

# park builder

## John MacFarlane b. 1948

Park interpretation programs deepen our love for nature and our understanding of local environments. John reinvented Canadian park interpretation with a strategy, now called collaborative governance, that replaced top-down decision-making with local enthusiasm to keep programs relevant, and local involvement to keep them running. He helped display the ecological uniqueness of National Parks across Canada, and inspired new methods of interpretation planning around the globe. His brilliance in planning strategies, his unshakeable values, and his inspired approach to public service all integrate the belief that ecological health is one of the pre-requisites of a prosperous community.



### Affiliations:

**Boy Scouts of Canada** - Water, Soil and Conservation Instructor  
**Parks Canada** - Park Interpreter and Chief Park Interpreter of Fundy National Park; Western Region - Regional Interpretation Planner, Head, National Parks Interpretation Planning, Head, National Parks Extension Planning  
**Canadian International Development Agency** - International Consultant, Seconded to Jamaica Government, Department of Natural Resources Conservation.  
**Parks Canada** - Chief of Interpretation and Extension  
**Cordillera Communications Corp.** - Principal  
**Maritime Museum of B.C.** - Executive Director & Curator  
**Heritage Tourism Consulting** - Principal  
**Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks** - Resource Management Planner  
**GVRD** - West Nile Virus Mosquito Coordinator  
**Metro Vancouver** - Senior Policy Coordinator, Corporate Relations  
**Metro Vancouver Regional Parks** - Planning, Resource Management and Development Division Manager

### Awards:

National Distinguished Service Award of Interpretation Canada  
Fellow of Royal Geographical Society  
Curator Emeritus (Lifetime appt) of the Maritime Museum of BC  
BC Provincial Health Officer's Award for Excellence in Public Health for Exemplary Inter-sectoral Collaboration in Vector-borne Disease Prevention

*Above:*  
*(Photo courtesy of John MacFarlane)*

*Background image:*  
*Eva Lake in Mount Revelstoke National  
(Photo: Doreen McGillis, Mount Revelstoke and  
Glacier National Park)*

*Elders Council for Parks*