

Bio on Ben Gadd 2011

Ben Gadd, 65, is one of Canada's better-known naturalists and Rockies writers. Author of the ground-breaking *Handbook of the Canadian Rockies*, Ben has written eight other books and contributed to several more. His novel *Raven's End* has become an award-winning Canadian best-seller. His latest books are *The Canadian Hiker's and Backpacker's Handbook* and *Canadian Rockies Geology Road Tours*. Ben has received three Banff Mountain Book Festival awards for his work.

Educated as a geologist, Ben has pursued a career mainly in natural history, including a stint as a Parks Canada naturalist. He has also taught writing at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology and Grant MacEwan College. These days he works in the summer as a freelance interpretive guide—a job he describes as “rent-a-naturalist”—and in the winter as a writer and sought-after lecturer on Rockies topics. He also produces interpretive signs for national and provincial parks.

Heard frequently on CBC radio, Ben has also appeared in many television items and several documentaries on the Rockies. He supports various conservation groups in promoting wilderness protection. After thirty years in Jasper, Ben and his wife Cia recently moved to Canmore to be Grandma and Grandpa across the yard from Marie and Rose.

