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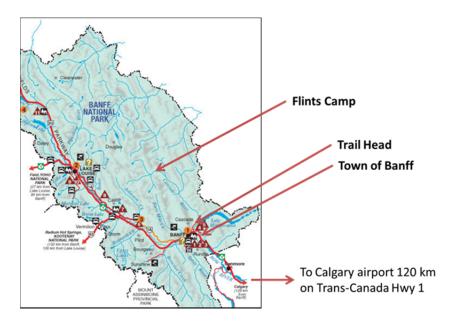
Dear Fellow Trail Riders:

We have experienced several challenges this year. We had a lower than average number of registrations in the early months and a change in ownership of our outfitter. It is no longer viable to proceed with the Red Deer location.

However, our new outfitter has gone through extraordinary measures to secure a new backcountry location for the Trail Riders in 2014. Not only is the location in the middle of the world-famous Banff National Park, it will also feature trips to places that only a few riders have ever seen.

One of the added benefits of this new location is that we will be staging out of the town of Banff, rather than Sundre. Banff is easily accessed from the airport and is a beautiful location to start and end your holiday with the Trail Riders. As well, the trail head will be near Lake Minnewanka, a gorgeous mountain lake, which is only a 20 minute bus ride away.

We are going to Flints Camp where the tents and all facilities will be located (see map below). I know that many of you will say, "I have been there before." Yes, but our rides will be very different this year. Since we are staying at the Flint's Park campsite for five nights, each of our day rides will be in that area. Our new guide will be taking us to places that they never take riders! This truly is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see country that we will not have a chance to see again. Day rides will include, and not be limited to: Cuthead Lake, Bighorn Lake, Northfork, Block Mountain and the spectacular alpine Rainbow Lake.



Here are some pictures related to our new location:





Town of Banff









Flints Camp Area

The ride into Flints Camp does have another complication. In 2013, we had the worst flooding in a century in Alberta and one of the bridges over the Cascade River on the access trail to Flints Camp was washed out. Horses will be able to safely cross the river but only when the high water levels have receded in mid-July. That means that the first three rides have to be cancelled completely.

All of the people who have registered for 2014 have been already been contacted by letter and with a phone call from a board member about these changes. We'd like to thank all of the people that registered for their understanding. Three people had to cancel their ride and for that we are saddened and deeply apologize.

We are excited about this new location for the Trail Riders in 2014 as we will be riding in spectacular remote areas that we have never seen before and will never visit again. If you have not already done so, now is the time to register for a ride that will not repeat itself.

Thank you and we hope to see you on the ride this summer,

Blessings and Happy Trails, Stuart R. Watkins President, Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies