

Rockwalls & Waterfalls



The Teddy Bear Picnic

A new addition to our memorial bench program



S'mores at Kicking Horse Campground

President's Message:

Here in Yoho we had a beautiful summer with lots of sunshine and blue skies. The Friends took to the streets, the campgrounds, and even the cemetery as part of our summer program.

Besides the weekly Historic Walking Tour, we had a Full Moon Walk to the Field Cemetery; a Teddy Bear Picnic at the Field Pond with guest speaker, Libby Root, from Parks Canada; an early morning Bird Walk led by local naturalist, Bruce Bembridge; a Full Moon Walk at Takakkaw Falls; a campfire with

s'mores at Kicking Horse Campground; and a Geology Fireside Chat with Rob and Cathy Taerum and a "gaggle of geologists," which was "rained in" to the community centre at the last minute.

We made lots of new friends and renewed acquaintances with some of our long-term frequent visitors.

Now summer is officially over, the larches are resplendent, and we are gathering to plan what's next for the Friends.

Helen Barry, President

The Friends of Yoho

Deb Bancroft,
Business
Manager

Amy McKenzie,
Assistant
Manager

Helen Barry,
President

Maggie Fields,
Secretary

Lorill Ireland

Ginette Therrien

Brianna Burley

Mikki Morency

Mike Finn

Meet our newest board members...

Mikki Morency: I moved to Field in 1996 and called it home for ten years. I then moved back to Ontario in 2004, but discovered my heart was still in YOHO, so I now return every year for five months. During this time, I work at Emerald Sport and Gift and meet people from all over the world. This opportunity allows me to instill in them my passion and protection for wildlife and flora. I have many hobbies which include photography, gardening, cooking, hiking and travelling, however my greatest enjoyment comes from painting. There is no better place to gain inspiration from the beautiful mountains that surround us!

Brianna Burley: I have been working in the Yoho area since 2005 when I started in the LLYK (Lake Louise Yoho Kootenay) as a district warden at Saskatchewan Crossing. In 2007 I started working for Hal Morrison in the Human Wildlife Conflict program for Lake Louise, Yoho and Kootenay and have stuck with it ever since. I am now the HWC Specialist for the LLYK FU and couldn't be happier with the position. I call Golden, BC home where I spend the bulk of my free time enjoying outdoor pursuits such as mountain biking and skiing with friends, my husband Ian and our lovely yellow lab Orla. I am also painstakingly trying to wrap up my MSc at the University of Calgary where I have been looking at the determinants of risk in bear-train interactions. I am new to the Friends of Yoho group.

Ginette Therrien: I was introduced to Field and Yoho in 1986 and met wonderful people whom became my second family and lifelong friends. I have lived on and off in this area ever since. I became a permanent resident of Field in 2012 after purchasing a house here. I love the small town feel, the fact that kids can be kids and everyone looking after each other. I feel privileged living in this area and the fact that outdoor entertainment is right out my back door; exploring and enjoying my environment by foot, bike or on skis. Although I have volunteered at various events for the Friends of Yoho over the years, this is my first time as a board member.



Summer staff in the gift shop:
Amy, Sara & Holden



Cookies and
cake at the
Teddy Bear
Picnic



Human-Wildlife Conflict

What an amazing summer we just had. Beautiful weather, lots of warm sunny days and little precipitation. Great for hiking and camping – not so great if you are a bear trying to meet its caloric needs for a season. When we take a look back at the 2014 bear season to date, it was a tough year for both black and grizzly bears. A late spring and delayed summer meant we saw bears feeding roadside a lot later than usual. We had multiple grizzly bears feeding roadside at the Yoho/Banff boundary right through the July 1st long weekend. Snow at higher elevations kept bears lower in the valleys later into the spring than normal, leading to an increase in roadside bear jams and highway-caused bear mortalities. New management challenges were introduced for wildlife staff, as we tried to find new and creative ways to allow bears to forage on the important roadside vegetation while trying to keep them safe from traffic – all the while continuing to try to maintain a safe distance between bears and parks visitors.

Each summer we, as wildlife managers, hold our breaths in the hopes that we will have a stellar berry crop year and the bears will be able to not only meet their caloric needs, but hopefully exceed them. A good berry year leads to healthier bears, reduced human-bear conflict and is a good indicator of what cub success may be the following season. As the summer crept by we kept hoping something would change, but finally we had to accept that this year produced very few berries. There were some good patches through the mountain national parks, but for the most part it was a berry crop failure. Bears were hit with a double whammy this year, late green up and then very few berries.

What does this ‘double whammy’ mean for bears as we move into fall? Well, they are likely hungry and are trying to find some good fall forage before they den up for the winter. During years like this we find that human-bear encounters

tend to increase as bears start coming closer and closer to human areas in order to try and find food rewards. It is not uncommon for bears to choose foods they would usually deem as secondary choices in years of poor berry production. For example, in Field we tend to see black bears show up in the village to forage on mountain ash berries in years where we see poor buffalo berry production. We also find bears getting into more unsecured garbage, dog food, bbqs, bird feeders, etc. You name it, they'll find it.

As we move deeper into fall, I want to take this opportunity to remind people to be diligent about wildlife attractant management as these critters prepare for hibernation. Here's a good reminder list:

- Carry bear spray and know how to use it. Bears can stay out and about well past snow and freeze up. We've had bears reported to us into December.
- Always hike with your dog on leash

- Hike in groups whenever possible
- Make sure all your garbage and recyclables are properly stored so wildlife can't access them. Keep them inside or take them immediately to bear proof garbage and recycling containers.
- Manage your fruit bearing trees – either pick/collect the fruit or considering removing and replacing fruit bearing trees with a less attractive tree to bears
- Make sure BBQs are cleaned and consider storing indoors (garage, shed)
- Do not leave pet food unattended outdoors
- Remove all bird feeders during all non-winter months

In closing this month, I want to wish everyone a happy fall! I hope everyone is enjoying the cooler temperature and I encourage everyone to please do your part to help keep bears wild this fall and out of our human attractants.

Brianna Burley

Human Wildlife Conflict Specialist,
Lake Louise, Yoho and Kootenay

We're Open!

The Friends of Yoho Gift Shop, located in the Field Visitor Centre, will remain open throughout the winter season.

Stop in, Thursday through Sunday, to purchase gifts, t-shirts, toques, parks passes, and more!

The Friends of Yoho Annual Pasta Dinner and Silent Auction

Saturday, November 29th – Doors open at 5:30

More details to come about our grand event... Stay updated on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/friendsofyoho

Early Bird Membership Draw

You can now renew your membership for the year 2015!

Send us your membership renewal by JANUARY 1st, 2015, and we will enter you in a draw to win a **lifetime membership**.

Thank you for your continued support!

I would like to renew my membership!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ POSTAL/ZIP CODE: _____

CITY: _____ PROVINCE: _____

___ Individual Membership (\$20)

___ Family Membership (\$40)

___ Corporate Membership (\$100)

___ Lifetime Membership (\$200)

___ Donation

___ Cheque (Please make out to **The Friends of Yoho Society**)

Credit card # _____

Expiry date: ____ / ____

Signature: _____

