

Stakeholder Update

Tell us why Abbot Pass Hut National Historic Site matters to you

April 20, 2023

What's happening?

As part of Parks Canada's commitment to honouring the importance of Abbot Pass Hut National Historic Site, we are asking Canadians how best to commemorate this nationally significant heritage place. The process begins this spring with an online public survey:

- [Online Survey – Tell us why Abbot Pass Hut matters to you.](#)

The survey is open from April 20 until May 22, 2023. Participants can also share ideas for commemorative activities. Later this year a small working group will review the results of public engagement and make recommendations to Parks Canada.

Why is this happening?

The survey will help Parks Canada identify the “heritage values” of Abbot Pass Hut. Heritage values are what make a heritage place significant to a community of people. They are comprised of the many meanings and values that people attach to a place. These values may change over time and Parks Canada would like to know how Canadians value Abbot Pass Hut today.



Abbot Pass Hut was built in 1922 as a shelter for mountaineers. It was substantially removed for safety in 2022 after the slope eroded underneath the structure. A selection of materials from hut were salvaged and a small ruin was left in place on Abbot Pass. © Parks Canada /D. Allen

What you need to know

- Public engagement is a requirement of the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO) whenever a FHBRO building is dismantled. Abbot Pass Refuge Cabin was a FHBRO classified heritage building and a national historic site as designated by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC). Parks Canada is required to ask Canadians about the heritage values of this heritage place and make plans to communicate those values in the future.
- Heritage values can be tangible or intangible. Tangible heritage values include things like architecture, archaeology, or natural landforms. Intangible heritage values include things like historic events, stories, memories, sense of place or traditional activities. Taken together, they help us understand what makes a heritage place special to Canadians.
- The significance of any heritage place, including Abbot Pass Hut, cannot be separated from its environment or the activities that took place there. For this reason, the survey asks participants to consider the whole experience of Abbot Pass Hut – the hut, the pass, the approaches to and from it, and the activities that took place there.
- Public engagement will help answer questions like:
 - Why did the experience of Abbot Pass Hut matter to Canadians?
 - Has its significance changed over time?
 - Which heritage values or themes should be prioritised?
- Public engagement may also help answer questions like:
 - How could salvaged components of the hut be used in interpretation?
 - Are there existing commemorative activities that could use some support?
 - Should commemorative activities include monuments on the landscape, educational programs, commemorative art or exhibitions, scientific research and knowledge-building, or some combination of these things?
- Some decisions are outside of the scope of public engagement including:
 - Visitor-use management at Abbot Pass (e.g. what activities are permitted)
 - New habitable structures at Abbot Pass or elsewhere
 - New place names in the Lake Louise area
 - Permanent exhibits inside the Lake Louise Visitor Centre
- Parks Canada is aware that a working group, led by the Alpine Club of Canada, plans to submit a development proposal for a new structure in place of Abbot Pass Hut. No formal application has been received at this time. Future proposals may be informed by public engagement but will not be considered as part of this engagement process.

The results of public engagement will be shared in a What We Heard Report and will inform plans to commemorate Abbot Pass Hut. We look forward to your participation!

Information

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