



# ON THE TRAIL NEWSLETTER

December 2021



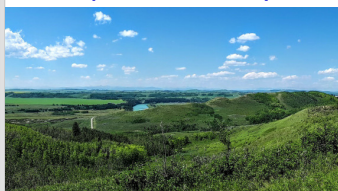
## Winter Edition

### Input from our members

- [Year Around Hiking at it's best](#)



- [I had this for the newsletter, but lost track of who took the photos, sorry.](#)



- [News flash: trees are down. \*\*Eagle Hill and Deer Ridge\*\*](#)



### From the President

-- by Mike Cogut --

It's been another challenging year for the Club. We had to deal with heat, smoke, and a pandemic which were totally offset by occasional great weather and the beauty of our Rocky Mountains.

The pandemic continues to shape many of our operations from Membership, to Social, to the hikes themselves, but we've still managed to facilitate hiking for our members. We've restored most of the hiking guidelines to pre-pandemic levels and have posted significantly more hikes than last year.

We realize that everyone's comfort level is different in relation to pandemic health risks. We've done our best to create policies that make sense to most of our members. I recognize that some coordinators and members still don't feel comfortable hiking with "strangers" and have elected to form their own small groups to continue hiking with. Hopefully this trend will reverse itself as we get used to life with Covid-19.

In terms of managing the Club, our membership is down but roughly at the same point we were last year. Renewals and new applications are still coming in. Our financial position is strong and best of all we're out there hiking. However, the real measurement of the health of our Club is the number of hikes posted which roughly translates into the number of hiking opportunities for each of our members. In spite of the Club's closure and smoke and heat concerns, considerably more hikes were posted this summer than last summer, but we are still substantially below pre-pandemic levels. This is an area where we need to get more members involved.

I wanted to thank our members for their understanding and support they've shown for some of the very unusual measures that we've had to put in place to deal with the challenges of the pandemic. I also wanted to thank the members of the Executive Committee, and particularly Pati Roberts and Joyce Scully (who will be retiring this year) for volunteering their time to be part of a great team.

I wish everyone a great and safe winter on the walkways and trails.  
Mike Cogut.

### The 2021 Executive Committee

President:	Mike Cogut	Social Coordinator:	Sigrid Willi
Vice President:	vacant	Communications Coordinator:	Fritz Kiessling
Secretary:	Susan Rimer	Archiving:	by Secretary
Treasurer:	Terry Wilson	Newsletter:	Dorothy Whitson
Hike Planning Coordinator:	Lorna Jurgens	Webmaster:	Fritz Kiessling
Membership:	Pati Roberts		





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**CALGARY  
WEEKEND  
HIKERS**

## Campbell Icefield Chalet Excursion

July 26-30, 2021

-- by Sigrid Wili --

Twelve hikers enjoyed a wonderful, if somewhat smoky, few days hiking in the alpine regions near Golden, BC. Luckily, we were not hindered by all the fires and smoke in the areas around us. Only our vistas were not as clear as we would have liked.

Having said that, however, we were very lucky, and our two guides, Alison and Marty, kept in close contact with what was going on in the vicinity, ready to evacuate us if necessary.

We all met in Golden the day before for a lovely dinner at Eleven22, getting reacquainted with fellow CWH members and meeting two couples from Vancouver who were also spending time with us at the Chalet. We flew by helicopter from a staging area a bit outside Golden to our chalet at treeline, surrounded by alpine meadows filled with a wide variety of flowers and situated in a bowl of towering peaks.

Three hardy and delicious meals were served by our chef, Melanie, each day, and there was always a nice spread of appetizers ready for us when we returned from a day's hike. And the hot showers were always a luxury at the end of each afternoon.

In the afternoon after arriving and getting somewhat settled, our guides took us on a half-day hike (258m elevation and 4 km distance) to a nearby rise, Saturday Trees, to get our legs

in shape for the days ahead. This also gave us a good view of where our hikes would take us.

The next day we hiked to the edge of Bluewater Glacier, a relatively small glacier and visible from the Chalet. From there we cut across and over a couple of moraines left by the glacier as it receded. We then split into two groups, one going higher and farther (495m elevation gain and 8 km loop), the second cutting across the meadows. That was the one I chose, and glad I did. It was a more relaxing trip, taking our time to "smell the roses", marvel at the variety of them and fascinating patterns in the rocks, and clicking our cameras (or phones) to capture what we saw, which also included a ptarmigan mom and chicks.

Our second full day saw us on a longer and more strenuous hike (633m elevation gain and 11 km), first to Diamond Ridge, where we took a snack break atop a slab of very interesting grey rock that appeared to be carved blocks. The view was extensive in spite of the smoky haze; it would have been completely wondrous had the sky been a clear blue. From there we dropped down into a narrow valley before ascending to Campbell Icefield. (The glacier is still quite expansive, estimated at 12 sq km and a depth of 1,500m in the middle of the glacier. From 2009-2019, the icefield lost an average thickness of around 1.2m per year! That is a glacier-wide average, so more than that by the toe and less that amount on the glacier.) Our lunch break was situated on a ridge just above the icefield. Alison took the groups out onto the

*Reprinted courtesy Ralph Hagen of "The Other Coast"*





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ice, first checking to see about crevasses and giving instructions to the group on where to walk and what to look for. From there we split into a faster-paced group and a slower one. What a rewarding day!

For our last hike we started out in two groups. Again one group taking on more elevation and distance than the second group – I chose the latter. Group 1 took the Lightbulb loop route (440m elevation and 5.4 km), while Group 2, hiked to The Ledge and a small tarn (260m elevation and 3 km), meandering up to The Ledge through green meadows and across tumbling streams. At The Ledge we encountered a single ptarmigan, explored more fascinating rock formations and colours, and keeping our eyes on the myriad of flowers. We slowly returned the way we had come.

Our last day was preparing for our noonish flight back to Golden. I think we all would have liked staying a bit longer. Each day had offered something wonderful. Everywhere we went, wild flowers of many varieties were in bloom and provided such rewards to all of us. But one of the best parts of the trip was the group of people who were there, sharing hikes during the day and stories back at the Chalet. We did have such a good time together, and that put the icing on the cake!

Information regarding the Campbell Icefield expanse and depth was provided by Alison Dakin and Martin Vidak.

The data regarding the glacier melt is from ASTER satellite imagery from a paper co-authored by Ben Pelto, PhD.

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## More on Smoke Forecasting

-- by Mike Cogut --

In August 3, 2021 I sent out an email regarding three available internet sites that forecast smoke pollution in our area. I used all three of these sources ([https://weather.gc.ca/airquality/pages/provincial\\_summary/ab\\_e.html](https://weather.gc.ca/airquality/pages/provincial_summary/ab_e.html),

<https://firesmoke.ca/forecasts/current/>, <https://www.windy.com/?50.980,-114.039,11>)

during the smoky weeks of this summer and I have to report that all of them were not as useful as one would hope. All were inaccurate. I've assumed this is because Smoke and Windy are using the data from Weather.gc.ca. They would have done better to stick their heads outside and take a sniff.

However, a member, Sheila Gapp, informed me of a different type of website. <https://www2.purpleair.com> is a sort of "citizen scientist" website. Individuals purchase WIFI enabled detectors that they hang outside and these detectors upload their readings to the Purpleair website maps in real time. This isn't a forecast, it's real time. I found this way more useful than the first three forecasting websites. The only problem with it is that currently there are not that many detectors (however there are more than the Government has).

With any luck this information will not be relevant for the 2022 hiking season.

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## Social Events

-- by Sigrid Willi --

Once again, COVID has stymied our ability to hold in-person Club social events – at least for the near future. Our Executive Committee decided to hold off on events until, hopefully, an Autumn 2022 event of some kind. We will keep you posted. Keep your fingers crossed that we can resume and have an event later in 2022.

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## Membership

-- by Pati Roberts --

Thanks to all our members who renewed promptly. It certainly expedites the process of membership renewal and makes the job of the membership team more efficient.

Congratulations to our Honorary Members: Marlene Roza, George and Elizabeth Ziegler,



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Linda Andreasen, Judy Gayford, Lois Henderson, Audrey Kyle and Steve and Debbie Thor. These individuals have completed 20 years of active membership with the club. This is quite the accomplishment and reflects a commitment to our club and activities.

As of November 15, 2021 we have 355 members. 79 are Honorary and 17 are new members. We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members: Suzanne Biller, Toby Korytko, Sophia Briard, Marina Elliott, Anne Michaud, Jennifer Norris, The Morrison Family, Sylvie Bouchard, Barry Bortnick, Bill Daenen, Ellen Forbes, Helen Klein and Esther Coffin. If you see them on the trail, either hiking or snowshoeing, extend a hearty CWH welcome.

I would like to thank, Joyce Scully, who by handling new member requests contributes much to the membership team.

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## Report by Hike Planning Coordinator

-- by Lorna Jurgens --



Mount Lipsett, July 25, 2021

Thanks to everyone for making the 2021 season a success despite the extreme heat, smoke from the wildfires & the May shut down due to Covid restrictions.



Picklejar Lakes, July 4, 2021

A big thanks goes out to the 38 coordinators who posted 135 day hikes & 1 multi day trip organized by Sigrid to the Campbell Icefield Chalet.

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row we offered New Members hikes with 3 levels of difficulty but unfortunately only 7 new members participated.

Next year there are plans to do more multi-day trips with more information coming soon.

### **WINTER 2021 - 2022**

The club is now open to post year round activities such as winter snowshoeing & micro spike hikes.

Winter time in the mountains is magical so enjoy the season & be safe.

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## Email Hassles

-- by Fritz Kiessling --

Have you ever been in the situation where someone asked you if why you haven't replied?

Some of CWH have been just there. And it's not their fault. Our (generically speaking) latest software is claimed to be smarter, and smarter.

Yes, for example our email programs (again generically speaking) it is irritatingly more proficient in assuming it found some "suspect content".

However the software also makes it more, and more of a hassle to manage. Not easier, the way the software houses are touting.

The email programs "want" to stuff this suspect content into the "Junk Folder", also pretentiously called the "Spam Folder".

This forces the user to go to that folder and sort through what is their real (good) email, and what is really spam.

So... Don't forget to check the folder (substitute

name chosen by your software) daily. Good stuff may be there, and help you not get into "situations". Your friendly webmaster.

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## Good Material to Read

-- from Mike Cogut --

### 10 Reasons People Get Lost in the Wild

Here's how getting lost can happen to the best of us, by TIM MACWELCH, PUBLISHED OCT 19, 2018 6:40 PM.

Here is the table of contents from the webpage: <https://www.outdoorlife.com/10-reasons-people-get-lost-in-wild/>

- |                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Misjudging Distances        | 6. Following a Game Trail     |
| 2. Inattention To Surroundings | 7. Getting Caught in the Dark |
| 3. Letting Egos Run Wild       | 8. A Turn in the Weather      |
| 4. Traveling in Tricky Terrain | 9. Taking a "Shortcut"        |
| 5. Map Mishaps                 | 10. Splitting Up              |

## A Reminder to our members

-- by Dorothy Whitson --

Just a couple of reminders to all members – be sure to wear your CWH name tag on your daypack – it really helps the coordinator and your fellow hikers knowing who is with you on the trail. And the last reminder – last year with the pandemic CWH also encouraged everyone to carry a completed Emergency Information Form in their daypack. If you don't have this form in your pack, you can download it from "Forms" on the CWH website. Carrying the form with you just helps out the coordinator should an incident occur while hiking in the backcountry.

# Have a Happy Christmas Season!