

Presidents Message

by Helen Barry

Hello Friends of Yoho,

I have been a lifetime member of the Friends of Yoho for about as long as the organization has existed, and I have been on the Board of Directors for about 10 years. I served as secretary for a couple of years, and as president for the past 3 years,

I enjoy doing the Historic Walking Tours of Field during the summer months and have learned lots of interesting tidbits about our park from some of the participants. I also take part in some of our other summer programs such as "Meet S'more Friends" in the campground.

Big changes occurred in our organization this year as we bid farewell to our long serving manager, Deb Bancroft, and welcomed our new manager, Brenda Selkirk, and new board member Sarah Osadetz.

We are finally having success with the operation of our Spiral Tunnel Model Train at the Visitors' Centre, thanks to the dedication of some of our Board members (more about that later in this newsletter), the cooperation of Parks Canada, and the expert help of "Shane the Train Guy" who takes time out of his busy home and work life to keep us "on track."

We are in the process of purchasing and installing a water bottle refill station at the



Three of the four Friends of Yoho Board of Directors & General Manager enjoying the most successful Silent Auction and Membership Drive event. With over 40 dinners, 37 annual memberships, and 3 new lifetime memberships, the event was an enormous success!

Visitors' Centre to attempt to decrease the number of single use plastic bottles in the Park.

And we are supporting the Community of Field's Restoration of the former St. Joseph's Catholic Church as a multi-use public space, with donations collected from our historic walking tour as well as the profits from our fall Fundraising and Membership Drive held on November 17.

As always, we appreciate your continued support which allows us to continue as an organization. And we would like to remind you that we are always on the lookout for new interested people with some time to give to join our Board of Directors.

The Friends of Yoho promotes public appreciation and understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of Yoho National Park.

Vice Presidents Message

by Karla Gaffney

Karla Gaffney is our current Vice President. She has been on our Board of Directors since 1994.

Karla has lived in Field for 28 years and is extremely passionate about Yoho National Park. Her areas of interest are...the railway history of the Kicking Horse Pass through Yoho, both engineering and human. And the world-famous Burgess Shale fossils that almost all life on earth can trace its origins back to.

In the summer months Karla owns and operates a guesthouse and as she says..." loves that the world comes to her door and she can share the wonder of Yoho with them". She particularly enjoys volunteering weekly to host the "Historic Walking Tour of Field" during the summer months.

Karla encourages all who are interested in Yoho National Park to become a Friend of Yoho through our organization.



A picture of the golden larches on Opabin Plateau above Lake O'Hara in Yoho National Park, taken by Zeljko Kozomara. This area offers spectacular views, such as the one captured in this photo, and is a sought after destination by many visitors to the Yoho area.

Secretary Message

by Sarah Osadetz

My name is Sarah Osadetz. I believe Friends of Yoho does great work in Yoho National Park. I am grateful to be a part of it. I've been on the board since May of 2018, joining as Secretary.



Emerald Lake pictured above makes for some great fun for outdoor enthusiasts like Sarah. The best cross-country skiing and snowshoeing around Yoho is from late-December through early April. This photo was originally taken from Parks Canada.

I am an avid artist, hiker, skier and cross-country skier. I am a certified Apprentice Hiking Guide through the Interpretive Guides' Association. I am interested in interpretive information. You can call me an 'Interp nerd'!

I also am an avid instructor of skiing- both downhill and cross country, so being self-described as 'Technique - Nerd' follows suit. I joined Friends of Yoho to contribute back to Parks Canada as I have worked in the LLYK unit on and off for 16 years.

I believe in what Parks Canada is doing as a whole. In this day and age with increased interest, the challenges and advantages that offers and also the sociological necessity of being outdoors, I want to give back to people through sharing of passions and enthusiasm for nature - respect of it, learning from it and immersion in it.

General Board Member Message

by Ginette Therrien

I've been a board member for the past 3 years. I'm at my best with hands on projects, technical problem solving (excluding computer), tinkering; and so much more.

I never thought I would one day become a "train geek!"

Let me tell you! I never thought I would one day become a "train geek" (by default). Being a hands-on person, it soon became evident that as a board member and being on site as a Parks Canada staff; it made sense to take the lead in helping to keep the train "on track".

General Manager Message

by Brenda Selkirk



My name is Brenda Selkirk and I am the General Manager for the Friends of Yoho Society. My motivation to get involved and support Yoho National Park has me focused on supporting the Friends and Park projects. The gift store has been a tremendous

support in all the activities the Friends work on. The staff this year contributed to another busy tourist season. I want to thank each of them: Kiran Gosal, Talia Galligan, Karla Gaffney and Madonna Hollohan. The volunteers who made my job easier are appreciated and include my family. Thank you for another successful year!

There's a Train a Coming!

by Ginette Therrien

There's a train a coming! Coming down the track... so goes the train, so goes the song.

Yes, the Spiral Tunnel Train Model located in the Yoho Visitor Centre has been operational this past summer (minus a few hicks) Thanks to Golden local Shane Mitchell, our model train specialist. Shane has been instrumental in problem solving and finally having a

WORKING train model. An "N scale" train model requires a lot of TLC, especially to keep it running 10 hrs/day, 7 days/wk for the better part of six months.



Detail from the original real-photo postcard from the Canadian Kodak Company depicting the Spiral Tunnels in 1908.

Parks Canada has also been very supportive and instrumental in having the model train running on a daily basis. They made it possible by having some of their Yoho

Visitor Centre staff (Sarah, Kat, Tessa and myself) trained to do daily maintenance of tracks and engine and a more thorough monthly cleaning and maintenance done by Shane.

The Spiral Tunnel Model Train has been a great asset to the Yoho VRC and a tourist / passerby attraction. Ask the staff at the VRC; it's amazing to watch people's reaction and elation over the working train model.

I would like to extend my thanks to Shane Mitchell for being a great tutor and in making this happen.

The train model will be put to bed once the VRC closes for the winter.

Hope to "choo-choo you here in the Spring of 2019!

Commemorative Bench Program

by Brenda Selkirk

Since 2013 the Go International Program has done maintenance on memorial park benches. Since then all the existing benches and new ones have been maintained by different international groups of volunteers. The volunteers change during the months of May to September each year. The park benches have been brought up to a satisfactory condition more or less every year. Over time the care by the volunteers has resulted in less overall maintenance to the benches with more time to do other projects.

In 2018 the Go Program volunteers added the maintenance of the Kiosk and picnic tables at the Visitor Resource Centre in Field and two Kiosk areas in Lake Louise. They sanded the fence and painted approximately one half of the fence at the Cemetery in Field as well as the two Cemetery benches. This is great work!



This photo demonstrates just one of the thousands of times the benches get used throughout each year.

Friends of Yoho appreciate the work of the volunteers. The volunteers visit the gift shop each month they work and pick an item of their choosing. This year we had 12 volunteers: May- Lina from Germany, June-Pilar from Spain, Keiko from Japan, July- Vivien from Germany, Ayumu and Hyuaga from Japan, and Lorenz from Switzerland, August-Johanna-Germany, Emy- Japan, Kao-Japan, Wiley-Taiwan, Alvaro-Spain, September-Kao and Rina-Japan. Managers Ron Allen (LLSR), Nicky – (Parks Canada), Leah-Team Coordinator and Danielle- (LLSRC).

Volunteers pay the Go International Program in order to obtain a work visa but they do not pay the Lake Louise Ski Area, The Lake Louise Sports & Recreation Centre or Parks Canada. The groups really enjoy their contributions to enhance the park by improving the visual aesthetics and resulting guest experience.

As an example, The Thomas Gummo Memorial Bench at Takakkaw Falls was installed in September 2006. The family visited the bench this summer and said it was in great condition. Being located so close to the falls has not impacted the condition of the bench due to this ongoing maintenance.

Our Membership

Anyone is eligible to become a member of the Friends of Yoho Society! Becoming a member has several benefits including:

- Developing friendships and connecting with a community that is passionate about understanding and appreciating the natural and cultural heritage of Yoho National Park
- Receiving a sense of accomplishment and pride, knowing your membership fee helps in the development of programs and projects that benefit Yoho National Park
- Unlocking a special 10% discount on merchandise in the Friends of Yoho retail store, as well as at addition Friends stores across Canada
- Subscription to newsletter just like this one that will help keep you informed on programs, projects, and events that the Friends are currently working on!

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
MEMBERSHIP, VOLUNTEERING OR
DONATING, PLEASE CONTACT:*

PHONE: (250) 343 – 6393
EMAIL: info@friendsofyoho.ca

More information about the upcoming elections will be coming out in the spring, but in the meantime please connect with us for more information in the near term.

Unique Gifts

The Friends of Yoho National Park operate a gift shop in the Field Visitor Centre. The primary source of funding for all the Friends operation, projects, programs, and publications come directly from the profits generated at this store. The store offers materials to enhance a

visitor stay in Yoho National Park, specializing in natural and cultural books, as well as trail guides, maps, clothing and giftware unique to Yoho National Park.

The store is usually open seven days a week from April to October each year.

Being open seven days each week for 8 months of the year, the store has a number of full-time staff positions that pay a competitive salary and offer rewarding a rewarding experience in a fast-paced retail environment. In addition to looking for future employees, the store is always on the lookout for new product lines and partnerships, so please reach out whether you're interested in employment, products, or partnerships.

Volunteering

If you have ideas for new programs or projects that may fit with the Friends organization, please let us know! Additionally, if you know of existing initiatives that the Friends are involved with and you'd like to get more involved, please reach out and we will do our best to use your skillset to its full potential. If you'd like to become deeply involved with the Friends of Yoho organization, consider becoming a Board Member!

Membership Pricing

Individual: \$20, annually

Family: \$40, annually

Lifetime: \$200, one time fee