Waterton-Glacier
International Peace Park
Two Parks – Two Countries

CanadA

USA
Waterton National Park - Canada

Human history in the Park dates back over 10,000 years. First people were nomadic and included the Kutenai and the Blackfoot.

The first European to visit was Lt Thomas Blakiston. Originally, a member of the Palliser Expedition, Blakiston left the expedition and headed south. He named the Waterton Lakes after the British Naturalist Charles Waterton.
**Waterton National Park -Canada**

Waterton was the fourth National Park and was established on May 24th 1895

Initially it was 140 square km (54 square miles)

It is now 525 square km (203 square miles)

• F.W. Godsall, a Pincher Creek Rancher was instrumental in its establishment.

• The first Park Superintendent was John George Kootenai Brown appointed in 1911.
Waterton National Park - Canada

Prince of Wales Hotel  Cameron Lake  Rowe Lake Trail

Prairies meet Mountains  Red Rock Canyon Road
Glacier National Park - USA

- Evidence of People living in the area dating Back 10,000 years – ancestors of the Blackfeet Indians

French, English and Spanish trappers came in the early 1800’s
- 1806 Lewis and Clark came within 50 miles of what is now the Park

John F. Stevens discovered the Marias Pass in 1879. This pass was used by the Great Northern Railway to cross the Continental Divide. Once this was complete people began settling the area.
Glacier National Park - USA

- George Bird Grinnell and others began to push for creation of a National Park
- Initially it was made a Forest Preserve in 1900 but people continued to push for a park and in 1910 President Taft signed a bill making it the 10th National Park in US

Glacier is the Fourth Largest Park in the United States. It’s total area is 1.4 million acres. In 1976 the area was named an International Biosphere reserve by the United Nations. In 1995, UNESCO Recognized the two parks as a World Heritage site
Glacier National Park - USA

Heaven’s Peak  Swift Current Lake  Lake MacDonald

St. Mary’s  Mt. Reynolds
The IDEA

Over the years, Park rangers felt that the two Parks should somehow be joined. In 1931, they were joined by others with the same idea. Cardston Rotarians felt that parks should be joined as a symbol of the friendship shared between Canada and the United States. In 1931 July 4, they convened a good will meeting of 100 Rotarians from Alberta and Montana. Here, they decided to lobby both governments to establish “a permanent International Peace Park”
Negotiations

- Both sides began to lobby their prospective Governments.
- By December 8, 1931 the House of Representatives had passed a bill to establish "the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park”
- The bill was passed by the Senate April 25th 1932
- A similar bill was passed by the Canadian Government also in 1932
Success

• On June 18th 1932
• 2000 people attended the dedication Ceremony at Glacier Park Montana USA
• There are now 148 Peace Parks throughout the World
Presentation of the Pen used by President Hoover to sign the Bill
The Assembly

In 1935 The Great Falls Rotary club suggested that Rotarians from both sides hold a joint meeting. This idea was embraced by the Canadian clubs and the first Assembly was held at Glacier Park on July 13th and 14th. Included a golf tournament and a Saturday banquet with speakers. Following this meeting the Assembly became an annual event. Each country hosts the celebration in alternate years.
In 1947 the Two Peace Cairns were dedicated. These were built at the Border on Chief Mountain International Highway.
The cairns were built to commemorate the victory of the Allied Armies in WWII. Enclosed in one Cairn were Three pieces of rock from the summits of nearby mountains, Coins of the realm and a History of the Founding of the Association
Hands across the Border, 1947

Rotarians, family and friends held hands across the border and Recited

In the name of God we will not take up arms against each other. We will work for peace: maintain liberty: strive for freedom: and demand equal opportunities for all mankind. May the long existing peace between our two nations stimulate other people to follow this example.
Waterton -Glacier International Border 2001

East Glacier 2002
WATERTON-GLACIER INTERNATIONAL PEACE PARK

74rd ANNIVERSARY ASSEMBLY
East Glacier
September 8, 9 and 10th 2006
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• Chinook Country Tourist Association
• Waterton Glacier International Peace Park Assoc. Archives
• Glacier National Park Web site http://www.nps.gov/glac/partners.htm
• Parks Canada http://www2.parkscanada.gc.ca/
• Dr. Brian Reeves Archeologist, University of Calgary, Alberta
• http://www.watertoninfo.ab.ca/r/history.html