

Evergreen Seniors Outdoor Club



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Changes are coming to the City Hikes

Peter Dankers



It's getting busy on the Evergreens city hikes. What started out as a small group of about 15 people has steadily grown over the last four years to more than 30 people on recent hikes. To keep it enjoyable and safe for everyone, starting this January, people will have a choice of two options for each hike: a longer more vigorous hike or a shorter more relaxed hike. The time for each option will remain the same at approximately two hours. Like for the bus hikes, you have to select your preferred option at the time of registration.

Because each hike will now have two leaders, members are asked to volunteer for these positions. A preliminary program will be circulated and members can sign up to be a leader (see below). Because I will take one group per hike, only one other volunteer per hike is needed. In addition to leading a group on the day of the hike, the volunteer will be required to do a reconnaissance prior to the hike together with me.



Photos: Crestmont (top left) and Legacy (bottom)

Proposed City Hike schedule for the first half of 2026

Jan 20	Dale Hodges Park	NW
Feb 10	Mallard Point, Fish Creek	SE
March 3	St George's Heights	NE
March 24	Nose Hill	NW
April 14	Sandy Beach	SE
May 5	Paskapoo Slopes	SW
May 26	Twelve-mile coulee	NW
June 15	Cranston	SE
July 7	Nose Creek Park	NE
July 28	Fish Creek west	SW

This is a preliminary schedule. If you have any additional suggestions or changes, please let me know.

This is your chance to lead your favourite hike in the city. So, sign up by sending me an email at pdankers@telus.net.

Candidates will be selected on a first come first serve basis.

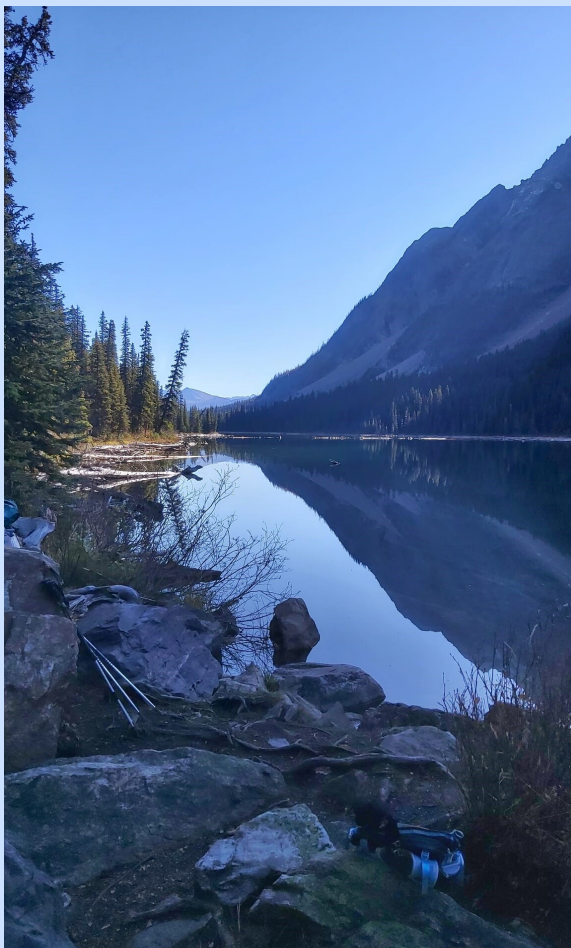


Photo: Joan McLean

Stanley Glacier October 9, 2025

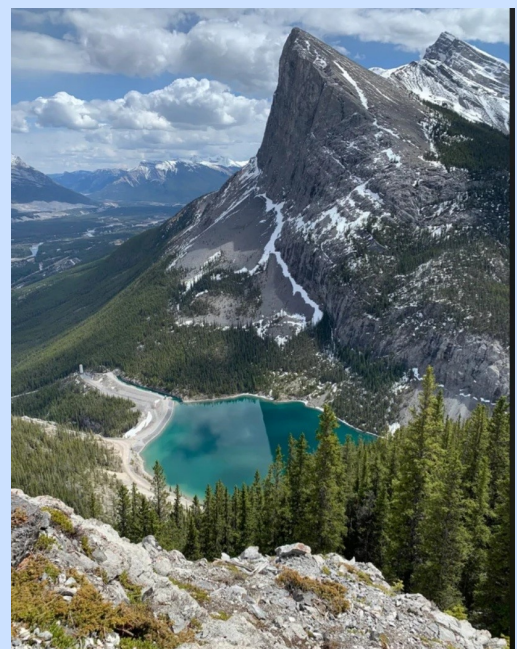
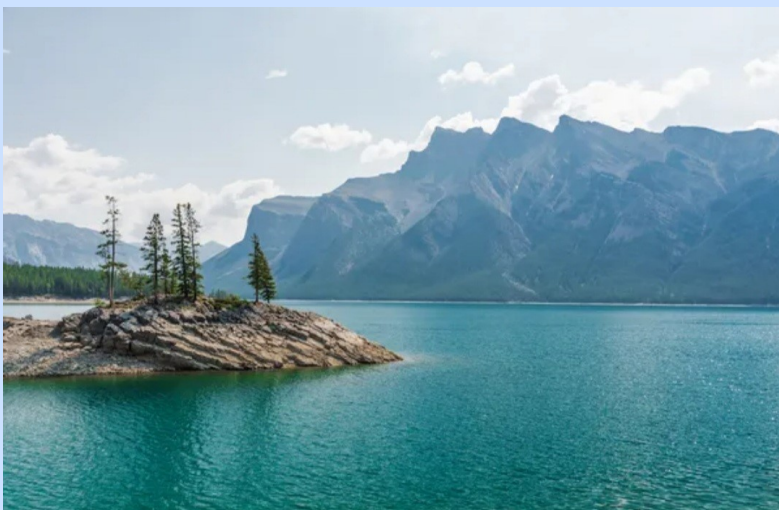
While some people headed to Stanley Glacier, the B1's headed to Boom Lake.

What a beautiful spot. The pristine peaceful water, the amazing reflection took our breath away.

We travel the trails of reconciliation together

At the last board meeting, a Land Acknowledgement was adopted for the Evergreen Club. The first time we heard the words spoken was at our Annual Fall Luncheon. This is our unique expression, written for us by a club member, Brian Plesuk. We hear Land Acknowledgements everywhere we go from church to theatre to group meetings, and to be honest, I had not thought of having one for The Evergreens. Thanks to Brian for bringing the topic to the board as another small step in Reconciliation.

In order to get a bit more knowledgeable about the meaning and power of the land acknowledgement, Brian and I attended a talk by Tony Snow from the Stoney Nakota Nations. He talked about four sacred places to Aboriginal people. They are places many of us have been: Yamnuska, Sleeping Buffalo Mountain (AKA Tunnel Mountain), Minnewanka, and Ha Ling Peak. These sacred and powerful areas hold important meaning to the First Nations in Alberta. Many Evergreens feel the refreshing power of a day in the mountains, and this thought brought more meaning to the Land Acknowledgement. We certainly “travel the trails of reconciliation” together and with gratitude.



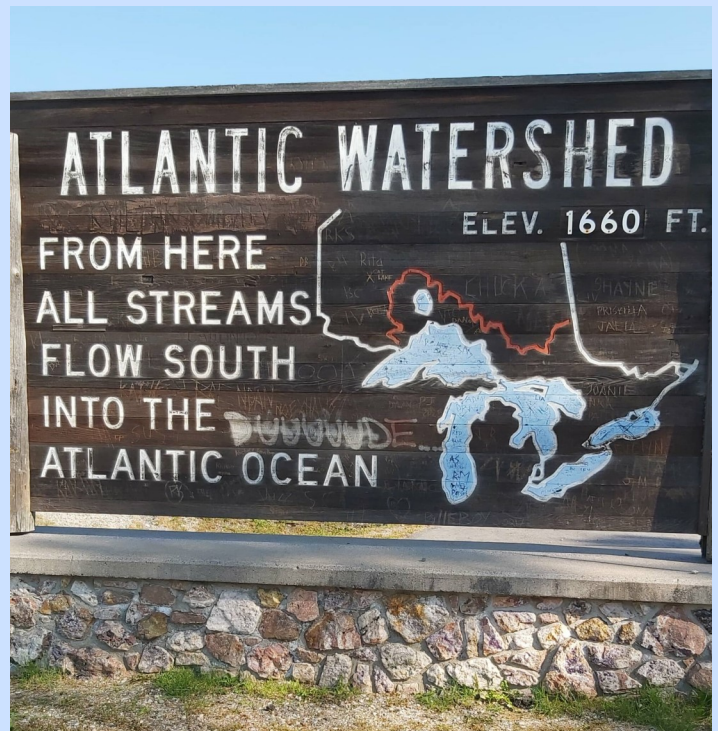
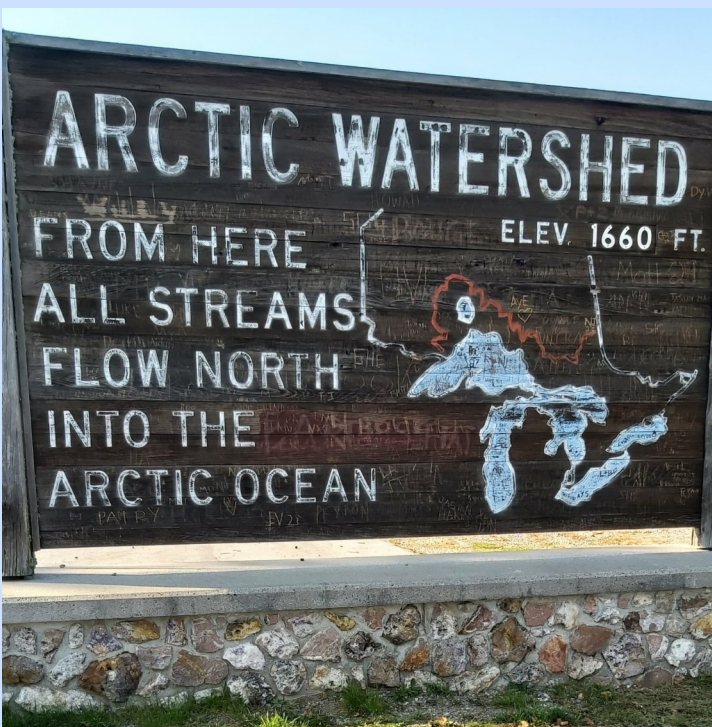
Crossing the Line

As many of you may know, my husband John and myself have driven back and forth across the prairies to Ontario every year for 20 years during the summer. Previously, we went every second year with the kids. You would think that after going back and forth that many times there would not be many roads left to try.

But this year, I finally agreed to go Via Fort Francis, Ontario. To get there you head straight West from Thunder Bay. I really enjoyed the route for a change of pace. You could definitely tell we were one of a few cars not familiar with the road, as everyone seemed to be flying by.

Most of us have been to the Great Divide and in my usual habit of deep thinking, I had never considered there may be other place in the world that would be dividing lines for water. Seriously, I think it is more my preference for hands on learning, But, we had been to the great divide with our kids before the road closed, and we jumped back and forth over the little streambed saying, “Atlantic, Pacific.”

As we drove towards Fort Francis, we came upon a sign at the side of the road that looked interesting so we turned around to see what it was. The road we were on had crossed the Arctic/Atlantic Watershed. If for no other reason, I am sharing with you so that you know I had crossed that line.



PS And, yes, if you must know, I did jump back and forth, but I do not think I yelled, “Arctic, Atlantic” even though John, and possibly a crow would have been the only creatures that heard me.

From the Membership Coordinator

Hello Evergreens,

There is still some confusion about membership requirements.

A Full member has to get 12 outings per hiking season minimal ([March 1](#) - [February 28/29](#)) of which 6 has to be by bus.

AGM, BBQ, Lunch and City hikes (only 6 city hikes) account to the 12 outings.

An Associate member does not need any outings to stay an Evergreen member as long as the annual fee (\$20) is paid.

A Guest needs 3 outings minimal by bus within 6 months to be considered full members. We have a full membership cap if that is reached there will be a waiting list, which happens at the end of summer.

If a guest becomes a full member the number of hikes till the end of the season will be pro-rated accordingly.

When the bus is oversubscribed for an outing the guests are the first to be bumped, followed by associate members and when there are still too many hikers on the bus a lottery will take place and some Full members will be bumped as well. (Members can only be bumped one time per season, or twice per year.)

The lottery is done by the bus coordinator on Tuesday night.

NB if an associate member wants to get their Full status back, that member should get the 12 outings (6 bus trips) and ask to be reinstated as Full member during the season.

Membership Evergreens

Johanna Voordouw

Editors note: Membership renewals will happen at the end of February.

The Last Word

The last word of the year in the newsletter. Another amazing year with the Evergreens.

A great big thanks to all the volunteers whose dedication and attention to detail makes for a great all around club. There are so many jobs to do, big and little and all the efforts of the volunteers is much appreciated. The Executive who are resigning this year or completing their term may be looking for a replacement and perhaps that will be a job you are interested in. Stay posted.

A big thanks to the organizers of the Fall Luncheon. It was an amazing event with great food, Gift Basket raffle and Silent Auction.

So, for all I wish you a Happy Holiday with friends and family, and of course snow!

All the best for 2026!

Joan McLean

