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Festive Fun!



Board members Helen the Thanksgiving Turkey, Ginnette the Easter Bunny, and Lorraine the Halloween witch. For details, read our message from the GM on page 3



EXTRA EXTRA: READ ALL ABOUT IT
ONLINE SHOPPING NOW AVAILABLE!

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
FRIENDSOFYOHO.CA/SHOPPING TO
CHECK OUT AVAILABLE
MERCHANDISE

The Friends of Yoho promotes public appreciation and understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of Yoho National Park.

Presidents Message

by Helen Barry

Hello Friends,

Our world finds itself in a strange place this season. And yet, here in Yoho, it all looks pretty much the same. Spring is coming. Snow is melting. Birds are returning. Bears are waking up. All on schedule. When we, here in Yoho, meet friends and neighbors on the street (((distancing, of course))) the common thread of conversation, is how blessed we feel to be living this time in a place like this.

We, the Board of Directors, like many people, are learning new ways to do things (digitally, virtually, using "apps" and programs we've never heard of before) and also, which things just CAN'T, or DON'T NEED to be done.

Our manager, Brenda, is all set- product purchased, staff waiting in the wings- to open the Gift Shop in the Visitor's Centre, as soon as it is possible. Our regrets to those who thought they had lined up summer employment with us starting soon and now have to wait. This retail outlet, which Brenda manages so well, is our main source of revenue to keep our Society operational. So, thank-you Brenda.

Due to the initiatives of our treasurer, Patricia Narbaitz, we were about to unfold a new platform by which groups or individuals could apply to the Friends of Yoho for funding for projects which met our criteria. At our last meeting, we chose to put that project, as well as others, on hold, until we see where and when we come out at the end of this erratic period.

We have some interesting speakers lined up for the summer, and of course we will be doing our Historic Walking Tours of our Village starting in July, as permitted.

One of our Board members, Flint palmer, has resigned since the last newsletter, finding his time too divided between organizing the Second Annual Field Music Festival (Yay- Good luck with all that Flint) and all his

other commitments. Thanks for all your help Flint. We'll miss you and we wish you well.

So, we hope that hearing from us will give you a welcome respite from the rest of the news. We trust that you and yours are in a safe and healthy place. Please check the website and our Facebook Page to hear how the summer progresses.

If you haven't done so, and wish to, please remember to renew your membership. And if, lord willing, the visitor centre is open, and you are fortunate enough to be in the area this summer, please stop by and say hello.

Yours in Yoho,

Helen



Full moon on Burgess Pass

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'FRIENDS OF YOHO NATIONAL
PARK' TO STAY TUNED ON NEWS
AND EVENTS

General Manager Report

by Brenda Selkirk

Dear Friends,

The Board and GM had fun during December. We performed a skit at the school with everyone dressed in funky costumes. We had Karla dressed as a Valentine, Ginette as an Easter Bunny, Helen a Thanksgiving Turkey (chased down by John Gaffney the lumberjack) and Lorraine a Halloween Witch all dancing to their own beat. They soon learned from Brenda the Christmas Tree and Flint as Santa that is was Christmas season.



The COVID-19 outbreak developed quickly. Communities and families are being challenged like never before. The Friends of Yoho were affected in terms of the gift shop not being able to open April 1 as planned and remaining closed until things improve.

Staff are coping with the news of this delay for summer employment. We are all uncertain and remain hopeful our doors will open to the public soon when things are safe to do so.

The Friends of Yoho remain committed to supporting the community and the members. In this newsletter we have included a variety of pictures of Yoho National Park. Yoho has much to offer to everyone who travels through it and lives within it. Donations and grants, as well as merchandise and membership sales help us achieve our goals. Thank you all for your support.

Best Wishes

Brenda Selkirk, GM

Skiing in Magical Emerald Lake

By Sarah Osadetz

About 18 years ago I have my mind blown regarding the kind of adventures can be done in Yoho National Park in the winter. I had been learning how to wax grip on my cross country skis and a friend insisted we try Emerald Lake. Sounded like fun. Consider my mind and my spirit being blown, or opened. The second time, I took my baby when she was 4 months old and skied the whole Alluvial fan, on my own and went into the Lodge for a warm up. I carried her on my front.

Fast forward those 18 years, and I have trained to get my coaching and CANSI certification in Cross country and Apprentice Interpreters' Guiding certification and have shown my daughter, our international students, our friends the Alluvial Fan adventure. It amazes me that people can live in Golden and not experience it as a place to go for exercise, a sense of inspiration, connection to spirit and being one with the magic of Yoho and especially Emerald Lake.

Emerald Lake is magical at the best of times, yet being able to walk on water - or slide on water - literally is like nothing else. The ability to get skiing over the crazy creeks and insanely large boulders with just a glide of a step is just something you absolutely do not want to deny yourself.

Bring your own skis or rent at the Boathouse Trading Co. Obviously, having a Parks Canada pass is essential and can be purchased in Lake Louise or Banff during the winter. It's easier to get the annual pass and not worry for want of any adventure you do in the parks.

Advice: Go regardless of weather - check the trail reports on Parks Canada website and with the Kicking Horse Ski Club. Check the weather with Environment Canada. Plan on it being chilly - yet dress in layers. Take a backpack for snacks, water or tea or BOTH and go in a group or go on your own. Take the time to ski through the tiny forest to the left of the lake - it's very fun. Dogs aren't encouraged and they can wreck the packed trails, groomed by volunteers. Ski all the way to the back of the lake, OR the back of the valley. There is a good amount of shelter at the back of the alluvial fan for a break. Expect to spend 4-5 hours there. Don't forget your phone camera, or your digital camera. Document your experience because YES... it is special.

At the end of your ski, go visit Emerald Lake Lodge for a hot chocolate or a toddy and snack by the fire. Indulge in warming up before warming up your car and heading back home. OR step it up and become a member of the Kicking Horse Ski Club and get mid-week discounts and stay up at the lodge or in the cabins. This means you can visit their outdoor hot tub!! The silence and peace will re-charge and bring a sense of renewal. As I write this, I sigh in appreciation. Seek magic and it finds you in this place of wonder.



DID YOU KNOW?

THE FRIENDS OF YOHO GIFT STORE
IS THE MAIN WAY ALL FRIENDS
PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, AND
EVENTS ARE FUNDED!

Annual General Meeting

The Friends of Yoho will be holding our Annual General Meeting on June 19, 2020 at 7:30pm. Due to COVID-19 the AGM will be held by teleconference. Current members that wish to participate are asked to e-mail the address below ahead of time for the call-in information. Brenda will be able to give you instructions on how to call in to the meeting.

We continue to operate on an as-needed basis and look forward to a productive (reduced) season. Among other 2020 initiatives we will take this time to work on updating our website and retail outlet operations.

We plan to have future presentations by Kathy Taerum, and Nancy Saxberg. We'll be sure to let you know when this happens

If you have not renewed your membership, now is a great time. We thank you all for your valued and continual support as we navigate these trying times together.

Sincerely,

Friends of Yoho
E-mail: info@friendsofyoho.ca
www.friendsofyoho.ca



Great Evening for the Board

Back row (left to right): Sarah, Ginette, Brenda (GM), Patricia.

Front row (left to right): Helen, Karla, Lorraine, and Flint

Exploring the Ecology of Mountain Lakes

By Janet Fischer and Mark Olson,
Franklin & Marshall College

Mary Vaux's 1912 letter to Dr. Charles Walcott resonates with us; she writes, "But I really think we are spoiled for travel elsewhere, after the beauty and interest of the Rockies for nowhere else is there such a wealth of beauty and interest, and I conclude that the haunts so attractive to the world have no attraction for me." For the last 15 summers, we have travelled from Pennsylvania to Yoho to visit (and revisit) a set of lakes that now are so familiar to us that they seem like old friends. We are a husband and wife team from Franklin & Marshall College who study the ecology of mountain lakes. Along with students and our two children, we have worked systematically to understand the factors that influence water transparency, a key lake feature that is linked to colour. Our work began in 2006 when we had an opportunity to visit the O'Hara region and collect basic scientific data on several of the lakes. Janet recalls feeling a heightened sense of wonder with each twist and turn in the trail to Lake Oesa, a sight that brought tears to her eyes. As we began to pour over our data, we felt a similar rush of excitement from all the new scientific questions about these unique ecosystems. For example, we wondered how catchment characteristics affected lake transparency, and what caused year-to-year variation in this measure. And, we were equally fascinated by the unique invertebrates that live in these systems, particularly the beautiful red copepod *Hesperodiptomus arcticus*.

Over the years, our understanding of Yoho's lakes has grown by leaps and bounds. We have learned that the critical factors affecting lake transparency are the presence of a glacier and the amount of catchment vegetation coverage. We also documented the important role of avalanches in the spring of 2012 when a full pack release delivered a large amount of finely ground rock powder to the frozen lake surface. As the ice melted, water transparency was dramatically reduced and the lake took on a distinct turquoise colour. Over the course of the summer season, we recorded how those very small silt-sized particles gradually settled and the lake's transparency (and sapphire blue) recovered. Additionally, we have observed as the Opabin glacier has gotten smaller and documented a steady increase in the

transparency of Opabin's water as mid-summer turbidity has decreased. All of these changes in water transparency have important implications for many other lake features such as water temperature, algal production, and even the daily migrations of that striking red copepod that must swim deeper in the daytime to avoid damaging UV radiation.

Our current work focuses on using high frequency sensors to measure seasonal changes in the materials that control transparency of the lakes, and connecting these changes to weather variables such as precipitation and temperature. We have sensors deployed in Opabin Lake, as well as four other lakes in the region. As we look to the future, we plan to continue our long-term monitoring of lakes in Yoho and Banff, paying special attention to glacially-fed lakes that are changing most rapidly as glaciers disappear. In addition to publishing papers in scientific journals, we have been privileged to share our life's work with our children, students, and many interested hikers over the years. We hope that our findings can be used to understand and protect Yoho's remarkable landscape so that future generations to come to know and cherish it as we have.



Lake O'Hara, image: Parks Canada

Acknowledgements: This article is based upon work supported by Franklin & Marshall College and the National Science Foundation (DEB 1754181). We thank the Parks Canada Agency, especially Aquatics Specialists Shelley Humphries and Mark Taylor, for permission to conduct our research in Banff and Yoho.

I Lived in Field

by Robert Decicco

Life in Field in the 40s, 50s and 60s: anecdotes and recollections of Robert Decicco who was born (1948) and raised in Field. His father Tony and Mother Natalina Decicco are both buried in the Field Cemetery.

Field came into being as a railway town when the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) tied the country together. The locations of the railway towns along the CPR line were driven by the water and coal requirements of the steam engines that pulled the trains, and as a result were spaced approximately 130 to 150 track miles apart, in Calgary, Field, Revelstoke and Kamloops, for example. From the beginning, CPR had a significant workforce in Field, with its 15-track roundhouse to service and repair locomotives and freight cars, complete with ash pits and a "turntable". A Power House and Steam Plant, as well as a Freight Shed also serviced the Company and community needs. The Company had Rest Houses for the Calgary and Revelstoke train crews in Field, along with a very elaborate CPR Hotel that serviced the 6 passenger trains each day that supported growing tourism in the Banff, Lake Louise and Field areas.

Of note, Mr. N. R. Crump (Buck) hired on with CPR in Field and worked in the Machine Shop. Over the years, he progressed through the management ranks and retired as Chairman and CEO of Canadian Pacific Ltd. He always had a love for Field and when he died his ashes were buried next to the CPR track up by "Hobo Rock" which is located about a quarter to a half a mile east of the east switch at Field. It was called Hobo Rock because that's the spot where hobos would jump on and off the freight trains to avoid being caught by the CPR Police. I remember that Dad would send hobos up to the house, where my Mom would make them a lunch to take with them as they rode the rails out of town.

Another person of note was Vic Ficocelli. He was the Roadmaster responsible for the track maintenance between Banff and Field. After the Second World War, CPR sent Vic to Italy to recruit workers and as a result, the Italian community in Field grew. Vic's contribution to the growth of the railroad was significant and it was ultimately recognized when he was awarded the Governor General's Medal and became a member of the Order of Canada for his contribution to Railroading in Canada.

The Italians who came to Field assimilated into the community, while at the same time preserving their language and customs at home. Each fall, a railcar loaded with California grapes would arrive and each family would make wine. My Dad would make 80 to 100 gallons of wine each year. The fall was always a busy time. In addition to making wine, we would get a pig and make capicolti sausage, prushuto, bacon and headcheese, among other things. Mushroom picking wasn't outlawed in those days and Mom would preserve them, along with eggplants and olives in large clay crocks for the winter. Fresh homemade bread, cheese and olive oil were also staples in all Italian households. They sure knew how to cook and eat well.

There weren't many Italian yards in Field that didn't have gardens. They grew mainly potatoes, beans, zucchini, peas, and cabbage. The season was too short and too cold to grow tomatoes. To make sure that the soil was healthy, they would occasionally get CPR to bring in a 'gondola rail car load' (about 40 tons) of animal shit from the stock yards in Calgary. The car would be spotted in the team track by the crossing and everybody would go to pick up however much they wanted and spread it on their gardens. The town "Stunk to High Heaven" for weeks!

Growing up in Field as kids, we didn't have TV, telephones or internet. In the winter, there was an outdoor skating rink that we shoveled off and flooded if we wanted to skate. There was also a curling rink and a ski hill with a rope tow part way up, and if one wanted to go higher you climbed. We would slide down "Lewis's Hill" and down the street to the water tower. Most of us didn't have sleds so we would flatten a cardboard box and make do. We also had lots of elk and deer to harass as they wandered around town and dumped the garbage cans over and spread it around.

When Gil Johnson replaced Kunzie as the new school principle, he turned the place on its head. The first year he came to Field he failed everyone in High School, except Billy Adamson and Sharon Johnson, and he was probably right in doing so. He and Peter McLearn brought in a new standard to the school. Mr. Johnson started a ski program. Every Friday, students were bussed to Lake Louise where, for 50 cents a day, we would get a half-day of professional ski instruction and then free ski the rest of the day. On Saturdays and Sundays, four students would go up to Lake Louise,

where each would take a turn babysitting the kids in Whitehorn Lodge for a couple hours while the rest skied.

In the summer, we had a swimming pond down where the Emerald Lake cut off is now, as well as lots of hiking and fishing and chasing bears that wandered freely through town. In short, we made our own fun, including endless games of Kick the Can and Hide and Seek in the evenings.

Field was quite isolated in the wintertime, but the town had a vibrant commercial base. The Port Brothers owned and ran the Monarch Hotel and Strand Apartments, which was a three story building located just west of where the hotel is now. There was a bakery in the building that is now the Siding Café and the Pottery shop building was a General Store. Frank Colonna owned and ran a Butcher Shop in a building on the site where the Post Office is now. Kirpatrick's had a grocery store on the site where the Police Station is and the building next to the police station was Skeet's Restaurant. The Post Office was a big log building at the end of the street across from the school up from the crossing. One night, the Post Office burnt down. This was a very significant event, since in those days, we ordered our school clothes from the Eaton's Catalogue and the order got burnt in the fire.

Things really changed in the sixties when the Trans Canada Highway was put through the park and we got residential telephone service and TV. There were two TV channels only - CFCN and CFAC from Calgary. TV reception was usually good during the summer, but winter was another story. One winter, ice bent the antennas that were on top of Mount Stephen and then the TV reception was kaput until spring when Irvin Barber could go up to repair it. The preamps on the line that brought the signal down the mountain to the town would often have to be repaired in spring because porcupines would chew the cable.

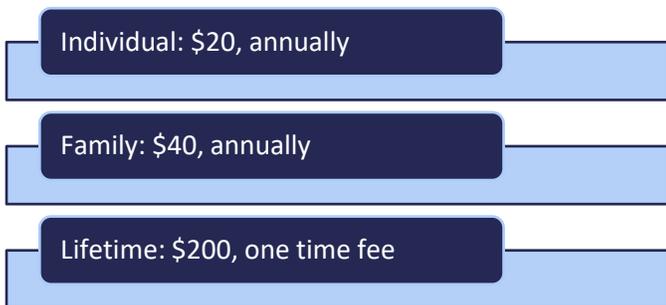
Those were certainly different times when everyone knew everyone else and helped anyone that was in need.

Our Membership

With the closure of our gift store due to Covid-19, memberships are an especially important way of contributing to the Friends of Yoho Society. As always, anyone is eligible to become a member! Becoming a member has several benefits including:

- Developing friendships and connecting with a community that is passionate about understanding and appreciating the natural and cultural heritage of Yoho National Park
- Receiving a sense of accomplishment and pride, knowing your membership fee helps in the development of programs and projects that benefit Yoho National Park
- Unlocking a special 10% discount on merchandise in the Friends of Yoho retail store, as well as at addition Friends stores across
- Subscription to newsletter just like this one that will help keep you informed on programs, projects, and events that the Friends are currently working on!

Membership Pricing



Volunteering

If you have ideas for new programs or projects that may fit with the Friends organization, please let us know! Additionally, if you know of existing initiatives that the Friends are involved with and you'd like to get more involved, please reach out and we will do our best to use your skillset to its full potential. If you'd like to become deeply involved with the Friends of Yoho organization,

consider becoming a Board Member! More information about the upcoming elections will be coming out in the spring, but in the meantime please connect with us for more information in the near term.

Stay Tuned: Gift Shop Opening

The Friends of Yoho National Park operate a gift shop in the Field Visitor Centre. The primary source of funding for all the Friends operation, projects, programs, and publications come directly from the profits generated at this store. The store offers materials to enhance a visitor stay in Yoho National Park, specializing in natural and cultural books, as well as trail guides, maps, clothing and giftware unique to Yoho National Park.

While our store is currently closed, we will be announcing the opening of the store on our website, Facebook page, and sending out an email to our members once we are back up and running. In the meantime, please consider showing your support by making an online purchase via our website www.friendsofyoho.ca/shopping so we can continue raising much needed funds. Stay tuned for future updates!

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
MEMBERSHIP, VOLUNTEERING OR
DONATING, PLEASE CONTACT:*

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