The valley of the Yoho River, in the northern end of the Park, provides a breathtaking panorama of canyons and gorges, cliffs and waterfalls. The meltwater from Daly Glacier plunges a vertical distance of 1,248 feet in its short course which culminates in Takakkaw Falls just above the turbulent Yoho River. Twin Falls, in the upper Yoho Valley, rivals Takakkaw Falls in beauty and023c.pdf##laughing Falls adds its curtain of mist to the wonders of this scenic valley.

Wapta Falls, the largest in the Park, occurs where the Kicking Horse River changes its course from a southwesterly to sharply to the northwest, about a half mile below its junction with the Beaverfoot River. The Falls, which are 300 feet wide and more than 90 feet high, are formed in steeply dipping rock formations and are unusual in that the falling waters have a natural rock screen. If the sun is shining one is sure to see brilliant rainbow colours in the swirling veil of spray. Another unusual falls on the Kicking Horse River is about one mile west of the Valley of Field. Here the flowing waters have cut underneath the rock, which at one time made the lip of the falls, to form a "Natural Bridge".

There are very few lakes in the area but what they lack in numbers is compensated for by exquisitely beautiful color and setting. Emerald Lake and Lake O'Hara, with their translucent green waters and magnificent mountain bows are clasped in the beauty of the mountains.

An extensive ice-field covers much of the Waputik Mountains, northeast of Takakkaw, and sends many large glaciers far down bordering valleys. Another large area of permanent ice and snow is found near the northern end of the Park. Yoho Glacier, which can be seen from many parts of Yoho Valley, comes from this area. Many of the summit areas of the President, Van Horne, and Ottertail Ranges are ornamented by cliff glaciers. The rock of former glaciers is evidence of the deep sculptured landforms for which the Park is so celebrated. These include high rugged peaks, incised valleys, caves, and other forms created by glaciers.

The moving glaciers of an earlier day formed moraines between Wapta Lake and Sherbrooke Creek, near the eastern entrance to the Park, which still contain permanently frozen gravel and masses of ice not many feet below the surface.

The mountainous scenery of the Park has been hewn from sandstone, shale and limestone which were deposited in seas which covered this area in lower, middle and upper Cambrian time. These rocks, which have a total thickness within the Park of over 10,000 feet, have been bowled into a series of northwesterly-southeasterly trending folds. In addition they have been broken by numerous faults and uplifted many thousands of feet. From the road you can see the faulted crest of a broad anticline or upfold, capped by middle Cambrian rocks, between Mount Stephen and Cathedral Mountain. The mountains of the Chancellors group and the towers of the Goodsirs are composed of rocks which lie in shallow synclines or down-folds.

The only igneous mass exposed in the Park lies aside the valley of the Ice River, near the southern tip of the Park. This mass of unusual rock, called the Ice River Complex, contains veins and irregular masses of the blue mineral sodalite.

Hoodoo Valley, near Leachanol, is widely known for the unusual erosional forms which are cut into partly cemented boulder clay. These tall spires on the side of a valley commonly have large boulders balanced on the tops of them and present a most interesting sight.

Unusual fossil beds occur in middle Cambrian strata above the 7,000-foot level on the west side of Mount Stephen and again between Mount Wapta and Mount Field above Emerald Lake. At both these places the calcareous shales, thought to be about 500 million years old, contain thousands of fossils of trilobites, animals which have been extinct for millions of years. In addition to these the rocks have achieved world-wide fame for their imprints of soft-bodied creatures like jellyfish and worms which are not found elsewhere in the world.

The plantlife of the Park is rich and varied. About 600 kinds of plants have already been recognized from the area. Both the alpine and subalpine vegetation zones, each with its characteristic plants, are intrusively interesting and in the flowering season exhibit patterns of vivid colours which enhance the beauty of the mountains.

Some of the many alpine areas are of easy access and may be conveniently visited. Here one may wander among the brilliantly coloured flowers of the alpine meadows or tundra instead of admiring their mosaic effect from a distance. Both experiences are rewarding.

The forest, which clothes the base and middle areas of the mountains, is largely made up of evergreen trees of the pine family. Blue Douglas fir, white spruce, lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce,
alpine fir and western red cedar are probably the most common trees. At higher elevations alpine larch and limber pine may be present.

Trees usually ascend the mountains to about 7,000 feet altitude. Above timberline are the alpines and tundra with their low but usually highly coloured flowers and bushes.

Although the forest trees are the most conspicuous plants, there are many other kinds including shrubs and small herbaceous plants which are attractive and form many interesting plant communities. White mountain heather, dwarf birch, common bearberry, alpine bearberry, white mountain-heather, red and pink mountain-heather are just a few of the shrubs.

The herbaceous plants or wildflowers include the attractive glacier lily, the wild onion with its white mountain-heather, red and pink mountain-heather, dwarf birch, common bearberry, alpine bearberry, white mountain-heather, red and pink mountain-heather are just a few of the shrubs.

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Alpine fir and western red cedar are probably the highly coloured flowers and bushes. The attractive glacier lily, the wild onion with its white mountain-heather, red and pink mountain-heather, dwarf birch, common bearberry, alpine bearberry, white mountain-heather, red and pink mountain-heather are just a few of the shrubs.

Many evergreens thrive in this montane zone and are a feature of the landscape. Some of those most commonly seen are: spruce, firs, larch, hemlock, fir, pine, and douglas fir. The coniferous trees are generally found in the wetter, more sheltered areas of the park. Most of the deciduous trees are found in the valleys and lower areas of the park.

There is ample scope for many pleasant hours of birdwatching. Many different species can be seen from May to September. Park Wardens in four separate districts will provide information about the birds likely to be seen as you travel off the Park trails. The Park also supports a considerable variety of birdlife. Although no adequate study has been made, there should be at least 170 kinds of birds using the Park during some part of the year. Many of these remain during the summer. The bighorn is one of the great attractions of the park. A few of the birds likely to be seen are whitetailed ptarmigan, dipper, Clark’s nutcracker, coal tit, crows, magpies, kinglet, gray or Canada jay and several kinds of chickadees. What you see will depend upon the time of year you make your visit and the various habitats in which you make your observations.

There are many activities in which you can participate. The Park provides an Interpretation Service. This includes conducted tours and nature talks illustrated with coloured slides and films to explain the purpose and the natural phenomena of the Park. The evening programs are presented by an Interpretative Officer usually in the campgrounds and sometimes at other locations. Well marked nature trails of a self-guiding type are indicated on the accompanying map. Trailside exhibits are also provided at points of interest. Detailed information is available at the Park Information Bureau.

Many evergreens thrive in this montane zone and some survive up to timber-line. Alpine fir and western red cedar are probably the most common trees. At higher elevations alpine larch and limber pine may be present.

Trees usually ascend the mountains to about 7,000 feet altitude. Above timberline are the alpines and tundra with their low but usually highly coloured flowers and bushes.

Although the forest trees are the most conspicuous plants, there are many other kinds including shrubs and small herbaceous plants which are attractive and form many interesting plant communities. White mountain heather, dwarf birch, common bearberry, alpine bearberry, white mountain-heather, red and pink mountain-heather are just a few of the shrubs.
PETS
Dogs or cats may accompany visitors into the Park. For the protection of Park animals, however, dogs must be kept on leash.

MOTOR LICENCE
Motoring visitors are required to obtain a Park motor vehicle licence at the entrance. This licence is good in all the National Parks for the entire season.

MOTOR-BOATS
Because lakes in Yoho are small, motor-boats are not used. Rowboats, however, may be rented at Emerald Lake, and Lake O'Hara.

HOW TO REACH THE PARK
As shown on the accompanying map, the Park is served by all usual methods of transportation, rail, air, bus, and car. The nearest airport is at Calgary 130 miles southeast of the Park.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PARK
"YOHO!" is an exclamation of wonder and astonishment in the Cree Indian tongue. The Park was first established by Order-In-Council on October 10, 1886, at that time comprising only 10 square miles near Mount Stephen. This area has been enlarged on several occasions and now totals 507 square miles. The Kicking Horse Pass was discovered by Dr. James Hector, geologist of the Palliser Expedition of 1857-60. Near the junction of the Beaverfoot and Kicking Horse Rivers, he was kicked by a pack-horse and laid up for a day. This incident gave the name "Kicking Horse" to the pass and the river flowing from Lake Wapta.

The Canadian Pacific Railway chose this route for its transcontinental line and more recently it has become part of the route for the Trans-Canada Highway.

The townsite of Field was named after a visit to the area in 1884 by Cyrus West Field, promoter of the first Atlantic Cable. The origin of Field was due to the construction of the Railway through the Pass in 1884. In 1909 a tremendous snowslide thundered down from Mount Burgess opposite Field causing extensive damage to the buildings on the north side of the Kicking Horse River. Since that time most of the townsite was located on the south side of the river at the base of Mount Stephen.

The high country of this Park challenged the minds of early Canadian mountaineers and the first climbing camp of the Alpine Club of Canada was held in Yoho Pass, where this organization was founded in 1906. Every year since, mountaineers from many countries have come to the Little Yoho and the Lake O'Hara areas to explore the peaks and valleys of this Park.

Additional information concerning the Park may be obtained from:

THE SUPERINTENDENT,
YOHO NATIONAL PARK,
FIELD, B.C.,

or

NATIONAL PARKS BRANCH,
DEPARTMENT OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS
AND NATIONAL RESOURCES,
OTTAWA, CANADA.