

Evergreen Newsletter

Spring 2019



In this issue:

Annual General Meeting

President's Message

Oh, Where or Where Have My Hiking Poles Been?

New Member Introductions

Implementing Bus Rider Priority Policy and Guidelines

The Last Word

Annual General Meeting – April 11, 2019

Rosemont Community Center

Confederation Park, Nose Hill and the Bullet Coffee Shop called to those that met at 10 am to take a walk before the meeting. The rain held off until most people returned for lunch in the hall. There was an excellent turn out for the meeting, and no major items were on the agenda.

Jane Fraser called the meeting to order at 12:30. The full minutes of the meeting are posted on the website. Highlights included great thanks to all the volunteers who make the club run smoothly. Bob Perkins' financial report shows the club in good condition. Bus fare has been reduced to \$20.00 per trip/plus \$5.00 surcharge on longer trips. Lynn Whittingham outlined the work she has done in the past year and recognised Al Millar (41 outings) and Gary Kerr and Eric Leavitt (39 outings each). Art Johnston's 25 years as an EOSC member was recognized with balloons and a toast.

The new board looks a lot like the old board, except for retiring Past President John Boyd and incoming Vice President John McLean. Thanks John B. for your past leadership.



2019 Board of Directors

Jane Fraser – Past President
Craig Barnstable – President
John McLean -Vice President
Bob Perkins – Treasurer
Stefa Fassina -- Secretary
Lynn Whittingham -- Membership Director
Eric Leavitt -- Website Director
Hugh Powell – Winter Activities Director
Barb Brunton – Summer Hike Director
Greg McKenzie -- Summer Transportation Director
Gary Kerr -- Winter Transportation Director
Stefa Fassina/Jennifer Aikenhead – Social Directors
Carol Morris -- In town Hikes Coordinator
Joan McLean -- Newsletter Coordinator
Sheila Perkins -- Sunshine Person
Elsie Boutillier -- Telephone Coordinator

President's Message at the Annual General Meeting Confederation Park



You've heard from our directors and coordinators so now you know what a terrific job they did this year. I won't repeat their accomplishments, but I would like to thank all of them for making my job pretty easy.

I just have a few noteworthy items to add:

FIRST... was the sudden and untimely passing of our membership director Ole West. Ole was a long-time member of our club who worked hard for us and will always be remembered for his big smile and positive outlook.

Lynn Whittingham stepped up and volunteered to take over the position of membership director, which was a big help to me and the club. With no advance warning, she did a terrific job. Thank you, Lynn!

Another noteworthy item was the implementation of our new website. Thanks to Eric Leavitt, his website team, and CCF Development, we now have an easy to use website that holds so much valuable information. You've heard from other Directors who found the website very helpful on planning trips and storing information. It also allows for the posting of the board minutes as well as the newsletter. Note, any members who do not have access to the website have the newsletters mailed directly to them.

One thing that we recently added, is a link to the Alberta Hiking Association as we are now a member of it. The AHA website lists our club with some information about us, making it more visible to future members and guests, who are the future of our club.

And we're not finished yet as the website can continue to evolve, and I know Eric has a few enhancements in mind.

Our Treasurer, Bob Perkins, has kept our finances in order and we're in great shape! So much so that we have decided to reduce the equity of our club to be more in line with that of a non-profit organization. Bob has recommended to the Board to reduce our bus fare, which the Board has approved. Effective immediately, the bus fare will go back to \$20 (still \$25 for longer trips).

The bussing ran smoothly this year with no transportation problems which was great compared to last year. We also had a very dependable driver, Ray, for most of the year.

Our summer hike schedule went smoothly with only a few exceptions caused mainly due to the weather. And our winter schedule was also successful with only a few cancelled trips. Our final winter trip ran with a 100% full bus!

Our events were again well organized and well attended. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves at them.

Our membership is strong with 128 full members and 33 associate members for a total of 161 members. Over the past year we have added a number of new members, constantly rejuvenating the club. Our policy of requiring 12 outings (which includes a minimum of 6 bus trips plus in town hikes and events such as the AGM) keeps our members motivated and ACTIVE which is great! By keeping active and completing your 12 outings gives you priority on the bus and you get to know people better. It also helps fill the bus!

If anyone wants to know how the seats are assigned on the bus (i.e. the order of priority) there is a new document on the website under "Members" "Club Documents" which outlines our policy.

So, thank you, once again, to our hard-working Board members and all of the many volunteers who make this club as successful as it is. Couldn't do it without all this commitment and help!

Thank you!

Jane Fraser, President

(Editor's Note: The Implementing Bus Rider Priority Policy and Guidelines is also published with the newsletter for your convenience.)



Oh, where oh were have my hiking poles been?

In the last issue, a call was put out for members to tell about a favourite hike. Three members responded, and their articles follow.

Lahaina Pali Trail by Jane Fraser



In November 2018, Betty Weightman and I did a hike in Maui. We choose a Thursday as that's when the Evergreens hike. And what a hike it was...so different than the ones in Alberta! We did the "Windmills hike" which is officially called the Lahaina Pali Trail: 7.8 km, 497 m elevation gain. No shade, very hot, amazing views. Great hike!



Reflections on a Lake Louise Hike by John Boyd

We had a lovely hike on Thursday, through the trees from the Lake up to Fairview Lookout, where you look down at the lake and back to the Chateau. Lunch break and then down the Louise Creek trail to the Village. Great vistas and views are usually the highlights of a hike, but we had none of these, just the beauty of the trees and the creek as snow softly fell without even a breath of wind.

The previous night's snowfall left about 10 cm of new snow on all of the trees and snow was building up on logs that had fallen across the creek. We stopped at a stand of small trees of various heights and we decided that it looked like a church choir.

The creek itself became more beautiful when we left the trees and walked in the open beside the creek, where freezing had started on the banks and on the rocks below water level. Ice and water were a beautiful blue-green against a background of white. We had no sun but perhaps the soft light added to the beauty.

Day Hike to Eva's Graven Ravine in Funasdalen, Sweden

Last fall, Joan and I had the opportunity to travel to Sweden to visit a long-time friend who has a home near the Helag Mountains, not far from the Norwegian border. We were anxious to



explore the wilderness areas nearby so our friend, Jan, took us on a day hike to a very picturesque ravine called Eva's Graven. The story of how the ravine was named tells of a Lapp woman who became lost in a snow storm and fell into the ravine, never to be seen again.

The day was sunny and a bit cool, much as it would be on a fall day in our Rockies. We were above tree line for most of the hike, but the fall colours on the ground were astounding! All shades of yellow, orange, red, and green on a backdrop of grey rock formations created a spectacular pattern for as far as the eye could see. A highlight of the day was seeing herds of reindeer, some in the distance and some not far off as they grazed on the meagre vegetation in the area. We were surprised to learn, all reindeer in Sweden are domesticated.

New Member Introduction

Welcome to all the new members. Here are some brief bios of some of the people who joined since the last newsletter.

Andra McKnight

"Out the door in 84" is the phrase I use to remind myself what year I moved from a small town in Nova Scotia to the big city of Calgary. I wanted more out of life than what was offered in that town so ventured west in search of everything extra from education, employment and entertainment.

After arriving in Calgary, I learned about the oil and gas industry and worked for 32 years as an engineering technician/analyst at CIBC in their Petroleum Engineering Department. I took up hiking in the mountains and knew quickly I discovered my passion. In addition to hiking, I also like to snowshoe, x-c ski, car camp, backpack, travel to hike, kayak which is new to me. I enjoy documenting all these adventures.



I said "good-bye" to my years of employment last August and "hello" to the opportunity of new windows opening up. Once again, I began the search for everything extra to be a part of my retirement years. Now I volunteer with "Wee Read" reading to two grade one students who are not read to at home. I want to travel to new places to hike and that begins this June with a trip to the Dolomites. Two years ago, when I began to picture what I wanted in my retirement years, I came across your website and saved it as a favourite until the time was right. That time is now. I look forward to growing with the Evergreens making new friendships and experiencing new adventures.

Jill Johnston

I came to Calgary from Cornwall ON in 1978 after finishing university thinking I would be here for a couple of years for some mountain adventures before returning to start my 'adult' life. Well ... that plan changed after meeting a fellow and here I still am! My 3 kids are hatched and off on their own adventures and retirement from a research lab at the U of C in 2015 left me with time on my hands. A very good friend introduced me to the Tuesday group which I joined within a month of retiring and after some time I found I wanted to have more opportunities to get into the glorious playground we have at our backdoor. I joined the ranks of Evergreen Seniors' Outdoor Club last fall (thank you Diane Fukami and Greg McKenzie for hosting me) and have felt welcomed every time I come out with you either hiking or snowshoeing. I have learned so much about the mountains and plains, their geography/geology, the creatures that live amongst us and the yearly cycles that nature experiences all because of groups like ESOC and SOCC and the wonderful people who share their knowledge.

When I'm not enjoying your company in the great outdoors, I love spending time with my husband, kids and grandkids who are in town. I hope to impart my love of hiking with my grandkids as they grow up. Last year my 8 year old grandson made it to the top of Yamnuska! I'm sure other adventures await us in the coming years. Maybe in 46 years he will become a member of ESOC too.

Various crafts, cooking/baking, travel and reading also give me great joy. Happy trails to all – see you out there soon.



Valerie Berenyi

Valerie Berenyi is a nature lover and a city lover. A recovering journalist, she also loves swimming, hiking, snowshoeing, uphill and downhill skiing, cooking and travelling. Words, pictures, bicycles, her husband of 34 years, two grown children and one small cat figure prominently in her life. Find her sporadic posts on Instagram at [valerie.berenyi](https://www.instagram.com/valerie.berenyi).

Peter Dankers and Marja Verhoef

After many years of hiking and biking together and with friends, mainly in Western Canada and Europe, we were looking for a safe, enjoyable and socially stimulating environment to continue our outdoor activities in the years to come. When searching the internet last summer, we found the Evergreen Club and tried to join as guests on some summer hikes. Alas, both times the bus was already fully booked and we didn't want to bump people off the bus. A few months passed when our friends Gerrit and Johanna Voordouw asked us if we had ever considered joining a hiking club and if we had heard about the Evergreen Club. Of course, we had. We decided to make a combined effort to join the club. After our return from a hiking trip to Italy and their return from a trip to the Netherlands we contacted the Club and early December Gerrit and Johanna made their first Evergreen winter trip to Lake Louise. We had to wait a bit longer because of other Thursday commitments and two cancelled trips around the holidays. But early January we finally made it and Marja and I were welcomed very warmly on the bus to Lake Louise. In the meantime, one of my regular coffee friends, Tom van Dijk (pictured below), asked me if I knew anything about a seniors hiking club that organizes hiking trips on Thursdays, because he was invited by Kyra Fisher to join them as a guest. When I told him our experience he became enthusiastic and decided to give it a try. He hasn't missed a trip since. So that is the story of 'How the Dutch invaded the Evergreen Club'.

During the few months we are full club members, we not only made many new friends, but we also met people we know from the past. Merle Dalip worked with Marja at the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary, Peter Kubica was one of my colleagues at Petro Canada, Jane Heward was a member of the same Babysit Co-op in Brentwood as we were many years ago and Wayne Kelly is married to one of Marja's friends. So, no question that we feel very much at home at the Club. We enjoy the companionship, the positive attitude, the well-organized trips and cheerful mood on the trails. Now we are looking forward to the summer hikes. The program looks interesting. I recognize some of our old favourites, but there are also trails in areas that are new to us and we eagerly want to try. See you on the trails.



Implementing Bus Rider Priority Policy and Guidelines

Over the years the Evergreen Seniors Outdoor Club has developed policies around bus ridership. These policies support a fairer way to “bump” people from the bus to a carpool and use a lottery number system rather than just bumping the last people who sign up. The Policies related to bus passengers after 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays are:

- 1) No cancellations will be accepted, and fares must be paid.
- 2) The Transportation Director will assign spaces to Full Members first, based on their lottery number, then Associate Members and then guests. Full Members who do not have a space and are “bumped” from the bus due to a low lottery number, will be recorded by the Transportation Director to minimize the repeated “bumping” of Full Members.

Ever since the new Evergreen website was released last year, we are often asked two questions: 1) “Is the lottery number system still being used for bumping?” and 2) “Why can’t I see my lottery number once I have registered?”.

As the policy states, the random lottery number is still being automatically generated by the website when you register and is still being used for bumping. But the newly designed Registration sheets, with the membership status, space for a full signature (as per Parks Canada’s requirement), and the Park Pass Info column, leaves no room for the lottery number on the printout. The lottery number is still available on the website to the Transportation Directors, since they are the ONLY ones who use it.

People may say it is helpful if they know the lottery number once they register because they could plan for possibly driving a carpool. Be assured, when it looks like there will be a carpool, the Transportation Director will phone potential drivers as early in the week as possible. There should be no surprises when the time comes to confirm carpools.

When bumping is required, a priority order is followed according to the policy. There are a variety of variables that enter into the decisions of who is on the bus. It is the responsibility of the Transportation Director to assign the seats based on the policy.

Regardless of the lottery number, if a FULL MEMBER has already been bumped during the current Membership year, every effort will be made to avoid a further bump during the Membership year. The Transportation Director maintains a list of all bumped passengers to implement this portion of the policy.

Thursday morning in the Montgomery parking lot, every effort is made by the Transportation Director to put people back on the bus and collapse arranged carpools, if for example, there are any “no-shows” or last-minute cancellations. If you did not register online or phone the Transportation Director, you are asked not to get on the bus until given permission that a seat is available. In overbooked situations it is challenging enough to keep track of who should and should not be on the bus without people assuming they have a seat when they are not on the Registration sheet.

If you have any questions on the implementation of the Evergreen policy regarding bus ridership, please do not hesitate to ask one of the Transportation Directors (Gary Kerr for Winter and Greg McKenzie for Summer or the Backup Transportation Director – John Morck).



Valentine's Day cake decorating at William Watson Lodge

(Baker Lynn Whittingham and her assistant Dorothy Lloyd
Missing - Decorator Kyra Fisher)