



Edmonton Bicycle & Touring Club

October 23, 2020 - Newsletter

Good Bye 2020 (but not quite yet)

Hidden Cycling Gems in Central Alberta



Lacombe Lake, Photo by Terry Fannon.

Although sanctioned EBTC events were cancelled, many members still did COVID-safe rides. Each newsletter, we will bring you one such ride or adventure. If you have a local Edmonton/Central Alberta ride you would like featured, reach out to the Newsletter Coordinator through our contact page: [Bikeclub.ca/contact/](https://bikeclub.ca/contact/).

This ride is from our President, Anne-Marie.

A great thing about the EBTC is the number of cycling events that normally happens each week. COVID eliminated official club rides for the year leaving riding on one's own or with friends. On September 13 and again on September 18, I took part in two out and back rides from Lacombe to Red Deer; both done privately although with EBTC friends. Having lived in Edmonton for over 25 years, I cannot believe I have never been to this charming little town - a "hidden gem".

The route taken has many names and a long history. Archeologists believe this north-south corridor has been used for millennia by first nations (see: [**The Calgary and Edmonton Trail**](#)). Later it was a trade route that linked Fort Calgary and Fort Edmonton (C&E) trail. Now it is primarily for recreation and is part of the Trans

Canada Trail (also known as The Great Trail).

Starting in downtown Lacombe, we rode along a street named for the C&E. Just south of main street is the Lacombe Research Centre (itself worth poking around). Further south, the trail winds through the quiet rural countryside past Lacombe Lake.



Bridge crossing of the Blindman River, Photo by Terry Fannon.

We continued on to the Town of Blackfalds and the Blindman River Crossing. At Blackfalds the trail goes indoors through the second floor of the Abbey Center. It is the only indoor section of the Trans Canada Trail! Apparently maps (and coffee) are available in the centre.

Leaving Blackfalds we rode on to Red Deer. This 'middle-city' between Calgary and Edmonton has its own cycling trails along the Red Deer River. The network of beautiful trails rivals our own Edmonton River Valley. Many kilometers of exploring can be added there.

Lacombe to the north end of Red Deer and return on the C&E Trail is 40 km. Traffic is light when on paved roads and many kilometers are on dedicated paved bike trails. The ride is suitable for beginner riders or older children. There are amenities (washrooms, etc.) in Lacombe, Blackfalds and Red Deer. The Ride with GPS link is provided below. Definitely a route to add to the traditional EBTC cycling events ... when we are back to normal!

[[LINK - RIDE WITH GPS](#)]

Banff Parkway & the Canmore Trail? TAXI!

The Banff Parkway and the Legacy Trail from Banff to Canmore were extremely popular this year. One challenge is how to get to the start while still having a vehicle at the end. There are at least two taxi options. Canmore Taxi can accommodate two bikes and charges \$80. Three Sisters Taxi can transport six bikes for a flat fee of \$150. Three Sisters will also take you to the top of the Goat Creek Trail (in Banff) for \$60 from which you scream down hill and ride out to Canmore. Convenience and a lower carbon foot print, who knew!



Early Morning Start on the Banff Parkway, Photo by Frank Potter

RideWithGPS Maps

Many EBTC ride leaders and members use RideWithGPS to map and share their cycling routes. To access the club's RideWithGPS membership and maps, go to:

<http://bikeclub.ca/ridewithgps-com>

Visit our website

