



# ON THE TRAIL NEWSLETTER



Dec. 2017

## Winter Edition

### Important Dates

- Annual General Meeting  
Jan. 20, 2018
- Hiking Season opens Apr. 1, 2018

### From the Online

### Photo Gallery

- Oct. 2017—Mount Ware—Surveyor Ridge hike. You can see the top. And what a view?



- Sep. 2017- Kananskis Fire Look-out. This bunch knows how to birthday party. They even had cup cakes.



- Cox Hill during the Off Season



### From the President

by Doug Hackbarth

Another CWH hiking season has come to a close. I think that it can be considered successful as we had 293 hikes accommodating 3,066 hikers. Thank you to those 91 persons who undertook to coordinate these hikes. I encourage every member to consider coordinating one hike in 2018. Doing this is not difficult and there are volunteer mentors who can assist you. Please make a New Year's resolution to do this as your contribution to CWH's success.

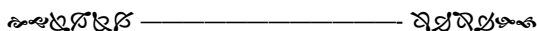
Speaking of contributions: The Executive is short on nominations (read NONE) for Vice President and Social Chairman as well as the appointed position of Archivist. I re-iterate that we need members to step up in order to keep CWH running smoothly and to help those who are already generous of their time to manage the club.

I want to give special thanks to the following persons who have given generously of their time to manage CWH and are *retiring* as of the 2018 AGM:

Shirley March – Membership Chairwoman  
Wendy and Barry Schur – Hike Planning Coordinators  
Janet McMaster – Archivist

Please come out to the AGM on January 20, 2018 at Marda Loop Community Hall and show your support for CWH!

Doug Hackbarth, President



### Vacant Positions at CWH

from the Executive

The Club is looking for members who are willing to serve on the Executive. There are two elected positions that will become vacant after the Annual General Meeting in January; Vice President and Social Coordinator.

The duties of these positions are stated on pages 4 and 5 of the CWH Bylaws. This document can be found on the website ([http://www.calgaryweekendhikers.com/documents/12\\_12\\_06\\_bylaws\\_rev2.pdf](http://www.calgaryweekendhikers.com/documents/12_12_06_bylaws_rev2.pdf)). The duties read as follows:

#### Vice President

- a) Will carry out the duties of the President position in the absence of the President

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### The 2017 Executive Committee

President:	Doug Hackbarth	Social Coordinator:	Gerry and Doris Cyre
Vice President:	Pati Roberts	Communications Coordinator:	Fritz Kiessling
Secretary:	Peter Morgan	Archivist:	Janet McMaster
Treasurer:	Terry Wilson	Newsletter:	Dorothy Whitson
Hike Coordinators:	Barry and Wendy Schur	Webmaster:	Fritz Kiessling
Membership:	Shirley Marsh		



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b) As directed by the President, will liaise with other members of the Executive

Committee as required to ensure that the business of the Club is carried out effectively and responsibly.

c) Will liaise on behalf of the Club with any external bodies where the Club may require representation, subject to authorization by the Executive Committee.

## Social Coordinator

a) Will chair the Social Committee, whose responsibilities will include planning and coordinating social events as well as providing refreshments as required.

Gerry and Doris Cyre have served in the role of Social Coordinators for the past several years and, along with their team of volunteers, have done an excellent job of organizing our social events. Gerry and Doris have already booked the venues for our events in 2018, and are happy to work with a new coordinator (or coordinators) to transition them into the position in the coming year.

The Club cannot function properly without members who are willing and able to serve.

If you are willing to let your name stand as a nominee for either of these two positions, please contact Richard Walker (Past President) at [rlw@telus.net](mailto:rlw@telus.net) or phone 403-282-0820. A slate of candidates will be submitted at the AGM for election.

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## July 2017 Guinns Pass Trail Building

an email by Stephen Thor

Boy, am I glad I am on your mail list.

It was nice to take a helicopter ride but to put in the work on the trail was the highlight. This trail will be an essential hike for people. It is so scenic with the pinnacle of Galatea hanging above the two lakes and The Opal Range yielding to Fortress. Quite a view! Of course you are on the steep terrain on Mount Kidd and it is stunning.

You get so focused on the work at hand and making your section of trail the best in the Rockies and you forget to look up. But when you do you want to sit down for the day. This trail will be a classic for the

next hundred years. That it traverses many avalanche chutes and has some really hard trail building sections add to the allure. That it joins the spectacular Ribbon lake area will allow many loop options adding to the experience and possibilities.

There may even be some hard rock sections that may need some work like was done on Ha Ling but that is for the great crew that is working on this. They really do work hard and you can't possibly keep up to these dedicated people. As a volunteer, I was there to help and would like to think I was instrumental in the whole trail but my little sections are little, but they are going to be special to me! The work they accomplished was monumental.

I still hope that the winters will have more snow accumulations for the glaciers but that this trail is still closed due to 20 vertical feet of snow lying in the trail at the bottom of the valley may mean it is going to be special because it may have a shortened season for safely hiking.

You asked me how much I worked and in hours it was the two days and that is 18 hours. I am still sore. The snow is still deep and I don't think it will be melting fast to be able to see the bridge. As mentioned it is still 20 feet thick with no indication of any weak spots yet. It is a bit steep and as I was alone I donned my micro cleats so I wouldn't slip. It is a bit steepish at one point in the crossing but not too bad and should be easy enough for most people to cross. There is no way of avoiding it. It might be safer if planks were installed on top of it or if a cable or rope was dangled over it so as people could grab or tie up to in a rock climbing safety net kind of way. The trail will be out of commission if you wait for it to melt and it is set hard so digging the 20 foot depth does not sound feasible. I am going on holidays and may not be able to send you the pictures before I go but will try.

Editor's Note: This is a July 2017 Email to the K-Country trail coordinator on his experience.

Authors' Note: The trail opened up approximately three weeks later with the snow still there in the avalanche chute. I walked the whole new trail line approximately one week before it was completed. There are no cables or other devices involved but just one steeper, hikeable, section.

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## Last Hike of the Year

by Dorothy Whitson

Twelve intrepid hikers met at the West Bragg Creek Provincial Park parking lot on the morning of October 31 to hike Merlin Ridge....not only was it Hallowe'en Day and people came attired accordingly, but it was



the last official hike of the season. Lead by Terry Wilson we headed off on what was to me a new trail....lots of views as we got closer to the top. After having a quick lunch we moved onto the bar which was just further up the trail....and

before we knew it, we were at the bar. Out of hikers' backpacks came cookies, brownies and numerous kinds of candy and chocolate bars, along with girl guide cookies - and little bite sized muffins iced in Hallowe'en colours....and then the piece de resistance (spelling?) Terry brought out two bottles of ice wine along with little tasting glasses....delicious!!



What a nice way to celebrate the end of the season and bring it to a close.

Thank you Terry for leading us and thank you for the ice wine - I can still taste it!

And we were sure lucky with the weather....the rain/snow flurries held off until we were back in our cars heading back toward the city.

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## Hike Planning Coordinators

by Barry & Wendy Schur

The 2017 hiking season is now filed away in the memory bank. For many of us it will be remembered as being a very pleasant average summer with a little bit of smoke added.

As a club we completed 293 hikes, which is down from the 308 hikes in 2016. (a 3% decrease).

We would like to thank the 91 Hike Coordinators that lead hikes for us this year and especially the 25 new coordinators that lead their first hike in 2017.

During the year we continued to encourage all club members to step up and coordinate a hike. There are now more than 160 members who have access to list their own hikes.

One question that popped into my mind when thinking about the newsletter was, "What is average when looking at this year's hiking season?"

This year the average hike size was 10 members, down from last year's 11.1 members. The average hike length this year was 10.3 km, and the average elevation gain was 334 metres.

The average active member completed 7.8 hikes, covering an average total distance of 80.1 km, and climbed an average of 2,237 metres throughout the season.

This started further questions, like which day of the week have the most hikes? This past season, 60 hikes went out on a Saturday and 81 hikes went out on Sundays. These weekend hikes represent 48% of the club's total hikes. The busiest hiking day during the week is Wednesday with 47 hikes.

In closing we would like to thank all of our Hike Coordinators for listing and leading hikes in 2017. Without their dedication, the Calgary Weekend Hikers would not be the club that it is today.

A quick reminder about the "Shoulder Season" which operates until March 31, 2018. Club members can use the website to list winter hikes and snowshoe events. All the normal club rules apply, however none of these Shoulder Hikes/Snowshoes will count towards your 4 hike requirement.

Enjoy your winter and keep active.

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# CALGARY WEEKEND HIKERS

## Compass and Map Reading

by Deb Kocay

Six of us participated in the compass and map reading workshop offered by Steve Thor on Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup>.

True to the learning process, there was confusion at



*Some brave attendees*

times and lots of questions. Steve stayed patient with us and brought us through the process so that at the end of the afternoon we were talking the lingo such as; having the red needle in the shed, bearing 50 degrees, magnetic north and true north. We tested our knowledge in the library, identifying pylons and doing our best to overcome electrical interferences.



*Could it be that those people are lost?*

Then we had opportunity to put our new found knowledge to test. We navigated obstacles, trooped through the snow and across a rugby field, reaching identified destinations; bearing 331 degrees, then 80 and then 250 degrees.

We wrapped the day up with a walk through the

community following the outline on our maps, and successfully reaching our final destination, back where we had started.

Overall a worthwhile, participative, and fun workshop; creatively designed and delivered by Steve. Thank you Steve for generously sharing your time and expertise with us!

We'll see you on the trails, bearing.....

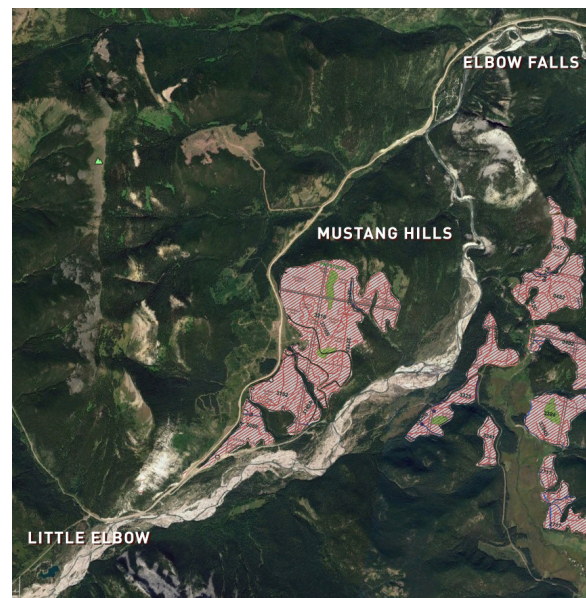
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## A Note To Our Members

by Dorothy Whitson

Apparently Spray Lakes Sawmills has initiated its "McLean Creek 2" plan to cut timber along the upper part of the Elbow River from the Prairie Mountain trailhead/Beaver Flats campground to the Cobble Flats area, also known as Mustang Hills, the "Rainy Summit" pass along Highway 66 (see map below).

This area is another favoured hiking area to many of us, home to the Kananaskis wild horse herd, hence the name "Mustang Hills", and borders part of the Elbow River that holds cutthroat trout and bull trout.



To request that the area be removed from multiple use i.e. harvesting forest and designating the same as Recreational Area so that the Elbow River is bordered by Recreational Area land use from Elbow Falls through Cobble Flats to Little Elbow Campground., contact the Minister of Environment, Shannon Phillips.

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## Hello Hikers

by Shirley Marsh

Membership renewal has gone very well. A reminder that all members need to print their names and must sign in the appropriate box for the "Acknowledgement of Risk, Acceptance of Responsibility, and Waiver of Liability". Without your signature, your membership cannot remain active. Anyone that did not sign the waiver has been notified.

Congratulations to those that have achieved their 20 years with the club and have become honorary members: Hans & Ingrid Stolzenberg, Donna MacKenzie, Loretta McKenna, James Shutiak and Marjorie Hyatt & Marek Rudny. It is often hard to believe that one has been in the Club for 20 years.

A number of membership units did not complete the minimum four hikes, which opened spots for new members. Those membership units may add their names to the Priority Wait List and rejoin in 2019. As well, as few membership units did not renew their memberships for 2018.

Currently we have six previous membership units that have rejoined the Club. Welcome back! Invitations have been sent the first group of 60 on the Prospective Wait List and to-date we have 20 new membership units. After the deadline of December 8, 2017, another group of invites will be sent out depending on the remaining open spots. The total number of membership units is 300. The Honorary and Founding membership units are not included in this total.

As this is my last year as the Membership Coordinator for the Calgary Weekend Hikers, I want to let you know that it has been a pleasure to be a part of the Executive Committee and to be in contact with the members and those wishing to joining our club. Thank you for your support.

Warm regards, Shirley Marsh  
Membership Coordinator

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## Joys of hiking in the off season

by Stephen Thor

What do you say about a great day in the sun. We were in the mountains, on a warm day in December and should offer thanks and say that you should have been there. If you were there you may have been able to complain about the huge wind but for us it was just time to put on the wind shell and button



down the hatches. What more is there to share but the pictures for you weren't there and that may be the best joys we can share with you.

Hopefully it is the beauty that you see that makes you

