



The Silver Ice Axe

The Newsletter of the Jasper/Hinton Section of the
Alpine Club of Canada

Summer 2025

Jasper Hinton Section Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/ACCJHS>

You can use this link to follow the section, post “short notice” trips that may not be on the schedule, post pictures and stories of trips you have done, and to follow the section.

We have a website! Check it out. <http://accjasperhinton.ca/>

Notes from the Chair

As the new normal (post fire) settles in, I hope this finds everyone relatively well :)

It has been a whirlwind for all of us that have been affected by last summer. Some more than others, and I am very proud of what our section executive has been able to do for our community in the aftermath, both with the alpine club and with their respective professional jobs. It's truly special for me to be able to work with community minded people on our board.

The gear giveaway event last fall was a huge success. This event was an amazing collaboration with Community Outreach Services (COS) (thanks Ian Goodge), our Jasper/Hinton section board, The Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) community as well as the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides (ACMG) community. I do have to give out a special thanks to some key folks that made this event happen. The idea was spawned in early August with John Yalcin and myself enjoying scotch and fine chocolate in the evenings while working on the fires and recovery in Jasper. It took John's commitment and hard work early on to establish the 'gear for Jasper' drive. In addition to John, this event would have completely fallen apart if it wasn't for Kevin Valdez and Brooklyn Rushton who swooped in at just the right moment to put some energy into the planning and logistics of the event. The

ACMG community and the ACC community stepped up huge in their donations, but it also took some key people in various towns to organize, collect and transport the donations to Jasper. This wouldn't have happened without the incredible work from several members of the various communities that were able to donate what I would estimate to be roughly \$250,000.00 worth of winter gear for our community. Maarten Van Haaren deserves a massive shout out for all his work in collecting and transporting the Banff and Canmore community donations, which is where I would say roughly half of the donations came from. Kirsten Knechtel also deserves a massive shout out as she collected and transported gear from Golden which accounted for roughly a quarter of the donations to Jasper. The rest of the gear came from neighbouring communities and cities: Edmonton, Calgary, Revelstoke, Hinton, Valemount and Nelson. There are so many other people to thank and I couldn't possibly list everyone here, but THANKS everyone for making it such a successful event. Below are some images of some of the gear that was donated:

Our section executive and our leaders are slowly regaining our balance after last summer, and we have several projects upcoming. Sarah Ray will be organizing our ACC booth at the Summer Welcome Event June 8th with some small gear items to giveaway. Ben Nearingburg is organizing and leading a group to repair the Ralph Forster Hut this summer. Cam Jenkins is planning to establish an introduction to ski touring program for next winter, and we will be celebrating the Centennial of Mt. Alberta's first ascent in association with the Jasper Yellowhead Museum and Archives.

The celebration of Mt. Alberta's first ascent will be held in Jasper July 20-22 with guided trips planned for Tangle peak to get an incredible view of Mt. Alberta on July 20th and July 22nd. We will also be hosting several members of the Japanese Alpine Club with plans for a BBQ on the evening of July 20th and events and speakers on July 21st. We are currently trying to raise money to help pay for the guided hikes, accommodations for our speakers and special guests, the BBQ, a replica ice axe and monument, and an uplift mural. The Jasper Yellowhead Museum is currently collecting donations.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer!!

Cheers,

Matt Reynolds

ACC J/H section Chair



Jasper Gear Drive



Celebration!

100th Anniversary of the first ascent of Mt. Alberta

One hundred years ago on July 21, 1925, A Japanese party of climbers along with 3 Swiss guides made the first ascent of Mt Alberta. The story of this ascent, and the history of the legendary “Silver Ice Axe” is a story best heard in person. Bob Sanford’s “Called by this Mountain” tells the story of the early ascents of this special mountain.

The ice axe now resides in Jasper at the museum, a priceless artifact that ties together a fine story of determination, persistence and friendship that has brought Japan and Canada together.

Celebrations are being held in Jasper from July 20th-22nd. Though the final details are still being composed, here is a quick breakdown of the dates to remember.

July 20th- hike up Tangle ridge, evening barbeque.

July 21st- Museum talk with Chic Scott, Ceremony in the Park, afternoon talk museum with Mike Mortimer.

July 22nd- Tangle Ridge Hike, unveiling of mural, guided tour of Mt Alberta museum exhibits, TBA.

Follow our webpage for updates <http://accjasperhinton.ca/>



(Jasper Yellowhead Museum Archives)

ACC MEMBERS

Thank you for your support in celebrating a landmark moment in mountaineering history. In 1925, a team of Japanese climbers, led by Yuko Maki, made the first ascent of Mount Alberta—an achievement that remains one of the Alpine Club of

Canada's most significant international connections. As we mark the 100th anniversary of this historic climb, we invite you to be part of a special tribute: a commemorative mural in Jasper, created by a Japanese artist, to honor this legacy and strengthen the bond between our climbing communities.

This mural will stand as a lasting symbol of exploration, friendship, and the passion for the mountains that unites us.

By sponsoring this project, you help bring this vision to life while ensuring that the spirit of Mount Alberta's first ascent continues to inspire generations of climbers.

We hope you'll join us in making history—again.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF MOUNT ALBERTA'S LEGACY

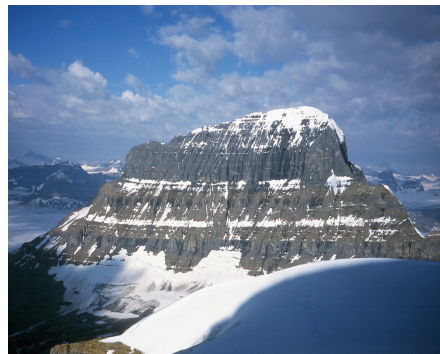
PACKER \$100 - \$500

PORTER \$501 - \$1000

SUMMIT TEAM \$1001 - 5000

Sponsor the Centennial Mural in Jasper

To support, please e-transfer manager@jaspermuseum.org
or make your checks out to Jasper-Yellowhead Historic Society
Box 42, Jasper Alberta, T0E 1E0
and reference Mt. Alberta in either case. The JHS will get a tax receipt to you.



Trip Report: Elizabeth Parker Family Trip 2024

On July 21st, 2024, several intrepid Jasper families and their keen and kidless friends made an early morning trip down the 93N to the Lake O'Hara parking lot in Yoho National Park. This would be the second annual Jasper Hinton Section Elizabeth Parker Cabin Family Excursion, a young tradition with even younger participants. The inaugural event (see the winter 23/24 edition of this newsletter) had gone off with relatively few tears, and at least a few families were keen to try again.

Others, however, had thought better of it, and their spots had been filled by a fit and motivated contingent of Jasper climbers, runners and general mountain baddies. The stage was set for a delightful blend of family life and vicarious living.

As the wheels on the bus went round and round, anticipation grew. Before long, toddlers were toddling up the short trail to the cabin, as parents lugged younger siblings in backpacks. A quick bite to eat at the cabin, and the adventure was on. Parents and kids took moderate hikes to lakes Oesa and MacArthur. Runners took off in the afternoon heat for laps of the famed Lake O'Hara Alpine circuit.

In the evening, communal meals were shared, little kids played in the meadow, and big kids swapped stories about the trails they'd been playing on a few hours earlier. At night, one can only presume that the childless members of the party in the Wiwaxy Cabin slept soundly.

The next morning, climbers set out for the Wiwaxy Ridge and parents set out in multiple directions testing the limits of their kidpacking capacities. Multiple one-year-olds got their first views from the Yukness Ledges. Parents took turns kid-minding so others could enjoy a run, hike or climb. Runners pounded out more laps of the Alpine Circuit.



Two communal meals broke out in parallel that night. Families collaborated on a mountain of spaghetti, while the kidless crew whipped up a delicious peanut satay stir fry. A baby announcement in one contingent was followed by an engagement in the other. Love was thick in the air.



Little did any of us know that, around the time we were setting in to bed and shooshing children, our town was under evacuation order. It wasn't until we stood waiting to board the bus the next morning, that a compassionate but straight-talking Parks Canada employee told us that we wouldn't be going home that day.

We were still hours away from knowing the full extent of what was happening in Jasper and days away from knowing the impact this fire would have on our community and our lives. In those first moments, we learned that the wilderness hostel where one of our party members recently got married was already gone. Satellite messages told us that friends had evacuated several party members' pets. We were anxious that two of our party hadn't yet returned from their climb (they were lying in an alpine meadow, blissful in the ignorance that the rest of us had just lost).

The next several weeks are a blur, but those days in the Elizabeth Parker cabin with our families and friends remain crystal clear.

Doug Olthof.



Fire on the mountain

July 22, 2024.

Pam and Phil drove out that morning from Jasper for a planned trip up on to Mica Mountain to visit the old Mica Mines, and scramble up on to the ridge above.

Pam is a longtime Jasper resident and Phil was here for the summer from Germany, working at a hotel and living the dream.

When they arrived, we met at the Tete Jaune Community Hall where we tried to wait out a rain storm that confined us to the cars and small shelter/display that kept us dry. We decided to head over to my home for a coffee, just down the road to wait out this weather a bit and to pick up our dog Molly. She is keen on hiking and meeting new people.

With the uncertainty of the weather, we decided to go south to Valemount, up the five-mile hill, and hike up to McKirdy meadows.

The Mica Mine trail is quite bushy and we would have gotten wet for sure if the rain persisted and even if it stopped.

As it turned out we had a decent day with splendid views.

At one point during a break, we noticed a plume of smoke above Tete Creek, near our original objective, and as it didn't seem to be there yesterday, I called the hotline. (The BC wildfire service had crews bucketing on it quite fast and it was under control later that day.)

Later we sat up high on the ridge above McKirdy meadows overlooking some of the Swift creek sub drainages, eating lunch, discussing the fires burning south of Jasper, and keeping Molly happy with some treats. It was a great day up in the meadows, a little smoky but we were all used to that by now. The decent was nice on the new switchbacks and the weather held. We got back to Tete Jaune, said goodbyes, and the 2 of them headed east to Jasper.

Within a few hours, right when Pam and Phil would have got back to Jasper, they would be packing and gathering their important things as the entire Jasper National Park was evacuated late that evening. They would all be coming back this way again in the dark following a long convoy with thousands of vehicles.



Who would have guessed that the quiet Community Hall in Tete Jaune where we met this morning would be full of evacuees this night “dazed and confused “wondering what just happened.

A severe thunderstorm also hit our hamlet that night which added to the stress and uncertainty as vehicles pulled into a parking lot with little to no cell service or internet.

Many of the tourists had no real comprehension of what had happened other than they were told to leave Jasper and head west.

The rest is in the history books now.

Here it is almost a year later and I watch, as the people of Jasper work together to rebuild their dreams/homes/businesses and stand strong as a community. A year later Jasperites are still picking up the pieces of last summer’s events and probably will be for years to come.

The good thing is we had a great day up in McKirdy meadows and I know Pam and Phil enjoyed it as well.

I will always remember where I was the day the people of Jasper National Park were displaced.

Peter Amann

2025 Summer Schedule

The following trips are filled on a first call first in basis. **Please contact leaders one to two weeks before the trip.** Volunteers lead all trips. **The exact date for the trip may change due to the leader’s commitments.** For liability protection, each **participant must sign a waiver.**

Be sure to ask section leaders what other equipment may be necessary. Some section equipment is available on loan for club outings.

July 5-7, 2025

Trip: Elizabeth Parker Cabin Family Experience

Description: This section trip, running for the 3rd consecutive year, is not for the faint of heart. The objective is nothing less than to spend two nights in the storied Elizabeth Parker Cabin in the company of several small children. The invitation is for families with younglings (thus far typically 5 and under) to come to the cabin and, in an understanding and non-judgmental environment, try to enjoy family life in the alpine environment that we all love so well. Previous

iterations of the trip have witnessed family hikes of the famed Alpine Circuit and other classic hiking trails, running on immaculate trails, alpine rock climbing on area classics, cold water dips, and fly fishing on Lake O'Hara (no longer permitted). They have also witnessed sleepless nights, challenging meals and little owies.

Required skills and experience: a supportive attitude.

Trip Leader: Doug Olthof

dougolthof@gmail.com

July 18th, July 19th and July 20th

Description: Miette Hot Springs/Jasper scrambles

Main objective is Utopia/O'Hagan followed by a trip to the Miette Hot Springs. Other objectives include Hawk Mountain, Cinquefoil and Roche Miette.

One scramble per day based on weather conditions. We will decide closer to the date and scrambling schedules will be based around Mount Alberta Centennial events.

July 21st Following Mount Alberta Centennial event, trip up the Jasper Skytram for Indian Ridge. Japanese participation welcome for all scrambles. Previous scrambling experience would be an asset.

Cross posted on Rocky Mountain Section calendar.

Peter DuBeau 403-763-5991

Peter.dubeau@icloud.com

August 5th

Mica Mine Trail

Explore the old mine site where in the 1890s horses were used to haul Mica down the mountain.

The trail and cat-track were updated in the early 1990's. This strenuous hike near Valemount leads to the old mine site then onto the ridge which can be traveled for a while for views of the Cariboos. It is over 1100m of elevation gain on a steep rough trail. Folks will need a vehicle with decent clearance to get us up the first 9km to the parking area. Participants should be fit and bring lots of water. More details on the hike can be googled.

I am somewhat flexible on the date, see what kind of interest there is.

Trip Leader:

Peter Amann

pamann@incentre.net

Ralph Forster Hut repair project

The hut has been in kind of an odd situation for quite a few years where it was originally constructed by the ACC in 1970 but there was no formal lease agreement in place and neither the ACC nor BC Parks have officially adopted it.

Project Outline:

Over the past few years the Ralph Forster Hut has fallen into disrepair, particularly after a window/shutter destroyed last summer left the hut open to packrats. The last formal repair trip in 2013 was organized by Cyril Shokoples and the Edmonton section of the ACC (his report is attached to this email). Since the last repairs, the hut has seen less use (with more climbers opting for the Kain Face route), but it is still a historic structure, and a neat destination even by itself. The main goals I envision for the project are:

1) Repair the physical structure of the hut (window, shutters, and if possible better seal the door)

- 2) Clean up and sanitize the interior of the hut, remove the packrat damaged old supplies/materials to make the hut habitable
- 3) Dig and install a new green throne "outhouse" (BC Parks has a new throne ready to be flown up but grunt work is needed to move rocks to a suitable location).
- 4) Replace some of the interior amenities (camp stove, cookware, and cleaning supplies).
- 5) While hiking out from the hut do a small bit of brushing on the trail and maybe replace a couple chains/bolts.

The dates are August 3,4,5.

If you are interested in this project, for one or more days, or for a more up to date timeline and information contact Ben.

Ben Nearingburg

ben.nearingburg@gmail.com

GUIDELINES FOR TRIP PARTICIPANTS

Amateur volunteer hikers, skiers and climbers coordinate all trips listed in the Jasper-Hinton Section's trip schedule. When on a trip, participants must act in a manner that is safe and responsible and participants are expected to bring the equipment requested by the trip leader. Participants should find out the requirements and demands of the trip well in advance by asking the leader and researching the trip in guidebooks and other literature. Further guidelines for participants are listed below.

1. Be prepared to complete an insurance waiver form.
2. You must be a member of the Alpine Club of Canada to join a trip.
3. Sign up for trips that will challenge you, but are not beyond your abilities. If unsure, ask the trip leader and tell them your experience and fitness level – **be honest**. People inexperienced in the mountains should start with easier trips.
4. Learn about the trip before you attend (which route, number of kilometers, amount of vertical gain/loss, type of terrain, length of day, etc.).
5. Give as much notice as possible to the Trip Leader if you are unable to go on the trip. There are often waiting lists of other members who would like to go.
6. Ensure that you have the right equipment and that it is in good repair.
7. For winter trips, make sure that you are using a digital avalanche transceiver and that it is in good working order. Single antenna (analog) transceivers are not acceptable.
8. Bring your helmet on all moderate and difficult scrambles, alpine, rock and ice climbs. Leaders may ask you to bring your helmet on certain ski trips as well.
9. Offer to drive, share expenses and be prepared to carry a part of the "group gear" (ropes, etc.). The trip leader has often invested considerable time prior to the trip, investigating the route, reviewing the avalanche hazard, etc. and is often supplying his/her own equipment. Show your appreciation for this effort.

“Trivia” Then and now.



Those who have been to the ACC Colin hut, and had some time to kill, may have played on this big boulder out behind the hut. I took some pictures of the changes to the landscape almost 40 years after first visiting the area. Tree line is certainly rising!

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