



December 24, 2008

UPDATES

Merry Christmas and happy holidays!

The Sierra Club Chinook Group wishes all of our members and supporters a peaceful, rewarding and eco-friendly holiday season and we look forward to an exciting new year working towards raising environmental consciousness and sustainability in Calgary and the surrounding area in 2009!

Attached is the City of Calgary's Ecological Footprint project's "green" tips and advice during the holiday season. Need a last-minute gift? Why not purchase Sierra Club memberships for family or friends at www.sierraclub.ca ?

Plastic bag update

The City of Toronto has become the first large Canadian municipality to implement a tax on single-use plastic bags as part of the worldwide effort to reduce the environmental impact of these wasteful products. Toronto city council passed the 5-cent charge on Dec. 3 and it will take effect on June 1. Sierra Club Chinook Group plans to continue pushing for similar steps to be taken in Calgary, stay tuned in the New Year for volunteer opportunities and news related to our ongoing anti-plastic bag campaign!

To subscribe or unsubscribe to our email newsletters and updates list, visit:

<http://lists.sierraclubchinook.org/mailman/listinfo/updates>

EVENTS

January 7 meeting

Our first regular public meeting of 2009 will feature Sierra Club Canada's Action Grizzly Bear Campaigner Carl Morrison. Based in Calgary, Carl has always had a keen interest in wildlife and conservation and after completing his marketing degree he went to work as a field tech on various wildlife research studies around Alberta including the Trans-Canada Highway Bear DNA study in Banff National Park.

Alberta is on the receding edge of grizzly bear range in North America. With fewer than 500 remaining in the province, how we act today will determine if grizzlies remain a part of Alberta's landscape in the future. This is why Action Grizzly Bear is so important. The presentation will discuss the general situation of Alberta's threatened grizzly bear and what's needed to ensure they are not lost. It will take a brief look at biology, threats and most importantly, what the public can do to help. The Chinook Group

holds a free, monthly public meeting at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the Calgary Area Outdoor Council building (1111 Memorial Drive NW).

Outings and Trips meeting, January 12

Location: Kaffa Koffee House, Marda Loop – 6:30pm

Please join us in planning the 2009 outings schedule! We are also always looking for new outings leaders who might be interested in sharing their favourite hikes - or curiosities about new trail. We've got a few annual trips as the backbone for the schedule, but we're always looking for other options and ways to provide a variety of outings. Last year, requests for a canoe trip resulted in our very successful July Bow River trip, overnight from Lake Louise to Banff.

Also, please bring your laptop/USB stick/photos of past outings and we can also take the opportunity to do some photo sharing for those interested.

Please RSVP to lauraATsierraclubchinookDOTorg so that we know how many people to keep an eye out for at Kaffa!

OUTINGS & TRIPS

Annual Lake Louise Trip, January 23-25

Where: Hostelling International, Lake Louise – cross country ski, potluck, ice carving festival, SAUNA, and good times!

When: arrive at the hostel Friday evening (23rd), leave Sunday (25th).

What: This is at least the fourth, if not fifth, annual trip out to Lake Louise in January, so it's definitely tradition now. This year, it will once again be a cross country ski trip (although you're more than welcome to bring ice skates or snow shoes and do your own thing on Sunday as well).

The format is the same as for our other overnight hostel trips: arrive Friday night and we'll sort out what kind of trail we want to ski the following day. Saturday morning, we'll have breakfast together (bring your own supplies) and head out, hopefully planning in some time to take in parts of the ice carving contest at Chateau Lake Louise that afternoon as well (<http://www.banfflakelouise.com/events-and-festivals/ice-magic>).

Who: Everyone! Families are more than welcome to join in as there are lots of opportunities for skiing and skating on Lake Louise if little legs are not quite ready for a longer adventure.

How much: HI Members: \$26/night; Non Members: \$30/night. Cross country ski or other gear (eg. gators or snowshoes) rentals are very reasonable at a number of locations in Calgary, including MEC and the UofC Outdoor Center.

RSVP to Laura Hickman at lauraATsierraclubchinookDOTorg by January 9th if you are interested.

To be added to our Outings email list, go to:

<http://lists.sierraclubchinook.org/mailman/listinfo/outings>

Chinook Group Vision Statement

The Sierra Club Canada - Chinook Group is an environmental organization that changes consciousness through political influence, education, advocacy and fun!

Not a member yet? Join Sierra Club of Canada today at: <https://getinvolved.sierraclub.ca/renew.php>