



Calgary Area Outdoor Council

September 2011

Volume 4, Number 62

Outdoor Update

Bulbs and Pedals

By Calgary *tour de nuit* Society

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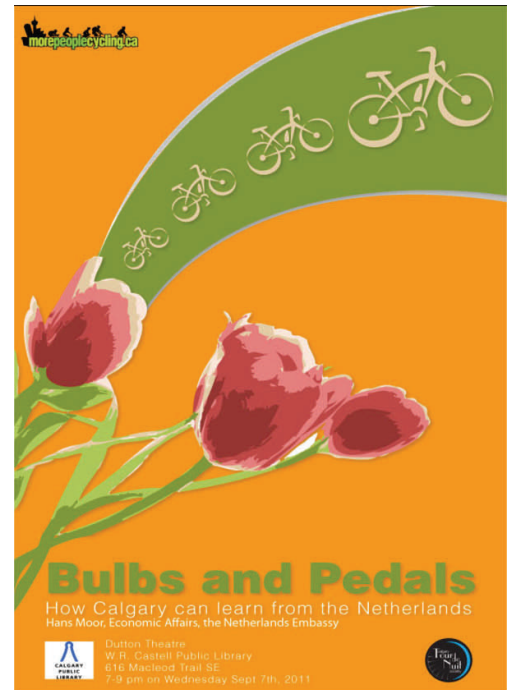
Hans Moor Talk

Hans Moor, Economic and Commercial Affairs Officer, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, will be delivering the presentation "Bulbs and Pedals: How Calgary Can Learn from the Netherlands."

The talk will discuss the economic effects of cycling on society as a whole, as well as factors that have proven successful at increasing the popularity of commuter cycling with references to cycling in the Netherlands and Ottawa.

Hans is a commuter cyclist and is the president of the Ottawa active and sustainable transportation organization [Citizens for Safe Cycling](#).

This year Ottawa opened dedicated bicycle lanes on Laurier Avenue similar to the "Road Diet" proposed on 5th and 6th Avenues SW.



Sponsored by the Calgary Public Library and Calgary *tour de nuit* Society.

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

7:00pm – 9:00pm

**Dutton Theatre
W. R. Castell Central Library
616 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary**

Calgary *tour de nuit* society
www.morepeoplecycling.ca
403-589-1001



Alberta Wilderness Association



Wild West Gala

September 16, 2011

A Celebration of Wild Spaces and Wildlife in Alberta

The 23rd annual Wild West Gala is a celebration of Alberta's Wild Spaces and Wildlife. It is a tradition of friends, colleagues, members and supporters enjoying a great meal and an evening filled with entertainment, conversation, auctions and plain good fun.

We have held the ticket price (\$85 members, \$100 non-members) at the same level for many years to enable a wide audience to join in the celebration. This annual celebration and fundraiser for Alberta Wilderness Association is totally dependent on volunteers and sponsors from the Calgary area and we have made each year's event a little more fun and a little more interesting throughout the 23 years! ***It is always an evening to remember.***

The meal will feature a succulent roast beef entree served to your table, with an equally delicious vegetarian alternative for those who order it ahead. Scrumptious appetizers served at 6:00pm sharp will be accompanied by an excellent choice of red and white wine on your table.



Auctioneer Jesse Starling has everything from a Church Pew to a Dog House and a Hellman Canoe to paddle up the creek with on the bill for the live auction. Our raffles and balloons are back and will keep everyone popping as the fun of bidding and winning takes over.



Copper Moon is a terrific band that will add to your pleasure throughout the evening. They will entertain with a pleasant blend of eclectic music including folk, country, blues and pop/rock as you dance, bid, have fun meeting new friends and old and celebrate Wild Alberta!

Please join us for a great night out!

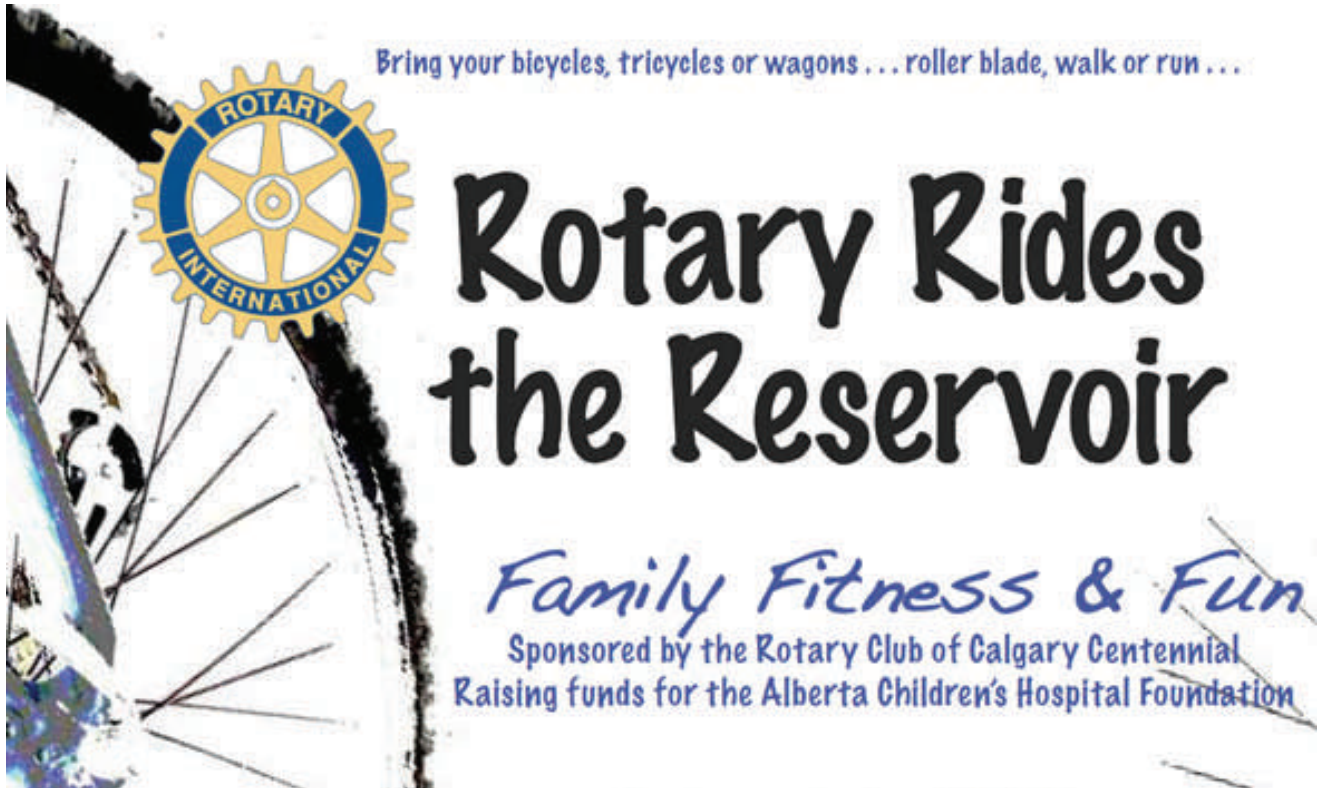
Friday September 16, 2011

6:00pm

Red and White Club (north end of McMahon Stadium),
Calgary

Please order your tickets today at:

<https://gowildalberta.ca/products.php?product=2011%252d09%252d16-Wild-West-Gala>

Rotary Club of Calgary Centennial

**Second Annual
Rotary Rides the Reservoir
Snowy Owl Picnic Site, North Glenmore Park
9:00am – 2:30pm
Sunday September 25, 2011**

This is an opportunity for you and your entire family to come out for a day of fun, fresh air and contributing to improving the amenities and technologies at the ACHF. You can walk, run, ride a bicycle, rollerblade, and pull wagons with children or any other form of exercise you can think of. Healthy food, water and juice will be available. There is a children's playground adjacent to the picnic site that younger children enjoyed last year.

Rotary Rides the Reservoir is a friends and family fun event. Pick your own route, your own challenge at your own time. Start in North Glenmore Park and loop to: Heritage Park, or Glenmore Landing, or South Glenmore Park, or Weaselhead Loop (14.2km). Check out routes at: www.run.com/showroute.asp?map=1442356

Register as a family by making a \$50 donation or raise pledges.

For information, registration and pledge forms see www.rotarycentennial.ca or contact us at secretary@rotarycentennial.ca.

Please invite your friends, neighbours, co-workers of all ages to join you and your family for a day of fun and fitness on September 25, 2011.

EcoLiving Events



Your Sustainable lifestyle begins here!

Keynote speaker
Vanessa Farqharson

Reporter for the National Post in Toronto & Authour of "Sleeping Naked Is Green: How an Eco-Cynic Unplugged Her Fridge, Sold Her Car, and Found Love in 366 Days"

Tickets: \$20 each

2011
EcoLiving Fair
&
Speaker Series

September 30
(6:00 pm - 10:00 pm)

October 1
(9:00 am - 5:00 pm)

This event: FREE
(donations appreciated)

SAIT Polytechnic
Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
1301 - 16 Avenue N.W.

Showcase For:
Environmentally-Friendly Building Practices
Urban Environmental Solutions
Alternative Energy Sources
Energy/ Water Conservation

Get More information:
info@ecolivingevents.ca

Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society

Help Support Fish Creek Provincial Park! Become a Member of the Friends of Fish Creek

Our mission is to protect, preserve, and enhance the diverse natural and human heritage found in Fish Creek Provincial Park.

Membership offers you:

- Discounts on Friends' courses
- The latest information about the Park and the Friends
- Admission to Speaker Series presentations, with guest speakers on topics like the environment, local flora and fauna, cultural history, archaeology, and conservation issues
- Subscription to the Friends' newsletter
- Opportunity to network with like-minded people and organizations

Annual Membership (October 1 – September 30)

Individual: \$30.00

Family: \$40.00

Senior (60+): \$20.00

Senior Family: \$25.00

How to sign up:

In Person: At the Cookhouse at the Bow Valley Ranch,
Fish Creek Provincial Park (South end of Bow
Bottom Trail SE)

On Line: www.friendsoffishcreek.org

Email: chris@friendsoffishcreek.org

Via mail: Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park, PO BOX
2780, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2M7

Friends of Fish Creek September Speaker Series

Each month the Friends host guest speakers on a variety of topics relevant to the Park and the Calgary community, and we have exciting presenters lined up for Fall 2011. Admission is free to Friends members and \$5.00 for non-members. Registration required. To register please contact Chris at 403-238-3841 or chris@friendsoffishcreek.org. Presentations will take place at the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre, 13931 Woodpath Rd. SW, Shannon Terrace Area, West end of Fish Creek Provincial Park (Access via 37 St. SW at 130 Ave. SW) from 7:00 pm (sharp) to 8:00 pm. Visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org for more information.

Thursday, September 22, - Gender Benders: Effects of Contaminants in the Bow River

Presented by Hamid Habibi, University of Calgary

Dr. Habibi has studied 61 locations along the Red Deer, Bow, and Oldman Rivers in Southern Alberta to identify and investigate the impact of environmental contaminants on fish. Water and fish samples provide clear evidence of the presence of contaminants, including organic chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and other compounds, at concentrations significant enough to cause sex changes in fish. Come and learn how the University of Calgary and the City of Calgary's ACWA project (Advancing Canadian Wastewater Assets) is advancing wastewater treatment technologies to address environmental issues, such as changes in fish, and public health issues.

Autumn Birding Course

Would you like to learn to identify the birds of Fish Creek Provincial Park and other natural areas in Calgary? Now is a great time to start. Thrill to the sight of many species as they gather in impressive flocks. As the leaves drop off the trees, the smaller birds, which are now migrating, are much easier to see.

All sessions are conducted in the great outdoors, and you can expect to observe at least 100 different species. As a fundraiser for the Friends, these outings are conducted by Gustave J. Yaki, a life-long naturalist, who has birded around the world, and also led the Friends previous Birding and Botany Courses.

Registration required. Reserve early as each group size is limited to about 15 participants.

Friends Members: \$50.00

Non-Members: \$75.00

Sessions will last approximately 2.5 hours and take place on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday mornings. 9:00am on Saturdays and 9:15am on weekdays. Course runs for 14 weeks starting September 5, 6, 8, or 10.

Become a member of the Friends and save.

To register, please contact Chris at the Friends at 403-238-3841, or email chris@friendsoffishcreek.org. Pay online at www.friendsoffishcreek.org or if paying by cheque please come to the Cookhouse, at the Bow Valley Ranch, Fish Creek Provincial Park, or mail to: The Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society ATTN: Birding Course - PO Box 2780, Calgary, AB, T2P 2M7

Waterton Lakes National Park



2nd Annual Super's Cycle Ride/Parks Canada Thanks Canada (October 1)

Celebrate Take a Kid Mountain Biking day and Parks Canada's Centennial on the Red Rock Parkway! Ride along a vehicle-free Red Rock Parkway. The road will be closed to all vehicle traffic and you can ride as far as your interest takes you - just a short distance or all the way to Red Rock Canyon and back (30 km round-trip). There will be snack stations, a support vehicle, and lots of encouragement along the way. After the ride, join us at Pass Creek for a centennial celebration BBQ and draw prizes.

This is a family event. Helmets are mandatory for anyone under 18, and highly recommended for everyone else. We encourage children to come with a legal guardian.

Start will be 9:00am at Pass Creek picnic area. Be there a few minutes ahead of time so you're ready to ride!

Xplorers!

Discover Waterton Lakes National Park through our Xplorer program designed for families with children aged 6 to 11. Pick up an Xplorers activity book from the Heritage Centre on Waterton Ave until the end of September, the information centre until October 6.

Complete as many of the activities as possible to receive a certificate and souvenir!

Geocaching in Waterton Lakes National Park (until end of September)

Take our geocaching challenge! All caches will be registered on geocaching.com. Find all five of our caches to obtain your Parks Canada centennial geocoin! Geocache listings, GPS units (free with a credit card imprint) and geocoins will all be available at the Heritage Centre on Waterton Ave until the end of September. Geocachers must travel on marked and maintained trails or in publicly accessible areas (e.g. picnic areas) at all times and ensure that natural and cultural resources are not disturbed. No trade items. All caches placed in Waterton must be approved by Parks Canada. All these activities are included with your park entry fee.

For more information:

www.parkscanada.gc.ca/waterton, waterton.info@pc.gc.ca, 403-859-2224, @WatertonLakesNP on Twitter

Parks Canada

Parks Canada 100th Centennial Come celebrate the centennial of the world's first national parks service!

In 2011, Parks Canada is celebrating its 100th birthday and its establishment in 1911 as the world's first national parks service. To recognize this occasion, Parks Canada is inviting Canadians to come celebrate at its places across the country. The Parks Canada Centennial builds on the 2010 events marking the 125th anniversary of national parks in Canada and the 125th birthday of Canada's first national park, Banff.

Until November 2011, special programs, activities and events will celebrate this significant 100th anniversary. Discover unforgettable experiences to add to your history.

SEPTEMBER

Explorers Program

Parks Canada's "Xplorers" program offers children with their families fun-filled activities to learn about their national park and national historic sites. Through a collector's booklet, children will receive an achievement certificate and souvenir. Free.

Sept 1 - 30: Lake Louise Fall Festival

Autumn in Banff National Park is a magical time of year. Golden larches pierce the otherwise evergreen landscape, their colour complementing the dazzling blue waters of the lakes they surround. This festival commemorates the changing seasons with a series of new events and activities geared towards helping you explore the history and wonders of this stunning area.

Sept 30 - Oct 2: Alberta Art Days

Parks Canada and local art galleries and organizations working with The Banff Centre invite you to get involved in three exciting days of hands on workshops, performances, film screenings, music, dance and art.

PARKS CANADA NATIONAL PROGRAMS

"My Parks Pass" Program

A partnering initiative with Nature Canada and The

Historica-Dominion Institute, that will allow over 400,000 grade eight students to enter Parks Canada administered national parks and national historic sites for free for 12 months.

Parks Canada Commemorative Coins!

Parks Canada Centennial is featured on the Royal Canadian Mint's first collector coin of the year. Launched on January 4th, the 2011 Silver Dollar marks the centennial of Parks Canada, the world's first national parks service.

Canada's National Parks: A Celebration

Parks Canada and Canopy are proud to announce a beautiful new commemorative book, *Canada's National Parks: A Celebration*, to mark the 125th anniversary of national parks in Canada and the 2011 centennial of Parks Canada as the world's first national parks service. Featuring more than 200 pages of colour photographs, this impressive hardcover captures the essence of each of Canada's national parks – all 42 of them – bringing together in one volume the work of some of the country's most respected contemporary landscape photographers, accompanied by locator maps, concise descriptions of each park, and some memorable historic images of park visitors over the last century.

Please go to www.pc.gc.ca for more details. Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ParksCanada or www.youtube.com/user/ParksCanadaAgency?gl=US&hl=ca.



Nature Conservancy of Canada



We've Got Your Perfect Excuse Right Here

September has arrived and everyone is reluctantly adjusting back to their fall routines. Fear not! We've got the perfect excuse for you to escape the drone of the city and prolong your summer.

Join the Nature Conservancy of Canada as we set out to explore and restore environmentally significant properties all across Alberta. Get away from the traffic, leave behind the crowded city streets and take a trip to some of Alberta's iconic landscapes while contributing to essential conservation work. Join our Conservation Volunteer team today and savour summer a little longer!

You can register for any of the events below by visiting the Conservation Volunteers website at www.conservationvolunteers.ca, or by contacting the Conservation Volunteer Coordinator at the contact information listed below.

Woven Wire Roll-Up

Date: Thursday, September 15, 2011
 Closest Town: Penhold, AB (south of Red Deer)
 Time: 10:00am – 3:30pm
 Special Features: Property History Talk and Tour

Pull up your socks and put on your boots, as we travel to the Boote Property to remove some relic fencing. We

need your help to tear-down and roll-up a woven fence inhibiting wildlife movement in this beautiful knob and kettle country. As wildlife in this area navigate amongst a patchwork of wetlands, fence lines act as barriers to their migration.

By removing sections of old relic fencing, wildlife will be able to roam these rolling hills with ease. This old homestead is also host to the invasive Caragana shrub, used in the past to preserve topsoil during the erosion of the 1930's. Removal of the shrub is also necessary as it can quickly turn into a "living" fence and encroach on native areas. After a full day's work, we'll weave together the story behind the property by sharing some historical photographs with you and taking you on a guided property tour!

Demolition and Erratics

Date: Sunday, September 25, 2011
 Closest Town: Mountain View, AB (near Waterton Lakes National Park)
 Time: 10:00am- 4:00pm
 Special Features: Glacial Erratic Tour led by Archaeological Expert

This fall, join the Nature Conservancy of Canada in restoring the native grasslands of the Waterton Park Front. We'll start the day by demolishing old buildings and fences that pose risks to wildlife. Then, in the afternoon, we'll take a journey 12-18 thousand years into the past with a guided tour of the glacial erratics that dot the property. Together, we'll travel back to a time when First Nations and buffalo inhabited the land and unravel the ecological and cultural mysteries of the glacial erratic. This event takes place during Waterton's Wildlife Weekend which runs from September 23-25.

Don't Fence Me In

Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2011
 Closest Town: Stettler, AB
 Time: 10:00am- 4:00pm
 Special Features: Interpretive Nature Tour

(. . . Continued on page 9, see NCC)

NCC (. . . Continued from page 8)

The Nature Conservancy of Canada needs your help breaking down barriers on one of its newest properties. Join us for a day of hands-on conservation as we roll up our sleeves to tear-down 1 km of fenceline that is currently interfering with natural wildlife movement. The fence's woven wire pattern poses a threat to local animals like moose and young fawns that can become tangled in the wires.

By helping remove this section of unneeded fence you will make it possible for wildlife to move freely across the landscape. See for yourself how one small project can have such a visible impact on the landscape by joining us this September!

About Us

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is Canada's

leading national land conservation organization. We are a private, non-profit group that partners with corporate and individual landowners to achieve the direct protection of our most important natural treasures through property securement (donation, purchase, and conservation agreements) and long-term stewardship of our portfolio of properties. For more information, visit www.natureconservancy.ca/ab.

For Event Information

For more information on Conservation Volunteer events please visit www.conservationvolunteers.ca , or contact Kailey Setter, Conservation Volunteer Coordinator at (403) 444-3547 or kailey.setter@natureconservancy.ca.



Greystone Books

Prairie: A Natural History Candace Savage

Told in the author's distinctively enchanting style, this bestselling guide to one of the largest ecosystems in North America is now available in a new, revised and updated edition.

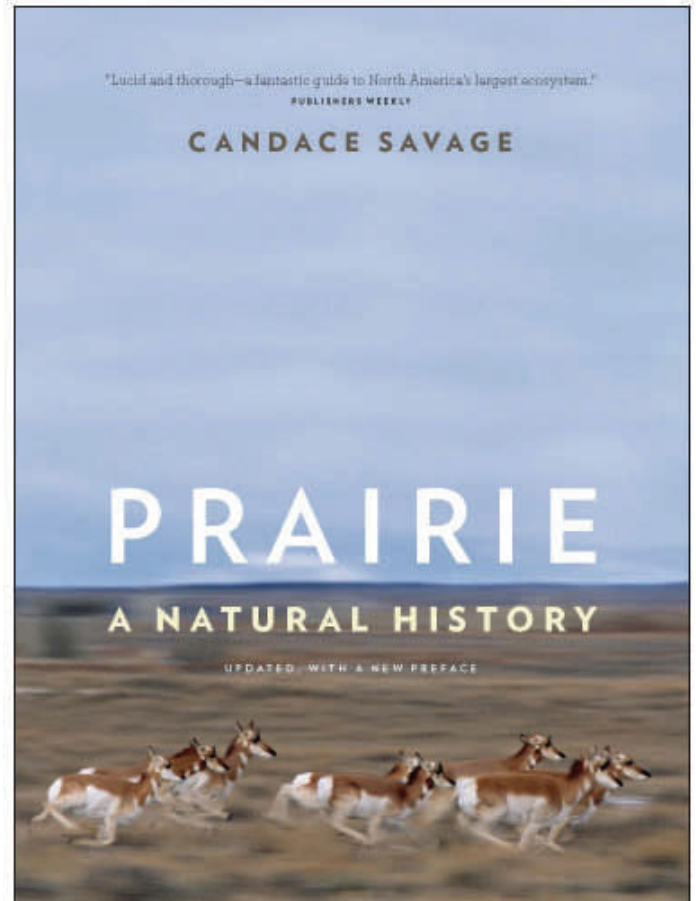
Authoritative, detailed, and scientifically up-to-date, *Prairie: A Natural History* provides a comprehensive, non-technical guide to the biology and ecology of the Great Plains grasslands of North America.

Extending from the high plains of Alberta south to the hill country of Texas, the prairies are among the largest, most fascinating and most threatened ecosystems in North America.

The new edition retains all the features that made the first edition an instant classic, while providing up-to-the-minute information on conservation challenges and opportunities.

Illustrated with spectacular full-colour photographs and elegant black-and white line drawings, this beautifully written book is a must for anyone who wants to know more about the dazzling natural variety of the prairies.

Candace Savage is the author of numerous internationally acclaimed books on subjects ranging from natural history and science to popular culture.



Prairie
A Natural History

\$34.95 CDN · \$29.95 US
TRADE PAPER
ISBN: 978-1-55365-588-6
7.5" × 10" • 320 pages

Co-published with the David
Suzuki Foundation



GREYSTONE BOOKS
www.greystonebooks.com

Meeting Rooms for Rent at the Calgary Area Outdoor Council

When the Calgary Area Outdoor Council is not using its two meeting rooms for our own programs and functions we make them available for rent to other groups.

Groups typically use our meeting rooms for conferences, training sessions and workshops, seminars and forums, media launches, and any number of let's-get-away-from-the-office functions. The rooms are also frequently used for events such as art shows, baby showers, birthdays, yoga, spiritual gatherings and graduation celebrations.

If your group is interested in meeting room space at reasonable rates contact the CAOC office at (403) 270-2262 or caoc@caoc.ab.ca.



Bow River Room (Capacity: 6 - 8 people)

Rental Rates for CAOC Members:
\$25 per hour or \$150 for the day
(plus GST)

Rental Rates for Non-Members:
\$30 per hour or \$180 for the day
(plus GST)



Rocky Mountain Room (Capacity: 36 - 42 people)

Rental Rates for CAOC Members:
\$30 per hour or \$180 for the day
(plus GST)

Rental Rates for Non-Members:
\$35 per hour or \$210 for the day
(plus GST)



Calgary Area Outdoor Council
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Calgary, Alberta, T2N 3E4
Phone: (403) 270-2262
Fax: (403) 270-3654
Email: caoc@caoc.ab.ca
Website: www.caoc.ab.ca
Office Hours: 9:00am—5:00pm, Mon—Fri

The Calgary Area Outdoor Council (CAOC) is a registered non-profit association of 80+ member organizations who share common interests in outdoor recreation and environmental care. Our role is to enhance access to the outdoors through communications, education, representation and leadership.

Outdoor Update Newsletter

The *Outdoor Update* is a free monthly newsletter from the Calgary Area Outdoor Council. It contains articles, events, notices, and other information from, for, and about the outdoor recreation and environmental care community. To subscribe contact our office at (403) 270-2262 or caoc@caoc.ab.ca. To include your own information in the *Outdoor Update* email your material, along with your specific request to have it published, to our office by mid-month. Text should be sent in Microsoft Word format please. Accompanying images and photos should be sent in JPEG format please. If your photos require credit please provide the relevant details. CAOC reserves the right to accept, decline or edit any material received for publication.



Mountain bikers just setting off from the top of Kicking Horse Resort.