

Evergreen Seniors Outdoor Club Newsletter

May 2022

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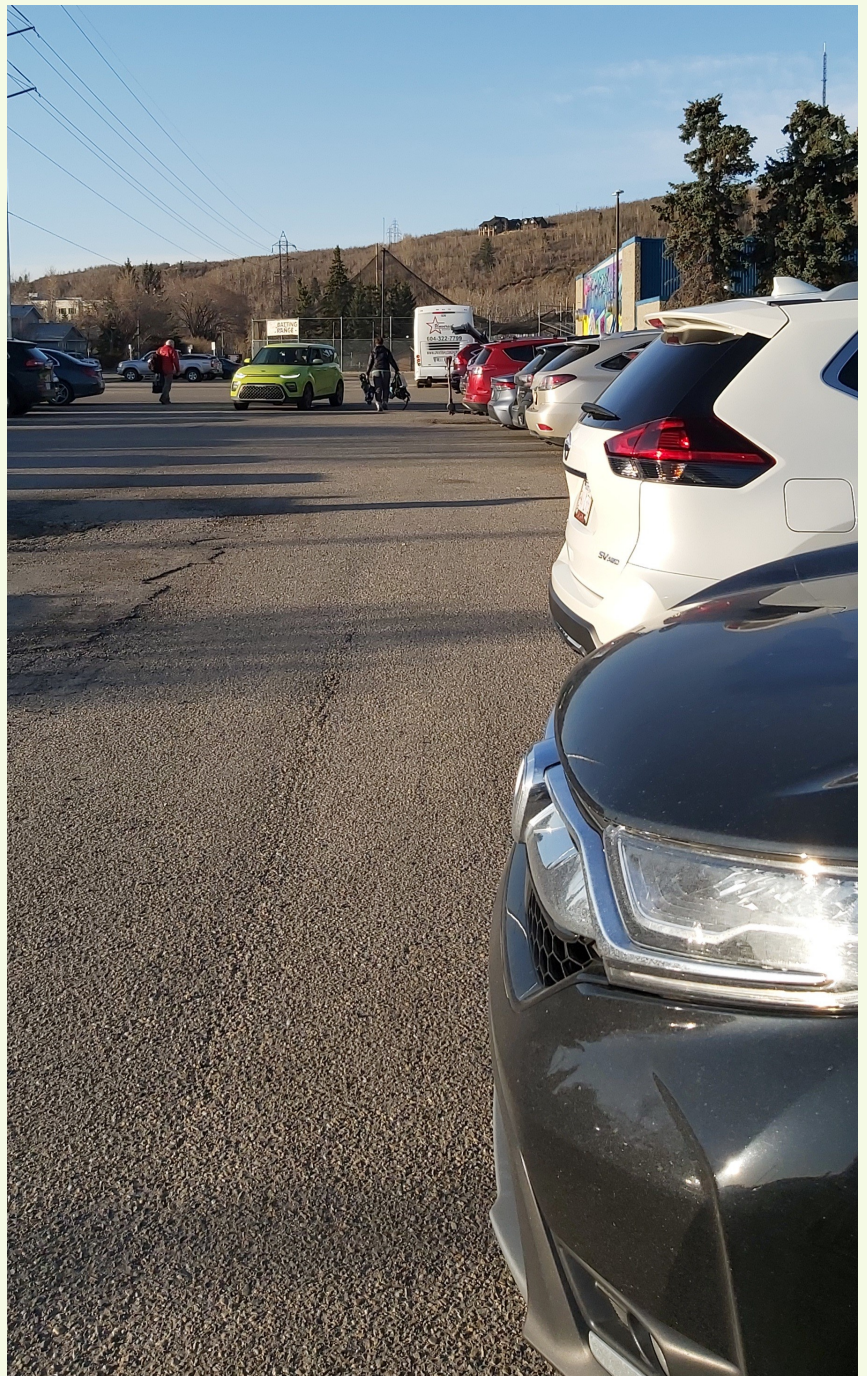


Photo Joan McLean

President's Message

As the second year of Covid has passed, we can look back on the past year and be grateful the Evergreen Seniors Outdoor Club has survived and continued our activities as best as we could. As President, I have learned to appreciate the work of all of the board members and volunteers who keep the club going. With at times organizing bus trips and other times self-drive trips, we have largely managed to keep opportunities available for our members to get out to the foothills and mountains to hike, ski, and snowshoe, as well as socialize. So I really need to thank all of our members who managed to keep us going. As if it wasn't bad enough having to deal with Covid, we also had the problem this year of our website going down. Fortunately, our Website Director Eric Leavitt (by some miracle in my eyes) managed to handle that problem so we could continue signing up for trips. He also oversaw some very useful improvements to our website. While work continues on developing vaccines and treatments for Covid, the future is still unknown, especially with new variants continuing to show up. However, considering how well we have done to date with no outbreaks within our club, there is good reason to be optimistic. Over the past year we even held our two large social events, the summer BBQ and the fall luncheon, without incident. But there are also a lot of good reasons for us to continue our vigilance in keeping everyone safe. We assume that most, if not all, of our members who provided proof of full vaccination (2 shots) will by now have also received their booster shots. If not, we would certainly recommend they do so. Even with running the bus at below break-even point, thanks to Universal providing us with discounts, our club's funds being able to subsidize the bus costs, and the large numbers of guests and new members signing up for trips, we have managed to continue a good number of bus trips without raising the cost to our members. So despite this pandemic over the past two years, our club has managed to survive and attract a sizable number of new members. So at the end of this meeting I will be happy to hand over the gavel to our incoming President Peter Kubica. As Vice-President over the past year Peter has been a great help to me in my term as President. Again, I wish to acknowledge and thank the board members and volunteer day leaders and hike leaders without whom this club could not continue to function. Finally, we need to especially thank Barb Brunton-Johnstone for hosting our Zoom board meetings and this AGM.

Kiyoko Miyanishi



Hikers heading to Dry Island Buffalo Jump Photo John McLean

Evergreen Board of Directors and Coordinators for 2022

Peter Kubica — President
Barb Brunton Johnstone — Vice President
Kiyoko Miyonishi — Past President
Bob Perkins — Treasurer
Sharon Hanwell — Secretary
Johanna Voordouw — Membership Director
Eric Leavitt — Website Director
Doug Kosowan — Winter Activities Director
Kyra Fisher — Summer Hike Director
Greg McKenzie/Harold Kroeger — Summer
Transportation Director
Carolyn Ardell — Winter Transportation Director
Peter Dankers— In town hike coordinator
Jennifer Aikenhead / Kim Tidswell — Social Director
Joan McLean — Newsletter Coordinator
Dorothy Lloyd — Member Support Coordinator
Carol Morris — Telephone Coordinator



President Peter Kubica on Pocaterra Ridge

Club Volunteers

The operation of the club depends solely on the hard work of the club volunteers. Looking at the slate of new board members and considering the number of people who sign up to be day leaders and/or hike leaders it is no wonder the club has so many great outings.

This year four members of the board are retiring. John McLean ends his three year commitment, Stefa Fassina is retiring as Secretary and Social Director, Elsie Boutillier is retiring as Telephone Coordinator. Thanks to these three for their dedication and caring work done on behalf of the club. An additional two major changes in the board are also taking place. Gary Kerr retired as Winter Transportation Director as reported in the last newsletter. Hugh Powell is retiring as Winter Activities Director.

Hugh has been with the club for many years and has taken on various roles with the board. He has been the Winter Activities Director since 2017. This job includes vetting the weather and snow conditions from week to week, so it includes regular monitoring throughout the winter. Time to sit back and relax, Hugh.

Thanks to all for each and every contribution.

Tributes

Lorne Helland – December 29, 2021 I can only say that if I could ski half as far and half as well at 70 that Lorne was able to do at 90 I would be happy. Lorne loved his skiing time with the Evergreens. He fixed my skis for some cookies! We have been missing him on the trails during Covid, and will miss his welcoming smile and sweet nature. The picture is of Lorne, (Center) smiling, surrounded by some of his skiing buddies.

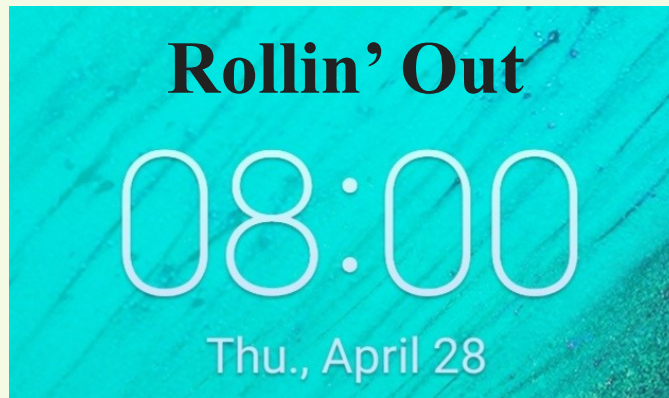


Gisela Ironside – January 15, 2022 Members will remember Gisela for her boxes of goodies she would pass around the bus. She also was an avid supporter of the Coldest Night of the Year walk, which raises funds for the most vulnerable and needy in our city. It was great how Gisela still came out on bus trips even though no big hike was possible. Gisela is pictured at the fall luncheon a couple of years back.

Jim Wood – March 11, 2022 Jim had been coming out as a guest since the fall of 2021. He joined in early March, and had already signed up for the job of Day Trip Leader for three hikes. His sudden passing has shocked us. Jim was an active volunteer at Glenbow Ranch as well and the volunteers and friends there will greatly miss him as well. The picture is of our hike to Many Springs at Bow Valley Provincial Park.



Photo Bernie Nemeth



After over two years of driving, juggling bus numbers, and fretting over the health of the club and its members, the Board may be able to give a little sigh of relief to see the bus sign up over booked for the April 28th trip to Lake Minnewanka.

A picture of a parking lot with a bus is not the normal site for the cover of the newsletter, but according to Johanna V., this is the first fully booked bus since we were thrust into this pandemic. Although there were a couple of popular trips, like Emerald Lake, no trip went past 50 bus riders.

There was a sense of excitement on the bus as we boarded on a spectacular -3 sunny morning. Gary Kerr announced that the bus was full and all aboard were members. One change this spring is that there will no longer be a bus pick up at Rosemont. This means the bus waits at Montgomery and boarding is smooth and relaxed and at precisely 8 am the bus pulled out of the parking lot piloted by our regular driver Ray.

Lake Minnewanka did not disappoint! This hike is great for everyone affording easy access to spectacular views.



Photo Joan McLean

The Lodge and William Ritchie Watson

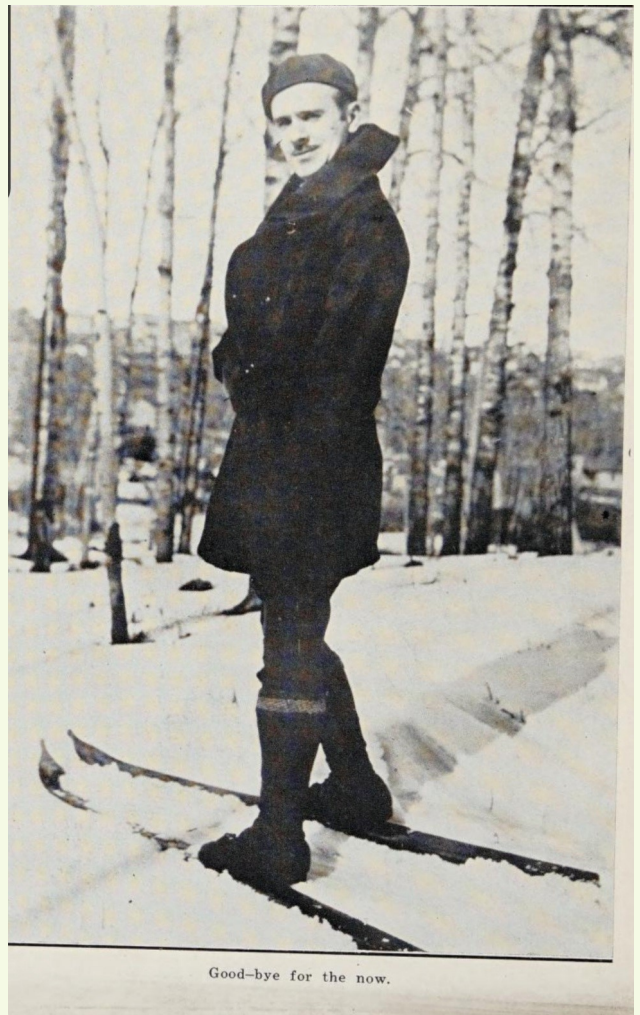
The Evergreens have been enjoying the use of the William Watson Day Lodge and the surrounding hiking and skiing terrain for many years. In early 2020 the main lodge was shuttered in preparation for demolition and subsequent rebuild. Plans for the new building were on display and the new building promised to be beautiful.

In the original lodge, there were photos and stories posted on the wall about William Watson Lodge's namesake. I had forgotten most of the story, so I thought I would read up about William Watson and share some information about him.

William Ritchie Watson, author and journalist, was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1904. He emigrated to Canada in 1911 and lived in MacLeod, Alberta. Watson lived his life without the use of his arms. At birth, he was breech presentation and the nerves in his shoulders were damaged, leaving his arms paralyzed. His mother felt that his survival meant that he was destined to do great things.

William Watson faced adversity and discrimination. In his book, My Desire (1932) he wrote about his growing up years. He of course had to do most things using his feet. He even fended off a bully with those feet and writes that that was the one time he regretted not having the use of his arms. In his second book, I Give You Yesterday (1948), he wrote about his studies and his efforts to become a lawyer. Firms were reluctant to take him on for his articling because they thought his disability would make other people uncomfortable. As a result of his personal experience with barriers, he became an advocate for the disabled. His goal was to improve social and environmental conditions for those people with disabilities. His mother was right; he was destined to do great things.

Fast forward to September 22, 1981, when the William Watson Lodge, named in his honour was opened by Premier Peter Lougheed. We can see that we have come far along in this journey to accessibility. The concept of Universal Design shows that accommodations for special needs can also be a benefit to the broader population. Now buildings used by the public are built with accessibility in mind. Much different and better than where things stood when William Watson was growing up.



And also...

For additional information about William Ritchie Watson, or any topic for that matter, the Internet Archive is a cool place to browse for information. It is a free non profit library with millions of digitized books, articles, and photos. (I highly recommend the website if you have weeding to do, laundry, or to fend off boredom. [Internet Archive: Digital Library of Free & Borrowable Books, Movies, Music & Wayback Machine](#))

Three of William Ritchie Watson's books are in the archive and can be borrowed for reading online. The third book, from which the photo on this page is borrowed, is called And All Your Beauty (1948) which details their travels across Canada. The photo of William Watson skiing is borrowed from the digitized copy of his book My Desire.

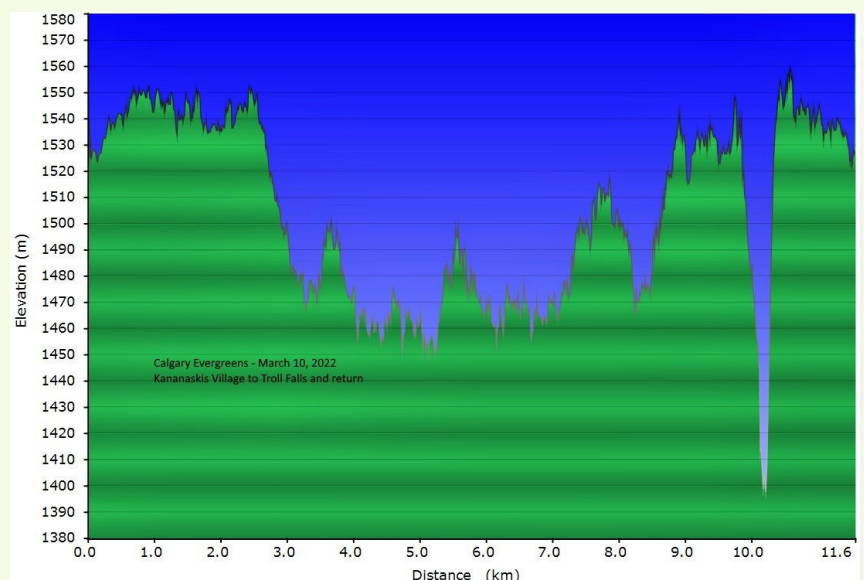


Uphill both Ways

Have you heard the one about the man who told his kids that when he was a schoolboy he had to walk to and from school, and on top of that it was uphill both ways? Well, the trip from Kananaskis Village to Troll Falls and back was pretty much like that. Bernie Nemeth has provided the profile for the hike and it seems to show it was up and down both ways. Be sure to check out the photo archive that Bernie maintains. It can be found at :

[https://1drv.ms/u/s!](https://1drv.ms/u/s!AjKNyPhgmDW9dmygpeUIwQ2PIBA?e=N1W9Z6)

[AjKNyPhgmDW9dmygpeUIwQ2PIBA?e=N1W9Z6](https://1drv.ms/u/s!AjKNyPhgmDW9dmygpeUIwQ2PIBA?e=N1W9Z6)



Big To Do List

- Check your National Park pass expiry date. Enter the number of your new pass on the website before travelling on a bus trip going into the National Park. Bus riders with no park pass are charged \$10.00 for the park day pass.
- Check your bear spray canister for an expiry date. If you are bringing bear spray with you on a bus trip, it must be stored under the bus. Hiking poles are also stored under the bus.
- The board is inviting drivers to donate \$10.00 for participation in a day trip. Drivers who wish to be included in the trip planning should register on the website and notify the club that they will drive to the trailhead. *
- Please be sure to notify the bus coordinator if you receive a Positive covid test after you have been on the bus recently. All bus riders will be notified, and your personal information will not be shared unless you agree to let people know who may have hiked or were seated with you on the bus.
- Members can review the Bumping Procedures on the website. Essentially, a person will only be bumped once a year. Each person who signs up receives a number, and if the bus is oversubscribed the lottery will identify the people asked to carpool.
- Sign up for Tuesday in Town Hikes via the website. Peter Dankers has volunteered to coordinate these events.
- Put July 21, 2022 on your calendar. It is the date for the Summer BBQ which will be held at Boundary Ranch!

* Note: Member sometimes drive to the trailhead, for example, if they live in the south and it is faster to drive to the trailhead. Currently, as some people wish to maintain their distance for personal reasons, may also continue to drive themselves. This is separate from a carpool that is organized for bus overflow. The members are still included in the organization of groups and are registered for the trip.



The Last Word

The Last Word is a feature started a few years back when I took over the newsletter duties from John Boyd. (Also, thanks again John for your mentorship.) Anyway, I was thinking this would be a good idea to give some space for items that members wanted to share. If you look back in the archive you will see a variety of items for this page. Once it was a picture of four members named John. (Thanks to John Morck for that idea.) Another was a picture of 3 Joans because people named Joan rarely get to meet another Joan, let alone two other Joans at one time. (Yes, I know I gotta get out more.) Once it was a thank you to the club. It can be anything about your adventures, ideas, work, creative endeavours... (You can become Evergreen Newsletter famous.)

So, submit your ideas for the next issue. Let me know if you want to write an article or have an idea for an article that should be written. joanmcl@shaw.ca I am always looking for interesting content.

In the meantime, The Last Word will go to Francis Chapman, who always keeps me up to date on her work as an artist. I attended her recent show and that is where the picture was taken. Francis paints many of the beautiful places Evergreens like to frequent.



Photo Joan McLean