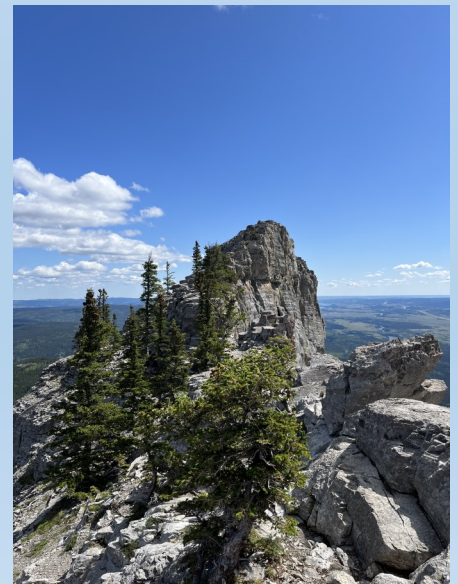




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# Evergreen Swiss Trip

A trip for Evergreen members and others was suggested last year. Barb Brunton-Johnstone agreed to organize it. She found a hiking tour company online, Alpine Adventures, that did European hikes at multiple levels of skill (A to C hikers). When she put forward the idea of hiking in a couple of locations in Switzerland the interest was far more than originally expected. She had to cut off registration at 24 people due to availability of hotel accommodation.



The hikers started arriving at Murren in dribs and drabs. Some went for other interesting vacations first, others afterwards. By late afternoon the day before our first scheduled hike we had a group get together in the lounge of the Hotel Eiger. To get there most arrived by train to Lauterbrunnen, then up a gondola to Grutschalp then another train to Murren to find our hotel was just across the street from the last train station. Everyone was excited about the location, their lovely rooms, and the hiking possibilities. Through this meeting, over a great dinner which was included in the package, and another meeting afterwards we decided which hikes each of us wanted to try for the next day and who was going with whom and where.

Over the next three days we tried a variety of hikes such as going by cog-train through mountain tunnels up to the Jungfraujoch, an amazing site at 3463 meters, Mannlichen to Klein Schiedegg where they filmed the movie *Eiger Sanction*. Other hikes included up a funicular to Almendhubel, or 2 gondola rides to Piz Gloria and a James Bond special luncheon on the top of the Shilthorn mountain. Each day we would get together after hiking to excited conversation about our days hiking and our plan for the next day. The talk included excited phrases like “Another amazing day”, “An item off my bucket list”, “Amazing”, “Beautiful” etc.

After three days of hiking in and around Murren we had to get to Zermatt. That meant the local mountain train to Grutschalp, gondola down to Lauterbrunnen, then a series of trains from there to Interlaken, Visp and on to Zermatt where we found our way to the gondola up to Furi where the hotel Silvana was located.

Once there we were welcomed by the hotel staff with a group meeting and a free drink which seemed to be some kind of blended rose wine. Once again, we had amazing rooms, great meals, and spectacular views of another famous mountain area that this time included the Matterhorn. In each of these two hotels breakfast was included as was dinner. They put on buffet breakfasts that included scrambled eggs, bacon, sausages, a variety of breads and cereals, juices, European coffees cold cuts, cheeses fruits etc.

Hikes in this area generally involved cog trains or gondolas to higher slopes of the Matterhorn or surrounding mountains. This reduced the climbing making most hikes back down. We went to such places as Schwarzsee, Trochener Steg, Klein Matterhorn and Matterhorn Glacier Palace, Five Lakes hike, Rotenboden to Stellisee to Rifflberg, Schwarzsee to Hornlihutte etc. Once again Shannon Harris of Alpine Adventure LLC, the tour company that set up our hotels, gave us about five areas with all levels of hiking from simple beautiful walks to some strenuous hikes for the A's.

Hiking in Europe in general and Switzerland in particular, includes huts and or restaurants at convenient locations, for example on the five lakes hike around lunch time we went a few hundred feet off the trail at lunch time to a highly recommended place called "Chez Vorny" and had a variety lunch, drinks & desserts.

Each afternoon we got together again to discuss our days hiking and our plans for the next day. Once again there was lots of excited talk of "best day ever", "new best hike ever" etc. We got together on our second to last day to take this group picture.



Over the eight days, two travel days and six hiking days we also got to know each other better which was an added bonus because our club members are a great bunch of people.

Keith Johnstone

## Group Leadership Training

Prior to the Club BBQ - Peter Kubica and Greg MacKenzie led eleven of us on an excellent and informative Group Leader Training hike to Troll Falls.



All clubs depend on volunteers to help make it function. I for one feel that I am now more confident and prepared to be able to lead a group on one of our fabulous day trips. Peter and Greg imparted their breadth of knowledge on pre-trip preparations, during hike actions and the all important emergency measures to be taken in case - just in case! Anecdotal experiences made our lessons that much more pertinent. I now know what bear lettuce looks like and how to hike in bear country keeping the group as safe as possible. For someone like me who is truly directionally challenged I gained confidence that there would always be others willing to fill in on my weaknesses.

I am happy to report we did not lose anyone at any of the junctions and arrived back at the Ribbon Creek parking lot with the thirteen of us.

Even if you are not thinking of becoming a group leader, I would highly recommend this training. Thoroughly informative and enjoyable. Once again, a big thank you goes to Peter and Greg for sharing their knowledge with us.

Lorraine Pierce-Hull

## Summer of '23 BBQ

The Club's Summer BBQ did not disappoint, especially for us first time attendees.

The weather was perfect for the event held at Boundary Ranch in the Kananaskis. We ate our burgers to a background of club laughter and watched as trail riders headed off for an outdoor adventure on horseback. Our excellent servers remarked that we may have won an award for the most coffee consumed at an event as we kept draining the coffee pot.

Of course, the best part was the opportunity to have all the "A's" B's and C's" together without their Tilley hats or touques on. The attendees sang a rousing 96th Happy Birthday to Frances Chapman who literally galloped up to the microphone with a word of thanks.

It all ended too soon when Ray headed off to bring the bus around and in true club fashion members jumped up, were loaded and off lickety split.

Giddy up - Lorraine



## Food, Glorious Food...



# Leaders and helpers celebrating getting the community together...



# Volunteer opportunities



- ♦ Starting this fall volunteers are needed for charging the radios. This is to be weekly, and members are being asked to consider signing up for a one month period. Harold Krueger will be organizing the sign ups and orientation to the task. Thanks to volunteer, Amy Trewhitt for her volunteer service over the last year.
- ♦ Day leaders and hiking group leaders are needed. Sign up to lead a hike. There is always willing supporters on each hike to help those who are new to the job.

Happy Hiking!

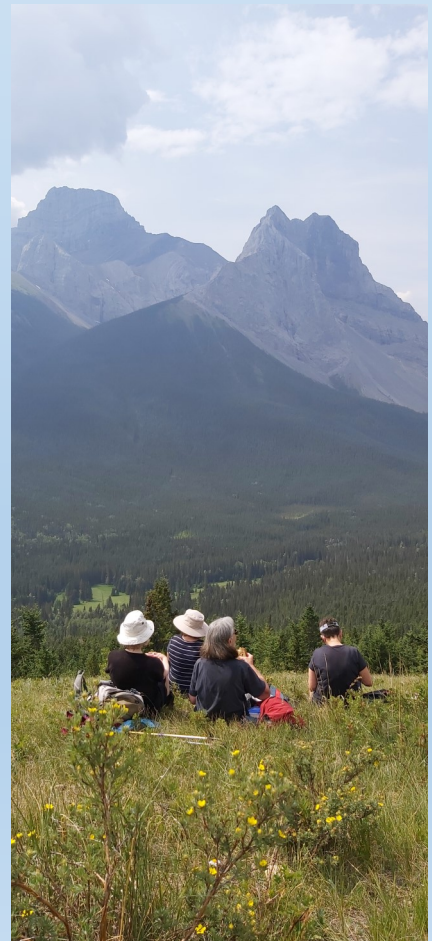
## Spring Hiking



Smoke arrived in Calgary on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. The pictures were taken looking North and South on 14th Street from Nose Hill. The smoke led to the cancellation of the May 18 bus.

Other hikes were much more beautiful. Wind Ridge did not disappoint. As we were hiking back to the bus, we commented on how much uphill we had done. It was a beautiful day and it is a really an amazing location. Being that I grew up in a family with three sisters, I enjoyed the perspective of the mountains.

JMCL



## The Last Word

Literally, someone is getting the last word in this photo. The workshop participants listened up and are ready to be hike leaders.

