

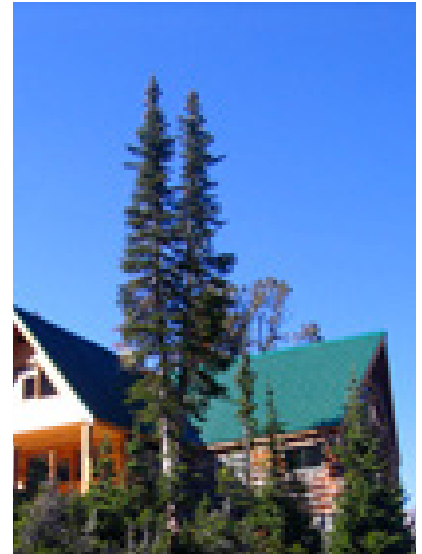


# Alpine Club of Canada Backcountry Huts

## Bill Putnam (Fairy Meadow) Hut

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Bow Hut by John Derick

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## 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 Bill Putnam (Fairy Meadows) Hut is set amongst heavily glaciated peaks and large granite rock faces. Fairy Meadows is a beautiful location at the foot of the Adamant Range in the Northern Selkirk Mountains. The Selkirks are situated between the towns of Golden and Revelstoke, in southeast British-Columbia.

### Portering Services

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

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

### Summer

<b>Trailhead location:</b>	47 km west of Golden BC/ 56 km east of Revelstoke BC
<b>Elevation gain:</b>	1006 metres / 3300 feet
<b>Approximate time:</b>	5 hours, 7-8 hours if very muddy

### Summer Trailhead location

To reach the trailhead to the Bill Putnam (Fairy Meadows) Hut, first exit off the Trans-Canada at the sign marking the "Big Lake Resort", approximately 47 km west of Golden or 56 km east of Revelstoke. This is a gravel road, and is also referred to as the 'West Columbia Forest Service Road' or the "S" road. After about 65 km along the road is the turn-off marked as km 111.5 by a logging road marker. As you make the turn, reset your odometre and follow these junctions; at 0.8 km keep right, at 1.8 km keep left and bear uphill, at 3.7 km stay right. There is a good parking spot at this point, any further beyond it requires a good four-wheel drive vehicle. At 4.4 km you will reach the end of the road, park here and get ready for the trail.

Please note that the road is used by logging trucks that may come around blind corners quite quickly without expecting to see other traffic on the road. The road can be in rough shape and is occasionally washed out, you may have to park your car and walk the rest of the way at anytime. A four-wheel drive with good clearance is recommended for this approach. Feel free to contact the Evans Forest Products office in Golden to inquire about current hazards and road conditions at (250) 344-8800.

### Hiking approach

At the edge of the cut block look for a cairn and some flagging tape marking the trail. The trail heads up a small hill and through the forest for the first few kilometres. Soon after, the trail drops down into the drainage where it can be quite swampy. At times the trail gets very close to the creek and hikers should be careful of their footing along the wet vegetation and steep drop-offs. Eventually the trail will begin to climb out of the drainage, where it dries out and becomes easier to follow. Continue through the forested section to reach a large boulder field, and follow the cairns and flagging tape closely to navigate your way through it. The trail rises to gain the crest of a large lateral moraine, which leads into the meadows beyond. The hut sits on a small hill just a few hundred metres into the meadow.

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## Winter

Winter access is by helicopter only. The helicopter staging area is on the north side of the Trans-Canada Highway, between Rogers Pass and Golden. If you're coming from Rogers Pass, the turnoff is 28.9 km east of the Summit Centre; or 4.1 km east of the Heather Mountain Lodge on the left-hand side. If you're coming from Golden, set your odometre at the last (west) set of lights. The staging area is 49.7 km west of Golden; or 2.4 km west of the "Big Lake Resort" sign on the right-hand side.

## 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>	82N/13 (Sullivan River)
<b>Grid reference:</b>	394352
<b>GPS coordinates:</b>	51°45' 48"-117°52' 36" NAD83 11U 439500 5735079
<b>Hut elevation:</b>	2,050 metres (6,700 feet)

### Maps

- The 1:50,000 Canadian Government issued standard topographic map "82N/13 Sullivan River". The Bill Putnam (Fairy Meadows) Hut is not in the location marked "Fairy Meadows" on the map at 404365. The hut is located at grid reference 394352.
- The 1:50,000 Canadian Government issued standard topographic map "82N/12 Mount Sir Sandford". This map is recommended in conjunction with 82N/13 as it shows all the mountains in the surrounding area whereas 82N/13 only covers the approach and the hut itself. Map 82N/12 is required for most skiing, hiking, and climbing trips nearby as well as the trip up to the Great Cairn Hut.

### Guidebooks and general interest books

- *Backcountry Huts and Lodges of the Rockies and Columbias*, by Jim Scott
- *Summits & Icefields Columbia Mountains Alpine Ski Tours*, by Chic Scott
- *Selkirks North*, by David P. Jones

## 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 area.

**Avalanche Hazard:** Go to [www.avalanche.ca](http://www.avalanche.ca) click on the <Public Avalanche Bulletins> and review the section for <North Columbia>. The avalanche forecast for this region is kept currently updated.

**Highway Conditions:** Go to [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 9:00 am daily when road conditions change.

### Area information

**Google Earth Reference:** Google Earth provides good overview maps of the area in medium resolution at

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<http://earth.google.com/>.

**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 082N13. Next, press <Search> under <Search Options> (without changing any of the information in <Search Options>). Select 082N13 from the options and download it.

## What Is At the Hut

### Summary

<b>Heating:</b>	Wood burning stoves
<b>Lighting:</b>	Propane lanterns
<b>Cooking:</b>	Propane stoves, ovens, dishes & cookware provided
<b>Sleeping:</b>	Dormitory style on thick foam mattresses in three rooms
<b>Capacity:</b>	20 in the summer and winter
<b>Drinking water:</b>	Running stream 100m south of the hut
<b>Human Waste:</b>	Outhouse
<b>Dishwater:</b>	Sink lines attached to sump tank
<b>Garbage:</b>	Pack it out!

### The building and sleeping arrangements

The Bill Putnam (Fairy Meadows) Hut is a beautiful two-storey wood cabin. The main floor consists of a kitchen and a living room with three large benches and tables to seat everyone, and a nice fireplace. The second floor is made up of three bedrooms with foam mattresses.

### Capacity

The Bill Putnam (Fairy Meadows) Hut fits 20 people comfortably at capacity.

### Kitchen

The kitchen is well supplied with dishes, cutlery, utensils, pots, pans and bake ware. There is a full size propane oven, as well as a four-burner propane stove for cooking. In front of the stove there is a small drain, in the wintertime please wipe away any water from it to prevent it from freezing.

### Lighting

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

### Heat

The hut is heated by a wood-burning stove. Firewood is stored behind the hut. Please replace all firewood you use in the hut with cut and split wood from the pile.



Bill Putnam Hut interior by Bori Shushan

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## Tools

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

## Drinking Water

Drinking water is from a small spring-fed creek out the back door, south of the hut. About 100 metres upstream, there is a small waterfall and pool from which it is easy to reach water. There is also a pipe above the waterfall that can be placed below the water to provide running water to the taps in the kitchen. Please make sure to remove the pipe as your group is leaving the hut and drain the water from it in order to prevent freezing. It is advisable to boil or treat the water before drinking it. In the winter you can dig down through the snow to reach the creek, or melt snow for water.

## Grey Water

Grey water disposal is in a ground sump next to the hut. You can drain grey water directly down the sinks, but please ensure that the strainer is in place under the drain. Do not allow any food scraps (including coffee grounds) to enter the grey water sump or it will become plugged. Please periodically empty the strainer contents into the fireplace. The grey water sump occasionally freezes in the winter. In this case, please dump your grey water (strained of food particles) within a three metre radius of the outhouse.

## Human Waste

The outhouse is located 30m west of the front door of the main hut. Do not dispose of any garbage in the outhouse.

## Garbage

Burn all paper garbage and food scraps, and pack out all other garbage and unused food.

## What you need to bring

- sleeping bag
- food
- toilet paper
- newspaper for lighting the fire
- 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).
- Please be considerate of others; the hut should be quiet by 10 pm.
- Carry out all of your garbage that cannot be burned.
- Do not do personal washing in cooking pots or nearby streams - use wash basins and sinks.
- 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

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odor and environmental impact.

## 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

### Rock Climbing and Mountaineering

The rock climbing around the Bill Putnam (Fairy Meadows) Hut is often compared in quality to the popular climbing area of the Bugaboos, but with much smaller crowds. The area is much more isolated and remote and therefore climbing here demands serious commitment. The climbs surrounding the hut vary from shorter routes to full-day objectives on excellent granite, ranging in all grades. The hut serves as an excellent base to access high-quality pure rock routes, big walls, mixed snow and ice routes, and alpine objectives on peaks over 11,000 feet tall such as the popular Austerity and Adamant Mountains.

### Backcountry Skiing

The deep powder snow and exceptional backcountry skiing experience at the Bill Putnam (Fairy Meadows) Hut is perhaps what the Hut is best known for. Chic Scott describes the area as "The Bill Putnam (Fairy Meadow) Hut is one of the great backcountry ski destinations in Canada. The snow is deep, the runs are excellent and the hut is very comfortable." (Summits and Icefields – Columbia Mountains page 54). The terrain that can be accessed from the hut offers exceptional opportunities for all types of skiers, from short, simple runs to steep chutes. The powder playground provides for endless days of discovering new ski touring and ski mountaineering possibilities.

## History

In 1965, the Fairy Meadow Hut was constructed by the Alpine Club of Canada as a project proposed and overseen by Bill Putnam. In 1973 the first structure, which was woefully inadequate for the heavy snowfall of the area, was totally renovated and enlarged, a project once again largely funded and overseen by Bill Putnam. Bill Putnam devoted his life to the mountains. He was the President of the American Alpine Club for years and was on their Board of Directors for decades. Putnam has also contributed heavily to Canadian mountaineering history. He spent half a lifetime exploring the Selkirks, Purcells and Rocky Mountains, and took part in writing guidebooks for the same areas (Rocky Mountains of Canada – South and North, Columbia Mountains of Canada – Central, and West and South). In addition to these, he has written several history books about the same mountains.

The hut is regularly used in the winter months for ski camps, both by the national Club as well as by various Club sections. The Club's General Mountaineering Camp, although not utilizing the hut itself, has been held in the Fairy Meadow area on three separate occasions since 1981. The hut renovations in the summer on 1992 included complete gutting and refurbishing of the interior, new outhouses and the addition of a propane stove. The hut is presently in excellent condition.