

President's Report

Katherine Roberts

Kamloops Hiking Club's AGM

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After several years of navigating the changing waters of COVID, the past year finally gave us the opportunity to come together on the trail without restrictions. A big thank you to our board members and volunteers for their patience and determination to keep the club going and to all of you for your patience and understanding. A big welcome to both our new and returning members. We have 71 new members and 124 returning members this year. 2023 is going to be an exciting year for club adventures!

We hear your concerns and are striving to take action:

Availability

An ongoing concern over the past year has been the availability of spaces on our events. We are working hard to add new leaders and in turn more events. We currently have 26 registered leaders/co-leaders with a few more that will be finished their training soon. Our volunteer leaders are working hard to add events as it works for them.

Our leaders are getting creative. We are adding extra events when others are full and posting more dates for our very popular events. Please keep a sharp eye on the website for event postings and cancellations. Write a comment that you are interested in joining if there is a cancellation. We don't have a waitlist, but some, not all, leaders may add a few more spaces if we have enough leaders on the event. Also check for last minute postings. The key is to check the event listing frequently to avoid the disappointment of a full event.

Younger members

Our club has members of all ages, but as you can see, many of us are a little older. Don't count us out on the trail though as many of us older folks can out pace the younger ones and we have a lot of trail knowledge 😊

Our younger members will be the future of our club. Don't be afraid to step up and offer to join the board and/or become a leader. Your voice matters and your new and creative ideas are most welcome. Being a leader has many advantages such as planning the event you want with a date that works for your schedule. We have liability insurance for your security. Invite your younger friends to join in the coming years as we build our leadership team for the future.

More involvement from our members

Our board members are in place to “take care of business”, but we welcome involvement in many other ways from our membership. This year we will be putting together more committees to help us keep organized and welcome new and creative ideas. So far, we have an IT committee and are planning one for our social events, leadership, vendor liaison and much more. Please let us know if you are interested in helping in any way.

Recognition

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank our board members, hike leaders, co-leaders and all our volunteers for your hard work and dedication. You are the heartbeat of our club that has kept us going over the years.

Thank you to our leaders for your countless hours planning and leading events throughout the year. We have many events planned already this year including many out of town trips this summer. Keep your amazing ideas coming!

I would like to thank a few board members who have stepped aside this year. Thank you to Paulette Gendron, our Past President; Nicole Yanko, our Past Vice President; and Lisa Boutry, our Past Secretary, for a job well done.

Thank you to Doug Smith for your expertise in assisting with our website, Frith Powell for dealing with membership renewals and information, Monika Taki for your website assistance and Erika Herndier for your assistance with our social events. A big thank you Lisa Boutry, Maureen Thorkelson and Pam and Tim Paradis for all the creative energy and time put into the very successful and fun EggMazing Race! Thank you to all who have donated time and donations to our club events.

Thank you to our other board members Margo Mercier for continuing to keep our financial records in order, Gerry MacDougall for your sound management advice and organized secretary skills and Doug Morris for assisting with our IT needs.

I would also like to thank our board members who are leaving this year. Thank you Sheila Powell for keeping our hiking leaders organized, Deanna Rice for your membership liaison and social events skills and Sasha Lees for your leadership and "Adopt a Trail" planning. Thank you all for your time on the board and all your hard work, creative ideas and the heart you have shown for our club.

Thank you to all of our members who have and continue to help in so many ways. Thank you to anyone I may have missed.

I stepped into this role as club President a few months ago. Whether I am elected to this role again, another board role or just carry on as a club leader, I am looking so forward to a positive year of new faces, places and adventures out on the trail. Thank you everyone for coming out today and thank you Gerry for chairing our AGM.