

CLOUDBURST

A full-page background image of a mountain landscape. The sky is a deep blue with wispy white clouds. Below the sky, a range of mountains is visible, some with patches of snow. In the foreground, a rocky, dark grey trail leads up a slope. A hiker in a red jacket and white helmet is walking towards the viewer. Another hiker in a blue jacket is further up the trail to the right. The overall scene is bright and clear.

Club Anniversary Celebrations
Some Good Books to Read
A Mountain Named for Mary Jobe
Up Your Peaks

CLOUDBURST

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Articles: We welcome articles which inform our readers about mountain access, recreation, and conservation issues or activities in B.C. Don't limit yourself to prose: photographs and poems also accepted. Pieces should not exceed 1,000 words. Photos should be 150—300 DPI resolution. With submitted articles please include the author. With submitted photos please include location, names of people in the photo and the name of the photographer.

Submission Deadlines:

Fall/Winter - Oct 15
Spring/Summer - April 15

Advertising: The FMCBC invites advertising or classified advertising that would be useful to our members.

Rates:

\$400 back page \$300 full page

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Editor/Production: Jodi Appleton (jodiappleton@shaw.ca)

FMCBC

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) is a non-profit organization representing the interests of non-mechanized hikers and climbers, and outdoor clubs throughout British Columbia. The FMCBC

- 1) addresses mountain access, recreation, and conservation issues;
- 2) coordinates, builds, and maintains hiking and mountain access trails throughout B.C. through its member clubs; and
- 3) promotes outdoor education and safety.

Membership

Membership in the FMCBC is open to any individual or club interested in non-mechanized outdoor activities, and access, recreational, and conservation concerns.

Club Membership

Please contact the FMCBC office to receive a list of clubs that belong to the FMCBC (See inside back cover). Membership is \$15 per annum per membership when a member of a FMCBC Club and \$25 per annum for individual members.

Cover Photograph by

Matt Gunn

Featuring Antony Blaikie and Teresa Rowley on an ACC day trip to Ronayne Mountain north of Pemberton



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President's Message

SO LONG AND WELCOME

We had a very productive Annual General Meeting in Hope this summer. I thank the University of the Fraser Valley for providing a location free of charge in Hope. We had directors attending from all regions of British Columbia. Many thanks to everyone who journeyed to Hope and took time out from their busy schedules.

After three years as President, it my pleasure to turn the reins of the Presidency over to Brian Wood of the British Columbia Mountaineering Club. He has been very active in Recreation and Conservation issues in the BCMC as well as the Southwest Recreation and Conservation Committee.

I want to welcome Jodi Appleton as our new Administrative Manager for the Federation of Mountain Clubs. She is currently enrolled in a Recreation Leadership Program at Langara College. She has done an outstanding job this summer updating our membership lists of our clubs on our Access Database and in recent weeks has been putting together the double edition of Cloudburst. She is currently working one day per week on weekends. Meg Stanley has stepped down as our Cloudburst editor of five years. We thank Meg for her dedication to getting the Cloudburst out to our members.

I look forward to continuing to serve the Federation of Mountain Clubs in other capacities. I plan on continuing to attend the Southwest Recreation and Conservation Committee meetings and the Southwest Trails Committee. Since 1969, the FMCBC has been the main advocacy force in BC for the non-motorized recreationalists. While there are many conservation organizations in BC, the FMCBC continues to be the main provincial force for the 'quiet' recreation.

May the force (and advocacy) be with us.

Sincerely,

Pat Harrison
Outgoing President
Secretary, FMCBC



Diana Diacomu

Diamond Head summit from the summit of Garibaldi. Paul Ridge to the lower left. Howe Sound and Squamish to the lower right.

Letters to the Editor

Time for Drastic Changes to Out Lifestyles

After viewing a tenure application for a new ATV tenure I posted comments similar to the following on the Federation of Mountain Clubs list server.

There is an important issue involving motorized tenures and public use that needs to be addressed. At a time when global warming and climate change are threatening the mountains as we know them (snowfields and glaciers are melting) and the very environment that we all cherish and enjoy is at risk of drastic change, it is time that we spoke up with a strong united voice to express our opposition to any increase in motorized pollution for pleasure activities. At a time when we are being asked to drive less, take the bus, ride your bike to work, buy more energy efficient appliances, turn the heat down, get a more fuel efficient vehicle it is the height of hypocrisy that other people are willfully increasing their carbon footprints by engaging in pollution for pleasure activities such as ATVing, dirt biking, snowmobiling, jet skiing, etc.

While we all pollute in our daily lives, including getting to our recreation activities, the non motorized users' pollution and green house gas emissions by and large end when their sport begins. Where as, for many of the previously mentioned activities the pollution and GHGs increase when their activities begin. Having said that, we as non motorized outdoors enthusiasts are hardly blameless. Many of us helicopter into areas for winter ski trips or summer climbing. For example the 2007 summer ACC General Mountaineering Camp flew "14 helicopter loads of lumber, gear, tents, food, power tools and other supplies" into the camp. As each load weighed 1400 pounds that is 19,600 pounds of equipment before you add the flights with the climbers, guides, and managers. Then of course you have to fly it all out at

the end of the camp. Hardly a pollution free low impact outing.

I have many motivations for reducing pollution and GHG emissions. First, I am selfish, I want to be able to ski, climb, hike, and enjoy the mountains as they are today not some arid dust bowl. Second, I want my children and future generations to be able to enjoy the same mountain experiences that I have and the generations before me have. Third, there are many parts of our country that rely upon the glaciers and snowfields to provide their water supply. Fourth, there are 50 million people in the Indian sub continent that, through no fault of their own, will be flooded out of their homes if the Greenland and Antarctic ice shelves melt. Fifth, more people in Canada die from respiratory illnesses related to air pollution than from homicides.

So, if you agree with any of the above reasons, we need to act now to ensure that we have done all we can to ensure climate change is minimized. The final question is, "How much are you willing to sacrifice for the good of the environment? Or how much of the environment are you willing to sacrifice for your lifestyle?"

We can sit by and watch it happen or we can change our lifestyle and make a difference, the choice is yours.

Bryce Leigh

Should Horses Be Allowed Into The Lower Bedwell River Valley?

Thanks be to Mr. P. Rothermel for bringing this application for a park use permit (PUP) to the attention of the FMCBC membership.

Mr. Rothermel highlights the complexity of the issue that we must either support or reject. I strongly reject granting private interest a right to our public parks. Why ?

The sad reality here is that BC Parks

are underfunded. In my opinion this does not equate to the need to raise money through approval of park use permits with private interests, Full Stop.

Allow me to raise a few items germane to the discussion that P. Rothermel failed to mention:

- BC Parks expects to receive \$300,000 to \$500,000 from Clayoquot Wilderness Resort (CWR), in the form of horse friendly bridge construction and trail maintenance in return for this park use permit.
- CWR requests a "30" year Park Use Permit !
- CWR will self evaluate their performance under this PUP.
- CWR currently owns private land and controls a Land Use Permit on Crown Land in the Ursus River Valley, more than ample land for their clients' horse riding enjoyment.
- CWR has found it necessary to kill wolves attracted to their horse paddocks.
- Horses, especially in our Rainforest climate, heavily damage sections of trails, creating mud holes and hoof size potholes that hikers prefer to avoid.
- The Master Plan for Strathcona Park specifies that horses are NOT allowed. SPPAC, the Strathcona Park Public Advisory Committee, confirmed this interpretation of the Master Plan, September 14 2007. And as a consequence rejected this CWR application for a Park Use Permit.

I urge you all to demand that the provincial government prioritize funding to our publicly owned parks. And say NO to private money dictating the makeup of Our Parks: held in trust for our grandchildren; the last protected refuge we have for wildlife and biodiversity.

LeRoy McFarlane, CDMC.
Black Creek. BC.

Recreation and Conservation

Southwest BC Recreation and Conservation Committee Report

Antje Wahl,
Committee Co-chair,
ACC Vancouver Section and
Brian Wood, BCMC

RESORT DEVELOPMENTS

Garibaldi at Squamish Resort on Brohm Ridge, Squamish

The proposed resort at Brohm Ridge encompasses 25 ski lifts, two golf courses and 5,739 housing units. The FMCBC sent comments on the application addenda to the Environmental Assessment Office during the public comment period in March 2008. Some points of concern about the proposed development:

Threats to the western boundary of Garibaldi Provincial Park due to the proximity of the resort area. Especially planned Lift Q will increase the volume of out-of-bounds skiers in Garibaldi Provincial Park.

Displacement of snowmobilers from their traditional territory on Brohm Ridge. This will increase the likelihood of snowmobiling in our remaining very small non-motorized areas or in Garibaldi Provincial Park.

Backcountry access restrictions due to the resort blocking normal access route via Brohm Ridge into Garibaldi Provincial Park. The developer proposes an unsuitable access trail and too few parking spots (five) for backcountry users.

Long-term threats due to expansion of the resort into Garibaldi

Provincial Park.

The FMCBC is also in contact with Save Garibaldi, a group of Squamish residents who oppose the Garibaldi at Squamish Resort (savegaribaldi.org).

Coquihalla Pass Resort

(formerly Juliet Creek Resort re-located nearer to Zoa Peak)
The proposed resort would be an all-season resort located halfway between Hope and Merritt by the Coquihalla Highway. The resort would consist of a base village, golf course, ski lifts and alpine trails. It would be located next to Zoa Peak and near other popular

areas near Zoa peak, and an increase in commercial activity and motorized recreation near the Coquihalla Summit Area.

BACKCOUNTRY COMMERCIAL RECREATION TENURES

The FMCBC Recreation and Conservation Committee continues to respond to the many tenure proposals in popular backcountry recreation areas across the Province. In many areas these tenures have the potential to pose significant threats to recreational access and impact backcountry experiences due to motorized activity.



John Sapac and Jenny Faulkner on BCMC Coquihalla Trip

backcountry skiing, hiking and climbing destinations. The Draft Terms of Reference for the Environmental Assessment of this resort application have been filed. The main concerns are the direct loss of popular and easily accessible non-motorized recreation

Heli-ski tenure applications for Waddington Area

The FMCBC, clubs and many individuals have sent letters and emails to the Ministry opposing heli-skiing in the Waddington area ranges that are remote and unique for skiers and climbers. Despite this, the BC Government offered a commercial heli-ski tenure to Knight Inlet Heliski Sports last year. However, for Mt Waddington and the immediate surroundings the FMCBC is currently negotiating a no-fly zone for heli-skiing. An established no-fly/non-motorized zone would also prevent future commercial applications for motorized activities in this area. Another heli-ski, heli-hiking and heli-flightseeing tenure application has been made in February 2008 by the Bute Inlet Development Corp. (Homalco First Nation).

Rainbow Mountain Heli-biking, Whistler

The FMCBC opposed an application by West Coast Freeride Guides for a heli-biking tenure on Rainbow Mountain because of the noise impact and the increased potential for further trail cutting on Rainbow ridge. The BC Government rejected the application for Rainbow Mountain, and approved the Cougar Mountain tenure application.

The FMCBC is also in negotiations with the following tenure holders/applicants to defend the backcountry experience for non-motorized users:

Coast Range Heliskiing application amendment to existing Duffey Lake corridor tenure (Pemberton/Lillooet)

Powder Mountain Catski application to expand cat skiing at Brew Ridge and Cypress Mountain (Squamish/Whistler)

Powder Mountain Catski application for summer ATV tours and hiking in the Cypress/Tricouni area (Squamish/Whistler)

SEA-TO-SKY LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sea-to-Sky LRMP

Agreements on land use planning have been reached between the provincial government, the Lil'wat Nation, the In-Shuck Nation, and the Squamish Nation. A final LRMP (excluding public recreation), was presented at Open Houses in April 2008. A government-appointed mediator is currently reviewing the public winter recreation zoning with all user groups. The non-motorized zoning of the Upper Callaghan Valley has had a knock-on effect on snowmobiling use in other areas

in the Sea-to-Sky, including Mount Sproatt and Phelix Creek valley. The FMCBC strongly supports the winter recreation zoning agreement by the Sea-to-Sky Backcountry Winter Sharing Forum. The final LRMP and maps can be found here:

<http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/lup/lrmp/coast/s2s/index.html>

PARKS AND WILDERNESS AREAS

Smoke Bluffs Municipal Park, Squamish

To prevent housing development from blocking access to the climbing bluffs in Squamish, the FMCBC has owned three small parcels of land adjacent some popular climbing areas of the Smoke Bluffs for about 30 years. The FMCBC has donated the land for the creation of a Smoke Bluffs Park in this area. Negotiations are ongoing for a conservation covenant to protect in perpetuity all the climbing areas of the Smoke Bluffs.

If you have any Recreation/Conservation issues that need attention, please contact:

Antje Wahl

awahl@telus.net,

Sandra Nicol

Sandra.nicol@telus.net,

or your club's FMCBC representative.

We encourage members to write letters to government to keep the pressure on these and other issues. You can also cc your email to your MLA. Following are e-mail addresses for key Ministers:

Premier Gordon Campbell:

Premier@gov.bc.ca

Pat Bell

(Minister of Agriculture and Lands):

Pat.Bell@gov.bc.ca

Stan Hagan (Minister of Tourism, Sport and the Arts):

Stan.Hagan@gov.bc.ca

Barry Penner (Minister of the Environment):

Barry.Penner@gov.bc.ca

Rich Coleman (Minister of Forests):

Rich.Colemen@gov.bc.ca

New Protected Areas in Southwest BC

Jay MacArthur (FMCBC past president in 80s)

One bright note in the conservation front in the past year has been an agreement between the province and the Lil'wat Nation to confirm several new protected areas proposed in the Sea to Sky and Lillooet Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP) processes. The new protected areas are:

Upper Soo Conservancy
Upper Birkenhead River
Conservancy

Twin Two Conservancy
Callaghan Conservancy
Elaho Conservancy

100 Lakes Plateau

Conservancy

Cerise Creek Conservancy
Duffey Lake Park addition

In addition to these new conservancies, several cultural wildland zones were identified for their high wildlife values, remote wilderness characteristics and their cultural and spiritual significance to First Nations.

I participated in the Protected Areas Strategy process for the Vancouver Region and the Lillooet LRMP representing the FMCBC and am pleased that some of our recommendations are finally being confirmed. I am trying to get some better maps of the protected areas. For further information, see the gov.bc.ca website where I found this:

Federation of Mountain Clubs

On April 11, 2008, Chief Leonard Andrew of the Lil'wat Nation and BC Minister of Agriculture and Lands Pat Bell signed a government-to-government (G2G) agreement on land use planning ([news release](#) / [agreement](#)). With agreements between the Province and the In-SHUCK-ch, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations already in place, the completion of this agreement marked the conclusion of the Sea-to-Sky LRMP development process. The zoning and management direction identified in the agreements have been integrated into the final LRMP, and the Province and First Nations continue to work together on implementation.

developer, who previously wanted to build in Juliet Creek, has moved south to the Coldwater, and all the way to the highway, proposing, among other things, a lift up Zoa Peak. This development would completely destroy the wilderness attributes of Zoa which we cherish so dearly. The Federation expressed little concern over the Juliet Creek proposal, but we are dead set against a lift up Zoa and the repositioned ski development. This would result in the loss of one of the few remain-

non-motorized backcountry ski use area with an energy-



View of Coldwater River from Zoa

Artist Lesley Bohm

ing motor-free backcountry ski areas within reach of Vancouver.

Reasons for not building a ski resort at Coquihalla are: the ski industry has reached saturation if Revelstoke is already in receivership; the Coldwater River is seriously lacking in water for massive devel-

opment; and there is no reason nowadays to replace a remote,

intensive downhill ski development. If development can only profit by selling condos and then has financial problems, as at Hemlock Mountain, whereby the condos are stranded with no facilities, why do it again? The "jobs" may be short lived.

Please write to:

Stan Hagen
Minister of Agriculture and Lands

AL.Min@gov.bc.ca

Barry Penner
Minister of Environment

ENV.minister@gov.bc.ca

Bill Bennett
Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

TSA.min@gov.bc.ca

Comments on Zoa

Lesley Bohm

I hope this is not the last year we can ski Zoa!

About ten years ago a Forest Ministry-brokered agreement was reached with the snowmobilers to share the Zoa recreation area. Snowmobilers were to use Pipeline Road and other roads in the Coldwater drainage and leave Zoa Peak for backcountry ski use. This agreement has worked well for many years, one of the few that has, unlike the Sea to Sky. Now, a downhill ski



View of Coldwater Valley from Zoa Ridge

Artist Lesley Bohm

Trails Committee

Trails Committee Report 2008

Alex Wallace
FMCBC Trails Committee

The replacement Baden-Powell Trail section from Cypress Bowl to Cabin Lake around the 2010 Snowboard and Freestyle Venues is now complete as of October 31st. This trail section took over four years to design and construct, despite being only 1.4 Km in length. It is a good example of FMCBC's collaborative style, and the construction costs of just over \$310,000 were shared 50/50 between VANOC and the Cypress ski operation. This route direct to Cabin lake is steeper in places and shorter than the old trail, however it also partly recreates the original "old B-P Trail" route to the Black Mountain Plateau that existed before the ski area runs (and giant clear cut) were created in the 1960's and '70s. A couple of



BC Parks Rangers and Cypress ski area staff doing the final review in September 2008 of the newly completed Baden-Powell Trail reroute around the 2010 Snowboard Venues on Black Mountain in Cypress Provincial Park. Bill Sims of ACC and Viire Daniels of VOA are in the background

old 'tin can' trail markers were still in place in one subalpine meadow when we did the hikes to find a new routing for the trail. The old logging road B-P trail section that is now buried under the 2010 Freestyle / Moguls Venue was actually a replacement trail for this original

route to Cabin lake.

Howe Sound Crest Trail Upgrade

Alex Wallace
FMCBC Trails Committee

As the construction on the Baden-Powell reroute came to an end, work on the Howe Sound Crest Trail Upgrade finally got under way this Fall, after about four long years of FMCBC meetings with VANOC and BC Parks. Partial funding for this trail work is coming from VANOC as a 2010 Legacy at Cypress, in order to compensate for the years of construction at

Cypress preceding the 2010 Winter Olympics. Endless complications seem to attend any project at Cypress, however a start has been made. The first action is for BC Parks rangers to create an im-

proved Winter route to the Bowen Island Lookout, although there has been concern expressed on the subject of creating an easy winter trail with a grade of less than 8% to an exposed but spectacular viewpoint with a drop-off of roughly 1,100 metres. Due to the excellent viewpoint and easy access from the Yew Lake area it likely will be a popular replacement for the easy section of the B-P trail that has been decommissioned, however it remains to be seen how the average hik-

ing public will act in icy conditions, as terrain beyond this point is fairly dangerous in winter with avalanche chutes and steep creek drainages leading straight down to Howe Sound. This first section should be completed by November 6th and in use by the time Cloudburst reaches your mailbox,

and feedback from this first winter's experience will inform further decision-making. Both FMCBC and Friends of Cypress are determined to retain the original start of the Howe Sound Crest Trail where it switchbacks up through the forest (which



Ewan and Isla Wallace at the new viewpoint at the start of the Howe Sound Crest Trail created by BC Parks in October 2008

Paul Binkert used to maintain by hauling gravel in his Trapper Nelson pack), Similarly, the wisdom of BC Parks' proposal to route hiker traffic via the Yew Lake Interpretive trail is under scrutiny. This trail was created by FMCBC as a trail upgrade project under the direction of Lesley Bohm, and it was intended as an interpretive trail which is wheelchair accessible: for conservation reasons it is now off-limits to dogs as the area is largely wetland. There is active debate in the trail planning meetings as to whether it will be able to sustain the increased traffic of hundreds of hikers and their dogs each weekend, given that the massive 2010 publicity and the upgraded trail will likely attract twice as many people. It is worth noting that when the new emergency shelters on the HSC Trail built by West Vancouver High School students were installed in the summer of 2008 the resultant publicity drew so many people intent on camping overnight in

them that BC Parks actually issued a notice that they were for “emergency use only”.

Unfortunately the matching government funding for this major trail upgrade, and the upgrade to the Black Mountain loop (and its dangerous mud-holes) has not materialised, as proposals approved by BC Parks for trail work often have the plug pulled by Treasury Board in Victoria just before they are due to start. This is a pattern that we have seen repeated over the last several years, despite the Provincial Governments’ “Super Natural British Columbia” publicity campaign, and the appearance of happy smiling families enjoying hiking trails on just about any piece of Government advertising [ironically the recent BC Budget flyer is a classic example]. FMCBC is going to have an uphill battle in getting this major project funded, and this is in the context of the taxpayer providing \$16.5 million for the Free-style and Snowboard venues in a Provincial Park. Hopefully we will get funding for this hiking trail work and signage that will benefit the average park visitor.

On a brighter note, a large VOC and North Shore Hikers volunteer group cleared the trail section at Deeks Lake with three BC Parks rangers in October of 2008, so that the Howe Sound Crest Trail section from Magnesia Meadows to Porteau is now clear. How the new Porteau housing development at Deeks Bluffs will turn out is still unknown, as relatively little information has been forthcoming about design plans, however we have been repeatedly assured that the hiking trail and parking will remain accessible.

Lions Bay Parking

Alex Wallace

for Trails Committee

Cloudburst—December 2008

May 16 2008

By way of a Trails Update, here is a summary of the situation at Lions Bay, where the escalating parking conflict of a few years ago was resolved by Pat Harrison working out an FMCBC agreement with the West Vancouver School Board in 2006 - allowing hikers to use the Lions Bay Elementary gravel parking lot on weekends and holidays.

[Prior to this, there had been several attempts over an 18 year period to find a solution or build a new parking lot, without success.]

The trailhead parking area at the Yellow Gate on Sunset Drive in Lions Bay is currently a bit restricted due to recent water main construction, which has left three deep pits at the gate: at least one car has driven into these so far. There is about 35m of angle parking at this point, about enough for 12 vehicles, and of course using the 'Resident Parking' is to be avoided, as towed cars end up in North Vancouver.

There are a few roadside spots throughout Lions Bay Village which hikers have traditionally used, but again, care should be taken, as one concern is that poorly parked vehicles may block the fire truck or ambulance on the narrow streets.

The main overflow parking, i.e. if you arrive too late to get a spot close to the trailhead, is at the Lions Bay Elementary School, 250 Bayview Road. On weekends and holidays, which is when crowds tend to arrive, the street parking in front of the school is available, and this will take about ten cars. The large gravel parking lot is adjacent to the grass sports field at the school: as you drive up Bayview there are two gates just before the school: one is locked, one is always left open: the gravel parking lot is here, down a short ramp and there is capacity for 45 cars.

The agreement that we have is for weekends and holidays only, and we note that there is now a "No Overnight Parking" sign. This is West Vancouver School Board property, and so far we have had no problem with litter, etc.

One concern expressed by hikers when Pat set this up, was that it entailed a walk up the streets to the trailhead... and so Pat and the Trails Committee extended an existing trail system so that it now leads from the North end of the school sports field all the way up through the forest to the gravel road 200m beyond the trailhead, joining the road just below the water treatment plant. This takes about 35 minutes, as against 15 minutes by road. On the return trip, we advise using the road as the forest trail is not all downhill, takes a bit of time, can be a bit confusing in the dark, and the downhill walk back to the school by road takes around 12 minutes.

The distance from the school to the trailhead is about 650m by road, roughly 1km through the forest.

We have not had any complaints in the two years that the parking agreement and the 'forest' trail have been in use, so hopefully things will go well again this year. I did a hike of the trail last weekend to take photographs and pick up litter (there was none), and I was pleased to see that an unknown trail crew has recently cleared any fallen trees. Pat and I will likely try to meet with the Lions Bay Mayor this spring to see what the outlook is for filling in the pits at the trailhead: keep an eye out for them, they are covered in scraps of plywood.

Club Activities Around The Province

BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

David Scanlon

As the song said. "WASN'T THAT A PARTY?" Most things are finally starting to wind down. Others just keep on rolling along. The 6 month City of North Vancouver Museum display, "Peak Performance" is now over. It was very well attended with many going back more than once.

This from Shirley Sutherland at the museum. "The show is deemed to be a great success! Interestingly, our attendance in the past month was up; in fact, we believe that we had our busi-



Martin Kaefer, Brian Wood, Barb Kornatowsky, Clarence Kornatowsky, David Hughes (President)

est day ever the last weekend. Visitors were most appreciative of the show... many stayed for extended periods, some came back a few times. The comments in the gallery book are great. We had standing room only for the Katherine Bridge lecture. Unfortunately, we ran out of time and space to do the other events... but I expect they will appear in other forms later."

This years calendar showing last years centennial events sold well and the video, depicting 100 years of excellence of the BCMC was, and still is, a big

hit. Our only disappointment of all this was in not getting a centennial club cabin built. It seems that some people don't understand the meaning of the word "consultation". I'll have to not say more in this matter.

The club video will be an ongoing project for some time yet. The club is planning to enter it in various film festivals world wide in the next

year or so. We have found that there are a surprising number of mountain film festivals around the world all with different fees, rules, categories, datelines, time lines etc. The video committee will for the foreseeable future still have much to do.

With the City of North Vancouver celebrating it's 100th birthday also last year the club had a bug light hike in cooperation with the city parks department. A bug light? (is an empty large tin can with one end cut out. Then a hole is cut in one side just big enough to put a candle in. Using a wire handle, this is what the old timers used to for a light many long years ago.) There were 49 participants! We hiked up the BCMC trail on Grouse Mountain to a point near the top, then cut over to the

bottom of the "cut". (The ski run you see from the city). We then hiked on up to the Grouse mountain Chalet in the dark using our



David (Chair of BCMC Centennial Committee) and Donna Scanlon

"bug lights". Grouse kept the staff for a couple of hours extra for us while we had a party in the chalet to celebrate. Thanks to the Chalet staff. They treated us well.

In the summer of 1907 Mt Gairbaldi saw it's first ascent by climbers who were to become the first new members, a few months later, of the Vancouver Mountaineering Club. (soon to be changed to the British Columbia Mountaineering Club). Last July the BCMC had a re-enactment of that first ascent. The only pre requisite being that you had to be in attire from that era. We all looked so kool in our old duds! 22 people attended



Irene Apps (Oldest Continuous Member—Joined in 1944)



Diana Diaconu

Back row left to right: Dave Scanlon, David Hughes, Brian Wood, Karl Ricker, Monika Bittel, Ed Zenger, Bob Woodhouse. Front row left to right: Todd Ponzini, Ravil Chamgoulov, Alice Purdey, Alycia Laidlaw, Evelyn Feller.

with 15 going on to the summit. Our club vice president took an ice axe to the summit as did we all. His though was an ice axe from the 1st 1907 ascent, once belonging to Mr. J. J. Trory. With the BCMC being the driving force in getting Garibaldi made into a provincial park in the 1920's, BC Parks, also celebrating it's 80th birthday, had one of the park rangers come along with us on the trip. A most successful fun venture.

into the area. Then with the only 5 continuous days of good weather they had, they did manage to summit. The weather then took a turn for the worse; again prohibiting them from doing much more than just getting out and home.

The year ending banquet held in the Grouse Mountain Chalet was a 170 member sold out resounding success. The spread put on was awesome. Some speeches were made, acknowledgement given to all of the past presidents that were in attendance, the centennial cake was cut, then there was the premier showing of the club video. Many old friends were re acquainted, and stories told and retold that evening.



Diana Diaconu

Back row left to right: Karl Ricker, Serena Levy, Todd Ponzini, Lenore Ponzini, Todd Lawson, Monika Bittel, Dave Scanlon, Donna Scanlon, Fred Douglas, Alice Purdey, Trudy Rey, Ed Zenger. Front row left to right: Bob Woodhouse, Ravil Chamgoulov, Evelyn Feller, David Hughes, Brian Wood.

An expedition to Mt Fairweather was also done last summer with this being 50 years from the last BCMC trip to the area. Led by club president David Hughes, the climbers had to endure very bad weather on more than one occasion. First to wait to just fly **Cloudburst—December 2008**

The VIMFF. The club was acknowledged in the brochures, had a short film shown, and held a reception at the Vancouver International Film Festival in February. The reception was held on the BC Canada evening.

The club was quite pleased with all of the publicity received from the media. There was even a short TV spot on a local morning TV

show. The Whistler Pique paper did the club proud with many pages of coverage. The City on North Van's paper, The North Shore News gave the club great coverage on all of our events. The Squamish Chief paper. The other north shore paper the Outlook. The Vancouver Courier. The Province paper did a two page spread on the clubs honorary presidents the Kafers. Mountain Life Magazine as did the climbing magazine Gripped do articles on the club. And lets not forget the articles done honouring the club by our very own Cloudburst. Many thanks to all.



Donna Scanlon

Fred Douglas and Alice Purdey

Also yet to come are a history book of the BCMC, and, a special edition, Centennial Journal. Both being written by Michael Feller.

The club received letters of recognition from the Mayors of the City of North Vancouver, Whistler. The Vancouver horticultural Society. A proclamation from the mayor of Vancouver. Letters from the Lieutenant Governor General, Premier Gordon Campbell. Prime Minister Steven Harper.

COMOX DISTRICT MOUNTAINEERING CLUB 80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Heather Mathers and Dave O'Neill



Chris Carter

The August 15th weekend brought hot and sunny weather and approximately 40 people to the Driftwood Bay campsite beside Buttle Lake to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Comox District Mountaineering Club (CDMC).

The club was founded in 1928 by a few people interested in exploring Forbidden Plateau. These were the original route finders and trail builders in that region. The trails have gradually been extended further into the mountains of Vancouver Island and continue to remain in use today for the enjoyment of hiking and outdoor enthusiasts. The CDMC is presently an incorporated society with over 140 members ranging in age from teenagers to octogenarians. The

day hikes to expeditions of a week or more.

Club members and their families spent the weekend enjoying a variety of activities such as kayaking and canoeing plus hiking on the nearby Crest Mountain & Bedwell Lake trails. As a result of the near cloudless sky, the final route to the summit of Crest Mountain offered a spectacular panorama of the surrounding mountain peaks and a refreshing splash in a perfect alpine lake.

Returning to Driftwood Bay, the least ambitious activity seemed to be enjoyed the most - simple lounging around the small but beautiful beach adjacent to the camping area.

A potluck anniversary dinner and salmon barbecue was held the evening of August 16th with guest of honour being Ruth Masters, the renowned local environment crusader and CDMC member since 1936. Ruth brought with her a photo album and scrapbook which documented the long and colourful history of the club.



From left to right: Jerry Feniak, Ken Rodonets, Ruth Masters, Jenny Schum, Diana Fright, Ed Schum.

hikes offered by the club vary in intensity from easy to strenuous and can range anywhere from

Ed recently completed a bike trip throughout Europe to experience first hand the European attitude

toward cycling.

Dinner culminated with Ruth Masters cutting a large birthday cake decorated to resemble a hiking trail meandering through a forest. Ms. Masters managed to inadvertently knock down a tree or two from the top of the cake during the ceremony, which led some members to remark that this was probably the first time Ruth could be accused of plundering a forest.

As the full moon rose in the sky and the participants began to retire to their tents and campers, the sound of a single harmonica could be heard across the campground. It was Ruth Masters drawing the occasion to a close with a moving rendition of "Amazing Grace" which marked a fitting end to a wonderful evening.

Given the overwhelming positive response, the club is now considering making such a weekend an annual event on the CDMC calendar.



Chris Carter

Ruth Masters, CDMC member since 1930s doing the honours

Comox District Mountaineering Club is always interested in attracting new members. Anyone wishing to learn more about the club can visit the CDMC website at www.comoxhiking.com or contact Ken Rodonets, CDMC president at 250-336-2101.

Island Mountain Ramblers celebrate 50 years

1958 - 2008

Bill Perry and Lindsay Elms

Every one likes a celebration: from a birthday, Christmas, a wedding anniversary, or the opening of a new store, to the first moonwalk. But how we celebrate is different. A birthday can bring friends together for a party; a wedding anniversary can be a quiet, romantic dinner for two; the opening of a new store might have big opening day bargains and discounts, but how does a mountaineering club celebrate 50 years of activities. One might say by having a special dinner somewhere or by even climbing a mountain! Well, in 2008 the Island Mountain Ramblers of Nanaimo is going to have been together for 50 years and as a club they want to do something to celebrate that fact.

The Island Mountain Ramblers was founded in 1958 by Syd Watts of Duncan and Harry Winstone of Crofton. Both were young, active members of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada, however, they found there were too many scheduled Alpine Club trips off the island. Both Watts and Winstone loved the beautiful mountains the island had to offer and they wanted to explore what was right outside their back doorstep, so they formed a new club. They encouraged other like minded climbers to join them and were soon organizing and leading trips all over Vancouver Island.

In 1983 the Island Mountain Rambler's celebrated 25 years as a club and called the event "Up Your Peaks." The challenge was to try and ascend 25,000 vertical feet or more in 1983 and the

peaks had to be over 5,000 feet. The list had to be submitted to the committee at the end of the year and a commemorative document was given as well as a free copy of book called The History of Mountaineering on Vancouver Island. It was a huge success with 75 people achieving the objective.

Now that the club is reaching 50 years, it is again celebrating with the challenge of "Up Your Peaks," but the stakes have been doubled. This time the objective is to climb 50,000 feet, but the club has gone metric and the figure is 15,000 vertical metres. This means 10 mountains over 1,500 metres. However, participants have two years to complete the objective: 2007 and 2008. The challenge is not only for club members but it is open to anyone who wants to climb. Of course they would love to have participants join the club but the only stipulation they have asked is for the climbers to have witnesses sign each climb. Solo ascents – well they'll take your word.

For more information go to the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia website, www.mountainsclubs.org and follow the links to the Island Mountain Ramblers. The climbing list has to be sent to the: Island mountain Ramblers, P.O.Box 691, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5M2 by October 1, 2008. Results will be scrutinized and participants recognized at the club's fall meeting in 2008. So clean up those boots and begin the "Up Your Peaks" challenge. There might even be a celebratory dinner to restock your carbohydrates after the fall meeting and a few beers!

Interested? It's not too late to participate. You still have this summer and part of the fall to complete the ten climbs. The following are the rules and guidelines. Good Luck.

Up Your Peaks: Here's how it works:

Climb 10 peaks on Vancouver Island over 1500 metres in height, for a total of 15,000 metres, between October 1, 2006 and October 1, 2008.

Record these on forms designed by the club* and send it in to Island Mountain Ramblers, Box 691, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5M2

Results will be reviewed. "Up your peaks" winners will be recognized and awards** presented at the 2008 fall meeting. A few rules and details:

Peaks claimed must be separate mountains, not different peaks of the same mountain.

Names of witnesses (fellow climbers) should be recorded. Solo climb? Ok, we'll take your word for it, within reason.

A list of peaks over 1500 metres is available on request. Peaks claimed do not have to be on the list, but must be confirmed over that height.

*Or a least a list of mountains climbed with elevations, name(s) of witness(es) and date submitted.

**The award will be a specially designed Club patch acknowledging your accomplishment.



Dave Grant

KMC members: Dave and Jill Watson, Vicki Hart, Bob McQueen and Dave Grant

Kootenay Mountaineering Club Seven Summits Trail Ski Touring

The Seven Summits trail is acknowledged as one of the premiere mountain biking routes in the West Kootenays. The area is also blessed with a deep snow pack and with its close proximity to Rossland, it is the perfect ski touring destination. Starting 20 km north of Rossland, B.C., it ascends from the parking lot at the Nancy Greene Summit (1600 m elev.) to the ridge (2135 m) just past Mt Lepsoe. The trail then runs southward along the ridge past Mt. Plewman, Old Glory Mountain, Mount Kirkup, Grey Mountain, Granite Mountain and Record Mountain before ending up at the old Cascade highway, 30 km south of where you started.

Whether done in a day or over several days, ski touring this route is always challenging, with opportunities for some excellent downhill lines or for the more moderate skier, a simple ridge-line tour that is safe in most avalanche conditions. There are also numerous exit points on the

ridge to take you back to the highway, if you want to break the trip into more than one day.

As a group of 6 moderate ski tourers, on a variety of telemark and light cross country gear, this seemed an obvious choice and allowed us the comfort of a solid nights sleep at home, while still covering lots of ground during the day.

So on a cold morning in early March, we set off up the trail from the Nancy Greene summit. The trail was well marked for the first 3-4 km, at which point it climbed onto the north ridge of Mt Lepsoe and the trail markers

disappeared under close to 2 meters of snow. The only evidence of the trail was the odd clipped Dave Grant branch at snowline. (Plans are underway to winter mark the trail, with standard trail markers, to ensure safer route finding for future years.)

Once we reached the ridge by Mt Lepsoe, the route then dropped onto the west side of Mt Plewman, and we could see the rest of the ridge. Views of the abandoned fire and weather station at 2380 m on Old Glory reminded us, that in the old days, not everyone got to go home at night for a hot meal.

Ski conditions were the standard Kootenay mix, dry fluffy powder on the north slopes, soft corn on the south facing slopes and variable snow on all slopes in between.

The ridge skiing was a little tenuous in places because of the cornices, sastrugi and the occasional patch of breakable crust, but the views were spectacular and we covered distance at a good pace. We arrived at the Hanna creek trail exit point by mid afternoon and skied down to the vehicles before dark.

Phase two of the trip involved retracing our steps back up the



Dave Grant

Seven Summits trail route along ridge south of Mt Plewman

Hanna creek trail and finishing off the southern portion of the trip over another 7 hour day. The route takes you up the west shoulder of Mt Kirkup and cross the saddle to Mt. Grey At this point you drop down and traverse through the edge of the Red Mountain ski area tenure, and continue over to the undulating, sparsely treed Record Ridge. The skiing was moderate, with slopes less than 20 degrees and time was spent exploring various meadows and making turns on some excellent slopes, before traversing out to the vehicles located on the old Cascade highway at the south end of the trail.

The Kootenay Mountaineering club coordinates over 20 planned trips each winter and another 50 trips from May to October. These trips range from day trips similar to the one described above to long distance tours with multi-night cabin or camping stays. The club has approximately 240 members and is centered in the community of Nelson, with numerous members from Rossland, Trail, Castlegar, Kaslo and the Slocan valley. The club pursues a policy of year round activity, with trips scheduled Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays for the majority of the year. There are also with three - one week long hiking camps each summer, a one week climbing camp and a one week ski touring camp at Kokanee Glacier. Anyone interested in learning more about the club can visit our website at

www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca .

Dave Grant, Vice President,
KMC

Valley Outdoor Association Update

Mike Stewart

The Valley Outdoor Association was formed in 1973 by a small group of hiking enthusiasts from across the Lower Mainland. We currently have approximately 150 members, and activities include hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing and cycling. The club holds a week long summer camp at a different location each year. In addition, there are usually one or two week long backpacks or cycle trips on the summer schedule. The VOA publishes a quarterly bulletin containing a schedule of weekend activities. As well, there is a strong contingent of "Wednesday" hikers who have their own ad hoc schedule of hikes and snowshoe trips.

The VOA is a long standing member of the FMCBC and has always had representation on either the FMCBC's Rec & Con or Trails Committees. Pat Harrison, the FMCBC's past President, is a member of the VOA. Our members have always been concerned about issues relating to the backcountry. The club's schedule includes trail maintenance work (primarily Mt Slesse and Mt St. Benedict), and each year the VOA makes a donation to a worthy cause such as Search and Rescue, WCWC, etc. One area of special interest to our members is the future viability of the Elk/Thurston trail. This is very popular year round hike with our members, and we are concerned about plans to cut a logging road across the trail to access a nearby cut block.



Jay MacArthur

Bugaboo Spire

Club Ramblings



Courtesy Tami Knight

Déjà vu *David*

By Ron Dart

Have ever you heard of the
Land of Beyond,
That dreams at the gates of
the day?

Alluring it lies at the skirts
of the skies,

And ever so far away.

Robert Ser-

vice

Dorothy accused Earle of push-
ing the dying David
over the
rock face.

Earle denied the charges.

The epic poem is a fiction,
is it not?

There are some who have spent
years on the white
towers and ancient sentinels,
rock slabs and inviting sum-
mits.

Some have seen bodies fall like
rag dolls down
unforgiving jagged rocks,
finally impaled by the spear-
head and
fang of time carved granite.

Some have seen friends buried
alive in avalanche
snow cement, transceivers,
probes and
shovels of little aid,

bodies, finally, frozen and un-
found.

Some have lost friends down
crevasses when ice axe
failed, anchors pulled out,
belaying to a safe place was but
the deepest of all
desires.

And how do those who have had
to cut the rope of
their dearest to save the group
live ever forward and
onwards?

Dorothy accused Earle of push-
ing the dying David
over the
rock ledge.

It was just a poem and fiction
Earle insisted.

Some spend days at memorial
huts and cabins where
memories of soul friends will
not die, wondering about
the Land of Beyond.

La Lotta Continua

A Woman and Her Hawk

To Karin

(Amor vincit omnia)

Once upon a time, there was a
woman and a hawk. They lived
in a small village, in a smaller
Swiss canton, high in the Alps.
The village was a quiet and
peaceful place. The people
worked hard, and they certainly
knew how to play and dance af-
ter a long season of work and at
harvest time.

As time went on, as time does,
some in the village began to
complain about the woman and
her hawk. She seemed to spend

her days, sitting on a rocky
crag with her hawk, gazing out
over the valley, apparently
dreaming, seemingly oblivious
to the needs of the people.
Soon, more and more villagers
began to complain. They
thought the woman was lazy.
She was not working long
hours in the field as they were.
She was not producing
anything of worth or note for
the village. She did not seem to
be contributing to the welfare
of the community. After all, the
citizens of the village worked
long and hard hours, and they
did not have time to sit around,
preening themselves under the
warm sun,
high on the hard rock rim under
the warmth and light of day
star. Many people began to re-
sent feeding the hawk and the
woman who sat on the rock
edge. They seemed to be doing
nothing.

A committee was formed, and
they voted unanimously to ban-
ish the woman and her hawk. A
letter was sent to her, stamped
with the official seal of the
town. The next day at dawn,
the woman and her hawk left.
Within a long year, many of the
people in the Alpine village
died. A disease, carried by an
army of rodents, had crawled
into every chalet, infecting par-
ents and children alike. The
moment the woman and the
hawk left the village, the ro-
dents knew they could enter
worry fear.
Those who were left in the vil-
lage finally turned and lifted
their eyes to the hills, and
there, patiently waiting, was
the woman and her hawk.

Mountain Named for Woman Adventurer

Mike Nash

A trip into the backcountry becomes more interesting if you learn about the history of the area being traversed. A few years ago, after browsing through some old maps in Jasper, I decided on a weeklong backpacking trip from Mount Holmes just north of McBride, to Mount Robson - a wilderness walk of 100 kilometres. Traveling with one companion, part of our route followed historic horse trails over Jackpine Pass on the border of Alberta's Willmore Wilderness; through Bess Pass on the border of Jasper National Park; and down the Smoky River to approach Mount Robson from its north side. The route lay 60 kilometres southeast of Kakwa Provincial Park, where I have done three other hiking trips. These areas have something in common - they are all part of the country travelled in the early twentieth century by a young New York schoolteacher named Mary Jobe.

With the coming of the railway, the country northwest of Jasper began to attract American parties intent on hunting, exploring, and climbing. Mary Jobe, who had earned a masters degree in English and American history from Columbia University in 1909, attended the Alpine Club of Canada camp at Mount Robson in 1913 when Conrad Kain led the first ascent of the mountain. There she met guide and outfitter Donald "Curly" Phillips who had made the audacious attempt on the mountain with Reverend George Kinney in 1909 and had succeeded in reaching the summit ridge. While at the Mount Robson camp, Mary Jobe became interested in an unclimbed peak 125 kilometres to the northwest in what is now Kakwa

Park. This heavily glaciated and spectacular mountain, known locally as Mount Kitchi or Big Mountain, later officially became Mount Sir Alexander. Mary hired Curly Phillips to guide her to Big Mountain the following summer, and then again in 1915. On both the 1914 and 1915 attempts, Mary Jobe made it onto the northeast glacier and reached an elevation of 2,375 metres, only 895 metres from the summit. On the 1915



Mary Jobe Akeley

attempt, Phillips, who despite his legendary Robson attempt wasn't really interested in climbing, went farther, reaching 30 metres from the summit of Sir Alexander before he was forced to turn back.

In 1916, Mary Jobe gave up teaching in New York to found a summer camp for girls in Mystic, Connecticut. She based the camp

on the principles that she had learned in the Canadian Rockies, but this venture meant that she was no longer free to travel in the summer. In the fall of 1917, however, she made one more trip to Jasper, where Curly again guided her on an astonishing horse-packing trip from Jasper to the Wapiti River and back, extending well into November. According to Phillips' biography, *Tracks Across My Trail* by William Taylor, and *Off the beaten track-women adventurers and mountaineers in western Canada* by Cyndi Smith, a camp romance blossomed between Phillips and Jobe on this trip. Despite a later visit by Curly to see her in New York, Mary Jobe is thought to have declined his offer of marriage, and instead became the "other" woman in the failing marriage of Delia and Carl Akeley. Carl Akeley was renowned for having invented modern taxidermy, and for developing very lifelike museum displays. Carl and Delia (and later Mary) were inveterate Africa explorers and museum game collectors as well as advocates for reserves to protect Africa's soon to be endangered wildlife.

Mary Jobe wrote only short pieces about her northern Rockies adventures for magazines and journals, including those of the American Geographical Society and the Alpine Club of Canada. Yet as "Mary Jobe Akeley" (she married Carl in 1924 until his death in Africa only two years later) she wrote many full-length books about Africa and Carl Akeley, including *The Wilderness Lives Again - Carl Akeley and the Great Adventure* (1940.) Before their divorce, Delia was a formidable part of the Akeley "team," helping Carl to develop his wildlife displays, and saving his life on at least one occasion in Africa. She later went on to become one of four top American women adventurers of the

Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies

twentieth century recounted in Elizabeth Olds' book, *Women of the Four Winds*. Yet, despite the crucial role she played in Akeley's life,

there doesn't seem to be any mention of Delia in *The Wilderness Lives Again*, not even in Mary's account of the elephant mauling, when, according to Elizabeth Olds, Delia had put her own life at great risk to save Carl's.

Mary Jobe wrote mainly under her married name Akeley, and as such is best known to-day. Yet when it came to recognizing her exploits in the Northern Rockies, an accident of timing meant that "Jobe" was the name chosen to honour this interesting woman.

Mount Jobe, at 2,301 metres, is located in the Morkill River Valley, partway between Kakwa and Mount Robson Provincial Parks, and was named by the Interprovincial Boundary Survey in 1923, the year before Mary's marriage to Carl. Mary (Jobe) Akeley died in a Mystic, Connecticut nursing home in July 1966, aged 88.

This article is excerpted from *Exploring Prince George - A Guide to North Central B.C. Outdoors* by Mike Nash; ISBN 978-1-894765-49-7; first published in 2004 by Rocky Mount Books (Heritage House imprint) and republished in 2007. Mike is a past contributor to Cloudburst,

and this excerpt from his book is reproduced by permission of the author.

Canadian Alpinism: Beginnings

Ron Dart

George Parkin Grant (1918-1988) 'has been called Canada's greatest political philosopher. To this day, his work continues to stimulate, challenge and inspire Canadians to think more deeply about matters of social justice and individual responsibility'. Grant visited

Vancouver in 1975, and William Christian, in the biography of George Grant stated, 'Grant did not much like mountains and thought the scenery in all respects inferior to Terrance Bay' (p.XII).

George Parkin Grant's attitude towards the mountains was quite different from his well

known and much loved grandfather, George Munro Grant (1835-1902). In the summer and autumn of 1872, Sir Sanford Fleming, George Munro Grant and others traveled by train, steamer, canoe, wagon and horseback from Halifax to Victoria. The trip was described, in detail, by Grant in *Ocean To Ocean: Sanford Fleming's Expedition Through Canada in 1872*. The tome is now a classic of 19th century Canadian literature, and a must read for adventure keeners. Grant was the secretary of the expedition, and his evocative and inviting descriptions of the trip draw the reader into the challenges and beauty of the journey.

There are plenty of illustrations in the book, and the thirteen chapters tell us much about Canada as it was in the latter half of the 19th century.

It is in the last few chapters (8-12) that Grant waxes eloquent, eager and enthusiastic about the West Coast and the mountains. Each of these dramatic chapters is not to be missed: 8) The Rocky Mountains, 9) Yellow Head Pass to the North Thompson River, 10) Along the North Thompson River to Kamloops, 11) From Kamloops To The Sea, and 12) The Coast, And Vancouver's Island.

Those of us that live on the West Coast tend to have an abiding fascination and interest in the Waddington area. Don/Phyllis Munday opened up the appeal of this glacier thick and mountain castle terrain, and others have followed their guide and challenging lead. George Munro Grant does not let us down in *Ocean to Ocean*; chapter 12 tells us much about the area, and the Waddington area was written and amply illustrated in 1872. 'The Coast, and Vancouver's Island' has many an enduring description and graphic sketch of Bute Inlet, Waddington Harbour, Glaciers, early maps of the area, Hamathco and Hamathco below the Defile. It is in Grant's generous portrayal of both the area and the history of the Waddington region that we are walked into the Coastal mountains decades before Don/Phyllis Munday made the place a sacred site for mountaineers.

Ocean to Ocean offers us a taste, and is a primer, in many ways, of early Alpinism in Canada. But, there is more to come. Sir Sanford Fleming, in *England and Canada: A Summer Tour between Old and New Westminster* (1884), has this to say.



Mary Jobe Akeley

Canadian Geographic Photos

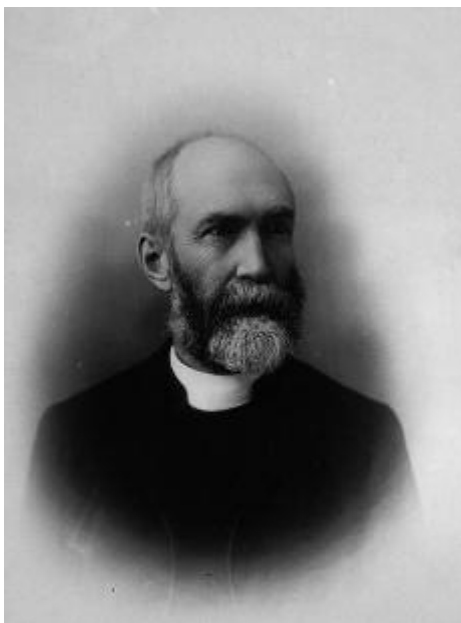
‘During the past summer (1883), circumstances induced the writer to visit England, to re cross the Atlantic, and make a journey through the whole extent of Canada to the Pacific coast’ (introduction). *England and Canada* is a fit and fine companion to *Ocean to Ocean*. Grant and Fleming were on both trips, the trips across Canada to the West Coast were done almost a decade apart, and both men had an attraction for the mountains.

England and Canada has twenty-five chapters, and chapters 13-18 vividly describe the pilgrimage through the bold peaks of Alberta and British Columbia. It is in chapter 15, though, that we are greeted with a delightful and often ignored piece of Canadian mountaineering history. Fleming unfolds the drama well in ‘To the Summit of the Selkirks’. The previous chapter, ‘Down Kicking-Horse Valley’ (14) prepares the reader for what is about to emerge just as the following chapters, ‘Down the Ille-Celle-Waet’ (16-17) conclude the archivist memory well. ‘To the Summit of the Selkirks’ reaches its climax with these words by Fleming:

The horses are still feeding and we have some time at our command. As we view the landscape we feel as if some memorial should be preserved of our visit here, and we organize a Canadian Alpine Club. The writer, as a grandfather, is appointed interim president, Dr. Grant, secretary, and my son, S. Hall Fleming, treasurer. A meeting was held and we turn to one of the springs rippling down to the Ille-celle-waet and drink success to the organization.

There we have it. The first Alpine Club in Canada was

founded in 1883 by Sir Sanford Fleming and George Munro Grant. It is a few decades after the trips taken by Grant and Fleming that Alpinism in Canada takes off in a fuller and more demanding way. This history is well



George Munro Grant

tracked and traced in *Mountain Climbing Guides in Canada: The Early Years* (1977). Grant and Fleming explored and trekked the mountains and mountain passes before mountaineering in Canada became popular and mountain guides arrived in Canada. *Ocean to Ocean* (1873) and *England and Canada* (1884) speak much about the lure and appeal of the mountains, written in evocative prose, before mountaineering in earnest began in Canada. We also learn much about the origin of the original Alpine Club of Canada.

It should also be noted that George Munro Grant was the editor of *Picturesque Canada: The Country as it Was and Is* (1882), and, in this classic of Canadian art and literature, George Munro Grant penned the articles on British Columbia and the appeal and lofty lure of the peaks in Western Canada. *Picturesque Canada* is a Canadian classic and collectors item, and the sensitive approach of George Munro Grant did much

to make it so.

The publication of *Picturesque Canada* in 1882 warmed many in Canada to Grant’s aesthetic and nationalist sensibilities. Politics and mountains, art and alpinism joined affectionate hands in this literary and artistic overview of Canada at its expansive and welcoming best. It is interesting to note that *Picturesque Canada* was published by the Belden brothers, and Arnold Shives, one our finest West Coast mountain painters and climbers, is a relative of the Belden brothers. Arnold’s father, Kilgour Belden Shives (a keen west coast mountaineer), stood solidly in the Belden line and lineage, and Arnold Shives, his son, has combined both the artistic and publishing finesse of the Belden brothers with the passion for the outdoors and mountaineering. The circle does come full circle.

Canadian Alpinism has compelling origins. *Ocean to Ocean* (1873), *Picturesque Canada* (1882) and *England and Canada* (1884) are motherlodes beneath our historic feet. If we but dig deeper and further, an older mountaineering tale will told, and we will learn much about how those before us traveled through the well carved valleys, perched passes and high peaks. The beginnings of Alpinism in Canada are yet to be fully heard and faithfully retold, but when we turn to Grant, Fleming and the Belden brothers, we have surely turned to the literate and artistic origins of mountaineering history in Canada.

Literature of Interest

Disaster on Mount Slesse: The Story of Western Canada's Worst Air Disaster

*Betty O'Keefe & Ian Macdonald
(Madeira Park: Caitlin Press, 2007)*

Review by Ron Dart

The Chilliwack Valley in the Upper Fraser Valley is a well trekked and climbed terrain with rock ramparts and stone citadels raising their time tried heads in all directions. There are more hikes listed in the Chilliwack Valley than any other in *103 Hikes in Southwestern British Columbia* (5th edition). *Scrambles in Southwest British Columbia* walks the extra mile to highlight the many challenging scrambles down the Chilliwack Valley Road. But, on December 9, 1956, black fanged Mount Slesse in the Chilliwack Valley claimed all the lives (62) of those on Flight 810.

Disaster on Mount Slesse unfolds this graphic tale and gruesome tragedy in a compelling and most readable manner. The initial chapters prepare the reader for the impending storm, and the following chapters, unravel in sobering detail, the deteriorating weather, the driving winds and snow, the lost communication between airplane and airport in Vancouver, and the search and rescue operation that took place in December 1956.

The Introduction, the fast paced twenty-six chapters and the Epilogue recount how and why the rescue operation was finally deserted in the snow deep and wind swept Chilliwack Valley, and how, in the spring of 1957, a climbing expedition in the Slesse area, led by the well known BC

mountaineer, Elfrida Pigou, discovered the remains of Trans-Canada Airlines Flight 810. It was not until five months after the crash (May 12 1957) that Pigou was able to find the shattered shards of metal. It was yet another BC mountaineering legend and journalist, Paddy Sherman (with Fips Broda) who trekked to the mountain to uncover in greater detail the victims claimed by Slesse and make such a story known to the larger world.

Disaster on Mount Slesse has many fine photographs in it, and the combination of text and visual insight make for a read that will not be easily forgotten. O'Keefe and Macdonald, in rare but meticulous journalistic fashion, have brought the horrific air crash to life, and, by way of conclusion, updated the story of the disaster in the final few chapters. There is a discussion on the hard work to get a site preserved and a memorial plaque put up in a couple of locations.

Those who have hiked to the upper level of Slesse where prayer flags still flutter on propeller wings, and the water cascades down the sheer face of Slesse cannot but ponder the final few minutes of the crash. The Epilogue: Another Mountain Claims Elfrida Pigou, perhaps fittingly so, ponders the fate and death of the woman who discovered the wreck on Slesse.

Disaster on Mount Slesse is a must read for those interested in airline tragedies, the difficulty of winter search and rescue operations and a history of early mountaineering legends in BC and the Chilliwack Valley. Do purchase and read this keeper of a book. You will read it in one sitting, and be more than keen to pass it onto others.

Guardians of the Peaks: Mountain Rescue in the Canadian Rockies and Columbia Mountains

*Kathy Calvert/Dale Portman
(Vancouver: Rocky Mountain Books, 2006)*

Review by Ron Dart

The ancient sentinels in the Canadian Rockies and Columbia Mountains have their romantic appeal, but sadness and tragedy awaits those who are naïve, unprepared or victims of the harsh side of the summits and rock slabs.

Guardians of the Peaks tells the tale, in a historic, vivid and visual way, of those that have lived the drama of mountain safety, and how the Canadian tradition of mountain rescue emerged. The book is a must read and keeper. Much is packed into the twelve compact chapters. Do purchase this classic recounting of how the guardians of the peaks have made mountaineering much safer than it once was a few decades ago.

Canadians should be proud of their mountain rescue heritage, and Kathy Calvert and Dale Portman make it more than clear why this is the case.

Don Forest: Quest for the Summits

*Kathy Calvert
(Vancouver: Rocky Mountain Books, 2003)*

Review by Ron Dart

There are those that have come early to the summits. Then, like Don Forest, there are those that

have not taken to the mountains until their forties, and yet, in the latter years of their life, they abound with commitment to the peaks.

Don Forest was the first to climb the fifty-four 11,000 ft. summits in the Rockies, and his daughter, Kathy Calvert tells, in a most readable way, the tale of her father's passion for the peaks. *Don Forest: Quest for the Summits* is a delight of a read, and the many photographs of Don Forest, his family and many mountaineering friends adds to the biography a visual treat.

Don Forest was an inspiration to many. The fact that he began mountaineering later in life, and the equal fact he did so much in his latter years, offers much hope to those that come to the rock hard citadels and snow clothed summits on the final leg of the journey.

Don climbed Mount Logan in his early seventies, and his pleasure in the summits rarely wavered. *Don Forest: Quest for the Summits* is more than worth the few coppers that are dropped into the coffers for a purchase. Don has now passed into Canadian mountaineering myth and legend. He died, as he probably would have wished, while in the mountains with his family. He lay down for a break in the snow, had a heart attack and left this earth. Do read *Don Forest: Quest for the Summits*. Much can be gleaned from this motherlode of a mountaineering missive by the daughter of a fine Canadian mountain man.

The 11,000ers of the Canadian Rockies

Bill Corbett

(Vancouver: Rocky Mountain House: 2004)

Review by Rob Dart

Don Forest was the first Canadian to do all of the 11,000 ft. peaks in the Canadian Rockies. Bill Corbett has also accomplished such a challenging task, and—*The 11,000ers of the Canadian Rockies* tells, in varied detail, how each of these peaks can be climbed.

The description of each of the summits, the various routes to them, and alluring photographs of each of the summits (with some history of various ascents) makes this the best book out at the present time on the 11,000ers of the Canadian Rockies.

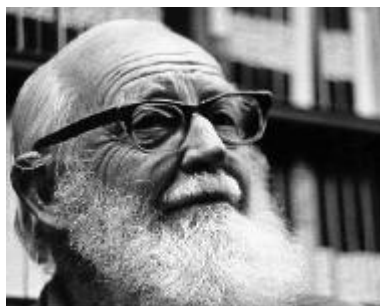
Those that aspire to the heights, snow clad summits and rock challenges can learn much from Bill Corbett's easy to read overview of the 11,000ers in the Rockies. Those who prefer not to take to such places can still enjoy, by reading the book, some of the beauties of the Rockies.

One Muddy Hand: Selected Poems: Earle Birney

Editor, Sam Solecki

(Madeira park, BC: Harbour Publishing, 2006)

Review by Ron Dart



Earle Birney

Earle Birney (1904-1995) began writing poems when Robert Service, Stephen Leacock and Lucy Maud Montgomery were bestselling authors throughout the English-speaking world, and he published his final collection, *Last Makings*, in 1991, the year Rohinton Mistry's *Such a Long*

Journey won the Governor General's Award for fiction. By then he had become part of the Canadian canon—"David" alone would have ensured that—and was seen as an important figure in what might be called the formation of a Canadian literature.

Sam Solecki 'Foreward'
One Muddy Hand

There is no poem in the history of Canadian mountaineering literature as graphic, poignant and dramatic as Birney's "David" (1940). Birney's first collection of poetry, *David and Other Poems* (1942) catapulted Birney to the forefront of Canadian literature, and won the Governor General's medal.

Most Canadians were read, either in school or in family settings, "David". The sheer momentum, vivid descriptions of mountain scenery, challenging ascents and the final, fatal climb of 'the Finger on the Sawback' are etched deeply into the souls and imaginations of most Canadians.

I remember, quite distinctly, hearing Birney read "David" in the public library in Lethbridge in the winter of 1978. It was an experience not to be missed. The tale so well recounted by Birney conjured up the reasons why many take to the white and rock hard sentinels, the many dangers of heading to such places, and the tragedies and hard decisions often posed to those that falter and fall. And then, of course, there was the controversy about "David".

"David" is 'one of our few undoubted classics', and both mountaineering literature and literature in Canada would be much leaner and thinner without such a probing and demanding poem that asks much of the reader.

We should be more than grateful for the publication of *One Muddy Hand: Selected Poems*, of Earle Birney. Many of Birney's best and most evocative poems are in this fine selection.

"David", of course, holds a high place in *One Muddy Hand*, but so do other mountain poems by Birney. "Daybreak on Lake Opal: High Rock-ies"(1946/1970), "Takkakaw Falls"(1950) and "Climbers"(1950) are but three other poems in this collection that deal with Birney's fascination and attraction to the mountains. There are even some reflections by Birney on "David"

Wailan Low, in her 'Biographical Note', mentions that 'As a boy in Banff, Earle came to know mountains and climbing' (p.14), and 'He climbed regularly with his friends' (p.14). There is no doubt that Earle Birney, although not a technical climber, had a passion for mountains and understood, in a sensitive and poetic way, the delicate and fragile relationship between humans and mountains. Birney was no naïve romantic, and a meditative read of "David" will dispel such an attitude and approach to Nature and the hard rock ridges.

One Muddy Hand is well worth the purchase. Birney was a pioneer of Canadian mountain poetry and Canadian literature. He should be part of the canon of both. *One Muddy Hand* illustrates ably and amply why this is the case.

Climber

Robin Mathews
(*Queen's Quarterly* 1964)

Review by Rob Dart

Robin Mathews is known by most Canadians as an ardent nationalist with intense and pas-

sionate convictions, and he is also one of the finest Canadian political poets. Few know that Robin grew up in Powell River. There are even fewer that know that Robin's brother, Tony Mathews (1926-2005), was an important mountaineer in the Powell River area. Tony was a founder of 'the BOM Squad'. The BOM Squad (Bloody Old Men) opened up many of the trails in Powell River, and Tony climbed most of the peaks in such a magical and alluring place where ocean and rock meet in an intimate and close way.

Most do not know that one of Robin's earliest short stories deals with the connection between mountaineering, climbing and politics on the West Coast. 'Climber' was published in the prestigious *Queen's Quarterly* in 1964. The nationalist debate that emerged with the Massey Commission in the 1950s was about to erupt with greater intensity in the 1960s, and Robin was front and centre in such a lively political ethos.

'Climber' is set in the Coastal mountain area, and Garibaldi Park is where this drama will unfold in all its poignancy and flair. The short story is divided into three sections, and each section folds into the next in a rather predictable and readable way.

Section I opens up the tale. Mountains and mountaineering do not yet enter the story yet. Mathews makes it clear in this short and crisp section that he has serious problems and reservations with Americans. There are Canadians and there are Americans, and Mathews makes it clear in this prologue of sorts that there are distinctive differences that should not be fudged or forgotten. Americans and Canadians might inhabit the same continent, but the cultures are often at substantive odds. This being said upfront,

Mathews then moves on to tell the bigger tale about he, Max and their journey into Garibaldi Park. In a letter from Robin, he said, 'the event that sparked it ('Climber') was in 1956/7' (November 5th/05).

Part II of 'Climber' begins this way. 'I was planning a trip into the coastal mountain range behind the city of Vancouver with two friends. We promised one another we would climb a glacier in Garibaldi Park to give our trip a focus, a reason for being. We poured over maps and sorted stores as amateurs will do, three Canadians, and then Max. But Max was no amateur. He was an American'.

Mathews' two Canadian friends drop out of the trip, and he is left alone, with Max, to plan and take the trip. Max takes total control of the planning and organization, the vision and approach. Max seemed to know everything about the coastal mountains, glaciers and mountaineering, and he made sure one and all were aware of his expertise in these matters. It did not take long, though, once Mathews and Max were on the trail to discover that Max knew little about mountains and was not in the physical shape he should have been.

Mathews had to take the lead to the Alpine meadows, then higher. It was in the higher regions that the problems began. Mathews was a student of Earle Birney in the 1950s at UBC, and the reader gets the feeling that another 'David' is in the making. Mathews takes the lead up over a fragile 'snow shelf' in which Max refuses to tie up. Mathews 'made a sortee to the brink, alone. We should have been tied. But he wouldn't hear of it. He was panic stricken. Then it happened....'

The reader gets the sickening

Federation of Mountain Clubs

feeling that, although this is a different type of mountain tale, the tragic conclusion will be the same as 'David'. But, this is not the case.

Part III begins a month after the accident and fall. Mathews is now out of the hospital, and Max is bragging to a gathered and grateful group of friends, about how he rescued Mathews and brought him to safety. Max goes on and on about his heroism and nimble ability to come to the aid of the ailing and fallen Mathews. The real story of what actually happened and why it happened is never told. 'Climber' ends with these words, 'I forgive you, Max', I said tonelessly. Then shrugging, I said, tonelessly again, 'I forgive you Max, everything'.

Needless to say, 'Climber' is thick with all sorts of political jabs and stabs. Mathews represents the moderate Canadian way and Max the aggressive and unreflective American way. Obviously, these are caricatures of both Canadian-American traditions, but there is some general truth in them. Such insights do have a perennial ring of truth to them.

'Climber', unlike 'David', has a political message and clout to it. Birney would have agreed with many of Mathews' conclusions, but his epic and classic poem on Canadian mountaineering does not go where Mathews has gone in 'Climber'.

'Climber' is as much a classic in Canadian literature as 'David', and perhaps it is time that 'Climber' be placed within the canon of Canadian Literature in the same way that 'David' has. Both the poem and short story speak much about mountains, mountaineering and the Canadian literary and political tradition.

MOUNTAINS OF THE MIND:

How Desolate and Forbidding Heights were Transformed into Experiences of Indomitable Spirit

Robert Macfarlane

(New York: Pantheon Books, 2003)

Review by Ron Dart

O the mind, mind has mountains
Gerard Manley Hopkins

From death in valleys preserve me, O Lord
Robert Macfarlane (p. 9)

Have men and women, throughout the long stretches of human history, taken to the mountains the way we do in our time and ethos? Have white crowned peaks, rock diadems and spear spires always drawn the curious, energetic, skilled and interested? Have mountains always been a place of allure, delight, charm and attraction? Or, is the passion for the mountains and out of doors hiking, climbing and glacier traverses more a product of the last few centuries? If this is the case, why is it? And, deeper yet, what are the reasons (complicated and diverse though they might be) that women and men take to the mountains, challenging rock rims and high perched peaks?

Mountains of the Mind attempts, in a variety of ways, to answer these questions. Such abiding questions, though, are not merely answered from the safe confines of the academic and library chair. Robert Macfarlane, to his credit, attempts to scale the peaks of such answers from a variety of routes. Macfarlane is Scottish, a climber and international in experience and interest. He has taken to many peaks, and his answers to the questions raised above emerge both from within

himself and the multiple voices from those who have taken to the peaks in the past. *Mountains of the Mind* is as much about the internal ascents, hard places, difficult routes, worrisome crevasses, long trails, fears and insecurities that dog one and all as it is about the external and hard realities of real mountains and packed snow places.

Mountains of the Mind is divided into 9 compact and enticing chapters: 1) Possession, 2) The Great Stone Book, 3) The Pursuit of Fear, 4) Glaciers and Ice: The Streams of Time, 5) Altitude: The Summit and the View, 6) Walking off the Map, 7) A New Heaven and a New Earth, 8) Everest and 9) The Snow Hare. Each of these compelling chapters, story told well, draws the reader more and more into the world of mountain lore and legend and the reasons why many turn to such places.

Macfarlane is never shy about telling his tale and trips to the high regions, his conscious and subconscious reasons for turning to such alluring and evocative places and what other mountains have taught him about such a journey. *Mountains of the Mind* is also about cultural shifts that began in the 17th-18th centuries in the west, and how such cultural shifts have converted still and silent rocks into places of peak bagging and spiritual pilgrimages.

Macfarlane, to some degree, follows the earlier thesis of Marjorie Hope Nicolson's *Mountain Gloom and Mountain Glory: The Development of the Aesthetics of the Infinite* (1959), in tracking and tracing the interest in mountaineering to the 17th-18th centuries. Many of the literary clues that Nicolson has provided in her classic work were followed by Macfarlane in

Mountains of the Mind. Both Nicolson and Macfarlane are aware that mountains have played a substantive role in classical cultures, but the general and widespread fascination with mountains and the environment that holds and draws many today is a new phenomenon. It is this broader interest in the mountains (and what it means for new cultural ways of seeing and being) that interests Nicolson and Macfarlane. The difference between these two, though, is that Nicolson in *Mountain Gloom and Mountain Glory* studied this shift from an academic, historic and literary perspective, whereas Macfarlane is interested in these areas, but he is equally interested from the perspective of the mountaineer, also.

The final 2 chapters in *Mountains of the Mind* draw this fine book together in a suggestive way. Macfarlane ponders, in chapter 8 (Everest) why George Mallory was drawn so irresistibly and fatally to Everest. Each of the three trips is discussed in some detail, and Macfarlane amply illustrates that he has read most of Mallory's letters and journals well. Why would Mallory leave his wife and three young children for some barren rocks and hard ice and snow peaks? What was the fatal attraction? What was the draw and history of those who had gone before Mallory that prepared this young Galahad to give his life to an unforgiving and ancient slab of frigid and frozen white at the very crest of the world? 'Everest' is a fine chapter. Macfarlane probes and probes the mind of Mallory, and, by doing so, the minds of all those who turn to the peaks to discover the reasons for the drive to such isolated and barren places. Why did this become both an addiction and tragic attraction for Mallory? Why did he need to be the first to stand on the peak

of Everest, and what were the more important things he sacrificed in the process? Macfarlane attempts to answer these sorts of questions in the penultimate chapter in *Mountains of the Mind*. It is these inner mountains of the mind, in the end, that are the most interesting to traverse, and Macfarlane, roped well, does take to such heights, the dead Mallory his guide.

The final chapter, 'The Snow Hare', is the most illusive and compelling. Macfarlane, on the peaks of a whiteout summit, meets a snow hare. Needless to say, such a meeting has all sorts of mythic meanings. Macfarlane allows the reader to unpack the metaphor from such an occurrence. It reminds me of the time I was sitting on a mountainside, and 2 white deer momentarily appeared, approached me, then disappeared. Such moments are quite magical, and rare is the experience.

If some concerns might be raised about this book, and there are some to be pondered, the primary one might be the way Macfarlane, like Nicolson before him, has tended to see the substantial shift in the way we see mountains in the 17th and 18th centuries. Both Nicolson and Macfarlane offer a fleeting nod to the Classical western tradition (albeit in a spotty and questionable way), but neither delve into the deeper and older attitudes towards the mountains in both the western and eastern traditions. This much older line and lineage can be corrected by a read of *Sacred Mountains of the World* (1990), by Edwin Bernbaum. *Sacred Mountains of the World* is a stunning visual tour with an insightful text as a hiking companion. In short, the larger cultural shifts in the way we see mountains that Nicolson and Macfarlane linger so long at do need to be checked and corrected by the more compelling, older and

convincing work of Bernbaum in *Sacred Mountains of the World*.

Mountains of the Mind is a must read, and for those of us who are Canadians and belong to the Alpine Club of Canada, there are some interesting comments from Mallory about Edward Wheeler and the 1921 attempt to climb Everest.

Ralph Gustafson Rocky Mountain Poems

(Vancouver: Klanak Press, 1960)

Review by Ron Dart

This must be the first book of poetry devoted to high mountains; certainly it is the first substantially to put the Canadian Rockies into the geography of Canadian poetry. They are a large subject; overwhelming and silencing. Great mountains do that. How, in symbology or cartography, put eleven-thousand foot peaks of ice and rock and grandeur and challenge into a dozen or two lines? Ralph Gustafson, we believe, has done this, and without pretension.

Foreward
Rocky Mountain Poems

There has been a historic tendency, when reflecting upon the literary life of the West Coast, to assume that BC culture, never truly matured and came into its creative best until the Beat and Counter Culture tradition of the 1960s arrived. Surely, there was no real West Coast and authentic Canadian literary tradition until the Americans taught us about such things.

The fact that Klanak Press was

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begun on the West Coast in the 1950s by a lively and thoughtful Canadian artistic community does need to be noted. It is equally important to recognize that Klanak Press published one of the earliest books of poetry on mountains by one of the best Canadian poets of the time: Ralph Gustafson.

Rocky Mountain Poems, by Ralph Gustafson, is dedicated to Bett, and in many of the poems, set in the Rockies, the tenderness and gentleness, between Gustafson and Bett, shines through with much light and candor.

There are 18 poems in this collection, and the opening poem, 'Into the Tonquin Valley' eases the reader into Gustafson's meditative reflections on mountains, hiking and the relationship between the 'The crests snow peaked above us' and the dense forested floor beneath his feet.

Gustafson gazes to the white spires, and says, 'We went on, knowing There was no end to the majesty'.

The poetic path hiked brings into being such fine and exquisite poems as 'On the Columbia Icefield', 'In the Valley of the Ten Peaks', 'At Moraine Lake', 'The Walk in Yoho Valley', 'On Yoho Pass', 'On Mountain Summit' and 'On Mount Revelstoke'. Each poem has an evocative appeal and allure that welcomes many a reread. *Rocky Mountain Poems* concludes with Gustafson and Bett taking to the Yukon, and 'On the Yukon Run' and 'In the Yukon' tell such a graphic tale well.

There is no doubt that *Rocky Mountain Poems* is a must read for those interested in the mountains in more than a literal and rock jockish sort of way. This is not a technical manual on how to bag peaks or first ascents. *Rocky Mountain Poems*—December 2008

Mountain Poems is a sensitive, delicate and nuanced contemplative missive on how to see the self in a deeper way and the meaning of mountains in a more reflective way. Poets have a way of doing this, and Gustafson has done this in an appealing manner.

We should be grateful to Klanak Press, on the West Coast, for bringing to us one of the earliest collections of mountain poetry. May other presses in BC build on the pioneering work of Klanak Press, Gustafson and mountain poetry that speaks so well across the decades since its publication.

ROGER PATILLO: RACONTEUR OF THE ROCKIES

Lake Louise at its Best:
An Affectionate look at life at
Lake Louise by one who knew
it well

Revised and Expanded 2005 Edition
Roger Patillo
(Victoria: Trafford Publishing, 2005)

Review by Ron Dart

The 2005 revised and expanded version of *Lake Louise at its Best* (originally published in 2000) brings together Roger Patillo's insights and observations on life and climbing at Lake Louise from 1957-1964. Patillo has made many trips to Lake Louise since 1964, but the bulk of this thick tome records and recounts, from Patillo's perspective, the glory years at Lake Louise (and all those he knew and worked with at Chateau Lake Louise).

Lake Louise at its Best is divided into ten historic and thematic chapters:

- 1) A Brief History of Lake Louise
- 2) Getting There: A Spring trip to Lake Louise by Train
- 3) First Experiences at Lake Louise
- 4) Life at the Chateau
- 5) Special People at the Cha-

teau

- 6) Surrounding Points of Interest
- 7) Adventures at Lake Louise,
- 8) Memorable Bear Encounters in the Rockies
- 9) Skiing and Fly Fishing in the Rockies
- 10) Climbing and Mountaineering Adventures

The life of Roger Patillo and Lake Louise between 1957-1964 are woven together in a most compelling and readable way in *Lake Louise at its Best*.

Much of the book is autobiographical, but, given the fact that Roger seems to have been at the centre of much in the late 1950s-early 1960s in the Lake Louise area, we learn a great deal about events and now passed away legends and pioneers of the place.

Many of the 2nd generation Swiss mountain guides were still active (although nearing the end of their more energetic and guiding days) when Roger was in the Lake Louise area. He tells many a tale of his ascents with them, and he also highlights the many treks to the summits in the region. The photographs in the book illustrate and bring into focus much that Roger has seen and done in the Lake Louise area.

Lake Louise at its Best is a wonderful glimpse and snapshot into years at Lake Louise that many know nothing about yet we ignore to our lack and peril. The book is a long read, but for those interested in a phase and season of mountaineering and Lake Louise history, *Lake Louise at its Best* is a must read. Patillo is a genuine raconteur of the Rockies.

The Canadian Rockies:

Pioneers, Legends and True Tales

Roger Patillo

(Victoria: Trafford Publishing, 2005)

Review by Ron Dart

The Canadian Rockies: Pioneers, Legends and True Tales is a fit and fine companion to Roger Patillo's *Lake Louise at its Best*. Much is hinted at in *Lake Louise at its Best*, and the reader yearns for more. *The Canadian Rockies* offers the much more that has been anticipated by the keen and eager, and Roger Patillo has not let us down.

The Canadian Rockies is divided into nine compact chapters: 1) Tom Wilson: A Man for all Seasons, 2) Tom Boys, 3) Early Visitors to the Rockies, 4) Early Swiss Guides in the Rockies, 5) The Saga of Sir Edward Whymper, 6) A. O. Wheeler: Lion of the Rockies and the Alpine Club of Canada, 7) More Exceptional Personalities of the Rockies, 8) Two Mountaineering Tragedies, and 9) Final Thoughts, Reflections and Concerns. This tome is packed with fascinating historic details, oral history and reflections of Roger Patillo's life.

Those that have lived, moved and had their being in the Rocky mountains pass before the reader like the communion of saints in the church. The pioneers and legends are brought to life by Patillo's animated and dramatic prose. We are walked into a way of seeing and doing history that still lives, and we are told much about those that lived heroic lives in the early years in the Rockies.

The final chapter of *The Canadian Rockies* pulls no punches.

Patillo offers his insights and perspectives on bears and humans, the risk of the bear population in Canada, how to save the Banff Grizzlies, blunders and how park users must accept responsibility for their own stupidity.

Those that were drawn to the few chapters in *Lake Louise at its Best* on mountaineering (as I was) will be doubly treated in *The Canadian Rockies* on many more mountaineering chapters. The older history is well told, and many of the pioneers and legends tales are expanded upon in an affectionate and gracious manner.

We are fortunate that Roger Patillo now lives in Abbotsford, and we should, in the next few months, have this raconteur of the Rockies speak at a Chilliwack Outdoor Club monthly meeting. I had lunch with Roger a few weeks ago, and there is certainly many tale he can tell.

Escape From Lucania – An Epic Story of Survival

by David Roberts (Simon and Schuster - 2002)

Review by Mike Nash

'*Escape From Lucania – An Epic Story of Survival*' is the story of Brad Washburn and Bob Bates' epic 1937 ascent of the then highest unclimbed peak in North America, 5,226 m (17,146 ft) Mount Lucania in the St. Elias Range, told by a seasoned writer who was also an accomplished climber and long-time friend of Washburn. The story is actually three remarkable undertakings stitched together: a dramatic aviation adventure at the start of the trip, the first ascent of Mount Lucania, and the subsequent trek out over Mount Steele (itself only the second ascent of that peak) to Burwash

Landing and Kluane Lake. Like the leading British climbers of the day, Shipton and Tilman, they were vanguards of the "fast and light" approach to big mountains.

This is one of the great North American adventures of the 20th Century, and yet is relatively unknown to the general public. Bates and Washburn's hardest live or die challenge came near the very end when, out of food and nearly worn out, they had to negotiate touch and go river crossings: "...in the year 2002 (as in 1937) we know little more about the craft of fording rivers than men did in the Middle Ages." Their story is even more remarkable because the venture was planned and equipped as a four-man, innovative (for the time) fly-in and fly-out expedition. Because of their glacier landing travails (the highest then achieved in the world) it turned out to be just the two men, faced with a daunting climb, followed by an unplanned, unsupported 250-kilometre retreat. Unable to do anything about the single, heavy four-man tent, other than to cut out part of the floor, they shared a sleeping bag for most of the journey yet managed to remain lifelong friends. The book had added interest to me having met Brad Washburn (then in his nineties) and heard him speak at a Banff Book Festival a few years ago. There is a copy in the Prince George library, but this is definitely a book worth owning (Jon Krakauer is quoted on the back cover describing it as "an utterly riveting, immensely enjoyable read")

This review has been reproduced from the February 2008 issue of the North Call (newsletter of the Prince George Section of the ACC) by permission of the author.

Updates

History and Status of the Smoke Bluffs at Squamish

Monika Bittel

The Smoke Bluffs, a series of “craggs which are highly valued for rock climbing, are located immediately to the northeast of downtown Squamish, adjacent to Mamquam Blind Channel. Easy access and high density of good climbs make the Smoke Bluffs one of the most popular rock climbing crags in Canada. The first climbing routes on the Smoke Bluffs were established in the early 1970’s. There are now well over 400 routes on at least 20 different bluffs.

In 1987, when housing developments threatened climbers’ access to the Smoke Bluffs, the FMCBC purchased three parcels of land in the Smoke Bluffs area for about \$70,000. At that time neither the provincial government nor the District of Squamish (DOS) was prepared to protect the Smoke Bluffs as a rock climbing area or to protect public access to the Smoke Bluffs.

The FMCBC land purchase was financed by donations from the climbing community and a \$40,000 interest free loan from Mountain Equipment Co-op. The interest free loan was paid off through fund-raising activities (i.e., Bingo nights and Save the Smoke Bluff buttons) organized by the FMCBC and local clubs. At the time of the purchase, the land was registered in the name of the FMCBC because it was the only climbing organization, registered as a society, which represented the greater climbing community (versus a single club). Only a registered society can hold title to land. The FMCBC therefore holds the land in trust for the

greater climbing community.

Over the past 20 years, the FMCBC has paid annual property taxes on the land from a fund which was established at the time of the purchase. As a non-profit organization, the FMCBC may qualify for an annual exemption from paying local property taxes. The FMCBC has applied for the exemption for 2009 and will likely know by early November whether successful in its application. The exemption is at the discretion of DOS.

Over the years the climbing community has invested a lot of time, effort and resources in the Smoke Bluffs to develop it as a climbing area and to protect it for future generations of climbers. In December 2004, DOS approved the concept of creating the Smoke Bluffs Park based on a report prepared by various recreational user groups and the DOS. The proposed park would consolidate land owned by DOS (most of the actual rock bluffs themselves), the province and the FMCBC. The original park proposal envisioned the FMCBC transferring its land to DOS by April 2005, but negotiations have been far more complex and slower than anticipated. The primary goal of the climbing community has been and continues to be to protect public access to and rock climbing in the Smoke Bluffs in perpetuity. In July 2006, the FMCBC and DOS agreed in principle that the FMCBC would transfer its land to DOS for inclusion in the park in exchange for a nominal monetary amount to cover legal fees and taxes and registration of a conservation covenant against the FMCBC, DOS and provincial lands to be included in the park. In January 2008, after consultations with the Squamish Access Society (SAS), which supported

registration of a conservation covenant against the parklands, the FMCBC proposed that the conservation covenant apply only to the FMCBC land and those DOS lands, which include the climbing bluffs.

A conservation covenant is a voluntary written agreement registered against land in which the owner promises to protect the land in specified ways. A conservation covenant is intended to last forever and legally binds future owners of the land, not just the current landowner. The owner of the conservation covenant can enforce it if necessary through legal action. In consultation with the FMCBC, two lawyers who had worked with The Land Conservancy organization and had experience with conservation covenants drafted the conservation covenant so that it ensured public access to and climbing in the Smoke Bluffs in perpetuity.

In August 2008, the FMCBC and SAS were advised by DOS staff that they were investigating the use of by-laws to designate and protect Smoke Bluffs Park, instead of a conservation covenant. At the time of writing this article, the FMCBC had not received the draft by-law for consideration and it is unlikely that there will be further progress in negotiations until after the municipal elections scheduled for November 2009. The FMCBC and SAS will consider the draft by-law when it is received, however both the FMCBC and SAS have reservations about the effectiveness and longevity of a by-law to protect climbing in the Smoke Bluffs in perpetuity and have expressed these concerns to DOS staff.

If you have any questions, comments, opinions or concerns regarding developments to date with respect to potential inclusion of the FMCBC lands in Smoke Bluffs Park, please contact Monika Bittel at MBit-tel9@gmail.com.

Europa

In 2006, Jeff Mottershead started leading a VOC effort to clean Crap Crag, a 5.7 line up the Chief. As it stood, Crap Crag was a climb that most avoided. Although it wasn't difficult, it was much more of a dirt, vegetation and choss climb than a rock climb.

After consultation with the Squamish Access Society, which liaised with B.C. Parks, cleaning began. The intention was to have the route done by the time the 2007 climbing season started, but the crew soon found that they had bitten off much more than they or anyone they had consulted about the project had suspected. It was clear that cleaning the route would be at least as much work as any other line developed in Squamish, but the potential of having an enjoyable, easy, full-height line up the Chief justified the anticipated effort and expense.

The intention of the project was to clean the best possible line, rather than attempt to follow the exact Crap Crag line. Exploratory digging found that the best climbing, with the best features for protection, were also the dirtiest and most heavily vegetated. Chimney sections, particularly on the fourth and seventh pitches, had an unbelievable amount of choss. As the route being cleaned was more than 50% off the original Crap Crag line, the new route was given a name: Europa.

The grit pulled out of the sev-

enth pitch was unbelievably abrasive. After the gear got covered in it, rapping down a single pitch would eat halfway through an aluminum biner or rappel device. Stainless steel rappel hardware lasted much longer, but the effect of the grit was still astonishing. Over the course of the cleaning effort, over \$1,500 of rappel hardware had to be retired.

As the scope of the project became clear, the decision was made to clean only at night. Although warning signs were always in place during cleaning, the possibility of someone ignoring the signs necessitated the shift in hours. A major advantage to night cleaning was that it could be done at any point during the week, while the school schedule forced daytime cleaning to happen during the weekend. Cleaning sorties became much more frequent as a result and averaged between two or three trips per week for the next year.

After 1,500 hours of cleaning by Jeff Mottershead, about 700 between Steve Mullen, Matthew Carroll, Madeleine Martin-Preny, Christian Veenstra and Natalie Stafl and 400 spread among about thirty other volunteers, and about \$14,000 of worn-out equipment, Europa was completed at first light on April 20, 2008.



Syd Watts on Mt. Arrowsmith in the 1950's

Europa is now a clean 5.8, A0 climb. The A0 bolt ladder was needed to reach the crack that forms most of the sixth pitch. The parallel line on Crap Crag goes free but requires either a horrifying runout or the purchase of a number of Big Bros. Initial reviews have been very positive, and despite not yet being in any guidebook, there have already been line-ups at the bottom and belay scrums.

Topos are available at Climb On in Squamish or online at <http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Europa>

Vancouver Island Report November 2008

Peter Rothermel

In this past month of October we have had AGM's for the Island Mountain Ramblers and the Alberni Valley Outdoor Club and while the access issues through private lands is foremost in discussion among Island Clubs, we have had some fun as well.

First, I should say that the Island Mountain Ramblers celebrated their 50th anniversary and along with it was an "Up Your Peaks" challenge for members and non members alike, consisting of gaining ten Island summits, of over 5,000 feet, in two years. IMR badge awards were given out to over twenty people, I believe.

On the new Executive are Mike Hordelski as President, Dean Williams as Vice President, Nicky Westarp as Secretary, John Young as FMCBC Director and Doreen Cowlin as Archival & Historian.

At the 50th celebration there were many past members and most notably, Syd Watts, one of the founding members of the IMR in 1958. I was impressed at

Federation of Mountain Clubs

Syd Watts

the sharpness of Syd's recollections of the people and dates from the beginning days of the Ramblers. He recollects as if it were yesterday.

As well there were talks given by John Cowlin, Bob Tustin and Bill Perry, all past presidents and members that were involved in the formative years of the club and continue to the present. Some were dressed in "period" costume, including wool knickers and weird pointy hats.

At the Alberni Valley Outdoor Club AGM, we had a potluck dinner, followed by a short business meeting and elected Robert Gunn as president, Karen George as Secretary, Ursula Knoll as Treasurer.



Peter Rothermel on Crown Mountain

This club has been instrumental in taking an abandoned railway right of way down the Alberni inlet and creating a hike able trail that will connect Port Alberni with Lake Cowichan and then further linking up with the Galloping Goose Trail to the Province's Capitol of Victoria.

I don't have much to report on the Comox And District Mountaineering Club, as I didn't attend their AGM, but I am aware that they are working on ongoing negotiations with Timber West, regarding access to the historic Comox Glacier Trail and keeping it open to the public.

On another note, I went with my
Cloudburst—December 2008

niece and another young woman on a peak bagger blitz in the Mt Albert Edward area this late summer and we summited Mt Albert Edward, Mt Regan, Mt Jutland, Mt Frink and Mt Castlecrag. I was impressed with the excellent summit registers and tubes on most of these mountains, that are maintained by the CDMC.

The VI Section of the Alpine Club Of Canada will have their AGM in December, but are reported to be going strong as one of the most viable sections in the country. They are maintaining an increase in membership and many new members are younger. This club offers monthly socials in the way of slide shows & talks and offers a broad selection of educational offerings, as well as a diverse schedule of trips, many geared towards new members abilities.

Ongoing on Vancouver Island are access issues through private forest lands and over all in BC are the problems with off road vehicles, ATV's and snowmobiles, that are growing at an exponential rate. As a federation, we need to press the Provincial Government to license off road vehicles, so that their license numbers can be recorded, when there is a legal infraction and so the revenue from licensing can go towards the damage caused by those offenders.

Lastly is Strathcona Provincial Park updates:

I won't repeat the Bedwell Valley Update, as it is in another article in this issue, but have a few other items to report on.

The marmot recovery plan is coming along well with a record number of about 150 marmots in the wild and eleven litters, this year. As well there are about 175 marmots in the captive breeding program, insuring genetic diversity.



Peter Rothermel

Bedwell Valley "Living Bridge"

Much of the park's trails & routes suffered from wind damage this past winter and the Dell Falls trail, alone, had over 800 blowdowns, as well as bridge damage. These damages throughout the park are a huge drain on the already small budget allocated for this flagship Provincial Park. This Park has only two rangers assigned to the entire 250,000 hectares, so it's no wonder that it can't be maintained.

According to Canadian Parks And Wilderness Society, our Provincial Government invests less than \$2.80 per hectare into our Provincial Parks, yet reaps over \$40 in profits, per hectare. This cash cow is being milked dry.

In the year 2011, Strathcona Park, the oldest Provincial Park in BC, will turn 100 years old. In the year 1910, Minister for Lands, Price Ellison, led a party up Crown Mountain. This led to the expansive borders of a newly created park.

For a history of Vancouver Island mountaineering, see Lindsay Elms site <http://www.members.shaw.ca/beyondnootka/> and for a recent trip report to Crown Mountain, see www.summitpost.org.

For the one hundredth anniversary of Strathcona Park, let's call

on the government to give back to our parks system, in line with what is gleaned.

Horses In The Bedwell Follow Up

Peter Rothermel

After writing an article in the last Cloudburst, regarding the proposal for allowing horses into the lower Bedwell Valley, I received some response to my article. I had asked readers of the article to send their opinions whether horses should or should not be allowed into selected areas of Strathcona Provincial Park. I only received about 14 responses and they were pretty much equally divided in opinion. This does not give direction to me, clearly enough to form a FMCBC opinion.

Further, at the last Strathcona Park Advisory Committee meeting, the Environmental Impact Assessment report had yet to be completed, so whether to allow

so that the trail can still be safely used to reach Mariner Mountain and access to the rest of the route, during low water season of summer.

Comments were garnered and accepted by BC Parks. Following is my letter sent to Andy Smith, Strathcona Area Supervisor.

June 20, 2008
Hi Andy,

Following are some thoughts and points that I have, regarding amending the Master Plan, as far as allowing horses into the Bedwell River Valley and other areas of Strathcona Park:

In my opinion, the Master Plan needs to be amended and rewritten regarding horse use, whether it includes horse traffic in some areas, or excludes horses from the park entirely. As the Master plan presently reads, regarding horses, the passage is too vague and requires definition.



Peter Rothermel

Regarding present horse use areas in Strathcona Park, the areas of Gold Lake and Kunlin Lake that were to be used as test sites for horse use, these have been a total failure as a test plot, since there has been little or no horse traffic in those areas. This was likely due to the dis-

tance a horse would have to be trucked, for just a day ride and not from lack of interest in the study.

While there has been much speculation and distant anecdotal information about horse impact, no one has cited any research studies, either in favour or against horse use in an area similar to the lower Bedwell Valley or Oshinow Lake areas. I have yet to see any solid

evidence either way, that horses will or will not be detrimental to the Bedwell River Valley. If possible, I would like to see a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment done by Aileen Grant, as soon as it is available.

One point that John Wilson brought up at the Courtenay meeting, was that the Bedwell River Valley is a wildlife corridor. Wildlife values trump recreational values in the park and if there is even a remote chance that wildlife values could be compromised, we need to tread very lightly. That said, we can easily cite areas where even an abundance of hikers can displace wildlife. Point in case, the Elk River Valley Trail, which was originally elk trails, yet elk are seldom or never seen there, at least below the Landslide Lake outfall. Recreational activities can alter wildlife patterns and this is a given.

Since we won't really know if horse impact would be detrimental, until horses are actually in the park, I would suggest that we try a two year test site period, starting this season.

One site could be the Bedwell Valley from the Gail Magee Bridge to the Living Bridge, as this is as far as horses can safely be taken at this time. This would allow CWR to show how they would use & maintain the area and further, they would need to show how they would make a trail through a heavily washed out area (just before the Living Bridge). While not the full deal, that they are looking for, it would give them a chance to physically show what they profess to do in the rest of the lower Bedwell Valley.

A second site could be the Oshinow, Toy, Junior & June Lakes area in the park, through to Elsie

or not to allow horses in the Bedwell is still in limbo.

If horses are not eventually allowed into the Bedwell, I would like to propose that the FMCBC, Friends of Strathcona Park, Clayoquot Wilderness Resort and BC Parks partner together to, at least, replace the "Living Bridge" with a pedestrian bridge,

Lake. This could be a multi-day trip on deactivated logging roads, with overnight camps. It would give the BC Horse Council and the Backcountry Horse Association a chance to show their "Leave no trace" methods. It would also be attractive in that it would be a several day destination and may well attract equestrians from further afield.

We should encourage these groups to use these areas, as a test case for results of horse impact and we should then require them to keep accurate records of numbers of horses & riders, numbers of days on trail, length of travel, weather conditions, wildlife spotted and any other pertinent observations to the test. We could provide forms that would be a check list, with witness signature requirements and these survey forms could become the basis of gauging horse impact and mitigation, if horses will be allowed into parts of Strathcona Park.

At the end of the test period, we could then revisit the possibility of extending the route areas and a longer tenure in the park.

Finally, I feel that I need to make the point that the issue of horses in the park or the CWR tenure application is not necessarily a "thin edge of a wedge" as some feel. We already have a large commercial enterprise sitting adjacent to the park and they have developed trails into the park, charge people fees to use them, guide paying clients on these trails, restrict free public use of these trails, use machines to make these trails and patrol these trails with motorized vehicles. This is the cross country ski trail system that Mt Washington has created in Strathcona Park, yet I have never heard of anyone referring to this operation as a "thin edge of a



Peter Rothmann

Mariner Mtn from Bedwell Valley

wedge". How many people that oppose horses in the park, use these commercial trails in the park? Is this a contradiction of principals? Can we deny one commercial proposal that we might not use or agree with and then turn around and support and use another commercial enterprise, just because it suits us?

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the difficult place that BC Parks staff are in, trying to satisfy everybody, when emotions are running high. As one person stated at a public meeting, "You are between a rock and a hard place". Thank you for doing your jobs to the best of your abilities.

In Memoriam

As many people will know, Mary Macaree and Halvor Lunden both passed away at the end of July 2008, in fact within a few hours of each other. Mary was close to completing her 6th Edition of *109 Walks*, and Halvor had continued as one of BC's most active trail builders and maintainers well into his eighties. Mary was FMCBC Trails Committee Chair for some years, and Halvor built bridges and sets of steps, as well as an extraordinary number of entire trails.

Mary and Halvor each were quiet spoken and possessed a dry wit, they were knowledgeable and always willing to help. They will be missed.

FMC Trails Committee

Island Mountain Ramblers celebrate 50 years

Bill Perry

1958 - 2008

Every one likes a celebration: from a birthday, Christmas, a wedding anniversary, or the opening of a new store, to the first moonwalk. But how we celebrate is different. A birthday can bring friends together for a party; a wedding anniversary can be a quiet, romantic dinner for two; the opening of a new store might have big opening day bargains and discounts, but how does a mountaineering club celebrate 50 years of activities. One might say by having a special dinner somewhere or by even climbing a mountain! Well, in 2008 the Island Mountain Ramblers of Nanaimo is going to have been together for 50 years and as a club they want to do something to celebrate that fact. The Island Mountain Ramblers was founded in 1958 by Syd Watts of Duncan and Harry Winstone of Crofton. Both were young, active members of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada, however, they found there were too many scheduled Alpine Club trips off the island. Both Watts and Winstone loved the beautiful



Rambler Peak

mountains the island had to offer and they wanted to explore what was right outside their back doorstep, so they formed a new club. They encouraged other like minded climbers to join them and were soon organizing and leading trips all over Vancouver Island.

In 1983 the Island Mountain Rambler's celebrated 25 years as a club and called the event "Up Your Peaks." The challenge was to try and ascend 25,000 vertical feet or more in 1983 and the peaks had to be over 5,000 feet. The list had to be submitted to the committee at the end of the year and a commemorative document was given as well as a free copy of book called The History of Mountaineering on Vancouver Island. It was a huge success with 75 people achieving the objective.

Now that the club is reaching 50 years, it is again celebrating with the challenge of "Up Your Peaks," but the stakes have been doubled. This time the objective is to climb 50,000 feet, but the club has gone metric and the figure is 15,000 vertical metres. This means 10 mountains over 1,500 metres. ever, participants have two years to complete the objective: 2007 and 2008. The challenge is not only for club members but it is open to anyone who wants to climb. Of course they would love to have participants join the club but the only stipulation they have asked is for the climbers to have witnesses sign each climb. Solo ascents – well they'll take your word.

For more information go to the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia website, www.mountainsclubs.org and follow the links to the Island Mountain Ramblers. The climbing list has to be sent to the: Island mountain Ramblers, P.O.Box 691, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5M2 by October 1, 2008. Results will be scrutinized and participants recognized at the club's fall meeting in 2008. So clean up those boots and begin the "Up Your Peaks" challenge. There might even be a celebratory dinner to restock your carbohydrates after the fall meeting and a few beers!

North Shore Hikers 50th Year

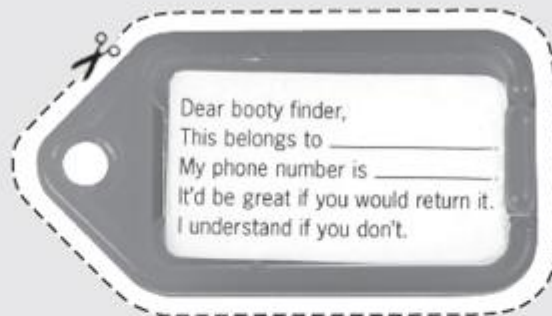
Lesley Bohm

This is the North Hikers 50th anniversary year, which will be celebrated at a buffet dinner on November 8, 2008 at the Ukrainian Orthodox Centre at 154 East 10th Avenue, Vancouver. The current 462 members are enjoying full schedule of hiking, cycling, and snowshoe trips, and ski trips through May 18th to take advantage of our wonderful late snow year. Wednesday hikes (usually rated as B hikes) are also offered each week and are posted by Tuesday at

www.northshorehikers.org. Backpacks and car camps will follow in summer. There is plenty of choice on our schedule with up to four day, trips, rain or shine, each Saturday and Sunday, with the convenience of a published meeting place so last minute decisions are not a problem.

The reputation as a fast and goal oriented club is not always deserved, and there is a policy of having an end-person to take care of stragglers, keep the group together, and keep people from getting lost. However, trips do leave on time. Telephone numbers of leaders are not published on the internet because we require an on-file, signed waiver, but hikers can try a few club trips before joining.

We have a low cancellation rate for trips as we feel that a bit of discomfort is OK for a single day when there is a warm bed at home. Some of us actually notice birds and plants in passing! I can personally remember 20 years of fascinating backcountry travel all over B.C., and can recommend our convenient club to newcomers to Vancouver, and to people who want to join a group to hike to new and exciting places!



back-off gear tag



Mountain Equipment Co-op is happy to provide office space for FMCBC.

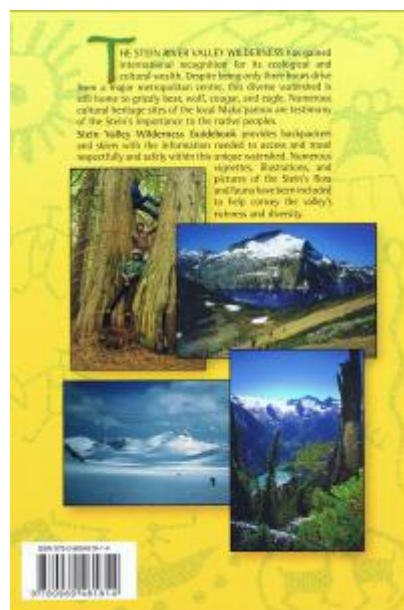
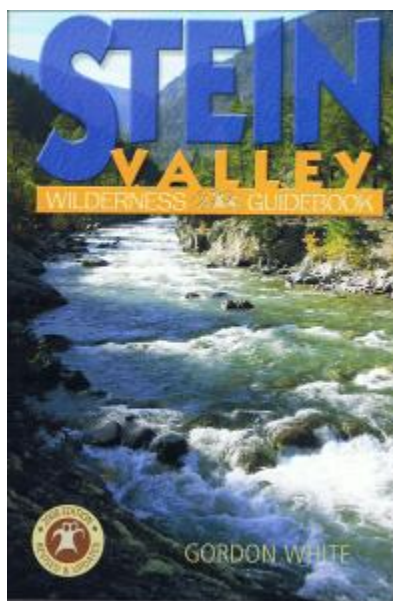
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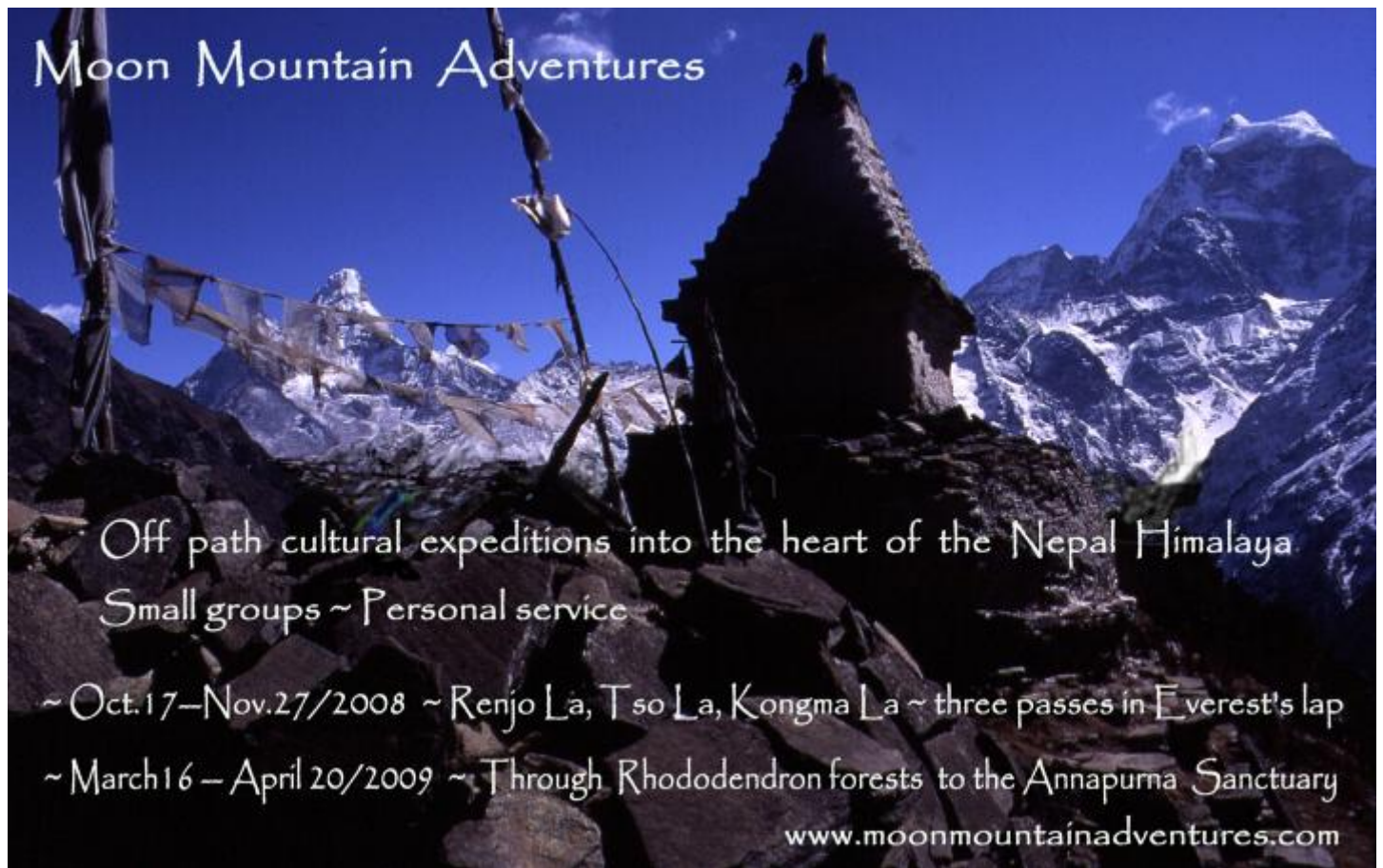


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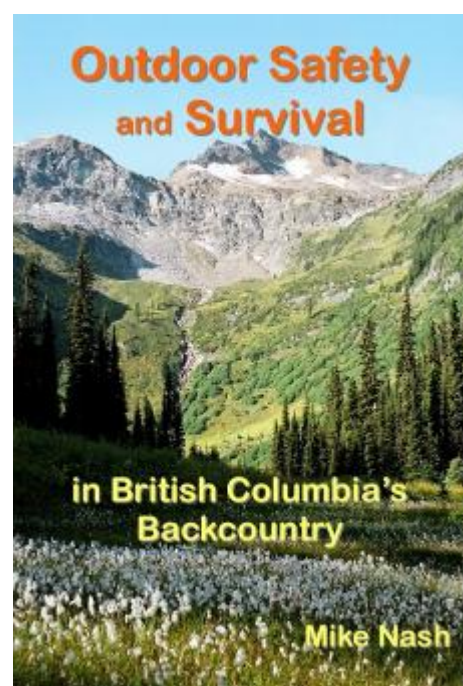
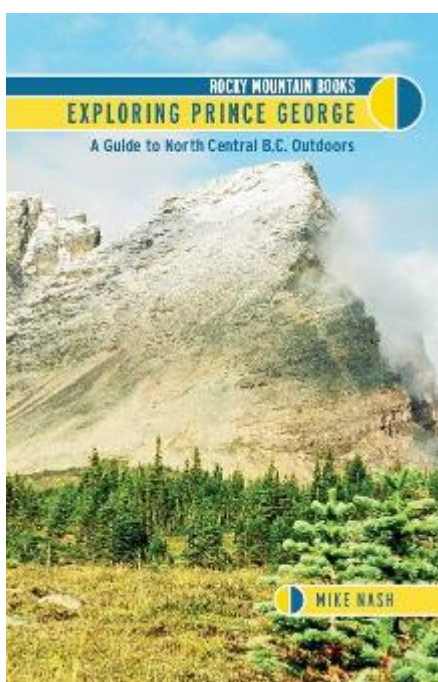
Gordon White's revised version of *Stein Valley Wilderness Guidebook* is now available in bookstores and places that sell outdoor gear. This guidebook provides a comprehensive guide to the valley with trail and route descriptions and maps, plus information on natural and cultural history of the Stein Valley.





Exploring Prince George - A Guide to North Central B.C. Outdoors by Mike Nash; ISBN 978-1-894765-49-7; first published in 2004 by Rocky Mount Books and republished in 2007; distributed by Heritage House.

Outdoor Safety and Survival in British Columbia's Backcountry by Mike Nash; ISBN 978-0-9783048-0-5; published in May 2007 by myself; distributed by Sandhill Books.



The Federation of Mountain Clubs

Working on your behalf

The Federation of Mountain Clubs (FMCBC) is a democratic, grassroots organization dedicated to the conservation of and access to British Columbia's wilderness and mountain areas. As our name indicates we are a federation of outdoor clubs and our membership is about 3500 from clubs around the province. Our membership is comprised of a diverse group of non-mechanized mountain recreation users including hikers, climbers, mountaineers, skiers, snowshoers, kayakers, canoeists and mountain bikers who all share an interest in the protection and preservation of the mountain/wilderness environment. The FMCBC also has several individual members who are not affiliated with the club, but share our mission and accomplishments. Membership is open to any club or individual that supports our mission. In addition to the work that FMCBC does on their behalf, membership benefits include a subscription to the FMCBC newsletter *Cloudburst* and access to an inexpensive Third-Party Liability insurance program.

The FMCBC mandate is "to foster and promote the non-motorized activities of the membership and the general public through leadership, advocacy and education". The FMCBC recognizes hikers, mountaineers and ski-tourers etc. to be a traditional user group and represents their rights province-wide to freely access and enjoy a quality experience in the mountains and forests of British Columbia. Our members believe that the enjoyment of these pursuits in an unspoiled environment is a vital component to the quality of life in British Columbia.

The FMCBC fulfills its mandate with a comprehensive approach to mountain recreation and conservation by:

- Participating in provincial land use decision processes.
- Working to positively change (and in some cases enhance) government agency policies so that non-mechanized outdoor recreation opportunities are recognized and protected.
- Representing wilderness as a legitimate land use and a resource of identifiable value to society.
- Advocating new parks and wilderness resources, and working to maintain the integrity of existing parks and wilderness resources.
- Advocating for continued access to existing recreational resources.
- Building, maintaining and protecting hiking and mountain access trails.
- Promoting hiking, rock climbing, mountaineering, ski touring and other non-mechanized mountain activities.
- Educating the public on conservation issues, related to outdoor recreation.
- Educating its member and the public on mountain and backcountry safety and working with member clubs to address risk management issues.
- Encouraging new membership in our member clubs

Acting under the policy of "talk, understand and persuade", rather than "confront and force", the FMCBC advocates for the interests of its member groups. Much of this work is done through our two main committees: Trails Committee, and the Recreation and Conservation Committee. With the exception of the Executive Director who helps coordinate Committee work and advocates on their behalf, the work on these programs is done by volunteers.

The FMCBC was founded in 1971, based on a predecessor organization called the Mountain Access Committee. Since this time the FMCBC has had many success stories working on behalf of our members and the public at large. If you visit our website (www.mountainclubs.org) you can view a list of some of our successes and accomplishments we have had through the years categorized by geographical area. Some highlights include the popular Adopt a Trail program and the resolution of several land use issues through participation in various planning processes.

We continue to work towards success on new issues and projects. Much of our work these days tends to be access related where we are competing with other users of the land base or in some cases a lack of investment in existing infrastructure. At the core of these projects, issues and successes (and often the grinding work that goes unnoticed) is the countless hours of time from dedicated volunteers from across the province. Without these volunteers the FMCBC would not exist. Through our committees, club advocates and general membership we have much to hope for on the trail ahead.

Member Clubs

Alberni Valley Outdoor Club

<http://www.mountainclubs.org/AVOC.htm>

Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Section

<http://www.accvancouver.ca/>

Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Island Section

<http://www.accvv.ca/>

Alpine Club of Canada – Prince George Section

<http://vts.bc.ca/ACC-PG/>

Backroads Outdoor Club

<http://backroadsoutdoor.ca/>

BC Mountaineering Club

<http://bcmc.ca/index.asp>

Caledonia Ramblers

<http://web.unbc.ca/~ramblers/>

Chilliwack Outdoor Club

<http://www.chilliwackoutdoorclub.com/>

Comox District Mountaineering Club

<http://www.comoxhiking.com>

Fraser Headwaters Alliance

<http://www.fraserheadwaters.org/>

Island Mountain Ramblers

<http://islandmountainramblers.blogspot.com/>

Kootenay Mountaineering Club

<http://www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca/>

North Shore Hikers

<http://www.northshorehikers.org/>

North Vancouver Outdoors Club

<http://www.northvanoutdoorsclub.ca/>

Outdoor Club of Victoria

<http://www.ocv.ca/>

Outsetters Club

<http://www.outsetters.org/>

Valley Outdoor Association

<http://www.valleyoutdoor.org/>

Vancouver Island Trails Information Society

<http://www.hikingtrailsbooks.com/>

Varsity Outdoor Club – Vancouver (UBC)

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/>

Varsity Outdoor Club – Okanagan (UBCO)

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2322937014>



Matt Gunn

Gerry Kollmus, Ye Chu, Helen Habgood, Ed Fisher, Stephen France, Lisa Thorne, Jenny Faulkner, John Sapac and Matt Gunn on the BCMC Coquihalla Summer Trip 2008

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Artist Lesley Bohm

View from Zoa