

Evergreen Outdoor Club Newsletter

December 2021



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Picture this

The Last Word

Photo: Lake Louise, 12/21

Joan McLean

Trip to Elbow Valley & Snagmore Trail

November 11, 2021

We assembled in the Fullerton Trailhead parking lot to get acquainted and discuss our hike. With Bernie Nemeth in the lead Ann Lyon, Lillian Sparrow, Katie McNeill, Tom Van Dijk, Helen Armstrong, Patricia Kerr, Peter Dankers, Marja Verhoef, Brenda Glendon and myself, Gary Kerr, set off over the bridge toward the Fullerton junction.



Heading in an easterly direction from the junction on the Snagmore trail we climbed up onto the ridge overlooking the Elbow River Valley. Great views of the valley and the Elbow River to the south.

As we followed the aspen-lined escarpment overlooking the Elbow River, we spotted the village used for television shows, great spot nestled in the bend in the river. As we carried on away from the ridge up toward the top of the loop we had set our watches to stop and take some time to remember those who sacrificed so we could enjoy our hike in a free society.

Peter and Tom shared some very poignant stories of the atrocities and the celebrations in The Netherlands that touched us all and made our minutes of silence very important to all of us.



As we resumed our climb to our lunch spot we enjoyed the peacefulness of our surroundings. The trail is in great shape gently climbing through a variety of vegetation. We reached a clearing where we had great views eastward and could pick out the Calgary skyline on the horizon. We enjoyed a nice break for lunch before heading back down the other side of the loop, making some questionable route decisions along the way. We returned to the parking lot in good time and all agreed it was a great day of hiking! Thanks to Peter and Tom for making it a special Remembrance Day and to Bernie for leading the group and as usual the great photos.



Gary Kerr

A Note About Bear Spray

As the summer hiking season winds down and we get the skis waxed and the snowshoes readied for a few months of winter fun, many of us empty our summer packs as part of the ritual of preparing for winter activities. Bear spray, although a necessity for hiking, seems like extra weight in the pack once the bears have entered into hibernation so it comes out of the pack for a few months. But the story doesn't end there!

Now is the time to check the expiration date on your bear spray and if it has expired, it is advisable to dispose of it rather than keep it in storage over the winter. Friends of ours had a very nasty experience when their expired bear spray exploded while driving to the trailhead. Apparently, a seam in the canister failed and the contents filled their car!

Another reason to swap out your old canister for a new one is that over time, the contents of the canister loses potency and may be less effective in the event you need to use it.

The City of Calgary has made it easy for us to dispose of expired bear spray by designating six fire stations around the city with dedicated bear spray disposal bins. We took ours to the one in Varsity last week but you may want to google the location nearest you.

If your bear spray has not yet expired, several suggestions for proper and safe storage over the winter include the following:

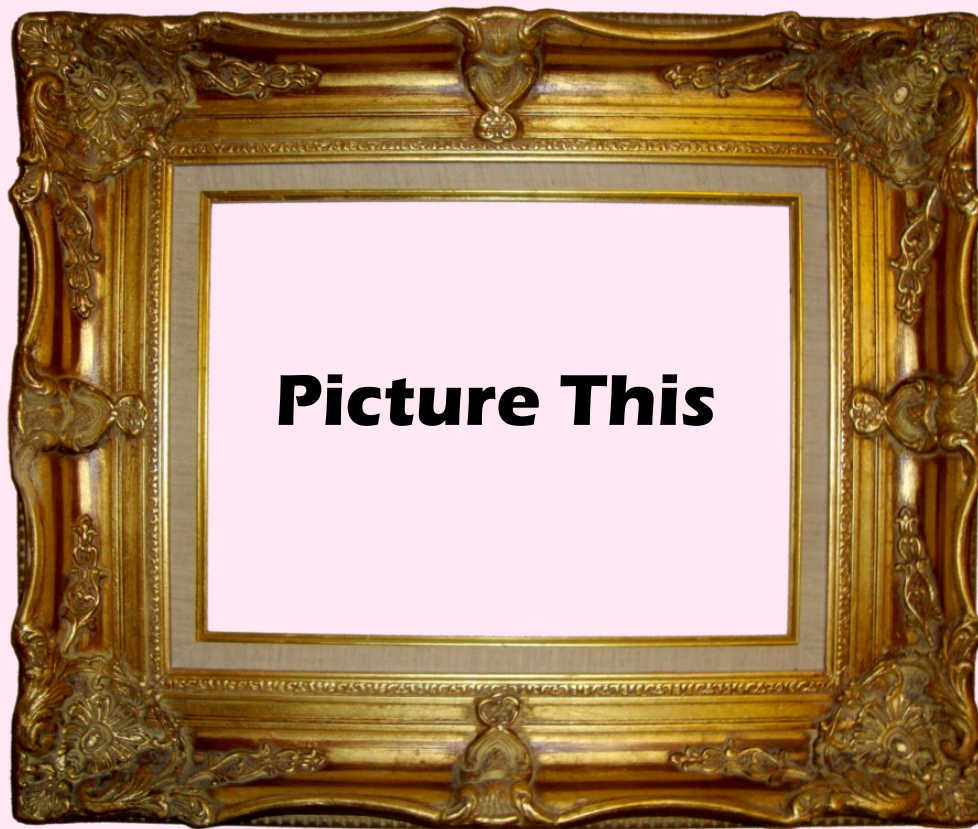
- Store in a cool location away from direct sunlight

- Store out of reach of children or in a secure, locked container

A bear spray safety container can be purchased for under \$20 at a number of retail outlets. These are useful for both storage and also, while transporting bear spray. These are designed to prevent punctures of your canister and to contain the spray in the event of an unintentional discharge in your vehicle. It is important to note here that bear spray **must always be stowed in the compartment below the passenger compartment of our bus** and should be transported in the trunk of any other vehicle.

John McLean





This is a lovely frame, ready to house your picture. Over the past twenty months our club operations have looked very different than previously. The one thing that we can be sure of with Covid is that we have had to get used to cancellations, changes, and re-thinking. We hope in the months to come we will resume full, normal club operations. In the meantime, we have had many new members join the club who we may not know. This frame is your chance to introduce yourself to others in the club.

The previous newsletter editor, John Boyd, used to interview and write about every new member to help people get to know them and make them feel welcome. I have not had such a good record in that category, but I am happy to work to improve in 2022.

The Evergreens welcomed me to the club in 2015, and I have found them to be a caring crowd who are not only dedicated to getting out and hiking, but also focused on helping each person who comes hiking to find the group they are most comfortable with and most suited to hike, ski, or snowshoe along side.

So, let me know about you and send a picture as well if you wish. The next newsletter will be enhanced by your submission!

Joan McLean joanmcl@shaw.ca
Newsletter Editor

Fall Luncheon 2021

The Glenmore Inn was host to the annual fall luncheon this year. It was nice to get together and see everyone. Although, as usual it was not enough time to talk to everybody. The president, Kiyoko Miyanishi , welcomed everyone to the luncheon. The format was a delicious buffet lunch served by the staff of the inn. Following the meal, Sheila Perkins conducted the raffle, another luncheon highlight. We will look forward to next year where we hope to be mingling and jingling 'til we are merry and bright!

Thanks to Stefa Fassina and Jenny Aikenhead for organizing another great event for the Evergreens.

Best of the holidays to everyone, wherever you are.

The Last Word

Gary Kerr is moving on from Winter Bus Coordinator. Thank you Gary for all the trips enjoyed by Evergreens where you took hours to accommodate all the requests, changes, bus overflow, drivers, guests and more. The many hours that you have dedicated to the club are much appreciated. These are big shoes to fill.

Carolyn Ardell is taking over that volunteer position. Good luck and thank you to Carolyn for volunteering.



Gary and Patricia Kerr