“Third Siding” was established in 1883 when the railway advanced westward over the Kicking Horse Pass. The settlement’s name would soon change as the enormous financial cost of constructing the railway would send the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) on a frantic search for investors. A wealthy Chicago businessman, Cyrus West Field, was viewed as a potential investor. Cyrus visited the town and the town’s name was changed to Field. However no money was ever given!

Field began as a service centre for trains tackling the 4.5% grade on the Big Hill. Workers in the yard added pusher and puller engines and disconnected the heavy dining cars for the climb east. No dining cars, meant the construction of a hotel to provide meals for passengers who disembarked while trains were being serviced was essential. Completed in 1886, Mt. Stephen House dominated the town site of Field for close to 75 years.

The spectacular scenic value of the area was soon recognized as a place worthy of protection. Mt. Stephen Park, a ten square mile reserve at the base of Mt. Stephen was established in 1886. The town itself was a displeasing mix of shacks and tents that sprouted up along the tracks promoting bootlegging, gambling and whorehouses. The CPR tried to rid the town of its unfavourable reputation in the hopes of attracting tourism to the area.

With the opening of the grand hotel, wealthy visitors riding the rails soon took note of the area and came for their health, pleasure and recreation. The CPR built a series of hotels and teahouses to accommodate their clients who wished to stay and explore. Field became a base camp for those who came to study nature, paint, write or do photography. Mountaineering parties competed for the prestige of gaining first ascents of the tallest peaks. The CPR provided Swiss Guides for less experienced climbers.

Road construction in the early 1900’s allowed access to popular areas: the Yoho Valley, Emerald Lake and Lake O’Hara by tally ho (horse and buggy). Brewster’s operated a large stable on the north side of the river (site of present day gas station) and did a brisk business in both pack trains and tally ho’s.

Mining, mainly lead and zinc, was an important part of the early history. Mine portals and remnants of ladders and mining activity are visible on both Mt. Stephen (Monarch Mine) and Mt. Field (Kicking Horse Mine). Tom Wilson, an early guide in the area, staked a claim in 1882 which he sold for $21,000 and it became the largest mining operation (Monarch Mine) in the Park. British Columbia had jurisdiction over both mining and logging until 1930 when the laws changed and the Dominion Government were given the rights to both resources. Since then no permits have been issued. Existing mines operated till 1952.

Logging began in 1884 and logs were used for railway construction and buildings in Field. British Columbia passed a Forest Reserve Act in 1906 that protected some forests and in 1915 restrictions forbade cutting green timber and any logging that would spoil the scenery. After 1930 only one logging berth remained in Yoho, in the Amiskwi Valley. It wasn’t used till a month before it was about to expire. In 1952 a mill was built and operated on and off till 1968 when all logging in the Park ceased.

Field flourished. Residents lived on both sides of the river until 1909 when a massive avalanche roared down Mt. Burgess and wiped out the settlement on the north side of the river. Strong wind gusts created by this slide broke windows in Mt. Stephen House. Surviving structures were relocated to the south side of the river. Old flower gardens and domestic trees planted by Field’s first residents can still be seen on this site.

1927 saw the completion of the first highway, the Kicking Horse Trail, that follows the now Canadian Heritage River to Golden, B.C. The opening of the area to automobile traffic promoted tourism further.

The river was named after an unfortunate incident that James Hector, a doctor, geologist and explorer for the Palliser Expedition, had. While exploring along the Beaverfoot River where it enters the Kicking Horse one of the group’s horses became fed up with having to scramble over fallen timber and jumped into the river. While trying to retrieve this horse, Hector’s own horse strayed off. Upon recapturing his horse he was kicked in the chest. The guides accompanying Hector were sure he was dead and began to bury him, but they stopped when they noticed his eye flicker. Both the river and the pass were given the name Kicking Horse.
1 **CPR Water Tower**: c. 1930
Since 1930, the CPR Water Tower, a 12 m (39 ft) brick structure, has stood prominently at the community of Field. The 21m (70 ft) smoke stack with its white conical tower, connections to the transcontinental railway and a time when dory trains steam engines stopped in for a drink, make this the iconic tower retained in 1952 with the introduction of diesel-electric engines.

2 **Field Community Center**: This building was formerly the Ladies Hall B in a now thriving community center bringing the time together over the years. It was originally used as our emergency shelter for long power outages or road closures.

3 **CPR Telegraph Building**: 1910
Doré and lenses filled the CPR Telegraph building for these decades as railway passengers used and received telegrams during these 20-minute stopovers in Field. The arrival of telephones in 1963 prompted a switch to new uses, and the operators’ bell system included a bleating sheep until 1979.

4 **CPR Log Cabin**: 1910
These log cabins built by the Canadian Pacific Railway for railway officials. The CPR was the primary legal employer from the birth of Field in 1906 until 1952 when diesel-electric engines replaced steam engines. Labour demands increased with the coming of the CPR, as the sound of steam engines rolling up the Kicking Horse Pass ceased, many railway workers left town.

5 **Canadian Rockies Inn**: c. 1960
The first Inn in town, called “Field’s Trading Post,” stood on the site until demolition in the 1950s. The current structure was the third and final residence built by the CPR. When the CPR centralized their offices in 1986, Field became part of Golden’s jurisdiction and the building was sold.

6 **Boxcar House**: c. 1911-1917
In 1903, a local text settlement capped as an accommodation for the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway. With limited building supplies available, industrious residents transformed scrapped box cars into homes. The compact dwellings were natural to have been stored during the winter season and were moved by dolly during a legendary ‘Boxcar Drive’. In recent years, the Box Car House has been re-built in its original location in Field.

7 **Field Cafes**: c. 1920
This building was a store in 1920, 1st right along the street from us, on the way out of town and then became a café, a gathering spot for family discussions among town folk and CPR. In the 1960’s the building was sold to a private residence, picked up and moved to a lot behind and a basement put in place. Two curling stones, weighted for specific individuals were found in the boiler indicating the residents enjoyed the curling rink located directly across the street.

8 **St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church**: Originally built in Donald (1886), the divisional superintendent’s house. It became home to Presbyterian and Baptist congregations. Later, United Church parishioners moved in. In 1912-1913, the current structure was the third and final residence built by the CPR. When the CPR centralized their offices in 1986, Field became part of Golden’s jurisdiction and the building was sold.

9 **CPR Roundhouse**: c. 1920
Known for the president of the CPR, George Stephen, this CPR Roundhouse was built in 1885. A hotel that featured a restaurant was located in Field, the “Big Hill” was too steep too haul ding cars up and down. Restored in a place of health, recreation and untamed nature, the hotel was promised to wear Europeans. The imposing building housed a formal dining room that centered into a hallway, a coffee shop, smoke room, store, a movie theatre, a barbershop, medical office and the first library in B.C. Mount Stephen House was designed by Ramsden, architect of the B.C. Parliament buildings and the Empress Hotel in Victoria.

10 **Field Cemetery**: c. 1940
A bowling, railway town, at least 12 passenger trains passed through Field each day. The CPR register noted a total of 8,000 passengers that stayed that year. After WWI, 1918, the hotel converted into a YWCA to help accommodate CPR staff, but for too short for the travelling public. In the 1980s, and following WWII, the tourism industry softened, and the once-majestic hotel never re-opened. The Mount Stephen House housed in 1950 and was demolished in 1983.

11 **Old Doctor’s House**: 1902 - 1981
Field boasted a curling rink, a ski hill complete with rope tow, a ski jump where tell-tale stories of service, the church was torn down and the old church moved to Three Valley Gap. A new church was built and operated till the mid 1950’s. Originally built in 1902, the Old Doctor’s House became a residence for the resident mine manager. During the 1960’s, the old doctor moved on.

12 **Field Elementary School**: Field first teacher was hired in 1899, before that, non-qualified teachers who had never studied out of their home. Field first premium school in 1963. Children attended into their high school. Field had only one year-a grade 12 graduating class, and our class only one girl. In the following years classes were reduced and children went to Golden. The school now accommodates students from K to 5.

13 **Dollhouse**: 1927
Known for its distinctive resemblance to a child’s dollhouse, this structure housed the first RCMP office in Field. The RCMP selected in 1952 and a replica was made in 1967. During WWII, calves came from the natural capital, Ontario, to shoot the place down. As the story goes, filled with solidarity and pride, the train traveled right out of Field. For the time, trains reached Calgary, the calves were not in any condition for travel.

14 **Superintendent’s House**: c. 1929-1931
Field had the role of a pals campus centre in 1913 when the first police moved in. The Superintendent became Mr. Stephen Park. Gunning National Park Status in 1952. The current structure was the third and final residence built by the CPR.

15 **Old Church Inn**: 1902
The new church was built originally as the Park Superintendent’s house. This is the only remaining example in B.C. of the unique character of Field. Here, an approved accommodation for Yoho National Park.

16 **St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church**: c. 1885
Perched with the elegance of a winter mountains, St. Joseph’s is a living church, hospitable and welcoming. The church was relocated to Field (1902) when CPR’s divisional points were changed to Field and Revelstoke. Canadian National (CN) Chemainus built the church to house both Presbyterian and Baptist congregations. Later, United Church parishioners moved in. In 1912-1913, the current structure was the third and final residence built by the CPR. When the CPR centralized their offices in 1986, Field became part of Golden’s jurisdiction and the building was sold.

17 **Field Cemetery**: c. 1940
The Field Cemetery was established in 1940 to a final resting place for the people who have influenced the dynamic character of Field. Here, you will discover stories that reflect a community rooted in cultural diversity, intrinsically tied to landscape, to history, to tragedy, and the possibility to recreate capturing local culture and respect for the land.

18 **Yoho Visitor Reception Centre**: Established in 1965. It is now the Yoho National Park Visitors Information Centre, and is open daily.

Who are the Friends of Yoho National Park?
Friends of Yoho is a registered charity that promotes public appreciation and understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of Yoho National Park. To achieve our mandate we support and engage many programs, projects and initiatives such as:

- **Summer Institute courses** offered to help you experience the beauty and wonder of Yoho National Park
- **Hotson Walking Tours** are offered many evenings throughout the summer
- **Yoho Friends** is a membership with numerous park projects such as:
  - The restoration of Deer Lodge cabin
  - Relaunching the Spinal Twind Observation deck
  - Installing a Tantalus Inversion detection system for the Burgess Shale Fossil beds

Friends of Yoho Gift Shop
The Friends offer a unique selection of books, maps, gifts and souvenirs. All proceeds from sales support programs and projects in Yoho National Park.

The gift shop is located in the Field Information Centre, and is open daily.