

# CLOUDBURST

**Hikers and Mountain Bikers**

**FMCBC's new Advocacy Committee**

**Vancouver Island Trails Information Society  
celebrates 40 years of publishing**



**FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BC**

**Spring/Summer2012**

# FMCBC and Cloudburst Information



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

## Membership

Membership in the FMCBC is open to any individual or club interested in non-motorized outdoor activities and access, recreational, and conservation concerns. Please see the back cover for a list of clubs that belong to the FMCBC. Membership is \$15 per annum per membership when a member of a FMCBC Club and \$25 per annum for individual members. Visit our [website](http://www.fmc.bc.ca) for more information.

## FMCBC Executive

President: Scott Webster (VOC)  
Vice President: Caroline Clapham (ACC-Van)  
Treasurer: Elisa Kreller (ACC-Van)  
Secretary: Patrick Harrison (HBC)  
Past President: Brian Wood (BCMC)

## FMCBC Directors

Dave King (ACC-PG, CR), Caroline Clapham (ACC-Van), Andrew Pape-Salmon (ACC-VI and VISTA), Rob Gunn and Judy Carlson (AVOC), Francis St. Pierre and Brian Wood (BCMC), Dean Pollack (BOC), Bob St. John (CDMC), Sam Waddington (COC), Roy Howard (FHA), Al Jenkins (FOGP), Karl Stevenson (FoSP), Bill Perry (IMR), Doug Smith (KHC), Peter Oostlander (KMC), Travis Carter (MRBS), Mack Skinner and Cristina Jacob (NSH), Sheila Mitchell (NVOC), Dianne Comens (OC), Michelle Hall (SFU), Eric Burkle (VITIS), Mike Stewart (VOA), Ben Singleton-Polster (VOC), Claire Wootton (VRCG), Peter Rothermel (VI Reg. Director)

## Committee Chairs

Provincial Advocacy: Gary Guthrie & Brian Wood  
SW BC Recreation and Conservation: Brian Wood & Monika Bittel  
SW BC Trails: Alex Wallace and Patrick Harrison  
Fundraising: Elisa Kreller  
Outreach/Communications: Caroline Clapham  
Insurance: Scott Webster

## Cloudburst

Editors: Bill Perry & Jay MacArthur  
Production: Jodi Appleton

## Staff

Program and Administration Manager: Jodi Appleton  
Bookkeeper: Kathy Flood

## FMCBC CONTACT INFO:

Website: <http://www.mountainclubs.org>  
Email: [Jodi.Appleton](mailto:Jodi.Appleton@fmc.bc.ca), Program and Administration Manager  
Office: 2nd Floor 130 West Broadway, Vancouver (call first)  
Mailing address: PO Box 19673, Vancouver, BC, V5T 4E7  
Telephone: 604-873-6096

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## Articles and Advertising

Articles should not exceed 1000 words. Photos should be at least 4x6 inches at 150-300 DPI resolution. We only accept PNG, TIF, EPS and JPEG file format for photos and advertisements. For photos, please include photographer, location, and names of people in photo. For articles please include author. For advertisements please include web link.

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## Cover Photo submitted by Ron Dart

Photo of Ron on Witches Finger.  
Check out page [19](#) for the story behind the photo.

*We would like to thank Mountain Equipment Co-op for supporting the FMCBC through their generous contribution of office space from which to base our administration.*



# The 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 the conservation of and the accessibility to British Columbia's backcountry wilderness and mountain areas. As our name indicates we are a federation of outdoor clubs with a membership of approximately 3500 people from 24 clubs across the province. Our membership is comprised of a diverse group of non-motorized mountain recreationists including hikers, climbers, mountaineers, trail runners, backcountry skiers and snowshoers. The FMCBC also has several individual members who are not affiliated with any club, but share our concerns and interests.

The FMCBC recognizes backcountry hikers, mountaineers and ski-tourers to be a traditional user group of BC's wilderness and mountain areas and represents their rights province-wide to freely access and enjoy a high quality experience. 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" the FMCBC advocates 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 the FMCBC newsletter [Cloudburst](#), monthly updates through the [FMCBC E-News](#), and access to an inexpensive Third-Party Liability [insurance program](#).

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. Much of the FMCBC's work is done through committees including our Trails Committee and Recreation and Conservation Committee. With the exception of part-time assistance provided by the FMCBC's Program and Administration Manager, work on these programs is done mainly by volunteers. Without these volunteers the FMCBC would not exist and we appreciate all those who have volunteered in the past or are current volunteers and we encourage others to [join us](#) to help us reach our vision. ■

## President Report

Scott Webster (FMCBC President, UBC Varsity Outdoor Club Member)

**O**n a personal note, I'm done my PhD! I still need to pick up the degree, but it feels good to be finished that very long process. I've also found a job. I'm now with Coanda Research and Development in Burnaby, working on solving fluid mechanics problems for a variety of clients.

Back to FMCBC news... we have two new clubs to welcome. The [Kamloops Hiking Club](#) and [Friends of Garibaldi Park](#) have joined our organization. We extend a warm welcome and look forward to working closely with them in the days ahead.

We are making progress on the implementation of our [strategic plan](#). Our provincial Advocacy Committee has been formed and is co-chaired by Gary Guthrie (COC) and our past-president, Brian Wood (BCMC). This committee is focused on issues with a province-wide scope and invites participation from across BC. We are currently actively looking for members from the Kootenays and the Terrace area. We are also in the final stages of the hiring process for a consultant researcher to work with the Advocacy Committee on several issues, including the economics and health benefits of non-motorized recreation, as well as an assessment of the level of participation in non-motorized activities across BC.

There is much work ahead: finalizing our insurance policy for next year, working with [BC Parks](#) on their new [Volunteer Strategy](#), and investigating the possibility of restarting our Adopt-a-Trail program are just a few hot topics. Stay tuned to our e-news for the latest updates. ■



Anne Webster

Scott with his son Joel at the Lower Falls on Gold Creek in Golden Ears Provincial Park.

## FMCBC News

### FMCBC Project Management Volunteer

Mack Skinner (FMCBC Co-Director for the North Shore Hikers)

Some time back, Brian Wood heard of a service called [pm-volunteers.org](http://pm-volunteers.org) linking the Project Management Community with Non-Profit organizations by providing free project management advice. For their service, volunteer project managers receive professional development credits. The FMCBC Advocacy Committee decided to proceed with contacting this organization to see where it led, with Brian and I volunteering to follow up.

We met with Pietro Widmer, a Client Relationship Manager, who assisted us in drafting a request for a volunteer Project Manager (PM), and subsequently selected Karen Quine. She lives in Victoria, has a background in geography and biology, and is a summer and winter backcountry recreationist. She is currently working as a PM in the provincial Ministry of Education. We felt that her background, interests and current occupation dovetailed nicely with our requirements.

She provided us with a Project Management manual and, upon reading it, I became aware that it is a field which deals in specifically-stated avenues of action with time-lines; it is the opposite of abstract and academic. It demands Project Objectives that are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant/Realistic, and Time bound). I refer to this as "putting bones on the meat". Two thoughts came to mind:

Enlisting a Volunteer Project Manager might help the FMCBC advocacy effort by "putting the bones on the meat".

first, FMCBC could really use this to develop a structure for advocating, and second, that this won't be easy. Brian, Jodi and I met with Karen on Friday May 4.

In the FMCBC, we have plenty of meat to chew over, that being those issues that keep cropping to which we react, in a very ad hoc fashion. The first need spotted was to bring some structure to our reactive role, including simpler document management, better information delivery, providing Jodi with the ability to take on more of an advocacy role, and to assigning volunteers to roles/positions of responsibility in a coherent structure. Given that this is for the Advocacy Committee, I envisioned the major project as developing a structure (the bones), and, hopefully, methods, for obtaining and containing our issue-oriented information (the meat), with a view to interacting and collaborating, or advocating, with those outside FMCBC (governments, private landowners, [CPAWS](#), [ORC](#), [Friends of Strathcona Park](#), [Friends of Garibaldi Park](#) and other organizations with whom we share common goals). Depending on how one looks at it, there is an internal component (the way we gather, sort, revise information, and coordinate a response within FMCBC), and an external component, the way in which we collaborate and advocate with the outside world. When asked by Karen if there was a specific ongoing project that could serve as a baseline, after some discussion, the Spearhead Huts issue emerged as being a good example of the internal and external routes we need to address.

This clearly is a big project, and the above is by no means a statement of precisely where we are going. It requires other ideas and input from the Advocacy Committee, FMCBC Directors, and anyone reading this. So, if you have any ideas as to ways in which the goal of advocacy, perennially in member surveys the #1 role expected of the FMCBC, please [contact us](#). ■

## Insurance Program Update

Jodi Appleton (FMCBC Program and Administration Manager)

The FMCBC Insurance Committee has been working hard this spring on behalf of our Member Cubs who participate in our Commercial General Liability (CGL) Insurance and our Directors and Officers (D&O) Insurance. Because of their hard work the FMCBC has been able to work with [Integro](#) to find a solid policy for 2012-2013.

Integro had to go out to market for a policy for us again this year because our insurer from last year could no longer cover some of our member clubs' core activities. This year's CGL coverage will be through Oasis and our D&O coverage will continue to be handled by Capri Insurance.

Compared to our 2011-2012 policy, Integro has been able to negotiate US Trip coverage and there will be No Guest Fees (alleviating many headaches for all of us). With the new policy we have the lost Accident/Medical Coverage we had with the previous policy.

One area that the Insurance Committee really drilled Integro on was on who exactly is covered by our insurance policy. The final answer we received was that both last year's and this year's policies **do not protect individual members/participants , but do cover the club, trip organizers, volunteers, and those authorized to carry out functions for or on behalf of the club (i.e., instructors).**

The committee is going to continue to work with Integro to see if coverage for members can be made available, but at this time the persons covered for both Canada and the US defense and indemnification are detailed in the following:

- A) trip leader is being sued by
  - a) a trip participant who is a club member; Yes
  - b) a trip participant who is a guest; Yes
  - c) a 3rd party. Yes
- B) instructor is being sued by
  - a) a course participant who is a club member; Yes
  - b) a course participant who is a guest; Yes
  - c) a 3rd party. Yes
- C) club member is being sued by
  - a) a trip participant who is a club member; **No**
  - b) a trip participant who is a guest; **No**
  - c) a 3rd party. **No, but possible defense costs if the club were also named in the suit**

The Committee is still developing a Universal Waiver, and hopes to have it ready to implement this summer or early fall. Stay tuned! ■

## FMCBC Advocacy Committee Report

Gary Guthrie (Advocacy Committee Co-Chair)

The [FMCBC Strategic Plan for 2012 to 2014](#) lists several Goals, one of which is to “Protect self-propelled backcountry recreation activities and interests”. Included in the plan is an objective to develop a strategy and background material to support advocacy efforts with the Provincial Government and other user groups interested in non-motorized backcountry recreation.

A key action to achieve this Goal was the formation of an Advocacy Committee (AC) to spearhead the Federation’s and individual member clubs’ efforts. Accordingly, the AC was established earlier this year. Its membership includes representatives from various regions in BC and it has held three meetings so far. We hope it will also serve as a province wide Recreation and Conservation (R&C) Committee to coordinate the regional R&C committees, and we expect to limit our advocacy efforts to province wide issues.

At its inaugural meeting, the AC developed a list of potential activities it should undertake to achieve its mandate. These include the following:

- Monitor various legislations, Acts, regulations, and third-party initiatives to identify opportunities and challenges facing our member clubs;
- Develop an extensive knowledge base of the benefits and impacts of non-motorized recreation;
- Using this knowledge base, develop and implement a plan to lobby decision makers for support and regulatory and legislative improvements to protect and enhance the non-motorized activities of our members;
- Address issues of funding for BC Parks (monitor CPAWS and Parks Elders committee progress);
- Assess the status of LRMP zoning implementation;
- Assess the FMC roofed accommodation policy for use in both parks and on Crown land;
- Examine volunteer policies for working in BC Parks;
- Review park use permits;
- Review right of way act/policy (private land and resource roads);
- Develop a Private Land Position Paper; and
- Develop a position paper to address funding for BC Parks.

The AC also discussed the [Project Management Volunteer](#) service which is discussed in greater detail elsewhere in this issue of Cloudburst. Unfortunately, the AC has not had sufficient time to discuss this option at any length nor to determine how and when to best use this available resource. The AC will dedicate a future meeting to this topic.

The AC determined its first action should be to develop a solid information base to support its advocacy activities. To achieve this, the AC decided to hire a researcher to review relevant information and compile a summary report highlighting the major issues and discoveries. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was developed which focused on four areas of study which we wished to be based mostly on BC activities if possible:

- The economic case supporting non-motorized recreation in the backcountry, including the impacts of hiking, mountaineering and other backcountry activities on recreational tourism.
- The health benefits derived from active participation in hiking, mountaineering and other non-motorized backcountry activities.
- The environmental impacts of non-motorized versus motorized recreation on low elevation and alpine terrain.
- The size of the non-motorized, backcountry community, specifically in BC. .

The RFP was posted and three formal responses were received. The AC is now working with the successful proponent to negotiate the final details and costs for the project. The AC decided to remove the study of environmental impacts and focus on the health benefits and the size of the non-motorized, backcountry community in BC. Determining the size of the community would give the AC numbers to support the economic case for non-motorized backcountry recreation in BC. ■

## Southwest BC Recreation and Conservation Report

Brian Wood (SW BC Recreation and Conservation Committee Co-Chair)

The Following are some topics which have occupied the attention of our committee over the last six months.

### Callaghan Valley Backcountry Recreation Access

As the earlier parking and backcountry access issues with Whistler Olympic Park (WOP) fade into the background, the next issue is the proposed “easy access” Nordic ski trail extending from the Olympic ski jump lift to Madeley Lake. Our main concerns at present are:

- 1) Approximately 50% of the trail is outside the WOP tenure, and thus passes through the Wildland Zone.
- 2) There are areas of yellow cedar trees estimated to be 500-900 years old that are on the proposed route and would be cut to build the proposed trail. The biggest stands are near the creek that comes down from Hanging Lake and also near Beverley Creek, both inside the Wildland Zone. The trail should be designed around large trees by minimizing the clearing width and using natural forest openings. The impressive trees that this area boasts should be retained for trail users to see up close, not cut down to make way for a wide trail.
- 3) The 15-20m clearing width used for other legacy trails at Whistler Olympic Park is not appropriate for a Wildland Zone. This clearing width is typical for industrial logging roads, which are not permitted in Wildland Zones. Such a wide clearing width will result in the unnecessary loss of old growth trees, fragment the forest, and compromise the natural landscape. The clearing width only needs to be a meter or two wider than the final groomed surface. Some existing cross-country ski trails that use a narrow design are Parkway at Callaghan Country and Doug’s Doodles at Hollyburn. Like the proposed Madeley Highline Trail, these trails are suitable for beginner cross-country skiers.



Bryce Leigh

Snowmobile tracks in the Rainbow Lake non-motorized area.

- 4) We are also concerned that the new trail will facilitate ORV access up Beverley Creek along the existing backcountry ski trail. ORVs could quickly turn the wet soil in this area into a mud pit. ORV access to the new trail must be tightly controlled and monitored.

While the FMCBC is not against this trail in principle as it provides more easily accessible recreation areas, we are concerned about the width of the trail across the landscape and the increased risk of ORV trespassing.

### Tricouni Unresolved Area

This contentious issue seems to have been “resolved” by the bureaucrat in charge being transferred to work elsewhere. So the default solution is the “status quo” which is “mixed use”, i.e. motorized and non-motorized recreation over the whole area. This result is unsatisfactory to three quarters of the involved parties, i.e. the First Nations, Powder Mountain Catskiing (a commercial motorized operator), and the skiers/snowshoers. So perhaps the government will re-visit this situation. In the meantime, skiers/snowshoers visiting the area and the Brew Hut, owned by the Varsity Outdoor Club, will have to contend with snowmobiles.

## 21 Mile Creek and Rainbow Wildlands Area

This LRMP-designated non-motorized area is still commonly over-run by snowmobiles, in spite of our efforts to have the government increase enforcement of the motorized recreation ban. Over the last few years, skiers/snowshoers have reported infractions of this ban to the general “Snowmobile Infractions” section of the Bivouac [website](#). In addition, the FMCBC requested skiers/snowmobilers to file a quick report to the FMC website outlining snowmobile activity specifically in this area. Following the government's request, these data have been assembled and sent to government in an attempt to show the government the extent of the problem and to request a solution, but we have nothing to report on any definite government proposals at the moment. The Whistler press has published articles on this issue, but the concern in Whistler appears to be focused more on motorized activity in the municipality's watershed, than motorized activity in a non-motorized zone! Please continue to report trespassing motorized activities in non-motorized zones (mostly parks) to the Bivouac [website](#) to build up our database. Tune in next year for the next steps of government!

## Garibaldi Provincial Park (GPP) Management Plan Amendments and the Spearhead Huts Proposal

This topic has absorbed many hours of the R&C Committee's time due to the large number and complexity of the issues of this park, probably the wildest and most rugged park near Vancouver. Interestingly, in 1990's Cloudburst reports, where the GPP Management Plan was discussed extensively, many of the topics discussed about 20 years ago are still being discussed now, and they may still be discussed in another 20 years!

To assist with this amendment, BC Parks posed a series of questions for public comment relating to specific areas of the park. The main issues of this plan revolve around the Spearhead Range in the northern portion of the park and generally east of Whistler Blackcomb Ski/4 Season Resort (WB). The Spearhead Range has a spectacular horseshoe-shaped traverse which was first skied completely in the 1960's and has become increasingly popular due to its ease of access using the ski lifts. Many folks would say that this is probably the most conveniently accessed “short and scenic wilderness mountain” trip depending on your skills and stamina, but over the last twenty years it has lost a lot of its former wilderness character. This loss is due to the large number of backcountry travelers, mostly skiers from the resort and, later, heli-skiing, also based in Whistler. Coincidentally (?), the heli-ski license expired recently and was renewed for “only” five years, as opposed to the previous 20 year park use permit. Most people seem to agree that this license should NOT be renewed for a further term as the hut proposal will see an increase in non-motorized travelers, most of whom do not want skied-out slopes from heli-skiers. Similarly, the heli-skiers do not want skied-out slopes from backcountry skiers, and so the hut proposal might bring a timely end to heli-skiing due to the “tyranny of the majority”. We are told there is strong local support for the hut proposal, and the Spearhead Hut Committee (SHC) has set up a poll on its website to assess public opinion for this proposal. The website is [www.spearheadhuts.org](http://www.spearheadhuts.org), and the deadline for reply is 30 May 2012, so please send your comments promptly to make this a worthwhile survey. The proposal will be reviewed by BC Parks and the local aboriginal bands so there is no guarantee that this project will proceed. The interest in the Spearhead traverse may eventually result in improved non-motorized access for the winter and summer to either end of the traverse, for example, to re-build the access to the Singing Pass Trail at the south end of the traverse, but this is likely to take a while.

BC Parks also asked for input on whether or not mountain biking should be allowed in the Spearhead area of the park. Most FMCBC commentators felt that the Spearhead Range topography would not be appropriate for building normal mountain bike trails, but felt that mountain biking on hard surfaced, relatively wide road-like trails, such as the Elfin Lakes approach route was acceptable. Most felt that allowing bikers to use more traditional narrow, winding and steep hiking trails, i.e. as mixed use trails, would not work satisfactorily. BC Parks also raised the question of commercially guided mountain biking, but most felt that guiding mountain bikers did not change our position as expressed above.

For those who have a particular interest in GPP, please consider supporting the newly-registered Society “Friends of Garibaldi Park”. Details can be found on their website at [www.friendsofgaribaldipark.org](http://www.friendsofgaribaldipark.org).

## South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park Management Plan

In the Fall/Winter 2011 issue of Cloudburst there was an article reporting on the South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park planning process, a park which the FMCBC and the South Chilcotin Mountains Wilderness Society help to establish. Many of our members use the area to hike, mountain bike and horseback ride, and are concerned that the area be properly managed to preserve wilderness values from increasing high use in certain areas. The article reported comments from some of our members on flying mountain bikers into the Spruce, Warner and Lorna lakes, and how this high use increased wear and tear on the trails. This article triggered a flurry of activity from mountain bikers on at least Facebook, and in response to this the FMC posted an edited version of the article on its website to clarify its position. It is good to see that folks other than hikers, mountaineers and backcountry skiers read Cloudburst as we feel this might stimulate a dialogue between the differ-

ent user groups to spread understanding of the different views. Your attention is directed to my article on mountain bikers and hikers on page 9 of this issue.

## Sea to Sky Gondola Proposal

This issue has generated a lot of comment in the media in the Vancouver area, and some of this comment can be accessed through the April 2012 issue of the [FMCBC E-News](#) (The proposal has probably generated less (?) comment in the Squamish area where it is expected to provide a boost to jobs and tourism revenue, as well as improving access to hiking in an area near the Squamish Chief. Details of the proposal can be found at the [website](#) of the proponent, namely Sea to Sky Gondola Corp. At present the FMCBC feels that a gondola in an appropriate location on the Sea-to-Sky Corridor is generally acceptable, but it is divided on this issue of park boundary line adjustment to permit installation of the gondola in the present proposed location. Park boundary adjustments have occurred many times in the past 100 years of BC parks, the most famous ones probably being those related to the Whistler Ski Resort. Sometimes, to sweeten the pill of loss of land from a park, these adjustments can result in a net gain of protected and/or recreational land which otherwise would not have been available. Public meetings on the project and run by the proponent have been held in the local areas, but we feel that a public meeting run by BC Parks and particularly discussing the park boundary adjustment should be held in the Vancouver area to increase participation. Below are quotes from a recent letter to the FMCBC from the proponent.

“.....The proposed project will rise 2880 feet above Howe Sound on a routing between Shannon Falls and the Stawamus Chief. It will have a base terminal located on the vacant gravel pit site along the Sea to Sky Highway. The top terminal will be located on the ridge leading to Mount Habrich within a previously logged area, which is land currently owned by the Province of BC. There is a small strip of land through the Stawamus Chief Park that the gondola will pass over. ....this proposed alignment will NOT be to the top of the Stawamus Chief .....If successful, this small portion will be a right of way for the gondola alignment and 7 towers only, and will be reclassified to Protected Area status, 100% owned by the BC Government and managed by BC Parks. ...The Sea to Sky Gondola has the potential to provide substantial benefits that include: paying for ongoing trail maintenance for new and existing trails .... will provide free parking ...new public toilets....alternative trails up Habrich Ridge to significantly reduce traffic on the backside Chief trail ...interpretive information about BC Parks and the environment and improved trail signage ...improve pedestrian connectivity between Shannon Falls Provincial Park and Stawamus Chief Provincial Park with a grade friendly valley trail addition. ...”

The above statements seem to provide many benefits and, if they are ever implemented, could enhance recreation around the Mt. Habrich area which presently is not very easy to access. Past experience with these types of commercial projects would suggest that the perceived benefits often do not always live up to our expectations, or do not last very long after the start of the project. We are continuing to monitor this situation particularly with respect to the park boundary adjustment, and we would appreciate receiving your comments on this subject. ■

## Mountain Bikers and Hikers

Brian Wood (FMCBC Past President, SW BC  
Recreation and Conservation Committee  
Co-Chair)

I hope to provide some discussion points that might be used to formulate the FMCBC's policy relating to self-propelled mountain bikers ("bikers") wishing to ride on hiking trails in BC's provincial parks. While many of our provincial parks presently prohibit biking on most, if not all, of their hiking trails, there is increasing public pressure to change this policy. BC Parks manages about 7,000 km of trails, which is less than a quarter of the conservative total estimate of 30,000 km of trails in BC. Many of BC's trails are subject to "user" restrictions, but enforcement of such restrictions can be difficult and sometimes there are conflicts among user groups. Conflicts, or at least perceived conflicts, between hikers and bikers on BC's trails (and elsewhere) are not a new problem, and both user groups can have strong opinions about their own use and that of other groups. Because many bikers are also hikers and vice versa, and each group enjoys the backcountry, one might have thought there would be consideration of the other user group, but this is not always the situation and conflicts can arise.

Biker/hiker conflicts have been addressed in many parts of the world, particularly in the USA, Europe and Australia, where there are extensive networks of heavily used recreational trails, some of which were built many years ago and sometimes at public expense. In many countries, the present recreational trails were the only routes between communities and thus horses and horse drawn vehicles, and later sometimes cars and trucks, used them. Because of their commercial importance and

extensive use, such trails are usually relatively wide, i.e. about 4 to 8 metres, have maximum gradients of about 5-8%, and often have a cobbled, rocky or “hardened” wear-resistant surface. Motor vehicles have been banned from many of these trails to provide a safer and more peaceful experience for a wide range of non-motorized users, including horses and bikers as well as hikers. There are also many “rails-to-trails” routes where old railway beds have been converted to recreational or commuting trails. These types of trails are commonly classified as multi-use or shared-use non-motorized trails, although due to high usage some are limited to one user group to reduce problems. In an attempt to educate all trail users, some multi-use trails have signage to illustrate trail etiquette to clarify “who yields to whom” between horses, bikers and hikers. Provided everyone follows the rules and is considerate of other users on multi-use trails, problems between the various trail users are often minimal.

In BC, apart from a few historic and/or aboriginal trails, many of our recreational hiking trails were built specifically as hiking trails by volunteers, who sometimes selected an inappropriate specific location for the trail, and often did not have access to proper materials and tools for trail building. Also, many of the trails are in mountainous country and start from logging roads in our coastal rainforest. These trails are often steep and have trail beds composed of poorly drained loose material. This type of trail bed erodes quickly when subjected to many hikers and/or heavy precipitation. With some popular trails in low elevation areas, the trail bed can be reduced to a tangle of tree roots, mud holes and sloping and/or rolling rocks in a surprisingly short time, which can make walking quite difficult. To reduce work in building trails and to maintain a relatively undisturbed natural environment, many of these volunteer-built trails are quite narrow, typically about a half metre wide. One person can walk on a trail of this width without leaving the trail, unless the trail is water damaged or obstructed in some way, but when two persons pass each other, one person usually has to step off the trail temporarily. If many people step off the trail to pass each other or to avoid water or other obstructions, the trail naturally becomes wider resulting in “trail braiding”. The braiding can sometimes be many metres wide, causing severe soil erosion, persistent flooding and de-vegetation which can take decades to recover in a sub-alpine or alpine area. In some poorly drained or flat areas the flooding can persist throughout the hiking season and when this happens the flooded section of the trail becomes essentially unusable and people make their own routes around the flooded section, further compounding the environmental damage.

Thus, certain trails are easily damaged by hikers alone. Add mountain bikers and the damage can be intensified. Hikers damage trails, particularly when running and/or sliding while descending on mud in heavily cleated hiking boots while carrying heavy packs, and cutting corners on switch-backing trails. Heavy braking by mountain bikes, particularly when descending on a steep loose-surfaced trail, damages trails. Damage from all these activities aggravates erosion of trail bed material and water damage. However, in contrast to hikers who often step off the trail to avoid water or some trail obstruction and thus cause trail braiding, many bikers will ride through the water or ride/jump over the obstruction, and thus often do not contribute to trail braiding to the same extent as hikers. To support this type of difference between trail damage caused by these two user groups, scientific studies have shown that trail damage due to mountain bikers is comparable to trail damage due to hikers, and if these facts were more widely known among hikers I would hope that hikers could change their “traditional antagonistic” attitude towards bikers. Whichever group we represent, we have to agree that all trail users have impacts on most trails, and the more users the greater the impact. Due to the damage described above, many of our volunteer built trails cannot tolerate heavy use by either group, and thus could be termed “unsustainable trails.” There are several solutions to unsustainable trails, for example, re-surface them with aggregate such as local rocks and/or imported gravel, install raised wooden board walks, relocate the trail to a more rugged, well drained surface etc. All these solutions are costly and will not happen quickly, if ever, so we have to live with many unsustainable trails that will require regular maintenance. Probably some or most of this maintenance will have to come from volunteers, as is typical in other jurisdictions. I feel that many volunteer trail maintainers will need assurance from our government that they are free of personal liability issues before they return to trail maintenance.

Perhaps coincidentally, recreational trails have recently become fashionable with government initiatives. For BC trails we have the Provincial Trails Strategy (PTS) of 2008, and for all of Canada we have the National Trails Roundtable of 2011. Other provinces have also tackled this problem, and at least Alberta has generated some impressive trail management documents. In these initiatives a wide range of recreational trail users and government agencies draft discussion papers to assist land managers in formulating policies for dealing with a wide range of activities, both motorized and non-motorized. I believe the BC Government's PTS is still in draft form and probably will remain so for a while due to lack of funds to complete the process and implement any strategy recommendations.

If some groups of trail users could get together and agree on some basic criteria relating to multi-use trails and traditional hiking trails, we might be in a better position to assist the government when funding becomes available to implement the PTS recommendations. Since hikers and bikers share many values and agree on more issues than they disagree on, it seems they could become allies and support each other in trail use decisions and trail construction and maintenance. For example, hikers and bikers probably agree that the two main groups of trail users, namely motorized and non-motorized users, cannot use the same trail, no matter how wide the trail is, because these two activities are basically incompatible. In some jurisdictions, motorized recreation is banned by land use “zoning” or legislated trail designation, and this is the situation in many of our most popular provincial (and national) parks.

Other issues relating to the generally wide multi-use trails include problems associated with horses or other pack animals on multi-use trails which for simplicity, will not be discussed here. Some problems on multi-use trails are compounded if a new group of users (typically bikers) is very much larger than the original group of users (probably hikers), which scares the smaller group into thinking that the trail is being “taken over” by the larger group. Also, common complaints include hikers saying that some bikers are riding too quickly and often too quietly on narrow and winding trails, forcing hikers to fast step off the trail to avoid being hit. Mountain bikers sometimes complain about hikers “obstructing their trail” and forcing them to slow down. Surely, common sense, reasonable consideration of others, and a loud bell or a polite call could avoid some of these problems, and if bikers ride together they could pass the hikers more slowly and safely as a group when the hikers have been alerted of their approach.

I propose the following guidelines which might alleviate some of the long-standing disputes between the potential allies of hikers and bikers. I realize that these proposals will not please everyone, but perhaps they will encourage bikers and hikers to talk to each other to try to agree on some basic trail uses.

- Many hikers feel that traditional narrow, winding and steep hiking trails should not be used by bikers because the risk of collision and/or conflict is too great, particularly when the bikers are descending. This general rule is well established in many jurisdictions and in many countries and is often expected and respected by bikers. Many BC hiking trails are too steep for biking and would require the average “cross-country” biker to push the bike up or down the trail and this can present problems as discussed earlier when trail users pass each other on narrow trails. Although experienced “downhill” bikers seem to be able to descend trails of almost any steepness, their descent can present a real hazard to hikers and other bikers as the descending bikers may not be able to stop sufficiently quickly to avoid a collision; or, other hikers or bikers perceiving a collision, react in a way unanticipated by the descending biker. Also, as discussed above, if bikers who are descending quickly, try to stop quickly, the trail bed is subject to damage and erosion. This is an area for serious discussion between the two user groups, and is also discussed briefly in item 5 below.
- The above trails use restriction should not be too onerous for average cross-country bikers because trail riding on steep hiking terrain would be too challenging for many average bikers, and thus the numbers of experienced downhill bikers using such trails would be quite low. This restriction however would likely aggravate the experienced downhill bikers who enjoy descending steep trails. Since bikers as a group are one of the most productive trail builders in the province, the solution might be for them to build their own challenging trails, subject to approval being granted from the appropriate government agency.
- Trails that are consistently wider than 2-3 metres are often old resource roads which are converted to multi-use trails and thus usually can be used by bikers and hikers. To reduce possible conflicts between the two

## TRAIL MAPS

- ★ Southern Chilcotin Mountains Trail Map
- ★ Chilliwack East Recreational Map
- ★ Chilliwack West Recreational Map
- ★ NEW! North Shore Trail Map

★ ACCURATE, DETAILED, GPS-BASED  
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groups, common trail etiquette should be indicated on signs. For example, bikers passing other trail users from behind should give an audible warning and preferably overtake on the left. On hearing the warning, the other trail user should move to the right. I believe the usually accepted protocol with bikers is that the person descending slows down and yields to the person ascending, and in general the person descending passes another trail user by using the uphill side of a side-hill trail. The biker slowing down to pass another user allows sufficient clearance for the other trail user to not be concerned about a collision. These multi-use trails preferably have hardened trail beds which are sufficiently wide so that users can remain on the trail and thus avoid damaging the surrounding terrain. There are many examples of such trails in our provincial parks and often bikers are using them already.

- There are some traditional hiking trails, which many cross-country bikers argue should be appropriate for them to ride on, but are prevented from doing so by the park's general prohibition of bikes. Examples of these types of trails can be found on generally level or shallow gradient terrain and might be designated as Nordic skiing trails in the winter. Usually these trails are sufficiently wide to permit motorized track setting (minimum 3-4 metres) and hiker and bikers should have enough room to pass safely. Other examples of traditional hiking trails of this type can be found on broad "whale-back" ridges which are often above tree-line, offer scenic views and thus provide good visibility for trail users. The trails on these ridges often have a relatively shallow gradient, and usually have a hard surface of solid bedrock, shale, etc., which provide a relatively wide and hard surfaced trail bed which can tolerate many users. Users on these types of trails usually have advance warning of other trail users and there is often adequate room to pass easily without causing damage to terrain adjacent to the side of the trail. Some aspects of these ridge trails resemble the multi-use trails of item 3 above and it is difficult to rationalize that bikers should not use them. However, accessing these whale-back trails may involve riding on steeper "access trails" with the problems outlined in item 1 above.
- At this stage, to try to settle disputes over some types of trail usage, I feel it might be appropriate to experiment with a few carefully selected traditional-type hiking trails which most hikers would consider inappropriate for bikers. To avoid re-inventing the wheel, research into the well-documented science of multi-use recreational trails in other jurisdictions could provide some interesting ideas which could be tried here. These experimental trails could have relatively wide sections, often called "twin track" by bikers, interconnected with narrower sections, often called "single track" by bikers. To assess user conflict on this type of trail, preferably there should be some steeper and/or winding sections of single track so that the experimenters could assess the risk of conflicts or collisions for varying trail types. For this experiment, very clear signs at the opposite ends of the trail are essential, and possibly at other locations along the trail when approaching more dangerous sections. The signs at the ends of the trails would specify conventional multi-use trail etiquette relating to passing, yielding, audible signals, etc., so that all users understand and I hope would follow the rules. I have seen scientific studies which show that many hikers have a perception of possible collisions with mountain bikers that is not supported by statistics, and hopefully some traditional attitudes might change and all trail users could respect each other. If these perceptions can change and the experiments are successful, perhaps parks with Nordic skiing trails or whale-back trails can revisit their policies to permit limited biking on appropriate trails. This would clearly require study on a case-by-case basis and public input should be sought for any proposed changes. If these experimental trails were ever to be established, a "wild minority" of mountain bikers who do not follow the trail etiquette could cause hikers to complain about etiquette infractions and trail managers would likely respond by closing the trail to mountain bikers, and so no progress would have been made. So, education of all trail users is essential if this experiment is going to work

In any event, I feel it is important that mountain bikers and hikers get together to discuss areas of agreement and disagreement, and possibly be sufficiently daring to try a few experiments as suggested above. From an historical perspective, folks could check on how long it took to remove the walking speed (4 mph) restriction enforced against the early users of automobiles in the days of the "horseless carriage" led by the man walking and carrying the red flag! I wish good luck to those who rise to the challenge of changing attitudes! ■



## Backcountry Skiing and Olympic Alpine/Slalom Skiing: Twins in the Mountaineering Womb

Ron Dart (ACC-Vancouver)



Tove Lillebjørka

Ron Dart in Bodo Norway, 1972

Most backcountry skiers pride themselves on the fact that when skis take to untouched white slopes, the white gold will be there to make their turns on that have not yet been touched---off piste skiing is the Mecca for such purists, and the lure of the untried slopes has a sort of charm that cannot be denied---it can, in fact, be quite addictive. Then, there are those who are content to be on groomed slopes, or, for the more committed and advanced, turn to the challenge and discipline of Alpine and Slalom competitive racing. The two skiing tribes rarely see eye to eye on the meaning, experience and purpose of skiing, and yet the earliest form of slalom and alpine skiing began as a form of backcountry boards to slopes ascent to the starting line. In fact, both forms of skiing were, in origin, twins in the womb. Needless to say, the twins have parted paths as they have aged, but both have their beginnings and birth in the creative mind and imagination of the Lunn family that spent many a year in Switzerland.

I have been reading recently, *The Memoirs of Sir Arnold Lunn: Unkilled For So Long* (1968). Lunn was a prolific writer and there at the very birth of competitive alpine and slalom skiing. He was, in many ways, the shaker and maker of slalom and alpine racing. Lunn dared to challenge in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the

way the Norwegians dominated and defined skiing in two ways: cross country skiing (langlauf) and jumping. Lunn had lived in Switzerland for many a year, and he thought that slavishly following the Norwegian model was quite inappropriate for an Alpine context. Lunn had this to say:

The skiers in Alpine countries, instead of adapting competitive ski-ing to their type of terrain, blindly copied Scandinavian precedents, and awarded their national championships on langlauf and jumping. It was my father who initiated the first Downhill ski race in ski-ing history. p. 40.

I lived with the mountain Sami (Lapplanders) in northern Norway in the early years of the 1970s before my move to Switzerland in 1972-1973. I was quite taken, then, by how the Sami had initially skied on long boards to get around as reindeer herders and the Norwegian commitment to cross country and jumping as a means of recreation and competitive skiing. This was all quite different from the skiing I had done in Canada at the time.

The earliest downhill ski racers had no modern lifts to take competitors to some starting point from which they would race down groomed slopes at a speed that few would imagine in the initial years of racing. Lunn had this yet further to say, and the memory is worth the pondering.

The competitors for the first Roberts of Kandahar race left Montana (in Switzerland) on January 6, 1911, and climbed for seven and a half hours to the Wildstrubel hut where they were to spend the night. p. 40

A seven hour ski trip to a high Swiss hut certainly puts early ski racing in the touring mode. There is more to the early story, though. Lunn was opposed to piste slopes, so the early races were descended 'over natural, and in some cases rather difficult, snow'. Both the ascent and descent in the birth of alpine racing were done with skins on boards up the mountain, then down the mountain on off piste slopes---sounds to me more like back country skiing than Olympic racing on groomed hard packed slopes.



unknown

Ron Dart in Gimmelwald Switzerland in 1972 in Sami---Lapp dress after leaving Northern Norway and living with the mountain Sami

It was in 1921 (just over 90 years ago) that Lunn initiated and had approved alpine racing as an official sport. The next move by Lunn was to get slalom skiing on the agenda: 'The Slalom ski race was an invention of my own' (p.41). On January 1, 1922, the Alpine Ski Challenge was transformed into a challenge cup for Slalom racing' (p.41). It is 90 years this year since Slalom racing joined Alpine racing to become part of the larger vision of skiing possibilities. Slalom skiers, like Alpine racers, had to put skin to ski to get to their starting point. There is this convergence, therefore, in the beginning between backcountry skiing and slalom-alpine racing.

I lived in Switzerland from 1972-1974, and when there I lived in Gimmelwald near Murren. Murren is, in many ways, the source site for the origin of alpine-slalom skiing, and I often went to Murren. In fact, the trek up to the Schilthorn (a cable car can be taken) is about a half day hike, and in the winter the challenging 'Inferno' race (the world's longest downhill ski race) begins from the summit of the Schilthorn. I was in Murren when the alpine village celebrated 50 years of visionary skiing in 1972 – I had just arrived from my life with the Sami in northern Norway, and my only garments were my Sami clothes. There is a fine statue of Sir Arnold Lunn in Murren that celebrates his pioneering work. I will be back in Murren in June 2012 to celebrate 90 years of Murren's historic place in the transition from skiing as cross country-jumping to Alpine-Slalom skiing. A read through Lunn's *Unkilled For So Long* and many of his other books tells such a tale in exquisite detail --- historic reads not to miss. ■

## Ticked Off

Nowell Senior (Caledonia Ramblers)



I knew that our backpacking trip to the Chilcotin was going to be entertaining when, early into the hike and catching up with everyone after lagging behind, I found them involved in a bonding activity that I had missed the introduction to. It was too soon after breakfast for a snack break, and although the scenery was spectacular, no one seemed aware of it. Instead they were engaged in what appeared to be a grooming ritual; it was clear that some kind of discovery of a personal nature was unfolding.

It was a Rambler with a Rocky Mountain Wood Tick on them that had caught all the attention. The moment I realized this, the itchiness in my groin I'd attributed to sweating took on new significance. Behind the nearest bush, I stripped off and there was indeed a tick busy preparing for its final meal. I should explain that these particular ticks eat just three times in their life: once on a mouse, then a rabbit and finally on a deer or coyote or, if it's slim pickin's the ticks will feast on a Caledonia Rambler during which they will quadruple in size, fall to the ground, lay 10,000 eggs then bite the dust.

Getting back to my tick; It's not that I minded her selecting me for her last meal so much as her laying 10,000 eggs in my scrotum before she fell to the ground. I plucked her off as gently as my trembling hands would permit and quickly pulled my pants up. Too embarrassed to share this intimate encounter, I quietly watched as ticks that were anchoring into the scalps of some Ramblers were removed.

With physicians amongst us, surgery was routine, and an assembly line of patients were at least temporarily separated from the ticks imbedded in their scalps - I forgot to tell you that these ticks hang onto the top of a blade of grass with six of their legs while waving their other two legs around until food walks close enough for them to latch onto. Now however, with surgery happening, thousands of ticks waiting in the wings smelled blood and began cart wheeling through the grass on all eight legs. We carried the more athletic of these ticks for the remainder of our time in the Chilcotin, and some went home with us.

Once home, David and Judith kept us informed about ticks in general as well as the ones they had adopted as pets. Out of concern for the health of the ticks that they had found with a fine-tooth comb and hours of labour, Judith took the top off the canning jar so that the ticks could breathe properly. They – David and Judith - then spent the next three days on hands and knees searching for these ticks that had decided to explore the frontiers of their new home – a place perhaps further North than a Rocky Mountain Wood Tick had ever previously travelled. Apparently there is still a tick unaccounted for, so if any of you are interested in how this tick is adapting to a new environment at Watson Crescent, Prince George, British Columbia, please contact David or Judith for an update.

Adieu, with a handshake in thought. ■

## ACC-Vancouver Island Centennial

Rick Hudson (ACC-Vancouver Island Chair)

The Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada celebrates its centenary this year with a number of notable projects. The most ambitious is the "Climb the Island Centennial Challenge". During the year, members will try to reach as many summits as possible, and log them on a specially designed webpage that tracks the successes as the seasons pass. Can we grab a hundred summits? (Once climbed, they can't be re-claimed.)

And in the theme of 100 years of history, this August a group will climb Elkhorn (the Island's "Matterhorn" it was called a century ago) on the very day it was first ascended in 1912. Back then its ascent kicked off the tradition of grand alpinism in what was then BC's first provincial park (created a year earlier). Don't you just love history? Will the party wear knickerbockers and puttees? Will they drink claret on the summit? Just how close can they get to repeating the original climb?

The section will also host a 3 week summer camp in the north of the Island, in an alpine area which has no record of being visited before (is that possible)? Plus there are activities planned for the Island Spine project, which is working to create a 750 km long trail from Victoria to Cape Scott; continued activity with the TrailRider program that assists physically challenged people to get into the backcountry on a specially designed stretcher; and volunteer programs on a number of park trails and campgrounds.

Then there are the usual clutch of mountain-related courses, some free, some heavily subsidized, gym climbing evenings, social evenings and various BBQs and dinners. In short, it's going to be another fun packed, action tracked year for the dudes on the left hand edge. And remember, we're always the last to be benighted. Further details available at [www.accvi.ca](http://www.accvi.ca). ■

## Celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VITIS: A Proud Publishing History, 1972 - 2012

Eric Burkle (VITIS President)

Some 40 years ago, a small group of Victoria area hikers, all active members of the Outdoor Club of Victoria, decided to write the first comprehensive trail guide for Vancouver Island after being encouraged to do so by people such as Ruth Masters and Syd Watts. Initially the plan was to do one small booklet covering a selection of hikes on Vancouver Island, but someone at the Times Colonist newspaper suggested to split the booklet into three volumes, and someone else had the bright idea to go for periodic updates.

The 32-page booklet, written on a manual typewriter and with hand-drawn maps, hit the shelves in October 1972 for a bargain price of \$1.00. *Hiking Trails I: Victoria and Vicinity* became an instant success and needed immediate reprinting before Christmas, having had record sales at the Eaton's downtown store. Since then, the original book, plus *Hiking Trails 2: South-Central Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands* (first published in 1973) and *Hiking Trails 3: Northern Vancouver Island* (first published in 1975) have gone through 32 editions using the latest technology in map creation and book design. Our latest initiatives include ebooks and a mobile-friendly home page.

In its forty years, the society has had only four presidents, and its founding president, Jane Renaud (Waddell) is a proud 90-year old living in Victoria. The subsequent presidents were Susan Lawrence, John Harris, and currently Eric Burkle.

The non-profit Vancouver Island Trails Information Society has sold an estimated 100,000+ copies, both locally and internationally, helping to attract foreign visitors, while putting back thousands of dollars into Vancouver Island outdoor and environmental projects, from Swan Lake in Victoria to Strathcona Park near Courtenay and places between and beyond.

A long-time member of the FMCBC, VITIS continues to support the organization both morally and financially. VITIS has also established a scholarship and bursary program at four Island post-secondary institutions. For further information, individual book updates, etc., go to <http://www.hikingtrailsbooks.com>. We always appreciate receiving updates on hikes featured in our books which we post on our website.

We look forward to serving the Vancouver Island outdoors and recreation community for many more years. ■

## Tackling Everest at Whistler

By Eric Welsh - Chilliwack Progress

Published: March 21, 2012 12:00 PM

Submitted by Ron Dart (ACC-Vancouver)

The distance from the base of Mt. Everest to the peak is 30,000 feet.

It is still considered the Holy Grail of mountaineering, the climb that best tests physical and mental endurance.

Of course, not every one has the time or money for a trip to Nepal.

And so, three members of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club did the next best thing, Everest at Whistler.

“The longest blue/black run at Whistler Blackcomb is the Peak to Creek, which is 5,020 feet,” Ron Dart explained. “So we did it six times.”

Dart, John Laframboise and Jonathan Mitchell started out bright and early one morning in early March.

They took three lifts to the top and started down on their first run, ploughing through 60 to 70 kilometre per hour winds.

“The upper part is quite steep and the wind was blowing across us,” Dart said. “It was like skiing through a snow tunnel, with very lean visibility, before we got into the forested area.”

Peak to Creek shapes up in three stages — a waist-deep snow river at the top, a mogully middle and a flat finish. There are benches on the way down on the assumption that skiers will need a rest.

“Coming down the steep part, navigating so you don’t fly off somewhere, that’s tiring on the legs,” Dart said. “You’re moving at pace, weaving, twisting, bending. It’s quite a workout and it leaves your legs feeling like Jello.”

The men did four runs, covering 20,000 feet or 28 kilometres before finally taking a break.

“The blood sugar was getting low and we were perspiring quite a bit, so we grabbed a quick lunch,” Dart said. “We were all wobbly and weak after four runs, but it had to be a quick lunch so our muscles wouldn’t seize up on us.”

Then back up they went.

“It took about 12 or 13 minutes on each descent,” Dart said. “Most people stop five or six times on the way down because of leg burn, and most people are happy just doing that run once. Doing that six times, that’s not typical.”

The men finished up by 2:30 p.m., then paid for it the next day with legs that felt like tree trunks.

“It was challenging to the body, mind and imagination,” Dart said. “We wanted to try it and see if our legs could carry us, and we succeeded.”

And now, they move on to part two.

If all went as planned, the trio were back on the mountain today, doing Everest at Whistler on an even tougher Olympic run.

If you see any of them tomorrow, odds are they won’t be walking around too much.

The Chilliwack Outdoor Club has over 150 members from all parts of the Fraser Valley.

The club schedules a variety of activities including hiking and backpacking, technical climbing, cycling, kayaking and canoeing, downhill and cross country skiing and snow shoeing.

Fees are \$35.00 per year, effective from the date of joining. Find info at [www.chilliwackoutdoorclub.com](http://www.chilliwackoutdoorclub.com). ■



During six treks up and down the Peak to Creek run at Whistler Blackcomb, local skiers John Laframboise (left), Ron Dart (middle) and John Mitchell (right) had just enough time to enjoy the panoramic view from the top.

## Luck at the Edge of Safety

Colonel Foster, South East Summit,  
July 30-Aug.1/ 2011

Tom Carter (Island Mountain Ramblers)

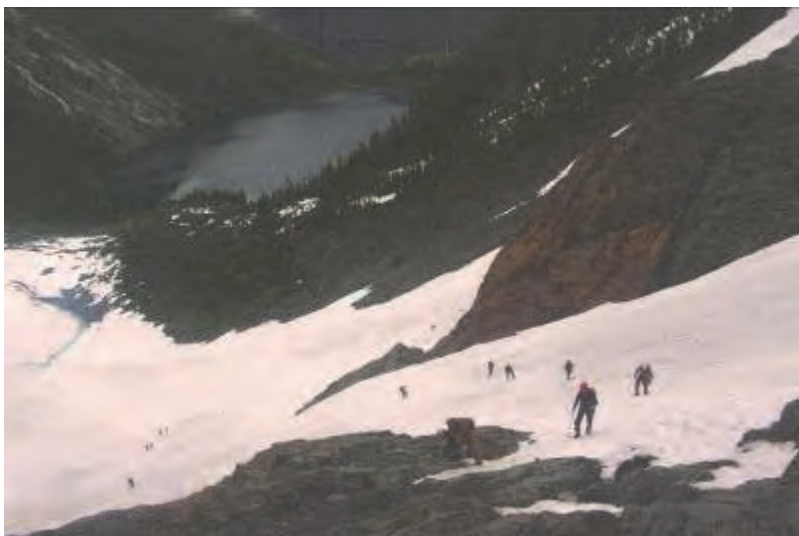
I have had friends fall. Only luck saved them from the terminal plunge. Hidden ice, a hold pulled out, even a touch of wet lichen can precipitate rapid acceleration into the void. Our dependence on luck became uncomfortably clear on our climb to Colonel Foster's S.E. summit.

The first day into Berg Lake was wet and got wetter. Leading the trail around Landslide Lake left me drenched. The heavy snowpack forced us to camp on snow. Three quarters of the Colonel was shrouded in cloud. My fingers slowly thawed around a mug of tea. Waterfalls poured off the mountain all night.

The morning's climb up the snowfield took us to the bottom of the cloud and the first of the long series of bluffs leading to the south col. The choice was slimy rock or slimy bush... at least the bush offered something to clutch. One of the group turned back at the sight of the exposed and muddy gravel. The route leads to a 5.8 corner that when wet is almost impossible. With a hoist and an axe pick I could pull up and dangle the handline. Above... more slime. One more decided to go down on the rope.

I have climbed this route many times, alone and with groups and never considered rope and harness necessary. The handline was just for emergencies. Needing it twice below the treeline had me pondering the far more serious terrain on the upper mountain. The easy rolling rock bluffs above were drying out, which eased the decision to forge on. This was the first group I have ever had that resolutely stayed behind me, even on easy terrain. I wondered if they were the orderly type or if they were actually relying on my confidence.

Above the col the snow at the entrance to the main gully was partly melted out, calling for a steep snow traverse above an ugly moat. And then the real climbing began. One more of the group decided to descend to await the rope down the slime. The view was dark, brooding and ominous, with threads of cloud drifting through the pillars. I watched head after head emerge from the gully, each one, very much on their own. I appreciated their obvious concentration.



On the snowfield above Berg Lake

Tom Carter



Tom Carter

Colonel Foster S.E. Summit (with from Left) Graeme Ramsay, Katie Ferland, Peggy Taylor, Yan Lyesin, Tom Carter, Robert Ramsay

Everyone climbed the even steeper pitch above like a ladder. The Colonel's bony shoulder is easy. We were six on the summit. There was the usual elation and photos and the promised clearing was finally happening. All the Colonel's towers rose out of the mist, Rambler and the Golden Hinde materialized out of thin air. The group was thrilled with the climb. As awesome as the spectacle was, I was consumed with the task of getting everyone down safely, and before dark.

I assumed the group could down-climb what they had climbed up, but the consensus was for the handline to come out. One by one I watched hands clutching the rope disappear down the gully...ever so slowly. I was holding my breath.

Death is always so close and there was little I could do to fend it off. The last was down, one step closer to safety. I threw the rope down after them and was alone on the mountain. Climbing down, twice rocks came off in my hands, but I held on. We can handle our own risky moves but with a group, I felt I was seriously pushing luck.

We down climbed the next stepped pitch in a tight cluster. Across the snow traverse and I could breathe again. Once again the rope came out for the slime pitch. My solo down after the group into darkness was the nerviest. With headlamps on, the last guy and I found our way to the snowfield. We plodded our way down and into camp at 10:15. I was in every way exhausted.

For me the walk out felt like forever. The group was dancing like butterflies, buzzing after such an exciting climb. For many of them it was a whole new level of mountain experience. I knew in retrospect that harnesses should have been an automatic even though they had never been needed before. Good luck? It will disappear if you push it too hard. ■

## South Chilcotin Provincial Park Planning

Jay MacArthur (ACC-Vancouver)

To follow-up on the article that I wrote in the Fall Cloudburst and information in the Rec and Con update, BC Parks website has the following information:  
Draft management plan under development.

I suggest that we visit the park this summer and document management issues.

[Email me](#) if you are interested in providing input. ■

### CLOUDBURST

#### Cover Photo Contest

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Congratulations and thank you to Ron Dart whose great photo made the cover of our Spring/Summer 2012 Issue. Read the story behind the photo on [page 19](#).

Please submit photos for our next issue by October 1, 2012.

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## WITCHES FINGER

By Ron Dart (ACC-Vancouver)

I lived in Switzerland from 1972-1974 and when there was taken by the European Alpine tradition of huts and climbing. Indeed, there is something quite sane and sensible about bunking into a simple and compact hut at night and taking to some peak or continuing a traverse before dawn with headlamps well focussed and pointing the way. The Canadian Alpine tradition has been partially shaped and formed by the Swiss and European hut-mountaineering heritage.

I had returned from a fine week of doing glacier thick Wapta Traverse a few years ago with the Alpine Club of Canada (most of the peaks climbed and more than grateful to stay in each of the high huts afterwards--- Bow being more a barracks than a hut ). The plan was to do two more trips in the mountains. It was to be a three week mountain extravaganza. So, the white towers of Wapta now behind me, the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the mountain journey was up to Lake O'Hara (and some rambling in that spacious cathedral).

I was more than grateful that Frank & Kate Wawrychuk (Chilliwack Outdoor Club) were custodians at the Elizabeth Park Hut for the week. Frank and Kate had, for many years, been custodians at a variety of Alpine Huts. I got on the first morning bus that inched its way up the narrow dirt road to Lake O'Hara (a sacred sort of place that all Canadians should go to at least once). Frank kindly met me at Le Relais Shelter (where the bus trip ends), then it was to Elizabeth Parker Hut to drop off my knapsack and begin some rambling, scrambling and climbing in the O'Hara throne room. The weather was a blue canopy charmer. Frank and I did a ramble to the summit of Little Odaray (Walter Feuz) peak the 1<sup>st</sup> day I arrived at O'Hara. Those who are interested in the history of the trail system of Lake O'Hara should definitely read the updated version of Jon Whyte's *Tommy and Lawrence: The Ways and the Trails of Lake O'Hara*---it's a must read to understand those who have gone before and the work put into making the Lake O'Hara mountain region what it is today.

It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> day we did the trudge to Abbot Pass/Hut and Witches Finger. Abbot Pass is where the first climbing death occurred in Canada in 1896. I have written a lengthy article about this in *Appalachia* (Summer Fall/Fall 2010). There are many tales that could be told by Abbot Hut if the Hut could speak, but Roger Patillo, in his charming and informative tome, *Lake Louise at its Best: An Affectionate look at life at Lake Louise by one who knew it well*, is a most tantalizing read on the Hut at the Pass. Frank and I did the trek from Lake O'Hara up and past Lake Oesa on a goat trail of sorts, scree slope beginning where crumbly rocks ended to Abbot Pass-Hut and Witches Finger.

The dominant and not to be missed ikon of Abbot Pass-Hut (between Lefroy and Victoria) is Witches Finger. Many stores in Banff carry the historic photo of Catharine Whyte, Rudolph Aemmer, Peter Whyte and Neil Begg atop Witches Finger (Catharine stands on the precarious boulder on the tip of the Finger). Frank and I spent a restful and pleasant hour at the Pass, and, when there, Frank, ever so kindly took a photo of me almost on the upper fingernail of Witches Finger. The sheer drop off from Witches Finger is not to be wished on anyone and vertigo is a real problem the closer to the void on all sides. The views from Witches Finger are mesmerizing, though----rock fortresses and inviting peaks beckon from all sides---lakes are in abundance in their azure and opal blue. The death trap walks the glacier trekker (usually after a climb of Lefroy or Victoria---often both) down to the Swiss tea huts and to Lake Louise. The return trip from Witches Finger to Abbot Pass to a sort of scree glissade back to O'Hara is done with more haste than the rock strewn trudge up to the Hut and picturesque Finger. Frank and I joined Kate by late afternoon to celebrate our journey to Witches Finger and back---we passed many others on the return trip.

I had spent almost two weeks doing the Wapta Traverse and other trips at O'Hara, and was beginning to feel like a mountain waif and vagabond. The 3<sup>rd</sup> week I met my wife and others from the Chilliwack Outdoor Club and the journey took us to Wheeler-Asulkan Huts and onto the glacier fields and thawing lakes in the Jupiter Range---Leda and Pollux were our summit fever goals for the day-----Mt. Selwyn (11, 023), Mt. Hasler (11, 123), Mt. Feuz (10, 992) and Michel Peak (10, 094) smiled down on us in their rock worn wisdom---some fine and hasty, steep and precarious ice axe glissades greeted us as we descended the upper ridge of Leda and Pollux. It was Witches Finger that was the adrenalin pumper and won hands down for scenery not to miss.

The Chilliwack Outdoor Club will be at Lake O'Hara the final week of August 2012. We will be spending a night at Abbot Hut as a finale for the week. Many a photo, I'm sure, will be taken from Witches Finger.

montani semper liberi ■

## ***Should I Not Return***

Jeffrey T. Babcock, 2012

Review by Ron Dart (ACC-Vancouver)

We had the experience but missed the meaning.

~T.S. Eliot

Canada celebrated 100 years of formal statehood in 1967, and the same year Canadians were strutting their birthday stuff, a sickening tragedy was occurring on Denali (Mt. McKinley). *Should I Not Return* has a rather lengthy (almost Victorian Subtitle): ‘The most controversial tragedy in the history of North American mountaineering! An incredible story of survival, danger, and heroism on the icy slopes of Alaska’s Denali.’---quite a mouthful for an inviting frontispiece introduction with a fine photo of climbers on the snow packed heights of Denali.

*Should I Not Return* is masked realism penned in a fiction form. Many of the names are changed from those on the expedition yet the tale told is true to the reality of the three climbing parties on Denali the year of the seven deaths. *Should I Not Return* is told from the perspective of those who were climbing Denali, who partially assisted in the rescue of those who survived, then continued their ascent to the white packed tower of Denali. The book works at three levels: the tensions that existed in the Babcock group that climbed Denali (and those who descended), the coming of age of Babcock as he climbed his own mountain in maturing from an age of innocence to experience (as he realized the dysfunctional nature of his family) and the controversial nature of the Joe Wilcox party in which seven died on Denali. There has been, naturally, much debate and arrows fired to and fro about who was responsible for the deaths on Denali, and Babcock tried to be more a mediator in this conflict, and, in many ways, vindicate Wilcox. The publication of Snyder’s *The Hall of the Mountain King* (1973), Wilcox’s *White Winds* (1981) and Tabor’s *Forever on the Mountain* (2007) did much to interpret why the seven deaths occurred on ‘Denali, that Great Grail Castle in the Clouds’.



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*Should I Not Return* is also a fine primer on the history of various attempts (successful and otherwise) on Denali, and the black-white historic photographs are real charmers and teasers---the sights seen in the photographs are a visual text in themselves that speak much about those who have dared to take to Denali. *Should I Not Return* is also about Babcock's return to a primordial and soul changing experience--his life, his brother's and newly met mountaineers hung by a thin thread for a few fragile days on Denali---those who died and those who survived are branded on the flesh of his memory. Babcock had to return to the memory of what was seen and done, and had he not probed the full meaning of the experience, the consequences could have created another tragedy of a subtler nature.

There are 28 chapters plus a prologue and epilogue in this fast paced, vulnerable, multilayered and challenging tale of both a journey inward and outward to the summit of different types of Denali's-- James Tabor wrote the foreword. *Should I Not Return* will walk the reader into the very centre and core of the meaning of mountaineering at many levels---do purchase this classic of a dramatic tale that is so well told---it will awaken much that slumbers. There is no doubt that Babcock (and friends) had the experience of climbing different types of Denalis, and he has certainly not missed the layered meanings of such experiences. ■

## ***David and other Poems (1942)***

By Earle Birney

Review by Ron Dart (ACC-Vancouver)

*David* (1941) is, probably, the defining poem of Canadian mountaineering. There is no poem in Canadian mountaineering literature that reaches such Waddington like heights. *David*, in many ways, launched Birney on a significant literary career. The poem was published in 1941, and in the Spring/Summer 2011 edition of *Cloudburst*, I summarized the evocative drama of the epic poem. *David and other Poems* was published in 1942, and this collection of poems won the much coveted GG award for Canadian poetry in 1942. It is 70 years this year (1942-2012) since *David and other Poems* was published, hence quite apt to return to the collection and reflect on the fullness of other mountain poems by Birney.

*David and other Poems* was published in 1942, and this means it left the publishing tarmac in the midst of WWII. Some of the poems, rightly so, reflect the wartime reality and ethos and others turn to the mountains for solace at a painful time. WATERTON HOLIDAY touches on the alpine beauty of the array of flowers by the lake as 'Haphazardly, quietly, the mountains are weathering in the sun'. The poet is more than thrilled to escape from the 'straight shrieking roads, the square fields, the cubes implacable factory and the unendable hurry' and be, in some ways, like the mountains that weather in the sun. The next poem, SLUG IN THE WOODS, is just that, a micro journey with a slug in the woods and, the next poem, ANGLOSAXON STREET, offers ample reasons why Birney much prefers thinking like a mountain and weathering in the sun than being in the city. The dour and gray world of city and street life has no real appeal, when seen for what it is, for the poet. There is, indeed, the longing for a 'higher heartbeat' and a waiting for 'mornstar and worldrise'.

WEST VANCOUVER FERRY ferries the reader far from the street into the passage across the water and what is seen from such a journey. REVERSE ON THE COAST RANGE, interestingly enough, uses military imagery to describe mountain tree life: 'hemlocks massed their heavy reserves', 'pines did guard duty', 'Lodepole pines, straight and cold as gun-barrels'. Who was the enemy of the ancient forest? It was none other than 'The flooding and fanning avalanche'. REVERSE ON THE COAST RANGE is worth many a reread for a graphic and destructive description of the sheer force of an avalanche. OCTOBER IN UTAH whispers and describes, in poignant detail, the turn to incoming autumn in Utah just as GREY-ROCKS, if rightly heard, have an ancient and perennial tale to tell. SMALLTOWN HOTEL is short and pungent---not a place to spend real time. KOOTENAY STILL-LIFE sets the visual stage for a crow to attack a vulnerable and exposed mouse.

EAGLE ISLAND is a longer poem that laments the civilized, educated, urbane and stifling culture of Ontario and turns, by way of resolution and contrast, to the western mountains. 'To eastern young who've only books To tell them how a mountain looks'. It is quite obvious where Birney plants his flag in this poem. EAGLE ISLAND is Birney at his west coast mountain best. LAMENT ponders the fleeting nature of both nature's beauty and romance. MONODY ON A CENTURY is wrapped, in many ways, with the reality of war. 'And men with boots will put an end To making smiles'.

HANDS probes the many ways hands can be used—for building, creating, caressing and soothing or for destruction, killing, brutality and war. DUSK ON ENGLISH BAY starts from the delight of dusk in English Bay but quickly and nimbly

moves to the harsh reality of war again, of dusk in other places. FRANCE, 1941 and WAR WINTER turn again to the reality of war---it could hardly be denied or ignored at such a tragic season. The latter part of *David and other Poems* does not flinch from hard decisions to be made in life---similar to *David* in that respect.

The final four poems in this slim volume of poetry, IN THIS VERANDAH, EUROPEAN NOCTURN, VANCOUVER LIGHTS and ON GOING TO WAR search for places of rest in a world wracked by war and all its implications. Most of these poems are poetic realism at its searching best, but beyond war and the drabness of city and small town life, nature and the mountains offer a place of reprieve from which to enter the fray yet again.

*David and other Poems* is replete with large life issues and set within the demands of war. Nature is neither romanticized nor idealized, but the mountains do know how to weather sun and storm, and, in this way, persist and linger when all else passes (as it inevitably will—including war itself). It is quite understandable why *David and other Poems* won the GG award in 1942. Birney had the sensitivity to immerse himself in both the tragedy and possibilities of life's journey and offer a form of fragile hope that was neither naively idealistic nor impotently cynical or realistic. ■

## ***Mountains of the Coast:***

### ***Photographs of remote corners of the Coast Mountains***

By John Baldwin, 1999

Review by Ron Dart (ACC-Vancouver)

Roughly three times the size of the Sierra Nevada or the European Alps, the Coast Mountains see fewer climbers in an entire year than the Alps or Sierra do in a busy weekend. Few mountain regions, except Antarctica and the far north, can offer the same degree of pristine wilderness as the Coast Mountains.

~John Baldwin p. 13

I have, for many years, been taken by mountaineers who are also exquisite photographers. A year ago, I spent an afternoon at Galen Rowell's studio in Bishop CA (Rowell was one of the finest mountain photographers in the USA until his untimely airplane death in 2002). Pat Morrow is one the most artistic mountain photographers in Canada. Morrow is, in many ways, the Rowell of Canada. John Baldwin is the Rowell and Morrow of the BC Coast Range, and *Mountains of the Coast* are ample proof of why this is the obvious case.

*Mountains of the Coast* is textually lean, evocative and alluring and replete with some of the most graphic and superb photos that tell the tale so well of Baldwin's many trips (often with John Clarke—who appears in many photos) in the Coast Mountains. Mount Waddington factors large in many of the well wrought and time tried photographs. Each page is a definite page turner, and it is quite easy to read the book in a single sitting. Needless to say, each reread and visual journey through the text leads the reader into an oft unknown part of BC. The missive is divided into four sections: Introduction, On Foot, On Skis and Into the Silence. Each of the trips described in the text, whether by foot or ski, are generously illuminated by artistic prints from mountains, glaciers, inlets, alpine flora and fauna and the occasional icons of the white spires: mountain goats. There is a definite drama at work in *Mountains of the Coast* that draws the reader into the mountain tale being told. Baldwin and friends have taken the patient time to ski and hike, from Bella Coola in the north, cross many a snow packed and glacier highway, on a variety of well planned trips through all sorts of weather conditions, to Vancouver in the south---rare are those who have done what Baldwin has done in the Coast Mountains, and *Mountains of the Coast* unfolds, in poignant detail, the highlights of such trips.

*Mountains of the Coast* is unique in its genre. The book has now been in print for more than decade, but there is no book on the market that can equal or surpass the beauty and brilliance of these psalms of praise to the expansive cathedral of the coastal mountains of BC---the trips told and the photographs used are threaded together so well the reader almost feels like he or she is on skis, hiking the white towers or being picked up by float planes or helicopters with Baldwin. *Mountains of the Coast* should be in the library of all mountaineers, photographers and aficionados of the vast and mostly untouched and untamed mountain range of coastal BC. ■

## ***Raising Kain: The adventurous life of Conrad Kain, Canada's greatest mountaineer***

By Keith G. Powell, 2012

Wild Horse Creek Press: Cranbrook,  
British Columbia

Review by Ron Dart (ACC-Vancouver)

Conrad Kain was definitely the crown jewel of the 1<sup>st</sup> generation of Canadian mountaineers. Earle Birney, one of our finest Canadian poets, lauded Kain in his dramatic poem sequence, *Conrad Kain* (1949). *Where the Clouds Can Go* tells, in a graphic and not to be forgotten way, the full and vibrant, demanding and challenging life that Kain lived. The combination of poetic biography by Birney and edited prose autobiography by J. Monroe Thornton offers the curious reader a variety of paths to trek into the multi-layered world and ethos of Conrad Kain.

The publication of *Raising Kain* should be greeted with much applause. This innovative tome is part biography, part fiction and part delving into Kain's varied life via a creative journalistic approach. The book claims to be a 'historic novel' and that it is in many ways. Facts are carefully laid on the table, but there is also some 'purely fictional' interjections in the biography that spice up the tale being told. The front cover has an iconic black-white photo of the young Kain as an insert with a larger photograph of a soft alpine glow hovering on a snow crowned peak. The book is also laced with excellent and not often seen photos that depict and judiciously describe Kain's mountain life from Austria to Canada. *Raising Kain* is, in short, a superb companion interpretation of Kain that cleverly complements other reads of Kain.

*Raising Kain* is divided into 25 compact chapters that recount, retell and in a compelling way invite the reader to join Kain as he emerges as an impoverished youth to a gifted mountain guide. The book shuttles back and forth between different periods of time and geographic places, and, in doing so, holds the readers' attention in an alluring manner. Many of the 'Amelia Letters' are, gratefully so, included in this biography as are letters to other leading mountaineering luminaries--- fictional dialogues between Kain and his diverse array of friends fill out the book quite nicely. Kain went to many places in the mountains that Swiss Guides would not go, and there was a certain charm about him that drew many to his guiding style again and again. Kain did many first ascents and led others up the ancient sentinels and white towers on climbs they never forgot---he is also a legendary mountaineer within the Alpine Club of Canada. *Raising Kain* describes, in generous detail, much of Kain's evocative life and, sadly so, his early death at the tender age of fifty-one (1883-1934).

I visited Wilmer BC a couple of years ago where Kain lived for a few years with his wife (and where the Kain Cairn now stands), then drove to Cranbrook BC to see Kain's tombstone (where, tragically so, Kain is buried at a distance from his wife). Keith Powell, in his 'Epilogue', brings the 'historical novel' to a close by retelling a trip that he and his wife made to the birthplace of Kain in Nasswald, Austria--this is worth the read, also. The photographs, as I mentioned above, illustrate much in a poignant manner.

If you are not already receiving the **FMCBC Monthly E-News** [contact us](#) to be added to our distribution list.

The FMCBC welcomes  
Al Jenkins of the  
**[Friends of Garibaldi Park](#)**  
and Doug Smith of the  
**[Kamloops Hiking Club](#)**  
as FMCBC Directors and  
Member Clubs.

The FMCBC would like to thank  
Don Hay, Dave Lavery, Erica Lay,  
Gil Parker, Dave Perfitt, Ken  
Rodonets, and Joseph Wong for  
their past service as  
FMCBC Directors.

The FMCBC welcomes our newest  
FMCBC Directors Judy Carlson,  
Dianne Comens, Sheila Mitchell  
Ben Singleton-Polster, Bob St.  
John, Francis St. Pierre, Sam  
Waddington, and Claire Wooton.

*Thank you for your support.*

*Raising Kain* is a must purchase and must read for those keen to know more about Canadian mountaineering history and culture, the Alpine Club of Canada and, equally important, a creative approach and interpretation of Kain's life through photographs, letters, lenient fiction and hard fact history. This tome has certainly raised Kain again to the pedestal he belongs on in the Canadian mountaineering hall of fame. *Raising Kain* is an A++ keeper and charmer of a book that invites many a reread. ■

## Outdoor Safety & Survival

New book written by  
Mike Nash of the  
Caledonia Ramblers

Prince George—Author and outdoorsman, Mike Nash, has a new book out. From award-winning publisher, Rocky Mountain Books, **Outdoor Safety & Survival** is available just in time for summer. Packed with real-life stories or reality checks, this all-colour guidebook is a satisfying read as well as providing readers with essential 'how-to' information designed to help them be safe in the outdoors year round. Drawing on a lifetime of personal experience and the lessons of others, this dynamic and up-to-date book discusses ways to prepare for and deal with any number of critical situations that can arise in the outdoors, all while ensuring an appreciation of our wild and natural spaces.



### For more information contact:

Mike Nash, Prince George, BC

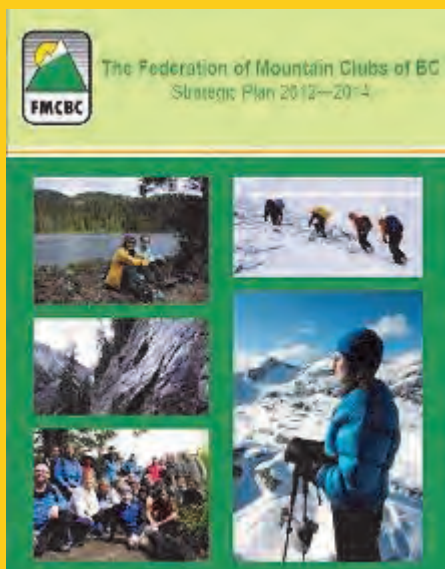
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## Check out [FMCBC's Strategic Plan](#) for 2012–2014



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## FMCBC Member Club Project Grant

The FMCBC would like to thank those individuals and clubs who made a donation to our organization in 2011-2012. The FMCBC had planned to have a grant application process in place by April, 2012 in order for our clubs to apply for these funds, but has determined that the Board needs to approve the final grant funds available during the AGM in June. Therefore, the Member Club Project Grant application process will open on June 15th 2012 with a closing date of June 30, 2012.

All FMCBC Member Clubs in good standing will be eligible and invited to apply for the grant. The FMCBC's plan is to make this an annual grant process, based on donations received in addition to a small yearly project fund approved by the FMCBC Board of Directors.

The FMCBC is now making an appeal to our members for donations to go towards our Member Club Project Grant for 2013/2014. All donations to the FMCBC *received between April 1, 2012 and March 31, 2013* will go towards our **2013/2014 Member Club Project Grant**.

Your donation is tax-deductible for the year in which it was made. A charitable tax receipt will be issued automatically for donations of \$15.00 or more. For donations over \$500.00, you and/or your organization have the option to be listed as a supporter on the FMCBC website and in our Cloudburst newsletter.

To make a donation please complete the printable donation form on our website and mail it along with your cheque to: FMCBC, PO Box 19673, Vancouver BC, V5T 4E7. Please make your cheque payable to FMCBC.

You can also make a secure online donation to the FMCBC on the Canada Helps [website](#). Type in **FMCBC** to find us and make your donation. Canada Helps is a registered charity with the goal to make giving to charities simple. Their site provides an easy and secure way to make donations.

Thank you for your support.



# FMCBC Member Clubs

## CENTRAL INTERIOR

Alpine Club of Canada – Prince George Section

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

Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club

<http://caledoniaramblers.ca/>

Fraser Headwaters Alliance

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

## FRASER VALLEY

Backroads Outdoor Club

<http://backroadsoutdoor.ca/>

Chilliwack Outdoor Club

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

## SOUTHERN INTERIOR

Kamloops Hiking Club

<http://www.kamloopshikingclub.net/>

Kootenay Mountaineering Club

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

## METRO VANCOUVER

Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Section

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

BC Mountaineering Club

<http://www.bcmc.ca>

Friends of Garibaldi Park

<http://www.friendsofgaribaldipark.org>

Hike BC

<http://www.nationaltrailofbc.ca>

North Shore Hikers

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

North Vancouver Outdoors Club

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

Outsetters Club of Vancouver

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

SFU Outdoor Club

<http://sfuoutdoors.wikidot.com/>

Valley Outdoor Association

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

Vancouver Rock Climbing Group

<http://www.vrcg.ca>

Varsity Outdoor Club – Vancouver (UBC)

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

## NORTH COAST

Mount Remo Backcountry Society

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

## VANCOUVER ISLAND

Alberni Valley Outdoor Club

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

Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Island Section

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

Comox District Mountaineering Club

<http://www.comoxhiking.com>

Friends of Strathcona Park

<http://friendsofstrathcona.org/>

Island Mountain Ramblers

<http://sites.google.com/site/islandmountainramblers/>

Vancouver Island Spine Trail Association

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

Vancouver Island Trails Information Society

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



Scott Nelson

Sandra Nicol putting up a marker on the Beverley Creek Trail



Mike Nash

Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club members enjoying lunch on Edge Mountain, 165 km east of Prince George – looking north across the Rocky Mountain Trench towards the two most northerly peaks in the Rockies over 10,000 feet, Mount Ida (left – the most northerly) and Mount Sir Alexander (right – the taller of the two).