



# CLOUDBURST

Remaking the Federation

Rambles in New Caledonia

Horses in Strathcona Park?

# CLOUDBURST

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



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

## Submission Deadlines:

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Spring/Summer - April 15

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

## Rates:

\$400 back page	\$300 full page
\$160 ½ page	\$80 ¼ page
	\$40 business card

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## FMC

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

## Membership

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

## Club Membership

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

## Board of Directors

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## Cover Photograph

Don and Phyllis Munday with others "climbing the Lions" c. 1920s/30s. Courtesy of the North Vancouver Museum and Archives, Photo 6315.

# From the President

Pat Harrison

## Sea-to-Sky

The Integrated Land Management Bureau (Ministry of Agriculture and Lands) is in charge of coordinating the Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP). This LRMP has been in progress since 2002. Michael Feller of the BC Mountaineering Club and I have been the non-motorized recreation representatives at this LRMP since that time. Imbedded in this LRMP are the Sea-to-Sky Backcountry Recreational Forums (Winter and Summer). The Winter Forum was a two-year process involving the Snowmobile Federation, the Commercial Backcountry Association, and the Federation of Mountain Clubs. On April 12, 2003, the representatives signed a sharing accord agreement which emphasized that "all recreational users have the right to reasonable access to an enjoyable experience." It was an innovative agreement achieved by stakeholders coming together and being reasonable. The Backcountry Forums were the idea of progressive government employees who worked for Land and Water BC, the predecessor to ILMB. Most of the snowmobile representatives (five of the six) and most of the mountain clubs representatives (six of the seven) that participated in the backcountry forums are still around and still involved. Unfortunately, most of the government personnel involved in the spirit and motivation of the backcountry forums have moved on to new jobs or retired from government. Herein lies the problem.

Recently, ILMB held three "open houses" in the Sea-to-Sky Corridor at Pemberton, Whistler, and Squamish. No thought was given to the fact that the majority of recreational users (motorized and non-motorized) come from the Lower Mainland. At these open houses a snowmobile group presented a petition with 121 signatures opposing the backcountry recreation agreements. Thus, 121 snowmobilers (most of whom do not belong to the BC Snowmobile Federation) gave negative feedback on the sharing accord which they claimed they were never notified about. In fact, Backcountry Forum participants spoke to thirteen outdoor clubs in the valley and in Vancouver, and held four, well-advertised open houses in Pemberton, Whistler, Squamish, and Vancouver. All in all, we attracted 1300 people to our meetings. The overall response was one of approval.

The government appears to be taking the petition from this select snowmobile group seriously and possibly looking at overturning the forum agreement. The problem is, we have been too quiet for too long. I believe that government should live up to its part of the deal: support the stakeholder forum outcomes it so desired in 2001. To waffle now would totally unravel the backcountry forum accords. Let's get going and implement these accords. I am asking you to write Premier Gordon Campbell and Minister Pat Bell to support these accords. The moment is critical as government contemplates Phelix Creek for a snowmobile route, something that the forums did not support and would greatly impact the Varsity Outdoor Club experience in Phelix Creek at its cabin. Their addresses are:

Honourable Gordon Campbell  
Premier of British Columbia  
East Annex  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4

Honourable Pat Bell  
Minister of Agriculture and Lands  
POB 9043, STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2

## Restructuring the FMC

The FMC restructuring concept has received a positive response at both the 2006 and 2007 AGM's, and at the last board meeting in October. The proposed modifications are not extensive, but would allow FMC member clubs to respond more quickly to government and other initiatives. In essence, regional responses would be made by the regional recreation and conservation committees (Vancouver Island, Southwest BC, Northern BC, and Southeast BC). Representatives from clubs would be directors and able to vote throughout the year (currently delegates have no voting privileges during the year) and also at the annual general meeting (currently directors have no voting privileges at the AGM). The subcommittee working on this is still working out how to handle representation of individual, non-club members within this structure and what constitutes a quorum at board meetings. We hope to have a restructuring document out to the clubs before the year end. We are hoping for club approval sometime during the spring following adequate time to review the document.

## Editorial

Meg Stanley

With each issue of *Cloudburst* I've edited I have tried to strike a balance between news and notes that relate to what might be loosely called the politics of outdoor recreation – which is the focus of the business of the Federation of Mountain Clubs and stories from the mountains. Some readers have told me they find *Cloudburst* a bit depressing to read and so I have consistently tried to find a balance between FMC business and stories that might motivate, inform, or at least amuse. Recent issues have included articles about club histories accompanied by some really wonderful photographs that remind us that even in black and white its easy to see when people are having fun!

This issue includes two pieces about very different hikes in north central British Columbia, an area that early fur traders dubbed New Caledonia. On the subject of names, sometimes the exercise of checking spelling leads to interesting discoveries. In this case I learned that the Fusilier Peak, in the Tower of London Range, mentioned in Hilary Crowley's article about hiking in the northern Rockies was named by members of a 1959-60 exploration and training expedition to the area by a small group from the City of London Regiment of the Royal Fusiliers. I knew that many of the names of places on the south coast reflect the familial and social relationships of the English naval officers who carried out the early colonial hydrographic surveys, but I had no idea that as late as the 1960s it was possible to mount an expedition and name an entire mountain range. It seems, well, so very properly colonial. If you are interested in place names there are two great resources that are easily accessible. One is the Province's geographical names website ([www.ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/bcnames](http://www.ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/bcnames)), the other is G.P.V. and Helen B. Akriggs *British Columbia Place Names*.

This issue also includes a number of book reviews. If you have a review, a new book title, an article, or photograph you want to share with other members of the FMC please send it to me for *Cloudburst*.

## Trails Committee Report

Alex Wallace, FMC

### Howe Sound Crest Trail Upgrade

Unfortunately BC Parks has not been able to come up with the funds in time to do a scope of work contract this fall, so this project is on hold until the snow clears in late spring. Similarly, the Black Mountain Plateau upgrade project for the Baden-Powell trail has again been postponed until BC Parks has "Enhanced Funding." Meanwhile a hiker on this trail making her way to Eagle Bluff sank in a mudhole up to her thighs and had to be pulled out by two other hikers. The Minister had apparently instead approved 2010 tourism-oriented improvements to the "Lookouts" on the Cypress Bowl Road, one of which was constructed of loose fill and promptly collapsed in heavy rain, necessitating a costly cleanup ( ...see Item 1 above).

### The Baden-Powell Trail

"Horseshoe Bay" replacement route (replacing Eagleridge), the upgraded trail starting at the railway tunnel ( yes, tunnel) and heading up Black Mtn via Nelson Canyon and the Whyte Lake Trail, is well under way by West Vancouver Parks, but although the bridge foundations at Nelson Creek are now in, the project may take several more months to complete. Note: it can now be hiked using the #250 West Vancouver Bus from Downtown Vancouver via Cranley Drive (but you may be a bit muddy on the return trip).

On the Cypress Bowl side of Black Mtn, the B-P reroute around the now complete 2010 Snowboarding Venues has not been completed, even after a delay of 14 months. It was perhaps foreseeable that getting the Olympic venues done in time for World Cup races would be VANOC's first priority, but it's really disappointing that the last 90 metres of this new trail could not have been completed in 2007. It remains to be seen how safe it will be for winter hiking.

Sunset Trail parking, although limited, has been used by groups to get as many as 20 people on a hike, and no "Hikers Keep Out" complaints have been heard from Lions Bay for two years, so some progress on that front.

## Notices

Evan Loveless, Executive Director, FMC

### Purchase of Skaha Bluffs Access Lands

The deadline for raising the \$1 million for the purchase of Skaha Bluffs access lands has been extended to January 15th, 2008, after further discussions with the owner and the Land Conservancy of B.C (TLC). TLC has an agreement to buy 300 hectares of private land adjacent to Skaha Bluffs (sublot 18 - southeast of Braesyde parking). When/if the land is bought, and needed improvements completed, it will provide permanent public access to the Bluffs. Much of the needed money has been raised thanks to the fund-raising efforts of the TLC and over 750 donations from individuals, companies, foundations and governments. Included was a \$10,000 donation from the Climbers Access Society of BC. The total price of the land is actually more than \$1 million, however there was a generous donation by the owner. The TLC continues to work with various governments, foundations, and donors, to amass the remaining funds that are needed by January 15. Your help is still needed. Please consider a donation to the TLC. If you make a donation before December 15 you can receive a 2007 tax receipt. Contact TLC at (250) 479-8053, [www.conservancy.bc.ca](http://www.conservancy.bc.ca)

### 2008 Parking at Skaha

The existing Braesyde parking lot, which has been used for public and climbers' parking since 1992, will be closed for good as of November 4th, 2007 and it is quite likely that sublot 18 will not be ready by March 2008, assuming the purchase (see above) is completed. When/if the purchase of sublot 18 is complete, it will take some time to plan and implement the necessary work on the access road, and development of the parking lot. For that reason, TLC and the Skaha climbing community, in partnership with other agencies, are also working on a short-term solution for the spring of 2008, until all the pieces are in place at sublot 18.

### FMC Website

We have recently revised our website and set up a new domain at [www.mountainclubs.org](http://www.mountainclubs.org). For continuity we will continue to own the domain [www.mountainclubs.bc.ca](http://www.mountainclubs.bc.ca) and point it to the .org website address. Richard Keltie of ACC Vancouver has volunteered to be our new webmaster. There is still some work to do on graphics and content and we will try to get this done as soon as possible. Please visit the site and provide us with feedback. We have also switched to a new website host based in Vancouver.

## Trails Funding

The FMC were recently successful in an application for provincial gaming funding. Part of our application included a small amount (\$3000) of funding for trails related activities/initiatives. The FMC Board have some ideas on how the funds could be used, however we want to entertain proposals from interested clubs and regional committees. Possible initiatives could include trail building/maintenance projects, signage, or the purchase of trail building tools and supplies. Please contact Evan Loveless [eloveless@shaw.ca](mailto:eloveless@shaw.ca) for more information.

## Updates

### Mount Waddington Heli-Ski Tenure Application

Evan Loveless, Executive Director, FMC

Since writing in the last Cloudburst regarding a heli-ski tenure application in the Mt Waddington area there have been a few developments regarding this issue. The Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts (MTSA) did award a tenure to Knight Inlet Heli Sports (KIHS) for three of the four zones applied for – all except Zone Two, which includes the Mt. Waddington massif. A communication and avoidance strategy for operating in these zones is presently being developed by the proponent KIHS and MTSA with input from FMC. Part of this strategy will include a minimum 5km avoidance buffer for ski parties and a communication protocol with known clubs and service providers to determine who and where parties will be. The remaining Zone Two with Mt Waddington itself has been given a deferred status by MTSA with the hope that the interest groups (i.e. KIHS and FMC) can come to a shared use agreement. The quandary for FMC is that we strongly oppose heli-ski activity in Zone Two. The introduction of a heli-ski tenure into this area will have damaging and irreversible impacts on the traditional, non-motorized, self-propelled recreational users of the Waddington Range and surrounding area. The FMC feels compelled to protect it, from this and any future applications for motorized activity except for restricted motorized access (heli access) for self-propelled groups. So coming to a shared use agreement for Zone Two will be difficult. At the time of writing, a meeting with interest groups and appropriate government representatives is planned for late November. The FMC will be arguing for the deletion of Zone Two from the tenure and creating a permanent non-motorized area here.

## **BC Commits to Legislate Protection of 2.2 Million Hectares for World's Only Mountain Caribou**

Press Release supplied by Roy Howard, Fraser Headwaters Alliance

With the announcement this October of a recovery implementation plan for Mountain Caribou a coalition of ten leading environmental groups celebrated a major milestone in their campaign to protect mountain caribou habitat in the globally unique Inland Temperate Rainforest. The long awaited plan commits the BC government to protecting, by spring 2008, over 2.2 million hectares of old-growth cedar, pine and spruce forests, an area more than two-third the size of Vancouver Island and twice the size of Jamaica. This will include new protections amounting to over 380,000 hectares, larger than the entirety of Clayoquot Sound, and upgraded protections over hundreds of thousands more. The plan also commits government to developing more environmentally friendly forest management approaches in surrounding forest habitat.

"These new commitments are critical for the survival of one of North America's most endangered mammals, and have raised the bar for future forest protection across Canada," said Candace Batycki of ForestEthics. "Today's announcement is a victory for the thousands of citizens from BC and beyond who made their voices heard about the critical role old growth forests play in endangered species protection and climate change mitigation."

Mountain caribou, represented on the Canadian quarter since 1937, are an ecotype of the woodland caribou that are found across Canada and parts of Alaska. Mountain caribou live in old-growth forests in steep mountain ranges where they rely on tree lichens for winter food. Mountain caribou numbers have plummeted from about 2,500 animals in 1997 to 1,900 today, largely due to logging, road building and flooding from dams. Today's announcement commits the BC government to restore their numbers to at least 2500 animals.

Over the past three years of the campaign, which included targeted advertising, public service announcements and community outreach, messages were sent to government by celebrities, business leaders and over 16,000 members of the general public, all in a bid to protect the mountain caribou habitat identified by the government's own science team.

"Three years ago, the importance of habitat protection wasn't fully appreciated," said John Bergenske of Wild-sight. "Predator control was touted as the silver bullet for

saving caribou. But today, habitat protection is recognized as the major focus of caribou recovery, and any intended predator control will be subject to stringent criteria to be developed by the Ministry of Environment. It's a big win for the wildlife and people of British Columbia, and indeed for the global community."

Roy Howard of Fraser Headwaters Alliance said: "While this announcement represents government's commitment, there is still much painstaking work necessary to achieve legalization of these promises. This will be especially challenging in areas like Revelstoke and the North Thompson, where less forest has been allocated for protection. Our organizations are committed to working hard in our regions to ensure the strongest possible, legally binding protections are put in place over the coming months. All eyes are on implementation."

Environmentalists credit today's announcement to the increased saliency of environmental issues.

"The public is demanding environmental protection like never before," said Rob Duncan of the Sierra Club of Canada – BC Chapter. "The public is ready to make its voice heard, and to hold governments to account. Areas like the Inland Temperate Rainforest are unique and globally significant, and people across North America know this region needs greater protection. We're all committed to making that happen, for endangered species, for clean air and water, and to mitigate climate change."

The government's mountain caribou recovery implementation plan includes:

- 2.2 million hectares protected from logging and road building, including new protected areas adding up to over 380,000 ha, and upgraded protections over hundreds of thousands more;
- Protection of 95% of the high suitability caribou habitat identified by the government's mountain caribou science team;
- A commitment to develop new management approaches in remaining habitat that will restore forests to conditions that support a healthier predator-prey balance; and
- Development of stewardship agreements for commercial and non-commercial snowmobiling, heli-skiing and cat-skiing, and legal access closures of areas that science team members deem important for caribou.

# Should Horses Be Allowed Into The Lower Bedwell River Valley?

Peter Rothermel

The Bedwell River Valley Trail is a hiking route on the west coast of Vancouver Island that begins at the head of the Bedwell Inlet, at sea level, and leads up to the Bedwell Lakes, in the alpine area of Strathcona Provincial Park. The Ahousaht people, who live on the west coast, used the route for trade with people living to the east of their territory. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries the valley has been mined, logged and generally exploited by European settlers. Mining began as early as 1865; the min-

ond trip I found the trail to be very brushy in places and sometimes almost non-existent. In an article that I wrote for the Spring/Summer 2006 Cloudburst, I explained how trail maintenance offered by the FMC was rejected by BC Parks, due to liability concerns regarding a couple of river crossings on old log bridge stringers.

Since that article was written, I have participated in the discussion regarding Clayoquot Wilderness Resort's (CWR) proposal to bring horse trips into Strathcona Park up the Bedwell River Valley. I have attended meetings hosted by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMC) and the Friends Of Strathcona Park (FOSP) and I have attended all of the Strathcona Provincial Park Advisory Committee (SP-PAC) meetings related to this issue.

CWR hosted two open houses to explain their objectives, one in Tofino and another in Courtenay. I attended the one in Courtenay, on May 9th 2007, and like many people that were in attendance, I left with more questions than I came with. Questions and answers were fielded one to one, rather than in a plenary session; this caused confused understandings and led to many rumours flying about.

As a representative of the FMC, I wrote to BC Parks and stated that I did not think that the CWR open houses were satisfactory and encouraged them to host a round table discussion, so that questions and answers could be heard by all and could become the public record. Other groups also pushed for this.

BC Parks responded positively to the requests for a round table discussion. It also offered to lead an inspection of the Bedwell River Trail, from You Creek downstream to the resort at the tidewater. This is the section of trail that CWR wants to have horse trips on and the inspection was meant to see what condition the trail was in and whether it could sustain the impact of horses. (It should be noted here, that this is the part of the Bedwell River Valley that had undergone mining and logging activity in the past.)

I was invited on the inspection trip. This trip, which took place in September 2007, began with a helicopter flight to a gravel bar, at about 50 meters elevation, where You Creek meets the Bedwell River. On the flight were Andy Smith (BC Parks Ranger), David Donald (Ecosystems Specialist from the Ministry of Environment), Gary Schann (Chair for SPPAC), Marline Smith (FOSP) and myself, Peter Rothermel (FMC). The helicopter then went down to the resort at



Peter Rothermel

Nobel Creek Crossing

ing effluent reportedly killed all the fish from the river. In 1962 the lower valley was logged. It was then later deleted from the Park in 1987 because of mining claims. Later it was reinstated.

Having been on a three-day hike up the Bedwell River Valley, from tidewater to alpine, over a decade ago and on another three day trip from Bedwell Inlet up to the summit of Mariner Mountain a couple of years ago and more recently this past September on a BC Parks inspection, I have come to know the area a bit. On the first trip, I found the trail in pretty good shape, due to the Friends of Strathcona Park (FOSP) volunteers, but on the sec-



the mouth of the river and transported five more people to our location. In that group were, John Cayton (CWR Manager), John Frank (Ahousaht Deputy Chief), Chad Cayton (Horse Wrangler/Guide), Brian Gunn (BC Wilderness Tourist Association) and Ian Greenheart (Bridge Engineer/Designer). BC Parks paid for the first group's flight and CWR paid for the second group's flight.

After introductions, we spent the next nine hours hiking down river to the resort. Along the way, it was evident that there had been several recent large slides in the valley. David Donald explained that the area had gone through a once in two hundred years flood event this past winter. Chad Cayton confirmed this, stating that the resort's horse pasture was flooded to the tops of the fence posts. Many of the side creek valleys had released rock slides that fanned out into the surrounding forest, leaving a boulder mulch that was over a metre thick in places, or simply created new deep cuts.

Of the old road bed, left from the past mining and logging, we estimated that an average of seventy-five percent still remains. Of the twenty-five percent of road base that is gone, much of this is regenerating forest on flood plain or rock slides that are covering or cutting through the road bed. There were a few places where the river wandered and completely removed the road base, but these areas were easy to travel through, due to the new gravel bars deposited or exposed by the shifting river.

The further downstream we travelled, the bigger the slide areas seemed to be. When we reached the Nobel Creek crossing, it looked very different from what I had seen two years earlier when we had ducked under the bridge to have a cool lunch away from the noonday heat. This year the bridge was washed away and much of the surrounding forest had been washed away as well, leaving an open, sunny

ravine, in place of the former dark, mossy one.

Our next crossing was on the "Living Bridge" so called because of the alders and hemlocks growing out of the old bridge deck. One of the log stringers had calved off during the winter floods, but the bridge was still usable. When this bridge is gone, the trail ceases to exist, as there are deep canyons along this stretch of river. Shortly after the Living Bridge, we passed the Park boundary and were hiking through an area of Crown Land between the park and the resort.



Gail Magee Bridge. Peter Rothermel.

Our last crossing was on the suspension bridge, built in 1995, by the FOSP, in honour of activist Gail Magee. Other than needing some cable tightening to remove a list in the deck, this bridge seemed to be in very good shape. After the suspension bridge we were on CWR lands. Here, where their road terminates, we were met by some of their crew and driven the last leg to the resort, where we were treated to a quick dinner, before we caught a float plane back to our morning starting place in Campbell River.

While we had been on our trip down river, another group had hiked up the Ursus River Valley. This is a valley of first growth Crown Forest, outside the park boundary and near the resort. The resort's wranglers have been leading horse

trips up the Ursus for several years and I had originally suggested, some months before, that we look at the Ursus Valley and use it as a test piece for the potential impact that we might expect in the Bedwell Valley. We kept quiet about this plan, so that our findings would be true to actual impact. Along on this trip were Evan Loveless (FMC), Barb Baker (SPPAC), John Milne (FOSP), Val Wooten and Lindsay Elms (Alpine Club).



They reported minimal visual impact from horses and a CWR wrangler told me that they had not run many trips up the Ursus this year, due to the wet weather. What the group observed did not match expectations. Of the Ursus, I'd been told, "Peter I do not need to look up the Ursus as I have seen the deep trail eroded by horse feet before." If there had been a chewed up trail in any of the past few years, I doubt evidence of it would simply disappear. This is the kind of rumour, or outright misinformation, that has plagued this process all along.

A few days later, on September 13th 2007, we had a round table discussion at the BC Parks Black Creek Office, near Campbell River. David Stapley facilitated and did an excellent job of keeping people and the meeting, in general, on track. In attendance were, John Frank (Deputy

Some of the issues I wanted clarification on were:

- *How many horse trips and how many horses per trip?*

The response was two horse trips per week with a maximum of ten horses per trip, or at any given time in the park, during the approximate eighteen week season. That equates to about less than one horse impact per day, per year. Spread out over the season this equates to a bit less than 2.1 horses impact per day.

- *Are there any plans for permanent roofed structures in the park?* No, was the answer from CWR.



Mariner Mtn. from the Bedwell Valley (left); Helicopter Landing at washed out You Creek (right). Peter Rothermel.

Chief Ahousaht), Gary Schann (SPPAC), John Cayton (CWR), Marlene Smith (FOSP), Brian Gunn (BCWTA), Andy Smith (BC Parks), Ron Quilter (Section Head BC Parks and myself (FMC). There were a few observers, Jim DeHart (CWR consultant), Barb Baker (SPPAC) and Dave Vincent (SPPAC). Missing were Dave Donald, the Ecosystems Specialist, and Ian Greenheart (bridge designer). I would have liked to have asked them in turn, of their opinions regarding environmental impact and bridge feasibility. John Milne recorded the minutes.

I feel that the round table went well. My questions were answered and are now on public record, as are the rest of the round table group. I really felt that we were starting to get a workable understanding that might become a win/win situation.

- *Will there be guaranteed public access through CWR lands?* We were assured that there would be. I asked if this could be put on land title and did not get an answer. I questioned the estimates that CWR had come up with regarding bridge costs and thought that they might be too low. I didn't get a satisfactory answer, but assume that when Ian Greenheart finishes his report that there might be some feedback. I also noted on my hike downriver that there were in my opinion, only two crossings that require a bridge in the summer season, for hikers. Up stream from You Creek may well be another story. I suggested that a performance bond be required, to guarantee that the work be done. I was assured that there would be one.

Concerns aired by others were:

- *First Nations Role in the Bedwell Valley*. This was addressed by John Frank. The Ahousaht First Nations support CWR and see this proposal as something that will benefit their community.
- The proposed tent platforms. Eight in total, with three always in place for the public and the remaining five for public use, except for the two days a week that CWR might want them for their clients.
- *Trail Maintenance*. The trail would be maintained by CWR, past the intended horse use area, to Bedwell Lakes.
- *Bridge Construction*. Over a three year period, CWR would replace three major bridges and further upgrade all the smaller bridges over the next eight years.

On September 14th 2007 there was a Strathcona Provincial Park Advisory Committee meeting. Several people from the public stood up and gave eloquent speeches advocating not allowing horses into the Bedwell area of Strathcona Park and arguing that the Park Master Plan does not allow it. I was sorry to see the meeting get so bogged down. I left this meeting feeling that all of our work in the field study and the round table discussion, was for naught and that we were

right back to the confrontational beginnings.

In my opinion, in reading the Master Plan, the parts regarding horses in Strathcona are vague and unclear. No matter what the authors may have intended, nothing definitive is written. I think the Park Master Plan needs to be amended before horses can be allowed into the Bedwell River Valley. It should be amended with public consultation and in a timely fashion. Perhaps it could read "Horses only in second growth areas" (which excludes almost the entire park).

From my observations hiking down the Bedwell, I did not see any sensitive areas that might be damaged by horse traffic, as it is all rock base, whether old road bed, slide deposit, regenerated flood plain or gravel bars. Unless there is an objection from Fisheries, regarding horses crossing the river or with bridge design/height, there is no argument against horses, as far as damage goes, at least none that I have heard. In the words of one SPPAC member, "There are no show stoppers."

I do not feel that the CWR proposal would be the "thin edge of the wedge" for allowing commercial take over



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of our park(s), as some think. I think this is a paranoid attitude that seems to be the catch phrase used in response to any perceived change or threat to our public lands, whether real or not. All of us are the stewards of parks and public lands and we will make sure that these areas will not be abused or exploited and will police the area, with our presence. I think CWR has been wrongly viewed as the enemy and treated as if they are a thief at the door.

That said, CWR fits into my definition as a good steward of the lands they are on. They have rehabilitated the Bedwell River salmon runs, from a mine effluent and logging debris dead river, to a viable spawning place for salmon. They are providing employment for local people without extracting resources. They have expressed a desire to work with all the stakeholders in the area including and especially First Nations. They seem to be practising good horse management in the Ursus. Why would we assume that they would act any differently inside the park?

While people are very divided as to whether CWR should or should not be allowed to use horses in the Bedwell Valley (see Cloudburst Spring/Summer 07), the bottom line regarding the Bedwell Trail is if CWR does not help on this route, it will cease to exist. The local clubs, the FMC, and BC Parks do not have the resources to maintain this trail. Once the trail is gone, so is the only trail from tidewater to alpine, in Strathcona Park, as well as the best access for Mariner Mountain.

As a representative of the FMC, my official stance to the round table and the SPPAC is that BC Parks needs to make an amendment to the Parks Plan, with public input. As an individual, I have not been given any compelling reason why horses should not be allowed in the lower Bedwell River Valley. As another SPPAC member stated, "The lower Bedwell is not a pristine valley and the watershed has been mined and logged throughout."

So, should horses be allowed into the lower Bedwell River Valley? I would like to get feedback from our membership in the FMC, so that I might better represent you at future meetings, regarding these issues. Please send your thoughts to me: Peter Rothermel, [prother@telus.net](mailto:prother@telus.net).

# Thoughts on Belonging to the Federation of Mountain Clubs

Brian Wood, BC Mountaineering Club.

## Strength in Numbers

One of the main purposes of the FMC is to facilitate communication between clubs whose members enjoy self-propelled outdoor recreation in the backcountry, for example; mountaineering, hiking, backpacking, backcountry skiing and snowshoeing. Communication between clubs with similar interests has many advantages, an important aspect being able to assist in resolving disagreements between disparate user groups in the backcountry. These disparate groups include the extraction industries of logging and mining, and other backcountry recreationists, for example; snowmobilers, heli-skiers, off-road vehicles operators, large backcountry resorts. Relying on the local knowledge and expertise of its members, the FMC can negotiate with these other user groups and government agencies in an informed manner and present a unified position reflecting the interests of its approximately 3500 members. The FMC strives to be democratic and responsive to the requests of the member clubs, and to be efficient and effective in responding to backcountry issues. The above functions takes a great deal of effort and time of our dedicated group of volunteers who serve on various committees of the FMC, and we are always looking for more volunteers to help in these important functions.

## Socialiability

On a less serious note, another aspect of the FMC could be to encourage member clubs to arrange joint trips with other clubs. One way of doing this is for members of a "host" club to invite members of a specific "guest" club (or any clubs) to join them on a particular backcountry trip. The host club would normally be familiar with the access and vehicle requirements for the particular trip, and so could easily organize the trip, which considerably simplifies the work of the guest club(s) which would otherwise have to arrange a trip in an unfamiliar area. Obviously, at a later date the guest club(s) could reciprocate with an offer to the original host club to organize another joint trip in the original guest club's area. In this way both clubs would benefit from this simple low-cost arrangement of trip exchanging. Another way of arranging joint trips would be to advertise the desired trip on the FMC listserv. This could be a simple

request that some members of club A wish to visit a particular area and are looking for help from members of the local club B (or other clubs), members of which would presumably know the area. This would open up the lines of communication and hopefully all parties concerned could agree on dates and the specific area. There are clearly several variations of these two general approaches, and the FMC would be a useful organization for this type of arrangement.

An example of a joint trip occurred in August 2007 when members of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club (KMC, the “hosts”) and the BC Mountaineering Club (BCMC, the “guests”) arranged a joint week-long trip in which 10 members traversed a southern portion of Valhalla Provincial Park. In this way the BCMC members did not have to concern themselves about car shuttles or other trip logistics, and the KMC had an opportunity to “showcase” their magnificent local park. After initial bad weather, the trip worked out well and new friendships were made. Next summer some members of the BCMC will invite members of the KMC to participate in an extended trip in one of our areas, most likely Garibaldi Provincial Park. It is added that in this year 2007 the BCMC celebrated its Centennial, which coincided with the Centennial of the first ascent of Mt. Garibaldi. The BCMC was also instrumental in having the area around Mt. Garibaldi designated as a provincial park, and so this park is very important to the BCMC.

## Big Wild -- Rising to the Challenge

As an aside, this Valhalla trip also served as a pilot for the “Big Wild Challenge” an initiative of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) and the Mountain Equipment Cooperative (MEC). This initiative is a means of fundraising to help protect our wilderness areas by having self-propelled backcountry “challengers” compete to raise funds for conservation while qualifying for MEC gear prizes. There are two types of challengers, and for an extended trip, “Epic Challengers” can post a record of their trip and photographs on the CPAWS website: [www.bigwild.ca](http://www.bigwild.ca). This posting helps to publicize our park systems and wilderness



Members of the BCMC and Kootenay Mountaineering Club on the summit of Midgard above the Mulvey Basin. Gimli in the centre background. Peter Pare.

areas, and while some folks are against publicity of their favourite wilderness areas, many folks feel that publicity is often the only way to attain, and to maintain, protection for them. The main idea for fund raising is to find sponsors who will donate towards wilderness protection, and the donations are listed on the website. In our case we were a little late getting started and so merely made our own donations,

which were fairly insignificant compared with the efforts of some challenge teams. You can find details of our trip on the website above, by going to “big wild blogs” and finding “A Valhalla Adventure” reported by the team “Valhalla Venturers.” This blog provides a link to [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com) for some of our photos.

I encourage FMC members to participate next year in this worthwhile wilderness conservation fund-raising project, as well as in trip exchanging between member clubs.

# Ramblings



Hoodoos on Wokkpash Creek. Hilary Crowley.

## Wokkpash, Northern Rockies

Hilary Crowley, Caledonia Ramblers

A group of nine Caledonia Ramblers enjoyed a week-long trip this August to the Northern Rocky Mountains Provincial Park, north of Fort Nelson. Unfortunately the northern access to the park is not easy as there is no bridge across the MacDonald River. This means that you need to ford the river with a high clearance four-wheel drive vehicle before travelling the 17 km Churchill Mine Road to the trailhead. The alternative to this is to wade the river, hike the 17 km road and then continue along Wokkpash Creek to Wokkpash Lake. One can then continue over the pass and return via the MacDonald Creek Valley trail back to the Alaska Highway. This route is approximately 70 km long.

Our group opted to return along the same route as we accessed the area in order to not be reliant on vehicle drops. On the first morning, having successfully navigated the rocky, fast flowing river, we walked 15 km along Wokkpash Creek, carrying all that we needed for a week in the wilderness on our backs. The route, with several climbs and descents around gorges, took us past thousands of impressive erosion pillars, or Hoodoos, to our campsite by Forlorn Creek.

The hoodoos stretched for over 5 km on either side of the river, some of which looked like giant chess sets. The pillars are made of soft tapered sandstone capped with wider hard limestone. Some of these erosion pillars were huge,

towering up from the valley bottom to the brim of the cliffs above, reaching up to a height of 30 meters.

We reached camp just as the threatening skies turned to rain and woke up next morning to heavy frost. After breaking camp and packing up our wet tents, the first challenge was to cross the swift flowing and rocky Forlorn Creek. Two of the group fell on the slippery rocks and soaked not only themselves but also their packs. Fortunately the sun emerged and most of the day was bright and warm. A short side trip took us up a narrow slit canyon and after several more creek crossings, we were rewarded with great views of snow capped peaks. After this brief interlude, we continued a little further to a fantastic view of Wokkpash Lake and a vista of mountains and glaciers. We continued another seven km along the east shore of the lake to Plug Hat Creek, which took some skill and trepidation to cross as it was thigh deep on some of our group.

A little further, we reached our destination at the south end of Wokkpash Lake and set up camp next to a ranger cabin. This was to be our home for the next three nights. We were situated where the Wokkpash Creek flows into the glacial lake. The back drop was a treed ridge and the vista all around was of snow-capped peaks and glaciers. There was an abundance of blueberries, plenty of flat grassy land, in fact a thoroughly amenable site.

On the first morning at base camp, we woke to heavy clouds. Undeterred, we set off, crossing Plug Hat Creek and climbed steeply up a 3,000 foot ridge to an alpine plateau offering views of Angel Mountain and the possible route out by MacDonald Creek. Instead of this route, we contoured in the opposite direction around slippery rock bands to a hanging valley at the base of Mt St. Sepulchre where we had lunch overlooking Plug Lake. Some sunny periods offered us wonderful views of the surrounding peaks and glaciers. A magnificent bull caribou came into view. Surprisingly, it decided to check us out, running towards us until circling above us where it picked up our scent, which

must have been quite pungent. It then pranced away gracefully. Our route took us in its direction and it joined another smaller caribou, wandering ahead of us for quite a while.

We continued to follow Plug Creek up the gorge for a while then recrossed it and descended back to camp, wet and tired but exhilarated. The following morning we woke to brilliant sunshine and made an early start. This day involved crossing several channels of glacial Wokkpash Creek. We then followed the west shore of the lake for a few kilometers before climbing up Fusilier Creek into the high valley with lovely views of sun-drenched Fusilier Peak and its glacier. We followed several waterfalls ascending the rocky gorges with ever expanding views of the cirque and more snowy peaks. We rested here for lunch, drinking in the spectacular scenery.



Wokkpash Lake and Fusilier Peak. Hilary Crowley.

After contouring around to the next valley, we decided it was time to start our decent. Suddenly there was what sounded like a cow moose call or an animal in distress. This was heard several times and as we looked in the direction of the sound, we saw a large tan wolf. The wolf acted strangely, running back and forth along the top of the gorge and darted in and out of the trees. Our best guess was that it had killed or injured an animal and that it was running around looking for it. The amount of wolf sign that we saw on this trip explained less wildlife sightings than expected.



We continued down Fusilier Creek, which we rock-hopped across, then followed the lakeshore back to Wokkpash Creek, which we waded, reaching camp tired but content.

The following morning was taken more leisurely as we hiked up the Wokkpash valley, returning to camp for lunch. We then loaded our packs and started the return route to Forlorn Gorge. We arrived there just as the sun was disappearing behind the mountains. The last leg of this day's hike involved a steep climb up from the lake, a short walk through the woods, then a steep descent down to the creek which had to be crossed before reaching the camp site. Yours truly fell in the icy creek and arrived at camp wet and tired. A cup of tea followed by a hot meal soon revived the soul and a clothes line strung over the camp-fire facilitated dry clothes for the last day's hike back to civilization.

This was an excellent trip but it is definitely a wilderness experience and we were thankful for Dave King and others who ensured the safety of the group and who lead us through magnificent alpine scenery.

## Philosophy, Flies and Forest Fires

Nowell Senior, Caledonia Ramblers

Hi everyone, I last wrote to you about those millions of flies at Fraser Lake that bit my ears so badly that they (my ears) grew to an enormous size.

Well, on this hike to Chinlac my fly-bitten ears from the previous Sunday's hike were almost burnt-off. The hike in to the ancient Indian settlement near where the Stuart and Nechako Rivers meet, was easy and relaxing - my ears were back to normal, a chaotic week was behind me, and everything was as it should be. While having lunch and chatting with Mary, Dave came over and casually suggested we get a move on (he always does this), as he didn't "like the look of that forest-fire" — nodding toward a huge plume of smoke rising from the area we had hiked through earlier.

We packed-up and headed toward the smoke with the intention of skirting it along the river trail. Helicopters, small planes and large water bombers began zooming in and out of the area, then we heard a squadron of planes approaching with an incessant roar - it wasn't planes: it was the fire, and it was roaring and raging only 200 to 300 metres away, spitting sparks at us and setting off small

fires around us, which we tried to stamp out. Dave was up ahead and I was at the tail-end; anxiety rose quickly: the fire had us cut-off from the trail ahead, and to our right, and was circling behind preventing a retreat back down the trail. Our only route lay beside the river.

I could see Dave amongst the billows of smoke walking around looking for something - obviously a way out, but irrationally I thought he was looking for a good stick to roast marshmallows on. Luckily, more rational thinking motivated us to scramble to the river while satellites of fire chased us down. We gradually edged along the river while the fire rushed on its way toward the area we'd had lunch at



Smoke obscures the Sun, Chinlac Fire. Carolyn Ibis.

and we slowly made our way up to the trail again, returning safely and with a sigh of relief, back to our vehicles.

We were a large group, and I regret not getting around to chatting with all the new faces, but in the heat of the moment, social graces fall by the wayside. Although, I did





Fire along the trail. Carolyn Ibis.

talk with Tom; he seemed pleased with the warm welcome which I told him we reserved especially for visitors from New Mexico.


I'll tell you one thing, I will never complain about my ears again, no matter how big and ugly they might grow; after yesterday's hot hike to Chinlac, I'm so happy to have them. Come to think of it - I'm grateful to have something left for them to hang onto.

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# News from Around the Province

## Now Showing Peak Performance: 100 Years of B.C. Mountaineering

North Vancouver Museum and Archives

Peak Performance: 100 Years of B.C. Mountaineering, an exhibition celebrating the B.C. Mountaineering Club's centennial, opened in October at the North Vancouver Museum & Archives with a unique display of materials that tells the story of the club's earliest days of challenge and achievement.

Rare film footage, historic photographs and antique equipment have been assembled along with stories of first ascents, trail blazing, rescue and



conservation. Many of the stories are of personal success while others are of the Club's role in charting unknown territory, ensuring safe access to wilderness areas, and encouraging preservation. The story is in some ways a microcosm of twentieth century change. The changing role of women, the impact of new fibres and manufactured materials, increased mobility and interest in recreation all touch on the core story of hiking, climbing and mountaineering. A 1924 women's hiking costume when compared to a modern one from Mountain Equip-

ment Co-op really makes the point!

The exhibit was assembled by Club members and the North Vancouver Museum & Archives. It runs until April 6th, 2008, at the North Vancouver Museum Galleries at 209 West 4th Street. The North Vancouver Museum is open Tuesday to Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. 604. 987. 5612.



## BCMC Centennial Events

Dave Scanlon

The club has a centennial logo, crests, Canada Post stamps, club banner, Club flags, club video, 2007 calendar, the slide show for the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival, MEC displays, Centennial Journal to come, written history of the BCMC to come, City of North Vancouver museum display, and all of the special events that have happened this past centennial year.

Top: BCMC Centennial banquet, Grouse Mtn, Radmila Jaksic; Left: BCMC cabin, Grouse Mountain. Photograph by Preston Tait. Courtesy of North Vancouver Museum and Archives, BCMC collection, Photo 69.3; Right: Don Munday and companion climbing the Camel, c. 1920s-1930s. Courtesy of North Vancouver Museum and Archives, Photograph 6316.





## Outdoor Club of Victoria

Mary Hof, Vice-Chair, OCV

The Outdoor Club of Victoria enjoyed eleven magnificent days hiking in Jasper and Banff National Parks between July 26th and August 6th. Thirty members of different hiking capabilities enjoyed their time together hiking, being tourists, swimming, and relaxing. Six members started before those dates, with a backpack trip to Berg Lake at Mt. Robson. With a downpour to start the hike, the skies cleared up the next day to reveal beautiful Mt. Robson. Club members camped at Whistler's Campground in Jasper and Waterfowl Lakes. A few stayed at the Jasper Hostel as well. A variety of easy to difficult hikes were arranged every day, different leaders taking on this responsibility. Evenings brought us all together for singsongs and fellowship. With the weather being so beautiful every hike gave us spectacular scenery and beautiful sightings of a variety of wildlife. We look forward to returning.



Members of the OCV on top of Mt. Cinquefoil, (top); Peyto Glacier Hike (middle); On Edith Cavell (bottom), OCV trip to Jasper, Mary Hof.

# Club Profile

## Alberni Valley Outdoor Club

Robert Gunn

As its name suggests, the club is based in the Alberni Valley, but it does have members and associates from Nanaimo and Ucluelet. At present there are about 30 active members who enjoy summer hiking and ascending higher peaks, some kayaking and canoeing, as well as winter snow shoe and ski touring. Twice a year a schedule of events is worked out which includes trips on most weekends, with a lull during the months of December and part of January (this year a web site will be developed to help promote the schedule). With the wealth of terrain in and around Vancouver Island, these trips tend to stay local, although

some members do organize summer trips to the Rockies. This past year saw jaunts to Mt Cain, and to Vargas and Quadra Islands.

During the past few years as some of the membership has retired from more prosaic pastimes they have become active in trail building and maintenance. Their efforts include the beginning of a long term initiative to reopen a defunct rail grade from the Cowichan Lake to Port Alberni – the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway. This ambitious rail project separated many investors from their money before World War I. While much rock was blasted and moved and trestles were built closer to Victoria, the project stopped at the Esquimalt and Nanaimo land grant boundary close to China Creek, and was abandoned. Today much of the route is still traceable (despite later



Mike Dalton.

BC Parks says thank-you to the AVOC trail crew.

rail logging) and will ultimately, we hope, form part of the National Hiking Trail. So far there is an excellent trail between China Creek and Franklin River, with the portion Port Alberni to China Creek being worked on at present.

In the fall of 2006, BC Parks approached the group to construct a trail, "suitable for four year olds," through the expanded Stamp Falls Park. The result is a modern classic river trail, opened on Rivers Day, which provides about a three hour walk one way along one of BC's unknown but pristine rivers. The trail, through first and large second growth, passes groves of huge first growth fir and cedar, as well as some remains of early cable logging in the 1920's and 30's.

Another important area where trails have been established and maintained, other than Mt Arrowsmith, is the Marion Creek area just over Sutton Pass on the road to Ucluelet, where there are now two good routes to Mt 5040 and a steep route to the big lake below Triple Peak. The ascent of Triple is possible from this lake.

Access to the alpine from parts of the Valley has recently become an issue, following the removal of private lands from the tree farm licence, and discussions are on-going with timber companies around questions of insurance, gates and keys. The on-going assistance of the FMC in these matters is appreciated.

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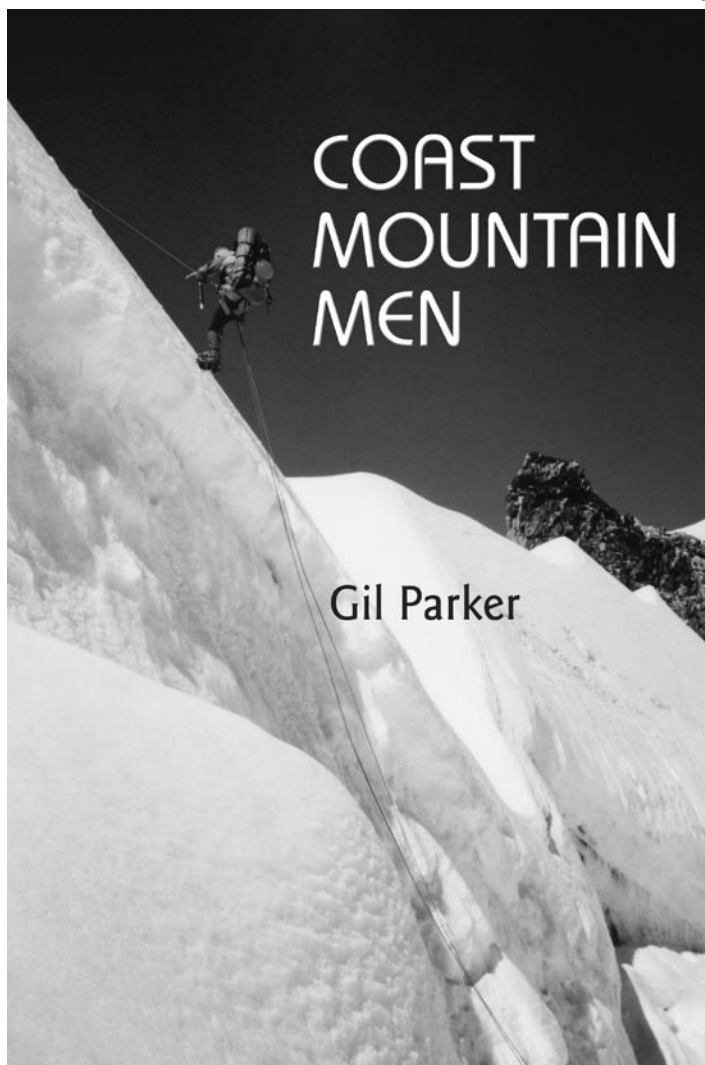
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## The Reading List

***Coast Mountain Men:  
Mountaineering Stories from  
the West Coast***  
**Gil Parker**  
**Victoria: Aware Publishing,  
2007.**

Reviewed by Ron Dart



The history of mountaineering on the west coast tends to be rather meager. A few missives have left the press to tell this remarkable tale, but the need has existed to recount the drama in a fuller way.

*Coast Mountain Men: Mountaineering Stories from the West Coast* puts strategic historic anchors in place, then belays the ascent ever upwards. Gil Parker recounts the story of mountaineering on the west coast through those he has climbed with in his years on the rock slabs. Each chapter walks the reader into a fascinating phase and equally challenging life of those on the west coast that have taken to the ancient sentinels.

We meet, on this journey, in unfolding chapters, Syd Watts, John Gibson, Roger Neave, Rex Gibson, Dave Tansley, Ian Brown, the Willie Brothers, Chris Barner, Rudy Bruger, Rob Wood, Lindsay Elms, Rick Eppler and Rob Macdonald, and Sandy Briggs. If Gil Parker were not so modest, he would have placed himself in this line and lineage; he certainly stands on the shoulders of those who have gone before him.

*Coast Mountain Men* is a delight of a read, a fine way to do history and an excellent pathway to the peaks on the west coast. Each actor in this mountaineering drama is like a living cairn that assures the reader they are on the path of those that have gone before them.

Do read this gem of a book. The mountaineering palette will be whet for more from the quill of Gil Parker.

***Guardians of the Peaks:  
Mountain Rescue in the  
Canadian Rockies and  
Columbia Mountains***

**Kathy Calvert/Dale  
Portman. Vancouver: Rocky  
Mountain Books, 2006.**

Reviewed by Ron Dart

The ancient sentinels in the Canadian Rockies and Columbia Mountains have their romantic appeal, but sadness and tragedy awaits those who are naïve, unprepared or victims of the harsh side of the summits and rock slabs.

*Guardians of the Peaks* tells the tale, in a historic, vivid and visual way, of those that have lived the drama of mountain safety, and how the Canadian tradition of mountain rescue emerged. The book is a must read and keeper. Much is packed into the twelve compact chapters. Do purchase this classic recounting of how the guardians of the peaks have made mountaineering much safer than it once was a few decades ago.

Canadians should be proud of their mountain rescue heritage, and Kathy Calvert and Dale Portman make it more than clear why this is the case.



***Mountaineering and the Humanities***  
**Ron Dart with illustrations**  
**by Arnold Shives**  
**Serratus Press**

Reviewed by Gil Parker

More mountain books are realising the extensive cultural aspects of climbing, and not just mountain culture. Mountaineering has always been part of the broader cultural milieu and now we have a historical and contemporary assessment of that influence.

Ron Dart, a teacher of political science, philosophy and religious studies, has shown the relationship of mountains and culture, along with the historical record of people (men primarily) who did more than just look at the heights. His former writings about Francesco Petrarca and his Ascent of Mount Ventoux, 1336, clearly indicates his preference for those early writers who actually climbed those mysterious heights. Surprisingly perhaps, there are enough of such mountain writers to create a catalogue—the list of books he provides include many that one must read!

Dart, a climber himself, provides a compilation of both Eastern and Western approaches, a wide range that includes the English Romantics and the American Beats. He shows how a climb often begets a thinking man's response, the metaphors that relate to his life, and how the impressive proximity of nature creates a spiritual balance to the physicality of the climb itself. Shives' artwork has an evocative style that likewise shows the concrete and the mystical in balance.

Progressing to the Canadian tradition, Dart quotes Earle Birney, Chic Scott, Andy Russell and Dick Culbert,

among dozens of other climber/writers who actually have been to the heights and there found treasures beyond exhaustion. (\$22.95 [www.serratuspress.com](http://www.serratuspress.com))

**Call for Commentary:**  
**Vancouver Island Hiking Books**

Gil Parker is in process of revising and up-dating Hiking Trails III, the hiking book for the north part of Vancouver Island. He would welcome any comments on the existing book, the 9th Edition, either in general terms or for specific trails and access issues. Please contact Gil at 250 370 9349 or [gparker@telus.net](mailto:gparker@telus.net) with proposed changes, additional trails, trail closures, etc., preferably before January 2008.

Similarly, Hiking Trails II, covering the south central part of Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, is being revised by Richard Blier, editor, who can be reached at [richardblier@yahoo.com](mailto:richardblier@yahoo.com) for suggestions and updates. The dividing line between the two guidebooks is generally Highway 4, but the Clayoquot area and hikes west of Sproat Lake adjacent to Highway 4 will go into Hiking Trails II.

For further information on this successful series of hiking books of Vancouver Island, or to order a copy, go to <http://www.hikingtrailsbooks.com/>.

**Recently Published**

Colin Angus, *Beyond the Horizon: The Great Race to Finish the First Human-Powered Circumnavigation of the Planet*, Doubleday, 2007.

Lincoln Hall, *Dead Lucky: Life After Death On Mount Everest*, Random House, 2007.

John Harlin III, *The Eiger Obsession: Facing the Mountain that Killed My Father*, Simon and Shuster, 2007.

Chris Harris, *Spirit in the Grass: Cariboo Chilcotin's Forgotten Landscape*, Country Light Publishing, 2007.

K. Linda Kivi ed., *The Purcell Suite: Upholding the Wild*, Maa Press, 2007.

Jane Lytton Gooch, *Mount Assiniboine: Images in Art*, Rocky Mountain Books, 2007.

Ian McAllister, *The Last Wild Wolves: Ghosts of the Great Bear Rainforest*, Greystone, 2007.

Robert Sandford, *Water, Weather, and the Mountain West*, Rocky Mountain Books, 2007.

Jay Sherwood, *Surveying Central British Columbia*, RBCM, 2007.

James M. Tabor, *Forever on the Mountain: The Truth Behind One of Mountaineering's Most Controversial and Mysterious Disasters*, W.W. Norton, 2007.

# The Federation of Mountain Clubs

*Working on your behalf*

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

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

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

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

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

The FMC was founded in 1971, based on a predecessor organization called the Mountain Access Committee. Since this time the FMC has had many success stories working on behalf of our members and the public at large. If you visit our website [www.mountainclubs.org](http://www.mountainclubs.org) you can view a list of some of our successes and accomplishments we have had through the years categorized by geographical area. Some highlights include the popular Adopt a Trail program and the resolution of several land use issues through participation in various planning processes.

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

## Member Clubs

### **Alberni Valley Outdoor Club**

### **Alpine Club of Canada-Vancouver Section**

[www.aebc.com/acc/newsite](http://www.aebc.com/acc/newsite)

### **Alpine Club of Canada-Vancouver Island Section**

[accvi.ca](http://accvi.ca)

### **Alpine Club of Canada – Prince George Section**

[www.vts.bc.ca/ACC-PG](http://www.vts.bc.ca/ACC-PG)

### **Backroads Outdoor Club**

[www.backroadsoutdoor.ca](http://www.backroadsoutdoor.ca)

### **British Columbia Mountaineering Club**

[www.bcmc.ca](http://www.bcmc.ca)

### **Caledonia Ramblers**

<http://web.unbc.ca/~ramblers>

### **Chilliwack Outdoor Club**

[www.chilliwack.com/leisure/outdoor/outdoor.html](http://www.chilliwack.com/leisure/outdoor/outdoor.html)

### **Comox District Mountaineering Club**

[www.comoxhiking.com](http://www.comoxhiking.com)

### **Fraser Headwaters Alliance**

[www.fraserheadwaters.org](http://www.fraserheadwaters.org)

### **Island Mountain Ramblers**

### **Kootenay Mountaineering Club**

[www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca](http://www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca)

### **Mt. Remo Backcountry Society**

### **North Shore Hikers**

[www.northshorehikers.org](http://www.northshorehikers.org)

### **North Vancouver Outdoors Club**

[www.northvanoutdoorsclub.ca](http://www.northvanoutdoorsclub.ca)

### **Outdoor Club of Victoria**

[www.ocv.ca](http://www.ocv.ca)

### **Outsetters Club**

### **Ozalenka Alpine Club**

### **Valley Outdoor Association**

[www.valleyoutdoor.org](http://www.valleyoutdoor.org)

### **Vancouver Island Trails Information Society**

[www.hikingtrailsbooks.com](http://www.hikingtrailsbooks.com)

### **Varsity Outdoor Club**

[www.ubc-voc.com](http://www.ubc-voc.com)

### **Varsity Outdoor Club -- Okanagan**

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

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

Clockwise from top right: Mary Hof/Harvey Pearson/Pearson/Mary Hof, Helen Habgood, Isabel Budke, Peter Pare, Helen Habgood, Harvey Pearson

