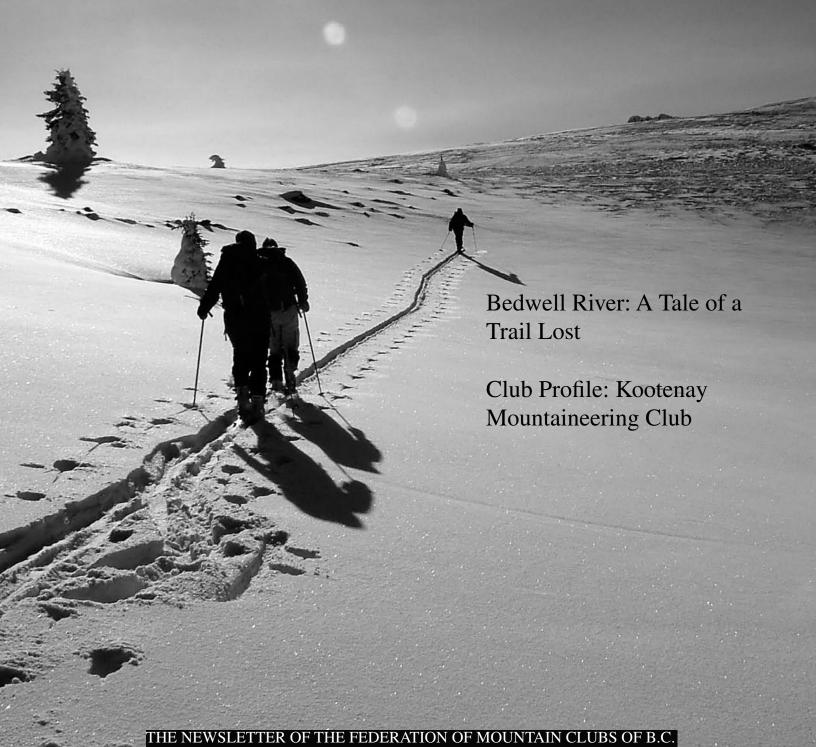
CLOUDBURST



Spring/Summer 2006

www.mountainclubs.bc.ca

CLOUDBURST

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Articles: We welcome articles which inform our readers about mountain access, recreation, and conservation issues or activities in B.C. Don't limit yourself to prose: photographs and poems also accepted. Pieces should not exceed 1,000 words.

Submission Deadlines:

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

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

Rates:

\$400 back page \$300 full page \$160 ½ page \$80 ¼ page

\$40 business card

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FMC

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMC) is a non-profit organization representing the interests of non-mechanized hikers and climbers, and outdoor clubs throughout British Columbia. The FMC 1) addresses mountain access, recreation, and conservation issues; 2) coordinates, builds, and maintains hiking and mountain access trails throughout B.C. through its member clubs; and 3) promotes outdoor education and safety.

Membership

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

Club Membership

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

Board of Directors

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Cover Photograph

Rollins Ridge from Heart Basin, Valkyr Range, Sandra McGuiness

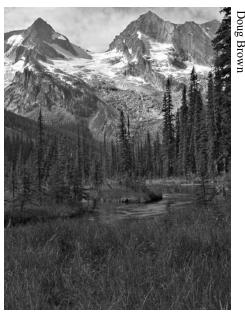
President's Message

Pat Harrison

It seems like only two weeks ago Evan was prodding me to do the president's report. Now I am getting those emails again. Would I have enough to write about? Could six months slide by already? Let's see, November ... April. Yep! He's right. Events keep rolling out with rapidity.

First of all, congratulations to Evan on his successful move to Cumberland. He and his wife have purchased a house – something that is quickly disappearing for the average worker in Vancouver. He will continue to attend our regular meetings here in Vancouver.

Second, congratulations to the Kootenay Mountaineering Club (KMC) for rejoining the FMC. I hope we earn their trust by being able to resolve some of the issues in outlining areas: tenure manipulation of public land, motorized tenures being issued everywhere and, of course, liability insurance protection for their members. Evan and I flew to Castlegar in late March to attend a KMC Executive Meeting. I'm told these meetings normally have about eight people in attendance —



Mts. Lees and Clutterbuck from Granite Creek Meadow

perhaps 20 were at this one. Evan and I were honoured and appreciative about this response. Evan gave a great Power Point presentation about the Fed's role in advocacy, our past successes, and our present issues. I spoke about the success and failures of the Sea-to-Sky process so far.



KMC'ers on John Bull

In January I spoke at the Chilliwack Outdoor Club (COC) about doing the same type of planning in the Fraser Valley arena that the Fed carried out in the Seato-Sky arena (one of the topics that KMC was hearing about). Members of the Recreation and Conservation Committee were suggesting this initiative. As I was an active participant in the Sea-to-Sky effort, I volunteered to try and get it off the ground. The idea was well received at the COC meeting. A follow up meeting on this topic was held at the Blue Heron reserve in late February. Members of the COC, North Shore Hikers, BC Mountaineers and Valley Outdoor Association attended this meeting. Other attendees were from Trails BC, BC Horse Association, and the Vedder Trail Society.

I also spoke briefly at the Valley Outdoor Association Annual General Meeting regarding the activities of the FMC. I was also able to enjoy a great show about trekking in Annapurna.

As for the Sea-to-Sky, the tenure referrals just keep coming. I sometimes wonder what the attrition rate will be of all these companies that are proposing to do business in the 'Corridor.' In my mind, one thing that must be rectified by government is the absence of any review of the Backcountry Forums or Land and Resource Management Plans recommendations before spending their client's money for a report to submit to government. One wonders whether it is a deliberate omission or just plain sloppy work (something I would think clients would object to). In two of the last three referrals, items were recommended by the consultant, which are directly in 'violation' of our agreement with government – that is, no motorized activity will go into non-motorized zones until the LRMP is complete.

The Sea-to-Sky LRMP is apparently still residing in the hands of First Nations. Until their review and recommendations, and the signing off by government, we take the Liberal government's commitment to uphold recommendations of the backcountry forums very



A KMC'er cragging

seriously. There is even a private citizen approaching the government to overturn the backcountry forum recommendations by a ministerial order. If that were to occur, there would be no peace in the backcountry and any faith in government processes would be dead.

On the positive side, the government has given the Sea-to-Sky Backcountry Recreation Association (S2S BRA) money enough to finish (finally) the winter signage. The signs are going to be 4 feet by 8 feet. The maps will take up about a third of each sign and will be done in magnificent colour with topographic relief. They look great. Having said that, we will prepare the signs and store them at appropriate locations in the Sea-to-Sky to put up with the first snowflake next fall. The S2S BRA also received additional money for brochures to help inform the public about the backcountry forums recommendations. We will try to get that done this summer. The forum website is in the process of being updated.

The lodge policy for BC Parks continues to be in limbo. The Parks branch apparently accepted in principle the FMC's recommendations, but now it appears the policy is being reviewed by the Premier's office and anything may happen. I am sure Evan will keep us updated on this very important issue.

At the Island delegates meeting, it was apparent there is one huge issue looming: access to private land and the recreational opportunities beyond. Access on the Island is essentially being closed off in many key areas through the use of permits, liability insurance, fire insurance, and (of course) gates. Sounds like the 1960s all over again. One of our resolutions is to coordinate a major campaign to deal with this problem. At the moment, the timber companies, which control most of the private land in question, feel there is very little need to deal with the responsible recreational sectors such as our Island clubs. Many of the problems arise from after-hour visitors who dump garbage and vandalize equipment, and our argument that we can help be their eyes and ears for such purposes fails to convince them (TimberWest was at our fall Island Delegates meeting).

The City of Courtenay has endorsed the National Hiking Trail concept and will be working with Hike BC to coordinate the route through the Comox Valley. With this initiative, we are hoping to connect the Comox Glacier Trail and thereby add pressure to saving at least a corridor for the trail.



Mt. Monica from Starbird Pass

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The Hike BC AGM is being held in Quesnel on May 6. John Crooks, Assistant to the Director for Recreation Sites and Trails, will be the guest speaker.

The Outdoor Recreation Council of BC sits on the verge of teetering into an abyss and is need of total revamping. FMC members Evan, Lesley Bohm, and I now sit on the ORC Board and a small committee of Jeremy McCall (BC Naturalists), Evan, Dawn Hanna, Howie Harshaw (Board Advisor) and I are making an effort to revamp the organization. We will keep you up to date on this situation. Dawn Hanna was hired as part-time Executive Director but realized she would have to work 60 hours a week just to keep her head above water. She regrettably had to resign in order to protect her other income revenues. She is staying on the revamping committee for now and will continue to play a role in revamping the website for ORC.

Sandra Nicol is stepping down as Recreation and Conservation Chair. She has accepted the challenge of leading the Varsity Outdoor Club next year and feels she is unlikely to be able to do both while doing her Master's degree. Thank you Sandra for doing a great job this year.

Finally, I think the best form of member communication comes from FMC representatives going out to meet our clubs, giving an update on the FMC activities and mixing with their members after the meeting. It makes any club seem much more real whenever one touches base in person. Please think about having your club host one of us at one of your meetings. I hope to meet all of you in the future.

Editor's Note

Meg Stanley

This issue of Cloudburst has had a long gestation with small and various roadblocks dragging out the process. I think by now we might rightly call it the solstice rather than the spring issue. I would like to thank Tammy Marlowe for her great work, the KMC'ers for their photographs, and all of the contributors.

Looking forward to the fall, we are planning a special issue, focused on the exploration of the Waddington Range. Obviously, the contributions of Don and Phyllis Munday will be highlighted, but we would also like to include a two-page spread featuring short stories of 2-300 words submitted by members about their own travels and explorations in the range. Photographs, with, or without, a story attached, will also be welcomed. Please see the inside cover for my contact information and submission deadlines.



Bajo Point, Nootka Trail

Recreation and Conservation Committee Report

Evan Loveless, for the Recreation and Conservation Committee

Backcountry Commercial Recreation Tenures

The FMC has had several issues arise with respect to backcountry commercial recreation tenures (or Adventure Tourism tenures, as they are now referred by government). The FMC Recreation and Conservation Committee is responding to many tenure and resort proposals in popular backcountry recreation areas across the Province. It seems that pressure is mounting on the little non-motorized

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club (KMC) ran into an issue recently in which it appeared that access had been blocked to a desired hiking camp location for Summer 2006 by a commercial operator that holds "Adventure Tourism" tenures in this area. The commercial operator did not want the KMC camp situated in areas they might use for its commercial activity. The Land Act clearly states operators cannot restrict public access, however, it appears the operator managed to pressure the local helicopter operators not

Sun Glacier, Meg Stanley

wilderness that remains in the province. The FMC office has recently obtained a map, which shows the size and extent of Adventure Tourism tenures in BC. It is clear the size and scope of these tenures are significant and the FMC will need to continue to work with government and tourism industry stakeholders to manage access, opportunities and experiences on Crown land.

to fly in KMC groups and gear to this particular area. Consequently, the KMC has had to choose another location used by another, more reasonable operator. The FMC intervened and contacted the appropriate government staff and the local tenure holders in an attempt to resolve the issue. Both the KMC and the FMC are following up on the issue, as it may be an indicator of further restrictions on public access

 especially in the Golden area. Evan Loveless is working with the Backcountry Lodges Association of BC, Helicat Canada and the province to address public recreation issues with respect to Adventure Tourism Tenures.

The Prince George Section of the Alpine Club (ACC-PG) and their Smithers associates are dealing with an issue where the Cambria Icefield is under threat of a

large heli-ski tenure. Frontier Heli-Skiing, which already holds one of the largest heli-ski tenures in BC, wants to expand their tenure into the Cambria icefield – a popular backcountry ski destination and the only icefield in BC that is accessible by major highway. The ACC-PG and FMC are working with government to address this issue. The local club would like the government to implement a local Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) or a Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP) before any more large-scale tenures are issued in the area. This is one area of the province that hasn't had a "higher level" planning process.

There has also been a development in the Monarch Icefield area, where Bella Coola Heli Sports is applying for an intensive use tenure to construct a four-season lodge near Ape Lake. The lodge will be located quite close to popular ski and hiking traverse routes and many members feel the facility will have a significant impact on this important wilderness recreation area.

Motorized Use Conflicts

Pressures and conflicts from motorized use in the backcountry continue to be a significant issue for FMC members and the non-motorized public. It seems to be a systemic problem throughout the province, whether it is the Sea-to-Sky area, the Kootenays, the Prince George area or Smithers. Processes and forums like the Sea-to-Sky Backcountry Recreation Association (S2S BRA), the Golden Backcountry Recreation Access Committee (GBRAC) and the Prince George Backcountry Recreation Society (PG-BRS) have had some success with sharing accords and land zonation. However, all are still struggling with user education and compliance and enforcement.

There has been a recent good news story with respect to enforcement of established non-motorized zones. There have been problems up in Smithers with sledders going into an agreed upon non-motorized zone as per the Morice LRMP. The local snowmobile club was also trying to re-open the LRMP and



RCMP Alpine road' block in Solitaire Pass, 2 April 2006

overturn the designation. In this case, there was also a local ski-tour operator that had a cabin (and tenure) in the area (Burnie Glacier Chalet).

A group of stakeholders (including the ACC and FMC) approached government and sought resolution of this issue. As it turns out, the government actually got involved and the RCMP and Forestry Compliance and Enforcement officers enforced the non-motorized area through Section 58 of the Forest and Range Protection Act (FRPA). This is significant because the Morice LRMP is still an Order in Council and hasn't actually been signed off, however the zoning is being enforced. This could set a precedent for other accords and other non-motorized designations around the province. There is some hope yet. (See the fantastic picture of the "RCMP Alpine Roadblock.")

Resort Developments

The Jumbo Glacier Resort proponents received a major setback a number of weeks ago when the East Kootenay Regional District (EKRD) directors made a near-unanimous decision to keep a zoning decision (needed to approve the Resort Development) local. The resort proponents were petitioning EKRD Directors to fast track the resort by sending the decision to Victoria, thereby eliminating any

opportunity for public input, and a motion reflecting this was put before the EKRD. However, with the exception of one director, the board rejected the motion to send the decision back to Victoria. This was somewhat of a surprise decision, as it appeared the directors were more or less split leading into the vote. Kootenay residents claim a critical victory for local democracy by having the opportunity to make their voice heard on the future of Jumbo Valley. This move is anticipated to be another setback for the unpopular resort proposal. The FMC sent a letter the to the EKRD persuading them to keep the decision local and to not approve the needed zone change.

Meanwhile, the Juliet Creek Resort proposal has been passed on to the Environmental Assessment Office for review and approval. The proposed Juliet Creek resort will potentially have far reaching impacts for the environment, the economy and certainly the non-motorized recreational public. However, the project seems to be receiving very little attention. The FMC have sent letters to both MTSA and the EAO raising our issues and concerns with the proposal. We will also work to raise the profile of this mega resort proposal.

Comox Glacier Trail and Access

As has been reported in past issues of Cloudburst, TimberWest is planning to cut timber blocks in the upper Comox Creek area adjacent to Strathcona Park. Their current cutting plans would destroy the lower part of the Comox Glacier Trail outside of the park boundary. The Comox Glacier Trail is an important access point to both Strathcona Park and the mountains around Comox and Cliffe Glaciers. TimberWest has offered to trade the parcel of land where the trail is located for another parcel of land located within the park boundary. However, this option is presently not acceptable to the FMC and the Friends of Strathcona Park and was turned down by the Strathcona Park Advisory Committee. We have proposed that BC Parks add this parcel of land to the park acquisition list and advocate to TimberWest for preservation of the existing trail and surrounding land. At a minimum, we want a significant land/logging

buffer for the trail. The FMC is working with the Island clubs to address this issue and other access issues with TimberWest.

We encourage members to write letters to government and keep pressure on these and other issues.

Following are e-mail addresses for key Ministers: Premier Gordon Campbell: Premier@gov.bc.ca,
Pat Bell (Minister of Agriculture and Lands): Pat.
Bell@gov.bc.ca, Olga Ilich (Minister of Tourism Sport and the Arts): TSA.Minister@gov.bc.ca, Barry Penner (Minister of the Environment): Barry.Penner@gov.bc.ca, and Rich Colemen (Minister of Forests): Rich.Colemen@gov.bc.ca. You can also carbon copy your email to your MLA. Faxes are also recommended.



John Young, Rappelling the Nose on Arrowsmith

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Trails Committee Report

Pat Harrison & Alex Wallace Co-Chairs, FMC Trails Committee

Its that time of the year again. As the snow recedes, our trails begin to appear once again. Members will be hanging up skis and snowshoes and getting out to enjoy hiking and rambling trips.

Speaking of trails, several trails that members and the public enjoy have been established and/or are maintained by Federation of Mountain Clubs' member clubs. The trails committee is still trying to compile a list of who the trail maintainers are for each club and determine which clubs are working on and

maintaining which trails. This will help in our revitalization of the Adopt-A-Trail program.

The most popular FMC Trails brochure is soon to return.
The Bus to Trails brochure is currently being updated, with help from Robert Batt from the North Shore Hikers. The brochure is expected to be ready soon (this summer) and will be available in brochure form or on the Fed website.

From the Island comes a new FMC brochure in conjunction with the ACC-Island Section. The new Mount Arrowsmith

Map/Brochure is now available. Send a message to Evan Loveless or to Peter Rothermel to request your copy. Peter has been the driving force behind making Mount Arrowsmith a regional park and it appears that it is going to happen.

When Pat Harrison (Valley Outdoor Club) met with Bill Marshall and John Crooks (Director and Assistant Director of Recreation Sites and Trails for BC) in February, he emphasized the need for funding of stewardship organizations like the FMC, and assistance with third party liability issues. Under the new Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts (MTSA), they are hopeful more money will be forthcoming this fiscal year. So write your trail proposal and submit it! They have also developed a new one-page contract for clubs to sign to provide protection from third party use when doing trail work on Crown land.



Main Gully, Mt. Arrowsmth, Andrew Woodford

The fate of the Baden Powell Trail section at Eagle Ridge Bluffs in West Vancouver continues to be unresolved due to the proposed Sea-to-Sky highway bypass at Horseshoe Bay. We still do not know for sure where the trail will be located, but we are told it will still have a connector to the Village of Horseshoe Bay (to the parking area for three cars). There are some property and planning issues that need to be resolved

with the District of West Vancouver. One option that has been presented is for the Baden-Powell Trail to be joined with the Trans-Canada Trail at Nelson Creek via Whyte Lake and Whyte Creek, where a rough trail already exists. BC Parks and other agencies are lobbying for more parking at that trailhead. However, the Eagleridge trailhead may not exist in future. We will keep you up to date on this on the FMC website.

The Trails Committee enjoyed a great day at Lions Bay on Saturday, April 22 – Earth Day. We wanted to show that the hiking community is taking care of the overflow parking we negotiated at the school, and we wanted to check the condition of the new trail from the parking lot up to the trailhead. The community of Lions Bay appears to have taken ownership, as some brushing out had already been done. The trail was well used and had little litter. Trail markers were still intact, as were the flagging tapes we put in last summer. This issue appears to have been successfully resolved, although we are asking for signage to direct hikers to the overflow parking, otherwise towing of cars may continue when the hiking season gets under way.

Pat Harrison and Ken Rodonets (Comox District Mountaineering Club) presented to the City Council meeting of the City of Courtenay on Monday, April 10, regarding the National Hiking Trail crossing Comox Valley. The presentation was well received. As a result, the City Council of Courtenay passed a resolution supporting plans for the National Hiking Trail through the Comox Valley, the need to work with Hike BC to accomplish this goal, and the need to approach other political jurisdictions to assist Hike BC in accomplishing the goal. The trail is planned through the Comox Valley from the Little River area (Ferry to/from Powell River) to the Beaufort Mountain Range beyond Cumberland. Further invitations have been extended for updates on the NHT from Cumberland, Port Alberni, West Vancouver, Squamish, and Quesnel representatives at the May 6 Hike BC Annual General Meeting.

The Outdoor Recreation Council and the Federation of Mountain Clubs were planning a Trails Day event in Squamish this summer. This project may have to be put on hold for a year, given ORC's difficulties at the moment.



Gimli from the south, Doug Brown

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Club Profile

Sandra McGuiness

Kootenay Mountaineering Club

The West Kootenays: land of grow-ops, draft dodgers, deep powder skiing, living off the grid ... and the Kootenay Mountaineering Club.

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club (KMC) has been around for over 40 years and has about 250 members, ranging in age from teenagers to incredibly fit and active people over 70. Every summer, the KMC runs a two-week camp for hikers and another for climbers. The locations of these camps vary from year to year, but at one time or another the KMC has probably hiked, climbed or scrambled in every major and minor range in the Interior Mountains. In fact, many mountains in the Interior were first climbed by KMC members.

Our summer schedule is pretty full, with hiking and biking trips, scrambles, alpine climbs and rock climbing outings. In the winter, we have a ski and

KMC'ers on Clutterbuck

snowshoe schedule and also run a one-week ski camp in Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park. Our climbing members train at the local indoor climbing gym twice a month and many members have done their first rock climbing on the plastic.

Along with the BC Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts, the KMC jointly maintains four cabins in the Bonnington Range, a sub-range of the Selkirk Mountains, south of Nelson. The cabins are popular with the ski-touring crowd in winter, and a four-day ski traverse between the cabins is also



KMC'ers on Begie Glacier, Sandra McGuiness

popular with locals and visitors. We run trail maintenance trips every year to clear local trails and skills workshops to keep our mountain skills up. Our Mountain School committee (currently one person) also hires professional guides each year to teach mountain skills, such as avalanche awareness and snow climbing techniques. We have an extensive library packed with mountaineering literature, guidebooks, instructional manuals and an entire collection of Canadian Alpine Journals. The KMC is also active on the environmental front, attending provincial park planning meetings, running letter writing campaigns and, most importantly, working with other environmental groups to keep Jumbo Wild. To learn more about the KMC, visit our website at: http://www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca/



Courtesy Tami Knight

Ramblings

Bedwell River Trail Work Party: A tale of a trail lost

Peter Rothermel

From Aug. 11-14 we were planning on putting on a joint club work party for the Bedwell River Trail in Strathcona Provincial Park. Our plans were abruptly stopped recently when the provincial Parks branch did a turnaround on our permit and cancelled permission to work in the park. This route follows the Bedwell River from the tidewater north of Tofino to the headwaters at Bedwell Lakes. It is the only established route in Strathcona Park, starting at sea level and ending in the alpine. It is also the approach to Mariner Mountain (from its lower end), as well as the approach (from the Bedwell Lakes end) to Mt. Tom Taylor, Big Interior and several other mountains.

The mouth of the river sits with private land on one side and a Native reserve on the other. About seven kilometers up river is the park boundary, with a small piece of Crown land in between. First Nations people originally called it the Bear River. Later, in the mid-1800's, the English (in one of their naming frenzies) called the inlet Bedwell Sound after an officer on the survey vessel Plumper. The river later took on this name as well.

In 1865, John Buttle explored a route up the river and emerged at the lake now named after him. There was a flurry of mining activity reaching up to Big Interior Mountain after this, as gold fever was running high. The history of this area is bizarre: the river valley was once deleted from the park, and timber rights were used to trade on Pacific Rim National Park. The river valley was later reinstated and, after some years, the Friends of Strathcona Park (FOSP) upgraded the overgrown logging road into a trail and built a suspension bridge over an area of the river that passes through Crown land.

My first trip on a through hike from the river mouth to Bedwell Lakes was over 10 years ago and the trail was easy to follow and in very good shape. The route crosses the river several times and two of the crossings are on spans of old bridge stringers left behind by loggers. Two years ago, when I went to climb Mariner Mountain, things had changed a lot. Now there is a high-end resort at the mouth of the river and the trail is so overgrown that it has turned into an all-out bushwhack in places. The hike through the resort land went quickly, as they had reawakened the old roadbed. The suspension bridge seemed fine to my untrained eye and the decking was solid. This bridge was built in 1994 by the FOSP and dedicated to Gayle McGee, a departed friend and activist.

Further on there is a crossing over a deep canyon on old bridge stringers that some people refer to as the "Living" bridge, due to the small trees sprouting up on it. I didn't look very closely at the condition of the log stringers as I was on a mountaineering trip and not on a bridge inspection. In retrospect, I now wish I had looked closer and had maybe even taken a few photos.

During this past winter we hatched a plan to do a bit of work on the route. The purpose of this trail maintenance was twofold: first, to keep the trail open to at least the Nobel Creek junction to Mariner Mountain route; and second, to send the message to Parks and resort owners that the public still has a very real interest in this trail.

I contacted BC Parks with our intentions and asked for permission to do the work. They granted us a permit and told us the steps we needed to take. Next, I contacted FOSP and asked for advice, since the group knows the route better than anyone. As well, we invited them and several FMC member clubs to join us. We received a huge amount of up-to-date trail condition information, as well as an offer of tools and help from the FOSP.



Mariner Mountain as seen from the summit of Tom Taylor, Peter Rothermel.

As word got around, we had members from all the Island clubs offering to help. I also contacted the manager of the resort to inform him of our intentions and I asked him, since his clients use the trail, whether they would help by giving us a ride up the road and saving us a couple of hours hiking time. He agreed, and further offered to pay for our water taxi ride up from Tofino as well – a cost savings of about \$100 per trail volunteer. It seemed that things were falling in place.

I went to the Strathcona Provincial Park Advisory Committee (SPPAC) meeting at the end of March and listened to a proposal from Clayoquot Wilderness Resort (CWR) Manager John Caton for a tenure to take horse trips of about 12 up the river valley to You Creek, inside the park. This is all low elevation, second growth forest, and the route is mostly on old gravel base logging road reclaimed by the forest. In exchange for a long-term agreement between BC Parks and CWR, the resort owners have said they would maintain the trail through to Bedwell Lakes and replace all the bridges.

Except for two other areas in the park with overgrown logging roads zoned for horses, the rest of Strathcona Park is off limits to horses, including the Bedwell

River Valley. Many people think allowing a change in the Park Master Plan would be the thin edge of the big wedge of commercialism and we rightly have to be vigilant towards any degradation of wilderness values in the park. The proposal from CWR has met with mixed and sometimes fiery reactions.

In early April, I received an email from Strathcona Park supervisor Andy Smith stating our permit for trail maintenance had been rescinded. The email read, "Until the bridges have been upgraded/replaced or assessed as being safe by an engineer, we feel it is necessary to officially sign this trail as being closed or advising that the bridges are unsafe and not recommended for use. While I realize that you would prefer to do

some work on the trail to try and minimize the continuing vegetation overgrowth along the route, our belief is that this could encourage people to hike the unsafe route or at the very least, send mix messages."

We believe the least BC Parks can do is send an engineer up the trail to assess the bridges before making judgment, and if the log stringers are deemed unsafe then BC Parks might need to remove them. If this is the case, we will be asking BC Parks to help find an alternative route through the defunct bridge area to a fordable part of the river.

The bottom line for the Bedwell River Trail is that BC Parks does not have the funds to keep the trail open and if the clubs can't maintain the trail and if the resort isn't committed, then the trail disappears.

SKAGIT VALLEY

Ron Dart

For Curly Chittenden and all those valiant for the earth

They gutted the gorge and valley decades back.

Villages and homes are now gone, decaying, down, done.

Dams 3 levels high climb, like giant cement ladders, up up the Skagit Valley, pump energy to Seattle. Seattle City Lights smiles with pleasure, pleased. Ravenous suburbs are well fed.

They turned north in the 1960s to add a 4th level, a higher dam, a reservoir for more energy. They turned to the True North, north near Hope.

Our forests, trails, streams, soil were to be sunk, buried alive under a graveyard of water. All would be ruined and rot, decay, dissolve, disappear.

Hearth and home, kith and kin saw writing on wall, read script well. The stored energy would, predictably so, go south to the, as the Sto:lo say, hungry people.

A small band of alert, attentive, in tune, in touch ones, felt the groan, grief and anger of stone slab and soil, trunk and stream, limb and leaf, root and rock rim.

The small tribe gathered north of the 49th, fought many a battle, won in the political trenches a hard victory, restored hope to beating, living things. We, this long summer solstice day, turn south from Hope, drive down dust thick Silver Skagit Road into Skagit Valley. We hike through dense forest east of Ross Lake to time tried rocks by water's edge, near razor sharp and much fabled Hozomeen

We down good Okanagan wine, feed on fresh baked bread, re-member under blue canopy such silence and quies has an exacting price. Day star now bends low in the west this fading, fleeting day.

We will soon enjoy the gift and greeting of the dusk, alpine glow now strong on glacier white peaks above. Sizzling white embers will soon be our warmth, pine boughs our rough hewn mattress. The eyes of the night are ever thickening. They tell an ancient and much longed for tale.

Then, we will awake and return, this night of a Hunter's moon behind us.



KMC'ers, Findlay Creek

11 March: Marion/Loon Lakes

Ron Darl

The day was picture perfect. There was nary a cloud in the sky as Lawrence Stearn, David Ortis, Ray Daws, grandson Matthew and myself took to the trailhead at the UBC Malcolm Knapp Research Forest near Golden Ears. We hiked to Marion Lake (still frozen), had lunch on a snow thick dock as the daystar smiled down on us. The view from Marion Lake of the white crags of Golden Ears, Edge, Blanchard Peaks, and the well-rounded Alouette Mountain was a delight. We headed south from Marion Lake and Ray and Matthew returned to their vehicle. Lawrence, David and I continued our hike through the forest to Loon Lake, a well-developed research centre. We wandered about the vacant area, much snow present, checking out buildings and the bends and twists in the lake. We headed south again, hiked up the snow-laden trail to the telescope (a fine view of the valley on such a cloud free day). We were back at the trailhead by 5:00 pm. We had hiked 19 kilometres by day's end and ascended more than 1,400 feet. It was a full but good day. Mount Baker treated us to a fine visual feast as we headed south to Abbotsford and home once again.



KMC'er on Kokanee Glacier

Higher than the Sky

Fundraising Trek to Base Camp in Nepal Alicia, Global Volunteer Network

We ran the trek last October and it was a great success, with 40 participants from all over the world that raised nearly US\$80,000. We hope to match this feat again this year, and are currently looking for participants to join us.

The Base Camp 2005 team got to see Nepal, but the team got more than just the usual view from the tour bus. Don't miss the opportunity to get this incredible view – be part of the 2006 team.

Base Camp 2006 will see us heading up the highest mountain in the world on Sept. 30. Along the way, we will stop at temples and monasteries, Sherpa villages, and the hospital Sir Edmund Hilary created for the people of Nepal. Before heading home on Oct. 19, we will visit projects the trek supports and meet the children in the orphanage who will benefit from muchneeded housing, health care, food, clothes, furniture, school supplies, schooling and supervision.

Becoming part of the 2006 Base Camp Team gives you a once in a lifetime opportunity to get (as the local name for Everest means) "higher than the sky," both physically and emotionally. This trip isn't about just climbing to Base Camp. Be part of a team of amazing like-minded people who aren't you're average tourists – they are making a difference in children's lives. It was such a diverse group of people that joined this experience. We were all there for one common goal, which I think brought us together.

Challenge yourself. We challenge you: climb base camp. We challenge you: help the mountain of one million orphans. Taking part in Base Camp has given me a sense of achievement and pride and provided me with a benchmark for other challenges. I often find myself saying, "If I can reach Base camp then this won't be a problem!!"

Places are limited, so get online, check it, and apply: www.volunteer.org/everest

FMC Updates

2006 Annual General Meeting

The 2006 FMC Annual General Meeting was recently held in Vancouver the weekend of June 10 - 11. This years AGM was hosted by the Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Section and was located at BCIT.



Sandra McGuiness, KMC, nearing the summit of Gray's Peak (of Kokanee Beer can fame), Kokanee Glacier Park

Saturday's agenad was packed with the business meeting in the morning and workshops and a strategy session in the afternoon. In addition to regular and general business, AGM Delegates discussed the Smoke Bluffs Park development and options for moving forward with the FMC land transfer to the District of Squamish including a proposed MOU with the District. Delegates also discussed proposals and options for changing the organizational/governance structure of the FMC.

The FMC Board will present a proposal to the membership in the fall and will schedule a subsequent general meeting to vote on any resolutions and constitution changes.

The AGM program included four specific workshops to give the AGM a mini-conference. The workshop topics were: 1) Access related issues on both private and public lands 2) BC Timber Sales management and operations overview 3) FMC Trails management and, 4) the Fraser Valley Backcountry Recreation planning process These workshops will help focus FMC work in the upcoming years.

After a good dinner, catered by BCIT, we watchectwo great movies from the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival. On Sunday the ACC hosted field trips to the Stawamus Chieif (hiking) and Smoke Bluffs (clibming). A special thanks goes to Richard Keltie (ACC-Van) for organizing the AGM facilities and services. A full report will be included in the Fall issue of Cloudburst.

FMC Website

The new FMC share point website (MNET) is now up and running at www.mountainclubs.ca. This site will be used for Board/Committee work, member discussions and

private and public document storage. Member clubs can also access the service. Contact webmaster Mark Stewart for more information:mark.stewart@shaw. ca

FMC Liability Insurance

We managed to finish another year without a club incident involving liability insurance. We have thereby managed to keep our policy rates at an industry low. Thanks for good risk management goes to trip leaders and executives of those clubs participating in the FMC liability insurance policy. We have renewed our liability insurance policy for another year. It was decided to forgo the biking inclu-



Main Gully, Mt. Arrowsmiwth, Andrew Woodford

sion for this year, so the premium will stay at \$6.00 per member. As always, in the event of a claim, we need good accountability of participating clubs and members. Contact Evan Loveless for more info.

Smoke Bluffs

The FMC continues to be a key stakeholder in the Squamish Smoke Bluffs park development process. Planning of the proposed new regional park, operated by the District of Squamish, is near completion. Discussions are continuing with the district regarding the transfer



KMC'er on Kokanee Glacier

of FMC land to be included in the park. The FMC is also in the process of developing a Conservation Covenant, which will be registered against the property before it is transferred to the district. We held a FMC members' workshop on April 18 to discuss the park planning process, as well as Covenant options and inclusions. Other concessions are also being negotiated. Contact FMC for more information.

CAA Avalanche First Responder

There have been over 600 recorded avalanche fatalities in Canada, most involving people who go into snow-covered hills or mountains for recreation, work or traditional lifestyle activities. Many of these avalanche fatalities have been recorded in British Columbia.

The Canadian Avalanche
Association (CAA) now offers an
Avalanche First Responder training
program, which is available
on-line at http://access.jibc.bc.ca/
avalancheFirstResponse/index.htm.
This program teaches how to
reduce the likelihood of being
caught in an avalanche and what to
do if a companion is buried.
On-site survivors and organized
rch and rescue responders can learn
how to effectively search for avalanche victims and how to
reduce risks while conducting
winter SAR missions.

The course has received rave reviews from around the world and there is nothing available over the internet comparable to this program. Log on to the course and learn winter safety skills that could save lives.

Sea-to-Sky Highway Upgrade

Members traveling the Sea-to-Sky corridor will know the highway is undergoing major upgrading in preparation for the 2010 Olympic Games and beyond. Several recreation areas and access points

along the route have or will be impacted, and the FMC is working to resolve these issues. Some sites will be enhanced through agreements brokered by FMC and other user groups.

The Sunset Trailhead now has parking spaces for five cars.

Designated parking spots and related signage still needs to be put in place, but this should be addressed soon. Options for Deeks Lake/HSCT parking and trail access is still being worked out, however, the Ministry of Tranportation (MOT) has committed to a 30-car parking lot on the east (northbound lane) side of the highway.

Work on the Eagleridge section of the highway is expected to start any day now (depending on protest activity), at which time the start of the Baden Powell Trail (from the Eagle ridge parking lot) will be closed to the public.

Work on the Black Mountain Trail (through to the highway) has also started, and this section will have temporary closures throughout construction. For more information and updates on work and trail closures, contact the project office at: 604-775-1100 or the website: www.seatoskyhighwayimprovements.ca. The future of the start section of the Baden Powell Trail is still uncertain, however, the FMC is working with MOT and West Vancouver to resolve this.



McBride Ridge, Valkyr Range, Doug Brown

Around the Province

Island News

Peter Rothermel

Many of the Island clubs have had recent Annual General Meetings and trip planning sessions, and several new trip schedules are out. The spring and summer seasons are shaping up to be exciting and busy.

Alpine Club Island Section

The Island Section of the Alpine Club has had a busy winter, with a large number of educational offerings such as Intro to Backcountry Skiing, Telemark Clinic, Ice Axe & Crampons Intro, Winter Camping, Recognizing Avalanche Danger Workshop, Ice Climbing Intro, Advanced Beacon Workshop and Roping Up On Snow & Ice.

As well, we were fortunate enough to team up with ACMG Ski Guide Cliff Umpleby for a certified Recreational Avalanche Course, with the assistance of Level 1 Instructor Don Cameron. This was so well-received that we are putting on a four-day Advanced Avalanche

Course over the Easter Holidays into the backcountry of Strathcona Park.

More instructional offerings this spring will be Crevasse Rescue Workshop, Wilderness Navigation and an Ice Axe Workshop. We're hoping to have ACMG Mountain Guide Lars Andrews instruct for a second year, including a Leadership Training Course for us in June.

The ACC is celebrating their 100th anniversary this year and the Island

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Section will be putting on a Golden Hinde trip and a series of trips to the mountains up in the Elk River Valley area at the end of July.

Island Mountain Ramblers

The Island Mountain Ramblers have been busy with their youth group, with ice axe &crampon practice and several outings. Teacher-leader John Young has also taken on the role of President



Ice Climbing on Arrowsmith

for the IMR, while Mike Hordelski has stepped forward as Vice President. A big thanks to Bill Perry for his dedication as President for the last two years.

Alberni Valley Outdoor Club

The Alberni Valley Outdoor Club has been busy working on trails that will follow along the Alberni Inlet on old logging railway beds, long overgrown. Some of these routes will likely be connectors for the National

Hiking Trail, an initiative that Pat Harrison has been spearheading. As well, the AVOC has taken on the enormous task of cataloging every trail within their district, using GPS to record their route findings. The information – to be catalogued in a database for logging companies to access before they harvest in a given area – will hopefully help protect the routes and the access in to them.

The Comox and District Mountaineering Club

The Comox and District Mountaineering Club has been focusing mainly on protecting access to the Comox Glacier and other areas such as the Beaufort Range, as well as finding a solution to Timberwest plans to log the popular Glacier Trail.

These well-used places are usually accessed through private timber lands and the passages are in control of the fickle attitudes of many of the logging companies. One company, Timberwest, has been especially draconian with their access policies, demanding an administration fee to cross their lands and asking clubs to have a million dollars in firefighting insurance. We are talking about club members simply passing through private timber lands to access a provincial park - not camping. As far as we can find, this is something no club in BC has ever experienced.

By the fall, we are hoping to form a coalition of various stakeholders to see whether we can come up with a solution to our dwindling access to the backcountry and alpine.

Climbers' Access Assured at Mount Pope Mark Earle

Mount Pope flanks Stuart Lake in Fort St James, and its limestone has seen visits by climbers since at least the 1970s. Extensive use began in the early '80s and climbers' access was tolerated by nearby landowners, but no "legitimate" access route existed. In 2001, Mount Pope Provincial Park was established, and this park included the bluffs.

A number of climbers expressed concern over multiple access trails, the need to minimize erosion, and a desire to keep interactions with nearby landowners positive. For this reason, the Alpine Club of Canada's Prince George Section contacted BC Parks in 2004 to discuss the possibility of building a formal trail to access the climbing areas. BC Parks was happy to hear of our interest in the area and offered to help, but there was a problem – a parcel of private land lay between the road and the bluffs. BC Parks had no jurisdiction over the land and we did not have - contrary to what we believed – legal access to Pope climbing.

The good news was BC Parks was interested in helping. Robin Draper of the Prince George office identified, contacted, and negotiated with the landowner (who lives in Europe) to secure a right of way that would guarantee our ability to use the crags. While the wheels of the bureaucracy move slowly, eventually the deal was done and trail construction could begin.

In early April, Mr. Draper and a crew of Alpine Club of Canada volunteers completed the layout, clearing and grubbing of a new trail route that joined an existing trail within the park and allowed climbers' access. This new trail is far superior to any of the many previously used routes and is located where no possibility of conflict with nearby landowners exists.

It is a winning situation all around - climbers have assured access, private landowners won't suffer any adverse effects, and BC Parks has a trail that allows a loop route over the top of Mount Pope. When, so often, climbers have tenuous access or none at all, it is pleasing to have participated in reaching a successful outcome for everyone.



KMC'ers on Mt. Begbie



Avalanche, Mt. Arrowsmith, Winter, 2006

Education In The Hills

Peter Rothermel

Feeling that a well-developed educational program is the best way to attract quality membership, I volunteered to help coordinate our Alpine Club of Canada Island Section's educational offerings this year. We got busy last fall trying to get workshops and courses in order and trying to find club talent

to make it all happen. I wasn't sure if I might be biting off more than I could chew, but we went ahead and contacted past trip leaders and tried to get a schedule together - one that would see these workshops work together in a timely order, as well as complement each other.

We were successful in that our section has had a busy winter with a large amount of educational offerings, such as Intro to Back-country Skiing, Telemark & Alpine Ski Clinic, Ice Axe & Crampons Intro, Winter Camping, Recognizing Avalanche Danger Workshop, Ice Climbing Intro, Advanced Beacon workshop and Learning The Ropes Workshop. A very full list of diverse courses, for sure! All of these workshops have been well received and were filled to the max with keen participants.

Some of our members that help make this instruction happen are Don Cameron, Charles Turner, Christine Fordham, Judith & Viggo Holm, Tom Carter, Christian Morrissette, Mark Salesse, Jules Thomson, Tak Ogasawara, John Young, Tom Carter, Sandy Briggs,

Rick Johnson and Selena Swets. We are fortunate to have so much knowledge and talent in our club.

As well, we had the good luck to have teamed up with Association of Canadian Mountain Guides (ACMG) Ski Guide Cliff Umpleby and he put on a certified Recreational Avalanche Course last January with the assistance of Level I Instructor Don Cameron. This went so well that we put on a four-day, fully booked Advanced Avalanche Course over the Easter holidays in the backcountry of Strathcona Park. This avalanche training has been so well received in general that we will be offering it again next year. Hopefully next season's

Recreational Avalanche Course (RAC) and Advanced RAC will be held at Mt. Cain as three- and four-day trips.

More instructional offerings this

spring, put on by Don Cameron, Sandy Briggs and Rick Johnson, will be Wilderness Navigation, Ice Axe Workshop, and Crevasse Rescue Workshop. For a second year, ACMG Mountain Guide Lars Andrews will instruct a three-day Leadership Training Course for us in June. There is a fee for this course and, as its limit is eight participants, it is already filled. This is excellent training for trip leaders and is a good prerequisite for anybody wanting to take the North Face Leadership Course, offered by the National Club. There is also some talk of organizing a Wilderness First Aid Course, however this is just in the planning stages.

We will be putting on some rock climbing workshops later in the summer, likely during the Heathens Summer Camp at Crest Creek Crags. Hopefully one of the offerings will be High Angle Rescue. Dates for these workshops will be announced later, as we are still formulating them.

The Heathens Summer Camp runs from July 1st to 16th and is a great time for all. Hope to see you there.

In 2007, we will commit to another year packed with educational offerings suited for beginners and experienced members alike. That's what makes a club viable and strong!



The Federation of Mountain Clubs

Working on your behalf

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

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

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

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

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

The FMC was founded in 1971, based on a predecessor organization called the Mountain Access Committee. Since this time the FMC has had many success stories working on behalf of our members and the public at large. If you visit our website (www.mountainclubs.bc.ca) you can view a list of some of our successes and accomplishments we have had through the years categorized by geographical area. Some highlights include

the popular Adopt a Trail program and resolution of several land use issues through participation in various planning processes.

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

Member Clubs

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

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

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

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

Backroads Outdoor Club www.backroadsoutdoor.ca

British Columbia Mountaineering Club www.bcmc.ca

Caledonia Ramblers http://web.unbc.ca/~ramblers

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

Comox District Mountaineering Club www.members.shaw.ca/mount
Fraser Headwaters Alliance www.fraserheadwaters.org

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

Kootenay Mountaineering Club www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca

Mt. Remo Backcountry Society www.mrbs.ca

North Shore Hikers www.northshorehikers.org

North Vancouver Outdoors Club www.northvanoutdoorsclub.ca

Outdoor Club of Victoria www.ocv.ca

Outsetters Club www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/Outsetters

Ozalenka Alpine Club

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

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

Vancouver Island Trails Information Society www.hikingtrailsbooks.com

Varsity Outdoor Club www.ubc-voc.com

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



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