

Trip Report for Wenkchemna Pass and Bourgeau Lake/Harvey Pass

What a great weekend! CAMC Members set out to hike these 2 passes including some new club members from New Zealand, Brazil and Lacombe. Great weather, incredible sweeping views of the Valley of Ten Peaks (Wenkchemna Pass) and the Sunshine ski area and Assiniboine (Harvey Pass). Campfire smokies, potato salad and homemade Saskatoon Pie along with some wine and beer. What more could anyone want:)

Wenkchemna Pass

Leaving Red Deer at 5:30 AM got us to the parking lot at Moraine Lake with only a few parking stalls left. Recommend staying the night before at nearby accommodations to eliminate the incredibly early start from Red Deer.



Clint found the hike easier than anticipated. This may have been due to the well-defined trail or that it was 8.4 km one direction; Guide book suggested it was 10 km. Maybe they were including a side stop down a fork in the trail before carrying onto the pass. Caroline enjoyed the rock wall consisting of 10 peaks which dwarfed the hikers. Julia enjoyed the big scenery all day, from the start at Moraine Lake through to the pass with views of 10 peaks. Amanda also enjoyed the awesome views of the Ten Peaks! Way better than Sentinel Pass. Way less people too. Sabrina's inner rock hound was in her glory! Her love of rocks was amplified tenfold by the vast array of colours, shapes and sizes of all the rocks she saw on this hike. Getting to really experience hiking through a moraine, blew her mind. It was absolutely stunning! Not to mention hearing part of the glacier break off when we were up on the pass. Even though we didn't actually see, hearing it was just as incredible. Darlene enjoyed soaking up the sun on the Great Divide like the marmots we saw along the way. Bronwyn enjoyed the hike and the views but found it windy at the pass. As we sat on the Great Divide having lunch, the scree slope to the north of the pass was calling out and enticing three hardy souls to don their gaiters and scramble over rock boulders to what looked like a fun scree slope down. This was an ill-advised adventure and not nearly as much fun as it looked - very steep with marbles on slab rock. A few minor scrapes but otherwise intact - definitely not a recommended route down!



Bourgeau Lake / Harvey Pass

This hike begins with ~7km of forest hiking which wasn't as exciting but we were well rewarded with fantastic views once at Harvey Lake and beyond. We got some education on potential troublesome vegetation on this trip - occasional patches of Cow Parsley along the trail. This is much like poison ivy and leaves a rash on sensitive skin. Jane decided to verify the education and was rewarded with two fist-sized rashes on the inside of her ankles that is taking a few days to fade. We enjoyed a snack at Bourgeau Lake where there are a multitude of pesky obese chipmunks who are after food and not happy about photo ops as Amanda discovered when we heard her call out "I can't believe it lunged at me...all I wanted was a picture." After our snack we continued to climb up through trees when we were met by the beautiful sight of a flock of mountain goats. The trail from Bourgeau Lake to Harvey Pass has some steep sections. Jane's advice: head down, rear up because it is worth it! The view of Assiniboine and Sunshine is stunning. We had lunch and a snooze at the pass. Will leave summiting Mt Bourgeau for another day when we are fresher. No one felt particularly enthused about hiking up another 500 m and adding an additional 5 km to our 19.2 km round trip.



Cheers to everyone involved for teaching the two Kiwis about the area, the wildlife and bear safety. We had two awesome, well-coordinated days with near perfect weather. Had a chance to say so long to a member travelling to New Zealand to work - so long Caroline.

