



ON THE TRAIL NEWSLETTER

**CALGARY
WEEKEND
HIKERS**

Dec. 15, 2012

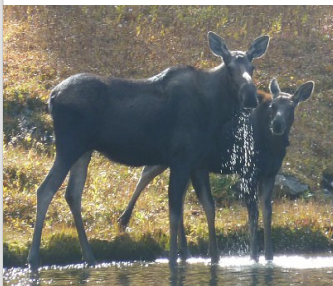
Winter Edition

Important Dates

- Saturday,
January 26, 2013
6:30 PM
Wine & Cheese
7:30 PM
CWH Annual General
Meeting
- Tuesday,
March 19, 2013,
7:00 PM
New Members
Orientation
- Thursday,
May 23, 2013
6:00 PM
Hike Coordinators
Appreciation Night

Important News

- CWH bylaw changes were approved by the membership on December 6, 2012
- CWH Executive Committee News: Newly created position of Vice President is vacant—Contact Marlene Wiens for information



Moose Mom & Offspring,
taken on the Healy Pass and
the Ramparts hike.

Message from the President

This last season has gone well. We enjoyed good weather and great hiking. And our transitions within the club have gone well, thanks to all of you.

Firstly, the web-based system was successfully installed giving the majority of members the convenience of registering on-line. Fritz Kiessling, our web master, has a list for improvements to be made before the next season so the system will run very smoothly next year. Thank you, Fritz, for your hard work in getting the system up-and-running and to Lynn Williams, our hike coordinator, for putting up most of the content.

The vote to change our bylaws was successful thanks to the members who sent in their proxies and who attended the December 6th Special General Meeting. A special thanks to Terry Wilson for leading the process and to Fritz Kiessling for managing the communications.

The change of the membership renewal date has also gone well. Terry will provide you with the statistics in his report in this newsletter. Thanks to Terry for taking over Ann Murphy's duties while she was away and to Margaret Leitch for helping him.

I would like to express my appreciation to the following club members who resigned their positions:

- Palma Heming, Social Convenor. Thanks, Palma, for your capable management of this position and your efficiency in providing refreshments at club functions.
- Joyce Leong & Bert Hettinga, Statisticians. Thanks, Joyce and Bert, for your faithful service to the club for many years and for your hard work and dedication on our behalf.
- Wanda Dennis, Secretary. We are sorry, Wanda, that ill health has prevented further involvement in the club and we hope you are able to recover your health in time.
- Steve Thor, newsletter editor. Thank you, Steve, for putting together our newsletter over the years and for contributing your unique and interesting stories.

Thankfully, club members have stepped up to fill some of these vacancies and these names will be presented for election at the AGM in January 2013. Now that our bylaw changes have been approved by the membership, we are looking to fill the position of Vice President. Please contact Marlene at wiens.me@gmail.com if you would like information about this position.

I hope to see you at the AGM on January 26, 2013 starting with wine and cheese at 6:30 and business meeting at 7:30 PM. Anne Wilson will present a slide show "Cruising from Budapest to Amsterdam". Judging from the excellence of the presentation on Budapest at the Special meeting, this show is not to be missed.

*Thanks to all members for supporting your club.
Marlene Wiens, President*



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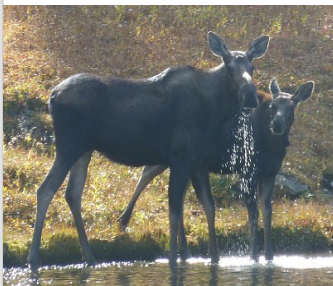
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The CWH Executive Committee

Past President:
Ken Melville

President:
Marlene Wiens

Secretary:
Wanda Dennis

Treasurer:
Terry Wilson

Membership Coordinator:
Ann Murphy

Hike Planning Coordinator:
Lynn Williams

Social Coordinator:
Palma Hemings

Newsletter Editor:
Steve Thor

Statistician:
Joyce Leong

Communications Coordinator:
Fritz Kiessling

HIKE COORDINATOR

What a wonderful 2012 Hiking season we enjoyed. The statistics are showing that we scheduled and hiked over 200 trips in 2013 with over 1700 members in attendance.

Thank you to all the Hike Leaders that made this possible. The variety of locations, difficulty levels and consistency throughout the year provides every CWH member something to look forward to when they want to lace up their boots and head out to the mountains.

I also want to give a heartfelt thanks to those that worked the hike phone this year. It was more challenging due to the changes with the website but they handled it with professionalism and grace and a little bit of humor thrown in. Barry Simpkins, Lynn Andres, Cliff & Patricia Brown helped with the weekend phone and Shirley Marsh and Alice Federsoff assisted on the mid-week hikes. You are all an important communication link with our members, hike leaders and the executive and we really do appreciate all your efforts.

Believe it or not my thoughts are now looking forward to the 2013 season and we are in need of some volunteers to be part of the Hike Planning Team. This will consist of two evening meetings – one in January to kick things off and one in March to wrap things up. In between we will ask that you contact our membership to see what hikes they would like to share with the rest of the club for next year. If you are interested in joining our dynamic team and having the opportunity to connect with your fellow hikers, please call me at 403-830-7373 or email me at williaml@novachem.com

Have a wonderful skiing, snowshoeing, hiking winter season!
Stay safe – and see you in 2013!

*Merry Christmas, Lynn
CWH Hike Coordinator*

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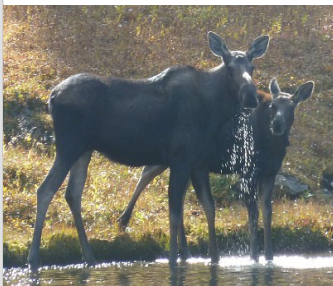
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### Owl on the Prowl

by Stephen Thor

If I tell you what I know as true, is it a believable story? Life is stranger than fiction and these are the facts, as I know them.

I am a sucker for cajoling someone to hike with me so I suckered Tareq to hike with me up to Barrier Lake Lookout. He was thrilled with the stunning views of the glacial blue lake and height of the cliff and he was doing just fine. Then the compromise of the late start had him taking conniption fits for we would be going down the mountain in the dark. His imagination started to work on him.

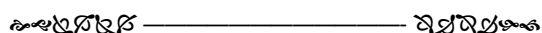
I have to admit that he was a very nervous hiker in relation to bears and his fears of these seemed to preoccupy his thoughts disproportionately on the way up. He was a bit quiet on the way down for I think the fears were too close to the surface for him to actually say them.

But when we heard a rustling in the forest without seeing any glowing eyes springing back at us, that I started to wonder I mentioned that I thought there was something following us but that it had to be at a distance because of its indistinct and intermittent sounds.

It was when I thought it had stopped following us; when thought it must have been a deer and nothing more; when we were following the trail switchbacks wondering if the animal had time to catch up to us by shortcutting through the woods, that there was a commotion. Not just a rustle but a commotion that I could not define. I quickly did a sweep of the ground with my headlamp and still could find no eyes staring back at us, but there was something happening.

Tareq said he heard something like a clap and felt a rush of air around him. These are the facts as I know them and the conclusions where helped in what happened next. There was another 360-degree sweep of my light and a definite crash of branches and movement, but the direction was discernible this time. It was a sound about 20 feet up in the forest canopy. By the time I had my light up there I couldn't see anything moving. It was like a ghost! But then I put things together. It must have been an owl that came down to attack us but called it off at the last second. This was the only conclusion that fit the facts as I know them, and Tareq concurred.

I have heard of only one other strafing by an owl but it was a skier at night in the middle of the winter and he received light cuts on his skull and lost his toque. We came out a lot better off. But with no proof you may not believe this rare event. I do have an imagination and perhaps it got the better of me on this night time hike but I think not.





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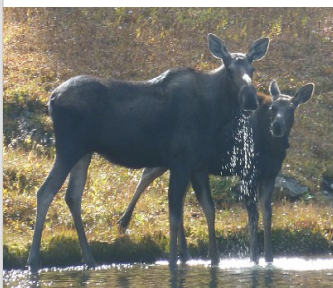
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## COMMUNICATIONS / WEBSITE

Since the early summer we have had a fairly quiet time in regards to the website operation. Mostly question were handled on how "offline" members could go online to schedule their hikes. At the beginning of the hiking season we had about 50 offline members. By the end of the season that number has decreased to 38 members without email address.

During the hiking year we sent over 40 group emails for various purposes, such as club information updates, instructions on use of the website, first logins, Fotki uploads, and of course meeting notices.

We are now in a position to have a closer look at what goes on at CWH. The stats below are currently collected from our website database.

| Events    |         |          |          |         |         |
|-----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|---------|
|           | Overall | Meetings | Mid. Wk. | Sat. H. | Sun. H. |
| Scheduled | 204     | 6        | 40       | 90      | 68      |
| Went      | 201     | 6        | 40       | 88      | 67      |
| Cancelled | 3       |          |          | 2       | 1       |

| Registrations |         |          |          |         |         |
|---------------|---------|----------|----------|---------|---------|
|               | Overall | Meetings | Mid. Wk. | Sat. H. | Sun. H. |
| Signed Up     | 2250    | 73       | 484      | 1097    | 596     |
| Went          | 1721    | 64       | 395      | 816     | 446     |
| Cancelled     | 529     | 9        | 89       | 281     | 150     |

| Online / Offline Distribution |        |                  |
|-------------------------------|--------|------------------|
|                               | Online | Offline          |
| Event Registration via        | 176    | 56 (Telephone)   |
| Member Communication via      | 396    | 38 (Postal Mail) |

Fairly impressive, wouldn't you say, for a first year website based operation, eh? We can see that about 10% of our members are "offline", meaning they have no email access. One of our important club features is to further support our offline members, as we intend to continue their postal mail for hard copies, and telephone support for registration and hike updates.

It has been a pleasure to support the Club website, to provide email support, and help via sometimes lengthy telephone calls. At the close of the year, wishes go to all our members for a respectful Holiday Season and the Best Wishes for the New Year, from your webmaster, *Fritz Kiesslering*.



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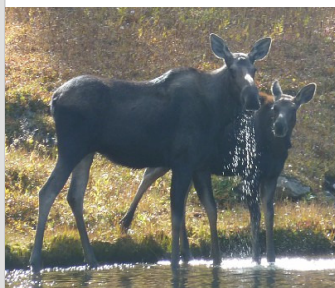
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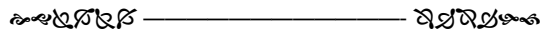
Moose Mom & Offspring, taken on the Healy Pass and the Ramparts hike.

## MEMBERSHIP

As on December 3<sup>rd</sup> we have now processed 273 membership forms for the 2013 season. This is the first time that the cut-off date was within the current year. We want to do this so that when we start creating the hike schedule, we know for sure who is available to coordinate. Also this will give us more time to contact members on the wait list. The 273 units consist of 1 Associate member, 2 Founding units, 59 Honorary units, 189 Regular units and 22 New units. The number of returning units is 251 which is 89% of the possible ones which is very good for the first time of having a December 1 deadline.

There were 31 members units which did not do the hike requirements or who have resigned. A bit of a disappointment is the number of new units. Only 22 out of 76 have signed up. This is only a 29% success rate. If you put your friend's name on the wait list prior to August 25, 2012, perhaps you may want to contact that person to see if they really want to join our club. At the present moment we have 89 vacant spots in the club.

By the time you read this news letter Ann Murphy will have returned from Australia and will be contacting the remaining people on the wait list. She will also be available to answer your concerns or problems regarding membership. *Terry Wilson filling in for Ann.*



from Stephen Thor, Sherbrook Lake, Yoho NP



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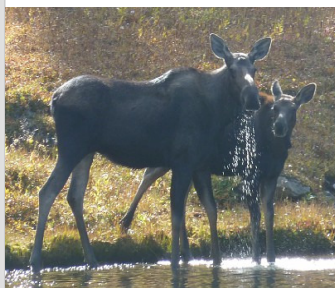
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### POTLUCK DINNER OCTOBER 20, 2012

Thank you to all who helped with our Potluck dinner on October 20. With all the help setting up tables, cleaning them, selling and pouring wine we managed to have everyone served and seated in record time. It certainly makes light work when everyone pitches in – thank so much again.

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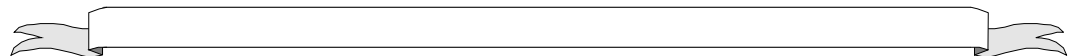


Amazing flowers at Grizzly Col

CHESTNUTS ROASTING ON A FIRE !



Not exactly on an open fire, but close enough. That's the treats you will find on the streets in Vienna, Austria during the winter season. They are great, first to warm your hands while you find a neat little Kaffeehaus, and then to savour the flavour.



CALGARY WEEKEND HIKERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JANUARY 26, 2013

Don't forget our next event – the Calgary Weekend Hikers Annual General Meeting on January, 26, 2013 at the Stanley Park Community Hall at 6:30 pm.

There will be cheese, crackers, fruit & veggies for snacks along with wine available for purchase. Don't miss out!

