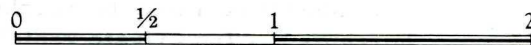


TRAILS IN THE LAKE O'HARA AREA YOHO NATIONAL PARK

SCALE IN MILES

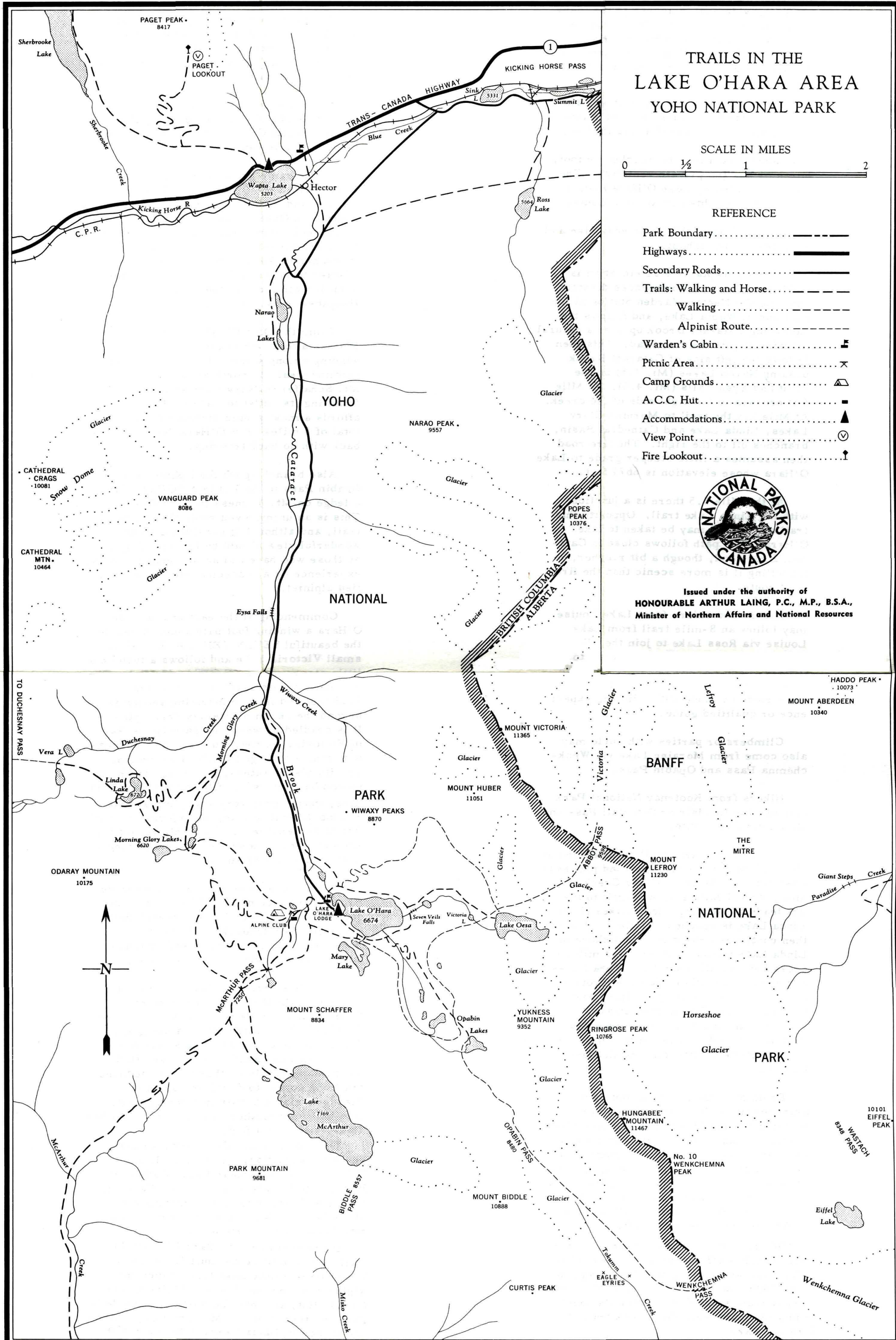


REFERENCE

- Park Boundary - - - - -
- Highways ————
- Secondary Roads ————
- Trails: Walking and Horse - - - - -
- Walking - - - - -
- Alpinist Route - - - - -
- Warden's Cabin ■
- Picnic Area X
- Camp Grounds ▲
- A.C.C. Hut ■
- Accommodations ▲
- View Point ⊙
- Fire Lookout ↑



Issued under the authority of
HONOURABLE ARTHUR LAING, P.C., M.P., B.S.A.,
Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources



To provide easier access to the many beauty spots in the Lake O'Hara area a network of trails and paths has been designed and are well marked by signs at the beginning of each trail and at all inter-sections.

The hub of this trail system is Lake O'Hara which is 7 miles south of Wapta Lake (Mile 25.2 Trans-Canada Highway).

Lake O'Hara may be reached by foot, horse or bus (no private vehicles). The bus is operated by Lake O'Hara Lodge; horses may be obtained at Lake Louise.

For the hiker, this is an easy hike and very scenic throughout.

Leaving Wapta, whose elevation is 5203 feet, the trail commences directly opposite the Hector Warden Station at the east end of Wapta Lake, and follows the cascading Cataract Brook up over a natural moraine to join the fire road. This then follows the left side of Cataract Brook passing Narao Lakes (Mi. 1.5) on the right and Eysa Falls (Mi. 4.5). At Mile 5 it crosses to the right side of the creek. At Mile 5.5 the trail to Morning Glory Lakes, Linda Lake and Cathedral Basin, branches off to the right. The fire road then assumes a little steeper grade to Lake O'Hara whose elevation is 6674 feet.

At the Mile 5.5 there is a junction with the Linda Lake trail. Opposite this trail a foot path may be taken to lake O'Hara. The path follows close to Cataract Brook and, though a bit rougher, travelling it is more scenic than the fire road route.

Hikers and riders from Lake Louise may follow an 8-mile trail from Lake Louise via Ross Lake to join the O'Hara fire road at Wapta Lake and thence to Lake O'Hara. The Lake O'Hara area may be reached from Lake Louise via the Abbott Pass route by those with climbing experience or qualified guide.

Climbers or parties with guide may also come from Moraine Lake via Wenkchemna Pass and Opabin Pass.

Hikers from Kootenay National Park may use the Goodsir or Ottetail Pass and McArthur Pass route.

The LINDA LAKE trail commencing at Mile 5.5 on the O'Hara fire road proceeds west crossing Morning Glory Creek at 1.5 Mile. At 1.7 Mile a branch trail to the left leads to Morning Glory Lakes (1 Mi.). Linda Lake is reached at Mile 3. The trail then continues around the right shore of Linda Lake thence another 1 1/2 miles to cross between Cathedral and Vera Lakes and winding a further 1/2 mile through alpine meadows to an open alpine basin, the approach to Duchnesnay Pass.

The main trunk trail continues down McArthur Creek 5 miles to the Ottetail River enroute to Ottetail and Goodsir Passes.

From McArthur Pass a foot path branches to the left, providing a very scenic route for hikers to Lake McArthur (1 Mi.). This is a foot path and not passable for horses. Also at this point a foot path branches to the right leading up unto Oday Plateau. Dropping over the south side of the Pass about 300 yds. another junction occurs; the horse trail to Lake McArthur branches to the left.

Midway across Oday Plateau a short trail branches off ascending the east slope of Mt. Oday to an outstanding viewpoint at the 8800 foot level. Also from this point an easy trail winds down among the larch to join the main McArthur trunk trail at Schaffer Lake.

A circuit foot path around the shores of LAKE O'HARA (2 Mi.) provides a very scenic, easy stroll for all age groups. This is a FOOT PATH ONLY and no horses may use this path.

From the south shore of Lake O'Hara a short trail (1/4 Mi.) ascends Opabin cliff to the Crystal Cave. Quartz crystals may be seen at this cave.

At the same point on the south shore of Lake O'Hara the Opabin Pass Trail commences and through a series of switchbacks ascends to Opabin Pass (2 1/2 Mi.) whose elevation is 8460 feet. This is a popular route for experienced mountaineers to Wenkchemna Pass across Wenkchemna Glacier to Moraine Lake, also the starting point for climbers in the ascent to Mt. Hungabee (elev. 11467 ft.).

From the OPABIN PASS trail on Opabin Plateau a foot path branches to the right, winding among some colourful tarns and circling west and north around the base of Mt. Schaffer to Mary Lake and thence following its outlet to Lake O'Hara. This affords a most scenic circuit hike of a total of 6 miles from O'Hara and circling back with no back tracking.

Also branching off the Opabin trail on Opabin Pass to the left is a ROUTE skirting a ledge on Mt. Yukness to Lake Oesa. This is an unimproved route ONLY, not a trail, and although it provides a most wonderful view should be traversed only by those who have had some mountaineering experience or are accompanied by a qualified alpinist.

Commencing at the east end of Lake O'Hara a winding foot path ascends beside the beautiful SEVEN VEIL FALLS, skirts small Victoria Lake and follows a turbulent little stream to LAKE OESA, (3 Mi.). The elevation of this beautiful green lake is 7408 feet and its awe inspiring setting is beyond the realm of literary description. It is cradled between the majestic peaks of Victoria, Lefroy, Ringrose and Yukness with tongues of aged glaciers protruding into its placid waters, the colour of which cannot be captured on film or canvas. This hike, though over very rocky terrain, is not too difficult for anyone enjoying normal health and anyone will be richly repaid for time and energy spent on this exceptionally outstanding beauty spot.

From Lake Oesa an unimproved route crosses the face of Mt. Huber at the 7800 foot level to Wiwaxy Gap and thence down a series of switchbacks to Lake O'Hara. This route should be traversed by those with mountaineering experience only.

The McArthur trail leaves the west shore of Lake O'Hara near the Warden Cabin. At 1/2 mile it reaches the 'Alpine Meadow' which is the main camping spot for this area and in which is situated the Alpine Club of Canada Hut (Parker Hut). Proceeding 1 mile further on the McArthur trail one comes to Schaffer Lake and Meadow, also a favourite camping spot. One half mile further brings us to McArthur Pass, elev. 7300 feet.

The views from Oday Plateau are beyond description, embracing all the O'Hara area, McArthur Pass, Cathedral Basin, Linda Lake and the whole Cataract Valley and affording an unforgettable view of the Goodsir Mountains to the south and Mt. Huber to the north east.

At the north end of Oday Plateau the trail joins the O'Hara-Linda Lake trail. The O'Hara-Linda Lake trail leaves the Alpine camping meadow and Alpine Club of Canada Hut, ascends the north end of Oday Plateau, then drops to Morning Glory Lakes and thence to Linda Lake, a distance of 4 miles.