



ON THE TRAIL NEWSLETTER

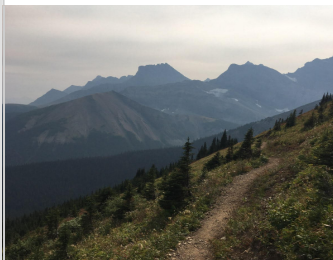
Winter 2022



Winter 2022 Edition

From the Online Photo Gallery

- [Awesome scenery](#)



- [Some steep climbs](#)



- [Top of the mountain lunches](#)



- [And much good après la randonnée](#)



From the President

-- by Mike Cogut --

I am hoping that everyone is in good health and enjoying the recreational activities that winter provides.

In terms of managing the Club, the past few months have been very quiet, which has been a welcome change. While Covid is still a threat, it seems that everyone has decided to ignore it and get on with their lives. I have given up on trying to figure out this disease but the one thing that I request is that if you test positive within a few days of participating in a hike, please let the coordinator know and he/she will let the others know without mentioning your name. Thanks for that.

Here are some items that may be of interest to you all.

1. The cessation of in person social events and meetings have provided a budgetary surplus for the past couple of years. Therefore, our financial position is as strong as it has been for many years.
2. Our membership seems to have significantly declined so if you haven't yet renewed your membership, please do so. There is no waitlist at this time so if you have friends who want to join, please let them know. We are open for new members.
3. As I have said before, the vibrancy of the Club is based on the number of hikes posted on our calendar. I was pleased to see how many hikes had been posted this past season but there is always room for more. Currently two members post more than 50% of the hikes. Coordinating hikes can be a very rewarding experience. You get to go on the hikes that you really want to do and the hikers really appreciate your organizing the trip. And you feel really good after you have lead a successful trip. This type of volunteering takes very little effort and really supports the goals of the Club. If you have never co-ordinated a hike and are interested in doing so, please contact Lorna Jurgens our hike planning coordinator at lornajurgens@yahoo.ca and she can set you up.
4. Fritz has fixed the agonizing email problem that we have been having over the past year.

(Continued on page 2)

The 2022 Executive Committee

President:	Mike Cogut	Social Coordinator:	Sigrid Willi
Vice President:	Pat Cooper	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:	Julia Tsang		



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5. I have had a number of inquiries about posting hikes with dogs. We discussed this at our last Executive Committee Meeting and it was unanimously agreed that this would be very difficult to implement and therefore it was voted down. It was confirmed that we would continue with the rules set out in our Membership Policy which is on the website and says "No Pets". So, no cats, reptiles, birds or dogs.

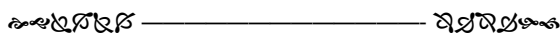
6. We have had members volunteers to fill all positions with the exception of the Vice-President on the Executive Committee for next year. I want to thank these members for volunteering and particularly thank the present members of the Executive who have been great to work with.

7. Pat Cooper has agreed to put her name on the ballot for President next year so we are looking for someone to volunteer to take on the role of Vice-President. This position has no defined duties except to learn how the Executive Committee works so that they can become President the following year. If you have any interest please contact Doug Hackbarth at hackenv4@shaw.ca and he can fill you in on the details.

On January 12, 2023 we will be holding our AGM virtually on ZOOM. We will send out an email in the next couple of weeks with more details.

I wish everyone a happy Christmas season and a safe and great New Year on the walkways and the trails.

Mike Cogut.



From Your Membership Team

-- by Julia Tsang & Deb Steele --

Hello Hikers! Thanks to all our members who renewed.

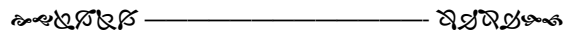
Congratulations to our NEW Honorary Members: Therese Caron, Gail Hinchliffe, Carrol Jaques and Robert Loov, Kevin Johnson and Wendy Gardiner, Adelle Karmas, Steve and Jane

Mikalsky, and Jennifer Prest and Martin Stocker. These 11 individuals have completed 20 years of active membership with the Club. This is something to be proud of!

As of press time we have 276 individual members. 85 are Honorary and three are new members. A warm welcome to the following new members: Evette Berry, Matt Merrick, and Tram Tran. If you see them on the trail, be sure to extend a hearty CWH welcome.

As the Club no longer has a wait list, we will continue to offer new memberships for the 2023 season.

HAPPY HIKING/SNOWSHOEING!



Hikes Planning Committee

-- by Lorna Jurgens --

A successful summer hiking season has come to a close and we are now in our winter season.

This year we had 141 day hikes which is up from 135 last year. There were 99 mountain hikes and 42 city hikes.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who coordinated hikes this year. Four members each coordinated over 15 hikes. Steve Bodie lead the list with 43 hikes, followed by Lynn Andres with 33 hikes, Gord Maclean with 20 hikes and Shirley Marsh with 17 hikes.

There were two multi day hiking trips to Fernie and Waterton, both in July. A big thank you to Susan Korba for organizing the trip to Fernie as it was a new area for the Club. A good number of members came out for that trip. The Waterton trip was organized by myself and Pati Roberts. It too was a great success and we are looking into the possibility of doing another trip in 2023.

Unfortunately the three New Members Day hikes offered this year were not well attended by the new members: Three new members attended the easy hike and two new members and a guest attended the intermediate hike. There was no



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interest in the difficult hike.

Stay safe and enjoy the upcoming winter season.

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## Social Committee

-- by Sigrid Wili and Pat Booker --

The Holidays are fast approaching with the AGM to follow sometime in early 2023 – to be announced at a later date. Since it will most likely be a Zoom event, your social conveners will once again have an easy job of it –not having to put together the goodies and refreshments we used to enjoy.

Although socializing in this way won't take place at this time, your Executive Committee are seriously thinking about an in-person social event, perhaps sometime in the spring. We will certainly keep you informed! It would be nice to have a chance to socialize again with fellow CWH members over a glass of wine.

In the meantime, enjoy the winter months, and Happy Holidays!

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Nominations of Officers

-- by Doug Hackbarth --

The Executive of Calgary Weekend Hikers is soliciting nominations for officers for 2023.

This year we are specifically looking for a Vice President. An overview of the duties of this position is as follows:

1. The VP has no specific duties except to be available in the absence of the President;
2. The position's main purpose is to learn how the Club and the Executive Committee operate so that the Vice President can become the President for the following year;
3. Estimated time commitment is a couple of hours a month and 3 Zoom meetings per year (plus the AGM);

4. Since the successful candidate will ultimately manage the Club, the current President will be available to mentor the VP to facilitate a smooth transition at the end of the one-year term: and
5. As a side note, the President's responsibilities generally only require a few hours per month.

This position is a great way to give back to the club, work with an efficient team and meet people while not being too much of a burden on your time.

Our volunteers are the factor that make our club great. Please consider standing for office.

If you wish to participate or require additional information, please contact Doug Hackbarth at hackenv4@shaw.ca; (587) 583-9834.

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## Waterton Extravaganza

-- by Pati Roberts and Lorna Jurgens --

In July, 19 club members travelled to Waterton for a hiking extravaganza. For some individuals, it was their first time in the area so trips ranged from easy to difficult to accommodate all hiking levels. The classic hikes of Waterton were offered; Crypt Lake, Rowe Lakes and Lineham Ridge, Carthew-Alderson and Akamina Ridge as well as less known gems like Sofa Falls, Lakeview Ridge and Forum Falls. Flowers were blooming in all their glory, enough that one hike consisted mainly of a flower count. The hikes offered had it all; walking by waterfalls and lakes, climbing ridges and summiting peaks.

We were able to share information on the different hikes that went out during the day at Happy Hour at Bear Mountain Motel, a great time to get together and exchange stories. Only one group of hikers had to turn around because of the presence of a grizzly with two cubs, not bad for the Waterton and surrounding area. It is possible that we may offer the Waterton trip again in the summer of July 23 because of the positive feedback. So, if you are interested in



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exploring the Waterton area, keep your eyes on the CWH calendar in the New Year to see the posting.

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The Fernie Trip

-- by Deb Kocay --

The Fernie Trip this year was a big success. We landed on approximately 35 people participating in all or part of the adventure. The Fairy Creek trail was a popular hike on Tuesday, the arrival day. Hikes on the following days included; Mount Fernie Trail, Castle Mountain, Mount Proctor, Eric's Trip, Dem Bones, and Stove Trail Loop, Rail Trail into Old Growth Forest, Mt. Fernie Provincial Park hike, and a guided Fossils and Geology: A 380 Million Year Old History Lesson and hike. Thanks to all those who coordinated and lead hikes. Fernie offers a variety of hikes, featuring; a west coast feeling, old forest growth, and amazing views.

We also had three Happy Hours, held at the Fernie Hotel. The outdoor patio served as a fun and casual place for people to gather and connect with one another. Thanks to those willing to serve as hosts; Loretta, kicking off the first happy hour. Lauralee and Andrew hosting the second, and Dorothy, Deb and Sue Allen hosting the third. Although there were off and on showers during the hikes and happy hours, we were fortunate to have nice temperatures for hiking and socializing. Reports and feedback overwhelmingly say the Fernie Adventure was indeed very worthwhile and well worth doing again in the near future.

Thanks to Sue Korba for being the main organizer of this trip. We missed her being with us. And we hope she can join us next year!

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## From your Webmaster

-- by Fritz Kiessling --

This article is intended to address a problem that hike coordinators face from time to time. I hope

to clarify some confusion and to provide the needed instructions.

### Situation

When a hike coordinator posts a hike to the Online CWH Calendar there is a box at the bottom of the Add/Edit webpage with a checkmark to indicate, when the event is posted by clicking the "Submit" button, that the program is to send email notifications of the hike posting to all members that have subscribed to receive these emails.

With the Add/Edit webpage open the notification checkmark is in the box by default, and all is well if it is left there. But there are a couple of situations that have caused confusion of what steps to take next.

- a) During the initial posting if the checkmark is removed for some reason the program of course does not send the email notifications. What now?
- b) Or when a hike needs to be edited with changes sufficiently large that should be notified to all members, what now?

In both cases the event/hike needs to be edited. However, this time when the Add/Edit webpage is opened, the notification checkbox is not "there" at the bottom. Again, what now?

### Instruction

Because you have the Add/Edit webpage open, don't do anything except two steps.

First go to the bottom, and change the status from active to inactive, and click the "Submit" button. The page will close.

Second, go in again to "Edit" the hike. This time the checkmark is available. Make the necessary edits, then go to the bottom of the page, and if your edits make it necessary add the checkmark, then change the status to active and click "Submit". That's it. No more "What Now?"

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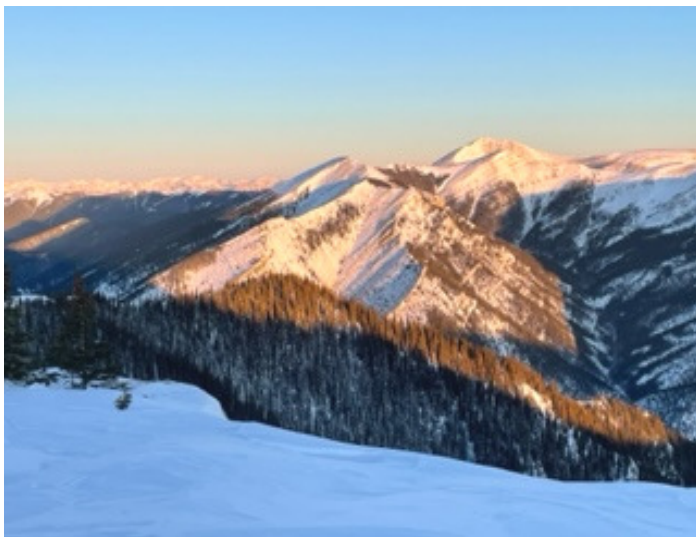
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CALGARY WEEKEND HIKERS

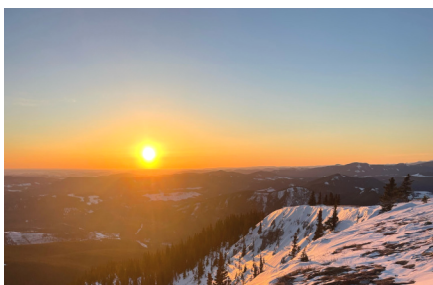
Igloo

-- by Stephen Thor --

The colours are coming up on the horizon rich and vibrant! Burnished red snow and glowing tree tops and an expanding band of red glow in the east slowly takes over. From the orange glow Calgary shows across the horizon.



It is ideal and I am taking picture after picture of the wonders of snow, mountains and the promise of a wonderful mountain day!



I have a fellow sunrise enthusiast who likes to hike mountains with me and we settle into a lovely hiking

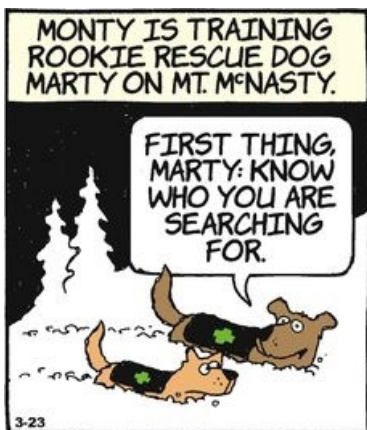
conversation after the sun makes that popping sound as it breaks the horizon. He did not plan to stay up until noon so soon I was alone again to build my igloo.



I got a fair amount of work done and we really got to town after lunch. We completed the base and the entrance so I am hopeful to finish it in one more installment of time.

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**CALGARY  
WEEKEND  
HIKERS**

## **You have got to read this**

-- by Dorothy Whitson --

Met Jason Leo Bantle the weekend of November 19th at the big Art Market at Telus Centre - he had a booth and lots of photos on display, framed and otherwise. There was a massive framed picture of The Boss — while I was there a couple from Okotoks came in and bought that particular piece for a whopping four figure amount!.

The following article is included here with the permission of the Calgary Herald and Jason Leo Bantle.

## **The Big Boss** **Calgary Herald Nov. 14, 2022**

-- by MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ --

When photographer Jason Leo Bantle began following the fresh tracks of a grizzly in the snow in Banff National Park, he wasn't trying to find the bear that left them — and he certainly didn't expect to encounter the Bow Valley's most prolific bruin twice in one day.

"You don't go hunting for a grizzly bear when it's fall time," joked the award-winning, Canmore-based nature photographer.

Cautiously, Bantle followed the tracks backwards, finding a den where the bear spent the night and a number of freshly dug holes where it had been looking for one of its last meals before it settles in to hibernate for the winter.

Curiosity satisfied, Bantle got back in his car to leave but spotted something "glistening" outside his window as he drove off.

"I'm like, what? Was that a bear?" he said. "I backed up and sure enough, there was dirt flying in the air and he was digging under a stump looking for another ground squirrel."

About 100 meters away from the grizzly, Bantle pulled out his longest lens to capture the moment from a safe distance. With a closer look, his suspicions were confirmed — it was the Boss.

"I knew it was him when I took the very first photo. You can see his right ear, he's got only half an ear. I believe that's where his ear tag No. 122 used to be," he said. "That's his distinguishing feature, plus his pure size. He's just a massive creature."

Officially known as Bear No. 122, the Boss is considered to be the toughest and most dominant grizzly bear in the Bow Valley region. The estimated 300-kilogram grizzly is believed to be more than 20 years old.

"He's kind of a guy who to a certain extent, is really leading the grizzly bear population in Banff," said Bantle, who has a background in biology. "He's managed to eke out a living in a lot of places where, unfortunately, grizzly bears end up being killed due to human disturbance. He's a bear that's navigated the Banff-lake Louise area and lived a long life."

The Boss is best known for a number of headline-making incidents, including eating black bears and surviving being hit by a train. Bantle said the bear is likely to have fathered 70 per cent of the cubs in the region.

Bantle said he felt honoured to be in the presence of the valley's most famed bear — who he'd happened upon only a handful of times before — describing the situation as "surreal."

"The light was fading right like it was sunset, the mountains were lit up behind them. I mean, it was just a gorgeous scene of nature. And with a legend; he's legendary, this guy," he said.

Bantle left for a bite to eat and returned later in the day to try to catch the massive bruin on camera again. He sat on the edge of a meadow and was lucky enough to catch the Boss plodding through the snow for a second brief photo opportunity.

"I've only experienced the Boss four or five times and every time it's just — he's such a massive creature. ... In my experiences with him, I find him to be a gentle giant, but again, he's a wild animal," he said.



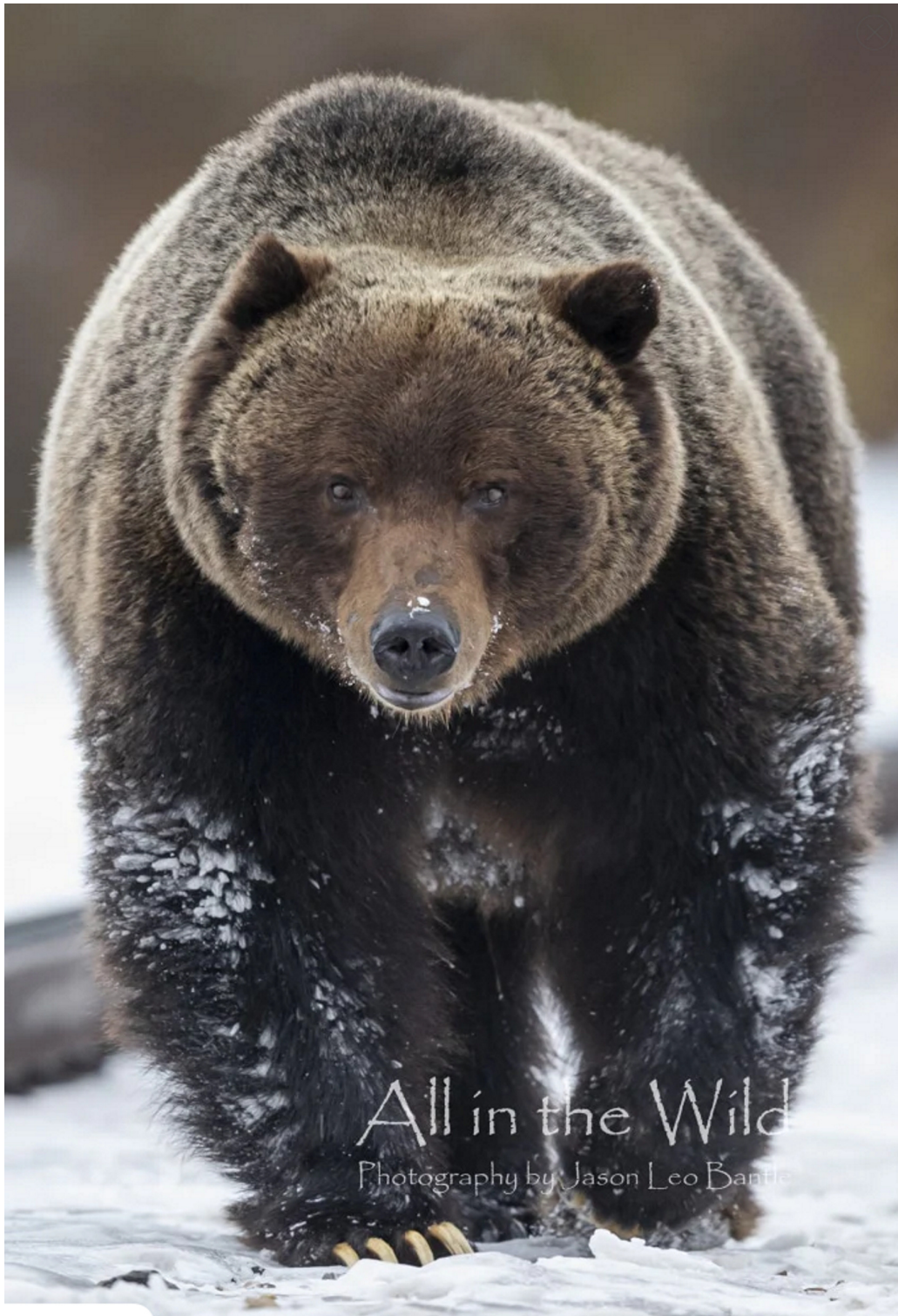
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WEEKEND  
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“He doesn't pose for long; he kind of just does his thing. He's a cool dude.”

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All in the Wild  
Photography by Jason Leo Bantle

**Demanding Proper Respect - The Boss**