



Photo courtesy of Marmot Basin

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AMPPE's Monthly Membership Newsletter

[Your source for up-to-date information in the Mountain Parks](#)

It's been an incredible winter across the Canadian Rockies with record snowfalls at ski areas and an unprecedented number of new activities and festivals for visitors and residents! Parks Canada is facing drastic budget cuts in the next few years and AMPPE will push for continued investment in visitor experience and better efficiencies in administrative costs. Sincerely, Executive Director Monica Andreeff.



Check out the Aug. 25 GrandFondo route through Banff National Park

On August 25, 2012, 1500 cyclists will ride on closed roads through the spectacularly scenic Bow Valley Parkway in Banff National Park for an inaugural event created by the organizers of the famed RBC GranFondo Whistler.

Follow **Doug Smith of GranFondo Canada** as he takes us through the route.

[More Details](#)



Oldest Human Ancestor linked to Fossils from Burgess Shale, Yoho

A team from the Royal Ontario Museum, the University of Toronto and the University of Cambridge have announced a major fossil discovery at Burgess Shale in Yoho National Park. A primitive mid-Cambrian animal called *Pikaia gracilens*, found only in the fossil beds of Canada's Burgess Shale, is the earliest known human ancestor, according to a study published this March in the British scientific journal Biological Reviews.

[More Details](#)



Big Budget Cuts ahead for Parks Canada

In an effort to reduce the deficit, the Government of Canada recently announced a \$29 million budget cut to Parks Canada over the next three years. Rather than cutting projects or programs, AMPPE hopes Parks Canada will find administrative efficiencies in order to continue investment in our parks for positive visitor experiences and ecological protection. Initial plans for Parks Canada's reductions and restraint are outlined in a letter by Jasper National Park Superintendent, Greg Fenton.

[More Details](#)



Brewster Travel Canada to host Canada's Coolest School Trip in May

As the prize for winning Canada's Coolest School Trip contest, Grade 8 students from P.E.I.'s Montague Intermediate school will experience Banff and Jasper national parks this May as they visit the Banff Gondola and the Columbia Icefield, along with grade 8 students from the Banff Community High School. Their winning video relating to a Parks Canada national site was selected by a panel of judges after an on-line voting process.

[More Details](#)



Parks Canada Considers new monitoring methods for Mountain Goats

Parks Canada is considering less expensive and non-invasive monitoring methods to help determine population changes and the reproductive success of mountain goats in Banff, Yoho and Kootenay national parks. Since helicopter surveys and radio-collaring are expensive methods, Parks will be using remote cameras and possibly DNA analysis of goat pellets, to help wildlife experts conclude if mountain goat populations are being affected by climate change.

[More Details](#)