

footsteps

A newsletter for donors, friends, and volunteers of the Cavell Meadows Restoration Project



Footsteps is produced by the Friends of Jasper National Park to recognize and inform those who have made their footsteps count in Cavell Meadows.

www.friendsofjasper.com
Box 992, Jasper, AB T0E1E0
P: 780-852-4767
F: 780-852-4799
projects@incentre.net

ONE MORE SUMMER TO GO



Thanks to the efforts of over 110 volunteers and 17 major donors we've accomplished a lot in Cavell Meadows. But the work isn't over yet.

As soon as the snow clears, we'll be finishing trail repairs, installing trail signs, and getting ready for our final celebration.

It will take \$45,000 and another crew of keen volunteers to make this happen. Check inside this issue for our newest fundraising and volunteer opportunities.

After you've enjoyed this issue, share this news with others and you'll be helping us meet our goals. See you on the trail!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Cavell Meadows Hikers Survey 2003 2

Spring hiking all summer 3

Flowers on your back and in your backyard 4

Cavell Crossword 4

Volunteer schedule 5

Can't get enough of those meadows 5

Donor Trail 6

A full-colour version of this newsletter is available online at www.friendsofjasper.com

PARKS CANADA NEWS

Delayed Opening of Meadows Trail

Parks Canada will be delaying the opening of the Cavell Meadows Trail this spring until conditions are dry enough to prevent trail damage.

Snow usually remains on the trail until sometime in July. When snowy conditions make the trail difficult to find, erosion, trail braiding, and trampling of vegetation are common and make the hiking experience less pleasant.

A voluntary closure was in place for the past few years, but restoration was still hampered by continued use.

The road to the trailhead will be open on June 15 to provide access to the Path of the Glacier Trail.

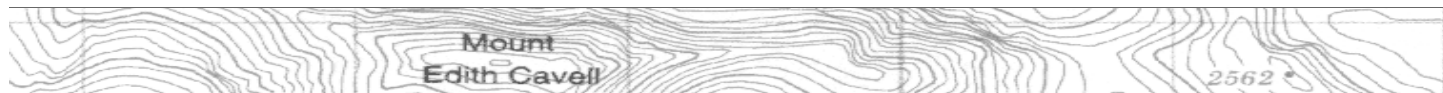
Trail conditions in Cavell Meadows will be monitored regularly and the trail is expected to open in early July.



Heavy snow on Cavell Meadows Trail, June 28 2003.

Road Repairs Scheduled

Road crews will be patching the Mt. Edith Cavell road before it opens on June 15. Patching will be beyond the regular maintenance work done each spring, but not a full road repair. This year, an assessment is planned to determine requirements and costs associated with a complete road repair.



CAVELL MEADOWS HIKER SURVEY 2003

Fifteen enthusiastic volunteers spent 25 days in Cavell Meadows last summer, chatting with hikers and conducting a survey with 216 visitors. Here's what they found:

About the visitors:

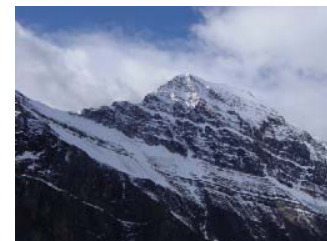
- Most respondents were Canadian (38%) and most Canadians were from Alberta (48% of Canadians, or 18% overall). Respondents came from 18 different countries.
- The most common first language of respondents was English (67%) followed by German (17%) then French (6%) and Dutch (5%).
- Over three-quarters of respondents were on their first visit to Cavell Meadows (77%). Repeat visitors tended to be infrequent, with 41% of repeat visitors having made no visits in the last two years.
- The most common first source of information about Cavell Meadows is Parks Canada (staff 10% or publication 19%), followed closely by "Books" (27%) and "Word of Mouth" (21%). 98% of respondents knew of Cavell Meadows before arriving at the trailhead.



77% of respondents had never been to Cavell Meadows before

About the visit and expectations:

- The top three reasons for visiting were: "To see wonderful views" (93%), "To exercise and challenge yourself" (47%), and "To take photographs" (44%). "To hike a loop trail" and "To see wildflowers" were not nearly as important to respondents.
- Respondents spent an average of 2.9 hours on the trail, and spent the amount of time they had expected.
- Most respondents found the trail as difficult as they were expecting (61%). Those that found difficulty most often mentioned "steepness" as the nature of difficulty. Route finding was not considered a difficulty by many respondents.
- Respondents were extremely satisfied with their visit, stating that it would greatly enhance their trip to Jasper (66%) and using strongly positive words to describe their visit.



"Magnificent" and "stunning": two of the more popular words respondents used to describe their visit

About knowledge and learning:

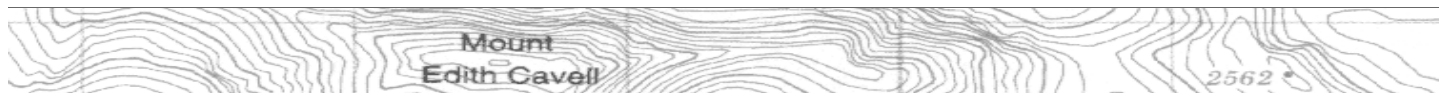
- According to correct answers to true-false questions, most respondents have a good general understanding of what to expect and how to behave along the Cavell Meadows trail.
- Most respondents were interested in learning something more during a visit to Cavell Meadows (79%). The most common topics of further learning were flora, fauna and glaciers. Signs were the preferred method of learning for the majority of respondents (51.9%), followed by brochures (29.1%), and then by an interpretive tour guide (9.7%).
- Two symbols were tested for their ability to get across ideas of "Voluntary Trail Restriction" and "Stay on the Trail" without words. Most respondents understood the basic idea of both symbols. But both symbols need improvements to their design and placement and need to be accompanied by words in order to be more effective.



Respondents wanted to learn more about flora after their visit to the meadows

Continued on Page 3

These survey highlights are only a brief look at the results and should not be taken out of context. Before drawing conclusions or making decisions based on these highlights, please see the full report available on-line at www.friendsofjasper.com or through Laura at the Friends of JNP.



EXPERIENCE SPRING ALL SUMMER LONG

By Maya Navrot - Friends of JNP Volunteer



Aerial view of a snowy Cavell Meadows. Taken in June 2002.

When spring hits the valley in May, it is still winter up in sub-alpine and alpine areas of the park.

It can be hard to imagine, while you're walking through town in your shorts, that snow still blankets some of your favourite hiking trails at treeline.

In Cavell Meadows, snow remains on the ground until around July, the alpine spring. Higher elevation trails like Cavell Meadows, Opal Hills, Wilcox Pass, Bald Hills and Sulphur Skyline can be easily damaged when still snow covered. It's best to leave these hikes for later in the season when the routes are visible and dry.

In the meantime, Jasper's valleys provide great spring hiking alternatives. Pyramid Bench is a great place to explore, with its extensive array of trails winding through aspen groves and past lakes, creeks and marshes. Across the Athabasca River, the trails at Old Fort Point, Lac Beauvert, and Lake Annette are lovely short loops.

If you are looking for a longer hike, the 24 km Saturday Night Lake loop is a great one for spring wildflowers.

Help to keep the sub-alpine and alpine areas of our park as natural and untouched as we take pride in them to be. Enjoy the spring in the valley and in a few months time we can all enjoy the spring up top!

MORE SURVEY RESULTS



Trailhead information is an important service according to 91% of respondents.

About facilities and services:

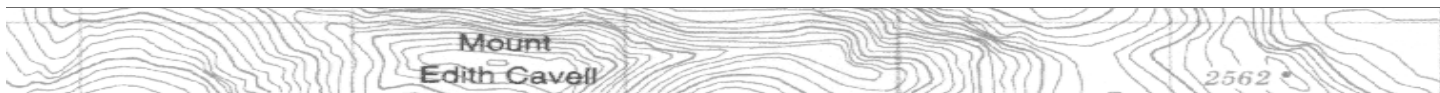
- Respondents felt that pre-arrival info, trailhead info, designated viewpoints, interpretive signs, and maps at trail junctions were important to provide, while benches and an outhouse on the trail were deemed not necessary or unwanted.
- Services with the highest degree of importance to respondents were trailhead information (91% "Important"), pre-arrival information (85%), and maps at trail junctions (82%)
- Most respondents stated that no improvements were needed to the trail or trail facilities (64%). Suggestions for improvements included areas of trail work, signage and toilets.

About a trail closure:

- Respondents were asked to rate how they would feel about a temporary closure of the Cavell Meadows trail, for part of the summer, for the protection of vegetation, even if it meant that the trail was closed during their visit to Jasper.
- The majority of respondents were "very much in favour" of such a closure (48%), and nearly one third of respondents were "somewhat in favour" (32%). Opposition to such a closure was relatively low (17%). Those who commented further were most likely to say they supported the closure a) if they knew in advance, and b) if it was really necessary. Communication that is timely and persuasive would be important for these respondents.



Sample size = 216 respondents; Margin of error = +/- 6.7% at 95% confidence interval



FLOWERS ON YOUR BACK OR IN YOUR BACKYARD

There are now two beautiful ways to support the Cavell Meadows Restoration Project.

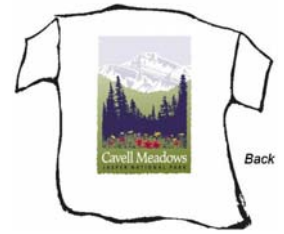
Our organic cotton t-shirts have already raised over \$5000 and continue to be a popular way to support the project.

Now we also have seed starter kits. These small seed bags hold everything you need to grow your own native wildflower garden: soil, growing instructions, and seeds.

All proceeds from these items go directly to the project. Available through the Friends of JNP, on-line, by phone, or in person.



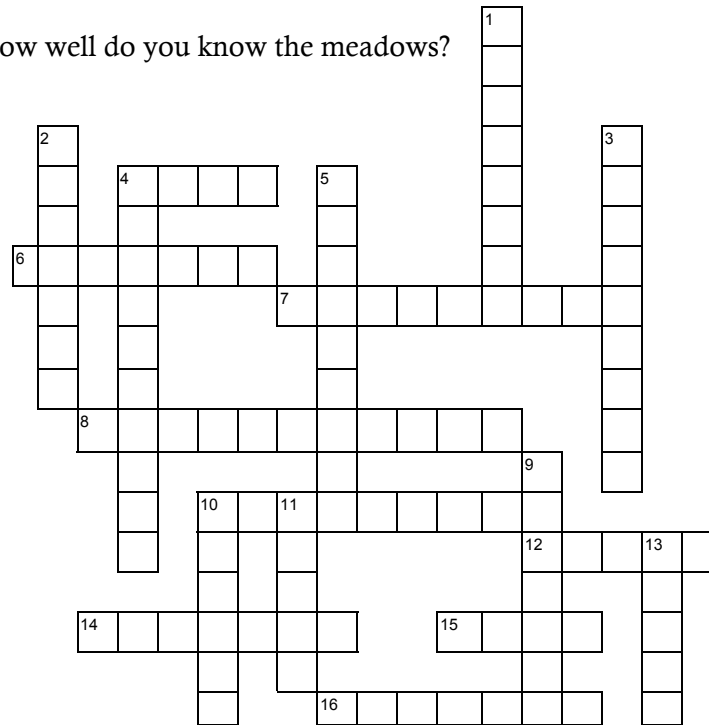
Wildflower seeds
\$10.99 +GST



Organic Cotton T-shirts
\$20 (GST incl.)

CAVELL MEADOWS CROSSWORD

How well do you know the meadows?



#16 Across



3 Down



Fuzzy seed head of # 9 Down



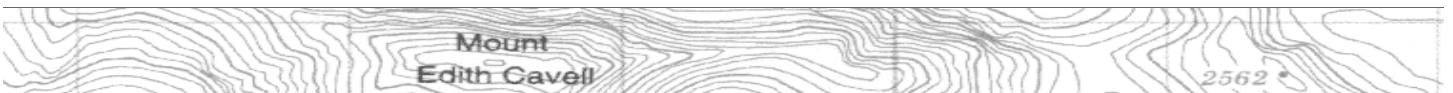
Digging with a # 2 Down

ACROSS

4. Harvesting rodent that looks like a tennis ball with ears
6. Threatened species often spotted in the upper meadows
7. Life zone below the alpine
8. Stunted tree at treeline (german word)
10. Camouflaged bird of the alpine
12. Nurse Cavell was called this by friends
14. This Friends employee is also a meadow flower
15. Chilly stuff that stays on the Cavell Meadows trail until July
16. Both hair and trails can be this

DOWN

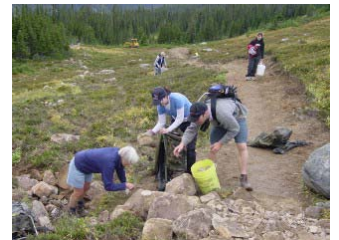
1. Every _____ Counts
2. Trail work tool
3. Alpine flower with fuzzy leaves, and no lice
4. It's flowers are green and bracts are red
5. Hard-worker, for the fun of it
9. In the sea and in the meadows
10. Repeat _____ will show us changes in the meadows
11. Glacier visible from Cavell Meadows
13. Please stay on the _____



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE 2004

Dates are subject to change according to trail conditions, weather conditions, and volunteer availability. Please sign up in advance by contacting the Friends of JNP.

Week of July 19 Week of Aug 2 Week of Aug 16 Week of Aug 30 Week of Sept 13 Week of Sept 27	Photo Monitoring <i>Help complete our set of repeat photographs of the meadows.</i> Pick a friend, pick a day, and head up to the meadows. Equipment and instructions provided.
Wed. July 14 Sat. July 24 Wed. July 28 Wed. Aug 11 Sat. Aug 21 Wed. Aug 25 Sat. Sept 4 Wed. Sept 8	Trail Care Days <i>Work in teams to repair the trail and install trail signs.</i> 9am – 4pm (transportation included) Max. 10 people per day
Sat. July 17	Parks Day Special event help needed
Sun. Sept 12	End of Project Celebration Special event help needed on-site and in-town
TBA	Trail Hosting



CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF THOSE MEADOWS

By Maya Navrot—Friends of JNP Volunteer

Volunteering for a great project like restoring Cavell Meadows has proven to be a highly rewarding experience for me.

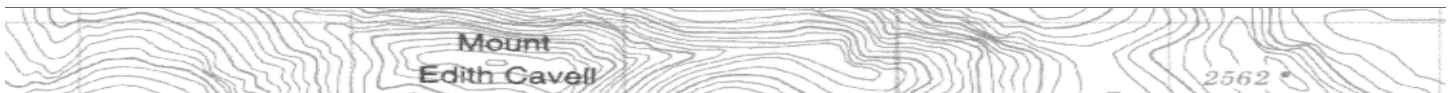
It has been a great opportunity to give back to the park, learn about alpine ecology and trail construction, and meet like minded people in the community.

A strong sense of pride in the restoration work, the park, and the Jasper community has strengthened my passion for this area, bringing me back each summer season.

Thank-you to the Friends organization for doing such a great thing for our park and allowing us all to be involved!



The author after a day's work in the meadows



CAVELL MEADOWS DONOR TRAIL

The Cavell Meadows Restoration Project is a cooperative initiative between the Friends of Jasper National Park and Parks Canada to repair and protect a popular but damaged area of Jasper National Park.

Project staff, community residents and park visitors are working together over three years to:

- repair the trail
- rehabilitate the meadows
- educate hikers
- monitor progress, and
- involve people like you!

Thank you to those who have generously donated \$1000 or more.

Alberta Ecotrust
 Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks & Wildlife Fdn.
 Alpine Village
 Clifford E. Lee Foundation
 Jasper Booster
 Jasper Tramway
 Mountain Air & Open Country
 Mountain Park Lodges
 Pine Bungalows
 Shell Environmental Fund
 Summer Temporary Employment Program
 TD Canada Trust
 Terasen Pipelines

Welcome to our newest donors

Dorward Family
 Dowling Family
 Grant G. Firth
 (In memory of George, Evelyn & Heather Merilee Firth)
 Calixte LeBlanc
 Bill & Carol Marsh (In memory of John M. Beatty)
 Nature's Garden Seed Company

Thank you also those who have supported us with a donation of up to \$1000

Hisami Abe	Peter Lenton
Samuel C. Brown Jr.	David & Patti Prowse
Peter & Sharon Chynoweth	Nicolas Roeder
Glenda Cornforth	Grace Schmitke
Ian Crain	Carol Tracey
Dorward & Company	
Chartered Accountants	
Yvette Golda	<i>Gifts in honour of:</i>
Jasper Park Lodge Bellmen	Wanda Garford (from C.Neighbor)
Hart family	Betty Robinson (from Jean)
Peggy Jubien	Mike Wynn (from the Winklers)

And to the **many** who have donated without leaving a name or who have purchased a Cavell Meadows t-shirt...Thank you.

Make your footsteps count. Please pass on this form.

You or someone you know can help us restore Cavell Meadows by filling out this form and faxing or mailing it to:

Friends of Jasper National Park, Box 992, Jasper, AB T0E 1E0 Fax: 780-852-4799

I would like to help by...

- Joining the donor trail** with a donation of \$ _____
 This donation is in memory/honour of _____
- Ordering a t-shirt or seed kit:**
 ___ T-shirt(s) (___S, ___M, ___L, ___XL, ___XXL) x \$20.00 each (GST incl.) \$ _____
 ___ Seed starter kit(s) x \$11.76 each (GST incl.) \$ _____
- Volunteering:** Please keep me informed of upcoming volunteer opportunities.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Name: _____ Shipping address (for gift or gift card, if different from address to left): _____
 Address: _____ Name: _____
 Phone: _____ Address: _____
 E-mail: _____

Signature: _____
 Cheque Visa Master Card Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD ON PAGE 4

