CLOUDBURST

Our Understaffed Conservation Service: a BC-Wide Issue | A Record-Breaking Ascent of Mt. Logan
Melting Ice and Tumbling Rocks | The Cabin Stewards and Cabins of Tetrahedron Provincial Park

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

Accessing the backcountry one step at a time

Fall/Winter 2017

CLOUDBURST

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Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

Working on your behalf

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMCBC) is a democratic, grassroots organization dedicated to protecting and maintaining access to quality non-motorized backcountry recreation in British Columbia's mountains and wilderness areas. As our name indicates we are a federation of outdoor clubs with a membership of over 5000 people from across BC. Our membership is comprised of a diverse group of non-motorized backcountry recreationists including hikers, rock climbers, mountaineers, trail runners, kayakers, mountain bikers, backcountry skiers and snowshoers. As an organization, we believe that the enjoyment of these pursuits in an unspoiled environment is a vital component to the quality of life for British Columbians and by acting under the policy of "talk, understand and persuade" we advocate for these interests.

Membership in the FMCBC is open to any club or individual who supports our vision, mission and purpose as outlined below and includes benefits such as a subscription to our semi-annual newsletter *Cloudburst*, monthly updates through our FMCBC E-News, and access to Third-Party Liability insurance. In addition, member clubs are eligible to apply for project funding through our Member Club Grant Program which supports trail building and upgrading initiatives.

FMCBC's **vision** is that British Columbia's backcountry is shared amongst all recreational users in a way that self-propelled users have reasonable access to an enjoyable experience.

FMCBC's **mission** is to advocate for safe, self-propelled activities (such as hiking, mountaineering, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running and other backcountry activities) and the protection of BC's backcountry for current and future generations to experience.

FMCBC's **purpose** is:

- To represent clubs and the public interested in non-motorized backcountry recreation in BC, and to advise and take action on their behalf in matters which may impact their backcountry recreation experiences.
- To make recommendations to government and non-government organizations regarding the protection of and access to BC's backcountry and trails.
- To encourage self-propelled backcountry recreation, and to promote low-impact and safe practices.
- To promote the development and maintenance of a system of trails in BC.
- To promote the sound management and preservation of BC's backcountry recreation resources.

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

- Participating in provincial land use decision processes
- Working to positively change government agency policies so that self-propelled outdoor recreation opportunities are recognized and protected
- Representing wilderness as a legitimate land use and a resource of identifiable value to society
- Advocating for new parks and wilderness resources, and working to maintain the integrity of existing parks and wilderness resources
- Advocating for improved access to existing recreational resources
- Supporting the building, maintaining and protecting of hiking and mountain access trails
- Promoting non-motorized and self-propelled recreation activities in BC's mountains and wilderness
- Educating its member and the public on mountain and backcountry safety issues and working with member clubs to address risk management issues
- Promoting membership within our member clubs
- Negotiating with insurance brokers to provide extensive liability insurance coverage for our members clubs

At the core of FMCBC's projects, issues and successes are the countless hours donated by dedicated volunteers from our member clubs across the province. Without these volunteers the FMCBC would not exist and we appreciate all those who have volunteered in the past or are current volunteers. We encourage others to join us to help us reach our vision. ■

President's Message

Dave Wharton

Dave on Zoa Peak, Coquihalla this past summer.

To begin, I would like to welcome the Skeena Climbing Society to the FMCBC. I think it makes the FMCBC a much stronger organization as we have clubs from the different regions of the province joining us. I believe one of the important goals of the FMCBC should be to state with confidence that we represent the interests of non-motorized backcountry recreation across all regions of British Columbia. And to do that it is essential that the FMCBC is seen to have, and does have, value across the province. The FMCBC now has 43 member clubs.

To help prepare myself to write this note I started by re-reading my previous President's Message, which was also my first. Since that was written there have been two elections that have concerned me. As you may recall, I came into this position last December, unelected, due to the resignation of the previous President. So, I would like to thank those who have had the confidence to elect me to be the FMCBC President at the 2017 AGM. And I would like to encourage those who disagree with any opinions or positions I take, or that any others take on issues, to be critical and voice opposition. When brought forward with respect they will always be welcome!

And of course, the other election was provincial. I think it's safe to say that the majority of your Board and Executive officers, and staff, would agree that the change of government will assist the FMCBC in moving forward to achieve its goals and objectives. Your Executive Director, Barry Janyk, and myself, have already had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Andrew Weaver, MLA Adam Olsen, and the Green Party Senior Policy Advisor to have some initial discussion on areas where there may be common interest. One such area of common interest is the Green Party's Draft Right to Roam legislation. Denial of access to both park land and Crown land has long been an issue of major concern to many within the FMCBC and its member clubs. Provincial Right to Roam legislation is seen by many to be a significant part of any solution that will guarantee access for backcountry recreation, and potentially remove the need to resolve each access issue on a case by case basis. One need only to be familiar with both the Singing Pass Trail access to Garibaldi Provincial Park and the Cypress Provincial Park Backcountry Access Corridor issues, as well as issues faced regularly on Vancouver Island with respect to crossing private forest lands.

There has been recognition within the FMCBC that the organization's communications strategies and tools need updating and revising so that they become more relevant to more people and are able to be much more efficient and timely in their responses on all issues that are of concern to members. And that individual members have access to a forum that allows for a free exchange of ideas and opinions. If you have not already done so, I strongly encourage you to have a look at the new FMCBC Facebook Group and initiate discussion on backcountry and other outdoor interests that you are passionate about. Other communications initiatives are currently under consideration and development, and are being led, capably, by Ms. Stacey Santos, Communications Coordinator.

I would like to close this message by personally extending a sincere thank-you to Mr. Rodney Edwards. Rod has shown unwavering dedication and leadership as the President of the Valley Outdoor Association (an FMCBC founder club), for the past 12 years. Rod has stepped down recently as President and I am confident he leaves that club a much better organization than when he took on the President's role. Rod, I use you regularly as a good example of how things should be done as I sit as FMCBC President. ■

Welcome to our newest FMCBC Member Club

Skeena Climbing Society

Thank you to the following people for their service as FMCBC Directors

Alex Sheppard (SFU)
Rob Mudie (VOA)

Welcome to our newest FMCBC Directors

Todd Hansen (SFU)
MacKenzie Coombe (VOCO)
Laurens van Vliet (BMTS)
Matthew Veikle (SCS)

Recreation and Conservation

Southwest BC Recreation and Conservation Committee Report

By Monika Bittel, Committee Co-Chair

Over the past several months the focus of the SWBC Recreation and Conservation Committee has been on the following three topics:

Singing Pass Trail, Garibaldi Park – Parking and Access Proposal

Paul Kubik from the BC Mountaineering Club has further developed the Singing Pass Parking Proposal, after obtaining feedback and comments from interested members, as well as from the Spearhead Hut Society. In September, the Singing Pass Parking Proposal was endorsed by the SWBC Recreation & Conservation Committee. The proposal, which will be refined as more information becomes available, can be viewed at here. The focus will now be on gaining public support for the proposal, engaging the various stakeholders to develop and refine the proposal further, costing out the proposal, and gaining the support of the relevant provincial Ministers: Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy, George Heyman; and, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Regional Development, Doug Donaldson.

Cypress Provincial Park: Restoring early morning access through Backcountry Access Corridor (BAC)

Representatives from the various local clubs, the FMCBC, the Friends of Cypress Provincial Park and the Dawn Patrol met with BC Parks personnel in mid-July to explain why the draft BAC protocol was unacceptable. Prior to the meeting, the FMCBC had reached out to Mel Turner (retired from BC Parks) and Ken Farquharson, both of whom were involved with the Williams Commission. They provided excellent historical information about the BAC, which provided much-needed historical context for the BAC provisions in the 2006 Park Use Permit. Both are willing to continue to work with the FMCBC, clubs, and Friends of Cypress on this matter. More information about this issue is available here. We anticipate a further stakeholder meeting, which will likely involve the new management at Cypress Mountain Resorts, to resolve this matter before the start of the 2017-2018 winter season.

View looking east across Singing Pass to Cowboy Ridge. The 3 mountains to right of centre are Overlord, Fissile, and Whirlwind.

Right to Roam Legislation proposed by Green Party

In February 2017, Dr. Andrew Weaver, leader of the BC Green Party, introduced Right to Roam legislation, which was modeled on the Nova Scotia legislation. More information about the Green Party initiative, including the proposed legislation, background information and the extensive comments received by the Green Party to date can be found at www.bcgreens.ca/weaver_introduces_right_to_roam_act/. While the legislation does not cover many of the situations that our members face (i.e., motorized and non-motorized access restrictions imposed by commercial interests, such as commercial backcountry operators, ski resorts and logging companies), the Green Party is willing to work with the FMCBC to expand the scope of the Right to Roam legislation. Consultations will be ongoing with the Green Party caucus and will be spearheaded by the FMCBC's Executive Director, Barry Janyk, as it is a matter of province-wide interest.

Hopefully by the time the Spring/Summer issue of Cloudburst comes out, we will have some positive news on all these issues. As always, everyone's continued efforts and collaboration on all these and other matters of interest to the backcountry, non-motorized community is greatly appreciated. ■

Our Understaffed Conservation Service: a BC-Wide Issue

By Andrew Drouin, South Okanagan Trail Alliance

The scene is a familiar one: shotgun and rifle shells scattered far and wide throughout gravel pits, fields and plateaus in the front and backcountry. Bits and pieces of nearly everything imaginable litters the far end of these areas: televisions, computer screens, explosive canisters, appliances, and an endless list of bullet-riddled objects. Beyond these are the unseen issues: millions of bits of lead from shotgun shells, the casings of which are evident as a near-carpet of plastic in the foreground.

Illegal target practice hotspots suffer from serious lead pollution issues, which go unnoticed and unreported by local authorities. Worse, many of these sites are situated in gravel pits, and all of that lead ends up as sanding material for regional roadways during the winter. Come spring, all of this sand and lead is assimilated into the environment—courted by spring rains and attendant runoff. Just up the road from spots like these you will often find hidden stashes of garbage—illegal dump sites, the likes of which dot the landscape throughout the province.

In lakes and rivers throughout the land, illegal fishing is common, and throughout the forest, poaching of wildlife of every shape and size. In recent months, Conservation Service and RCMP road-checks found dozens of examples of both activities. And this is only one day, on one road, in one spot in the province.

As much as the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC is keen on rallying the BC government for BC Parks ranger funding, I strongly feel we should put just as much attention on advocating for additional BC Conservation service personnel.

You may have noticed that in some cases, outdoor recreationalists are being served by Conservation Dept. staff, even in areas where one might expect to encounter BC Parks staff.

A key report prepared by the Society of BC Conservation Officers, *Staffing Level Comparison 2001 to 2012*, shows that the number of conservation officers (who were actually out in the field) has dropped by about 1/3 between 2001 and 2012, and considerably more in some regions, while demands on the Conservation Officer Service (COS) officers increased over the same period.

BC's Conservation Officer Service is actually at or near historic staffing levels, but the levels of enforcement actions (as measured by tickets, issues and convictions obtained) has been dropping fairly steadily for the past 25 years. The Society of BC Conservation Officer's report suggests enforcement of environmental laws has declined because more conservation officers are tied up in office administration due to loss of field staff (CO assistants).

Just a few of the many examples of illegal dumping and other illegal activities.

The number of Conservation Officers peaked in 1995, with 152 full-time staff, but by 2004 that number had dropped to 120, and many of the positions for scientists and field staff that supported the Conservation officers were eliminated, requiring Conservation Officers to spend more time at their desk.

In 2005, BC began to reverse the trend, re-hiring Conservation Officers. In 2013/14 there were 156 staff members in the Conservation Officer Service, 148 of whom were Officers. Statistics from 2017 indicate that Conservation Officers number 148 members overall—desk and field staff inclusive—spread among 45 Conservation Service offices in eight regions throughout the province.

If poachers and polluters don't feel they need to worry about getting caught, then our environment is at risk even if, on paper, our laws are good. It is clear British Columbia has established a new normal for low environmental enforcement and that level continues to drop as convictions are well behind where we were even a decade ago.

Though the following numbers are somewhat dated, they provide ample indication of the issue. During fiscal year 2002/03, the RAPP (Report all Poachers and Polluter) line received 2119 poaching/polluting calls and 8094 problem wildlife complaints. During 2011/12, the RAPP line received 4826 poaching/polluting calls and 26779 problem wildlife complaints. Offences are up, but tickets and convictions are down because too many of the 'boots on the ground' are stuck under desks.

The BC Ministry of Environment Service Plan for the period 2015-2018 estimates that $15 million was budgeted for the Conservation Officer Service in 2014/2015 and in 2015/2016. This number is down from $18.7 million in 2007/2008.

How are staffing problems expected to be solved if the Ministry's resources are not increased?

Keep in mind that BC Conservation Officers are tasked with monitoring 620,000 kilometres of service roads, approximately 20 thousand lakes, and 750 thousand kilometers of streams over our province's 947,800 sq km!

As the Society of British Columbia Conservation Officers states on its website, "BC Conservation Officers have the most diverse resource law enforcement job in Canada, yet they are among the worst paid. Being poorly paid and compensated is hurting our recruitment and retention of officers. Inadequate staffing is resulting in higher case loads, slower response times or no response at all."

In summary, I strongly feel that we need to include a focus on prodding the BC Government to recognize that the keepers of our environmental laws on the land are in need of financial recognition—every bit as much as are our BC Parks staff.

Our club's experience with working through the local Conservation Office bears out everything that you have read in this article.

Credit to the Society of BC Conservation Officers and West Coast Environmental Law for much of the data contained in this article. ■

Singing Pass Trail Access

By Jay MacArthur, ACC-Vancouver Section

The Singing Pass area is an alpine paradise in Garibaldi Provincial Park just east of Whistler. It joins the "Musical Bumps" (Oboe, Flute, Piccolo and Whistler) to the Fitzsimmons and Spearhead area. The Singing Pass Trail starts in large mature timber and follows Fitzsimmons Creek to the alpine pass where it splits into trails to Russet Lake and the Musical Bumps. Russet Lake is the location of a BC Parks hut built in 1968 by the BC Mountaineering Club and will soon be the site of a larger hut presently being built by the Alpine Club of Canada and the BCMC.

The view from Flute looking over Oboe, Cowboy Ridge to Fissile and Overlord.

Access to the Singing Pass Trail was blocked by a landslide about 25 years ago. Hikers had used the access route, which is an old mining/logging road, for many years to drive to the trailhead 5 km up Fitzsimmons Creek from Whistler Village. The landslide blocked the road about 2 km from Whistler and then Whistler Blackcomb built a bike park and closed the road to vehicles. This increases the total round trip to 26 km to Singing Pass, or 32 km to Russet Lake.

The FMCBC has been working with government agencies for many years to try to get the road fixed. About 10 years ago, Innergex Renewable Energy built a small dam on Fitzsimmons Creek close to the old trailhead. They fixed an old logging road on the north (Blackcomb) side of the creek to provide access to the IPP. We recommended that this road be used for access to the trail and BC Parks agreed with that idea.

However, 10 years later the government has taken very little action. They have tried to fix up the old road to make it easier to hike but that doesn't do anything for the extra distance.

CALL TO ACTION!

At recent meetings with BC Parks and other stakeholders, the FMCBC has had very little support for our request to get the new road opened to private vehicles. We would really appreciate a letter asking for the IPP Access Road to be open to private vehicles and that a bridge be built over Fitzsimmons Creek. Please send an email or letter to the following government representatives:

George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy—ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development—FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's submission to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

By Stacey Santos, FMCBC Communications Coordinator

The Outdoor Recreation Council of BC (ORC) made its annual submission to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, which, every fall, holds province-wide public consultations on the next provincial budget. In its submission, ORC recommended that the Operating Budget of BC Parks be significantly increased for the 2018/19 fiscal year and for subsequent years until it approaches a level which would be adequate for the responsible management and maintenance of BC's vast provincial parks system. The submission described how the Operating Budget of BC Parks has progressively declined in recent years in spite of additional parks and protected areas being added to the system during the period. To learn more about ORC's insights and recommendations, you can read their full submission at http://bit.ly/ORC-standing-committee2017

The Report on the 2018 Budget Consultation was released on Nov. 15th, 2017, and ORC was pleased to note that the Committee responded to its recommendation regarding increasing the operational funding for BC Parks. You can read the report (http://bit.ly/2018-Budget-Consultation), which includes direct references to ORC's submission. ■

Mountain Matters

A Record-Breaking Ascent of Mt. Logan

By Naomi Prohaska

Taking my first steps on the Quintino Sella glacier, I knew I was about to experience the best three weeks of my life. Gazing up at the nunataks surrounding us, and staring down the enormous glaciers, I couldn't believe where I was. I had imagined being there so many times. Yet thinking I might become the youngest person to climb Canada's tallest mountain wasn't where my mind was. I was too consumed by the beauty in which I was enveloped. None of the photos I had seen nor my imagination did justice to the magnificence of the St. Elias Mountain range. My first day in the Kluane National Park, I caught a glimpse of the glory that was the reality of those mountains.

Basecamp on the Quintino Sella before summitting.

This expedition was such a big leap in my mountaineering career. Almost every time we did a carry (climb high, sleep low), I was going higher than I ever had before. Even making it to Camp 1 was a personal record for me. At 3,400 metres, it was my highest camp ever. By then, I still couldn't wrap my mind around the thought that I was actually on Mt. Logan.

As we carried and moved camp to King Col (Camp 2), I worried about the rest of the climb. If I was already becoming tired, how would I perform further up? At Camp 2 we could see the peak, but it looked so far away, so out of reach. Nevertheless, I was greatly thankful to be where I was. I wasn't freezing, I didn't have blisters, we had decent food and I was contented.

Climbing to Camp 3, we ascended the steepest slope of the route, which frightened me quite a bit. Open crevasses below us and sleds pulling us down. Nonetheless, we reached a plateau without any incidents; this was where we would establish Camp 3. Having burst through the clouds, the sight was unlike anything I had ever seen. Before us arose Mt. St. Elias, its steep slopes split with crevasses and the size of it was insane. How were we going to climb higher than that?! Having to descend from Camp 3 felt like leaving a magical world, stepping out of the wardrobe.

One of my favourite days of the trip was when we moved to Camp 3. The steep section was much less scary. The crevasses we jumped over were fascinating and it seemed the view had gotten better. During that climb we could see the prominent King Peak as well as our ascent route to Prospectors col. Arriving at our camp, I knew we would be waiting for a weather window to make a push for the summit.

Throughout the following days I was colder than I'd ever been. I wore my warmest jacket, mitts and overboots as we tried to carry supplies to Prospectors col. We were turned around by low visibility and returned to Camp 3. Over the next 36 hours it snowed four feet! I wanted to ski extremely badly. It was bizarre thinking about home, Pemberton BC, where it was 25 degrees. I was grateful to not be stuck in a classroom for 30 hours a week, even it meant being cramped in a tent for multiple days.

Returning from a carry to Camp 2.

On May 22 the weather cleared, so we packed up and moved out. With two other teams we slogged through the powder up the hill. All through the day the sights were getting more incredible. Prospectors col gave us the best view of Mt. St. Elias from the entire trip. However, we also experienced the burning sun and the piercing wind at the 5,500 metre pass. The height we had ascended to was almost 2,000 metres higher than anywhere I had been before Logan. Rounding Prospectors Peak, we had skipped the typical Camp 4 and were heading to Camp 5. Being our fourteenth day, it was the hardest yet. After nine hours of hauling myself and my

gear upwards, I was tired. That night, dinner wasn't appealing and the altitude made it terribly hard to eat. Sleeping was reasonably good though, because I was tired.

Awaking the next morning I read the last letters I had from home. The words from my family and friends encouraged me greatly. Still, my nervousness was hard to keep under control while packing for summit day. I knew I could be on the top of Canada and accomplish my dream in the coming 8 hours. While ascending I had to be deeply in tune with my body, especially my energy levels. Don't go too fast, don't go too slow, take deep breaths, drink lots of water, eat. At around 5,600 metres, I ate a Clif bar. It was remarkably hard to swallow. My appetite was gone (due to the elevation), but the calories I received from the bar ensured I could made the top and returned safely.

The top of Canada on May 23, 2017.

From that point on I was absolutely focused on the steps in front of me. I wouldn't let myself get excited yet; if I didn't make it, the disappointment would have been too great. But, before I knew it, I was on the summit ridge. At 5,940 metres we stopped and separated. We couldn't all stand on top at the same time because of the steepness and exposure of the ridge. Being in the second group, I waited in anticipation. When it was finally my turn I could not believe I was actually doing it. I was standing on the peak of Mt. Logan! I had done it! The smile on my face as I write this is because it is still crazy to think about what I did. And the view! It is the best thing I have ever seen. The tremendous glaciers and the hundreds of peaks were truly different from the panoramas I am used to on the West coast. The sight is indescribable; all I could see were snow and rocks. No lakes, no rivers, no oceans, no plants and no ground! The amount of unclimbed peaks and untouched glaciers was overwhelming. Although in the moment I wasn't just thinking about where I was, I was picturing all the places I had been that made it possible for me to reach my goal. All the people who had helped make it successful. On the other hand, I was anxious for the descent. I knew how dangerous the descent was and prayed ours would be uneventful.

By the time we were halfway back to Camp 5, the winds had picked up. Gusting, they sliced my exposed skin and were growing worse as we descended. About three quarters of the way down my dad asked me how I was. I responded with "really tired," though I didn't know what was coming. Those hours were the hardest of my life. We needed to ascend slowly, and I was drained. The wind was blowing snow everywhere and I didn't know where we were. When we finally reached our tents I was too exhausted to be relieved. That night showed me how far I can push myself, what my mind and body is capable of.

Following May 23, we were tent bound for two days as the wind whipped around us. As soon as the weather allowed us, we had hours of uphill ahead of us. This was another very hard part of the trip. I was still recovering from summit day and being at 5,000 metres is tiring. The night we reached Camp 3, I was relieved, but not nearly what I felt when we reached basecamp. As I looked up the mountain, I was amazed at what I had accomplished. I hoped I could help others to go after their dreams and feel as superhuman as I did after achieving them. ■

Melting Ice and Tumbling Rocks

By Vivien Lougheed, Caledonia Ramblers

About 130 kilometers west of Whitehorse, the rugged, ice-capped mountains of Kluane National Park became visible. Kluane, along with Wrangle-St. Elias and Glacier Bay National Parks in Alaska and the Tatshenshini Provincial Park in British Columbia, makes up the biggest UNESCO preserve on the planet, containing the largest non-polar icefield in the world. Only a narrow corridor along the highway is free of ice and accessible to hikers.

My companions and I were on our way to the Duke River at kilometer 1709.5 on the Alaska Highway, from where we would hike to the 56-kilometer-long Donjek Glacier, the most dramatic of the three accessible valley glaciers in the park and one that I have visited several times over the last 25 years. Depending on the conditions in the backcountry, this hike would take us anywhere from eight to ten days.

We registered (mandatory) at the park office in Haines Junction. Since we were the first this year to hike from the Duke River over Hoge Pass, down to the Donjek and out by Atlas Pass, there was little new information. We learned that there'd been an earthquake in late winter and a ton of rain in early summer.

An hour later, we crossed the wide Slims River Basin through a thick cloud of swirling glacial silt blowing downvalley from the Kaskawulsh Glacier. I had read that the glacier, one of Canada's longest, had shrunk so much that in May 2016 its melt waters started flowing south into the Pacific Ocean instead of north into Kluane Lake and thence along the Yukon River to the Bering Sea. The Slims was now a mere trickle. Nature Geoscience wrote that, "…we conclude that this instance of river piracy (change in water direction) was due to post-industrial climate change."

At the confluence of the river and lake we saw a vast area of glacial mud that had once been covered with the Caribbean-coloured waters of Kluane Lake, the largest lake in the Yukon. A park report written in 2008 stated that the melting rates of glaciers had tripled, but no one then thought the Slims River would disappear.

The new face of the Donjek Glacier.

As we continued north along the lake we could see from the shoreline that water levels had dropped significantly and a local told us that so far, the drop was 12 feet.

At the trailhead, an old mining road led us to the Burwash Uplands, a vast expanse of wet tundra. Since my last visit, I could see an astonishing increase in tree growth. Again, I'd read ahead. According to a University of Alberta study, black spruce trees were spreading over the tundra throughout the Yukon and this was due to climate change.

Once at the end of the road, we paused. We had about five hours of slogging in a westerly direction to cross the soft-necked tufa mounds to reach Burwash Creek, which led to Hoge Pass. This year, those mounds looked like islands in a lake. We chose instead a quad trail heading north to Burwash Creek, a longer but easier route.

According to studies reported in Canadian Wildlife, the melting of permafrost in the Yukon River watershed, which includes the Uplands, "picks up minerals that used to be locked in the ground…thus changing the chemistry of that water." This has resulted in "water carrying higher concentrations of minerals and dissolved organic carbon than it did three decades ago." I wondered what this would do to us as we consumed that water.

Increased glacial melt has made Hoge Creek crossings challenging.

The following day we reached the meadows near Hoge Pass, the first of three passes we would cross on our way to Copper Joe Creek where my husband would be waiting with fresh buns and cold beer. At the meadows it was difficult to find a spot where we wouldn't sink to our knees in mud, let alone pitch tents, a drastic change from a few years ago when the meadows were soft but relatively dry. Torrential rains had certainly contributed to this but so had the melting permafrost.

The next morning, after taking hundreds of photos from the pass and identifying distant mountains, including Walsh and Logan, we started down. We couldn't see the route due to the hill's steepness and chose to angle across some stable talus. Farther down, the rocky slope that had been stable in the past now moved with the lightest step. The water in Hoge Creek was higher too, and raging due to the rapidly melting glaciers.

It took two more days to reach the seven-kilometer-wide toe of the glacier with its booming, exploding sounds like

shunting trains. The glacier had also changed, though I'd seen part of that change 15 years ago when an underground river had collapsed and created a roofless tunnel with 50-foot walls. We had camped near the river then, on ice.

Four years ago, we camped in front of the glacier's wall at a tiny lake that was host to the many icebergs calving off the glacier. This year the lake had become part of the Donjek River and the ice we had camped on 15 years ago was gravel.

The following morning we struck out for Atlas Pass. The steep undulating alpine was unchanged but the pass was different. The distant peaks looked the same but our descent was across a mudslide about 200 meters above a canyon with sharp jagged rocks. After much cursing, we started down, slipping and sliding toward a flat arm, our desired destination.

The narrow draw off the arm down to Atlas Creek was about 300 meters long and had to be traversed one person at a time so the rocks wouldn't tumble and hit the person below.

At the confluence of Atlas Creek and the Duke River, a spot where I had crossed on previous hikes, was a torrent of raging water. In order to cross the Duke we had to walk five kilometers upriver, first to cross Grizzly Creek, a huge tributary, and then to ford the Duke. After that, our last pass, over to the beer, was an easy one.

Needless to say, we made it out surprised at the changes and difficulties but still thrilled with the challenge and the magnificence of the glacier. Will we be able to do it again? With the mud and rockslides, the rising water, and the increased vegetation maybe not. Or, maybe we won't want to. ■

Club Activities & Trips

Sunshine Coast Trail – Tin Hat Hut Enhancements, October 2017

By Eagle Walz, Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society

During the first week of October, the Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society (PAWS) construction crew assembled a work party on Tin Hat Mountain, the midpoint of the 180-km-long Sunshine Coast Trail. The SCT, begun in 1992, is Canada's longest Hut-To-Hut Hiking Trail. Tin Hat Hut was built in 2011 by PAWS and had a simple pit toilet. Visitations to the mountain and its fully insulated four season hut continued to rise steadily, and the stewards of the trail realized they needed to convert the well-used outhouse into one of their hallmark large capacity dual-chamber composting toilets modeled essentially on Appalachian Trail outhouses. Now, 6 of the 14 huts on the SCT have composting toilets.

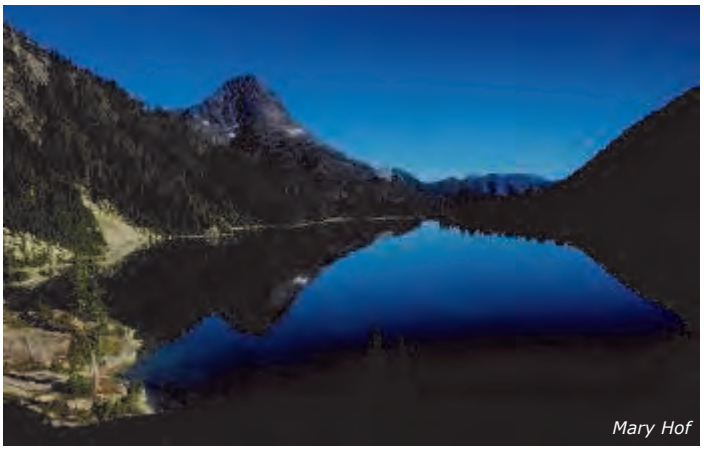
The new composting outhouse at Tin Hat Hut.

The walls, floor, trusses and door were pre-manufactured during a work party in town a few weeks earlier. Then all the toilet's parts, plus tools, the camp kitchen and the crews' gear and food were driven from town on logging roads and dropped off at the staging area halfway up the mountain. The clouds cleared off the summit and the helicopter lifted everything up in slings and nets.

PAWS also built a proper signpost that should withstand the howling winds that visit this mountain top, especially during the winter time, when there's often 6 to 8 feet of snow. A pellet stove keeps the hut warm, but visitors must bring their own kilo of pellets if they want to ensure they will have a fire. During this last expedition the crawlspace was enhanced with sleeping platforms that provide sleeping room for four more hikers. ■

The Golden Hinde - August 2017

by Mary Hof, Island Mountain Ramblers



Schjelderup Lake with the Golden Hinde in the background.

Those that know me know that I love to hike, run, and cycle. I do this nearly every day, and I love a challenge. For two years I pondered, "Do I do the Golden Hinde, the highest mountain on Vancouver Island?"

I turned 60 last November and Ray said to me, "I'll take you up. I have done it twice." That was the start. We had a team of four: Ray Billings, Carol Doering, Brian Branting and myself, and we gave ourselves a window from Aug 20–September 10. We wanted 5 days of good weather so we picked Aug 25–Aug 29. It was a good choice of days—the Golden Hinde was there waiting for us. I knew it was going to be tough, but how tough? Will I be strong enough? Those are the things that came to my mind all the time.

First, I have not backpacked in 10 years, but I have done a ton of hiking including Mt. Baker, Kilimanjaro, Tatra Mountains and Mt. Temple, as well as 52 peaks in the Rockies and a ton on the Island. In June, I did the 24k Kusum Climb and came in second in my age division. The slogan for that hike is, "Are you tough enough?" I was scared and excited at the same time to do the Golden Hinde.

Day 1: We started up the 77 switchbacks to Arnica lake, in Strathcona Park. The backpack feeling heavy, we still made it up there in less than 2 hours. We made our way to a camping spot on Phillips Ridge. The mountains surrounding us were beautiful: Tom Taylor, Big Interior, 9 peaks, Rousseau, Septimus, to name a few.

Day 2: It's up up over more ridges, and then down, down, and up, up. Many times you are using all four limbs to get that handhold, and with a big backpack it's not easy. Carter Drop, as they call it, I have never seen such a drop. You have to climb down, and you are literally hanging on tree to tree, or branch, to not slip, knowing 2 days later you will have to climb back up. Carter Lake is beautiful, then it's over boulder after boulder to get to the next lake, which is Schjelderup Lake. From there, it's more boulders and then the climb to the North Burman ridge where we will camp. The views from here of the Golden Hinde are amazing. We arrived at camp 7.5 hours later, tired but excited. The sunsets from here were also amazing to see.

Day 3: Summit day. We got up at 6 am, and left camp at 7:25 am with only a summit bag. The mountain was completely clear of any clouds; it looked inviting. First it was a 2-hour down climb to Burman Lake and then the start of the climb to the ridge of the Hinde. It was hot and sunny and we knew we needed to keep hydrated. The scree was tough walking, and scrambling to the summit was no easy thing: getting firm hand and foot holds and pushing yourself to the next shelf. At times I felt myself thinking, "Can I really do this?" The rock is so crumbly we had to be so careful not to let any rock fly down, so the four of us kept together. We knew there were two ahead of us but we timed it and knew they were on top, and we also knew no one was behind us. Reaching the Hinde, I felt very emotional. I had to take deep breaths to realize I was really on top of the highest peak on the Island. From there we could see ocean, the Coast Mountains, B-Hinde, Cornel Foster, Elkhorne, Victoria Peak, Kings Peak, Rambler, and even Mt. Waddington, the highest peak in BC, and many more mountains in every direction. We stayed on top for an hour. It was Sunday and for me it was a special place to give thanks for all I have. I could feel the presence of our Heavenly Father who I know helped guide me here. We signed our name is the summit book, and, knowing I would never return, I gave one final wave.

Left to right: Mary Hof, Brian Branting, Carol Doering, Ray Billings on the summit of the Golden Hinde.

Going down was harder than going up as your hand and foot holds had to be in place, so we spotted one another. I cannot thank our team enough; we were there for each other. At times we were hugging the rock on ledges knowing if you fall, it's a long way down. We were slow but steady, and then there was that scree that we came up that we now had to go down. We rested at a tarn lower down, where we were able to fill our water bottles. It was very hot. I kept looking at that mountain and felt emotional again knowing I got up there and down but we were nowhere finished. We hiked down to Burman Lake where we went for a swim, which felt great, then it was another two hours up to climb back to our campsite on the ridge. We celebrated that evening and went to bed feeling exhilarated.

Day 4: I only got about an hour of sleep, as I had bumps throughout my body and the itch was unbearable. I didn't know if it was from mosquitoes or the water I was drinking. I took some medication in the AM, knowing this day will be a tough one, as we had to make our way back up to Phillips Ridge, meaning we had to boulder hop, and go up the Carter drop. It had to be at least 30 degrees, and I usually take heat well, but this day, with fatigue, medication, and a tough hike with a heavy backpack, I felt I had hit the wall—the point where physical, mental, and emotional exhaustion kicks in. As a team we decided we would find a cool area and rest. We found snow and I took my boots and socks off and put my feet in the snow. I felt my body temperature lower, which was good. We rested for a good half hour and carried on to our campsite, another hour away. I was tired but made it. This day was my 41st wedding anniversary, the first time in 41 years Gerry and I were not celebrating together. I gave thanks for having a wonderful and caring husband.

Day 5: I felt so much better. I still had the itch but got some well-needed sleep. We packed up and were off by 7:30 am. It seemed we were racing down, making it in under 4 hours, but those 77 switchbacks that we did 5 days earlier seemed no easier. The van was there waiting for us, and as Gerry says, the best view is when you see your vehicle (I had to agree on this one). We all went swimming in Buttle Lake and went out for a late lunch. It felt good to eat something other than freeze dried foods, and bars and nuts! We did close to 60k and close to 6000m of elevation gain over these 5 days. It was a journey I will forever be grateful for doing. Thanks to my team of Ray, Brian, and Carol. You were all amazing. ■

Totality

By Mike Nash, Caledonia Ramblers

On July 10, 1972 I flew to Nova Scotia to see a total eclipse of the sun, an event featured in Carly Simon's greatest hit song released later that year. I had to reach Antigonish, 200 kilometres northeast of Halifax, but sadly I had neglected to reserve a car at the airport. After a mad dash downtown (the wrong direction) in a futile attempt to find an alternative rental, there was insufficient time to reach the zone of totality and I settled for the cultural experience of watching a 95 per cent partial eclipse from the ramparts of the historic Halifax Citadel.

Snapshot of the sun's corona during the one-and-a-half minutes of totality in Dubois, Idaho.

My appetite whetted by this close encounter, I set my sights on the February 26, 1979 total eclipse that was to pass directly over central Canada. However, life intervened and in the spring of 1978 I moved west to Prince George. The zone of totality in 1979 would first pass over the U.S. northwest before crossing into the Canadian prairies, but it was in the depths of my first winter in north central British Columbia and the logistics weren't simple. As I was considering my options, an opportunity arose instead to take a week-long avalanche course at the same time as the eclipse. Sponsored by BC's Provincial Emergency Program, it was taught by future FMCBC northern director, George Evanoff. Once again I had missed a total eclipse, but I gained valuable mountain experience and met an individual who was to become a close friend for nearly two decades until his accidental death in 1998 (*The Mountain Knows No Expert*, Dundurn, 2009). After the 1979 event, the next opportunity to see a total eclipse in the continental U.S. would not occur for nearly 40 years, so it was soon out of mind.

Fast forward to last year when I realized that the 2017 total solar eclipse was getting close. It would track through Oregon, Idaho and Wyoming as it traversed the U.S. from coast to coast for the first time in nearly a century. A trip to see the eclipse could also be tied with a visit to some of the great national parks in the region. The catch was that millions of like-minded people would also be heading to the centreline of what was being dubbed 'The Great American Eclipse,' potentially doubling the populations of Idaho and Wyoming. Indeed, by early August parts of Idaho had already declared a state of emergency for eclipse day in anticipation of the influx of vehicles from neighbouring states.

I began serious planning in January 2017 and quickly found that accommodation in prime locations was either nonexistent or astronomically priced for the eve of the eclipse. My wife and I planned to camp for most of our trip, but we wanted assured accommodation and the chance to freshen up on the night before eclipse day. The answer was to stage the eclipse from Montana within a two-hour drive of the zone of totality in Idaho. I found a moderately-priced motel in the small town of Dillon on Interstate-15, and it was good that I had booked well ahead because by August the few remaining motel rooms in Dillon were going for many times the price that I had paid.

In early August we were ready for the adventure, but another challenge loomed with record high temperatures, an extended drought, unprecedented wildfires and pervasive smoke throughout much of our intended travel route. As it turned out, this had an upside as campfire bans were in effect everywhere we went, except (strangely) in Yellowstone National Park. This meant that air quality in most campsites was paradoxically better than usual, and campers tended to turn in early with no fires to party around. *Park managers please take note!*

Our three-week, 4,700-kilometre odyssey took us through BC, Alberta, Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. We camped in a dozen different provincial, state and national parks and recreation sites in both Canada and the U.S., enjoying unprecedented hot, dry weather. We were mostly successful in dodging smoke from the pervasive wildfires. All, that is, except for a fishing access campsite on the Blackfoot River in central Montana when we found ourselves in the midst of three wildfires raining ash on the tent and wondering what, if any, evacuation protocols existed. Fortunately the wind direction changed and things settled down for the night.

Arriving in Dillon the next afternoon, the local gas stations were experiencing possibly their busiest day ever as travelers, reacting to news reports of Idaho potentially running out of gas and other essentials, were filling up. Most motel guests were keen to leave at the crack of dawn on eclipse day and the desk clerk obligingly started breakfast service early at 5 a.m., remarking "…it's just like hunt'n season!"

On the road at 6:30 a.m., we stopped shy of our intended eclipse centreline target early on the morning of Monday, August 21 in deference to traffic reports of unprecedented numbers of vehicles flowing into Idaho from Utah to the south. We found ourselves sharing a large interstate rest stop, already well inside the path of totality in the small community of Dubois, Idaho with many like-minded eclipse seekers. Settling in for a three-hour wait, the time passed quickly as we found ourselves engaged with the festive crowd. As the moment of totality approached in the high desert landscape, the temperature dropped, our surrounds became eerily dark and the chatter of several thousand people gradually quietened in awed anticipation. It was quite unlike any crowd event that I had ever attended.

The partial phase of the eclipse began at around 10:30 MDT and slowly deepened for an hour until at 11:30 a.m. what remained of the sun suddenly blinked out and was replaced by a black disk surrounded by the solar corona streaming away and a few brighter stars and planets visible. All around us the dreamlike background chat was accentuated by unrestrained gasps and exclamations, some of them my own. Through binoculars (safe only during totality) ruby red Earth-sized prominences stood out against the white solar corona. After a minute and a half of totality, a tiny part of the sun reappeared in a dazzling display of the 'diamond ring,' the best in decades according to one newspaper report. I found myself in full agreement with the maxim that when it comes to viewing a solar eclipse, *totality changes everything!*

After chatting with the local Sheriff who was patrolling the site on a dirt bike, we took an unpaved backroad from Dubois directly into Yellowstone National Park to avoid post-eclipse traffic congestion. By mid-afternoon we found ourselves sitting with a different crowd of thousands waiting for another of nature's grand shows, the 'Old Faithful' geyser. Two of the great spectacles of nature within the space of just four hours.

On our way to the eclipse, we drove over the famous 'Going to the Sun Highway' in Montana's Glacier National Park, which seemed entirely appropriate to the trip's theme. We returned there a week later on the journey home, camping at Avalanche Creek for three nights on the west side of the park and using the free shuttle to access several of the mountain hikes from the same highway. We enjoyed magnificent scenery and saw plenty of wildlife, including black and grizzly bears, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, elk and deer.

Together with the booming U.S economy, low gas prices, and sunny weather, the eclipse helped raise U.S. National Park attendance to unprecedented levels. Glacier, for example, exceeded a million visitors for the first time in July, and our arrival back there on August 24 coincided with the last day of the US National Park Service's centennial year and was celebrated with free park admission. North of the border, Parks Canada's free annual pass boosted visits to the Canadian Rocky Mountain parks. Yet it was gratifying in this burgeoning era of park reservations that there are still enough drop-in campsites to facilitate an impromptu trip through these iconic natural areas during the peak season. And if you haven't yet experienced totality (it took me more than 71 years) I urge you to look for a chance to do so. It is truly one of life's great experiences and cannot adequately be expressed in words or images. The next opportunity to see a total solar eclipse in North America will be on April 8, 2024, less than seven years away! ■

Tunnel on the 'Going to the Sun' highway in Montana's Glacier National Park.

The Cabin Stewards and Cabins of Tetrahedron Provincial Park

By Natasha Gellatly, Tetrahedon Outdoor Club

This year—and this season—marks the 30th anniversary of the building of the trails and cabins in Tetrahedron Provincial Park. In 1987 the area wasn't even a provincial park and the club behind the project was called the Tetrahedron Ski Club. Fast forward and we are now the Tetrahedron Outdoor Club.

Tetrahedron Provincial Park exists because of a dedicated group of local visionaries, and the trails and cabins have been used by thousands of locals and visitors. Like many other outdoor recreation groups, we've witnessed and suffered the skeletonizing of BC Parks, abandonment of FSR maintenance, burn-out by the small group of core volunteers and directors, abuse and vandalism, and the increase of users without a similar increase in volunteers. Sigh. But silver linings! Many, really, but the best has been the securing of Cabin Stewards for our 4 backcountry cabins.

The idea was born around 8 years ago when the nearest-to-trailhead Batchelor cabin was seeing too many parties and abuse. Our BC Parks Ranger was making noise about shutting it down, and the limitations of calling these cabins "user-maintained" was finally acknowledged. From the beginning with two Cabin Stewards at Batchelor, to now with all cabins taken care of by a total of nine Cabin Stewards, we have seen a terrific change in how the cabins are perceived and used by visitors. Here's a little bit about those talented and dedicated Stewards, their cabins and the work they do.

Batchelor Cabin

The first Cabin Stewards, Doug House and Lloyd Mager, did a terrific job of fixing what was broken, putting in a new window, getting rid of the illegal campfire pit, brushing out the trail, and regularly patrolling the cabin with "Cabin Sheriff" crests on their hats. They had a great way of engaging with anyone using that cabin and didn't hesitate to get tough with abusers, and this went a long way toward turning Batchelor cabin back into a family-friendly destination.

New Cabin Stewards, Gerry and Ellen Marcotte, took over this year. Gerry became a TOC director and he and Ellen found themselves spending thousands of dollars of TOC funds on supplies and helicopter costs, and many hours of coordinating and working with volunteers to get Batchelor cabin stained, insulated, skirted, and painted; the soil and wood debris under the cabin excavated and moved to make a path; a new upper balcony built; and drainage ditches dug. This was the first major work the cabin had seen since its build in 1987 and there's more work to do—more insulation, drainage, rotten log replacements, woodstove replacement—but the cabin is looking great!

Gerry and Ellen are retired and relocated from Grande Prairie, and despite their very full lives of family, travel, and lots of other volunteer work they find time to dedicate their efforts to Batchelor Cabin and the TOC. Another bonus of their attention to Batchelor is the club's attention this year to an overgrown trail linking Batchelor Cabin and Lake with Mayne Lake and Edwards Lake. We hope that this hiking/snowshoe/ski-tour loop will bring out more local day-trippers and keep Batchelor cabin under the watchful eye of responsible visitors.

Edwards Cabin

Edwards is the next-closest cabin to the trailhead. It's the halfway point to the Mt. Steele and McNair cabins and at 2–3 hrs in all seasons, it's used by many. It's popular as the lunch spot or first-night stop on the way to Mt. Steele or McNair, a day trip destination with beautiful Edwards Lake on the way, or the destination for newish hikers, snowshoers, skiers, and backpackers who want to get some experience.

The Edwards Cabin Stewards are the original builders and fundraisers/taskmasters of the cabins and trails, George Smith and Victor Bonaguro, to which we owe everything. Without their tireless efforts over 30+ years there would be no cabins, trails, or provincial park. When the TOC was given the BC Parks Partnership Award in 2010, it motivated Victor and George to move forward with major work on Edwards Cabin in time for the 25th Anniversary in 2012. They orchestrated many hands to stain, paint, insulate, and generally WORK during the summer of 2012 and hosted a great pancake breakfast attended by 30+ people at the cabin one Sunday.

Long-time club volunteer Patrick Mark surprised Victor with a sign marking Victor's Landing as an official way-point after 25 years of it being just a club reference, and the TOC presented both of them with a plaque to be installed at Edwards Cabin dedicated to their many years of service. Throughout their time with the Tetrahedron—and recently again as club directors—both Victor and George were busy with many other community or environmental projects (too many to list) and their own lives, and we are lucky that these two remain dedicated and available after 30+ years. And when they are not organizing firewood processing, trail clearing, or volunteer recognition they will go out to the cabin to do something like the really back-breaking job of replacing a rotten support log. They will be giving up their role as Cabin Stewards in the near future to make room for new blood and younger backs but it will be hard to replace them!

Mt. Steele Cabin

This cabin is a great success story: young, responsible, skilled, available local folks who take on a task with enthusiasm and have no trouble talking to visitors. When the TOC first met Sam Preston and Steve Brewis, who already regularly spent most of the busy winter holiday season at Mt. Steele cabin, it was a no-brainer to ask them to take on the role of being Cabin Stew-

Cabin Stewards

Gerry and drainpipe heading to Batchelor.

George and Victor fixing rotten logs at Edwards.

New Mt. Steele outhouse, with ex-president Reynold Schmidt in front of Alex, Sam, and Bryce.

Danny, Melissa, and Steve at McNair.

Photos credit: Natasha Gellatly

ards. Steve also became a TOC director and served on the board for 4 years as one of the most enthusiastic—and youngest—directors. This cabin is the most visited, having the best views and the only easily-accessible downhill terrain in the Park, and will often see 30 overnight visitors—in a space designed for 12—during the holidays and weekends. Over the last 7 years Sam, Steve, and other Steele Cabin Stewards Alex Aegerter and Bryce Rudland did lots of work to pull the cabin back to upright after many seasons of snow-creep, replace rotten supports underneath, build a gear vestibule, dig a new outhouse pit, and build and relocate a new outhouse structure, plus many, many other projects.

Of the 4 Mt. Steele Cabin Stewards, only Sam and Bryce remain (Steve has moved over to McNair Cabin) and Bryce is now also a TOC director. Sam continues to make sure he gets up regularly to Mt. Steele Cabin to make a presence there (and be in his beloved 2nd home). I'm not sure if he loves or loathes being the cabin host to a party of 12 young women but he knows the terrain like the back of his hand and escapes for a sunset or tour if he doesn't want to hang with the crowd. And Sam has committed to the Chapman Creek bridge replacement project we've had in front of us for 4 years, though that bridge has nothing to do with access to Mt. Steele Cabin. He'll be in hip-waders with a few others in October repairing and building a mid-span gabion and probably looking forward to a few beers that will be flown in with the supplies.

McNair Cabin

McNair is the least-visited cabin and a bit of slog through bog in all seasons. It doesn't matter how little rain or how much snow has fallen, there's always route-finding through water. McNair Cabin and Mt. Steele Cabin share the same mid-way point of Edwards Cabin, but instead of heading up to Mt. Steele's rocky 1500m and great views you head down, down and then a bit up, losing the 200m you gained to get to Edwards, to end up roughly 35m above your starting elevation. But it's beautiful in the meadows around the cabin, which sits on a knoll between Chapman Lake and Upper McNair Lake. This cabin has seen the least attention over the years, and always suffers the worst from snow-load because of the influence of Howe Sound at that end of the Park.

I recently joined Cabin Stewards Danny Fleischhacker (also a TOC director) and Melissa Rayfield on their trip to get some exterior painting and other ladder-work done and we were joined a couple of hours later by the 3rd McNair Cabin Steward Steve Brewis and his wife Michelle. I always thought of myself as a fairly fast hiker but the 3 Stewards manage to clock in at under 3 hrs what takes 4 hrs for us mere mortals. At the cabin it's a flurry of activity and it seems there's no job too awkward, dirty, or brutal for them. And though they all lead busy lives with full-time labour-intensive jobs, they manage to find the time, energy, and enthusiasm to fill their weekends with more work, often helping with work at other cabins, firewood lifts, and trail clearing. Their level of industry is truly astonishing and outstanding!

The Tetrahedon Outdoor Club and the visitors to the park and its cabins and trails are lucky to have these dedicated and skilled Cabin Stewards. Of course there are some perks for them— secure storage space, the opportunity to fly in some personal stuff (and beer!) when there's a heli lift, lots of autonomy, a tiny amount of gas money, and the emotional rewards that come with hard work and volunteer service—but it's the visitors who really benefit as only the McNair and Mt. Steele Stewards stay overnight and actually reap the benefits of their hard work. But it can probably be said that most stories of volunteer service share the similarity of the volunteers and those who benefit from their efforts remaining largely unknown to each other. The TOC has made an effort in the last while to get the word out to users of the cabins and trails about how much work the Cabin Stewards and other club volunteers do and we know it's working because we've seen a significant increase in (honour-system) cabin fee payments. I know the Cabin Stewards aren't particularly looking for recognition but they're going to get it anyway. Thank you so much Tetrahedron Cabin Stewards! You are truly a remarkable bunch of folks! ■

Cover Photo Contest

We're looking for summer action shots for our next cover of Cloudburst.
Email your entries to us at
cloudburst@mountainclubs.org
Please submit photos by April1st

Get Involved—Volunteer with the FMCBC!

Help us protect the backcountry for non-motorized users by volunteering a little or a lot—every bit helps!

We are looking for individuals with skills and/or experience in many different areas including fundraising, risk management, grant writing and more. Contact us for more info at info@mountainclubs.org or 604-873-6096 or talk to your club's FMCBC Director.

Rocky Mountain Rambles - July 16–23

By Ron Dart, ACC- Vancouver Section

Most of us arrived at Lake Louise Hostel on Sunday, July 16, with the smoke from the BC/AB fires some concern. We were fortunate, though, as we were in a pocket of a clear blue sky in Louise. July 17 was our first day on the trails. Most who do the Lake Louise trails either focus on Fairview or the two Tea Houses loop trip to Death Trap and back. Both pathways tend to be most packed. Our goal for the day was the oft-neglected Mt. St. Piran (Piran was the patron saint of Cornwall). Mt. St. Piran is the best-kept secret trek in the Louise area with sights from the summit that are worthy of many a photo-op. We were the only ones on the summit when reached and we lingered until lunch at such a beauteous place, with hints of smoke from the fires arriving by early afternoon. We did a short side trip to Little Beehive on our descent and took the quieter horse trail back to Lake Louise (tourists aplenty on the main pathway).

Mary Ann Dykshoorn

Lucy Stad, Cindy Waslewsky, and Ron Dart on Mt. St. Piran.

We moved from Louise to Yoho on the 18th and spent a couple of nights at Whiskey Jack Hostel. On July 18 we joined the Burgess Shale Geoscience Foundation for the trip to the Walcott Quarry, past Yoho Lake (site of the first ACC camp in 1906), out of the forest and up to the Wapta Highline Trail. The almost 3000 ft, 21 km return trip was, as anticipated, most informative, and the Quarry, in many ways, was the Holy Grail of fossil finds. We were fortunate there were no other trips scheduled for the day, so 10 of us lingered (with guide) at the Quarry, information spilling out like a cascading waterfall. Smoke began arriving by early afternoon, views down to Emerald Lake limited.

July 19 was a slower day. We drove to Emerald Lake and did the rarely trekked Emerald Basin Trail. The hike to the Basin winds upwards, through the forest, to an expansive open theatre of rock cathedrals, foaming streams, snowfields and boulders. It was a slower, more meandering day, a break from the busier Mt. St. Piran and Burgess Shale days but few on the trail yet once again.

We left Yoho on the 20th and headed up the Icefield Parkway, with Nigel Pass the goal for the day. The clouds were thick with only hints of blue sky, the weather decidedly a cat and mouse game. The Nigel Pass trek is the route into the much-desired Brazeau Lake loop and we ventured as far as the higher rock border that offers views of high peaks and varied valleys. A few rain squalls and hail joined us but they came and went in haste. Again, many superb photos taken from the high pass rocks. It was to Rampart Hostel for a couple of nights, ever northwards the journey.

On July 21 we were up early again and off to Wilcox Pass. We did the standard trail to the high cairn, then branched off the pathway upward to the ridge of Wilcox Mountain. The firmer shale on Wilcox made for, mostly, solid footing, and from the ridge exquisite views to the glaciers in all directions. We were even fortunate to have a couple of mountain goats join us just below our sitting perch. Again, photos worth the multiple takings.

July 22 was the final full day of mountain rambling and we took to Edith Cavell Meadows. Jasper Park is, gratefully so, limiting the number of people in the meadows, and we (because of our hostel passes) had early access to the trail. We had generous views of the splintered Angel Glacier, then higher to the flower-thick meadows and alpine, the wind in the alpine cooler but most refreshing. The hiking day ended with a visit to Maligne Canyon and Maligne Lake (again, sheer delights worth the seeing although rather touristy and too busy after so much silence and mountains to ourselves).

The night of July 22 was spent at Edith Cavell Hostel and the morning of the July 23 it was back to the Valley, an 8 bells and all is well Rocky Mountain rambling trip behind us.

Participants: Lucy Stad, Mary Ann Dykshoorn, Cindy Waslewsky and Ron Dart (trip leader and reporter). Doug Hudson joined us for the Burgess Shale day. ■

Appendix

Most who take to the Rockies often ignore the bounty of walks, hikes, scrambles and climbs in the Jasper area. The recently published *A Peakbagger's Guide to the Rockies North* (2017) by Ben Nearingburg & Eric Coulthard is well worth the purchase, with readings and pointers for those keen to do the Rockies North.

Club Ramblings

The Flea Circus

By Nowell Senior,
Caledonia Ramblers

Some years ago on a Ramblers weeklong hiking trip to Kakwa Provincial Park, someone suggested that I write a story about Ursula, one of our longtime members who was with us on the trip (Ursula is an interesting person and has had an interesting life).

I found a place a little ways away from the camp and began my story about Ursula. However, I kept getting distracted by ants that found me interesting no matter where I moved to, and I just could not concentrate on my subject. I did wonder, though, that amongst the grandeur of the wilderness around me, I felt very small, and how much smaller did the ants feel that were eating me? What did they think I was!

In the end I gave up and went for a walk, and as I did, those ants kept creeping into my mind and took me back to an unforgettable experience I'd had when I was about ten years old, and my story of Ursula was replaced by a different story—not about ants, but fleas.

During the 1950s, the Belle-Vue Zoo in Manchester, England, featured a flea circus which, amongst all the wildlife exhibits was certainly on the small size, but left an enormous impression upon me for sheer novelty and ingenuity.

The flea trainer had a tiny booth which held about twelve spectators who stood around a circus ring the size of a dinner plate, and here the fleas put on a show so incredible that I would have to say was unbelievable if I had not seen it for myself. The fleas were dressed in a variety of costumes: delightful dainty skirts and cute colourful vests. I watched, fascinated by fleas walking a tightrope and carrying a hair-thin balancing pole. Fleas rode in chariots pulled by other fleas in miniscule harnesses, while other fleas juggled tiny sets of balls. A couple of exceptionally agile fleas with a flair for body contact sports, rolled, hopped and clinched together in a wrestling ring the size of a watch face. Another pair squared off against one another as gladiators carried swords and shields; the duel they fought resembled a combination of fencing and Tai-Chi, the weights of their weapons forcing those hard-working fleas to move in slow-motion.

Once the show was over, the trainer called out, "Well done my little friends and bread winners, come along lunch is ready." He rolled up his sleeve and placed his hand beside the tiny circus ring, and his precious partners hopped onto his hand and made their way up his forearm where they formed a dignified, neat and orderly circle and began their lunch.

I left the zoo that day having seen lions and tigers, monkeys, giraffes and performing seals, but as wonderful as it was to see all those animals that day, nothing could compare with what I had witnessed in that little booth called the flea circus. ■

Dick Culbert (1940-2017) - Coastal Mountain Pioneer

By Ron Dart, ACC-Vancouver Section

Thank God! there is always a Land of Beyond
For us who are true to the trail;
A vision to seek, a beckoning peak,
A farness that never will fail.

~ Robert Service, *The Land of Beyond*

Bruce Fairley, in his historic and informed tome, *The Canadian Mountaineering Anthology* (1994), rightly so, suggested that 1960–1975 was "The Culbert Era in the Coast Mountains" (p.273). Most of the northern Coast Mountains had not been climbed, and there was no guide book at the time that pointed out paths and routes to take to challenging rock and glacier path summits. The earlier book by Phil Dowling, *The Mountaineers: Famous Climbers in Canada* (1979), had a fine biographical article on Dick Culbert in it as one of the top ten climbers at the time. The Culbert Era had ended by 1975, but the legend lived on to inspire a new generation of climbers, poets and guide book aficionados.

Culbert cut his climbing teeth as a young man on the North Shore and Coastal Mountains in the late 1950s–early 1960s, and he was active with the Varsity Outdoor Club (being a student at UBC), Alpine Club of Canada and British Columbia Mountaineering Club. The fact that he was funded by the government in 1962 to do grubstaking (prospecting) meant that he and 3 good friends (Glenn Woodsworth, Ashlyn Armour-Brown and Arnold Shives) had a mountain honeymoon of sorts—peak after peak was bagged in the Smithers area. The summer of 1962 inspired and reinforced the longing to take to yet more rock spires and snowfields. The pioneering trench work in the field meant that Dick carefully recorded all he was seeing and doing. The meticulous research was to birth the first climbing guide book for the Coastal Mountains.

Arnold Shives

Dick Culbert and Ron Dart in Culbert's home.

Phil Dowling had these poignant observations to offer about Culbert's first mountaineering book that was published in 1965 (I have a lovely blue-covered hard-bound edition autographed by Dick): "After three years of research and two-finger manuscript typing, *A Climber's Guide to the Coastal Ranges of British Columbia* was published. It described approximately two-thirds of the Coast Mountains, from the International Boundary in the south to the Nass River in the north. Culbert, age twenty-five, became a notable figure in Canadian mountaineering almost overnight" (p.235). Arnold Shives did some of the artwork in *A Climber's Guide,* and Glenn Woodsworth is singled out as Culbert's friend to whom "this guidebook owes its very existence." The blue-covered hard-bound edition was so popular it went into a second edition in 1969. The book remained such a West Coast mountaineering classic that it was published yet again in an updated and more colourful edition as *Alpine Guide to Southwestern British Columbia* in 1974.

Dick Culbert had a distinctive literary bent to his soul with a philosophical and political edge to it, and many were the poems that flowed from his creative pen (some indebted to Robert Service's ballad like genre). In fact, Dick mentioned in an email to me, "It is certainly nice to be compared with Service's style—he was the poet I read most often in my youth (November 29, 2005). Glenn Woodsworth collected some of Culbert's best poetry a few years ago and published the missive as *The Coast Mountain Trilogy: Mountain Poems: 1957-1971* (2009). Arnold Shives did the illustrations for the compact and evocative poetry. The Culbert Era continues to live via the poetry and guide books of Dick Culbert. Mountaineering books about the West Coast mountains have proliferated since the 1960s, but it was Dick Culbert that pioneered the genre, and Glenn Woodworth and Arnold Shives have been his editorial and artistic left and right hand in the process.

The Coastal mountaineering community bid adieu to one of its most prominent climbing and literary pioneers of the 2nd generation of Coastal mountain culture when Dick Culbert died in the spring of 2017. ■

Remembering Ruth Jessie Masters

May 10 1920 - November 7 2017

By Marlene Smith, Friends of Strathcona Park

Ruth Jessie Masters was born on May 7, 1920, one of the first babies born at St. Joseph's Hospital in Comox. She passed away peacefully at the new North Island Hospital in Courtenay on November 7, 2017 with her loving caregiver Yolanda by her side.

Ruth's life was so full of adventure that it takes a book to describe it! She served in the Canadian Air Force as a radio dispatcher in London, England during WW2. She was a legal secretary in Courtenay for many years. And she was an inspiration to all of us and has inspired generations now and in the future to stand on guard for wilderness, parks and wildlife.

Ruth was introduced to the outdoors by her parents and made her first hike up Mt. Becher when she was just 13. The family hiked up from their little cabin on Powerhouse Road to the Bevan townsite where they crossed the Puntledge River on a floating bridge. Ruth says she and her mother wore cotton dresses and carried their goodies in a potato sack her mother modified to be a backpack.

Ruth was an environmentalist before the word was invented, always recycling and reducing garbage. Her passion to protect the environment and wildlife got her involved in blockades, protests and rallies. She was a "master" sign maker, which found their way in parks as directional signs as well as in protest marches! She put her body between bears and trophy hunters or the RCMP and a bear trapped in the bushes in Courtenay. She blew "O Canada" on her faithful harmonicaat almost every arrest during the 3-month standoff in Strathcona Park in the middle of the winter. She was on the beaches in Tofino to clean up the oil spill left behind by the Exxon Valdez tanker. She was there to prevent the eagle chicks from being taken from their nests to provide the US with new eagles after they killed their own. She was found picking up road kill and taking it to wildlife rescue centres in Parksville, and feeding injured eagles. She was seen in front of the chainsaws to protect what is now MacDonald woods. She donated 15 acres of her parents' land (which became hers) for a Greenway for wildlife. Born "church mouse poor" she lived a modest life and gave generously to environmental organisations, wildlife protection agencies and the SPCA.

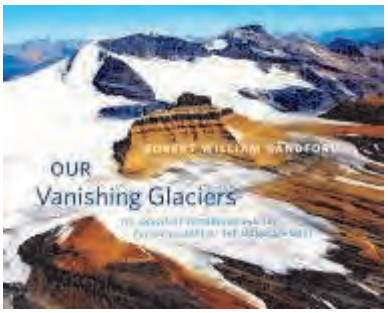
Not to mention the numerous trail signs and miles of trail building she did or participated in.

She was an example and inspiration of how we can live on this earth and leave it in a better way than we found it. She was our elder, our "spooned" hero! We will all miss you Ruth and will continue your work until the day we can join you and Melda. We will pass on this care for the planet to the next and next generations to come. Thank you Ruth for shining up our path. ■

Photos credit: Ed Brooks

Some Good Reads

Our Vanishing Glaciers: The Snows of Yesteryear and the Future Climate of the Mountain West
By Robert William Sandford
Reviewed by Mike Nash, Caledonia Ramblers



Bob Sandford is the author of many books and other works on the history, heritage and landscape of the Canadian Rockies, and he has a special interest in glaciers, water and climate. His latest work, *Our Vanishing Glaciers,* focusses on the icefields and glaciers of the Rocky Mountains, and implications for the future climate and wellbeing of Western North America. In a coffee table format aimed at general readers, a rich narrative combined with lavish photographs tells the story of water and the changes that are taking place in our mountains. Its attention-getting opening chapter introduces water as a complex and incompletely understood substance that has profound implications for life on Earth.

The early chapters discuss what winter does to water, from snow crystal formation, structure and metamorphism, to avalanche and winter's effects on our roads, followed by a look at winter ecology, focussing on habitat and life's survival strategies. In chapter 4 Sandford reviews the formation and growth of glaciers and icefields from the geologically ancient periods of *Snowball Earth* to the modern era. He describes the evolution of glaciology research in Canada, and ends the chapter with an excursion into indigenous knowledge and mythology of glaciers.

Chapter 5 jumps back in time to look at early explorers and photographers of glaciers and icefields in the Canadian Rockies. This, for me, was a diversion from the main theme, but one that readers not familiar with that part of our history might enjoy; and it does help illustrate the changes that have taken place in just a century. The next chapter returns to hydrology, glacier and climate research in the Canadian Rockies, and begins to make the case for more and better monitoring.

Chapter 7 (the book's longest) is a mixed bag look at the Columbia Icefield of today opening with a poetic contemplation of what an ice age really is, before moving on to the accessibility, dangers and commercialization of the ice in the national parks, and to the establishment of the Canadian Rocky Mountains World Heritage Site. A highlight of this chapter is the author's own account of being washed into a moulin as a young man while descending the Saskatchewan Glacier un-roped. After surviving a waterfall plunge into the depths of the glacier, he was swept along the subglacial river in complete darkness before being washed out into the North Saskatchewan River. The wonder of the event and his miraculous escape changed the course of Bob Sandford's life, leading among many other things to this book and to the undeniable fact that this man has earned his stripes like few others when it comes to glaciers.

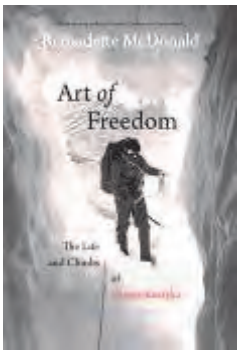
The last three chapters close in on the heart of the matter: *Glaciers in a Changing Climate* opens with a look at five crucial functions of snow and ice, before continuing the earlier discussion about glacier research. The author credits a number of scientists working in the field, and it was good to see several mentions of BC researchers Brian Menounos and Roger Wheate of the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George who are finding ways around funding limitations by using remote sensing to monitor glacial mass balance.

In *What We Stand To Lose,* Sandford imagines our western mountains without ice, emphasizing the theme with more photographs of extant glacial features in the Canadian Rockies. The book ends with a wake-up call about what we are facing, and importantly a positive message of what might be done about it.

Our Vanishing Glaciers includes a glossary and a short reference section, but no index. Overall I enjoyed the work, although I felt that some of the middle sections could have had a tighter focus. The large coffee-table format and striking cover photograph make it an attractive looking book that invites casual observers to pick it up and immerse themselves in its contents. With strong opening and closing chapters and many excellent illustrations, the book has key ingredients to be a best-seller and the potential to influence the direction and funding of glacier-related research in Canada. ■

Our Vanishing Glaciers: The Snows of Yesteryear and the Future Climate of the Mountain West by Robert William Sandford; Rocky Mountain Books, July 2017; ISBN 978-1-77160-202-0; 11 x 8.75 inches; 224 pages; hardcover; full colour; $40.00

Art of Freedom: The Life and Climbs of Voytek Kurtyka
By Bernadette McDonald
Reviewed by Ron Dart, ACC-Vancouver



Voytek Kurtyka remains one of the greatest alpinists of all time.

There has been a tendency when telling the tale of mountaineering to excessively focus on those from Western Europe or North America. This is an understandable prejudice given the fact many of the climbers who have done first ascents have emerged from such a context, but such an approach often ignores equally important climbers from Eastern Europe and other parts of the world. Bernadette McDonald has a proven published record of weaving together histories of climbing individuals and the mountaineering clan from a variety of perspectives—she is one of the best tellers in the mountaineering genre. The publication of *Art of Freedom: The Life and Climbs of Voytek Kurtyka* is both McDonald and the more reclusive Kurtyka coming together to entrance the reader with a mountaineering drama more than worth the telling.

The emergence of Kurtyka and the Polish mountaineering clan has needed the larger history to be told, and it is impossible to tell the Polish mountaineering story without Kurtyka. McDonald, to her literary credit, has tracked and traced Kurtyka's familial, literary and mountaineering journey from his earliest years throughout the seasons and phases of his most demanding climbs. Kurtyka was kind and generous enough to disclose more of his journey to McDonald than most expected, and McDonald, in turn, has unearthed and revealed much about Kurtyka's subtle and nuanced inner journey and his demanding and challenging climbs on a variety of terrain.

The sixteen chapters that form the substance of the book are bookended by its suggestive Introduction and an Epilogue and Chronology of Selected Climbs. The many photos in the book offer the reader a visual companion to the written text. The title of the biography speaks much—freedom is an art form that calls forth much skill, endurance and creativity and is not for the faint of heart or weak of limb. Kurkyka struggled to be free from many things so he could be free for that which gave his soul and body life significant meaning. The details of such an animated pilgrimage are unfolded well and wisely by McDonald.

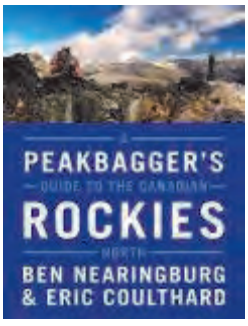
Kurtyka was born in 1947, hence the most demanding of his climbing years are behind him. But, he leaves in McDonald's well-crafted biography challenges and memories that are now part of mountaineering lore and legend. The many relationships that were formed and forged on rock hard mountains (some lasting, some tragically ending) are ably recounted by McDonald. As mentioned above, the photographs (coloured and black and white) are visual beauties that speak their own unique language.

For those who are keen to fill in their knowledge of mountaineering history, interested in Polish and Western mountaineering, drawn to the exploits of Voytek Kurtyka or fascinated by the interplay of art and freedom, *Art and Freedom: The Life and Climbs of Voytek Kurtyka* is a must read. It is both McDonald and Kurtyka at their incisive and insightful best. ■

Art of Freedom: The Life and Climbs of Voytek Kurtyka by Bernadette McDonald; Rocky Mountain Books, August 2017; ISBN 9781771602129; 6 x 9 inches; 328 pages; hardcover; $32.00

A Peakbagger's Guide to the Canadian Rockies North

By Ben Nearingburg & Eric Coulthard
Reviewed by Ron Dart, ACC-Vancouver



There has been a regrettable tendency when books are published on walking, hiking, scrambling and climbing in the Rockies to excessively focus on the central and southern Rockies and minimize or limit guiding information on the northern Rockies. The fact that *A Peakbagger's Guide to the Canadian Rockies North* corrects this obvious and historic glitch must be duly noted and, in itself, makes this a must-read beauty of a guiding book.

The initial paragraph in the Preface to *A Peakbagger's Guide*, legitimately so, sums up the dilemma: "The idea for this guidebook came together when the authors were planning a weekend peakbagging trip with friends. The conversation went kind of like the following: 'Why not head to Jasper?' 'Jasper'! There's nothing to climb in Jasper. Let's go to Banff instead.' Such is often the way Jasper and environs are viewed by peakbaggers. The real climbers avoid the Jasper area—no real good peakbagging to be done there. Such a misplaced attitude has desperately needed a challenge and *A Peakbagger's Guide* has more than risen to the occasion.

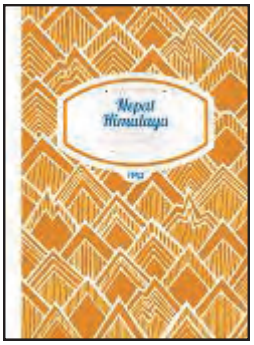
This compact tome covers 10 areas in the Jasper region that offer fine possibilities for summitting: 1) Yellowhead Highway East, 2) Snaring and Celestine Lake roads, 3) Yellowhead Highway West, 4) Maligne Lake, 5) Tonquin Valley, 6) Icefields Parkway, 7) Le Grand Brazeau, 8) South Boundary Trail and Whitehorse Wildland Provincial Park, 9) Mount Robson Provincial Park and 10) Valemont. Each of the areas covered are replete with fine maps and ample photographs. Each trip discussed touches on the potential facts needed for a successful peak to be bagged.

The Bibliography, Websites, Useful Contacts and Table of Winter Peaks are fine primers for those keen to take to summits in the area, as is the concluding Index. The Introduction covers the essentials of mountain safety and planning for climbing trips. I must admit, by way of closing, that I have found the Jasper region an A++ area for many years to ramble, scramble and bag peaks. *A Peakbagger's Guide to the Canadian Rockies North* has further enriched my understanding of such terrain and opened up new possibilities of treks to take and peaks to bag. There can be no doubt that *A Peakbagger's Guide* is the definitive guidebook for those committed to exploring the Canadian Rockies North in a fuller and more enjoyable manner and, of course, to bag many more peaks. ■

A Peakbagger's Guide to the Canadian Rockies: North by Ben Nearingburg and Eric Coulthard; Rocky Mountain Books, May 2017; ISBN 9781771601986; 5 x 7 inches; paperback; $35.00

The Tilman Collection Continued

Reviewed by Mike Nash, Caledonia Ramblers



In the Fall/Winter 2016 issue of *Cloudburst* I reviewed two books in the new Tilman Series, a one-off collaboration between UK mountaineering publisher Vertebrate Publishing and nautical publisher Lodestar Books. Over a two-year period they set out to reprint the entire works of renowned 20th Century explorer and author, H. W. 'Bill' Tilman, covering his mountaineering, sailing (and military) careers. This impressive collection of Tilman's fifteen titles plus a biography of Tilman by J.R.L. Anderson is now complete.

FMCBC's Member Club Grant Program

In 2012, the FMCBC began a grant program to support projects initiated by our member clubs. All donations to the FMCBC now go directly into this fund providing a great way for organizations and individuals to give back to our trails and the outdoor recreation community.

FMCBC grant funds have been used to upgrade trails, install bridges, improve huts, purchase tools and run community events. Click here to learn more about our clubs' projects To make a donation visit the Canada Helps website: **www.canadahelps.org**

Thank you for your support!

FMCBC

CanadaHelps.org

In my first review I suggested that Tilman's books aren't necessarily an easy read for a 21st century audience. Then, I spent 15 successive nights camping this summer and I took a Tilman book with me. To my surprise, I found his writings uniquely suited to outdoor and tent life more than anything I had previously read. I was only sorry that I hadn't brought my other new Tilman volume for the trip.

For this followup review of the Tilman series I chose his mountaineering book *Nepal Himalaya*, and for a change of pace, his nautical work *Ice with Everything*. In his foreword to this edition of *Nepal Himalaya*, renowned British writer and editor, Ed Douglas said of Tilman: "That he is still read, when so much of mid-twentieth-century travel literature is not, says a great deal about his ability as a writer. He was shrewd enough not to strain too hard in his prose…" Tilman knew his audience, and his self-deprecating, hard-hitting wit often belied the toughness and resilience of the man, and the difficulty of the endeavours that he engaged in throughout his life.

I was first drawn to read Tilman through his famed mountaineering partnership with Eric Shipton, but I later realized that Tilman was perhaps an even more powerful figure in his own right. After his highly decorated military service in two world wars, and a stellar mountaineering career in between the wars that saw him make the first ascent of Nanda Devi, the highest mountain then climbed, and reach 8,230 m (27,000 ft) without oxygen on Everest, Tilman turned to the ocean in his later years. From 1955, he bought, fitted, crewed, sailed, and lost several old boats before disappearing in the South Atlantic in his 80th year in 1977. Mountain exploration was never very far away in Tilman's ocean sagas, providing purpose for his remarkable sailing adventures after he had switched to this 'easier' mode of travel.

Ice with Everything is the first nautical book by Tilman that I have read, and it revealed yet more depth to this extraordinary man. The book chronicles his 1971–1973 attempts to reach East Greenland via Scoresby Sound after he lost his first boat, *Mischief* there in 1968. His 1971 attempt ends with a 'polite mutiny,' and in 1972 he loses his second boat, *Sea Breeze.* Undaunted, he finds and refurbishes an old pilot cutter, *Baroque,* to sail yet again to Greenland in 1973, this time to the west side.

Nepal Himalaya relates Tilman's 1949 and 1950 explorations of the Nepal Himalaya just as the country began to open up to outsiders. Part 1 describes his 1949 expedition to the Langtang region. His descriptions and photographs of his arduous travels there in the monsoon season are especially poignant in light of the devastating earthquake and landslides of 2015 which destroyed the village of Langtang and killed most of its inhabitants. Rebuilding efforts were portrayed in the acclaimed 2016 documentary film, *Gyalmu's House,* which featured in recent mountain film festivals. Part 2 details Tilman's much more extensive 1950 explorations of the Annapurna region at the same time as Maurice Herzog's famous first ascent of Annapurna 1. This detailed narrative by one of the first outsiders to see this part of the world would make excellent historical reading for anyone venturing there today. Tilman's writing style, laced with early 20th century mores but softened by dry humour and occasional tips of the hat to changing times, slowly stimulates a deeper understanding of his words.

I have now read more than a third of Tilman's works, enough to recommend the series to anyone who is interested in mountaineering history or just plain old-style adventure stories. ■

Nepal Himalaya: The most mountainous of a singularly mountainous country by H.W. Tilman with a Foreword by Ed Douglas; ISBN:978-1-909461-38-3; Paperback, 280pp, April 2017.

Ice with Everything: In climbing mountains or sailing the seas one often has to settle for less than one hoped by H.W. Tilman with a Foreword by Trevor Robertson; ISBN:978-1-909461-40-6; Paperback, 160pp, April 2017.

The full series: https://www.v-publishing.co.uk/books/categories/h-w-tilman-the-collected-edition.html

Member Club Grant Update - Climb and Conquer

By Joseph Wong, Vancouver Rock Climbing Group

2017 is a revolution year.

We were very happy to host 6 leadership camps, serving 68 youth. Same format: Friday night–Sunday afternoon, with increased quality and focus on leadership, teamwork and outdoor stewardship.

Thanks to our grants from the Federation of Mountain Club BC and the District of Squamish, as well as private donations, our camps remain cost-free to all youth participants (as they always have been), safeguarding our vision to provide outdoor access to ALL youth. On top of this, thanks to the Govt. of Canada Summer Student job funding, we were able to provide employment to 2 youth from Climb and Conquer as Summer Camps Managers. They received employment training and mentorship, and learned many skills such as project management, budgeting, promotion, presentation, etc. This is a dream we have envisioned for some time and were finally able to make a reality, which makes Climb and Conquer one step closer to youth initiated, run by youth, for youth. Employment opportunities are the biggest booster for youth success and confidence building! Teaching people how to fish instead of giving them the fish! These 2 youth had just graduated from high school and are now starting university. We wish them all the best!

As well, we thank the Squamish Arts Council for funding a partnership where we introduced First Nations traditional drum making into one of our skills sessions. Thanks also to Brennan Park and Mamquam River Campground for their wonderful campgrounds. We also thank Michelle Hussein for offering her guiding services to teach outdoor survival skills. Thanks to Craig Davidiuk and Ultimate Promotions, Ashley and Climb On for sponsoring our beautiful camp T-shirts.

It is a blessing to be able to share many wonderful memories with all the youth. It is a very unique summer experience and a great adventure for both them and myself. I wish them all the best! But, it doesn't end here. We have set up an Extreme Conquer Youth Club (facebook.com/groups/extremeconqueryouth) where all past participants can gather and organize monthly events to continue their adventure and friendships. ■

In one of our camps, we hosted a group of newly arrived (talking about weeks and months) immigrants and refugees. One night, I brought them night hiking. Then I was talking with them and 2 of the girls were from Afghanistan and they told me they walked from Afghanistan to Turkey (during the night as the army was shooting during the day) and then to Iran to escape the terror, bullets over their heads and tanks everywhere… Basically they told me night hiking, no problem!

We taught backpacking skills, how to fit their backpack, essential items to bring, how to start a fire, how to use a map and compass, etc.

We are new to Squamish and so we promoted our outdoor leadership camps at their Canada Day Festival.

Lastly, we taught them how to rappel, as well as some basic climbing safety, etiquette, and stewardship items.

Photos credit: Joseph Wong

FMCBC Member Clubs

CENTRAL & NORTHERN INTERIOR
Bulkley Backcountry Ski Society bbss.ca
Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club caledoniaramblers.ca
Fraser Headwaters Alliance fraserheadwaters.org
Hickory Wing Ski Touring Club tmrs.ca/hickory-wing-ski-club
Ozalenka Alpine Club
Skeena Climbing Society facebook.com/skeenaclimbingsociety

FRASER VALLEY
Backroads Outdoor Club facebook.com/backroadsoutdoor
Bear Mountain Trail Society bearmountaintrailsociety.blogspot.ca
Chilliwack Outdoor Club chilliwackoutdoorclub.com
Chilliwack Park Society chilliwackparksociety.ca
Valley Outdoor Association valleyoutdoor.org

LOWER MAINLAND & SEA TO SKY
Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver accvancouver.ca
Alpine Club of Canada – Whistler accwhistler.ca
BC Mountaineering Club bcmc.ca
Friends of Garibaldi Park friendsofgaribaldipark.org
Mountain Mentors mountainmentors.org
Hike BC hike-bc.org
North Shore Hikers northshorehikers.org
North Vancouver Outdoors Club northvanoutdoorsclub.ca
Outsetters Club of Vancouver outsetters.org
SFU Outdoor Club sfuoutdoors.wikidot.com
Vancouver Rock Climbing Group vrcg.ca
Varsity Outdoor Club UBC ubc-voc.com

SOUTHERN INTERIOR
Central Okanagan Climbing Society facebook.com/CLIMBCOCA
Kamloops Hiking Club kamloopshikingclub.net
Kootenay Mountaineering Club kootenaymountaineeringclub.ca
Penticton Outdoors Club pentictonoutdoorsclub.ca
Skaha Bluffs Park Watch Society skahabluffsparkwatch.com
South Okanagan Trail Alliance southokanagantrailalliance.com
Varsity Outdoor Club Okanagan ubco-voco.com

SUNSHINE COAST - NORTH COAST
Mount Remo Backcountry Society mtremo.ca
Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society sunshinecoast-trail.com
Tetrahedron Outdoor Club tetoutdoor.ca

VANCOUVER ISLAND & ISLANDS
Alberni Valley Outdoor Club albernivalleyoutdoorclub.wordpress.com
Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Island accvi.ca
Comox District Mountaineering Club comoxhiking.com
Friends of Strathcona Park friendsofstrathcona.org
Island Mountain Ramblers islandmountainramblers.com
Outdoor Club of Victoria ocv.ca
Quadra Island Outdoor Club qioutdoorclub.org
Vancouver Island Spine Trail Association vispine.ca
Vancouver Island Trails Information Society hikingtrailsbooks.com
Victoria Outdoor Club Meet-up meetup.com/Victoria-Outdoor-Club

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Deb Hazell

Camping on an esker overlooking the Donjek Glacier.

Help us advocate—Join the FMCBC!

By working with outdoor recreation organizations, industry and government agencies, the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC protects and maintains access for quality non-motorized backcountry recreation in British Columbia's mountains and wilderness areas.

We represent over 5000 individuals from non-motorized outdoor recreation clubs across BC. Here's how you can get involved:

Join one of our member clubs (listed on this page)
Encourage your club to join the FMCBC ($10 per member)
Join as an individual ($25 per year)
Make a tax deductible donation to help us build and upgrade BC trails
Sign up for our newsletters

Learn more at www.mountainclubs.org