

Ross Lake Headwall

This is a large limestone cliff on the west side of cirque that encloses *Ross Lake*. Currently, it has just one climb and the rock quality is reported to be very good. The climb, *Quiet Earth*, has received a number of repeat ascents and appears to be well worth the 1 ½ hour approach.



Quiet Earth 5.11a 205 m

Andrew Langsford and Mike Verwey, July 2001

From the *Lake O'Hara* parking lot, walk east for about 2 km along the old 1A Highway to the *Ross Lake* trailhead. Alternatively, drive east on the Trans-Canada Highway from the *Lake O'Hara* turn-off for 2 km until about 100 m past a short guardrail and then pull off the highway. Walk down an old dirt road, cross the railroad tracks, and follow an access road up to the 1A Highway and the *Ross Lake* trailhead. Walk up to the lake where climb comes into view at the centre of the prominent limestone cliff up on the right. Either go left around the lake on a board walk at first and then following a faint trail, or follow a fishermen's trail around the right (west) side (shorter and normally better). At the back of the lake, angle up and right to the base of some quartzite slabs. Scramble up these to an upper ledge below the main face. The climb starts in the middle of the face at a bolt belay below a pinnacle.

Gear: A few cams to #3 Camalot, a set of wires, 9 quick draws, and 3 long slings.

- 1. 50 m, 5.10a.** Climb up past bolts and gear (10a) to the left-hand side of the pinnacle. Stem up the corner to a bolt belay at the top.
- 2. 30 m, 5.10a.** Go out right and then up past 5 bolts and a piton to ledges. Continue up and slightly left to a bolt belay.
- 3. 40 m, 5.10b.** Climb up and left to a bolt and then make a couple of moves left to gain a crack. Go up the crack (10b), and continue up past a bolt to a roof. Climb over this to a bolt belay.
- 4. 40 m, 5.10c.** Follow a weakness left of the belay up through broken rock. Climb up past 2 bolts and layback a big flake to another bolt. Continue across the face on the right to gain a shallow crack (10c) and follow it past a bolt to the bolt belay.
- 5. 45 m, 5.11a.** Either go directly up to a bolt on the left or move left and then go up (easier). From the bolt, climb the crack on the left side of a corner to a bolt at its top. Continue up and slightly left past 5 bolts (11a) and then move up right to a bolt belay on the right-hand side of the prow.

Descent: All stations are bolted for 50 m rappels.

