



## A.O. Wheeler Hut

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Wheeler Hut by Nancy Hansen

## 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

At the entrance of the Illecillewaet Valley, the Wheeler Hut is located just 1½ km from the road. The hut was built in 1946 by Hobart Dowler. At that time the Highway did not run through Rogers Pass. The hut is used as a base for hikers, climbers and backcountry skiing and it's just far enough the road that you don't hear the traffic. It's a great destination for families and an excellent base for people exploring the valley or surrounding peaks.

### Summer

<b>Trailhead location:</b>	3.5 km west of Rogers Pass Information Center. Proceed through Illecillewaet Campground where there is a parking area. Walk up the road to the hut.
<b>Hiking distance:</b>	200 m
<b>Elevation gain:</b>	45 m from Highway 1
<b>Approximate time:</b>	5 minutes

### Winter

<b>Trailhead location:</b>	3.5 km west of Rogers Pass Information Center, just off Highway 1
<b>Skiing distance:</b>	1.5 km
<b>Elevation gain:</b>	145 feet (45 meters)
<b>Approximate time:</b>	15 minutes in winter

### Portering Services

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

### Trailhead location

Access is off the Trans-Canada Highway approximately 3.5 kilometers west of the Rogers Pass information centre. On the south side of the highway there is a sign for the turnoff to the Illecillewaet Campground and parking area.

In the summertime you can drive up the road to the parking area near the Illecillewaet Campground and start the short walk from here. In the winter the road to the campground is not plowed and instead a parking lot exists just off the side of the highway.

**Please note:** if you are driving up from the east it is a difficult turn to make along a dangerous curve of the highway into the parking lot. The better option is to continue driving several hundred meters further down the highway to a railway access road on the right-hand side where it is safer to turn around and approach the parking lot from the west.

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## Summer approach

From the end of the Illecillewaet Campground, walk up the road for about 5 minutes, the Wheeler Hut will be on your left.

## Winter approach

Park at the plowed parking lot just west of the bridge over the Illecillewaet River. Climb steeply through the trees for 50 vertical meters until you see an old road. Ski upstream on the West Bank until you reach the old rail bed at the other side of the bridge. Turn left and you will see the Wheeler Hut on your left.

## Maps and Guidebooks

All of the following books and maps can be purchased through the ACC office or online through the ACC on-line store.

### Map and GPS references

<b>Map reference:</b>	82N/6 (Blaeberry)
<b>Grid reference:</b>	657791
<b>GPS coordinates:</b>	51°15' 48"-117°29' 24" NAD83 11U 465812 5679223
<b>Hut elevation:</b>	1250 m (4100 ft)

### Maps

- "Touring at Rogers Pass" 1:50,000 topographic map by Murray Toft. This is an excellent map that shows trails and permanent closure areas in detail.
- 'The Adventure Map' Series 1:50,000 topographic map entitled "Rogers Pass". This map highlights summer hiking routes in the area.
- The 1:50,000 Canadian Government issued standard topographic maps; "82N/6 Blaeberry" and "82N/5 Glacier".

### Guidebooks and general interest books

- *Summits & Icefields, Columbia Mountains*, by Chic Scott
- *Ski Touring in Rogers Pass*, by J.P. Kors and John Kelly
- *Selkirks South*, by David P. Jones
- *Selkirks North*, by David P. Jones
- *Backcountry Huts and Lodges of the Rockies and Columbias*, Jim Scott
- *Revelstoke Rock*, by Ruedi Beglinger
- *Footloose in the Columbias*, by Friends of Mount Revelstoke & Glacier
- *Radium Ski and Snowboarding Guide*, by Ted Johnson & Chris Hofstetter

## Website Links

### Current conditions

**Weather:** Go to [www.weather.gc.ca](http://www.weather.gc.ca) click on <BC>, then scroll down to <Revelstoke> and <Golden>. The weather forecast is not accurate for the exact location, but should be similar enough to give you an idea of the conditions in the Pass.

**Avalanche Hazard:** Go to [www.avalanche.ca](http://www.avalanche.ca) click on the <Public Avalanche Bulletins> and review the section for <Glacier National Park>. The avalanche forecast for this region is kept current throughout the winter season.

**Highway Conditions:** [www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/bc/glacier/index\\_e.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/bc/glacier/index_e.asp) click on <Road Conditions Report> on the left side. Parks Canada updates their <Mountain National Parks Road Conditions Report> by 9 am daily when road conditions change.

## Area information

**Avalanche Terrain Rating System (ATES):** Parks Canada has developed a classification system for avalanche terrain, and has applied ratings to approximately 250 trips in the Mountain National Parks. For more information on ratings throughout Glacier National Park, visit [www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/bc/glacier/visit/visit7a1\\_E.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/bc/glacier/visit/visit7a1_E.asp)

**1:50,000 Topographic Map:** The Canadian Government offers free downloads of their regular 1:50,000 topo maps. The map files are large (25 MB) and take a few minutes to download. You will find this service at: <http://www.geogratis.gc.ca/geogratis/en/product/search.do?id=10119>. Perform your search by selecting "NTS Mapsheet", and enter 082N06. Next, press <Search> under <Search Options> (without changing any of the information in <Search Options>). Select 082N06 from the options and download it.

**1:50,000 Topo Map:** Area specific version – [YellowMaps.com](http://YellowMaps.com) offers access to the Canadian Government maps, but in smaller, area-specific versions. You will find the Rogers Pass area at: [http://yellowmaps.com/maps/rogers\\_pass\\_topo\\_map.htm](http://yellowmaps.com/maps/rogers_pass_topo_map.htm) .

## Parks Canada Info

### Wilderness Passes in National Parks

No wilderness permits are required for staying overnight at any of the ACC huts in Glacier National Parks.

### Vehicle Permits

All vehicles stopping in a National Park must have a Park Motor Vehicle Permit. Annual or single day permits may be purchased at most Park entrance gates and Park visitor centers and soon through the Alpine Club of Canada's national office.

### Glacier National Park Avalanche Control

Wardens in Glacier National Park are involved in avalanche control to maintain the safety of vehicles travelling along the highway. Heavy artillery fire is used on the slopes surrounding the highway and these areas as well as all snow-study areas are closed to the public. More information on the location of the permanent-closure areas is available at the Visitor Centre.

In the wintertime parking is restricted to specific areas along the road in order to avoid interfering with snow plowing and artillery fire. Designated parking areas are snow plowed, however avalanche control may begin while you are out on your day of skiing in which case you may find a card on the windshield of your car. If this occurs, you are asked to remain with your vehicle in the parking area until you are notified that the highway has been re-opened.

### Closed Area Entry Permits

Certain areas in Rogers Pass are permanently closed due to the threat of avalanches to the Highway. Depending on the conditions, the wardens may open some of the restricted-access areas to skiing on a day-to-day basis. If you plan to ski in these areas, a permit is required and can be picked up free of charge from the Rogers Pass Visitor Centre. It is a criminal offence to ski in closed areas without the required permit.

### Voluntary Registration Service

All visitors have the option to register their summer or winter trips within the National Park. It is recommended that anyone participating in hazardous activities in the backcountry register their trips with the wardens. This

registration is free and is the best method of ensuring that a search will be initiated if you fail to return on the specified date.

## Maximum Group Size

The maximum group size for hiking is 10 persons. If your group is larger, you will need to split into smaller groups.

## What Is At the Hut

### Summary

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<b>Heating:</b>	Wood stoves
<b>Lighting:</b>	Propane lights
<b>Cooking:</b>	Propane stove and oven, cookware, dishes & utensils provided
<b>Sleeping:</b>	Three separates sleeping areas, dormitory style on thick foam mattresses
<b>Capacity:</b>	30 in the summer and 24 in the winter
<b>Drinking water:</b>	stream in the summer, stream and or snow melt in the winter
<b>Human Waste:</b>	Outhouse
<b>Dishwater:</b>	Grey water pit
<b>Garbage:</b>	Pack it out!

### The Building

The Wheeler Hut is a warm, functional and spacious log cabin situated a quiet distance from the Trans Canada Highway. The Wheeler Hut has a trunk full of charm and history as the name refers to Arthur Oliver Wheeler, one of the founders of the Alpine Club of Canada. There are two spacious central rooms and a big kitchen in the cabin. The sleeping compartment contains three areas were there are wooden sleeping platforms and foam mattresses.

### Capacity

30 people in summer, 24 people in winter.

### Kitchen

The kitchen is well supplied with dishes, cutlery, utensils, pots and pans and bake ware (including roasting pans, cookie sheets, bread pans and muffin pans). There is a full size propane oven, as well as several sinks and 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

There is a wood-burning stove in the kitchen and in the two common room that supplies heat to the hut. Firewood is stored outside in the woodshed. Please replace all firewood you use in the hut with cut and split wood from the outside pile.

### Tools

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

## Drinking Water

In the summer drinking water can be reached from a stream 8 meters from the woodshed (across the road). The location is marked by a pole and should be flowing year round. Otherwise obtain water from snow melt. It is recommended that all water should be boiled or filtered before drinking.

## Grey Water

Water can be poured through the sieve and funnel located in the kitchen under the sinks. Then, use the grey water pit as outlined on the descriptions in the kitchen. Do not leave food scraps behind, and do not throw them into the outhouse. Please burn or pack it out.

## Human Waste

The outhouse is located approximately 15 meters north of the hut, out the back door, beside the woodshed. Please do not dispose of any unnecessary waste in the outhouse.

## Garbage

All paper garbage, recyclables, unused food, and food scraps should be packed out of the hut. In the summer garbage can be deposited in Parks Canada containers in the campground. Do not leave any garbage behind, pack it out!

## 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
- matches
- first aid kit
- 9V battery for the smoke detector
- reservation form from the ACC

## 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 2:00 pm, 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.
- 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.

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## When leaving a hut:

- If your belongings will be in the hut after 2:00 pm, 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

### Hiking, Scrambling, Mountaineering

The rugged terrain in Glacier National Park creates the opportunity for many challenging trips. The mountains are steep, the valleys are narrow and many of the trails involve high elevation gain to reach stunning ridges and peaks. The Wheeler Hut is an ideal base for climbing as most peaks are within day access from the cabin. On the north side of the highway, the Hermit Range provides many popular objectives on both good rock and ice, Tupper and the peaks of the Rogers massif being foremost among them. The Asulkan Group stretches to the south from the hut, beginning as an as popular hiking and scrambling terrain, and becoming more serious as it reaches Sapphire Col. Closer to home, Sir Donald's peaks to the east give everything from desperate north faces to classic ridge climbs. There are very good reasons that, at the beginning of the 20th century the Rogers Pass area was the first centre of alpinism in North America.

### Backcountry Skiing

One thing the Rogers Pass area is well known for in the winter, is snow. With a 10 metre annual snow fall, huge glaciers, deep valleys and steep mountains, the area is a skiers dream. The Rogers Pass area offers some of the best powder skiing in the country, with its legendary deep snow and long ski descents. From the hut, you have the option of skiing on practice slopes or going for longer day tours up on the Asulkan Ridge or the Illecillewaet. Go check it out! You can find most these amazing ski tours described in Chic Scott's book *Summits & Icefields, Columbia Mountains* or *Ski Touring in Rogers Pass*, by J.P. Kors and John Kelly.