

park pioneer

Bert Brink b. 1912 d. 2007

Bert worked for more than seven decades to understand and protect BC's environment. He published papers in over 200 journals and taught courses in genetics, agronomy and rangeland management at UBC. As a conservationist, his gentle persistence and level-headed reasoning won the hearts and minds of supporters in many areas, including politics, business, and agriculture. An enthusiastic camper and mountaineer throughout his life, Bert was known as a "walking encyclopaedia" for the natural history of BC. His unrivaled expertise, warmth and dedication inspired hundreds of students and colleagues and resulted in major advances for environmental conservation. Bert's legacy runs deep throughout the province.



Affiliations:

UBC – B.Sc. Agriculture 1934, M.Sc. 1936,
Faculty member in Departments of
Plant Science and Agronomy, Chair
of the Division of Plant Science 1955-
1967, Professor Emeritus 1977
University of Wisconsin – Ph.D. Applied
plant physiology 1937
Nature Vancouver – President 1950-1952,
Founder and Chair of Conservation
Committee
BC Nature – Founding member, President
1978-1981
Agricultural Land Commission –
Commissioner
Nature Trust of B.C. – Director
Habitat Conservation Trust Fund –
Founding Director and Vice Chair
Van Dusen Botanical Garden
Parks Legacy Panel

Parks:

South Chilcotin Provincial Park
Tweedsmuir Provincial Park
Wells Gray Provincial Park
Cathedral Provincial Park
Garibaldi Provincial Park
Pacific Spirit Park
Stanley Park
Burns Bog, Camosun Bog
Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary
Alaksen National Wildlife Area
Ecological reserves throughout BC

Awards & Recognitions:

Douglas H. Pimlott Conservation Award,
Canadian Nature Federation 1982
Order of B.C., inaugural recipient 1990
Order of Canada 1990
J. B. Harkin Medal for Conservation 1992
Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal,
inaugural recipient 2002
Lieutenant-Governor's Conservation
Award 2007
UBC Distinguished Alumni Award 2008

Above: Adapted from a photo of Bert at the Elders Council gathering in 2004
(Photo courtesy of Rod Silver)

Background image: South Chilcotin Provincial Park
Brink helped draft the first proposal to create a provincial park in the South Chilcotin area in 1937, and fought for this designation until protection was finally granted in 2001 - 74 years later. (Photo: Bev Ramey)

Top left: Bert with his camera, late 1980's. Photography was a big part of Bert's life - he would often stop at the side of the road to photograph something of biological note.
Top right: Bert on Joe Mountain, Ashnola 1964
(Photos provided by Aubin Stewart)