



# Calgary Area Outdoor Council

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## Outdoor Update

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### Talus Lodge By Chris Espinel

What guests and reviewers are saying about us:

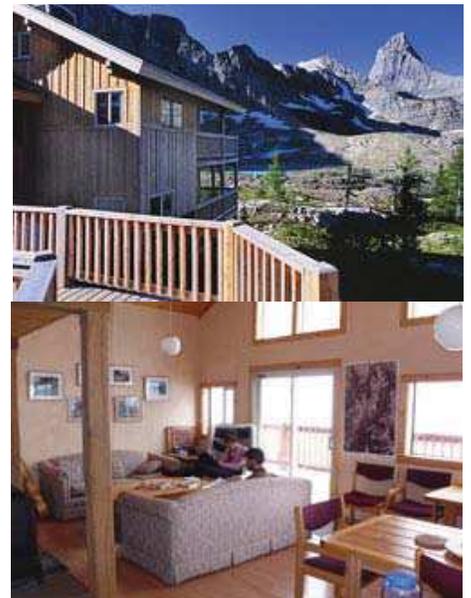
“Words could not begin to express my gratitude for this idyllic sanctuary. Serenity, solitude, peace among majestic peaks, still waters, colorful flower gardens – awesome! I shall remember this ‘time apart’ for ‘many moons.’ Thank you.”  
(Doreen, 2008)

“A wide range of scenery and stunning natural features are found within minutes of walking from the lodge in any direction. To the north, rock shelves pocked with wildflower-laced heather fields lead to two large alpine lakes bordered on three sides by mountains. To the east, rock shelves lead to a pass overlooking the lush Albert River drainage. To the south, imposing mountains beckon. To the west, drier terrain descends through forest to the rim of a 300-metre waterfall over the Cross River Valley.”  
(Calgary Herald, 18 August 2005)

“This little piece of heaven near Banff National Park would surely have been placed within its borders had the park's founders known of its natural charms back in the 19th century.”  
(Calgary Herald, 13 March 2008)

Talus Lodge is a back country lodge located on the BC side of the Alberta/British Columbia Divide and we offer a unique wilderness experience for guests from Calgary, Edmonton, Alberta area, Canada and the world. We are a fly-in fly-out operation with our guests flying in with Alpine Helicopters either from

Canmore or Mount Shark helicopter pads. Our facilities are located at 7600 feet of elevation (2350 m) and we limit the number of guests to 10 people at any given time to minimize our footprint on the area.



Talus Lodge is a chalet style two storey building. The first floor is made up of four bedrooms and an equipment/drying room. The second floor contains the kitchen, living and dining areas, a bedroom and a large loft. Wood stoves provide heating for the buildings and propane is used for cooking. Up to 10 guests are comfortably accommodated in the bedrooms. Upper and lower decks add to the comfort of the lodge. Fantastic views are offered from every room in the lodge and outside decks. A smaller utilities building adjacent to the

( . . . Continued on page 2, see Talus)

### Talus (. . . Continued from page 1)

lodge contains washroom, sauna and shower facilities. For those seeking the extra seclusion and privacy, our spectacular lower cabin could be booked as an option.

We offer summer packages which include hiking, wildlife viewing, flower enjoyment, geology exploration, and land form discovery. During the winter season we offer snowshoeing, cross-country and backcountry skiing. Our facilities are also available for yoga retreats, photography and art workshops to list a few. Both summer and winter activities are conducted with a minimal impact or disturbance to our environment.



We believe that Talus Lodge is an example of sound environmental operations and practices located within a fragile alpine environment. My partner and I firmly believe in sustainability of resources. We provide an unspoiled setting and well thought out facilities to minimize the human impact.

All guests are given a thorough briefing about facilities, goals and ways to minimize the footprint while in our wilderness area as well as techniques and principles to keep the wilderness wild. We separate garbage into recyclables and compostable materials. What cannot be recycled on site is flown out. Trails for the area are generally old animal trails or on limestone. Groups are usually no more than five people with a registered hiking guide.

Our waste and gray water managements are examples of what could be done in pristine settings to reduce

human impact. Our gray water is fine filtered to remove fine particles prior to arriving at a settling barrel that allows food particles to drop to the bottom and grease and oil components to separate and float on top. Solids from our settling gray water barrels and toilet waste are flown out and driven to sewer processing facilities in Invermere, BC.

The low impact environmental experience at Talus Lodge reinforces the knowledge and awareness of the fragility of our wilderness settings which result in a positive gain towards the education to protect our wilderness at the local, provincial, Canadian and world levels.

Talus Lodge is a business based on an understanding of our ecology with our goals being to provide a safe, comfortable and friendly setting for our guests to experience and enjoy the wilderness with a minimal impact.

“A truly fantastic experience! Challenging physically – invigorating spiritually – refreshing mentally. Beautiful mountains and beautiful people.”  
(Wallance, 2006)

We would love to host you at Talus this summer! Please contact us.

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