



HI-Hilda Creek Wilderness Hostel

Banff National Park, Alberta

WINTER SEASON INFORMATION 2009 - 2010

We hope you enjoy your winter stay at the HI-Hilda Creek Wilderness Hostel. As this hostel is **not staffed** during the winter months, it is important that you read these instructions carefully to ensure your stay is a safe one and that the hostel is left in good condition for those who follow you. Your cooperation in keeping the hostel clean is important to all who use this facility.

The property is rustic, with no running water, so there are NO flush toilets or showers. Visitors must be prepared for severe winter conditions, including the possibility of no readily available drinking water, no heat in the buildings and the possibility of having to walk and dig through deep snow to access the buildings.



BE PREPARED by bringing food, water, winter clothing and winter-grade sleeping bags.

PLEASE NOTE: during the winter season, reservations are required and FULL payment will be charged to the credit card upon receipt of reservation.

FACILITY provides:

- 1 bunk house, sleeping 6
- Propane lighting in cookhouse and dorms.
- Cookhouse with propane cook stove, pots, pans, plates, etc.
- Propane heaters
- Outside toilet
- **Bring your sleeping bags, no blankets are provided during the winter**

BEFORE YOU GO

- **THE KEY FOR HOSTEL** is to be picked up and returned to either HI-Jasper, HI-Nordegg, Shunda Creek Hostel or HI-Lake Louise Alpine Centre between the hours of **8 am and midnight** on your confirmed arrival and departure dates. Please let us know at which hostel you wish to pick up/return the key.
- A \$50.00 **Key/Damage/Cleaning Deposit** is required. This amount will be refunded after the hostel has been inspected for damage and cleanliness. If the hostel has not been left clean, a charge of \$15 per hour (minimum 3 hours) will be deducted from the deposit.
- You are strongly advised to call Parks Information at 403.522.3833 in advance about road and weather conditions and also to register with Parks if you are continuing into the backcountry.

“THANK YOU”



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DIRECTIONS – The hostel is located 121 km north of Lake Louise on highway 93 North (Icefields Parkway). The hostel is 1 km north of Parker Ridge and 7 km south of the Icefield Centre. It is 31 km north of HI-Rampart Creek Wilderness Hostel.

Parking is slightly north of the hostel across the bridge, on the right side of the road. As the Icefields Parkway does live up to its name, this highway can have extremely treacherous winter driving conditions. A reliable vehicle with good winter tires is mandatory as all season tires are not sufficient. All vehicles should be equipped with a roadside emergency kit, as there is no phone coverage on the parkway, and you may need to survive the night should an incident occur.

Instructions:

- **BRING YOUR WINTER SLEEPING BAG** – no blankets are provided in the winter.
- **LOCATE THE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS** provided in each cabin – take 30 seconds and read the operating instructions.
- **The Main propane valve is located on the large tank to the right of the dorm. There are two propane valves on the left side of the dorm.**
- **PROPANE LIGHTS** are located in the cook house and dorms. When lighting them, **DO NOT TOUCH THE MANTLE WITH THE MATCH.** This will make a hole in the mantle, rendering it unusable. If the mantles are broken, do not use them. The valve to turn on the propane is on top of the tank.
- **PROPANE STOVE** is available for cooking in the cookhouse. You will need to light the pilot lights for the burners and the oven. To light the pilots for the burners, turn on the valve behind the oven, and then lift the top of the oven. Between the burners there is the pilot flames, touch a lighter to each. For the oven, open the broiler; the pilot is all the way at the back, touch a lighter, and good to go. All burners are self-starting – no match required. Please turn off the back valve upon your departure from the hostel.
- **PROPANE FRIDGE** if you are staying for an extended time, there is a propane fridge for your use. If you are only staying one or two nights, you may choose to ignore it, and just keep food in an animal proof container outside. To light the fridge, turn on the gas valve on the back, and then follow the instructions on the fridge.
- **PROPANE HEATERS** Turn the gas valve, and then follow the instructions on the heater. (May be located under the cover.) **DO NOT** rest anything on the heater.

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- Please **SWEEP** the cabins and outhouse floors when you leave.
- **ALL GARBAGE** must be taken with you when you leave. Recycling is **NOT** collected from the bins so please remove anything you brought with you.
- Water is either snowmelt, or if conditions are good it can be collected from the creek. **BOIL ALL WATER!** And remember to use sparingly as you need to carry it all.
- **PLEASE DO NOT HAVE OUTDOOR FIRES.**
- After cleanup please leave the shovel in the cookhouse and the matches on the counter by the range top for the next group to find easily.
- **LOCK** all the cabins.
- When returning the keys please tell us if anything needs our attention or if supplies are needed at the hostel.
- If you are unfamiliar/uncomfortable with propane, please stop by HI-Rampart Creek Wilderness Hostel between 8-10 in the morning and the manager there will give you a short tutorial.
- Parker Ridge is class II avalanche terrain. If you plan to do any skiing, make sure to bring along a beacon, shovel, and probe, and be well practiced in their use.

HI-Hilda Creek Wilderness Hostel is located in an isolated spot in the park. The nearest emergency services are in Jasper and Lake Louise. The Icefields Centre, 7 km to the north, is closed in the winter, but does have a working payphone. HI-Rampart Creek Wilderness Hostel is staffed through the winter, and is approximately 31 km south. Consider this lack of communication options as part of your plan. If, due to medical conditions, communication is advisable, satellite telephones are available for rent in either Calgary or Edmonton.

"THANK YOU"