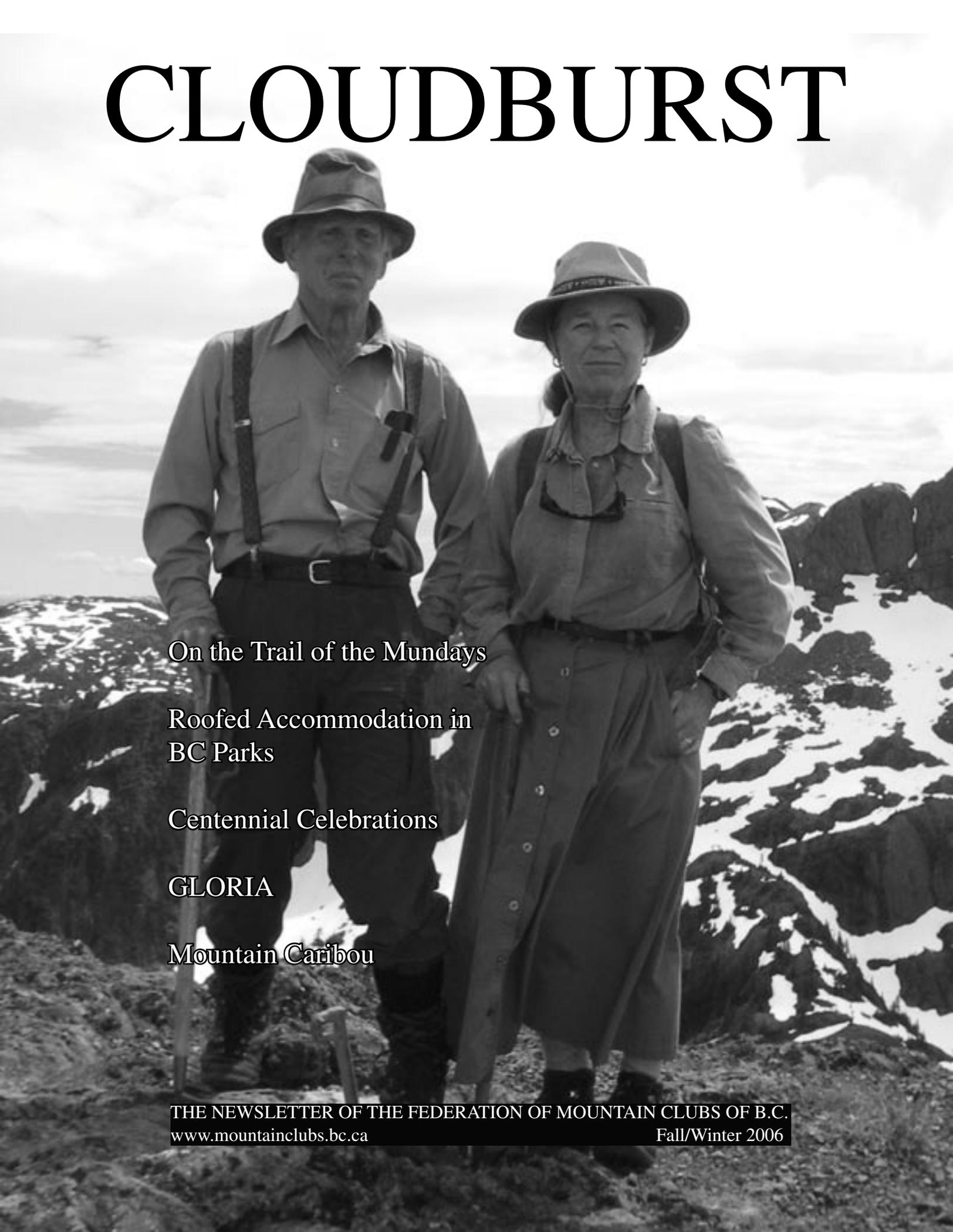


# CLOUDBURST



On the Trail of the Mundays

Roofed Accommodation in  
BC Parks

Centennial Celebrations

GLORIA

Mountain Caribou

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF B.C.  
[www.mountainclubs.bc.ca](http://www.mountainclubs.bc.ca)

Fall/Winter 2006

# CLouDBURST

Cloudburst is published semi-annually by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC. Publication/Mail sales Agreement # 41309018. Printed by Hemlock Printers. Circulation 3,500.



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 FMC 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)

Copyeditor: Tammy Marlowe (tmarlowe@shaw.ca)

Advertising: Evan Loveless (eloveless@shaw.ca)

## FMC

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMC) is a non-profit organization representing the interests of non-mechanized hikers and climbers, and outdoor clubs throughout British Columbia. The FMC 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 FMC is open to any individual or club interested in non-mechanized outdoor activities, and access, recreational, and conservation concerns.

## Club Membership

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

## Board of Directors

President: Pat Harrison (VOA)  
Vice President: Peter Rothermel (IMR, ACC-VI)  
Secretary: vacant  
Treasurer: Don Morton (ACC-VI)  
Directors: Paul Chatterton(Ind), Dave King (CR, ACC-PG), Bill Perry (IMR), Ken Rodonets (CDMC), Manrico Scremin (ACC-Van), Eleanor Acker (NVOC)  
Committee Co-Chairs  
Recreation and Conservation: 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: fmcbc@mountainclubs.bc.ca



## Cover Photograph

Rollins Ridge from Heart Basin, Valkyr Range,  
Sandra McGuiness

# Staying the Course President's Message

Pat Harrison

In the late 1960's, seven clubs came together under the banner *Mountain Access Committee* (ACC-Vancouver, BCMC, Chilliwack Outdoor Club, SFU Outdoor Club, UBC Varsity Outdoor Club, Vancouver Natural History Society, and Valley Outdoor Association.) The idea was that there is strength in numbers. Five of the seven original clubs are still part of the Federation of Mountain Clubs (FMC). SFU's Outdoor Club disappeared and Vancouver Natural History Society joined the BC Federation of Naturalists when it was formed.

Since its inception, the FMC, as the largest organization in the Province representing mountaineers, climbers, and hikers, has sat at many government stakeholder meetings. The FMC's participation in government planning has brought many benefits to its members. In many cases, a particular club of the FMC has led the charge and the FMC lent its support as needed. Either way, it has made for effective advocacy.

The clubs of the FMC and the FMC have participated in the making of Garibaldi and Tantalus Provincial Parks, negotiated with the province on maintaining trails through the FMC's Adopt-A-Trail Programme, led the charge for obtaining an Occupiers Liability Act for the Province of B.C., and have sat at many Land Use Planning tables. All of these activities were great achievements, but they did not happen quickly. They took months and years of effort by various paid and unpaid people within the FMC. Most backcountry users have little knowledge of the personal sacrifices made by these people.

The FMC today continues that tradition with the involvement in developing a Roofed Accommodation policy, the transfer of climbing lands to the District of Squamish after retaining ownership of these lands for almost 20 years, the development of the Mt. Arrowsmith Regional Park proposal, the protection of important caribou habitat areas in north central B.C., the Sea-to-Sky planning process, and the general fight for areas of peace and quiet in backcountry with continued issuing of tenures for motorized uses.

The FMC is as relevant today as it was 40 years ago when member clubs began banding together to promote sanity on backcountry issues. A giant thank you to all who have supported their clubs and the FMC through their membership to promote the importance of a strong, non-motorized federation of clubs.



On the Trail to Comox Glacier, Ken Rodonets, September 2006.

# Recreation and Conservation Committee Report

Evan Loveless, Executive Director, FMC, for the Recreation and Conservation Committee

## Parks and Wilderness Areas

The FMC responded to the Roofed Accommodation Policy for BC Parks released this past summer with a letter criticizing the size and scale of developments the policy allows, and the lack of public process involved in developing the policy. Attached to the letter was the FMC Guiding Principles for Roofed Accommodation document, which allows for modest, public oriented huts in limited areas in parks. Please see the article on roofed accommodation for more information. The FMC also sent a letter to the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Finance making a strong case for increased funding for parks. A submission on this issue was also provided to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services at their public hearings.

## Backcountry Commercial Recreation Tenures

The FMC Recreation and Conservation Committee continues to respond to the many tenure and resort 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, and the FMC are being vigilant in defending such areas and traditional use. This process is complicated due to the poor communication by government about tenure proposals. In response the FMC has been working with government to improve proposal information on the website and improve the tenure referral process to include interest groups such as the FMC, Outdoor Recreation Council, Federation of BC Naturalists and others. In many cases this will include FMC clubs that are local to an area such as the KMC in the Kootenays.

The FMC has also been working with government and tourism industry stakeholders to manage access, opportunities and experiences on Crown land. This work has included participation in the development of a new Adventure Tourism Tenuring Policy and an integrated Commercial Tourism and Recreation policy framework.

## Motorized Use Conflicts

Pressures from and conflicts with motorized users in the backcountry continue to be a significant issue for FMC members and the non-motorized public. So we were encouraged by the recommendations for Off Road Vehicle (ORV) licensing and registration legislation put forward by the ORV Coalition. The FMC and Outdoor Recreation Council approved the final report put forward to government even though there were a few issues of concern with some recommendations. This legislation was important enough that we didn't want it derailed because of a few technical items in the recommendations. This was one of those rare processes where motorized groups, non-motorized groups, conservationists and other interest groups could all agree. Government had started to draft policy and legislation based on the recommendations, however we have now learned that Cabinet will not proceed with implementing any of the recommendations until 2008 if at all. Our MLAs need to hear loud and clear that this is important legislation for British Columbia and that it has been widely endorsed by most interest groups.

## Resort Developments

The Juliet Creek Resort proposal intended for Juliet Creek and Coldwater Creek valleys near the Coquihalla Summit is moving to the next stage, where it goes to the Environmental Assessment Office for review and approval. Cascade Environmental Resource Group has been retained by the Resort proponent, Westscapes Development Inc., to conduct existing use and impact studies including existing recreational use. The FMC made a submission to this process describing non-motorized recreational use of the area. Included with this submission was an account of recreational user days by FMC members and estimates of other public use in the adjacent and surrounding areas. If this resort proposal goes ahead, there will certainly be impacts to traditional backcountry skiing, climbing and hiking activities in the area since several key locations will be assumed by the Resort's Controlled Recreation Area (CRA) or on the border of the CRA. The proposed Juliet Creek resort will potentially have far reaching impacts for the environment, the economy and certainly the non-motorized recreational public; however, the project seems to be receiving very little attention. The FMC has sent letters to both the Resort Development Branch of the Ministry of Tourism Sport and the Arts (MTSA) and the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), raising our issues and concerns

with the proposal. We will also work to raise the profile of this mega resort proposal.

In the north, the ACC – Smither’s Section has been able to resolve some of its issues with the Ski Ride Smithers proposal to expand its area. This proposal would restrict access to backcountry skiing and an important ice climbing area on Hudson Bay Mountain. The ice climbing area will not be included in the Controlled Recreation Zone (CRA) and reasonable access will be granted to the public for backcountry skiing. Meanwhile, a large heli-ski tenure for the Cambria Icefield is expected to be granted to Last Frontier Heli Skiing. This is despite significant concerns raised by the FMC and local members.

### **Comox Glacier Trail and Access**

The FMC continues to work to protect the Comox Glacier Trail from logging and restricted access. We have been working with West Coast Environmental Law and an independent lawyer to obtain a legal opinion on the official status of the trail and public rights to access it via private timber lands. We hope to have this opinion completed before the end of the year. In addition to the legal work, the FMC is also submitting a formal complaint to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative -- the forest industry certification body that TimberWest subscribes to -- citing non-compliance to an objective that requires the company to protect ecologically, geologically, historically, or culturally important lands in a manner that recognizes their special qualities. We are also conducting ongoing work to communicate the importance of the trail to key politicians and economic groups. This is an important issue for the Vancouver Island clubs, as the Comox Glacier Trail is one of the main access points to Strathcona Park. At a minimum we want a significant land/logging buffer for the trail. The legal work will also have bearing on other access issues on the Island and beyond.

### **Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Plan Update**

The Sea-to-Sky LRMP is still in the government-to-government process with local First Nations. In the meantime the Backcountry Forum signs have been approved and are expected to be put in this fall.

Volunteers will be needed to help with this work, so if you are interested contact Pat Harrison. Funding has also been provided by the province to print brochures and improve the website.

### **Write Letters**

We encourage members to write letters to government to keep the pressure on these and other issues. 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, and Rich Coleman (Minister of Forests): Rich.Coleman@gov.bc.ca. You can also cc your email to your MLA. Faxes are also recommended.



On Comox Glacier, September 2006

## **Trails Committee Report**

Pat Harrison and Alex Wallace

### **FMC Adopt-A-Trail Programme Renewal**

In the 1980s, the Chilliwack Outdoor Club (COC) made an agreement with the B.C. Government, in conjunction with the the Chilliwack Forest District, for the COC to maintain the hiking trails in the District. A small database of trails, maintainers, and locations was initiated to help coordinate the volunteers.

Soon afterward, the FMC initiated a similar agreement that included the Chilliwack Forest District and the Squamish Forest District. In the late 1980s, the B.C. government started giving grants to various not-for-profits to help them function if they were providing a public service. In the case of the FMC, we were servicing hiking trails for the public good. These grants were a bargain for the government as the non-profits provided public services well below a contracted cost; the price tag would have been much higher if the government had to pay professional trail maintainers.

Unfortunately, the \$50,000 grants began disappearing in the mid-1990s and were gone by 1997. The FMC continued to

maintain trails and the trail database until 2002. Each club participating had a maintenance agreement with the B.C. government.

In 2002, the B.C. government announced it would no longer be responsible for liability on Crown land. As a result, tenure holders would have to assume all liability, collect \$1 from each hiker, lease trails or campsites that they wished to continue maintaining, and remit that cash to Victoria. FMC clubs were expected to lease each trail for \$500 and buy \$1 million worth of 3rd party liability insurance if they did trail maintenance. The FMC or its member clubs were to submit tenure proposals through the government land tenuring process in order to maintain trails. The government agency, Land and Water British Columbia (LWBC), suggested clubs could collect an amount over \$1.00 per hiker in order to offset our costs, including the liability insurance: i.e. charging \$2 per hike, but retaining \$1 as a commission. How volunteers would be able to collect these fees at trailheads was only one of many pointed questions raised by volunteer groups of all types, as the BC recreational community came together to mull over this policy.

The tenure idea devastated the Adopt-A-Trail Programme as no club in its right mind would, or could afford, to participate. There were some supporters, even within clubs, as an atmosphere of disbelief turned into an exhausting and lengthy discussion of how to approach this depressing situation. Down came the clubs' A-A-T Programme signs on Crown land; in order to avoid liability claims. BC Parks did not go this route, but instead voluntarily reduced their budget and cut staff by 30%. Thus the FMC continued some A-A-T Programmes in BC Parks under a signed agreement, or unofficially by some of our member clubs.

With the transfer of recreation to the Ministry of Tourism, Sports, and the Arts, and with Ministry of Forests rethinking some of its policies, it appears that once again the B.C. Government is looking for assistance from volunteers to maintain trails on Crown land. The Chilliwack Outdoor Club once again has taken the lead and negotiated a one-page agreement with the Chilliwack Forest District. It is time to rebuild the A-A-T Programme – if government is willing to assume liability. There has now been a Trail Strategy initiated by government for B.C. The FMC will be playing a key role in this process. We applaud the B.C. government for this step.

## **Baden-Powell Trail Update**

After the January 2006 meetings, in which Ministry of Transportation (MoT) engineers and consultants mainly were concerned with the landscaping plans for the Eagleridge Trailhead of the Baden-Powell (B-P trail, and input re decorative community signposts on the highway), we were not reassured the 800 metres of hiking trail slated to disappear under the new Sea to Sky highway section would be adequately replaced. In fact MoT explicitly refused to put the old trail route or any proposed new trail alignment on its plans for the Horseshoe Bay Bypass, referring to the trail as being “in trespass” (even though no-one had objected to it being heavily used by hikers and runners for more than 30 years).

It now appears that the Eagleridge Trailhead for the B-P trail will be permanently abandoned, and instead a new connector trail will re-direct hikers from the cut-off end of the B-P trail as it descends Black Mountain and follow the existing rough trail to Whyte Lake and Nelson Creek, ending at the Trans-Canada Trail parking area. The Municipality of West Vancouver is developing a scope of work for this trail project, which will likely go to tender soon.

During the summer I spent much time trying to get signage put up in Cypress Bowl to inform the many hikers of the giant trench being cut where the trail used to be, since many continued to head westbound on the trail, unaware they couldn't reach Horseshoe Bay, Eagleridge, or their rides. The signs eventually arrived in the fall, but cited the Court Ordered closure, not the construction project. The Black Mountain trail, which went directly up from Horseshoe Bay but had only three parking spots, will also be reinstated, via a Larsen Creek highway underpass, and we are promised 12 parking spaces for hikers. However this will be built after the new highway off-ramps are finished, so it is likely the stated trail re-opening of May 2007 may be a bit misleading, like much of the information that the public has been given during this project. Some hikers may prefer the proposed reroute via Whyte Lake of the Black Mountain Trail, but many people were apparently taken in by the widely reproduced MoT diagram which for years showed the new highway starting at the Ferry Terminal. Many are unaware of the extensive trail changes in progress. Trail closures will be in effect while the highway construction at Eagle Ridge is underway and notices are posted on the FMC Listserv.

## Sea-to-Sky Highway Development

The FMC are again working on a proposal for a pedestrian highway crossing near Brandywine Falls. This would be an important access point for the Brew Creek trail. The Ministry of Transportation told us it was too expensive and wouldn't consider it. However, the Sea-to-Sky Trail Society wants to incorporate such a crossing in its trail plan and get support from several local governments and key stakeholders. We will keep you posted on this development.



Asulkan Cabin, Sue Loveless, August 2005

## Roofed Accommodation Policy for BC Parks

Evan Loveless, Executive Director

As many FMC members are aware, the B.C. government recently released its Roofed Accommodation Policy for BC Parks and shortly after invited proposals for the development of new accommodation in 12 BC parks. Within the context of this policy development, the FMC found itself in an interesting dilemma. On the one hand it supports the conservation goals of parks and opposes the development of large scale commercial lodges and resorts. On the other hand it recognizes the need for and utility of some small scale, public oriented huts located in appropriate areas in certain parks. In an effort to clarify its position on this topic the FMC developed its own policy for Roofed Accommodation in Parks based on a set of planning

principles. A draft copy of this policy was printed in the Fall 2005 issue of Cloudburst. The FMC believes we created a well-thought-out document, which addressed the issues and concerns of FMC members. We submitted this policy document to BC Parks and received positive feedback from staff. It was also indicated to us that Parks would adopt many of the principles put forward in the FMC policy.

However the policy released by Cabinet this past summer certainly seems to be misguided and flawed with the apparent potential to create a serious backlash from the public and environmental groups. The policy allows for new fixed roofed accommodations of up to 100 beds or more, including resorts and lodges. This is well beyond what the FMC would consider reasonable accommodation needs to improve access "for people who are unable or unwilling to camp," as suggested by Minister Penner.

For example the Request for Proposals (RFP) based on this policy issued for Fintry Provincial Park, on Okanagan Lake, called for a 100-bed land based resort, restaurant and gift shop together with a 20-30 boat mooring dock and an ability to cater to weddings and executive retreats! Is the Okanagan Valley really that short of resorts and tourist facilities that it is necessary to develop a resort in this small park to meet the demand? The RFP for Golden Ears Park is of a similar scale, around an 80-bed capacity. The policy also lacks tools to limit future facility expansion; it encourages helicopter and float plane traffic, and in some cases it requires parking lots, staff housing, logging for fire breaks, and major sewage and power generation systems. Perhaps at the core of the issue is the fact the policy was released without public consultation. Almost immediately after the policy was released, so too was the call for Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the 12 identified parks -- and there was zero public consultation for a policy that may have serious impacts on the park system. The public has indicated consistently through processes such as the Park Legacy Panel and the Recreation Stewardship Panel that they do not support increased commercial activity in Provincial Parks, especially to the scale of commercial lodges and resorts. So a park policy that is a departure from this position needs to be vetted by the public. We have also received indication by government staff that BC Parks may not necessarily consult with the public and recreation

groups during the RFP and permitting phases either, as alluded to in the policy document. This would be a gross oversight of due public process.

An interesting complication is that the Alpine Club of Canada (National) has submitted two proposals in response to RFPs for Mt. Robson Park and Elk Lakes Park. The Alpine Club currently has a Parks contract to manage the existing cabin (formerly a park ranger cabin) in Elk Lakes. However a local group protested to government that Parks unfairly issued the contract to the ACC and indicated they wanted a chance to bid on the contract. So an RFP for ongoing management of the Elk Lakes cabin was thrown in the mix.

With respect to Mt. Robson the ACC has submitted a proposal in response to the RFP which calls for an up to 30 bed “Eco Lodge” in the Berg Lake/Robson Pass area. The ACC identified a hut in Mt Robson Park as a Club Centennial project several years ago and submitted an expression of interest to Parks at that time. However Parks put off the ACC proposal until this policy and subsequent RFPs were complete. As a result the ACC proposal, which would fit well with the FMC guiding principles (and on its own terms, likely be acceptable to most of the public), is caught up in the implementation of this bad policy. To our knowledge at the time of writing there have been only a few serious proposals submitted to parks with the ACC making up two of these. As a result the ACC may well be targeted by the BC Environmental Community and possibly the public since they see this policy as a wedge issue for the integrity of BC’s provincial parks.

I don’t want to debate the ACC’s specific proposals. Indeed a sound argument could be made for locating an ACC style hut in Mt. Robson Park just as a sound argument could be made for opposing such a development. Perhaps ACC members should be debating these proposals. Rather, my interest here is in addressing the broader policy, which sets us on a course of controversial development in parks for years to come. Should BC Parks even be in the business of promoting and soliciting proposals for commercial development inside park boundaries? Perhaps this is more to do with the ill-advised BC Resort Strategy, which recommended development options for parks with an apparent aim for increasing public access and accommodation options.

The desirable qualities of parks, especially the mountain or backcountry areas that FMC members use regularly, are dependent in a large measure on their low population density and low use factor, difficulty of travel, and freedom from pollution of all kinds (physical, chemical, visual, and acoustic). A certain amount of limited development (i.e. trails, campsites and small scale public huts) may be appropriate in some BC Park locations. It is recognized that allowing some infrastructure developments in some areas can complement management strategies for concentrating use and protecting other more remote or sensitive areas. Nevertheless the benefits of any proposed use or development, whether publicly or privately funded, must be weighed against the erosion of the above-mentioned park qualities. Hut and trail developments should be carefully assessed for need and impact, rather than be automatically assumed as beneficial.

Any roofed accommodation needs to benefit Club members and the general public. Its environmental impact must be carefully assessed and where a park use permit is granted its terms must be monitored and strictly enforced. In general conservation must take precedence over any recreational use values. And in most cases accommodation and associated infrastructure are most appropriately sited outside park boundaries, where they will have less impact on park integrity and greater impact on local community economies.

Copies of the FMC letters to government and the FMC Park Roofed Accommodation Policy can be found on the FMC Website. I encourage members to read these documents and the government policy documents, and to get informed about this policy and the ACC’s proposals.



West Coast Trail, Sue Loveless, July 2005



Courtesy Tami Knight

## Ramblings

### Mountain Caribou

Lawrence Redfern, Outreach Director, Mountain Caribou Project

As a child I spent a great deal of time canoeing in the Columbia Valley wetlands. I took the wetlands for granted as the spectacular work of Mother Nature seemed endless. I also took the abundant waterfowl and ungulate populations, bears and coyotes, and all the local wildlife for granted - diverse and abundant species were expected. I would never be able to put a dollar value on the experiences I have had in BC's wilderness. Our public lands provide incalculable wealth to many British Columbians; a "second paycheque" that enhances our quality of life. I am promoting recovery because I want my children to have the opportunity to enjoy a quality of life that only healthy wilderness areas and wildlife populations can provide. I also believe healthy wildlife is an economic asset that needs greater recognition and a higher management priority in Victoria.

The inland rainforest region of western North America reaches from central Idaho north to Chetwynd; within BC it is commonly known as the "interior wet belt." Within this ecosystem once roamed 8,000 mountain caribou; today about 1,900 mountain caribou remain (with virtually none surviving in the US). Mountain caribou are extirpated (locally extinct) from about 60% of their historic BC habitat. This unique animal inhabits subalpine environments during winter utilizing huge hooves to walk on the snow and feeding exclusively on arboreal lichens. Spring and fall are spent at lower elevations in old growth

forests while summers see caribou at upper elevations; they make four vertical migrations a year.

Mountain caribou are unlike any other animal in the world but their plight is far from unique. Many large wilderness-requiring animals have been driven out of most of North America as their habitat has been lost to human developments. Animals like cougars, grizzly and black bears, wolverines and wolves survive in only the northern and/or western portions of their former ranges. BC still has wildlife lost to the vast majority of our continental neighbours. Rugged geography and a sparse population allows many wilderness-requiring species to live near our settlements but separated from us by mountains and roadless valleys.

In recent years much has changed. Between 1950 and 1990 BC highways expanded 18% but forest access roads expanded by 4,100% and the pace of resource road development has been steadily increasing since then. Snowmobile use of historic caribou habitat near Revelstoke increased from 400 visits during the 1985 season to over 4,000 seasonal visits just fifteen years later. Canadian Mountain Holidays brought heli-skiing to Revelstoke in 1971 and for almost three decades the industry enjoyed slow and steady growth. But since 2000, the number of heli-ski tenures in BC has increased by more than 40%. For 30 years, government has known that habitat loss and fragmentation is detrimentally impacting mountain caribou. Twenty years ago human disturbance impacts were documented and the consumptive nature of backcountry recreation on caribou habitat noted (wildlife may be permanently displaced from good habitat by disturbance, it "consumes" habitat by preventing its use.)

Where a sufficient suite of conservation measures have been adopted, successes clearly indicate how winnable caribou recovery is. For example, the south Selkirks caribou herd recently increased due to support of local sledders and ski tourers, reduction in mountain lion predation, and the continued health and reproductive success of seven cows brought in during augmentation efforts in the 1990s. In the Telkwa a former herd of eight now numbers more than 70. As evidence of the scientific tools and knowledge available and the optimism this creates, the Montana government believes it can reintroduce caribou and manage for a "harvestable surplus."



Roland Usher

Two calves, a cow, and a bull, Kootenay Pass, November 2005.

To win in BC caribou and wilderness need your support. As a wealthy society we have the scientific knowledge, trained people, and opportunity to sustain the wealth of our natural heritage for our children and grandchildren. To achieve Premier Campbell's goal of doubling backcountry tourism revenue the assets upon which success depends must be respected and sustained. Please take five minutes and let Premier Campbell know you value BC's wilderness and all that it contains.

Information and links at [www.mountaincaribou.org](http://www.mountaincaribou.org). The Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology maintains a compendium of mountain caribou research at [www.cmiae.org](http://www.cmiae.org). The author can also provide information: [info@mountaincaribou.org](mailto:info@mountaincaribou.org).



Caribou, J.D. Taylor.



Map Showing Caribou Risk Status.

Editor's Note: The original map is colour. The list below correlates the numbered areas on the map with their risk status.

- 1 South Selkirks, Endangered
- 2 South Purcells, Endangered
- 3 Central Selkirks, Endangered
- 4 Monashee, Endangered
- 5 Revelstoke, Vulnerable
- 6 Central Rockies, Endangered
- 7a Wells Gray North, Vulnerable
- 7b Wells Gray South, Vulnerable
- 8 North Cariboo Mountains, Vulnerable
- 9 Barkerville, Endangered
- 10 George Mountain, Endangered
- 11 Narrow Lake, Threatened
- 12 Hart Ranges, Vulnerable



Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies

Founders of the Alpine Club of Canada

## A Century of Leadership and Adventure

Suzan Chamney, ACC

In its first 100 years, the Alpine Club of Canada has left an indelible mark on Canadian mountaineering history, but it has also stood as a reminder that mountains – wherever they may be in Canada – are a part of every Canadian's psyche. They represent some of what we are proudest to be, and much of what we aspire to.

In a world that has changed so much in 100 years – the Alpine Club of Canada and other clubs like it have changed precious little. The values it holds dear are remarkably durable and the pursuits it supports still honour the distance we can cover on foot – a human scale of time and energy in the midst of magnificent geology and in spite of our technological prowess. Though the world may change, these values do not.

The spirit of the original Alpine Club still guides the Club's activities today. Members from across the country have planned and participated in events for the Alpine Club of Canada's Centennial in 2006. They celebrated with art, science, social gatherings and – of course – with climbing camps in some of Canada's most spectacular mountain locales. From the adventurous Yukon Alpine Centennial Camp which took place in the truly grand St. Elias Mountains June 2-18, to the Stanley Mitchell Centennial Camp which was held July 16-22 in Yoho National

Park, BC. In March, the Manitoba and St. Boniface Sections hosted the Alpine Club of Canada's centennial executive meetings in Winnipeg – halfway between the west and east, just as the original meetings were held in March of 1906. An historic play – Elizabeth Parker and the Alpine Club of Canada – was created by Parks Canada World Heritage Theatre and has been showing across the country to rave reviews.

Participants in the Annual General Meeting of the Alpine Club of Canada, held July 15, were transported from Field, BC to Glacier House Station near Rogers Pass in British Columbia's Glacier National Park on the historic CPR Empress train. Canada Post issued a commemorative stamp in July. The entire collection of the Canadian Alpine Journal from 1907 to 2006 is being digitized and will be made available in digital format – making trip reports keyword searchable.

In October, the national office welcomed members from across the country, and colleagues from around the world including the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA) which is, today, the largest mountaineering organization in the world. It represents 97 member organizations in 68 different countries worldwide and speaks for the mountaineering community in international forums, such as the Mountain Partnership. The UIAA General Assembly took place in Banff, October 12-14. A joint

celebratory centennial dinner was held at the Banff Park Lodge on the final evening. John Wheeler – grandson of ACC founder A.O. Wheeler attended as Patron.

The Club opened two upgraded facilities at the National Clubhouse in Canmore, AB, on October 13: the new Pat Boswell (Toronto Section) Cabin and the Clubhouse’s Heritage Room, which commemorates the social history of the Club. During the week of October 11, the Club hosted a number of well-attended events in Banff, AB. A two-day workshop on “Climate Change in the Alpine” – a crucial issue in mountain places; a seminar entitled: Women Who Have Made a Difference in Mountaineering; the Great Canadian Slide Show and the much-anticipated opening of the exhibition The Mountaineer and the Artist: Reflection on a Mountain Place at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies.

One hundred years ago, the Alpine Club of Canada captured the imaginations of Canadians by embodying what inspired the nation at that time. Mountains and mountaineering – yes – but also the spirit of adventure, the noble fortification of mind, body and spirit, the enamoured pursuit of scientific knowledge, and an admiration for art as an expression of cultural refinement. Alpine Club founders never imagined that great “wilderness” would ever see roads and civilization – nor could they possibly have imagined the lauded industrial growth of that time would wreak such havoc and that that the very climate of the alpine would be altered. Today we face challenges on a scale they could not have imagined.

Yet the values of the original Alpine Club of Canada still resonate today. The Club will continue to teach mountaineering, to “deplore wanton defacement of the wild natural beauty” of mountain places, and to bring mountains to the forefront of the Canadian consciousness. Should the Club last another hundred years, it will do so by doing what the original Alpine Club did so well – capturing the imaginations of Canadians and embodying what we hope to be, as climbers, as individuals, and as a nation.



Peter Rothermel

Celebrating the ACC’s 100th.

## GLORIA

Peter Rothermel

A bit over a year ago, I was contacted by a graduate student, Kristina Swerhun, from the University of Victoria. She had been referred to me by Dr. Glen Jamieson, President of the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Foundation. For those that are unaware, Mt. Arrowsmith and its entire watershed reaching to the tide line of the Georgia Straits, is in a United Nations sanctioned biosphere reserve, one of only 13 in Canada, two of which are in BC, both on Vancouver Island. For more information see, [www.mountarrowsmithbiosphere.ca](http://www.mountarrowsmithbiosphere.ca).



Kristina Swerhun.

Kristina Swerhun was looking for sites to set up a study called GLORIA, which is an acronym for Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments. This is a long-term study to document changes in biodiversity and vegetation patterns, caused by climate change in the world’s high mountain ecosystems, to assess the impact of the changes, and to contribute to international efforts to mitigate biodiversity and habitat losses.

In each study there needs to be four summit areas for the study plots that fall within certain parameters of height, separation from other peaks, and steepness. At first I was pondering which, if any, peaks in the Arrowsmith area would

be suitable. As people have climbed and still do climb just about every peak and ridge on the massif, I thought it might be difficult to find any study plot areas not already too impacted by human activity. As well, the areas needed to be accessible enough that too much time wouldn't be taken up in just getting to the site. By contrast, some of the European sites are fairly impacted by humans and even grazing animals, but that is often the norm in the alpine of Europe. We wanted to find something representative of our own island alpine standard, which is relatively untouched.

Over the spring and summer, I hiked with Kristina Swerhun and several others and found four places suitable for plots for the study. Kristina also needed knowledgeable people to help her catalogue the plant life within the plots and was lucky to have Hans Roemer interested in the project, who is well known for his knowledge of botany. I sent out e-mail introductions to link her up with Judith Holm, Rick and Libby Avis, Judy Carlson and Barb Baker, all people keen



Peter Rothemel

Ben, Amber, and Kristina, laying a sub-grid.

and well-versed in alpine botany. Kristina would also have help from three other researchers, Amber Paulson, Shari Willmot and Ben Tanasichuk.

The pieces all fell into place and near the end of summer the plots were laid out. I accompanied the crew on one of the set up days and I can relate that it does take a full day's time to lay out and catalogue an entire plot. While not physically hard work, it does take intense attention and a methodical approach. Each site is named after people working on the project and the one I helped on is referred to as "Peter's Peak".

To briefly describe the exercise, the high centre of the plot is marked with a cross pecked in the rock. String is run

from the high point, in lines along the compass points, down 10 m – creating sections. Part of these sections are gridded off. Within the gridded areas, all the vascular plant life is documented and the percentage cover is recorded for each species. Mosses, lichens, rock, scree, and litter is also recorded. In each plot there are four sensors buried that record the temperature every hour for five years.

There are presently 43 GLORIA sites worldwide. The two sites Kristina Swerhun is setting up, on Mt. Arrowsmith and in Garibaldi Provincial Park, near Whistler, will be the first Canadian sites. This study certainly puts Mt. Arrowsmith on the map and delivers the message, "The world is watching". Hopefully it will compel government, industry and indeed, even the average citizen to address environmental concerns and act upon them.

For more information on the Mt Arrowsmith GLORIA study, go to [www.mountarrowsmithbiosphere.ca/contents.htm](http://www.mountarrowsmithbiosphere.ca/contents.htm). For general information on Mt Arrowsmith and the initiative to gain protective park status for the Massif, go to [www.mountarrowsmith.org](http://www.mountarrowsmith.org).



Peter Rothemel

Dr. Glen Jamieson.

# Exploring Mt. Waddington with Don and Phyllis Munday



View from the northwest peak of Mount Waddington, 1928. Smith collection.

## Introduction

This year marks 80 years since Phyllis and Don Munday began their explorations in the Waddington Range. For those fascinated by the Munday story, Kathryn Bridge has recently published a beautifully produced book about them, *A Passion for the Mountains: The Lives of Don and Phyllis Munday* (Calgary: Rocky Mountain Books, 2006). This issue includes a number of pieces related to the Mundays and to Waddington more generally. First, there is a draft letter, written by Kathryn, to the Historic Sites and

Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) proposing that the Munday's work be commemorated as an event of national historic significance. The HSMBC will commemorate sites, events, and persons of national historic significance. The letter reflects their criteria for nominations. The HSMBC criteria preclude nominating the Mundays as a couple, since persons must have been dead for 25 years to be considered (Phyllis died in 1990). Comments concerning the letter and suggestion can be directed to Kathryn through the editor. Also in this issue is a Waddington/Munday reading list compiled by Ron Dart. Ron, inspired in part by Kathryn's work and not content to read about the Mundays, has been following in their footsteps. This issue includes accounts of hikes up Lady Peak in the Chilliwack Valley and Mt. Cokely on Vancouver Island.



Phyll on moraine of the Franklin Glacier with her 70-pound pack, 1927. Smith collection.



Part of the 25-mile-long Scimitar Glacier from Fury Gap, 1928. Smith collection.

## Draft Letter to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to nominate the exploration of the Waddington Range in the Coast Mountains of British Columbia by Phyllis and Donald Munday between 1925 and 1938 for commemoration by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada as an event of national historic significance. The Waddington Range is located about 300 km northwest of Vancouver, between the Homathko River and Klinaklini River. The northern boundary is Bifrost Pass and the Pantheon Range; the southern boundary is Scar Creek. This letter outlines the Munday's work and its significance to Canada.

For more than a decade, the Mundays, both accomplished mountaineers, explored Mount Waddington, the tallest mountain in southern Canada, and the surrounding Waddington mountain range on British Columbia's central coast. When the Mundays first saw Mount Waddington in 1925 it was not well known outside of the immediate region; they called it 'Mystery Mountain.' Returning to the area, year after year, the Mundays carefully documented their explorations, giving names to many of the peaks, taking photographs, producing maps, and noting the flora and fauna. They shared their work with scientists in Ottawa and Victoria, published it in climbing publications and popularized it by giving talks and writing for popular magazines and newspapers, making this knowledge accessible to many others. Although they never succeeded in reaching the summit of Waddington, they made the area famous and made first ascents of many of the surrounding peaks. This work constitutes an outstanding and lasting contribution to knowledge of Canada as expressed in the western scientific tradition. It also serves to illustrate the important contribution that Canada's 'amateur' mountaineers made to mapping the country's most remote areas.

The exploration of the Waddington Range by the Mundays also serves to illustrate how Canadians, as individuals and through the state, came to know remote places such as the Waddington Range. For the Munday's their engagement with the mountains was a deep life-long commitment; their exploration and popularization of the Waddington Range is an outstanding example of the importance of place in defining and shaping the lives of Canadians.

The exploration of the remote Waddington Range required tremendous organization, physical strength and endurance (especially on the long approach up through thick bush) as well as mountaineering and group management skills. The Mundays brought all of these to bear on their expeditions. As a husband and wife team they stood out in the mountaineering community. Phyllis Munday's role on these expeditions is especially important because it both broke down stereotypes about the physical and mental capacity of women and illustrated how one woman negotiated her way through the social expectation of the times to achieve, with her husband, their goals.

There are a number of publications that document the Munday's explorations in the Waddington Range. Some of these were written by the Mundays, others have been written more recently, and include popular and academic works. My recently published, *A Passion for the Mountains: The Lives of Don and Phyllis Munday* (Calgary: Rocky Mountain Books, 2006) describes the Munday's exploration of the Waddington Range. There are also archival collections, in Vancouver and Victoria, that document the expeditions. A list of sources is appended to this letter.

Don Munday died in 1950; Phyllis Munday died in 1990. Their contributions to the exploration of the Waddington Range have been acknowledged. Mount Munday, a peak near to Waddington, is named in their honour and other nearby peaks were named in accordance with their suggestions. Phyllis Munday has been honoured in a number of ways, including being made a member of the Order of Canada in 1972. A full list of awards and honours given to the Mundays is attached.

Sincerely yours,

Kathryn Bridge



A moment of decision perhaps? Henry Hall and the Mundays, Mount Waddington, 1934. Smith collection.



Peter Rothermel and Ron Dart, Mt. Cokely, July 2006.

## **A Weekend with Don and Phyllis Munday: Cokely/Arrowsmith and Lady Peak, 7-8 July 2006**

Ron Dart

It is 80 years this year (1926-2006) since Don & Phyllis Munday began their many attempts to scale Mount Waddington. The tale began, though, in 1925, when Don and Phyllis were in the Cokely/Arrowsmith area, and, on their descent, Waddington, through an opening in the clouds, was spotted.

I took the ferry to Vancouver Island on July 6th, and spent the evening with Peter Rothermel at his place in Qualicum Beach to begin a couple of days hiking in the footsteps of the Mundays. Peter's home is a veritable cornucopia of mountain gear, books, legend and lore. We were up early on July 7th and on the original trail to Cokely, built in the early part of the 20th century, by 7:30 a.m. We wound our way through a thick forest (logging companies having done their ominous deeds in places) to a planned meeting place with Viggo and Judith Holm, Judy Carlson, Kristina Swerhun

(who is doing research on high altitude alpine flowers) and her research assistant, Amber. We were soon out of the forest, the clouds parted, and we wound our way ever higher to the snowfield at the base of Cokely. We were following, as closely as possible, the trail of the Mundays. Many in the group were dressed in the attire of the era.

We hiked up the snowfield and rambled over rocky terrain, timid alpine flowers appearing, finally, to the summit of Cokely. Peter had brought plenty of photographs taken by the Mundays on their ascent up Cokely. Judith Holm read from the initial pages of Don Munday's *Mystery Mountain* (first published by Hodder and Stoughton in 1948) in which he described their spotting of Waddington. The clouds were dense and thick to the north, parting for moments, but we were denied a glimpse of Waddington.

Many fine photos were taken atop Cokely looking across to Arrowsmith's appealing and inviting peak. Emerald Lake, between Cokely and Arrowsmith, was still snow covered and ice thick. We lingered for many a delightful hour on Cokely, then our descent began across a more scenic rock ridge, ever down to where the trucks were parked.

The day had spoiled us, and both Cokely and Arrowsmith had offered us many an alluring delight.

I managed to catch the 9:30 ferry to Horseshoe Bay, and reached home in the Fraser Valley by midnight, Don and Phyllis Munday ever a step before me. I was up with the birds on July 8th, met with Wells Jones and Phil Jarvis at Cheam Centre in Sardis by 7:00 a.m., and we were on our way up Lady Peak. Lady Peak, in the Cheam massif in the Upper Fraser Valley, was named after Phyllis Munday, just as Baby Munday in the same massif, was named after the Mundays' daughter, Edith. Don and Phyllis had

The Cheam trail is a pleasant alpine stroll, but the Lady Peak ascent is demanding and more scenic. We were soon, ice axes needed, inching up steep snowfields. We reached the thin ridge that led above the snowfield and delicately wound our way yet higher. There was yet another snowfield, then a short chimney scramble to the summit of Lady Peak. It took us three hours from the trailhead to the cairn on the summit, but the vistas from such a well placed perch opened up in all directions. Rock ridges and massive snowfields, large lakes and white spires charmed and pleased the senses. We dined on a small rock ledge just below the peak of the grand lady.



Peter Rothemel.

McBey Creek Bridge, Arrowsmith Trail, 2006.

done many a climb in the area in 1923-1924 (see: Kathryn Bridge, *Phyllis Munday: Mountaineer*, Montréal : XYZ Pub., 2002: 72-75). Don had rediscovered an old Silver mine in the vicinity that did much to reinvigorate the economy in Hope.

We drove the rough and deteriorating logging road up to the trailhead of Cheam and Lady Peak. We arrived about 8:30 a.m. Spoon Lake at the base of Cheam/Lady Peak was still frozen, but a slight thaw was round the edges.

Many were threading their way up Cheam, but we had Lady Peak (higher than Cheam) to ourselves. Baby Munday and Foley, Welch and Stewart (named after the owners of the largest railroad construction company at the time) gazed at us, and we knew a visit to them was in the offing. The trip down from Lady Peak was done with some speed. The snowfields made for a hasty and delightful glissade, and it took us less than an hour to reach Spoon Lake from the summit of Lady Peak.

Wells, Phil and I were off the mountain and back at Cheam Centre by 4:00 p.m. It had been a busy two days, but the trip up Cokely, the alluring peak of Arrowsmith and Lady Peak had whispered much about some aspects of the mountaineering life of Don and Phyllis Munday. Cokely/ Arrowsmith and Lady Peak gave me yet a greater yearning to know more about this pioneering mountain couple in both Canada and British Columbia.

## A Waddington/Munday Reading List

Ron Dart

*Editor's Note: The following list was drawn from a longer narrative review of writing about Waddington and the Mundays written by Ron Dart. Those pieces marked with an asterisk are in print and make a good starting point for those interested in the subject.*

- Watson, Sir Norman and Edward King. *Round Mystery Mountain: A Ski Adventure*. New York: Longmans, 1935.
- Munday, Don. *The Unknown Mountain*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1948. (a paperback edition was published by the Mountaineers in 1975.)
- Sherman, Paddy. 'The Conquest of Mount Waddington.' *Beautiful British Columbia*, Fall 1963.
- Culbert, Dick. *A Climber's Guide to the Coastal Ranges of British Columbia*. Vancouver: Alpine Club of Canada, 1965. [there was a 2nd edition in 1969]
- Bryan, Liz. 'They built Canada's Highest Cabin.' *Western Homes and Living*, November 1969.
- Dowling, Philip. *The Mountaineers: Famous Climbers in Canada*. Edmonton: Hurtig, 1979.
- Smith, Cyndi. *Off the Beaten Track: Women Adventurers and Mountaineers in Western Canada*. Jasper: Coyote Books, 1989.
- Munday, Don. *The Unknown Mountain*. With an introduction 'Behind the Unknown Mountain' by Angus M. Gunn. Lake Louise, Alta. : Coyote Books, 1993.\*
- Serl, Don. 'The Traverse.' In *The Canadian Mountaineering Anthology*, edited by Bruce Fairly. Vancouver: Lone Pine Press, 1994.
- Baldwin, John. *Mountains of the Coast: Photos of the Remote Corners of the Coast Mountains*. Vancouver: Harbour Publishing, 1999.
- Scott, Chic. *Pushing the Limits: The Story of Canadian Mountaineering*. Calgary: Rocky Mountain Books, 2000.\*
- Parker, Gil. *Aware of the Mountain: Mountaineering as Yoga*. Victoria: Trafford, 2001.
- Ferguson, Chris. 'Heavy and Slow Waddington Traverse.'

*Canadian Alpine Journal* 85 (2002).

- Serl, Don. *The Waddington Guide : Alpine Climbs in one of the World's Great Ranges*. Squamish: Elaho, 2003.\*
- Bridge, Kathryn. *Phyllis Munday: Mountaineer*. Montreal: XYZ Publishing, 2002. [young adult]
- Kafer, Martin. 'The Plummer Hut, 1969 to ? (I hope a Long Time).' *The BC Mountaineer* 2004.
- Bridge, Kathryn. *A Passion for Mountains: the Lives of Don and Phyllis Munday*. Calgary: Rocky Mountain Books, 2006.\*



Waddington. Bob St. John.

"The evening darkened into night, rock led to snow, crevasses loomed and disappeared, an arete led on into blackness, the boreal glow and sudden meteors shimmered and flickered overhead. That night I seemed to be travelling alone, barely aware of the others, getting used again to the kinesthetic pleasure of working muscles and the bite of crampons and the creak of the pack straps, communing with the spirits, a bit awe-struck, I suspect, by the enormity of where I was and what I was (we were) confronting. Somewhere nearby I sensed the spirit of the Mundays moving with me, up this great ridge that they had discovered and ascended so many years ago. I felt on hallowed ground, my feet in their steps, my senses absorbing their memories." From: Don Serl, 'The Traverse,' in *The Canadian Mountaineering Anthology*, edited by Bruce Fairly, Vancouver: Lone Pine Press, 1994, p. 323.

# Updates

## Topographic Maps

Topographic Maps are here to stay. As a result of pressure and efforts by the outdoor community and others the Canada Map Office will continue to print paper topographic maps. This is definitely a good news ending to an issue that could have had serious ramifications to backcountry users -- not to mention the potential increased cost and resources for search and rescue efforts.

## Cloudburst Online

At the last FMC AGM the issue of an electronic Cloudburst was raised again. It was decided we should canvass the membership to see if there is interest in receiving electronic versions of Cloudburst rather than the current paper version. Another option is to just post it on the website. Several members still like to receive a hard paper copy of the newsletter and in a way it may still be the best tool we have to connect and communicate with members. At this time we ask that clubs canvass members.

## Smoke Bluffs

The FMC Executive are making progress with respect to transferring our Smoke Bluffs land holdings to the District of Squamish (DOS). The Park Development Plan is also complete and ready for implementation. The Development Plan along with a FMC/DOS Memorandum of Understanding are expected to be presented to DOS Council in mid November.

## FMC Development Committee

The FMC has set up a Development Committee to look at ways to make the FMC financially sustainable. Any member with an interest or expertise in this area or who has good ideas for generating revenue are asked to contact us and get involved.

## FMC Organization Committee

The FMC has also set up a committee to look at improving the FMC organization structure. The Committee will be seeking clubs input and making recommendations for change. It is hoped changes to the constitution and bylaws can be made at our next AGM. Contact us for more information.

## Mt. Arrowsmith

Peter Rothermel

I was on a hike on November 5th to the defunct Arrowsmith Ski Park, to inspect the clean up efforts by the contractor, Denis Francoeur, hired by the Alberni/Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD). I hiked both the lower ski area and the upper ski area and I finished by going up to Mt Cokely summit to look at the upper T-Bar outside the park boundary.

I am very impressed with the clean up effort and kudos should go out to both the contractor and the ACRD. Of course, every scrap of lumber and every piece of glass could never be removed, but they did a much better job than I expected. I would be interested in organizing a group, next year, to aim at cleaning up all the small stuff left behind, such as bits of glass & plastic, along the original hiking trail that is still in evidence on the upper ski area.

All the lift towers and footings in the lower ski area have been removed and the old lodge cement slab is either gone or covered up. The old fuel tanks are gone and the contaminated soil removed, although I could smell a trace of diesel. All the culverts and bridging has been taken out, the ditches opened up and water's flowing.

The towers in the upper ski area have also been removed and all the footings are broken up, with the concrete scattered. The lodge cement pilings have been removed and the site has been covered with soil. The upper terminus of the lift, that is technically outside the park boundary, was also cleaned up, with special attention to removing the garbage from the tarns.

Next, it would be good to address the issue of summer and winter motorized traffic tearing up the slopes and degrading the area. While this is still ACRD owned park/land, it is within the boundaries of the Regional



Peter Rothermel

Upper ski area and Mt Cokely, in 1997 or 98, just before the last developer quit and left a mess. The buildings were burned down by vandals, shortly after.

District of Nanaimo and therefore a park inside the RDN. I think RDN need to have some input on the direction this park will take.

If we are going to let this area reclaim to a natural state, it has to be allowed a fair chance to regenerate. This means vehicle traffic has to be dissuaded from accessing the slopes. Four wheel drive trucks, ATV's, dirt bikes and snowmobiles need to stop using the slopes as their testing ground. There are thousands of kilometres of logging roads for them to use and the park is no place for them. In fact according to Parks Regulation Bylaw, No. R1004

states, “No person shall drive or propel any type of vehicle in the park except on public roadways or parking lots.”

While the park bylaws may be nearly impossible to enforce, there are other options that might help curb the motorized access, especially on the upper slopes from the upper lodge site to the summit of Mt Cokely.

One option could be physical barriers. Near the upper lodge site is a pile of logs, from the disassembled replica Rosseau Chalet. In a day’s work, a skidder could drag these logs up the slope and set them across the cat road in intervals all the way along and down the slope. This would effectively stop all wheeled traffic and would create debris dams for plant life to establish on.

The snowmobiles are another matter, especially in the meadows west of the upper lift area. These “West Meadows” have not seen much impact from humans, until the the last few years, when snowmobilers found the “key hole” entrance, part way up the upper lift line. This is a very valuable area of ptarmigan habitat and an important research area. The Arrowsmith/Cokely area is a Federally designated Important Bird Area (IBA). This is the only remaining area of open meadow alpine, in the ski park, that humans haven’t impacted upon and we need to do our part in protecting this IBA habitat.

As well, the “West Meadows” are in the area the BC Ministry of Environment accesses for their surveys of the snowpack. These surveys on Mt Cokely go back as far as the 1950’s, I believe, and they measure the snow depth and water equivalent several times a season. A heavy machine, like a snowmobile, could compact the

snow and compromise the results of this research.

As an avid backcountry skier, who regularly skis in the Arrowsmith/Cokely area, I find it it a real drag to spend a morning working my way up the slope, just to have a thoughtless snowmobiler tear a track back and forth across the slopes, ruining them for any skiing downhill runs. It is “Arrowsmith Ski Park” still and for a good reason. Many backcountry skiers access the area and several outdoor clubs schedule ski and snowshoe trips every winter/spring. It is a very important area for self propelled activities.

While it is likely not feasible to put up barriers for snowmobiles, we can still try to stem the problem. I will be contacting the various snowmobile clubs and try to convey the message that we would like to have their help in regulating and enforcing the park bylaws. As well I will post signs, stating the



bylaws, at the park entrances and will put notices to this effect on the windshields of trucks, while I am hiking, climbing and backcountry skiing in the area this winter.

## Hike Canada en Marche and the National Hiking Trail

Pat Harrison, President, Hike Canada en Marche

The 2006 Annual General Meeting of Hike Canada en Marche just concluded in Winnipeg, Manitoba hosted by the Manitoba Prairie Pathfinders. Tremendous thanks to Kathleen Leathers for coordinating and organizing this event. Directors and representatives came from across Canada and the spirit of completing and maintaining the National Hiking Trail and the adjoining greenway seems intact, if not rejuvenated.

The 2007 AGM is scheduled for Saskatchewan. As this is the only Province where we do not have representation, we decided to be proactive and bring Hike Canada en Marche and the National Hiking Trail to them. In the coming months, we will be approaching various governmental agencies at all levels to help coordinate this activity in Saskatchewan.. So set your calendars for September 29 2007. It will be Hike Canada en Marche’s 30th anniversary.

Regional reports were given at the meeting and things seem to be progressing well. The following is my recollection of the major events going on and

will be followed up shortly with more complete reporting from each province. The East Coast Trail of Newfoundland continues to make headway, but not without some challenges from developers on the coast of Newfoundland. Hike Nova Scotia was started last year and is gaining momentum. New Brunswick keeps on adding sections to the Dobson Trail and has reached the Nova Scotia boundary in the east. They have also agreed on a crossing with Quebec in the west. Quebec has completed some 700 or 800 kms of their section with an approximately equal amount left to build. They have applied for a huge grant from the Quebec Government to finish their section. As well, they have produced a wonderful small map outlining the entire trail and the eight subsections. The tourism

maps of Quebec are now putting the NHT symbol on their maps. Ontario continues to work on existing trails. A recently completed study in Ontario has shown that the hiking trail network in Ontario brings in \$2 billion dollars of economic value to Ontario, and by encouraging people to use the trails, the province would save \$1.8 billion in health costs. There are now four small sections of the NHT across Manitoba. There is a growing feeling that there should be a provincial body for the hiking community in Manitoba. As stated previously, Saskatchewan remains an enigma as we still do not have a representative

there. Hike Alberta has resolved some issues around the Town of Canmore and has the NHT symbol on the official tourism map. As well, it appears that Hike Alberta has an agreement to put up a sign at the boundary of Banff National Park stating that the NHT ends at the boundary and hikers should use their own skills to get through the National Park to the BC section. Hike BC groups continue to try to maintain thousands of kilometres of trail

be done under the banner 'National Hiking Trail' if specifically for that purpose. This is an effort to lessen the confusion over which organization is campaigning.

-It was also agreed funding for the trail would be done at the provincial level, if a provincial body exists. Provincial bodies are closer generally to the local hiking issues and needs. The directors thought provincial bodies should help raise funds for the national organization

to the extent that website funds, filing fees and funds necessary for making the trip to the AGM could be covered. In long term planning, in an ideal world, each province will someday have a provincial body that will contribute 10 percent of its operating cost of HCEM. In the interim, federal funding is being pursued for those provinces that do not have a provincial body. This funding

will be used for targeted trail activities in those provinces.

-The executive on the board will remain the same for 2006 – 2007: Doug Campbell: Secretary, Dick Miles: Treasurer, Adrian Tanner: Vice-President, and Pat Harrison: President. See website [www.nationaltrail.ca](http://www.nationaltrail.ca) for more information.



Zach Loveless and Stella Pingle at Asulkan Pass, Sue Robinson, August, 2005.

without any government support as of yet. Currently there is a trail strategy beginning at the provincial level, and there is optimism that support for trails might begin next year.

In other HCEM news from the AGM:  
 - Approval of the constitution was postponed until next year as there still is no consensus on the rewriting of the constitution. However, it was stated and informally approved that most agenda items should be approved by the consensus of the attending directors or representatives of those directors.

- It was agreed all fund raising would

# Around the Province



Mike Nash

View from Driscoll Ridge

## Driscoll Trail

Dave King

This past year has been a very successful one for the Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club and the Prince George Section of the Alpine Club of Canada in terms of facility improvements in the Prince George area. The two clubs, in conjunction with others in the Prince George Backcountry Recreation Society, were instrumental in the

Driscoll Ridge (an unofficial name) is located along the Yellowhead Highway about half way between Prince George and McBride. The lower parts of the ridge are in the Interior Cedar-Hemlock Zone and dominated by forests

of old growth western redcedar and devil's club while the upper slopes are dominated by subalpine fir, dense rhododendron and alder slides. For the past 20 years the ridge has been explored by hikers, snowshoers and skiers with some of the effort directed at locating a suitable route for a trail. The devil's club, steep slopes, rock bands, alder slides, gullies and other obstacles have made ascending the ridge a challenge and finding a possi-

through a government review process. Part of the proposed trail traversed Old Growth Management Areas that are part of the Prince George Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). With responsibility for recreation on forest lands transferred to the new Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Arts, this new Ministry issued the permit for the trail to the Caledonia Ramblers in May. The permit also included a 1.5 km Ancient Forest Interpretive Trail through the old growth Western redcedar forest. This trail was laid out by the Dome Creek Forest Information Committee (Dome Creek is a small rural communities only a few kilometres away).

Work on the Driscoll Ridge Trail work began almost immediately and continued through summer until snow came. Nowell Senior deserves enormous credit for coordinating the effort and ensuring the work stayed on course. He estimates that there were about 30



Mike Nash

Driscoll Trail Opening



Mike Nash

Ancient Forest Interpretive Trail

construction of a new 17 km hiking trail, the Driscoll Ridge Trail; major renovations to a cabin in the McGregor Mountains; and the relocation and construction of trails in the Grizzly-Sugarbowl Provincial Park. This note is about the Driscoll Trail.

ble route for a trail a bigger challenge. During the 2005/06 winter, a route was chosen and traced using a Geographic Positioning System, and an application was made to the Ministry of Forest for a trail. The proposal went

work parties involving at least 50 different people (some spent many days) for a combined total of around 1500 hours. The Driscoll Ridge Trail is a loop ascending from the highway to the ridge top, then following the ridge



Mike Nash

Driscoll Trail Marker

top 6-7 km before descending back to the highway 5.3 km further east. It takes 7-8 hours to hike. The Ancient Forest Interpretive trail is at the east end of the ridge loop and takes 1-1.5 hours to walk. Nowell Senior and the Dome Creek folk installed a few signs on the highway and on the interpretive trail. More interpretive signs will be installed next year with the assistance of the Prince George Naturalist Club and the University of Northern BC (UNBC) recreation program. There is still trail work and bridges to be completed in 2007 (some materials have been donated by the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Arts), but both the interpretive trail and ridge trail are now usable.

Opening ceremonies and inaugural official hikes occurred on September 24th with almost 100 people attending. About 30 completed the 17 km Ridge Trail with everyone else ascending the east trail to the ridge and/or walking the interpretive trail. Press coverage was very good. From the top of Driscoll Ridge, there are fine views of the Cariboo Mountains to the south, the McGregor and Rocky Mountains to the north and Rocky Mountain Trench below. There is a chance one might encounter mountain caribou, grizzly bear, wolverine or other creatures. The largest tree on the interpretive trail has a diameter at breast height of 14.18 m (the butt is irregular in shape) but there are many other magnificent specimens. The oldest trees are well over 1000 years old and may be as much as 2000 years old. Darwyn Coxson, a lichenol-

ogist at UNBC, says this wet interior cedar/hemlock forest has more kinds of lichens than the coastal rainforests and is more comparable to the west coast forests of southern Chile and south island in New Zealand.

More information on the trails and Interior Cedar-Hemlock Zone can be found on the following Dome Creek websites: [www.domecreek.ca](http://www.domecreek.ca), [www.domecreek.ca/ancientcedar/driscollcedar/ridgetrail/](http://www.domecreek.ca/ancientcedar/driscollcedar/ridgetrail/) and [www.domecreek.ca/ancientcedar/ancientforest/](http://www.domecreek.ca/ancientcedar/ancientforest/) Or contact Dave King: 250 564-8887/ [kingjudi@shaw.ca](mailto:kingjudi@shaw.ca)

## A Place Near Fraser Lake

Nowell Senior, Caledonia Ramblers,  
Prince George

I thought I'd covered everything in my pre-hike blurb: boots, rain-gear, water, etc. To my subsequent chagrin, I didn't mention bug nets (you know, those mesh things you tie over your head to stop bugs from biting you). The swarms of flies we encountered near Fraser Lake were the worst I've seen; bug spray attracted rather than repelled them, and they found my ears particularly tasty.

When I went to bed my ears were not troubling me, but while I slept they grew bigger, and when Rita came to wake me next morning, it was with a shriek at my tumescent ears waving at her over the bed sheets. She told me over breakfast that for a split-second it flashed through her mind that Prince Charles was in our bed. I didn't ask if her shriek was one of horror or ecstatic anticipation; well, you never know - I mean there's a lot more to Prince Charles than just big ears. For myself, I don't know if my oversized ears added to my beauty or not. Although there were puzzled looks on the faces of people I met next day; they saw my big shiny new ears, but

were too polite to ask where I'd got them from. My daughter did think to herself that I'd had a different sort of haircut. My son, less diplomatic than most, remarked that I looked thinner in the face. All I can say is, with the huge flappers I had on each side of my head, a Sumo Wrestler would look thin in the face.

Anyway, for those of you out there not happy with your undersized ears, I know a place near Fraser Lake...

## ACC Vancouver Centennial Camp Tantalus Hut

Ron Dart

The Alpine Club on the West Coast decided on the Tantalus Hut on Lake Lovely Water in the deep forged Squamish River Valley to mark the ACC's centennial. The trip began with a helicopter flight up over the thick forest and onto the rock hard landing pad near the hut (built in 1961). The many white robed peaks surrounding, horseshoe like, Lake Lovely Water do have their allure and charming appeal. Each rock tip and turret draws the eyes to the canopy above and welcomes an ascent. The 10 who signed up for the trip were all keen and eager to take to the varied and various summits in the area, and, to the credit of the group, most of the peaks were reached by different members.

Alpha Mountain was climbed from both the more challenging east ridge and the gentler Lambda Lake and the Russian Army Camp approach. The newly finished Haberl Hut could be seen from the roof of Alpha. Omega Mountain was also scrambled up by some members of the team on an overcast and dour day; they seem to have scouted out a new route from all reports. A trip was also taken to the col between Serratus and Alpha. Some

in the group had hoped to trek to the Haberl Hut for a few days; a climb up Tantalus, Dione and Serratus was the longed for goal. The cat and mouse weather made such a desire hard to follow through on, though. There were also hikes to Iota from the sand-pit side, and a round trip up the col between Lydia and Niobe (the weather being too misty thick to ascend Lydia), up Niobe (the clouds parted near the cairn on the summit), down to Pelops, under Iota, then a pleasant glissade back down the snow thick valley. Each trip down from Niobe, we managed to fill our bottles with good Niobe champagne from the cascading waterfall and white foaming stream. Some crevasses were well open and obvious and others were just inching open. The fact the weather treated us well sometimes, and was cloud thick and rainy other days, meant we had some good in-hut time as well as on the mountain. Many a fine tale was swapped and much mountain lore was traded and bantered to and fro. Lake Lovely Water was the site of some good swimming and fishing. Cutthroat and rainbow trout took often to Ron Royston's lure and bait, so a couple of evenings (and at a breakfast, also), we had fresh fish well prepared by Ron Royston. All of us in the group were grateful for the superb dinners prepared by Ron Royston. We were most fortunate to have a group of people together for the week that climbed, worked, ate, drank and bantered well together. There was rarely a dull moment, and conversations were animated and lively.

## The Jim Haberl Hut: A New Climber's Hut in the Tantalus Range

Liz Scremin, Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Section



Grand opening, Summer 2006.

In 2001, the Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Section began work to replace the aging F.J. Green Shelter (better known as the Red Tit Hut) in the Serratus-Dione Col in the Tantalus Range. Fortuitously also in 2001, the family and friends of Jim Haberl were considering a location for a new mountain hut to be named in his memory. Jim Haberl was a renowned Canadian climber, internationally certified mountain guide, author and lecturer. He died sadly in April 1999 in an avalanche while climbing in Alaska. The two groups met to discuss their common goals and a partnership was soon formed to build the Jim Haberl Hut.

The years 2002 and 2003 were dedicated to setting a vision, studying the site, obtaining permits, developing the design, and fund-raising. The hut committee met faithfully, while supporters, advisors, donors and sponsors came from a wide range of sources, providing encouragement. During the summer of 2004, the hut framing was pre-fabricated by members of the 192nd Airfield Engineers, Department

of National Defence, at their base in Abbotsford, BC. In May of 2005, the vast bulk of the hut materials was trucked to the upper Squamish valley and lifted by Helifor. Five lifts of over 5000 pounds each were required. Construction continued on site through summer 2005 and the hut was deemed weather-tight by September. Finally during May and June of 2006, the hut interior was completed and all fittings were installed. The rough shell was transformed into a functional and inviting space.

The Jim Haberl Hut officially opened with the warmest of celebrations on June 29th, 2006. Twenty-two people attended: Jim's widow Sue Oakey-Baker and her husband Joe Baker,

Jim's parents Bill and Margaret, brothers Kevin, Pat and Mike and sister Susan, with many of their partners and children, Captain Thingvold and Sergeant Pelletier with his son Mathieu from the 192nd Airfield Engineers, Nathan Dubeck from Omega Aviation, and of course, members of the hut committee. After taking in the physical setting and views, the group stepped inside to survey the completed hut. Everyone enjoyed a convivial lunch, followed by speeches, toasts and tears. Group photos were taken in front of the hut sign. After five years, it was a proud day to see the hut finally realized. It was the culmination of a dream to honour Jim.

The hut is a wonderful accomplishment for the ACC-Vancouver Section in the Club's centennial year. The Section is very grateful to the hard-working hut committee members: Sue Oakey-Baker and Liz Scremin (Co-Chairs), Alastair Foreman, Peter Taylor, Blair Mitten, Colin Boyd, Bill Haberl, Kevin Haberl, Patrick Haberl, Manrico Scremin, Ian McGillivray

and Al Greer. The Club also wishes to thank the 192nd Airfield Engineers and the scores of volunteers and donors who helped make the hut possible. In the end, hundreds of private individuals made financial donations, dozens of companies and organizations provided letters of support, physical assistance, financial and/or in-kind donations, and over eighty volunteers from the mountain community actively participated in the construction.

Jim's hut was well used by climbers and guides alike this summer. Even greater use is expected next year. The on-going hut committee including ACC custodian Ron Royston will continue to care for the hut well into the future. In this way, Jim's memory will live on, and many more people will enjoy, as Jim did, the thrill of mountaineering in the Tantalus Range. Everyone is welcome to stay at the Jim Haberl Hut. For booking

Clockwise From Top Left:  
 Kitchen  
 Display on Jim  
 View from Kitchen  
 Team Photo  
 Kevin, Margaret, and Bill Haberl

**Facilities**

The Jim Haberl Hut is a single storey wood frame structure with metal roofing and cladding. There is a large kitchen and sitting room with wonderful views to the north, south and west. There are also two sleeping



*Fresh Water:* Snow must be melted in winter and spring. In early summer, water can be collected where it runs in rivulets across rocks. A fairly major 'creek' forms on the glacier to the north about ten minutes away. A water collection system off the roof is installed to store water in a tank in the crawlspace. This water must be filtered and/or boiled for drinking.  
*Garbage:* Please take all garbage out with you.

*Heating:* A propane heater keeps the hut cozy on cool days.  
*Lighting:* Wiring has been roughed in for future lighting. A wind or solar power system is being considered. For now, visitors are advised to bring headlamps. Candles and other open flames are not permitted in the hut.

information, please see [www.accvancouver.ca](http://www.accvancouver.ca) or call ACC Hut Custodian Ron Royston at work 604-687-2711 (preferred) or at home 604-921-8164. To read Jim Haberl's biography and see all the construction photos, check [www.jimhaberlfund.org](http://www.jimhaberlfund.org)

rooms with bunks for six people each. While the hut is kept locked, there is an unlocked vestibule for emergency use.  
*Cooking:* The kitchen is fully equipped with two propane cooktops and full cooking and eating utensils.

The following companies, organizations and individuals have donated time and energy, funds, goods and/or services to make the Jim Haberl Hut possible. In addition, hundreds of private individuals across the continent have made financial donations. The Alpine Club of Canada and the

Jim Haberl Hut Committee are very grateful.

Many thanks go to:  
The ACC - National Endowment and Environment Funds  
The ACC - Vancouver Section Endowment Fund  
The 192nd Airfield Engineers (Dept. of National Defence)  
Advanced Internet Services  
Angles and Curves Architectural Millwork  
Arcteryx  
The Association of Canadian Mountain Guides  
BC Parks  
Beere Timber Company  
Bennett Surveys Ltd.  
Cathedral Lakes Lodge  
Dick's Lumber  
The Escape Route  
Helifor  
Leafguard Gutters  
Masonite International Corporation  
McGregor and Thompson Hardware  
Mountain Building Centre  
Mountain Equipment Co-op  
North Shore Rescue  
Omega Aviation  
Peter Taylor P.Eng.  
Pinnacle Pursuits  
Premier Plastics  
Richelieu Hardware  
Serratus  
Starline Windows  
Terminal Forest Products  
Vicwest Steel  
Wolseley Mechanical



Lenka Vismovska

Centennial Flag, summit tube, and woodeden axe, Golden Hinde, Centennial Summer 2006.

## Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Island Section

Judith Holm

Achieving park status for the Mount Arrowsmith massif, “Centennial Week in the Mountains,” and a special Banquet, were the main Vancouver Island Section initiatives in celebration of the Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) Centennial. We invited ACC’ers from other sections to join us in our Centennial Week in the Mountain. This event, centred on the Elk River Valley, included an eight day traverse to climb the Golden Hinde, highest peak on Vancouver Island. Other parties summited Elkhorn Mountain, Elkhorn South, Slocomb Peak, Mt. Colonel Foster (SE Summit) and King’s Peak.

It was great to have guests Fern Hietcamp, Anja Pakendorf and Betty Bernoth join Sandy Briggs’ group. Because so many ACC VI’ers wanted to

come, Russ Moir led a second group. It was a super hot climb up to Marble Meadows, but all those days of sunshine made for great views of mountains, fascinating geology and flowers. The two traverses to climb the Golden Hinde were successful and very much enjoyed, with much laughter, good fun, hard work, and, the engagement of Hinrich Schaefer and Julie Deslippe on the summit of the Golden Hinde! Sandy’s and Russ’ groups travelled and camped separately but they did meet up at two key places, on the summit of the Golden Hinde and at Elk Pass, the final high point, where a cache was found to welcome them. It included a tiny book about an impossible expedition by people who suffer great hardships and eventually reach a peak that is unbelievably beautiful and worthwhile and they

return enriched. On day nine, Sandy's group came out to the Elk River parking lot, and, with amazing timing, Tak Ogasawara arrived, jumped out of his car and set up a table, on which he laid out watermelon, his homemade baking and drinks. Sandy's group could hardly believe their eyes. They were really hungry and this was delicious. What a welcome!

Later that day Tom Carter's group, which climbed Mt. Colonel Foster (SE Summit) also arrived and were met by Tak, Lindsay Elms and Val Wootton. Tom's group had experienced a special moment at the base of the climb. The topography dictated that they bivi separately in a line along the edge of the lake, and in the evening each spontaneously had quietly faced and watched the misty wall of the Colonel, with its waterfalls running off the face. Tom knows the southeast summit of Colonel Foster route very well, having climbed it many times in differing conditions. He led his capable group

safely up through full whiteout to the summit, where the clouds parted and allowed the main summit to come into view.

Peter Rothermel's group climbed in sunshine, with happy times at Elk Pass and on Slocomb Peak, from which Mt. Waddington was seen, nestled between Elkhorn and King's Peak. Tak and Don Morton joined the group for the Elkhorn South climb. Having spent two months in hospital this spring, Tak mentioned he would come up only part of the way, but he and Don kept climbing and it gradually became evident

that everyone was going to summit. Being with Tak at the cairn was such a wonderful moment for everyone.



Cedric Zala

King's Peak Summit

Elkhorn was summited as a daytrip. Lindsay Elms adapted to the foggy weather by changing from the ACC's 1912 first ascent route to the usual route. One party member found the climb difficult, her boyfriend stayed with her, and they too enjoyed their day on the mountain.

Of Charles Turner's trip, Cedric Zala wrote "The King's Peak trip on Saturday went really well, with all of us, including Charles' dog Cairo, summiting." King's Peak was the climb Cedric especially wanted to do, yet he had been willing to also offer an easier trip to enable a full range of possibilities for the Centennial week. All in all, it worked out very well.

Just "around the corner" in 2012 will be the Vancouver Island Section's own Centennial, for our group was founded by A. O. Wheeler in 1912.



Gordon Nienaber

On the summit of the Golden Hinde, Centennial Summer 2006.

## Access to Touring Terrain Beyond the Controlled Recreation Area: The Nelson Experience

Sandra McGuinness, Kootenay Mountaineering Club



Sandra McGuinness

Ski Touring in the Kutetl Creek area accessed from Whitewater Ski Hill.



Sandra McGuinness

North Qua, Kutetl Creek area accessed from Whitewater Ski Hill.

Whitewater Ski Resort has traditionally been very friendly to ski tourers, typically allowing them to cross through the Controlled Recreation Area (CRA) before the chair lifts start operating in the morning to access some of the backcountry ski terrain beyond the ski hill boundary. However, last ski season (2006), some zealous employees began chasing ski tourers away, even when the tourers were crossing the runs two hours before the lifts were due to open. As the Kootenay Mountaineering Club runs many ski tours into the area beyond the ski hill, we began negotiations with Whitewater to reach some agreement acceptable to both parties that would allow ski tourers access to the backcountry areas beyond the ski hill boundary.

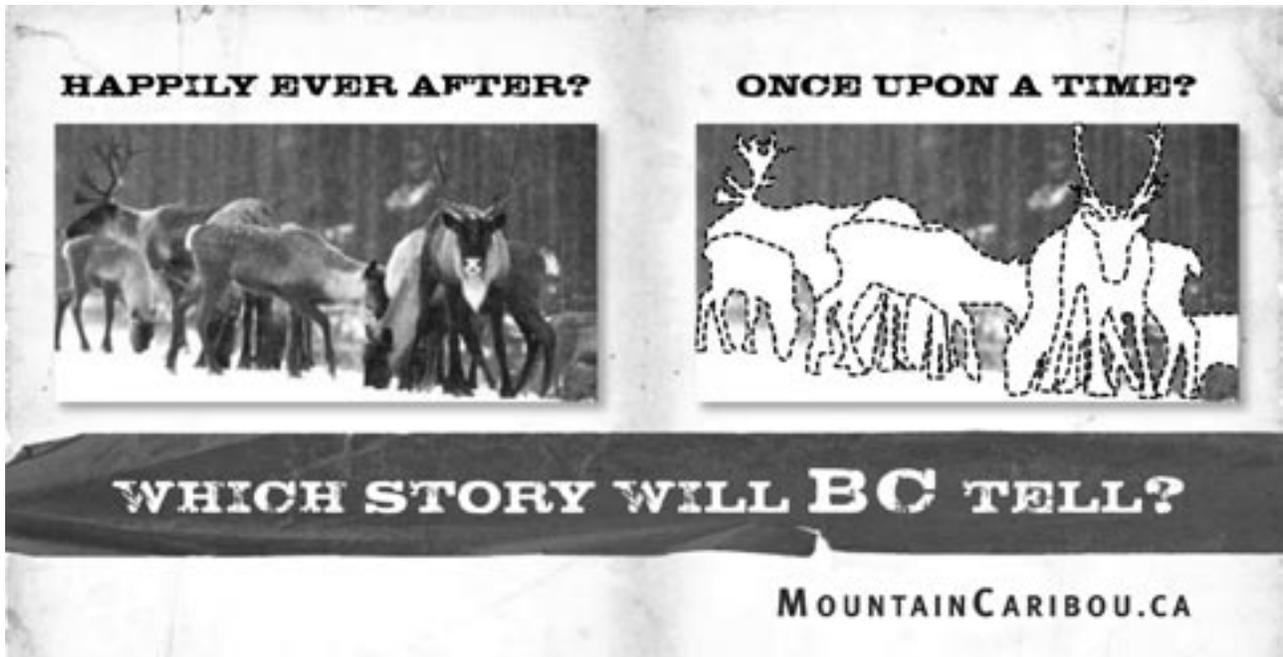
Our first step was to talk to Psyche Brown, who is the manager for “All Seasons Resorts” in the Kootenays and was (coincidentally) in the process of working with Whitewater to update

their management plan. From Ms Brown we got a copy of the standard template governing ski resorts and found out what our legal rights were. We also updated Ms Brown on the current conflict and historical ski touring use.

Secondly, we wrote a letter to the manager, Mike Adams, requesting a meeting to discuss the issue and offering some solutions to the conflict. It took a little bit of persistence to actually get a meeting with Mr Adams, but once we had done so, the meeting went very well. We listened to the concerns from the perspective of the ski resort and outlined the reasons why we wanted to maintain access to areas beyond the ski hill boundary. After some discussions we were able to reach an agreement on how and when ski tourers would be allowed to cross through the CRA. A bit of extra persistence was required to get this in writing, and a letter went to the KMC and to Ms Brown to stay on file with

the Whitewater management plan. The final step in the process was to publish our agreement in the club newsletter to make our members aware of the new policy.

Getting the agreement took some time, some work and quite a bit of patience, but we are pleased with the result. The gist of our agreement is that we will be out of the CRA by 8 a.m. in the morning, will not ski within bounds, will obey all closures and will be equipped for backcountry travel. As long as we have no dogs on the trip, we can ski back to the cars via the closest run to our entry point to the controlled recreation area before the resort closes. However, if there are dogs on the trip, we have to wait for the resort to close and the runs to be cleared.



## Notices

### Outdoor Club of Victoria, 1942 – 2007

There will be a 65th Anniversary Celebration of the Outdoor Club in Victoria - March 16 – 18, 2007.

We are trying to locate and welcome past members who may be interested in attending this three-day celebration.

For further information, please contact Chairperson Ann Field, 406-190 Gorge Road West, Victoria, BC V9A 1M4 phone 250-477-2191, email [toytai@shaw.ca](mailto:toytai@shaw.ca)

### BCMC Centennial Invitation

Fellow mountaineers: 2007 is our centennial .We would like to include other members of our community in our activities and invite you to join us at our summer camps.Watch our schedule at [www.bcmc.ca](http://www.bcmc.ca) <<http://www.bcmc.ca>> Also, would you like to do a camp in our area ? Do you need a guide or facilitator or just information? For a good time call Peter Woodsworth, BCMC Camps Chair, 604-254-7076 or [peterwoodsworth@telus.net](mailto:peterwoodsworth@telus.net).

# The Federation of Mountain Clubs

*Working on your behalf*

The Federation of Mountain Clubs (FMC) 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 FMC also has several individual members who are not affiliated with any 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 FMC does on their behalf, membership benefits include a subscription to the FMC newsletter *Cloudburst* and access to an inexpensive Third-Party Liability insurance program.

The FMC mandate is to foster and promote the non-motorized activities of the membership and the general public through leadership, advocacy and education". The FMC 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 FMC fulfills its mandate with a comprehensive approach to mountain recreation and conservation by:

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

Acting under the policy of "talk, understand and persuade", rather than "confront and force", the FMC 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 FMC was founded in 1971, based on a predecessor organization called the Mountain Access Committee. Since this time the FMC has had many success stories working on behalf of our members and the public at large. If you visit our website ([www.mountainclubs.bc.ca](http://www.mountainclubs.bc.ca)) 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 FMC would not exist. Through our committees, club advocates and general membership we have much to hope for on the trail ahead.

## Member Clubs

<b>Alberni Valley Outdoor Club</b>	<a href="http://www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/AVOC">www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/AVOC</a>
<b>Alpine Club of Canada-Vancouver Section</b>	<a href="http://www.aebc.com/acc">www.aebc.com/acc</a>
<b>Alpine Club of Canada-Vancouver Island Section</b>	<a href="http://www.horizon.bc.ca/~acc">www.horizon.bc.ca/~acc</a>
<b>Alpine Club of Canada – Prince George Section</b>	<a href="http://www.vts.bc.ca/ACC-PG">www.vts.bc.ca/ACC-PG</a>
<b>Backroads Outdoor Club</b>	<a href="http://www.backroadsoutdoor.ca">www.backroadsoutdoor.ca</a>
<b>British Columbia Mountaineering Club</b>	<a href="http://www.bcmc.ca">www.bcmc.ca</a>
<b>Caledonia Ramblers</b>	<a href="http://web.unbc.ca/~ramblers">http://web.unbc.ca/~ramblers</a>
<b>Chilliwack Outdoor Club</b>	<a href="http://www.chilliwack.com/leisure/outdoor/outdoor.html">www.chilliwack.com/leisure/outdoor/outdoor.html</a>
<b>Comox District Mountaineering Club</b>	<a href="http://www.members.shaw.ca/mount">www.members.shaw.ca/mount</a>
<b>Fraser Headwaters Alliance</b>	<a href="http://www.fraserheadwaters.org">www.fraserheadwaters.org</a>
<b>Island Mountain Ramblers</b>	<a href="http://www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/IMR">www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/IMR</a>
<b>Kootenay Mountaineering Club</b>	<a href="http://www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca">www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca</a>
<b>Mt. Remo Backcountry Society</b>	<a href="http://www.mrbs.ca">www.mrbs.ca</a>
<b>North Shore Hikers</b>	<a href="http://www.northshorehikers.org">www.northshorehikers.org</a>
<b>North Vancouver Outdoors Club</b>	<a href="http://www.northvanoutdoorsclub.ca">www.northvanoutdoorsclub.ca</a>
<b>Outdoor Club of Victoria</b>	<a href="http://www.ocv.ca">www.ocv.ca</a>
<b>Outsetters Club</b>	<a href="http://www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/Outsetters">www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/Outsetters</a>
<b>Ozalenka Alpine Club</b>	
<b>Richmond Outdoor Club</b>	<a href="http://www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/ROC">www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/ROC</a>
<b>Valley Outdoor Association</b>	<a href="http://www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/VOA">www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/VOA</a>
<b>Vancouver Island Trails Information Society</b>	<a href="http://www.hikingtrailsbooks.com">www.hikingtrailsbooks.com</a>
<b>Varsity Outdoor Club</b>	<a href="http://www.ubc-voc.com">www.ubc-voc.com</a>

More Club information available at:  
[www.mountainclubs.bc.ca](http://www.mountainclubs.bc.ca)



Lorrie Leech/Mary Henderson/Mike Nash/Ken Rodonets

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE COPIES TO:  
Federation of Mountain Clubs  
130 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC, V5Y 1P3