



# THE BULLETIN

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## FALL 2024



Judy Fleetham - Vimy Ridge - 2024

**LIVE EVENT** - 100 years of trail riding with the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies

**October 22nd** - details on page 2

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**FOLLOW US**





# BOARD'S MESSAGE

2024 was an unforgettable year of adventure! We explored the stunning landscapes of Waterton National Park and Banff's iconic trails. Despite some challenges—like Waterton's famous winds and tipi troubles—our amazing riders and volunteers ensured every ride was a success. Huge thanks to Alpine Stables, Rocking Heart Ranch, Tamarack Outdoors, and Banff Trail Riders for making it possible!

As we look to 2025, we're excited to return to Waterton and venture into the remote Thompson Valley for the first time. Be sure to reserve your spot on our priority list for updates on these incredible rides.

None of this would be possible without our amazing volunteers, whose passion and dedication drive our success. Their love for the backcountry and desire to share these experiences with others are the heart of our group.

We can't wait to see you again next year—or to welcome you for the first time! Together, we'll experience the wild beauty of the Rockies from a perspective few ever get to see.

## The perfect present for this Holiday Season



### Dare To Ride

A limited edition - 110 pages of stunning imageries and compelling stories celebrating 100 years of the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies.

Own a piece of iconic Canadian history in a luxurious coffee table book (11 x 8) format.

### LET US TAKE YOU THERE!

One hundred years of stunning  
imagery and stories.

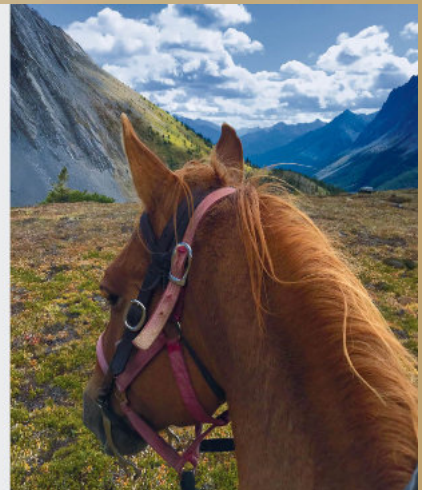
Experience the backcountry of  
the Canadian Rockies

TRCR



1925 - 2025

Cover photo: Janet Green riding the edge of Banff Park,  
1925. Photo: Kenworthy, 2022. By N. McCreary.  
Back photo: Film Park, Banff, 2023 by Mike Arnes.



\$40  
plus shipping  
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Phone: 1-844-560-5522

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

# THE HISTORY OF THE TRAIL RIDERS

**October 22, 7-8:30pm**

**Calgary Central Library**

Level 1 - 1-03 Patricia A. Whelan

Performance Hall

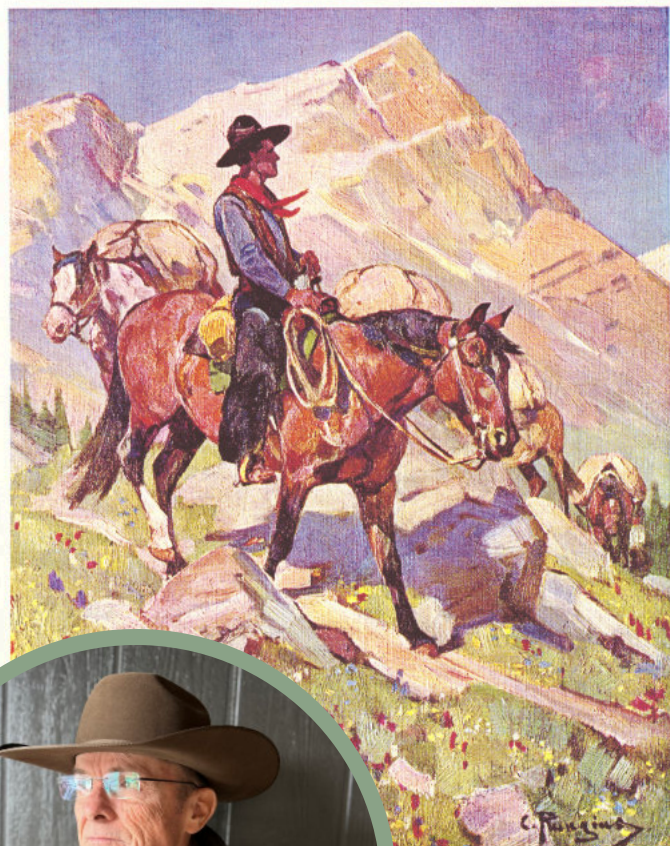
800 3 Street SE, Calgary

## FREE EVENT

Join us for an evening of story telling, songs and exhibit on the fascinating history of the iconic Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, who over the past 100 years guided thousands of riders from all over the world in some of the most pristine and breathtaking scenery on earth.

With the special participation from veteran TRCR trail guide -

**BRADLEY BISCHOFF**



the Canadian Rockies

RIVER • AYLMER PASS  
JULY 29 • AUGUST 2, 1938

**Eventbrite**

***More than just a beautiful multiday horseback in the Canadian Rockies.***

*More than just an incredible horseback ride in the beautiful Rocky Mtns. These yearly guided rides into different mountain camp locations have given me an amazing collection of memories of scenery, experiences, and friends. Advanced riding experience is not required.*

**Trip Advisor**



# I AM A RIDER

By Rebecca Horne

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.

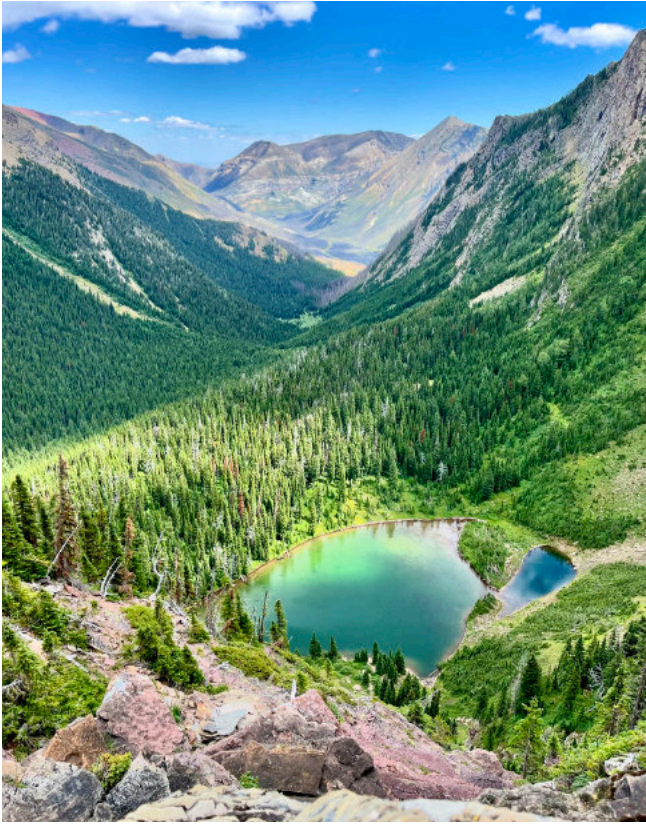


Janet Gaskin, 2023



# 2024 in Photos

*"LIFE IS NOT MEASURED BY HOW MANY BREATHS YOU TAKE,  
BUT BY HOW MANY MOMENTS TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY."*



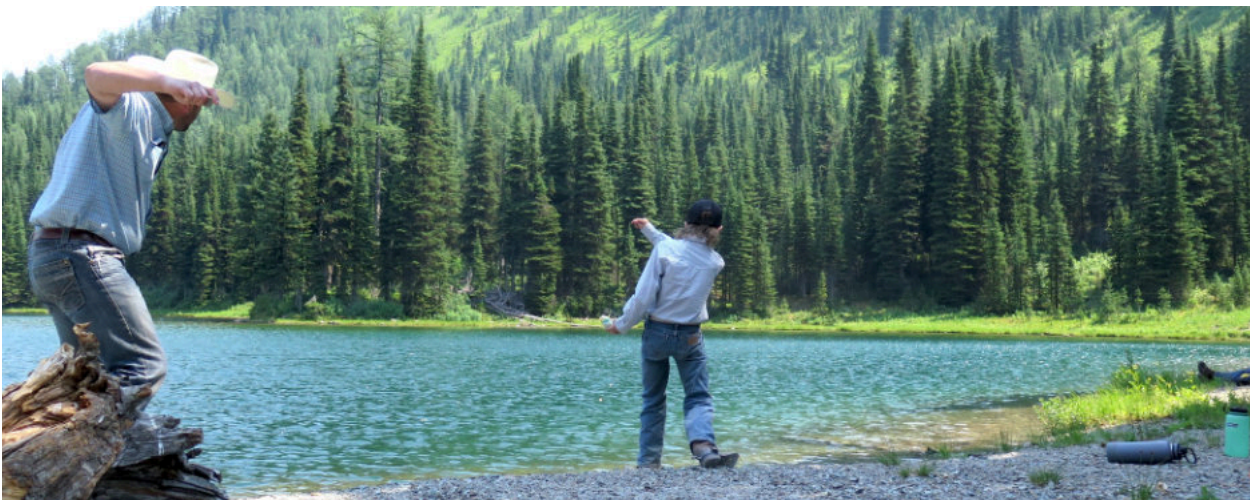
Shelley Brown - Waterton - 2024



Renée Delorme - Waterton - 2024



Renée Delorme - Waterton - 2024



Renée Delorme - Waterton - 2024

# The Misty Mountain Riders

By Rebecca Horne

The Misty Mountain Riders consisted of 10 lovely ladies from British Columbia, Alberta, Idaho, and Georgia and their exceptional 2 amazing guides, Abby and Lola.

This was ride number 8 for the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies and the last ride of the season. TRCR paired with Banff Trail Riders as outfitters is a match made in heaven. This is the only ride the TRCR does in Lodges, and that extra level of comfort, especially in cool, cloudy weather, is well worth it. The ride started chilly – it was cool and cloudy at 930 on a Thursday morning when we saddled up. What a lovely variety of horses – I had a good sized bay roan, little Coal was, guess what colour? Black! And a couple of bays, a few sorrels and a beautiful grulla, all sturdy, steady, sound mounts.

Due to 8 inches of snow 2 weeks before, the trails were more than ankle deep in muddy water. The first stop for lunch along the river was so beautiful. The guides pulled out a barbecue, and we had steak and a choice of salad. That little barbecue amazes me. Having hot drinks at lunch on a chilly, cloudy, misty day was so warming.

Around 4 ish, we rode into the corral at Sundance Lodge. There were Flush Toilets!!! Hot showers! Appetizers were waiting for us to enjoy on the table, and another group of Wild Women! That's actually the name of their

organization, Wild Women Trips. We shared how good the trip was.

Supper was delicious honey orange Salmon with sweet potato and asparagus – This is where the 5-star rating comes in – excellent food consisting of appetizer, soup, salad, entree and dessert. All inclusive. It was my dream come true – horses, mountains, riding, sharing stories and photos and more than enough food.

The next day, we had a great breakfast and a relaxed start and trudged in the cold up to Halfway Lodge. It is cozier than Sundance, much higher, and still has great food, but what makes it special is the view from the shower. You can look down from the shower to the creek, straight ahead are fields and trees, and then the Sundance range looms over top of you. Truly amazing.



The third day is the ride to Allenby Pass. From there, you are supposed to be able to see Mount Assiniboine, the Matterhorn of the Rockies. It is a beautiful mountain that stands head and shoulders above everything else. But it was still cold, cloudy, and windy, and we felt like real mountain explorers as we braved the weather for photos at the pass and hurried down to lunch out of the wind. I was lucky enough to ride to Mount Assiniboine last year. It is extraordinary.

The Boss - photo by *All in the Wild*/FB



The fourth day was optional, relaxing at the cabin or a mountain hike with our delightful guides, Abby and Lola. These guides were hikers as well as horseback guides! Up we went bushwhacking through willow, struggling over downed trees, to a lovely waterfall that crashed down over the steep rocks. Some of us turned back at this point, and some of us continued up the steep trail, grabbing bushes for handholds to the most bewitching lake. Our own private lake! An osprey soared up above us, and ducks paddled in the lake. Lunch could not have been better. I could have stayed up there forever. But real life called. We rode back to Sundance the next day and then down to Banff again and said goodbye to our horses and the mountains.

For me, my 7<sup>th</sup> ride with the TRCR, the lodges made such a difference from sleeping on cots in a tent or tipi. I guess I am just getting old! Life is not measured by how many breaths you take, but by how many moments take your breath away. And having a hot shower and a comfy bed doesn't hurt.

Our cooks and meals were great, our packers with the mule train didn't break or lose anything, and our two guides were absolutely

the best. Abby was calm and cheerful, and Lola told us the story of her Close Encounter with bear number 122, The Boss.

The Boss is a local grizzly, a legend in his own time. He is over 20 years old, big, and has a distinctive chewed-off ear. He has been hit by the train not once but twice, but so far, he has not become habituated to humans. He continues to father more grizzlies in the Banff area than any other bear has.

You don't want to see this bear when you are leading a pack trip down the trail.

But Lucky Lola did. He came up onto their trail and she had to turn her ride around, calmly head back to the barns, radio in the situation, and a posse came to help! Gratefully and luckily the Boss just kept on going thru the yard and headed north to wherever he wanted to go.

Bears are an Apex predators – our guides and cooks and seeing grouse and everything combined to make our ride An Apex ride.

Look for Lola and Abby in the September 2025 issues of National Geographic Travel Edition and Canadian Geographic!





# 2025 RIDES

AN INCREDIBLE SELECTION

**EXPLORE DAVID THOMSON COUNTRY - *NEW***

Level of difficulty: Intermediate to Experience



**TWO 8-DAYS  
RIDES - SMALL  
GROUPS - ALL  
INCLUSIVE**

Embrace the unique power of an authentic wilderness experience. Located outside of the busy national parks of Banff and Jasper, you will encounter very few other travelers in the area.



# EXPLORE WATERTON NATIONAL PARK

Level of difficulty: Beginner to Intermediate



Renée Delorme - Waterton - 2024

## FOUR, 5-DAYS RIDES - SMALL GROUPS - ALL INCLUSIVE

Experience the ultimate 5-day adventure in the stunning Waterton Lakes National Park, nestled in the southern reaches of the majestic Rocky Mountains. Prepare to be captivated by breathtaking landscapes and unforgettable trails in one of the most spectacular wilderness areas in the world!



Renée Delorme - Waterton - 2024



# 2024 in Photos



Kim Webster - Waterton - 2024



Judy Fleetham - Waterton - 2024



Judy Fleetham - Waterton - 2024



Rebecca Horne- Banff - 2024



Carol Mathews - Waterton - 2024

*"A great 6 day ride from Banff with all guides/horses/ provisions by Banff Trail Rides BUT with a wonderful MC (Rep. of TRCR) who gelled us together and provided extra entertainment."*

Australians exploring the backcountry

**Travel Advisor**





# 2024 TOWNSEND PHOTO CONTEST



Judy Fleetham - Waterton - 2024

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.

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)

**Deadline to submit your photos - March 31st, 2025**

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

[www.trailridevacations.com](http://www.trailridevacations.com)



# Memory Lane

## My First Ride

By Jim Lanigan

*I was still wearing the clothes that I had worn on the ride. After a week of not getting much sleep on the ride, I found a seat at the airport and dozed off. When I started hearing the announcements, I woke up, and when I moved, the biggest swarm of flies I ever saw flew from me.*

I first heard about the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies around 1971, when a curious 21-year-old was walking around Banff and saw a sign on the building that said "Brewster Outfitters." I had no idea what an outfitter was, so to satisfy my curiosity, I opened their front door and met a young lady named Linda Hawkins. She greeted me and answered my questions with tremendous enthusiasm.

She not only explained what an outfitter did but was also involved with the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies. Her description of the TRCR had me sold. This was mid-summer, so I

booked to come back for ride number seven, which was the last ride of the summer.

The main feature of that ride and all other rides was the people I had the pleasure of meeting. That includes fellow riders, packers, guides, cooks, MCs, and all the organizers. On my first ride, I met Dennis Orr and Stuart Watkins and have kept in touch with them for over fifty years.

I told myself I would not list people's names in case I missed someone, but what the heck? I am certain that a lot of people would have

known and ridden with the following folks; Lou Shulman, Brownie Aikman, Lois Laycraft, Chick Fowler, Dr. Bruce Hatfield, Sol Lipkind, Norm Marriott, Tom McBeath, Mona Parry, Charlie Wittaker, Hal & Liz Cormier, Bill Stainton, Ginny Bowness, Grant Clark, Miriam Berkley, Bill French, Bunny Robinson, Andy Russell, Frank Sudol, Del Brassard, Irene Dick.





The staff were all characters. Over the years, I got to know the following staff members on the rides and when they were not on duty. Ron Warner was a packer on my first ride along with Dan Heather. Guides were Mike Crawley, Dick Wales. The cook on the ride was Jane Raby, who eventually was married to a warden at Banff National Park

At the end of my first ride, I had three things in my pocket. A bus ticket from Banff to Calgary, a plane ticket from Calgary to Charlottetown, and fifty cents. As a result, I caught a greyhound in Calgary and started scanning the sky to see where the planes were landing. I started walking towards the airport carrying my gear in a duffel bag and got to the airport in the middle of the night. Keep in mind that I was still wearing the clothes that I had worn on the ride. After a week of not getting much sleep on the ride, I found a seat at the airport and dozed off. When I started hearing the announcements, I woke up, and when I moved, the biggest swarm of flies I ever saw flew from me. Mind

you, there was no one sitting close to me at the time. Every time I think of this memory, it brings a smile to my face. If you can, take the opportunity and get out on a ride. You will love the people, the scenery, the horses, the food, and the overall experience. Take care.



LEFT - Dr Bruce Hatfield, August 27th, 1971 - Lunch at camp

RIGHT by Bruce Hatfield - Aug 9<sup>th</sup>, 1972

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## Do you have a couple of hours or days?

Join the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies and become part of a 100-year tradition! As a not-for-profit society powered by volunteers, we've been sharing the magic of backcountry horseback riding in the stunning Canadian Rockies for a century—and now, you can be part of this incredible experience, no matter where you live!

Whether you're near Calgary or halfway across the globe, there's a role for you in our team. We're looking for passionate individuals to help with:

**MARKETING**

**SOCIAL MEDIA & PROMOTION**

**GRAPHIC DESIGN**

**WRITING & EDITING ARTICLES**

**FUNDRAISING**

**EMCEE A RIDE**

**LOGISTICS**

**CAMP SET-UP IN LATE SPRING AND TAKE-DOWN IN LATE SUMMER**

Join us and don't miss your chance to contribute to this legendary adventure!"

### Contact one of us:

Robert - [admin@trail-rides.ca](mailto:admin@trail-rides.ca)

Gary - [gsandbeck@gmail.com](mailto:gsandbeck@gmail.com)

Renée - [reneetrcr@gmail.com](mailto:reneetrcr@gmail.com)



2024 Camp set up in Waterton



# Join Us



## For The Ride of a Lifetime



### Members

Call 1-844-560-5522 (North America only)

Email: [admin@trail-rides.ca](mailto:admin@trail-rides.ca)

[www.trailridevacations.com](http://www.trailridevacations.com)

Check the website under "Refer a friend"  
for a possible \$100 credit towards your next ride.