



100 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

# The Bulletin

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Editor: Robert Vanderzwerde and Kim Webster

December 2023

## Featuring Waterton National Park

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**Silent Auction – p. 3**  
Bid on fabulous prizes  
End - December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at  
midnight



**Dare To Ride**

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Annual **Townsend Photo Contest**  
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**Let us take you there!**  
One hundred years of stunning imagery and stories  
Dare to Ride, coffee table book now available  
on Shopify. p. 10-11



# TRCR President's Message

Well, that was fun. The Centennial year is basically over, but we are still going on strong, with the sale of our Centennial coffee table book, **Dare to Ride**, and a **silent auction**. The year started with a sold-out concert – **A Window on the West** - featuring Bradley Bischoff in a concert house tucked in Bragg Creek's wilderness. In June, we opened a temporary 5-month exhibit – **Celebrating 100 Years** - at the White Museum in Banff. With it came two social gatherings: the launch and an informal party in July. Then we had our **Signature Rides** – Six 5-day adventures including iconic rides to Mount Assiniboine, Lake Magog, Allenby Pass, and our camp in Bryant Creek. Thank you, Boundary Ranch, for taking on this monumental project and making it a memorable summer for all who rode. Of course, a Centennial would not be complete without a **Round-up**. The fun-filled event took place at the Banff Trail Riders in September and was well attended.

Looking forward, TRCR is featured in a documentary yet to be released – **Stewards of Nature**. Stay tuned as we figure out how to bring this documentary to all of you.

So many long-time and new volunteers devoted themselves to making the Centennial successful. The passion and expertise are breathtaking, and this short introduction doesn't do justice. More will be reported and shared in the following newsletter, including photos and stories on a well-lived year.

For now, enjoy this newsletter, consider bidding on our silent auction and gift yourself a beautiful coffee table book. Above all, consider the **fantastic rides** we are offering next summer.

*Happy Holidays!*

*Renée Delorme* on behalf of the Board of Directors



A Window on the West, concert, 2023, Bragg Creek



## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Silent Auction



Please email/message your bids to [admin@trail-rides.ca](mailto:admin@trail-rides.ca)

Please Include your name and contact information.  
Bids end Wednesday December 27th at midnight

**Two hour horse ride for a party of Four**

**BOUNDARY RANCH**  
Legendary in the Canadian Rockies

Four TRCR limited edition 90th Anniversary Belt Buckle

**Value - \$700**

**Value - \$700**  
**Bid in - \$100**



Congratulations! You've won an **ALBERTA WHISKY TASTING** & ONE 750ML SPECIAL EDITION HUT WHISKY - \$650 VALUE

**TASTING INCLUDES**  
Flight of 3-5 Alberta Whiskies  
1 Cocktail prepared with the whisky of your choice  
Charcuterie Platter for sharing  
A final chocolate morsel to wrap up the experience  
**4 - 8 people | Thursday - Sunday, 6 - 8 pm | No Minors**

PLEASE CONTACT BRETT FOR DETAILS & TO ARRANGE YOUR TASTING  
[info@braggcreedistillers.ca](mailto:info@braggcreedistillers.ca) | 587-997-9391

**Value - \$650**  
**Bid in - \$350**



YAMAHA FS - 205S acoustic guitar

**Value - \$350**  
**Bid in - \$125**

The highest bids will be announce periodically for a week (except on Christmas and Boxing Days). Please watch your emails and our Facebook page.

Payment of winning bids can be by eTransfer, cheque or credit card.



# I AM A RIDER

"Life is not measured by how many breaths you take, but by how many moments take your breath away."

"I am a rider.  
I ride with The Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies.  
I choose horses over hiking.  
I choose boots over fancy shoes.  
I choose mountains over IMAX.  
I choose stars over disco balls.  
I am equal to splendid adventures and braveries.  
I am a rider on the 100th year anniversary of the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies."



Photo by Stacey Maffei, Banff, 2023

grandson, Henry Winchester from Rochester, New York! Henry later went on to win the coveted Golden Horseshoe, and he was tickled pink. He will be back, I am sure, hopefully with a posse of first timers!

Also, in this amazing group were three of

Dr Bruce Hatfield's grandchildren and his daughter Barb. Some may remember Doc Hatfield from riding with him through the 1960s, '70s, '80s and '90s and or enjoying his photo presentations at annual roundups through the years. Bruce had a

Signature Ride #4 with 15 eager riders set out from Boundary Ranch on a fresh bright morning. We loaded our gear and hopped into the bus for a bumpy hour-long ride to the trailhead at Mount Shark. Our tenacious troupe included experienced veterans, Joel Lipkind, celebrating his 30th ride (WOW!!!), Ted Watchuk, a keen geologist who gave us all a new perspective on the natural world, Walley Temple completing his 7th ride, making him a lifetime member of the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, and Wally's 14-year-old

great fondness for the TRCR and always dreamed of accompanying his grandchildren on a trail ride. Sadly, Alzheimer's disease robbed Doc Bruce of that opportunity. In honour of the hundredth anniversary of the organization Doc Bruce loved so much, and in memory of their Dad and Gramps, Barb Hatfield, Tim and Michael Coles and Sarah McArthur signed up to ride. It was an adventure of a lifetime and would have very much pleased Dr Bruce.

All 15 of us in our group were aaaaawestruck by the beauty and magnificence of the Canadian Rockies, specifically our special trips to Mount Assiniboine (such an icon!), Marvel Lake, where it rained but was still incredibly beautiful, and Wonder Pass, which truly was a wonder! You should see the photos! One of us is going to win the coveted Townsend Trophy this year!

On our last night we told jokes and heard stories. Regretfully, one of our members didn't tell us about her hike up Mount Temple just before this amazing trail ride! That must have been exhausting and breath taking. And my personal favorite was a story from Doc Bruce Hatfield's book. "Matters of Life and Death" (sadly no longer in print). In the story he

recounts how an elderly gentleman on one of his rides in the late 60s early 70s, showed up the first day of the ride in spats, bowler hat, British raincoat, and umbrella and not much else! He had run away from his seniors' care facility down east and was determined to fulfill a lifelong dream. With the generosity and encouragement of the rest of his fellow riders, this octogenarian proceeded to have a marvellous week and made his wish of horseback riding in the Rockies come true. A testament to the spirit of trail riding with the TRCR and the tremendous way it can impact one's life!

The last morning, at the creative suggestion of our fellow rider, Lynn Dalsin, we took our group photo donning "Moss-taches! We all got some usnea, commonly called "old man's beard" from some donor trees and pretended to have moustaches by affixing it to our upper lips. It was such fun, we looked amazing, and the photo is a classic. Never to be forgotten!

The long ride back to civilization following the pack train was so sad for me. I may never get back into the mountains again. But I have some great memories and some great new friends.



In the words of my friend Julia Roar... "Time just keeps a rolling on ... the one thing that doesn't ever change is the Alberta Rocky Mountain Range."

Well, in our lifetimes, hopefully!

Article and photo by **Rebecca Horne**

We acknowledge that the 2023 Camp of the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies was located on Traditional Treaty 7 Territory. These sacred lands are a gathering place for the Niitsitapi from the Blackfoot Confederacy, including Siksika, Kainai, Piikani; also, the Nakoda, the Bearspaw, the Goodstoney, the Tsuut'ina, the Metis and many others whose histories, languages and cultures enrich our vibrant community.



# RIDING INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

After 100 years of leading beginners and seasoned riders from all over the world into our tremendous backcountry we know how to give you a dream vacation... and that "hidden gem" you've been looking for? Well,.....you just found it! Release your inner cowboy/cowgirl and have a life changing adventure!

Expect to see no one else except your fellow trail riders this week. Also, enjoy the fact that there is no cell phone or internet coverage.

## TRAIL RIDE TO THE GREAT DIVIDE

Kananaskis Country (7 days)

Riding the Great Divide is a 7-day moving trip, using two teams of draft horses and covered wagons to transport the food, camp and duffel to the two different camps we stay in during the trip. While the wagons roll through the lower elevations, the horseback riders hit the high mountain trails that take you high above timberline, past tumbling mountain streams and through stands of virgin timber following the Continental Divide between Alberta and BC. By the time you get to the next camp, the kitchen tent is set up and a welcome cup of hot coffee is ready for you.

**Level of difficulty - experienced riders only**  
**September 9th to 15th**



## TRAIL RIDE TO HALFWAY LODGE

Banff National Park (6 days)

Experience the classic Rockies in style. Enjoy the comfort of two backcountry lodges and gourmet food in Banff National Park, deep in the Canadian Rocky. Challenge yourself riding up the Allenby Pass at 8,100' in altitude and enjoy a side trips to an isolated a high mountain alpine lake.

**Level of difficulty - Beginner and intermediate riders**

**June 23 to 28th**

**September 12 to 17th**





## 2024 FEATURE RIDE

# WATERTON NATIONAL PARK

UNESCO first world's International Peace Park (5 days)

Waterton is known as one of the most beautiful destinations in the Canadian Rockies. This is where the prairies meet the snowy peaks of the Rocky Mountains. Clear lakes, thundering waterfalls, rainbow-coloured streams, colourful rocks, and mountain vistas await riders. The park is filled with wildlife, wildflowers and some of North America's best and most impressive riding trails.



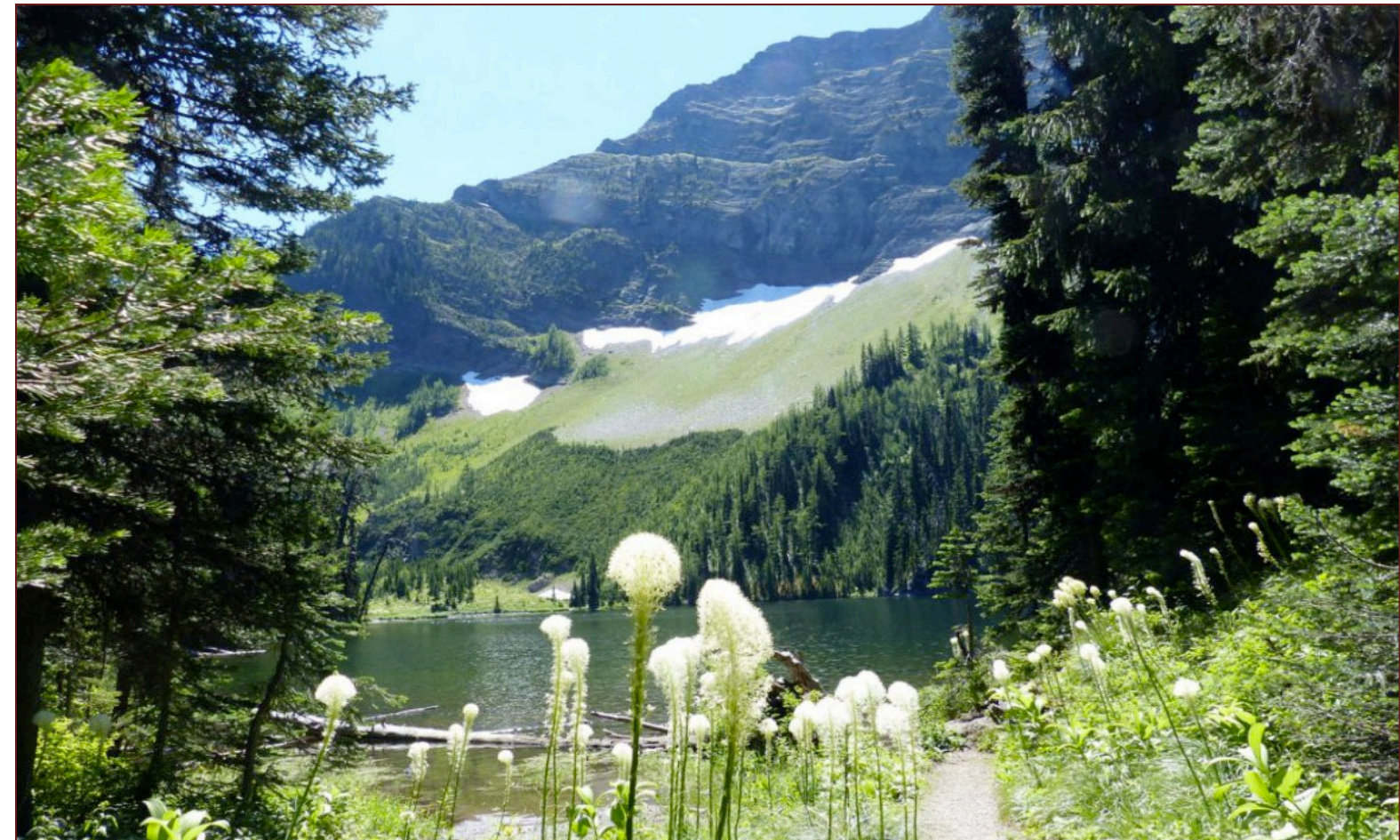
Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies are excited to offer you the ride of a life time in one of our most iconic regions. Just three hours south of Calgary, Waterton is a little-known jewel that is yours to discover.

Visit our website to find out the details of our all-inclusive 5-day adventure. You will leave Calgary by bus with your fellow riders in the morning. Halfway down the road, we will tour the Bar U Ranch National historic site set in the magnificent foothills, followed by a hearty lunch in Pincher Creek, a ranchland town. Then, you will arrive at our Alpine Stables in Waterton Lakes National Park for a 2-hour ride and finally settle down in our private camp, complete with homemade hearty meals and comfortable tents and teepees. Alpine Stable is our host guide and wrangler who will introduce us to some of the most beautiful vistas our Rockies offer, up thousands of feet to down gentle lakes. On the final day, a morning ride will seal a week of memories before returning to Calgary to your hotel.

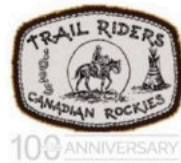
**Level of difficulty - Beginner and intermediate riders**

July 8 to 12  
July 15 to 19  
July 22 to 26

July 29 to August 2  
August 5 to 9







Celebrating 100 years

# THE PERFECT GIFT



## Dare To Ride

Buy an iconic piece of our Canadian history in a luxurious coffee table book.

110 pages of stunning imageries and compelling stories

### TRAIL RIDERS OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES 1923-2023



Click on Shopify to see more pages and order your copy.

Dare to Ride is the work of passionate and talented volunteers who, over a year, scoured archives, 100 years' worth of photos, and interviewed past members—then started the patient work of creative designers who put it all together in a magnificent piece of literature.



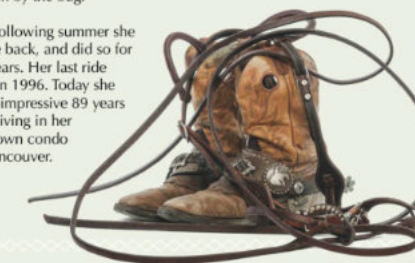
## Riding in a Dead Cowboy's Boots

It was in June, 1964. A week before, Anne Williams, a young nurse, had travelled by train from Vancouver to Calgary. Her plan was to spend time with her best friend, Pat Waite, and enjoy each other's company. The challenge, though, was to do this within the confines of her friend's maternal obligations – she had five children. Upon arrival at her friend's home, Jack, Pat's husband said, "Sorry, Anne, we forgot to tell you. We are going on a week-long ride with the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, leaving in two days. You are welcome to come with us or stay with the children." Anne had some riding experience as a child, but that was years ago. She had no riding clothes or backcountry equipment. However, the prospect of being left alone with five kids gave her no choice.

The following two days became a marathon to find riding clothes, a sleeping bag, rain gear, gloves, a hat and boots for Anne. Pat's father, Dr. R.C. Riley, the City's pathologist,

joined in the excitement. He came through with the best piece of equipment that Anne would wear for years to come – a "fine" pair of cowboy boots. He had "borrowed" them from an unfortunate cowboy who had passed away the day before. Looking at the boots, he thought, "Perfect size, quality leather, can't let them go to waste." Dr Riley was right. Strangely, Anne's feet fit perfectly in the dead man's cowboy boots. Perhaps for that reason, Anne's first ride awakened in her a passion for horses and big wild skies. As she said – she was "bitten by the bug."

The following summer she came back, and did so for 27 years. Her last ride was in 1996. Today she is an impressive 89 years old, living in her midtown condo in Vancouver.



## Dare to Ride page samples

The book's first part shares a week on the trails with the Trail Riders, complete with magnificent photos, fun stories and memorable anecdotes.

The second part is stories and adventures that mark 100 years of Trail Riders in the Canadian Rockies.

### TRAIL RIDERS OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

The Order of the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies was formed in 1923 by a group of men who were interested in the history of the Canadian West. The first photograph by Egon Harner shows 122 Canadian riders, a cultural gathering of the "Open Horsemanship" scene of the party's early years.

**T**RAIL RIDING IS DIFFERENT from other forms of horsemanship. Instead of riding around a ring or corral you ride a horse on a trail. Though circumstances sometimes intervene to the contrary, trail riding is not supposed to involve riding in the most refined form. Trail riding provides opportunity for unforgettable companionship. You do not necessarily have to be a good horseman to enjoy it.

and given spectacular country to ride through, it can provide the kind of experience that people often remember for the rest of their lives.

In the Canadian Rockies, there is a long heritage of horse use. Even before European contact, many native peoples in the Canadian West had already acquired horses through trade or theft from other natives further south. The outfitting, horse packing and guiding industry that made early Banff so famous evolved during the railway exploration and construction. The requirement for moving large numbers of workers and huge masses of materials into position for railway construction, attracted the widest possible range of horsemen, westerners and mountain men to the Rockies. Many of the most competent of these showed up in the mountains to farm their own small businesses in the tourism and freight industries that were created by the completion of the line.



Some of these men, like Tom Wilson, Bill Peck, Jimmy Simpson and Ralph Edwards contributed enormously to the reputation of early Banff through the western hospitality they offered. These outfitters and horse guides conducted expeditions both on their own, and with tourists, into the unexplored regions of the Rockies that lay far beyond the tracks and the park boundary. They are famous because their attitudes about the mountains and about tourism shaped the nature of a developing Banff in ways that could never have imagined. Some of them are remembered simply because they were characters in their own right whose individual wit and charm made them inseparable from an image Banff had of itself and wanted to portray to the world.



# 2023 TOWNSEND PHOTO CONTEST



Photo by Claudia, Banff, 2023

## Photos should be high resolution

The WOW factor is what makes a picture stand out. It may be in part technique, but is usually due to having a new or unusual subject or an old subject presented in a different way. Photos should epitomize riding with Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies: horses, riders, staff, camp, activities, campfires, fun, and mountain scenery.

Winning photos are sharp, in focus, have a good exposure and a great composition.

## Deadline to submit your photos - March 31st, 2024

To upload your photos click on the Photo Categories of your choice. You can enter a maximum of three photos per category.

- Fun in Camp
- On the Trail
- Scenic Views
- Fauna and Flora
- People and/or Horses

Alternatively, please email your photos to [admin@trail-rides.ca](mailto:admin@trail-rides.ca) You may only be able to send 1 or 2 photos per email due to their size. If so, please identify your emails (i.e. email 1, 2, 3, etc.).

If you have any questions about the competition, please email [jfleetham@shaw.ca](mailto:jfleetham@shaw.ca)

Please note that all entries become the property of the TRCR for use in our calendar, postcards, albums or advertising.

# Join Us



Photo by Stacey Maffei Banff, 2023

## The Ride of Your Life

You can reach us at 1-844-560-5522  
Email: [admin@trail-rides.ca](mailto:admin@trail-rides.ca)  
[www.trailridevacations.com](http://www.trailridevacations.com)

### Members

We'll send you \$100 when you "Refer a friend".  
Check the website for eligibility.

