



CLOUDBURST

Roofed Accommodation in Provincial Parks

Visit to Nuk Tessli

Exploring Melvin and Lost Creeks

Club Profile: North Shore Hikers

Cloudburst



Cloudburst is published semi-annually by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC.
Publication/Mail sales Agreement # 102202.
Printed by Hemlock Printers. Circulation 3500.
Printed on 50% PCW, 100% recycled, Processed Chlorine Free

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.

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
\$160 ½ page	\$80 ¼ page
\$40 business card	

Editor/Production: Meg Stanley (margaretmary@telus.net)

Copy-editor: Tammy Marlowe (tmarlowe@shaw.ca)

Advertising: Evan Loveless (ed@mountainclubs.bc.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 in the FMCBC is open to any individual or group 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 back cover). Membership is \$15 per annum per membership when a member of a FMCBC Club.

Individual Membership

Membership for individuals is \$20 per year.

Members of More Than One FMCBC Club

When people join a member club of the FMCBC the \$15 FMCBC membership fee is calculated as part of the club membership. People who have memberships in more than one FMCBC member club are entitled to a \$15 refund for each "extra" membership on request. If you don't request a refund you are entitled to a tax receipt for the extra membership fees. To request either a refund or a tax receipt please send the request, in writing, to the FMCBC.

Board of Directors

President: Pat Harrison (VOA)

Vice President: Peter Rothermel (IMR, ACC-VI)

Secretary: vacant

Treasurer: Don Morton (ACC-VI)

Directors: Lesley Bohm (NSH), Paul Chatterton (Ind), Richard Keltie (ACC-Van), Dave King (CR, ACC-PG), Bill Perry (IMR), Ken Rodonets (CDMC), Manrico Scremin (ACC-Van)

Committee Co-Chairs

Recreation and Conservation: Sandra Nicol, vacant

Trails: Pat Harrison, Alex Wallace

Staff

Executive Director: Evan Loveless

Bookkeeper: Kathy Flood

For More Information

www.mountainclubs.bc.ca

PO Box 19673, Vancouver British Columbia
V5T 4E7

Tel: 604-873-6096 Fax: 604 873 6086

Email: fmcbbc@mountainclubs.bc.ca

Cover Photograph

North face of Mt. Robson from Berg Lake Campground.
Tina Loo, 2005.

President's Message

Pat Harrison

Organizations such as the Federation of Mountain Clubs are only as successful as their volunteers. I want to acknowledge some of these volunteers. First of all, a thank you must go to Manrico Scremin of the Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Section for volunteering to head up the Federation as President for the past three years. Taking charge of an organization is never an easy task and it requires a significant amount of personal time, energy and money to fill this role. We wish Manrico well in his “retirement. Secondly, there are the volunteers from the various clubs who serve on the Board of Directors, the Recreation and Conservation Committee (Rec and Con), and on the Trails Committee. Some of these people serve on more than one of these committees in an effort to serve their particular club well. There are presently 10 directors, approximately 10 regulars on the Recreation and Conservation Committee, and approximately the same on the Trails Committee.

For the past three years, Mike Peel of the BC Mountaineering Club and Shane Koscielniak of the Klister Outdoor Klub have headed up the Rec and Con Committee. This entails rounding up the members each month, putting agenda items together, coordinating the committee, and lastly, getting the minutes done in time for the next meeting. Both Mike and Shane have now stepped down and Sandra Nicol of the Varsity Outdoor Club has stepped forward to help coordinate the Rec and Con Committee. For the Trails Committee, Alex Wallace as the main Co-Chair and has done the same. The board and the committees play distinct, but equally important roles. The Board coordinates overall policies of the Federation and keeps an eye on the finances. The Rec and Con Committee is the main coordinating body for doing advocacy for the Federation, while the Trails Committee tries to coordinate the Adopt-A-Trail programme which includes both building and maintaining trails in coordination with government and private land owners. In addition, there are the many, many volunteers of the clubs who continue to serve the non-motorized communities in their

areas by doing local advocacy and trail maintenance. I doubt that the majority of the non-motorized community is aware of the necessary role the Federation of Mountain Clubs and its affiliate clubs play in maintaining some of the backcountry in a pristine condition through their advocacy and participation in various Land Resource Management Planning processes.

One of the items that I would like to address this year is better coordination between the Federation of Mountain Clubs and its affiliate members. We established the online listserv several years ago to facilitate better flow of information between the FMC and its clubs, and between clubs. I feel we need to promote our clubs in a better fashion. We are currently looking at some options to get the word out about the 20 clubs that make up the federation. I am also heading up a small task force looking at the delegate/director relationship, which has its challenges. It seems to me that each club should have a delegate, and from the delegates, directors should be elected. In this manner, the directors who have led the Federation would have a say (a vote) at the Annual General Meeting. Currently, our constitution states that only delegates can vote at an Annual General Meeting. By selecting our directors from this group, the directors would still be delegates and be able to vote at the AGM. From the directors, the executive can then be elected at the AGM by the elected directors (the current process).

The Board of Directors is still working on the disposition of the Smoke Bluffs in Squamish. Manrico Scremin and Evan Loveless continue to represent the Federation in the negotiating process with the District of Squamish, which wants to include the land in a new Smoke Bluffs Park. What is of paramount importance is the preservation of access to the “Bluffs” and trails for climbers and hikers. If we allow the access to the Smoke Bluffs to be utilized for other purposes, then all the effort pursued by the federation and those who gave so generously in the late 1980s will be for not. We want to ensure access in perpetuity.

The FMC continues to work on many issues. In order to better involve our member clubs,

Evan Loveless, our Executive Director, proposed a new format for the Annual General Meeting hosted by the Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Island Section last June near Victoria. The usual business was carried out in the morning. In the afternoon, four workshops were run with two streams running simultaneously. All sessions were well attended with great participation.

As the new President for this year, I invite your comments. Please email me your concerns, your ideas, and your comments on what the Federation of Mountain Clubs is doing. My email is: patharrison@shaw.ca. Please have patience with my response time as I work full time and sometimes I am slightly delayed in responding.

Have a great winter, write a politician about your backcountry concerns, and I hope to see many of you this coming year.

Annual General Meeting

Evan Loveless, Executive Director

The 2005 Federation of Mountain Clubs Annual General Meeting was held June 10-12 in Victoria. This year the AGM was hosted by the Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Island Section at the Dunsmuir Lodge Training and Conference Centre. The weekend kicked off on Friday evening with a meet-and-greet social and a presentation about Mt Arrowsmith by Peter Rothermel.

Saturday had a packed agenda, with the business meeting in the morning and workshops and a strategy session in the afternoon. This year we decided to host four specific workshops (see below) to give the AGM a mini-conference feel and make it more attractive to members. We hope to continue with this model for future AGMs.

After the workshops everybody re-convened for a FMC strategy session, where major issues and FMC direction and priorities were discussed. Apart from important Rec and Con issues, road/trail access and general trails projects were identified as priorities for the FMC in the coming year.

We decided it would be good to try and attract more member clubs from around the province. We also talked about the FMCBC name and whether it should be changed. We decided to keep the core name and brand Federation of Mountain Clubs or FMC, but drop the BC unless we are using the name extra-provincially. Some discussion on club membership ensued and ideas on attracting and keeping members were shared. FMC Smoke Bluffs lands at Squamish and the proposed Smoke Bluff Park were also discussed.

Saturday evening we were treated to a delicious dinner put on at Dunsmuir Lodge. After dinner we had an informative and entertaining slide show by Lindsay Elms about the history of mountaineering on Vancouver Island. Lindsay has put together a definitive and informative history of Vancouver Island mountaineering in his recent book *Beyond Nootka*, which he had available for sale and signing.

On Sunday a group hiked up Mt Arrowsmith, led by Peter Rothermel. The group chose to take the Judges route up and down. The hike was fairly well attended with 12 people participating. After we summited, Richard Keltie and I decided to descend via the main gully for a change of scenery. It turned out to be a great option except I think Richard wishes he had brought his gloves.

A special thanks to Sasha Kubicek (ACC-VI) and Peter Rothermel for helping to organize the AGM and to everyone who helped and participated.

AGM Workshop Summaries

At this year's AGM we ran four different workshops to focus ideas and work on important FMC issues and projects. The workshop topics were Roofed Accommodation in Provincial Parks, Access Related Issues, National Hiking Trail Route on Vancouver Island and Trails Management. These topics were decided on at the last Island Delegates meeting. Each workshop was one hour and had great participation and dialogue. The workshops were grouped into two streams that ran concurrently. Manrico Scremin moderated the Rec and Con stream and Pat Harrison moderated the Trails stream. Thanks to Manrico and Pat for

their help and to the participants for providing great input. These workshops will help focus FMC work in the upcoming years.

The following are summaries of the workshops:

Roofed Accommodation in Provincial Parks

The provincial government has clearly stated its desire to expand the presence of “roofed accommodation” in Provincial Parks. “Roofed accommodation” could include anything from simple, free shelters, to modest mountain huts run by clubs, to expensive lodges run by commercial interests. Participants at this workshop discussed the issues and options for accommodation in parks. A matrix was developed around types of accommodation/ buildings and park zones e.g. frontcountry, backcountry, wilderness etc. Guiding principles were developed from the workshop. For a draft of these see the table on p. 6-7.



Gordon Dunham

Access Related Issues

Mt. Ashlu

Restricted access to hiking, climbing, and backcountry ski areas is becoming an increasingly important issue. More and more of the logging roads we use have locked gates, are decommissioned, or are simply left to deteriorate. A different but related issue is the proliferation of commercial tenures on public land being issued by the former Land and Water BC. Workshop participants helped articulate an action plan for the FMC to address these important issues. Participants expressed a desire for the FMC to take a much stronger role in access issues. For issues involving forest companies, the FMC may need to look to certification standards such as Canadian Standards Association and Forest Stewardship Council, which have requirements for recreation access and preservation.

National Hiking Trail Route on Vancouver Island

The purpose of this workshop was to help determine the route the National Hiking Trail will take on Vancouver Island. Not to be confused with the Trans Canada Trail, the National Hiking Trail is exactly what the name implies: a hiking- only trail crossing the country. Most of the route across mainland BC has already been identified and in some cases already developed. It is expected that the route will go up the Sunshine Coast to Powell River. From there, hikers would take the ferry across to Comox. The general consensus is that the Island route would align from the Comox ferry terminal to Cumberland. From Cumberland it would go down the Beaufort Range to the Log Train Trail and the Alberni Valley. The route would then work its way to Lake Cowichan and then south to hook up to the Galloping Goose Trail. The group also expressed an interest in having a trail that takes a route down the eastern side of the Island linking urban areas. The feasibility of exact routes will need to be determined. Island representatives are encouraged to join Hike BC and help plan the trail. See www.nationaltrail.ca/homepageenglish.htm for more information about the National Hiking Trail.

Trails Management

Participants at this workshop discussed topics related to trails management and preservation including: permitting, building, maintenance, and evaluation and tracking of trail conditions. Seven goals or objectives were developed in the workshop: 1) Establish an inventory to document wilderness roads that are deteriorating; 2) Establish an inventory and mapping of significant trails so the FMC is in a better position to protect and manage them; 3) Publish more brochures such as the Nootka Island Trail brochure; 4) Create a set of trails standards for development and maintenance; 5) Develop web site like the Washington Trails society (www.wta.org); 6) Network with other organizations like mountain bike clubs and associations; and 7) Help FMC clubs to get funding for trails work by taking advantage of our charitable status.

Roofed Accommodation in BC Parks

Draft FMC Guiding Principles

The following draft guiding principles will form the basis for a new FMC policy regarding roofed accommodation. The term “hut” will be used in this document to refer to roofed accommodation.

Principles	Implications
1. New huts within BC Provincial Parks should only be considered for those parks that have Park Management Plans in place.	Park Management Plans will have to be developed before any new huts should be considered.
2. Any new hut within a park must be consistent with that park’s Management Plan.	The FMC should participate actively in the development of Park Management Plans for any park where people might hike
3. The evaluation of proposals for new roofed accommodation must be a fair and open process. Stakeholders such as the FMC must be given reasonable opportunities to comment on all proposals.	Proposals for new huts will ultimately be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
4. New commercial, (i.e., for profit) lodges or other roofed accommodation should only be considered for locations that have existing paved road access.	No commercial accommodation should be permitted in the backcountry of any provincial park.
5. Resort style hotels or lodges (e.g., with pools, tennis courts, golf courses, or other similar amenities) are not to be built in any location in any park.	No resort style accommodation should be permitted in any provincial park.
6. New huts should only be considered for the purpose of resolving existing environmental issues in the specific area caused by high use of that area. In particular, huts will not be built for the sole purpose of improving access to an area	New huts will only be considered for areas that are already heavily used.
7. Any proposal for a new hut must include a specific plan for the on-going maintenance and operation of the structure. The Maintenance Plan must include a plan for funding the maintenance work in perpetuity. This includes a funding plan for periodic major repairs.	<p>We must avoid the situation where a club builds a hut and then abandons it or does not maintain it properly. One of the following scenarios are most likely to occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clubs commit t long term maintenance of huts for which a higher fee (e.g., \$15-\$25 per night) can be charged. That fee will fund the maintenance work • The park will have to commit to maintaining the more basic structures that include minimal or no fees. This is mostly likely will include stand-alone outhouses (at campsites) and very basic lean-tos. Parks is unlikely to commit to maintaining enclosed huts such as the one at Wedgemount Lake in Garibaldi Park.

Roofed Accommodation in BC Parks FMC Guiding Principles Continued

Principles	Implications
<p>8. New huts may be locked (or be staffed by a custodian) with access provided only to people with prior reservations. However any such accommodation must be available, at a reasonable cost, to the general public.</p>	<p>Clubs may build huts that restrict access to people who have made prior reservations. Reservations must be available to club members and non-members. There may be a difference in member and non-member fee rates. However the difference must be relatively small so that it is not perceived to be a barrier to usage by non-members.</p>
<p>9. The planning for and design of new huts must take into account the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net environmental impact: there must be a net environmental benefit to the area. i.e., no motorized access to huts is to be permitted in areas designated as non-motorized. (Fly-in access for maintenance work will be required for all huts, even those in non-motorized areas.) • Trails leading to huts: The maintenance and possible upgrading of access trails must be considered as part of the plans for any new hut • Future removal: the design should consider the long term impact to the site if the hut were to be removed at some point in the future <p>Hut system considerations: The planning for a new hut should be done in the context of the overall area. E.g., in some cases a system of two or more huts will be better than a single, larger hut.</p>	<p>New huts have to be well planned, taking into account several considerations.</p>



Shelters from left to right: Wheaton Hut, Strathcona Provincial Park, M. Stanley; Tent, Rearguard Campground, Mt. Robson Provincial Park, T. Loo; Wendy Thompson Hut, Marriott Basin, M. Stanley

Recreation and Conservation Committee Report

Pat Harrison and Sandra Nicol

The FMC Recreation and Conservation Committee (Rec and Con) is gearing up for another season of advocacy. Ongoing issues include backcountry resort and mechanized tenure proposals, the potential impact of proposed commercial lodges and associated motorized activity in Provincial Parks, and Provincial Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs). The roofed accommodation guidelines that were established at the AGM will be reviewed by the Rec and Con Committee and developed into a FMC policy.

After several years of Chairing the Rec and Con Committee both Mike Peel (BCMC) and Shane Koscielniak (KOK, BCMC) have stepped down. Sandra Nicol (VOC) has agreed take on the position of Co-Chair for this year and we are still looking for another Co-Chair. If anyone is interested and has the time to contribute to this important committee please contact Pat Harrison. A big thanks to Mike and Shane for their contributions over the past years. And thanks to Sandra for stepping up to the challenge. Following is a partial list of the issues and projects the Rec and Con Committee has and will be addressing.

Coast Range Heli-skiing Tenures

Coast Range Heliskiing Ltd. applied in June 2005 to Land and Water BC for a commercial heli-skiing, heli-hiking, and heli-fishing tenure for a large area surrounding the Duffey Lake Road and Seton Portage. Some of the areas included are high value backcountry skiing terrain (e.g. Steep Creek). Other areas border high value terrain and/or would affect high value terrain through helicopter noise. The application maps can be viewed on the Land and Water BC website, application number 3410470. The FMC will be working with the proponent and the province on this issue, especially in those areas deemed non-motorized. A list of areas included in the application, with my assessment of their relative values as ski terrain and current level of use, follows: Steep Creek (high value, high use), Haylmore Creek, Lost Valley

Creek (high value, low use), Downton Creek north, centre, and south branches (high value, low use), Spider Creek, Machute Creek, Copper Creek, Cinnamon Creek, East of Mt Rohr (high value, high use), Gott Creek (high value, medium use), Prospector Peaks (high value, medium use), Whitecap Peak and Creek (high value, low use).

Sea-to-Sky Backcountry Forums Update

As we go to press, the BC Government is asking that we reconvene the winter and summer backcountry forums. On the winter side, the BC government wants us to get the backcountry educational signs for the Sea-to-Sky Corridor up before winter. It appears that the government is willing to put in a few thousand dollars to make sure we have a sufficient number of educational signs. It may also assist with the production of brochures to give to winter recreationists to explain the planning process.

On the summer side, a few outstanding issues require resolution. We need to finalize the language in the summer forum as well as recheck some of the suggested zoning boundaries. The summer forum's work was done in six months while the winter forum work took place over a three year period.

The government is also willing to support the website of the backcountry forum as a public education tool. New LRMP maps have been produced and these need to be uploaded to the website. At the end of November, the original table members of the LRMP are supposed to be briefed on the status of the Sea-to-Sky LRMP. I look forward to attending this session and reporting back to federation members.

Juliet Creek Resort Proposal

The expression of interest for the Juliet Creek Resort Proposal near Coquihalla Summit (as reported in the previous *Cloudburst*) has been

approved. The proponent, Westscapes Development Inc., is now preparing its formal proposal. This 8897-hectare resort will be located in the vicinity of Juliet Creek and Upper Coldwater River and will have a controlled recreation area that will extend south as far as Zoa and Bighorn-Alpaca-Llama Peaks (see BCGS map sheet 93H.065/.075). This area is very valuable to non-motorized recreationists and the general public. FMC has sent letters and met with representatives of the former LWBC to express our concerns over the size and scale of the development and its encroachment on existing recreational use. We will continue to monitor this potential development. FMC also plans to host a workshop (see Land Use Workshop below) to map and inventory recreation values and impacts by other activities in the Coquihalla and Chilliwack areas.

Land Use Workshop

At the last Rec and Con meeting the committee recommended that the FMC sponsor a land use strategy workshop for Chilliwack and the Coquihalla area. Such a workshop would look at desired recreation/tourism uses, areas of high priority for non-motorized recreation, and a possible zoning system. This session would emulate the work that was done prior to the Sea- to-Sky backcountry forums. Both these areas are experiencing pressures from various tourism/recreation activity and proposals. Anyone who has experience with these areas and is interested in contributing to this process please contact the FMC office or reply to the Rec and Con listserv (rct-b@interchange.ubc.ca).

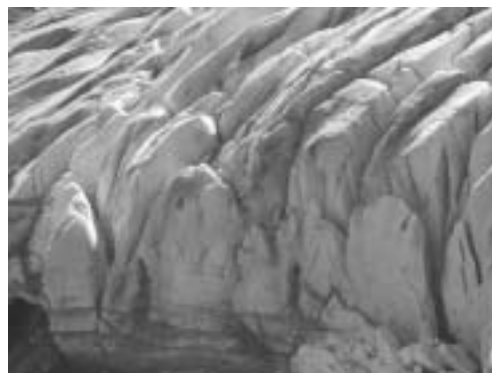
Helicopter Activity on the North Shore

This summer groups of hikers and picnickers were flown into the Goat Ridge area by a local helicopter operation. The FMC has received several complaints regarding these flights and continues to investigate what can be done to deal with this situation. There has also been promotion for new heli-hiking and heli-picnicking in the North Shore Mountains by Grouse Mountain Resort Ltd. We have also received complaints regarding over flights of the Lions and Crown Mountain by

various helicopter and fixed-wing carriers. This has been going on for many years, however the activity seems to be increasing and the flights getting lower. The FMC is concerned about this trend and will address the issue as best it can. Several thousand hikers use the North Shore Mountains and trails every year and helicopter activity has a definite impact on their experience.

Morice LRMP

FMC members in the Smithers area are working on an issue where the local snowmobile club is not respecting a non-motorized area designated in the Morice LRMP. The snowmobile club had agreed to this area designation and signed off on the LRMP. Now the club has changed its mind and is calling for the LRMP to be re-opened as it is not happy with the outcome. The area in question is one of a few non-motorized areas designated in the LRMP and an area of high value to non-motorized recreationists. The issue has the potential of undermining the LRMP process around the Province. The local ACC is asking FMC members and the public to send letters to local and provincial officials expressing concern over this issue. Contact the ACC-Prince George section for more info.



Seracs on the Robson Glacier, 2005. Ed Johnston

Enbridge Gateway Project, Edmonton to Kitimat

The proposed pipeline route for the Enbridge Gateway project from Edmonton to Kitimat has the potential to impact backcountry recreation throughout northern BC. FMC members will be attending workshops to provide input and express concerns about the project. Visit www.enbridge.com/gateway for more information.

Trails Committee Report

Pat Harrison and Alex Wallace

Lions Bay Access Resolution

The FMC has successfully negotiated parking at the Lions Bay Elementary School on weekends and holidays, and has completed a hiking trail from the school's gravel 'overflow' parking lot to the Sunset Drive Lions trailhead through the forest. The FMC received a positive front-page article in Lions Bay's newspaper, the *Seagull*. Thanks to Alex Wallace, Bill Sims, Gabriel and Suzanne Mazoret, and Pat Harrison for all their efforts in building the new trail section. In total there now is parking for about 60 cars on weekends (see following report by Pat Harrison for a complete report).

Adopt-A-Trail

The FMC Trails Committee is planning to restart the popular Adopt-A-Trail Program. The first task with this initiative will be to update who the Club Trail coordinators and individual trail volunteers are. Please contact Pat Harrison (patharrison@shaw.ca) with this information for your club so we can update what trails are being maintained and which trails need work.

Cypress Park Developments

FMC and Friends of Cypress have helped plan the re-route of the Baden Powell Trail around the 2010 Olympic venues and mountain bike park etc. The new B-P Trail section will use part of the Yew Lake Trail (rebuilt by FMC twelve years ago) and switchback up through second growth forest to Cabin Lake. A temporary Black Mountain access route is planned while construction is underway over the next few years.

Meanwhile funding that had been secured for trail projects on the top of Black Mountain (as announced by BC Parks this past summer) seems to be put on hold. FMC Trails Committee will be following up on this 'promising' situation with Parks and the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC).

BC Parks is seeking a major 2010 legacy funding agreement VANOC to get an overdue and comprehensive Howe Sound Crest Trail rebuild (possibly including replacing the decrepit mountain shelters) with the help of the Federation of Mountain Clubs. We hope this project will soon be up and running. We will keep members updated on this project.

Comox Glacier Trail and Access

Timber West is planning cut blocks in the upper Comox Creek area adjacent to Strathcona Park. Logging in this area could seriously affect the Comox Glacier Trail and has the potential to destroy it all together. The trail is an important access to Strathcona Park and the mountains around Comox and Cliffe Glaciers. Established in 1911, Strathcona Park is BC's oldest park and hikers and mountaineers have been accessing this area of the park since the 1920's. The FMC is working with the Comox District Mountaineering Club (CDMC) and other Island clubs to address this issue with TimberWest.

TimberWest Road Closures

TimberWest has been initiating road closures during working hours, significantly restricting access to trails and routes beyond Comox Lake. They also want groups like the CDMC to pay for an access permit and carry costly forest fire liability insurance in case a member starts a forest fire while accessing the Comox Glacier. During the week a security guard stops vehicles to check for permits. However, on the weekends there is no security guard and the road is wide open to the public.

Sea-to-Sky Highway Upgrade

The new Sunset Trail parking and access is on track and expected to be opened in 2006. Highways has committed to a new 30-car parking lot on the east side of the highway at Deeks Lake/Porteau Cove. The location and design is still unclear as there is an impending development proposed for this area (see below).



Nootka Trail, Summer 2005, Lorrie Lech.

The FMC proposal for enhanced Brew Lake access via Brandywine Park will not go ahead. We are waiting to see the feasibility study for the Sea-to-Sky Trail route before we progress on this issue. In the meantime, a new spur road now intersects Brew summer trail higher up off the Brew Main; however, this road may become washed out due to poor drainage. The Varsity Outdoor Club (VOC) has access to a gate key for Brew Main. Members can contact the VOC for further information. The VOC have put in a new trail at Roe Creek providing alternate winter/summer access to Mt. Brew.

The court case filed against the Province by the Municipality of West Vancouver regarding the highway construction at Eagle Ridge has been thrown out of court. Plans for the Eagleridge section of the Baden Powell Trail are expected to move ahead as planned in 2006. This will include a re-routing of about 400 m of the Trail, with a footbridge for hikers, where the new highway will obliterate existing sections. Planning meetings for this section of highway will start in January 2006.

Deeks Lake/Porteau Cove Developments

The FMC has learned there are plans for a major development in the Deeks Lake/Porteau Cove area by the Squamish First Nation with Concord Pacific as the contractor. Details on this project are not yet available, but we will monitor the issue. Farther south along the the highway, trails in the Deeks Bluffs/Deeks Creek area have already been logged and access may be unclear. The FMC has decided to focus its efforts on maintaining access to the Deeks Lake/Howe Sound Crest Trail access, which seems in everyone's interest — including BC Parks. BC Parks and Ministry of Highways is aware of the situation and will be working with the developers (along with the FMC) to resolve access concerns.

Other notes

- Alex Wallace, June Binkert, and various MEC staff members have worked on trails in Mount Seymour Park. A couple of local clubs have expressed interest in adopting the Mt Seymour main trail.
- Gabriel Mazoret and Evan Loveless continued to monitor the development of the District of North Vancouver Alpine Recreation Strategy. The District has been reviewing the use and construction of trails and receiving input from various user groups, including the FMC, as part of a land use planning process. A final plan is expected to be made public soon.
- Roy Howard and fellow Fraser Headwater Alliance members have completely brushed out the Goat River Trail. The Goat River Trail is part of the National Hiking Trail in BC.
- The Trails Committee is planning to re-publish the Bus-to-Trails brochure. Robert Batt of the North Shore Hikers has volunteered to take on this project. If anyone has suggestions or input for this brochure please contact us.



Lillooet Icefield, Manrico Scremin

Club Profile

North Shore Hikers

Gordon Dunham

The North Shore Hikers was formed in 1958 with 16 members and dues of \$1. Initially, one hike was scheduled every other week, leaving the open week to reschedule cancelled hikes due to weather. It was not until the late sixties before more than one hike was scheduled for the same day.

From humble beginnings, the club has grown to one of the largest in BC, with about 700 members from all over the Lower Mainland. Our quarterly schedule averages seven activities per weekend, with more choices in the warmer months. In addition, mid-week hikes are posted on the web site. The club dues are \$25 per year, with contributions to the FMCBC and five local rescue groups (whose services we hope to avoid).

In addition to hiking, the club's activities have expanded to include cycling, snowshoeing, backcountry skiing and backpacking. In the winter, snowshoeing replaces hiking as it has wide appeal and a lot of the coastal terrain is not suitable for skiing. We cater to members with a wide range of aspirations, from fairly easy to exhausting. We try to minimize our trip cancellations. Areas visited include local mountains, Howe Sound, Whistler, Chilliwack and Manning Park. After longer hikes, it's common to stop for drinks and a bite to eat. On occasion, there are multi-day trips to areas such as the Chilcotins and Rockies. The club has adopted seven trails and schedules regular maintenance.

When visiting the Lower Mainland, members of other clubs are welcome to join us on a trip. The club continues to evolve to better meet the needs of our members. Our goal is to ensure that each participant on a trip has an enjoyable experience in our beautiful surroundings. www.northshorehikers.org



Courtesy Tami Knight

Ramblings

Trip to Nuk Tessli The Home of Chris Czajkowski August 11th- 14th 2005

Carol Monaghan, Valley Outdoor Association

The flight by six VOA members from Nimpo Lake to Chris Czajkowski's Nuk Tessli was made in picture perfect weather. Cameras were at the ready as the Beaver float plane made several passes over Hunlen Falls and the glistening ice fields of Monarch Mountain before gliding onto the lake known variously as Whitton, Spinster or simply "Chris's Lake." Chris was at the dock to meet our group with her canine helpmates Bucky and Raffi; it was a picture right out of *B.C. Magazine*.

After settling into the cabin, our group was invited to tea at Chris's cabin. We were treated to homemade bread fresh out of Chris's outdoor rock oven. Then it was off for an afternoon of canoeing around the lake. When asked what time to be back for supper, Chris replied: "I don't have a watch, but we usually eat when the sun goes below the supper tree." We weren't sure where the supper tree was, but we were on time. It was a great first evening, but we were puzzled when another group of guests asked if we were from a book club??? We made sure we flexed our hiking muscles whenever we saw them

One of the special events of the supper hour was listening to the "musical interlude" provided by Bucky and Raffi. They always waited patiently on the porch until we'd finished eating. As the moments passed, they crept closer to the screen door and began to "sing" in ever-increasing volume for their supper. Both dogs were models of good behavior and always ready for some ear scratching.

Chris was our guide for a full day hike to "The Mammaries." Raffi carried the panniers and Bucky was free to cool himself in any knee-deep water he could find. The climb led to the ridge where Chris pointed out some of the areas which had been devoured by last year's forest fire. The fire which reached a valley near Nuk Tessli had forced Chris to leave her cabin for several weeks. The last section of the climb led onto "The Nipples" (these names have been inspired by hikers' imaginations and are not official names) and here some of the group shed damp shirts, etc. It's amazing what a moment of euphoria will bring about

Another highlight was heading off in the canoes at 6 a.m. (together with a thermos of tea) to watch the rays from the rising sun hit Monarch Mountain. Unfortunately, we had not been in the optimum picture-taking spot the first morning so the process was repeated next morning. Chris wanted us to capture mountain views and lake reflections similar to those that had appeared in *B.C. Magazine*.

All of us had read her books, which recounted how she had built her first cabin at Lonesome Lake and then moved on to carve out a new homestead at Nuk Tessli. The two guest cabins had been built by Chris and her chainsaw, but she had help in building the larger main cabin which is her home / guest dining room / creative space for her painting and writing. Her laptop computer, which is a necessity for both her writing and her email, is powered by two solar panels.

Our outward bound plane flew in five WWOOF-ERS, an acronym for "Willing Workers on Organic Farms." These young people would receive room and board at Nuk Tessli in return for five hours of work per day with duties such as trail work, chopping wood and maintenance chores.



Nuk Tessli, 2005.

It was delightful to meet Chris and to experience life at Nuk Tessli. She had fond memories of Marg Hunter, who had been instrumental in having Chris speak at the VOA. She also holds Rene Savenye in high regard and had always enjoyed joining him on his fossil hunting trips. We're grateful to Chris for her hospitality, but also for providing us with a new hiking term (paraphrased from a Chinese saying). It's applied to those loooong hikes where you assume you have reached the top, but you're not even close. The phrase is 'Rejoice Too Soon.'

We felt that Chris gave us good marks for our hiking abilities, a so-so grade for our canoeing skills, but we were definitely not up to the mark for Slap Scrabble (except for Sharon). We redeemed ourselves by happily eating leftovers after her long day of guiding, by insisting on having her famous Spotted Dick steamed pudding with our breakfast, by making her laugh at our entry in her guest book, and finally by our purchase of her wonderful books and prints.

Our recommendation: GO. It's a great experience. Check out the website (Nuk Tessli Alpine Experience), or email at: chris@nuktessli.ca. Book early. Chris will be speaking at libraries in British Columbia the fall.

Alpine Flowers,
Nuk Tessli trip.

Melvin and Lost Valley Creeks

Sandra Nicol

On June 30, 2005, I left Vancouver with a group of friends and headed north in two trucks supplied with lasagna, doughnuts and two-way radios. Our destination: the Hurley Silver Mine Road. We spent the next four days walking through valleys and over ridges, exploring Melvin and Lost Valley Creeks, finishing our trip in Seton Portage. These areas are still wild, displaying the most amazing alpine flowers that I have yet seen. We went because they are threatened by development including logging, a ski resort, and an independent power project. We returned convinced that they are worth more whole than the money that could be made from them.

On the first evening we slept at the base of the Hurley Silver Mine Road, after talking with the inhabitants of a St'at'imc (Stat-lee-um) protest camp at the base of the road. People have occupied the camp continuously since 2000 to protest the Cayoosh/Melvin Creek Ski Resort proposal (proponents: Nancy Green and husband Al Raine). The proposal received approval from the Environmental Assessment Office in 2000. The ski resort proposal has been rejected by the St'at'imc for 15 years, but is still in the tenure process.

On July 1st we drove to 6500ft and started walking. Nearly every slope that we encountered was steep enough that footing was important, and slipping could mean a long roll. The rest of the day was spent traversing and scrambling a ridge around the headwaters of Haylmore Creek and dropping down to a hanging valley draining to Melvin Creek. On July 2nd we continued down into Melvin Creek, following a rough trail (which eventually led us to someone's cabin). We continued on to the headwaters of Melvin Creek, crossing the largest grassy slopes near Vancouver, reaching upper Twin Lake in the late afternoon. Upper Twin Lake can also be reached by following an ATV trail up Barkley Valley. The most technical section of our traverse came next: a short scramble to a col overlooking Lost Valley Creek, then a steep snow slope into the headwaters. This route is not beginner friendly (our beginner may or may not have forgiven us). We had a beautiful camp near a small headwater lake.

We spent the next two days following the creek, first on a bench system to the west, then along an intermittent foot path on the east side. Eventually we met the trail that was being constructed by the Western Canada Wilderness Committee and the St'at'imc First Nation from Seton Portage to the headwaters.

The development activities proposed for Lost Valley require road access. This would change the valley dramatically. Access from Vancouver is currently difficult; either drive to Seton Portage and hike for about 15 km to get to the alpine, pass through non-beginner terrain from Twin Lake, or scramble over the ridge from Haylmore Creek (some technical ability probably required). A road would change that, and open the valley up to further exploitation such as logging (if BC Timber Sales, which is owned by the Crown, does not put the road in first). Lost Valley is also included in a heli-skiing tenure application from Coast Range Heliskiing Ltd. This application is being reviewed by Land and Water BC and can be viewed on Land and Water's website (search for #3410470). See the Rec and Con Report for more information on this tenure application.

These valleys are home to mountain goats, grizzly bears and spotted owls. They are also on the border between two climate types: coastal rainforest and interior rain shadow. In four days of hiking I identified 91 species of plants without even trying to do the mosses, grasses, or shrubs. A more experienced naturalist who does not need to look most things up would have found far more. We saw no people until we had nearly reached Seton Portage, but we did see quite a bit of flagging tape of varying age, and several old blazes. Some of the flagging tape said 'road centerline' on it. We took these signs as an indication that this area is being explored for exploitation. Melvin and Lost Valley Creeks are the largest unexploited valleys in the Cayoosh area, and need protection if they are going to stay that way.

Participants: Tim Blair, Sandra Nicol, Scott Nelson, James Griffiths, Mike Rosen and Eloginy Tharmendran.

Updates

Government Restructuring

The provincial government has undergone a significant re-structuring, one that has the potential to benefit the FMC and other public recreation interests. A new Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts (MTSA) has been created. This ministry has responsibility for all tourism and resort planning and development. The Ministry will also have a Public Recreation Branch. Forest Recreation assets and staff will be transferred to this new department housed under MTSA. There is also a new Ministry of Environment (MOE) and Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (MAL). The Integrated Land Management Bureau, housed in MAL, will take on the responsibility for land use planning and land tenures etc. Land and Water BC (LWBC) no longer exists and most staff and functions have been transferred to other ministries.

Smoke Bluffs

The FMC continues to be a key stakeholder in a park development process for the Squamish Smoke Bluffs. The proposed new regional park operated by the District of Squamish will encompass the Smoke Bluffs climbing crags and adjacent forestlands, and is expected to include the land the FMC purchased in the late 1980s to save it from housing development. The FMC is seeking several concessions in

exchange for the land, including a mechanism to protect the land in perpetuity, a permanent and meaningful role in park governance and suitable recognition for the steps the FMC took to protect these lands. The park development plan is expected to be completed by the end of November or early December.

The Land Conservancy Squamish Activities

The Land Conservancy of BC (TLC) now owns the gravel pit between Stawamus Chief and Shannon Falls Provincial Parks. This was to be the base station site for the proposed tourist gondola that would go up the Stawamus Chief. A big thanks goes to TLC for this key acquisition. The gravel pit will be leased to the contractor on the Sea-to-Sky highway upgrade project for the next three to four years. They will use the land as a site office and for storing equipment and supplies. In the meantime, TLC will be working on a long-term plan for the land with stakeholders. TLC is also working on other strategic land acquisitions in the Squamish area to add to the local park network. Information about TLC, and how to join or donate, is at www.conservancy.bc.ca.

FMC Foundation/Fund

The FMC Board is exploring options for setting up a separate investment/fundraising vehicle. These options include setting up a foundation, or starting a fund within an existing foundation or financial institution. Any member that has experience with these vehicles and would like to

help with advice or strategy please contact the office or Pat Harrison.

Environment Fund of British Columbia

As many members are aware the FMC is a member of the Environment Fund of BC (EFBC) and has been since 1995. EFBC is a work place giving program, much like United Way, except donations go to charitable organizations working on environmental issues and causes. There are presently eleven moderate environmental organizations enrolled including the Outdoor Recreation Council and the FMC. Similar to United Way, EFBC runs donation campaigns in various companies. We have had some successes with a couple of major local companies but we need to expand into many more to achieve fundraising goals and sustain the fund. If any member has any insights or leads to get EFBC into their company please contact Evan Loveless. We hope to run a donation campaign in the spring.

ACMG Mountain Conditions Report

The Association of Canadian Mountain Guides (ACMG) has launched a new web information portal called the Mountain Conditions Report. The idea is that ACMG guides will post field observations, current conditions and updated route information. During high seasons the ACMG will try to provide a synopsis every Thursday or Friday morning,

which will summarize general conditions. This is a public service offered by the ACMG to assist in trip planning. Still in its early stages, the information is provided on a volunteer basis. See <http://acmg.ca/>

Mount Arrowsmith

Peter Rothermel

Hopefully the snow will fly soon and we will get a deep winter pack. This past season, pretty much every bit of snow melted off the mountain by fall time. Only the main gully had an ice cube left and that was smaller than a VW Bug. This is a record low and something I personally have never seen in the 35 years that I have been hiking on Arrowsmith. Fortunately, there has been sufficient rain to keep the rivers full enough for returning salmon. The usual August and September snowmelt contribute greatly to the Englishman and Little Qualicum Rivers systems in dry years. If we have a low snowpack year like this past winter, in combination with a super-dry summer/fall like we experienced the last two years, the rivers — and maybe even the aquifers that we humans rely on — may be compromised.

Park Status

The initiative to gain protected park status for Mount Arrowsmith is gaining ground. Representatives of the Federation of Mountain Clubs and the Alpine Club teamed up with the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and presented our proposal to senior staff of the province's Ministry of the Environ-

ment (Dick Heath, Regional Manager, and Sharon Ericson, Planning Section Head). Ministry staff seem to favour a partnership which would see Mount Arrowsmith become a Provincial Park administered by the Regional District and stewarded by the FMCBC and the ACC. This means that Arrowsmith could eventually get Class A Provincial Park status, with the Regional District providing the infrastructure (staff to organize, provide funding for signage, etc.) and the clubs as stewards, maintaining the trails (which we already do).

Our *ad hoc* committee has submitted to the Ministry of Environment a Land Evaluation and Acquisition Framework (LEAF) form for review. Proposed park land is subjected to a LEAF review. The review ranks the land in a number of categories including ecological integrity, management efficiency, recreational opportunities, etc. I think Arrowsmith will rate fairly high in most categories.

As well, we are trying to set up meetings with the three new MLAs from the ridings that touch upon the Massif. We have verbal support from Leonard Krog, Nanaimo South (NDP) and Scott Fraser, Alberni/Qualicum (NDP). We have not yet received a response from letters sent to Ron Cantelon, Nanaimo/Parksville (Liberal).

Overall, we are further ahead towards gaining Arrowsmith park status than ever before. A tip of the hat to Jeff Ainge &

Tom Osborne (RDN), Don Cameron & Harriet Ruggeberg (ACC) and Evan Loveless (FMCBC), for being front line people. Also thanks to Cedric Zala, Martin Hoffman, Sandy Briggs & Barb Baker (ACC), Ralph Hutchinson & Bill Perry (IMR) and Judy & Harold Carlson (AVOC) for carrying an equally important load behind the scenes.

Judges Route Logging

It appears that Island Timberlands is holding off on their logging plans on the Judges Route. While this may seem like good news, it may mean that another very valuable, more sensitive wilderness area will get the axe. My last communications with the timber companies were quite a while ago. Our greatest fear now is that the valley leading up from the last switchback on Pass Main to the cirques below the main gully will be logged in trade for the Judges Route. If this happens, it will ruin one of the most aesthetic approaches to the alpine that this mountain has to offer.

Arrowsmith Ski Park

The Alberni/Clayoquot Regional District owns the defunct ski area on the north slopes of Mt. Cokely. It has committed to putting more than \$100 000 over three years into cleaning up the area. The Regional District has awarded the clean up contract to Denis Francoeur, with his bid of \$82,510. They are allowing another \$40,000 for unexpected findings.

Meanwhile, the upper road through the ski park has been

reactivated by a logging company, Dorman Timber, so they can access some of their property east of the park. The road access, in general, on Cameron and Pass Mains has improved. This also means logging trucks may be encountered, even on weekends.

Regional Parks & Trails Advisory Committee

Fellow Alpine Club member Harriet Rueggerberg and I have been appointed to the Regional District of Nanaimo Parks and Trails Advisory Committee. Harriet brings a wealth of park planning experience with her and I'm looking forward to learning more about park infrastructure.

Since the Arrowsmith Massif is wholly within the Regional District of Nanaimo, I am pleased to be part of the committee that will help form park policy.

National Hiking Trail

Pat Harrison

The National Hiking Trail continues to gain momentum. The Federation of Mountain Clubs is a major contributor to this effort with several of its clubs participating, including Fraser Headwaters Alliance, Caledonia Ramblers and Alpine Club of Canada – Prince George Section (via the Prince George Backcountry Recreation Association), the Comox District Mountaineering Club, and the Alberni Valley Outdoor Club.

In recent weeks, it has come to my attention that the Prince George 4 X 4 club is making a request to the BC Forest Service to expand the use of 4 X 4 s on the Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail, a major portion of the east – west main trail from Alberta to Bella Coola. David King of the Caledonia Ramblers and a director of Hike BC have alerted the BC Forest Service that this trail has been signed over to Hike BC to be maintained as a non-motorized trail. Here is another sample of motorized activity intruding into pristine areas of BC. We have voiced our opposition loud and clear, but we must remain vigilant that this does not occur.

On the southern portion of the National Trail from Pemberton to Victoria, several events have or are unfolding. The Sea to Sky Trail Association has given permission for the National Hiking Trail to use their trail from Pemberton to Squamish. From Squamish south, we have received permission to explore the trails of the Chief, Shannon, and Cypress Provincial Parks for inclusion as part of the NHT. There are two people working on gaining access for the trail from Langdale to Earl's Cove. From Saltery Bay to Powell River, the Sunshine Coast Trail Association has not only given permission to use their trail, but also has signed the trail with NHT trail markers.

The Log Train Trail to Port Alberni section is in the works. It appears from the FMC Vancouver Island delegates meeting held November 5 that this will be a challenge, as it will be necessary

to gain access across TimberWest private property. The private property access issue is heating up and the FMC and Island delegates are gearing up to convince TimberWest to be more positive about access on their land. It all comes down to concerns over liability and vandalism. South of Port Alberni, the Alberni Valley Outdoor Club is working a section of trail along the old Canadian Pacific Railway grade. We hope to include this in the NHT. At the AGM last June in Victoria, the NHT concept was unanimously endorsed by FMC delegates.

On the national scene, Hike Canada continues to gain members. We had our fifth successful AGM (after a hiatus of fifteen years) in Chertsey, Québec on October 1st, with ten directors attending from across Canada. In Newfoundland, the East Coast Trail Association is moving along with its trail along the coast. The HC Director in Nova Scotia is in discussions with the government over the formation of Hike Nova Scotia. The Dobson Trail continues to grow slowly in New Brunswick. The Fédération of sentier national du québec is closing in on finishing their portion of the trail across Québec. The Rideau, Ganaraska, Bruce, and Voyageur Trails are forming the NHT in Ontario under the auspices of Hike Ontario. The 2006 AGM will be held in Ottawa on September 30th. Little trail has been built in Manitoba or Saskatchewan although we have a club in Manitoba working on the

trail. In Alberta, Hike Alberta was informally formed this year and is trying to gather new members.

In BC, Hike BC was formalized this year as a not-for-profit organization to coordinate the NHT in BC. This will permit the various clubs that are part of Hike BC to apply for funding to develop the NHT. Hike BC has applied to join the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC in order for the non-motorized users of this trail to be heard better. The next AGM (our sixth) will be held in Quesnel in late April. We are planning on working on the NHT in the vicinity of Quesnel on several days after the AGM. Last year we identified and mapped, using GPS, a seven kilometre route around a private property. It now needs to have NHT trail markers applied to it.

Lions Bay

Pat Harrison

In December 2004, I began to negotiate with the Village of Lions Bay regarding the parking conflict between hikers and residents of Lions Bay. With the election of a totally new mayor and council, it seemed like a prime opportunity to approach the Village without any past baggage on either side. I first had an informal meeting with Mayor Douglas Miller. He was most receptive to pursuing discussions on the topic. He invited me to do a presentation to council. As a sign of good faith, the council immediately pulled down some of the resident only signs at Sunset and signed it for

hikers (approximately 10 – 15 cars).

My approach was to be positive and to offer solutions rather than castigate anyone for past events. One of the ideas Council supported was a trail system from the primary school on Bayview to the parking area on Sunset. I then researched the area and found that a fairly good trail existed for about two-thirds of the way. I also pursued talks with Dave Lasser of Terminal Forest Products (also a BCMC member) about using a heliport on the south side of Lions Bay for a future trail that would eliminate the need for hikers to park in the Village. Dave Lasser and I presented our proposals to the Village Council in July 2004 and Council endorsed them.

The next step was approval from the West Vancouver School Board. Mayor Miller and I met with the School Board four times in an effort to gain access to the parking lot at the primary school. Finally, in the spring of 2005, the School Board was satisfied that the Occupiers Liability Act would cover its liability if parking was permitted. Officials granted permission for parking during non-school hours on weekends and during the months of July and August.

In July 2005, the Trails Committee of the Federation of Mountain Clubs proceeded with building the last one-third of the trail and signing the trail from the primary school to the trail leading from the Sunset parking area. In early September, Mayor



Paul Chatterton

Early season ski, Blue River area.

Miller and I hiked the new trail. He was most pleased. He wrote an article for the local newspaper, the *Seagull*, which landed on the front page. In the article, the mayor praised the efforts of the Federation of Mountain Clubs and he encouraged the citizens of Lions Bay to embrace the trail for their use as well.

While this was a slow process, it ultimately produced most of the results the FMC and Lion's Bay Council had hoped for. I look forward to meeting the members of the new council after the election this fall and continuing our positive relations.

Terminal Forest Products is committed to handing their heliport over to the Federation of Mountain Clubs for parking sometime in the near future, after they finish their snap-and-fly operation. They will continue to maintain the road and parking lot as they will from time to time want to do periodic snap-and-fly logging. We appreciate their cooperation as well.

Around the Province

Chilliwack - The Great Outside

Jack Bryceland

Most of you who have driven past Chilliwack on Highway 1 will be familiar with one aspect of Chilliwack's great outside - the odour at barn-cleaning time. However this article is about something else.

Over the last couple of years Tourism Chilliwack has been promoting Chilliwack as The Great Outside. To give you an idea of the scale of this promotion, note the following numbers: a brochure, titled Chilliwack Hiking Trail Guide, was produced. An initial print run of 10,000 was soon gone and another 15,000 were printed. At the beginning of summer 2005 that 15,000 were all gone so another 10,000 were ordered. They are mostly gone too. With a full-colour map and Photographs, the brochure gives access information for 25 hiking trails in the area. The brochure is available free at information centres, hotels, RV parks, and campsites. Since they are free, many of the people picking them up are probably wannabees, but what if just 2% of the people who took these pamphlets were stimulated to go hiking? That's an extra 700 hikers out there and yet trails across the province, not just in Chilliwack, are suffering serious neglect from simplistic Liberal 'make-it-pay' beliefs applied to BC Parks and BC Forest Service Recreation



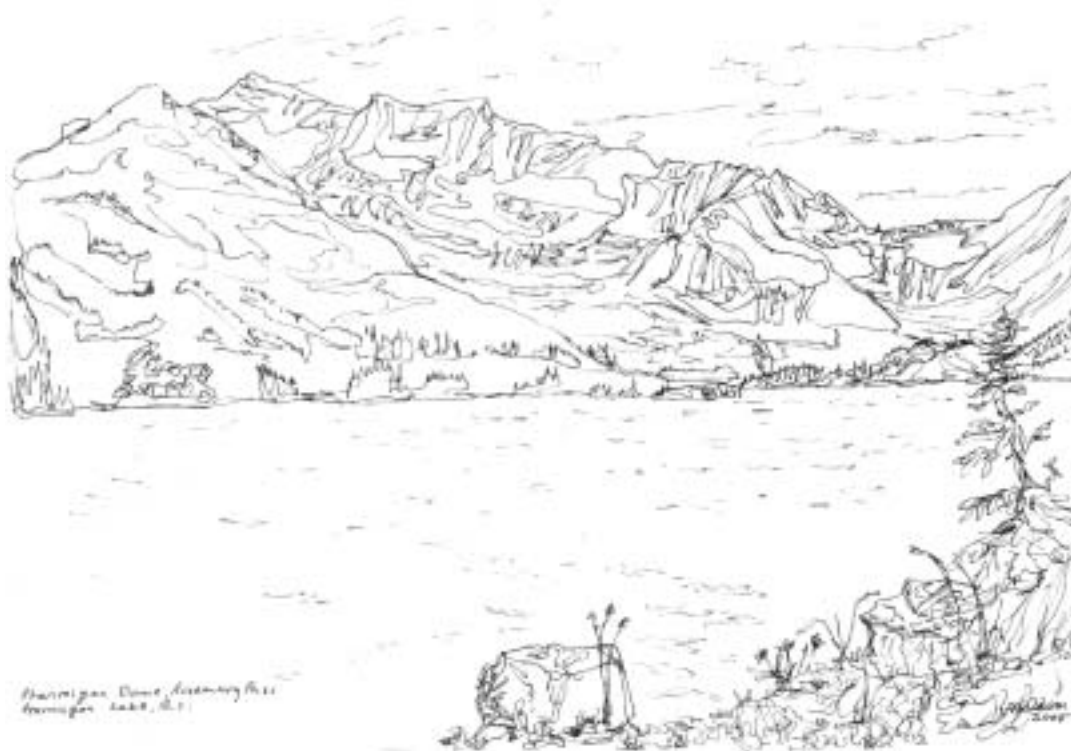
facilities (We all need to remember the sign that Albert Einstein reputedly had hanging above his desk: 'Not everything that can be counted counts and not everything that counts can be counted').

The local section of the FMC Trails Committee (Gary Baker,

Neil Grainger & I) set out in an attempt to make local politicians and businesses stand behind the 'smoke & mirrors' to ensure the success of the promotion i.e. if you promote a trail, then provide the means so that the trail will be a positive experience for the hiker. Another related initiative, to show that the hikers themselves are responsible people, was to rejuvenate the Adopt-A-Trail programme which FMC coordinated for many years with great success.

After numerous discussions and meetings, which included the Mayor and the MLA, we can report a couple of initial successes. The Mount Cheam trail is being made into a Regional Park to be maintained by the Fraser Valley Regional District with the active cooperation of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club. The Club has also signed a simple maintenance agreement with the Ministry of Forests for the Pierce Lake Trail. An agreement between the Club and BC Parks for the International Ridge Trail is on the horizon.

An overactive summer of personal outdoor adventures has meant that the trail maintenance accomplishments are less than we had hoped. However, tentative approaches have been made to other clubs, groups and individuals. As we continue to work at it through the rainy season we hope to have more agreements in place before the sun starts north again.



Ptarmigan Dome, Rosemary Pass, Tweedsmuir Provincial Park. Tricia Daum, 2005.

Exploring the Beauty of Provincial Parks Outdoor Club of Victoria

David and Lois Thompson
and Jitka Kotler.

Marble Meadows- Strathcona Provincial Park

Accessing the meadows by canoe and backpack, nine of us spent a cool, misty, moist four days in this rugged beautiful part of the park. The Wheaton Hut was our base camp, which was a welcome shelter from the rain and cold winds. Although most of us slept in tents, we cooked and ate in the hut.

Manning Provincial Park

Ten of us had two glorious days hiking up into the alpine of this beautiful park. Climbing Mt. Outram (2400 m.) one day and hiking the Heather Trail to Big

Buck Mt. (2143 m.) the next. There were wild flowers in profusion and mountain tops as far as the eye could see.

Cathedral Lakes Provincial Park

With fair weather holding, 15 of us enjoyed three superb days of wide open alpine hiking in this gorgeous park. We hiked all the trails, climbed all the mountains, (2600 m.+), swam in the lakes, saw mountain goats, deer, marmots, pikas, birds, fish, flowers and turquoise lakes. The mountain vista was incredible; we identified mountain peaks as far away as Mt. Hood.

Coquihalla Pass

Nine of us spent two days in this area (new to us) camping at Othello Tunnels Campground. We hiked Needle Peak above the

Coquihalla Pass summit the first day. This was an excellent hike, not too difficult except for a bit of scrambling to reach the peak. There were magnificent views of many familiar peaks, Mt. Outram, Mt. Baker, Mt. Garibaldi and many more. We looked through the "eye of the needle" too. The second day we hiked through the Quintette Tunnels over the Coquihalla River.

Jedediah Island Marine Park

Four OCV members joined up with members of the Cowichan Kayak and Canoe Club and did a five-day sea kayak trip to this lovely isolated island park located between Lasqueti and Texada Island in the Strait of Georgia. We accessed it with the aid of a fish boat and the Lasqueti Island Ferry.

New Bus Service to Lions Bay Benefits Hikers

In September 2005 Translink introduced the C12 Community Shuttle route connecting Caulfeild Village and Horseshoe Bay in West Vancouver to Lions Bay. This bus route makes it possible for hikers to get to and from Lions Bay seven days a week. In the past the #259 Lions Bay bus was the only route to Lions Bay, and then only weekdays leaving Lions Bay in the late afternoon (this route still operates).

An example of a schedule to Lions Bay, Monday to Saturday:

- Take #250 Horseshoe Bay from downtown Vancouver, 8:20am at Homer/Dunsmuir, or 8:40 at Park Royal; to terminus in Horseshoe Bay (Keith/Bay).
- Take C12 Lions Bay from Horseshoe Bay, 9:25am at Keith/Bay. Arrives 9:40am at Highway 99/Oceanview Road underpass.

Note that from Vancouver on weekdays this is a three-zone fare, from West and North Vancouver a two-zone fare.

Of course, you then have to walk up to either trailhead in Lions Bay. However, you don't have to be concerned about parking, even if this issue seems resolved at the moment. Another advantage is that you can hike a circle route from one trailhead to



Vancouver from Crown Mountain, Paul Chatterton

the other: up from the Sunset Drive trailhead to the Binkert Trail to the Howe Sound Crest Trail, then south to Unnecessary Mountain and down the trail that leaves from the North Peak to Oceanview Road trailhead (allow at least seven hours of hiking time for this trip).

You could also choose to return to West Vancouver on the Howe Sound Crest Trail to Cypress Bowl, then take the gravel road on the west side of Cypress Creek down to Cypress Falls Park and take the #253 Caulfeild Bus at Woodgreen Drive/Woodgreen Place back to Park Royal. In the past I was able to do this trip only in reverse and taking the #259 back to Park Royal.

For more info contact West Vancouver Transit customer service at 604-985-7777; or get the West Vancouver bus schedule (latest is dated April 30, 2005) and the separate C12 schedule (Sept. 06, 2005) at North Shore libraries

and Vancouver Public Library (Central); or visit www.translink.bc.ca (note that this website requires very high speed internet service), or www.westvancouver.ca/article.asp?

Alberni Valley Outdoor Club

Harold Carlson, President

Our club is active in hiking, snow-shoeing, skiing, climbing, canoeing and kayaking. We have recently put some effort into exploring and improving routes in new areas around Marion Creek and the upper Ash and Nahmint valleys. We notice that none of us is getting any younger, and we find the time spent pruning out underbrush is repaid in the decreased effort it takes us to get above the tree line.

At lower elevations, we have had the help of some Katimavik volunteers who have joined our weekly work parties to reopen the 1913 CNP rail grade (the

northern terminus of Victoria's Galloping Goose Trail). This is our second year on this project. The rail grade is intended to become a part of the National Hiking Trail, but there is a long way to go yet.

We are actively supporting the FMC's project of making the Mt Arrowsmith massif a park, and we are trying to keep the importance of backcountry recreation recognized under the changed tenures and the new management of our surrounding

Comox District Mountaineering Club

Diana Fright, Secretary

The club's activities for the season drew to a close on 29 October with our traditional potluck supper. About 60 members showed up to dine on a huge variety of delicious foods. After the meal was over our president, Ken Rodonets, presented five members with CDMC Lifetime Memberships in grateful acknowledgment of their service to the club. Ruth Masters was a teenager when she joined the club in the 1930s; Ken Stoker joined in the 50s; Don and Sylvia Apps joined in the 60s; and Chris Pielou, though not a long-time member, is over 80 years of age and still leads hikes

In early September this year, President Ken Rodonets received an e-mail from the TimberWest operations planner which stated that clear-cutting the Comox Glacier Trail is not on the company's plan for next year, but will probably be on the

plan for 2007. He added that TimberWest "is still hoping that BC Parks will decide to trade for the area. However, even if a land swap is successfully negotiated, or TimberWest accedes to requests to leave a buffer along the trail, there still remains the problem of access to the trailhead along Comox Lake Road. TimberWest has restricted access along this road throughout most of the hiking season this year, and since logging activities continue in the area, access is likely to continue to be restricted in the future.



Kicking steps, Mount Matier, 2004.

Editorial

Meg Stanley

I was surprised when I looked back over my collection of *Cloudbursts* and realized that I have been its editor since winter 2003/2004. As editor, I have focussed on making the FMC's newsletter attractive and readable. Without any training in

graphic design I've found this fairly challenging. I've made incremental changes and benefited a great deal from the assistance of a competent copy-editor and the advice of friends with training in design. This issue Tammy Marlowe has taken up the challenge of copy-editing and I would like to thank her for her work.

Generating content is perhaps the greatest challenge faced by the editor of the newsletter of voluntary organization. For the most part, I've been able to leave the article wrangling to Evan Loveless. There are more people in his debt than in mine! I would love to see more content come in from members. High resolution photographs and artwork are welcome, especially if they relate to content. In the future, I would like to see Ramblings develop into a feature of the newsletter that combines member experiences with broader themes and issues in short reflective pieces of about 700 words. Book reviews are another area I would like to develop with more regular and systematic coverage, even if it is simply listings, of recent publications of interest to FMC members. Wider geographic coverage with more news from member clubs is another area where I think the newsletter could improve.

Just as content is welcome, so too are comments about *Cloudburst*. Please contact me at margaretmary@telus.net.

Paul Chaterton



Paul Chatterton/Meg Stanley/Bruce Caswell

MEMBER CLUBS

Alberni Valley Outdoor Club
(www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/AVOC)

Alpine Club of Canada-Vancouver Section
(www.aebc.com/acc)

Alpine Club of Canada-Vancouver Island Section
(www.horizon.bc.ca/~acc)

Alpine Club of Canada – Prince George Section
(www.vts.bc.ca/ACC-PG)

Backroads Outdoor Club
(www.backroadsoutdoor.ca)

British Columbia Mountaineering Club
(www.bcmc.ca)

Caledonia Ramblers (<http://web.unbc.ca/~ramblers>)

Chilliwack Outdoor Club
(www.chilliwack.com/leisure/outdoor/outdoor.html)

Comox District Mountaineering Club
(www.members.shaw.ca/mount)

Fraser Headwaters Alliance
(www.fraserheadwaters.org)

Island Mountain Ramblers
(www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/IMR)

Mt. Remo Backcountry Society (www.mrbs.ca)

North Shore Hikers (www.northshorehikers.org)

North Vancouver Outdoor Club
(www.northvanoutdoorsclub.ca)

Outdoor Club of Victoria (www.ocv.ca)

Outsetters Club
(www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/Outsetters)

Ozalenka Alpine Club

Richmond Outdoor Club
(www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/ROC)

Valley Outdoor Association
(www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/VOA)

Vancouver Island Trails Information Society
(www.hikingtrailsbooks.com)

Varsity Outdoor Club (www.ubc-voc.com)

More Club information available at:
www.mountainclubs.bc.ca