

# CDMC

## Trip Report

[Home](#)
[Future trips](#)
[Past trips](#)
[Trip guidelines](#)
[Conditions](#)
[Routes >](#)
[Forum](#)
[Membership](#)
[Reference >](#)
[FAQ](#)
[Photo contest](#)
[What's new](#)
**Member**
[Login](#)
**Changes**
 today

 yesterday

 < 7 days

 < 30 days

**Barrier Lookout (hiking)** [return to Reports list](#)

Wed Sep 16, 2015

 Leader: **Bob St. John**

 Co-Leader: **Carol Hunter**

Low clouds and a snowy alpine limited the options for getting up high, but I knew Barrier Lookout would be easy to do as it was all trail, and the view at the top overlooked the foothills to the east and the main ranges to the west.

The trailhead at the Barrier Lake Dam had a few cars and a school bus, so we would not be alone on this hike! There are several trail options to choose from. We decided on a 16 km loop that would take us south along the west shore of Barrier Lake, then west up through forest to Jewell Pass, then north up to McConnell Ridge to the lookout, and then steeply back down again to the dam.

The trail along the lakeshore offered nice views of snow covered peaks reflected in the lake. Groves of aspens were near their peak of fall colours. The school kids were heard at a camp on the lake just before we turned up to Jewell Pass. The trail climbed to the pass alongside Jewell Creek at a very easy grade. The melting snow provided enough water to make a waterfall at one point... I am sure it had been dry since spring.

Jewell Pass is certainly not a destination in itself. It was discerned by a gradual flattening of terrain, but the surrounding forest hid any view one might have had. The trail up to McConnell Ridge was somewhat steeper but easy nonetheless. We met a group of about 10 from the Calgary Weekend Hikers coming down from the lookout... they could not explain why they were out today on a Wednesday...

The first decent views were had when we reached the spine of the ridge overlooking the lake 500 meters below. Another 150 meters elevation gain got us to the summit with it's still occupied fire lookout. The fellow there was pleasant enough, but indicated he enjoyed his privacy... so we had lunch a short distance away overlooking the Bow Valley across from Mt Yamnuska. Below us was the Bow Valley Provincial Park with YMCA Camp Chief Hector and the Rafter Six Ranch within its boundaries.

The trail back down to the dam was more direct, but easy nonetheless, following an old road. We read later the road led up to an older lookout, Pigeon Lookout, that had been constructed during WW II as part of a POW camp in the Kananaskis Valley.

\*\*\*\*\*

For those not in the know, this 2 week trip was posted on the website for a few weeks prior to leaving. We will post individual trips as they happen if they get the 3 minimum for a club trip. Jim Wright came down from his farm in Alberta to join us while waiting for his crops to mature.



*Walking along Barrier Lake*  
[Carol Hunter photo]



*The first good view point*  
[Carol Hunter photo]



*Our first glimpse of Mount Yamnuska*  
[Carol Hunter photo]



*Main viewpoint*  
[Carol Hunter photo]



*Rain to the southwest*  
[Carol Hunter photo]



*Posing at the lunch spot*  
[Carol Hunter photo]



*Looking down at Rafter Six Ranch and the foothills*  
[Carol Hunter photo]



*One last viewpoint*  
[Carol Hunter photo]



*Looking south across Barrier  
Lake to the Kananaskis Valley*  
*[Carol Hunter photo]*



*A Barred Owl in the forest*  
*[Carol Hunter photo]*

---

**Report contributors:** Carol H, Bob S,

**Participant list (3 of 3):** Carol H, Bob S, James W,

[return to Reports](#)