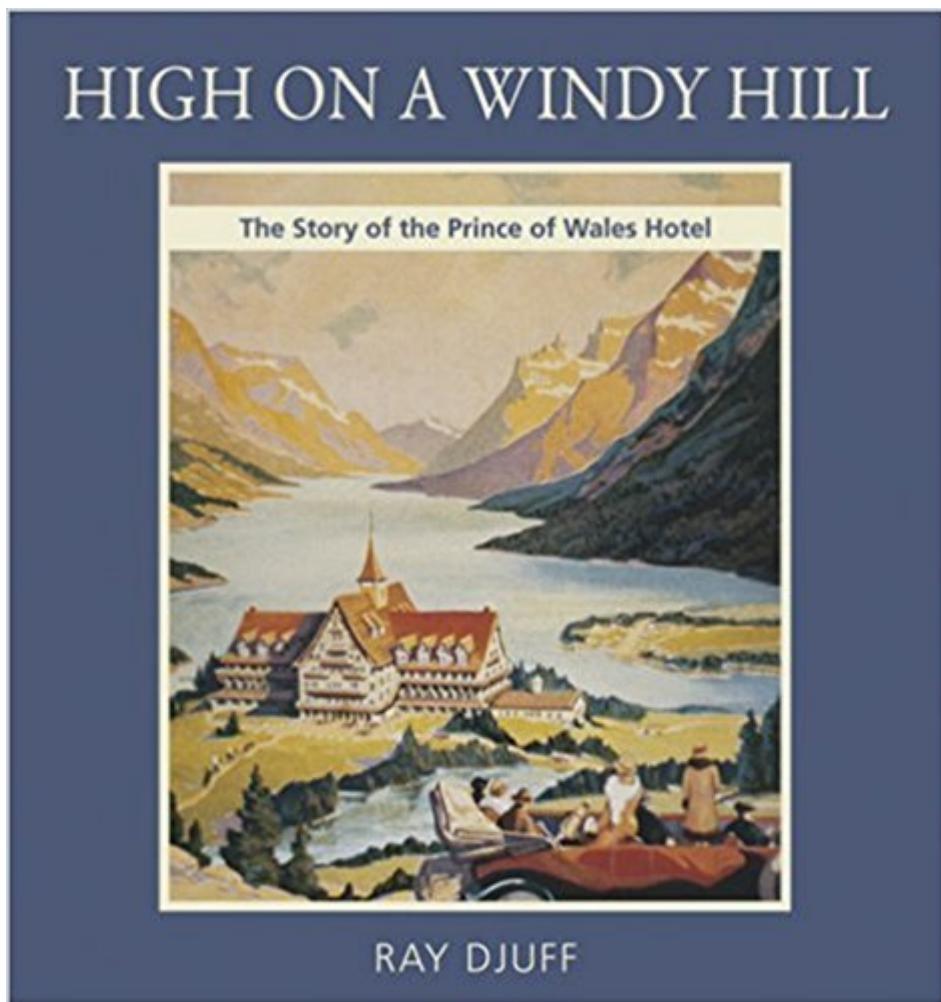


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# High On A Windy Hill: The Story Of The Prince Of Wales Hotel



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## Synopsis

Opened in 1927 for the Minnesota-based Great Northern Railway, the Prince of Wales Hotel provided an oasis during Prohibition for thirsty Americans. Since these boozy beginnings, the hotel, which overlooks the beautiful Waterton Lake, has survived floods, fire, high winds and even closure. Now a national historic site, the Prince of Wales Hotel receives rightful tribute in *High on a Windy Hill*. Vivid historic photographs bring to life this grand survivor of the golden age of railway resort development.

## Book Information

Paperback: 180 pages

Publisher: Rocky Mountain Books (February 25, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0921102712

ISBN-13: 978-0921102717

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Ray Djuff's continuing efforts on the history of the Waterton Lakes area have hit pay dirt with his newest book, *High On A Windy Hill*. The book details how the Prince of Wales Hotel, a majestic wooden structure modelled on Swiss alpine architecture, came to sit atop a promontory above the scenic lakes area straddling the Alberta-Montana border. Djuff, a Calgary, AB newspaper editor, describes in great detail how Louis Warren Hill, head of the Minnesota-based Great Northern Railway, needed a Canadian hotel in the early century to match his significant tourism accommodations in Montana's Glacier National Park. Because Prohibition was still in effect, Hill envisioned well-to-do eastern Americans travelling by train west to his Montana hotels taking a short trip north to imbibe in a drink while on vacation. Hill's power of persuasion, coupled with a subtle but determined continent-wide public relations effort on Canadian authorities, a nearby Mormon teetotalling community and American tourists, eventually made his dream a reality. Djuff's meticulous research captures the drama in the rushed construction of the 90-room, \$370,000 Prince

of Wales, locally referred to as the POW. Devastating weather and countless design revisions vexed the local contractors prior to the July 1927 opening and the book is chockfull of period photos and anecdotes describing the ordeal. Ironically, the halcyon days Hill foresaw lasted only until America's 1933 repeal of Prohibition and the onslaught of the Depression. Twice in the ensuing decade, Great Northern closed the hotel due to lack of visitors. By the 1960s and 70s, rail traffic had given way to vacationers in cars and the company finally sold the hotel.

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