

CANADIAN NATIONAL PARKS

from A15



"My plan is one a year. The next one is called *Jasper Wild* and it's set in Jasper National Park. The first book deals with park wardens dealing with poaching in and around Cape Breton Island... poaching is an issue in parks and protected areas. My characters move to Wood Buffalo and they deal with an issue based on a proposal to slaughter all the bison in Wood Buffalo National Park. It was actually something that actually was proposed back in the 1980s, but this is a fictionalized account of that," said Mercer.

Each book in the series deals with issues that Mercer has seen during the 35 years he worked as a park warden. Starting his career off in 1979 at

Newfoundland's Terra Nova, he encountered poaching in the park, which was the inspiration for his first book *Dyed in the Green*. Mercer ended his career with Parks Canada as the monitoring ecologist in the Gulf Islands in 2012. After retiring, Mercer began the creative process of becoming a published author, writing non-fiction for the South African company Earth Touched News Network. After taking some fiction writing courses at a college, he began to pursue fiction writing more seriously.

"My main interest, I guess, is trying to use a different approach like telling fictional stories about our national parks to try and get people jazzed about

stories about parks and protected areas in Canada and around the world," said Mercer.

Writing the first novel in the series began 15 years ago. Mercer now seriously focuses on his writing to get each book in the series out within a year of the last. Along with writing the series, Mercer is self-publishing and self-distributing all his novels himself.

The series falls in the mystery and suspense genre while maintaining the connection to parks around Canada. The books are available at independent bookstores and outlets such as the Storm Mountain Lodge on the way to Banff or at his website www.georgemercer.com.

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