

Mr. John I. Nicol  
Director

OTTAWA, Ontario K1A 0H4  
January 7, 1972

Former Branch Staff

A recent issue of the Department's house organ "Intercom" contained a story describing 1971 as the diamond jubilee of the National Parks Branch. The issue also contained a reproduction of a photograph taken in March, 1913, of the Branch staff, then about 18 months old.

I forwarded copies of the paper to three survivors of the early staff, Miss Mabel Williams, Mrs. W.H. Courtice, and J.E. Spero. Miss Williams of London, Ontario, who will be 94 in February, replied as follows:

"So glad to get your letter and know that you are still at your good work which will be a boon to posterity. Too bad I shall not be able to read it. I can now not even read headlines but write in the dark and hope you can read it a little. The Parks staff must be very large. How do you find its works?

Mrs. Courtice and I must be the only members of the original staff left. I think Mr. Chrétien has done a fine job in setting aside so much, but people don't seem to realize yet how much we may need the solitude and wild country. They will soon! .....

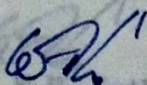
From Mr. Spero, now of Thamesville, Ontario, I heard as follows:

"... We enjoyed the paper you sent. I am in the old age group - 85 in another month." (January 19)

Mrs. Courtice, widow of an early member of the staff who also is portrayed in the 1913 photograph, lives in Ottawa. She will attain the age of 88 on October 26 next.

I am sure you will be interested to learn how durable the original staff of the National Parks Branch really was.

LOTHIAN/s1

  
W.F. Lothian,  
Branch Historian.

WF Lothian, Branch Historian, Ottawa, to John I Nicol, Director, 7 January 1972

Former Branch Staff

A recent issue of the Department's house organ "Intercom" contained a story describing 1971 as the diamond jubilee of the National Parks Branch. The issue also contained a reproduction of a photograph taken in March, 1913, of the Branch staff, then about 18 months old.

I forwarded copies of the paper to three survivors of the early staff, Miss Mabel Williams, Mrs. W.H. Courtice, and J.E. Spero. Miss Williams of London, Ontario, who will be 94 in February, replied as follows:

"So glad to get your letter and know that you are still at your good work which will be a boon to posterity. Too bad I shall not be able to read it. I can now not even read headlines but write in the dark and hope you can read it a little. The Parks staff must be very large. How do you find its works? Mrs. Courtice and I must be the only members of the original staff left. I think Mr. Chretien has done a fine job in setting aside so much, but people don't seem to realize yet how much we may need the solitude and wild country. They will soon! ....."

From Mr. Spero, now of Thamesville, Ontario, I heard as follows:

"...We enjoyed the paper you sent. I am in the old age group – 85 in another month." (January 19)

Mrs. Courtice, widow of an early member of the staff who also is portrayed in the 1913 photograph, lives in Ottawa. She will attain the age of 88 on October 26 next.

I am sure you will be interested to learn how durable the original staff of the National Parks Branch really was.

W.F. Lothian,

Branch Historian.