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NEWSLETTER - APRIL 1982

Dear Member:

Management Plan

In the Spring of 1981 Parks Canada initiated a management plan for the four mountain parks - Banff, Jasper, Kootenay, and Yoho. This project is now well underway and representatives from each of the four parks as well as the regional office have been designated to carry out the planning program. An introductory information package has been prepared for the public and public meetings are presently being held. The response that Parks Canada receive from the public over the next two years will help them to formulate management policies which will govern future park use. As public participation is an essential part of this process, now is the time to communicate to Parks Canada, any views, which you may have on the level of backcountry use and access, commercial development and environmental concerns. Your views, especially with respect to the Lake O'Hara region should be addressed to Al Fisk, Superintendent, Yoho National Park, Box 99, Field, BC Canada, VOA 1G0. If you wish to receive more information on the progress of the management plan, write the Public Participation Co-ordinator, Parks Canada, 5th Floor, Government of Canada Bldg., 220 4th Avenue, S.E., Calgary, Alberta T2P 9Z9 and ask to have your name put on the mailing list for the four Mountain Parks Management Planning Program.

Interpretive Service

The Yoho Park Interpretive Service initiated an extensive public education program in 1981 specifically aimed at increasing visitor awareness of the fragile nature of back country areas. The Lake O'Hara region was one of the main areas of concern and weekly programs by naturalists, Frances Klatzel and Dave Harris, have certainly helped to focus attention on the problem of protecting fragile areas while still enjoying them. The programs have continued through the winter and are also scheduled for the upcoming summer season.

New Signs at O'Hara

The sign program initiated by Warden Alien Knowles two years ago resulted in several new signs being installed last September. The

signs are small in size and are lettered in bright yellow on an olive background. They are less susceptible to vandalism and require less maintenance than the wooden signs they are replacing. The completion of this program this summer will mean close to three hundred new signs in the O'Hara areas.

Link/Grassi Book

This project is still in progress and will hopefully go to press this summer.

Guide to Geology & Ecology

The publication of Don Beers' "The Magic of Lake O'Hara" booklet has led us to reconsider our plan to prepare a walking guide to the Lake O'Hara region. While Mr. Beers' booklet is not a complete duplication of the proposed guide, it covers many of the same areas in good detail with excellent photographs. We will therefore, suspend any further action on this project for the time being.

Co-Operating Association

The Lake O'Hara Trails Club is presently investigating the possibilities of entering into a co-operating association with Parks Canada in order to establish cost sharing on publications. There will be an update on this subject at the annual meeting.

New Pin

A new Lake O'Hara Trails Club Pin should be available sometime this summer. The design will be similar to the logo on our letterhead.

Map & Brochure Reprint

Existing inventories of both the Lake O'Hara Trail Map and the Trails Club Brochure are running low, so both items will be updated and reprinted this spring.

The Trail Ended For Some

Austin Ford Passes - The death of Austin Ford last September came as a shock to those who knew him. Austin owned and operated Lake O'Hara Lodge from 1952 until 1975 and, with his wife, Phyllis, was largely responsible for building the business up to the present popularity. His love for the O'Hara region was infectious and through his efforts literally thousands of visitors were introduced to the area. He was a director and vice president of the Lake O'Hara Trails Club and was an avid hiker during his years at O'Hara. He will indeed be missed.

The trail also ended for Gordon Pitt in 1981. Gordon visited O'Hara twelve times dating back to 1963 and was an enthusiastic Traits Club supporter.

New Memberships

There were 48 new memberships issued in 1981. Our Life memberships now total 365. Total membership including annual memberships is now 382.

Next Annual Meeting

The 1982 Annual Meeting of the Lake O'Hara Trails Club will be held at Lake O'Hara Lodge on Tuesday, July 27th at 9:00 P.M.

Happy Hiking!

Tim Wake,
President