social skills too.

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