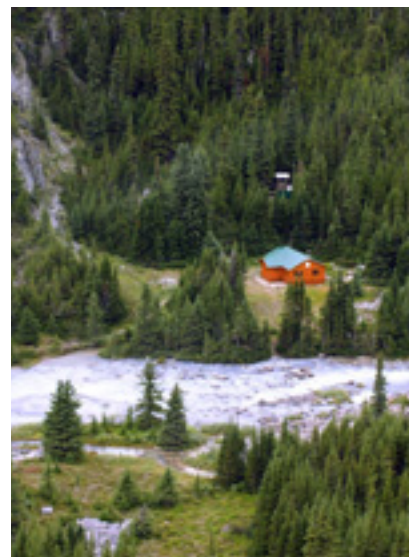




## Sydney Vallance (Fryatt) Hut

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Sydney Vallance (Fryatt) Hut

# Sydney Vallance (Fryatt) Hut

## Booking, Payment and Cancellation Policy

View the Booking, Payment and Cancellation Policies at [www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/facility/reservations.html](http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/facility/reservations.html)

### Rates

Visit [www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/facility/rates.html](http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/facility/rates.html) for current hut and wilderness pass prices.

## Getting There

The Fryatt Hut sits in a small meadow by Fryatt Creek at the top of a headwall in the upper Fryatt Valley, Jasper National Park.

The following information should be used in conjunction with the correct topographic map (maps are listed below).

### Portering Services

Need help carrying your load? Check out our portering services!

### Summer

<b>Trailhead location:</b>	3.2 km off Hwy 93 A, 32 km south of Jasper Townsite
<b>Hiking distance:</b>	23 km
<b>Elevation gain:</b>	765 metres (2,510 feet)
<b>Approximate time:</b>	5-8 Hours

The only access route to the hut is up the Fryatt Valley. On the first part of the approach, however, there are two options. From the trailhead there is 11.5km of trail, which follows an old fire road parallel to the Athabasca River and the 93 Highway. It is possible to either hike this portion, or (recommended) ride it on a mountain bike. The mountain biking will cut a couple of hours off the trip in each direction, and makes for a fun ride coming back down from the campground. A third option is to cross the Athabasca where the trail and the highway are closest, thereby cutting about 7km off the trek.

### Fryatt Valley Approach

**Trailhead:** 32 km south of the Jasper Townsite is Athabasca Falls and the junction for highway 93A. Drive the 93A for 1 km to a gravel road on the left signed Geraldine Lakes Road. Take this gravel road for 2.2km to a small pull-off on the left signed as the trailhead for the Fryatt Creek Valley. Hike or bike the fire road trail for 11.5km to the Lower Fryatt Campground. This is as far as you are permitted to ride a mountain bike, and it is also as far as you would want to take one, as the trail from here begins to gain elevation more rapidly. There are sufficient trees and food-hanging poles to lock your bike to, providing you have a chain, a small kryptonite lock won't fit around the trees.

**Approach:** From the campground, cross the bridge onto the east side of the creek and continue uphill for about four or five km to a point where the trail crosses back to the west side of the creek on another bridge. Back on the west side of the creek, the trail becomes less distinct and harder to follow on moraine and creek beds, but it well marked with cairns. The trail passes the Brussels Campground and Fryatt Lake via the west shore before reaching the Headwall Campground and the final grunt to the hut. The headwall itself is no fun. The route now rises very abruptly, and climbs pretty much straight up a trail ranging from very good to very loose for 200 vertical metres (650 feet). The good news is that as soon as you are done the grunt up the headwall, you can take off your pack and make a cup of tea: you have arrived. The hut is located in the first flat spot in the meadow only 100m from the top of the slope.

**Time, Distance & Elevation:** From the trailhead on the Geraldine Lakes Road to the hut, you will gain 2,510 feet

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(765 metres). Time for this approach will depend on your choice of transportation. From the trailhead to the Lower Fryatt Campground on mountain bike will take between one and one and a half hours. Hiking this section will be more in the neighborhood of two and a half to three hours. Hiking from the campground to the hut will be in the three and a half to five hour range. Total time could be as fast as four and a half hours if you take a bike, or five and a half hours if you hike the whole trail. Parties not trying to break records should probably expect to take most of a day, as the total mileage is approximately 23 km to the hut.

## Athabasca River Crossing Variation

**Trailhead:** The Fryatt Valley hiking trail from the Geraldine Lakes Road parallels the highway but on the opposite side of the Athabasca for 8 or 9 km before heading north. At about the 7 km point, the road and the trail are within shouting distance across the river. If you have better access to a canoe than a mountain bike, a quick voyage across the Athabasca will save you the annoyance of seeing traffic beside you after an hour or two of travel.

**Approach:** The best spot to put your boat into the water is at a turnout on Highway 93, 7.5km east of the Athabasca Falls junction. Head as straight across the river as the current allows, stash your boat in the bushes for the return trip and hike southwest until you come across the trail. From here follow the description above. It may occur to you here that it may be possible, say, early in the morning when the water is not so high, to wade the Athabasca thereby cutting off 7 or 8 km or hiking without using a canoe. This is not a wise idea, and if you gave it a serious try you would probably end up sitting naked in the trees on the far side of the river after a desperate swim to escape the deep icy waters while your pack floats off down the river. This would likely ruin your whole day.

**Time, Distance & Elevation:** This variation saves some time, but it doesn't make a bit of difference as far as elevation gain. You still have to gain the same 2,510 feet elevation. From the point where you land across the river to the hut is approximately 13km and will take in the neighborhood of five to six hours.

## Winter approach

The approach is similar to the one in the summer, but you can usually cut time off by crossing the Athabasca River on skis if it's frozen. Use your judgment, with the knowledge that a dip in the water under the ice would have totally different consequences than in the summer. Refer to Chic Scott's guidebook *Ski Trails in the Canadian Rockies* for a more detailed route description.

## Maps and Guidebooks

All of the following books and maps can be purchased through the ACC office or online through the ACC online store at: [www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/store/index.html](http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/store/index.html)

### Map and GPS references

<b>Map reference:</b>	83C/12 (Athabasca Falls)
<b>Grid reference:</b>	403174
<b>GPS coordinates:</b>	52°30' 18"-117°52' 48" 11U 440270 5817572
<b>Hut elevation:</b>	6,495 feet (1,980 metres)

### Maps

- Gem Trek Publishing 1:100 000 topographic map entitled "Jasper and Maligne Lake". This excellent map shows the trails and highlights of the area.
- Canadian Government issued standard 1:50,000 topographic map 83C/12 (Athabasca Falls). This map is a metric map, with 20-metre contour intervals below 2000 metres and 40-metre contour intervals above 2000 metres elevation. Note that the cabin marked on the map at the south end of Fryatt Lake (grid reference 402188) is not the Fryatt Hut.

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- Canadian Government issued standard 1:50,000 topographic map 83C/5 may be useful for those hiking further up the valley from the hut.

## Guidebooks and general interest books

- *Backcountry Huts and Lodges of the Rockies and Columbias*, by Jim Scott
- *Canadian Rockies Trail Guide*, by Patton and Robinson
- *Don't Waste Your Time in the Canadian Rockies*, by Kathy & Craig Copeland
- *Ski Trails in the Canadian Rockies*, by Chic Scott
- *Selected Alpine Climbs in the Canadian Rockies*, by Sean Dougherty
- *Handbook of the Canadian Rockies*, by Ben Gadd
- *Waterfall Ice Climbs in the Canadian Rockies*, by Joe Josephson

## What Is At the Hut

### Summary

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<b>Heating:</b>	Wood stove
<b>Lighting:</b>	Propane
<b>Cooking:</b>	Propane stoves, cookware, dishes & utensils provided
<b>Sleeping:</b>	Dormitory style on thick foam mattresses
<b>Capacity:</b>	12 in the summer and in the winter
<b>Drinking water:</b>	Fryatt Creek 50m east of hut or snowmelt (boil or filter both)
<b>Human Waste:</b>	Outhouse
<b>Dishwater:</b>	Ground sump
<b>Garbage:</b>	Pack it out!

### The building and sleeping arrangements

The Fryatt hut has been renovated several times. There are two bunk rooms, and a separate kitchen/living room area with a large table, two benches and a couple of kitchen counters.

### Capacity

The hut sleeps 12 people in the summer and in the winter months, comfortably in two bunk rooms.

### Kitchen

The kitchen is well supplied with dishes, cutlery, utensils, pots and pans. There are several two-burner propane stoves for cooking.

### Lighting

The hut is lit by several propane lights. Propane is supplied by the ACC via a large outdoor tank.

### Heat

The hut has a wood-burning stove. Please replace all firewood you use in the hut with cut and split wood from the pile.

### Tools

The hut has a good supply of tools including water buckets, axes, saws, shovels, etc.

# Sydney Vallance (Fryatt) Hut

## Drinking Water

The Fryatt Creek, 50 metres to the east of the hut, supplies the water; in the winter it may be necessary to melt snow.

## Grey Water

There is a ground sump for grey water disposal 12m northwest of the front door, on the trail to the outhouse. In the winter it may be necessary to excavate the sump.

## Human Waste

The outhouse is located 30 metres north of the hut. Do not dispose of any unnecessary waste into the outhouse barrels.

## Garbage

Burn all paper garbage and food scraps, and pack out all other garbage and unused food. Don't leave anything behind!

## What you need to bring

- combination lock number for the hut door (call the ACC office to confirm before you go to the hut)
- sleeping bag
- food for the duration of your stay
- toilet paper
- newspaper for lighting the fire
- matches
- first aid kit
- 9V battery for the smoke detector
- reservation form from the ACC (to show the custodian)
- Parks Canada overnight or annual wilderness pass (the former will be on your reservation form if you purchase it through the ACC).



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## Hut Rules

Here is a list of simple rules we ask that you follow in order to maximize everyone's enjoyment of the "hut experience".

### While at the hut:

- No smoking.
- Dogs are not permitted in any ACC facility (with the exception of seeing eye dogs).
- Some Parks also outlaw dogs entirely; leashed or not. Check before you go!
- If you arrive at the hut before 2:00pm, put your belongings where they will not disturb the previous nights' occupants.
- Please be considerate of others; the hut should be quiet by 10 pm.
- Carry out all of your garbage.
- Do not do personal washing in cooking pots or nearby streams - use wash basins and slop pits.
- Fill stoves and lanterns outside the hut and leave extra fuel outside.
- Clean the stoves after using them.
- Clean up after yourself.
- Follow posted instructions for care and maintenance of toilet systems so that they function properly with minimum odor and environmental impact.

# Sydney Vallance (Fryatt) Hut

## When leaving a hut:

- If your belongings will be in the hut after 2:00pm, and you are not staying that night, be sure to pack everything up and leave it out of the way in a corner so the new guests can move in.
- Leave all tools inside the hut when not being used.
- Empty all water containers and slop buckets before leaving the hut.
- Take out all leftover food as food left in the hut encourages rodents. (Other people generally won't use it as they don't know how old it is.)
- Bring out damaged axes, lanterns or stoves and discharged fire extinguishers - advise the national office.
- Close & latch the outhouse door when leaving to keep out rodents & snow.
- Close/lock hut, replace shutters (if applicable), before leaving the hut.
- A nearly full outhouse, damage to hut & similar matters should be reported to the national office (you may call collect)

**Please leave the hut in better condition than you found it.** Thank you for your consideration in following these rules, and have a great time!

## Things To Do Around the Hut

### Mountaineering

One of the big attractions in the area is Mt. Fryatt itself. Two popular routes provide challenge at different levels on this 11,000 foot peak. Other common routes from the hut include Mt. Lowel, Mt. Olympus and the North Face of Belanger.

The historic and very difficult Mt. Brussels and Mt. Christie, are further from the hut. They are typically accessed from closer to the highway, but can be done in a day from the hut. Information on these climbs can be found in Selected Alpine Climbs in the Canadian Rockies by Sean Dougherty.

### Ice Climbing

There is not a lot of ice in the area, but the climbs which are recorded – the Ice palace climbs, grade 2 and 3 on the headwall waterfall below the hut – are reported to be of high quality. This seems like an excellent winter adventure. Information on these routes can be found in Waterfall Ice Climbs in the Canadian Rockies, by Joe Josephson.

### Backcountry Skiing

The trip into the hut is an excellent winter ski tour. The terrain beyond the hut may have good ski slopes as well. Refer to Ski Trails in the Canadian Rockies by Chic Scott.

## History

The idea for this hut was born in 1968 when the Vallance family made donation to the Alpine Club of Canada for a backcountry hut. Fryatt Valley was quickly chosen, the location of the Club's General Mountaineering Camp eight years earlier, and a site with excellent mountaineering but a very long approach. The hut was constructed in 1970 and turned over to Jasper National Park for operation. The hut was initially abused, to the extent that Parks eventually removed the interior facilities. In 1991 this hut, along with Mt. Colin and the Mt. Alberta (Lloyd MacKay) Huts, was turned over to the ACC to operate. The Club has upgraded the outhouse from pit to fly-out barrel system and installed an efficient coal-burning stove to replace one which was removed in 1991. The hut is named for Sydney R. Vallance, Q.C., ACC president from 1947 to 1950, who died in 1979.