

## ***GROUNDHOG LAKE / MTN. AGNES TRAIL***

Rating: Due to the overall return distance of 17 km we would classify this hike to be highly moderate to hard, although the trail is mainly a road there is some steepness near the lake.

Time to complete: 3-5 hrs one way, slightly less on returning.

Maximum elevation gain: 1600 ft 488 m (to lake only)

Maps required from our site: **1 & 4**

- You may be asked to travel via the back street of Barkerville (A) especially if you are hiking with a dog. Dogs are to remain on leashes until Richfield Courthouse (B) as there are horse drawn wagons in this section. Check their hours to be sure. Once past Richfield the Waggon Road starts a long gradual climb to Summit Rock (C). ( use caution at Richfield as the road has two junctions near the base of the hill, the one you want for this hike is the middle route, watch for Groundhog signs). The area around Summit Rock was used for grazing and a stable here was for changing horses on the stagecoaches after the pull from Barkerville. Most hikers turn Left at Summit Rock cross the meadow and turn Right on to a ditch line, follow this ditch trail until it intersects a gravel road. This point is known as Coopers Cabin and was used many years as a ditch tenders cabin. (one may follow the Waggon Road past Summit Rock for about 1km and turn Left at the log shelter, this is the same road that you intersected with the ditch) You now follow along Jack of Clubs Creek and start to climb quite steeply for 1.5 km and you will end at your goal. Groundhog Lake was dammed in the late 1800's to store water for various mining operations below and around Barkerville during the summer working months. If you have time and energy left over, a hike up to Elk Mtn or even up Mt. Agnes will reward your efforts even further.
- Groundhog Lake is a junction along the VanWinkle Trail and optional return routes are possible from here. East will find the Powder House Trail, and the 1861 Gold Rush Pack Trail, West will find the Cariboo Waggon Road. All options will add distance and time to your hike. If camping is an option along any of the trails, please use caution and keep the area clean. Please pack out all your garbage.