

CLOUDBURST

— FALL/WINTER 2023 —



**FMCBC Insurance and Waiver Updates | 2023 AGM Presentations
Backpacking Tweedsmuir Park | BC Parks Funding | Peak Bros Comic**

Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia

Accessing the backcountry one step at a time



CLOUDBURST

Published by:

The Federation of Mountain
Clubs of British Columbia



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by Bill Myrtle

“Mt. Cayley and Pyroclastic Peak taken
from the summit of Brandywine Mt. on a
North Shore Hikers September 2022 day
hike.”

FMCBC is a member of the Outdoor
Recreation Council of BC, Canadian
Avalanche Association and Leave No Trace
Canada.

Cloudburst Fall/Winter 2023

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Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British
Columbia (FMCBC) is a province-wide umbrella
organization dedicated to protecting and maintaining
access to BC's backcountry.

Since 1972, we have represented the interests of
outdoor clubs from every corner of the province and
have provided a united voice on issues related to
non-motorized backcountry recreation.

Our membership is comprised of a diverse group of
thousands of non-motorized backcountry recreationists
including hikers, rock climbers, mountaineers,
mountain bikers, trail runners, kayakers, backcountry
skiers and snowshoers.

As an organization, we believe the enjoyment of these
pursuits in an unspoiled environment is a vital
component of the quality of life for British Columbians,
and by acting under the policy of “talk, understand and
persuade” we advocate for these interests.

President's Message Fall/Winter 2023

Liz Bicknell, President

The FMCBC had its first in person AGM since Covid. The AGM was held Saturday Oct 21 at UBC, Vancouver and had 28 participants with 10 members joining via Zoom. I hope we can return to our more usual format of in person AGMs being hosted by local clubs. This includes a social gathering on the Friday before and hikes on Saturday and Sunday. I encourage clubs to consider hosting next year's AGM. FMCBC will gladly share costs.

Last year, FMCBC lost one of our board members, Jay MacArthur. Our AGM paid tribute to this giant of a man and held a one minute silence in his honour. Jay is missed but his legacy remains and urges us on to do more for non-motorized access to the backcountry.

Our AGM presented a well-deserved Lifetime Achievement Award to Dave King of the Caledonia Ramblers. Dave was born with hiking boots on. He still continues to build trails in the North at the young age of 81.

FMCBC voted in a new board of directors. I bid a fond farewell and many thanks to Cristina Jacob and a very warm welcome to Jodi Appleton. Many of you will recognize Jodi's name from her past involvement with FMCBC. It's great to welcome Jodi back.

In the spirit of working collaboratively, our AGM had [3 presentations](#) from non-member groups. The Outdoor Recreation Council's Ximena Lopez and Dave Wharton presented the results of a survey ORC did on the impacts of outdoor recreation on rural communities. I think we all learnt a bunch of good information. Brian Harder, President of the Backcountry Horsemen of BC gave an excellent presentation on how to safely interact with people on horseback when hiking on trails.

Lastly FMCBC heard from Rotary Club of BC's Ardath Paxton Mann on the important issue of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Building on this presentation, you can expect to see FMCBC form a subcommittee on DEI. It's important that FMCBC and all of our member clubs create a welcoming atmosphere for



everyone. The make-up of our clubs often does not reflect the rich diversity in our communities. The new FMCBC DEI subcommittee will explore ways to help clubs create an atmosphere where people from any religious group or background, people of colour, and LGBTQ+ folks feel welcome and comfortable.

A common theme I'm hearing from member clubs is the aging out process. Succession planning is something vitally important to us all and I encourage clubs to focus on attracting new and younger members.

In closing, it behooves every organization to keep in touch with its members to ensure our collective voice remains strong as we advocate for non-motorized access to trails and the backcountry. You can expect to see a survey from FMCBC in the New Year to get your input on ways we can improve our services and work more closely together.

Stay safe out there and thank you for what you do.

Happy Holidays!

Liz
President, FMCBC



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FMCBC Insurance & Waivers – Questions & Answers Session at AGM

Monika Bittel, FMCBC Director

The FMCBC secured Commercial General Liability (CGL) insurance for June 30, 2023-May 31, 2024 through EQUA Specialty Risk Partners Association (EQUA), the FMCBC's new broker. While the Directors' & Officers' Liability Insurance (D&O) was secured through AON, our former broker, both will be managed by EQUA.



At the FMCBC AGM on October 21, 2023, Sandy Millar and Gina Bennett, Managing Partners from EQUA, provided an overview of CGL and D&O insurance and answered insurance and waiver questions submitted by members. EQUA's presentation is available as part of the [AGM YouTube recording](https://youtu.be/GXrRaB4TvbE) (<https://youtu.be/GXrRaB4TvbE>). Presentation time stamps are in the YouTube description for ease of access.

The following is an overview of some of the topics covered in the AGM presentation and answers to questions posed by members.

OVERVIEW

Commercial General Liability (CGL) Policy

- CGL policy primarily covers third-party bodily injury or third-party property damage, i.e., bodily injury or property damage suffered by somebody that is outside the club or FMCBC. All members, trip leaders and organizers, volunteers, member clubs and FMCBC are covered by the CGL policy. Guests approved to join a club sanctioned activity would also be covered by the CGL policy.
- Third parties such as private landowners,

municipal or regional governments and the Crown (His Majesty the King) may be added as an "additional insured". Certificates of Insurance are issued as evidence of insurance to a third party. If a Certificate of Insurance is required by a club, please email admin.manager@mountainclubs.org.

- Club sanctioned trail and hut building and maintenance are covered under the CGL policy. This is in addition to the insurance coverage provided to clubs that have signed partnership agreements with RSTBC or BC Parks.
- CGL policy is not first party insurance. Should a trip participant be injured on a club trip, the policy does not provide medical or accident benefit insurance. If an injured person were to sue the FMCBC, club and/or trip leader, the CGL policy responds to cover and protect the trip leader, club, FMCBC and other trip members, if sued.
- The CGL policy will not cover claims arising from a member or trip participant's dog on a club trip. The dog owner's home, condo or tenant insurance may provide liability coverage.
- The CGL coverage protects all individuals regardless of age. In other words, there are no restrictions within the policy that limits the age of participants on club sanctioned trips or camps. The FMCBC's Acknowledgement of Risk for Minors must be completed by the minor and guardian – see Acknowledgement of Risk protocol outlined in the FMCBC Handbook.
- CGL is not property insurance. The FMCBC does not provide property insurance to member clubs. If required, the club may wish to consult EQUA. If coverage is available, it would be a stand-alone policy for which the club is fully responsible.



Directors' & Officers' Liability (D&O) Policy

- D&O does not cover third party bodily injury or third-party property damage. It covers the directors, officers and senior people in the organization, i.e., managers, supervisors and people in authority. The FMCBC Board and boards of clubs that purchase insurance through the FMCBC insurance program are protected by the D&O policy.
- The D&O policy covers potential claims arising from the responsibilities of directors and officers, such as their fiduciary obligations to the organization, statutory duty to operate within the law (i.e., incorrect filing or operation not permitted); and, employment practices (i.e., harassment, discrimination, wrongful dismissals, human rights complaint).

Incident Forms

- Generally, EQUA would like to hear about any incidents that involve serious injury (i.e., require a doctor or hospital visit), ambulatory loss (i.e., injured party unable to walk away from scene), an altercation or adversarial comments (i.e., “call your lawyer”, “call your insurer”, “better have a good insurance policy”). Completion of an Incident Form does not automatically trigger a report to the underwriter. It allows EQUA to monitor potential injuries, losses or incidents and take

appropriate risk management measures.

- When an incident occurs that meets the criteria, the incident should be reported promptly to FMCBC at admin.manager@mountainclubs.org and the FMCBC Incident Form completed. As the FMCBC's first point of contact after an incident, our admin will liaise with EQUA. Questions about the Incident Form, information to collect, etc. should be directed to FMCBC. EQUA will assess whether further investigations are warranted to ensure the information needed to defend a claim or lawsuit is preserved and available.

FMCBC Handbook

- The FMCBC Member's Handbook includes relevant information about insurance, waivers, Acknowledgment of Risks for Minors and best practices. It is currently being updated. When complete, the Handbook will be available via a “members only” link on the FMCBC website.
- Further questions can be sent to FMCBC (admin.manager@mountainclubs.org). We will direct the question(s) as appropriate to EQUA or the FMCBC's Risk Management Committee for



response.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Is biking covered?

A: Cycling and mountain biking are covered, as long as they are club sanctioned activities or events. Normal human powered bicycles, road bikes and mountain bikes, as well as Class 1 pedal-assist e-bikes are covered under the current CGL policy.

Q: Does coverage extend outside of Canada? If so, where?

A: The current CGL policy provides worldwide coverage, with limited USA coverage. The USA coverage is limited because only a small number of clubs (about seven of 39 clubs participating in FMCBC's insurance program) reported offering USA based trips. For those seven clubs, USA trips make up a small percentage of total club trips. If the number of clubs offering USA trips increases significantly, this will be reported to EQUA and there may be a premium increase.

Regarding travel outside BC, a reminder that CGL insurance is not travel or medical insurance. For trips outside of BC (i.e., elsewhere in Canada, USA or international), trip participants must ensure they have adequate personal travel and medical insurance from a reputable travel insurance company. Credit cards are not sufficient proof of coverage. Travel or medical insurance available through credit cards is typically not "first" insurance and providers will push individuals to exhaust all other avenues first, including MSP. This can be a time consuming and a paper heavy process. MSP will not cover certain expenses such as air transportation and ambulance costs. Depending on the event, risk or activity engage in outside BC (i.e., mountain climbing), specific insurance may be required.

Q: Why does the FMCBC insurance not

extend to Clubs hosting cycling events where members are using e-bikes?

A: Club sanctioned trips using pedal-assist Class 1 e-bikes are covered under the current CGL policy. Trips using Class 2 e-bikes require pre-approval from EQUA (please contact admin.manager@mountainclubs.org). Class 2 and beyond e-bikes, which are equipped with a motor and do not require the rider to pedal to get motion, are not covered.

E-bike Classifications

- Class 1 e-bike: A bike equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedalling (pedal assist) and ceases to provide assistance when the bike reaches 32km/h and has a maximum continuous wattage output of 500 watts.
- Class 2 e-bike: A bike equipped with a motor that can be used exclusively to propel the bike (throttle equipped) and ceases to provide assistance when the bike reaches 32km/h.
- Class 3 e-bike: A bike equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedalling (pedal assist) and ceases to provide assistance when the bike reaches 45km/h.

Q: Is there a form to have e-bike participants sign making them aware that the FMCBC insurance does not cover them during club events?

A: No, there is no form. It is up to clubs to sanction or approve club trips and manage use of e-bikes on club trips. FMCBC waivers are being updated to include use of e-bikes.

Q: Want to know more details about our



insurance, especially what is covered by third party liability and what is not covered?

A: In addition to the Overview and answers to questions, more information is available in the Insurance, Waivers and Documents section of the FMCBC member Handbook and the [AGM presentation](#). Additional questions may be directed to FMCBC (admin.manager@mountainclubs.org), who will direct the questions as appropriate to EQUA or the FMCBC's Risk Management Committee.

Q: The FMCBC E-waiver does not include space for two email addresses; how is that sufficient?

A: Every adult member or adult trip participant must sign their own, individual waiver. Clubs offering couple memberships must obtain an individually "signed" waiver from each spouse. Spouses cannot sign for each other. For family memberships, an individually signed waiver is required from each adult family member (age 19 and over) and an Acknowledgment of Risk for Minor must be completed for each minor. It is critical that a member/trip participant agrees to and signs the waiver, either digitally or in paper form, prior to payment of registration or membership fees. Best practices for waivers and Acknowledgement of Risk for Minors are available in the FMCBC Handbook. Only FMCBC approved waivers or Acknowledgments of Risk for Minors should be used by clubs participating in FMCBC's insurance program.

Q: Only the person filling in the waivers seems to be the one accepting the privacy terms; how does that work for other family members?

A: Each member/trip participant must sign their own, individual waiver. As such, the privacy terms apply to each member/trip participant. A proper online/e-waiver system should provide for acceptance of the privacy terms as part of the online process.

Q: How does the electronic waiver work; or rather, how would it stand up in court? The process outlined seems to say to just put an 'X' in the appropriate places and then type your name and then save, print and email the form?

- a. How does this constitute a legally binding electronic signature; anyone can type an 'X' and name?
- b. How is this sufficient proof of the identity of the sender?
- c. What if one person emails in the E-waivers for their whole family?
- d. Why doesn't the E-waiver require a witness, like the printable form?
- e. Why no E-waiver for minors and doesn't this create a confused situation?

A: Electronic/digital signatures are valid in BC – see BC's Electronic Transactions Act. The nature of the document to be signed will determine the enforceability requirements. To ensure their validity and enforceability, an online waiver system or e-waiver process should allow verification of the member or guest, who agreed to the terms of the waiver and "signed" the waiver. If the "signor" cannot be verified, the waiver can be challenged. If the "signor" is uniquely identified and confirms the waiver as their own, there is no need for a witness. A proper online registration and waiver system preserves and stores the metadata for future retrieval. Best practices for online waivers, data collection, retrieval and storage are outlined in the FMCBC Handbook.

Several years ago, Bob St John, a former FMCBC President, developed an online membership and waiver system for use by FMCBC member clubs. This online system is being upgraded and will be available again in January 2024. The cost for the service is \$1/member per waiver. Clubs interested in

the online membership and waiver system should contact the FMCBC. The online system developed by B St John, meets the best practices outlined in the Handbook.

The Acknowledgement of Risk for Minors is not currently available online, a minimum of two people need to “sign” it - the minor and guardian. Until there is an online system that allows multiple signatures, FMCBC has decided to keep Acknowledgements of Risk in paper form only.

Q: We would like information on coverage for infrastructure we maintain. For example, we manage cabins via partnership agreement with RSTBC and BC Parks. The agreement defers liability to the government agencies. Is there any protection for our directors for these activities via FMCBC?

A: As described in the Overview, the CGL policy covers third-party bodily injury or third-party property damage, i.e., bodily injury or property damage suffered by somebody that is outside the club or FMCBC. The Crown can be covered as an “additional insured” (no additional cost). FMCBC does not provide property insurance for huts or structures built and maintained by clubs. Commercial property insurance may be available, although the remoteness of alpine huts and structures can be an issue. The club may wish to consult EQUA. If coverage is available, it will be a stand-alone insurance policy for which the club is fully responsible.

Q: On the latest FMCBC waivers, there’s a curious difference between the adult universal waiver and the minor Acknowledgment of Risk. Specifically, the latter has new sections on water sports and on horseback riding: why the difference, and why are they highlighted in green and purple?

A: There are four versions of the FMCBC Universal Waivers and Acknowledgments of

Risk for Minors to cover all potential activities offered by clubs. Clubs select the version that best covers the activities offered by the club:

1. Basic activities;
2. Basic plus water-based activities;
3. Basic plus horse riding activities; and,
4. Basic plus water-based and horse-riding activities.

The colour coding highlights the differences in wording associated with each additional activity. It was not intended that the highlighting remain when the Waiver or Acknowledgment of Risk is submitted for signing. However, we appreciate the confusion created by the current form of the Handbook. We are revising the Handbook to explain better the colour coding and we will remove the colour highlights from the downloadable pdfs.

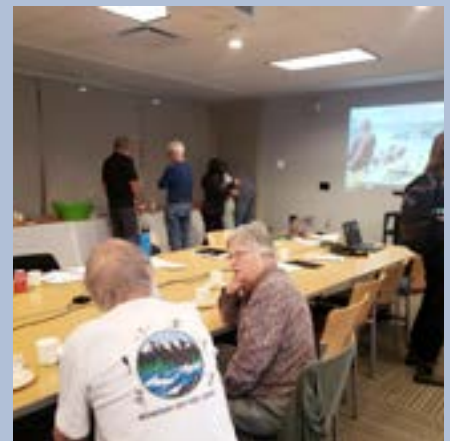
Q: Do guests need to sign Waivers?

A: All trip participants, including guests, must sign a waiver to protect the FMCBC, member clubs, club members, volunteers, trip organizers, leaders and instructors. Guests should be asked to sign the waiver as a condition for their participation in a club activity. A process needs to be in place for guests to view and sign the waiver in advance of participating on a trip. If no online process is in place for guests, then paper waivers should be used.





A look back
2023 AGM, OCT 21
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Federation of Mountain Clubs
of British Columbia

FMCBC AGM Presentation Summary - Back Country Horsemen of BC

Brian Harder

We would like to share some simple ideas that will make everyone's experience on a shared trail a positive one including the horse or mule. Some of the things for you to be aware of regarding horses on the trail are:

- 1. STOP** - Reduce the Speed Factor • Reduce the Surprise Factor • Let the Horse See You
- 2. STAND** - Look at how the Horse reacts? • Relaxed & Indifferent? • Alert? Tense? Afraid? How is the Rider Reacting? • Confident or Anxious?
- 3. SPEAK** - Call out to the rider(s) to get their attention. Speak to them well before you get close. Remember horses almost always have the right of way.

LISTEN • For requests or instructions from the Horseback Rider

APPROACHING HORSES FROM BEHIND • Slow Down & stay well behind the horse • Talk to the rider before passing

APPROACHING HORSES HEAD ON • Stop, Stand & Speak • Stand on the low side of the trail • Avoid standing in the shadows if possible • Allow the horse to move past you • If the rider is struggling with a frightened horse – removing your helmet and speaking in a relaxed tone may be of assistance. • Listen for any suggestions / instructions from the rider

EACH HORSE IS DIFFERENT The Horses you encounter on the Trail will all respond differently depending on: Temperament:

COMMUNICATE with the Horse Rider It is almost always preferred to have the horse move past the bike, rather than a bike moving past the horse, but the terrain and circumstance will determine who can keep moving and who should be standing still.

Back Country Horsemen of BC - working towards making everyone's experience on a trail enjoyable.



FMCBC AGM Presentation Summary - ORCBC

Ximena Lopez

The Outdoor Recreation Council of BC (ORCBC) is launching a new fund that will provide yearly grants for outdoor recreation projects in B.C. The fund will be in development until March 2024 and is expected to open its first grant application intake in Spring 2024. Stay tuned for updates on [ORCBC's website](#) and by subscribing to ORCBC's newsletter.

A new ORCBC study illustrates the economic, social and environmental impacts of outdoor recreation for rural B.C. communities. It found that benefits and opportunities exist because outdoor spaces and their associated values are actively cared for by community members. However, the capacity to care for places is limited and can be surpassed, which may lead to negative impacts. The impacts, challenges and opportunities faced by communities are explored in depth in the new research report, which you may read in full [here](#) (www.orcbc.ca/s/The-Impacts-of-Outdoor-Recreation-in-Rural-BC-Communities.pdf). For a shorter read, you can find four key lessons from the research on ORCBC's [blog](#) (www.orcbc.ca/blog/impacts-outdoor-recreation-bc-rural).

Barrier, Challenges & Other

1. Limited Capacity for Land Managers
2. Limited Funding
3. Complex Issues and Complex Processes
4. Over-Reliance on Volunteers
5. No Plan or Vision
6. Limited Research and Data
7. What is Outdoor Recreation?

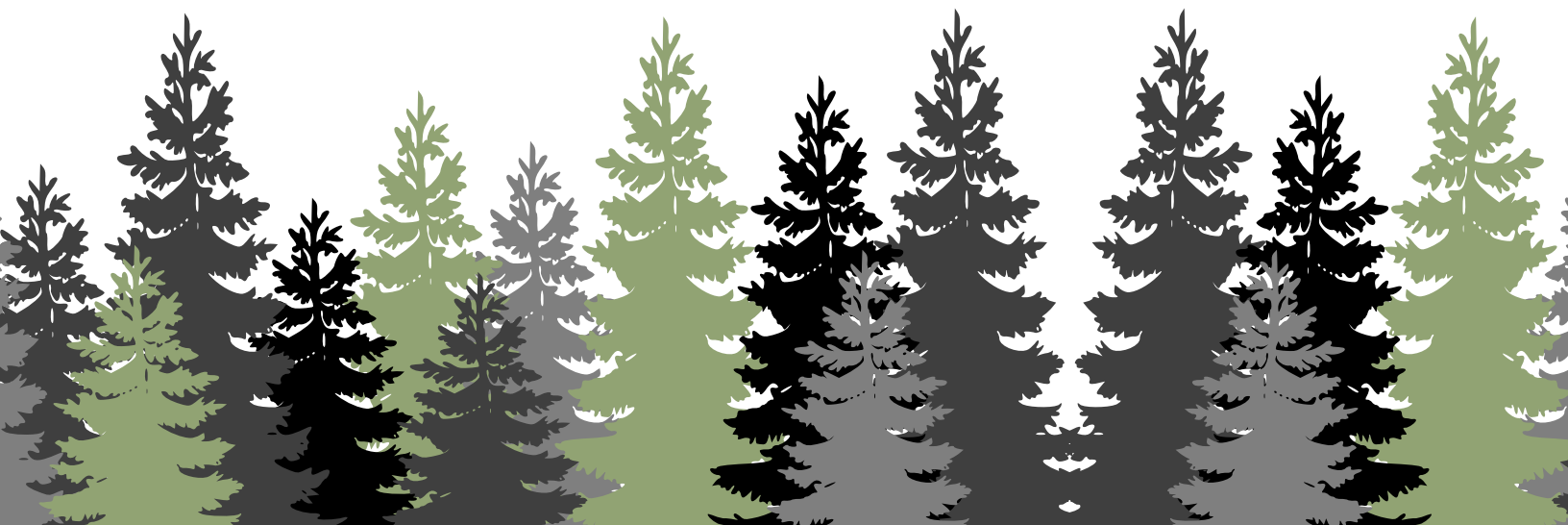


Recommendations

- Measure and Prove the Impacts of Outdoor Recreation
- Test Management Solutions
- Share Knowledge
- Support Local Key Players
- Establish Relationships and Collaborate
- Proactively Plan

Key Findings

1. Three Similarities in the Outdoor Recreation Sectors
2. Negative Impacts Are Primarily Human-Caused and May Be Managed
3. The Sector Struggles to Manage Negative Land Impacts
4. The Sector's Organization Provides or Enhances Benefits
5. Community Capacity to Address Challenges Is Limited
6. Negative Impacts, Barriers and Challenges Are Threats
7. Collaboration and Coordination Enable Positive Initiatives



FMCBC AGM Presentation Summary - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Ardath Paxton Mann

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Club Health Check

Key Questions	Diversity ✓	Equity ✓	Inclusion ✓
Our club is representative of our community.			
We have targeted strategies in our club to build diversity.			
We are proud of our diversity in our club.			
We have embedded equity in our club's strategic plan, policies and all club activities.			
Our club is welcoming and accessible.			
Our club has a broad spectrum of opportunities for members to engage, participate and lead.			
Our Club provides an environment for the free and open expression of ideas, opinions and beliefs.			
Racial, ethnic and gender based jokes are not tolerated at our club.			
Our Club demonstrates a commitment to meeting the needs of members with disabilities.			
Diversity & inclusion is one of my club's stated values and/or priority areas.			
Results - add up ✓✓✓ for each column.			
<i>Add up all the check marks for all the areas. If you have less than 10, you may have work to do to build a richer DEI culture within your club.</i>	TOTAL		
<i>Based on the above results, are there any actions your club should take right away to build a richer DEI culture?</i>			

Principles of Brave Space

We are **present** in this virtual space and with each other.

We are open to new ideas, ways of thinking and feedback.

We listen **deeply** are **curious** and to seek new knowledge and understanding.

We hold a space of **trust** and **confidentiality**.

We focus on **possibility** and see obstacles as opportunity for learning.

We bring **awareness** to our biases, assumptions and judgements.

We **challenge** ideas, no people.

We **challenge** ideas, not people.

We **acknowledge** and **appreciate** each others gifts, strengths and contributions.

We take accountability for our own learning. Knowledge extraction vs knowledge mobilization.

We hold **brave space** for **courageous** conversations.



In honour of his decades of selfless dedication to outdoor recreation and trail work, the FMCBC recognizes the efforts of DAVE KING.
His legacy enriches our landscapes and inspires many.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

OCTOBER, 21, 2023

SWBC Recreation & Conservation Committee Report

By Monika Bittel, Chair

The SWBC Recreation and Conservation Committee, FMCBC clubs and members have worked on a range of issues since the last report in Cloudburst. The following highlights some advocacy projects, which have absorbed members' time over the past several months.

Outdoor Recreation in BC – Public Service Transformation

BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails (RSTBC) are the two provincial government agencies that manage recreation and trails on provincial crown land. Until 2022, the two agencies were under the jurisdiction of two separate ministers – Minister of the Environment & Climate Change Strategy (BC Parks) and Minister of Forests (RSTBC). While both agencies are now under the jurisdiction of the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy, there are seven other ministries involved in some part of outdoor recreation. The need for a coordinated approach to management of outdoor recreation is long-standing.

The current public service model for managing outdoor recreation is outdated and ill-equipped to manage the growth and diverse range

of outdoor recreation opportunities available. The outdoor recreation ecosystem is increasingly complex. There are over 200 distinct first nations with unique traditions, interests and history and a commitment by BC to Indigenous Reconciliation through Indigenous-led solutions, co-management and shared decision-making. There is climate change. There are commitments to sustainability and biodiversity. Technological changes, such as mobile apps for trail and navigation, social media and emergency communications systems, have changed how government and people share information. Recognizing that the provincial public service model is outdated, the provincial government has tasked John Hawkings to transform the provincial public service model. He has a two-year mandate, with the goal of completing the revisioning and implementation started before the 2024 October elections.

Three Ministries are directly engaged in the Transformation Process - Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (Conservation and Recreation Division - BC Parks and RSTBC), Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport



(Mountain Resorts Branch, and Ministry of Forests (Lands Branch, Integrated Resource Operations and Regional Operations). Seven other ministries are engaged indirectly through internal discussions to realign operations and policies to better serve the outdoor recreation sector, whether public or commercial. Over the summer, the FMCBC and members from several clubs participated in the transformation process through in-person or virtual meetings, sharing perspectives on what a “new and improved” public service for outdoor recreation would look like.

It was encouraging to see many issues that the FMCBC has sought to address recognized by government in the transformation process:

- Increasing demand and

overcrowding, particularly during peak seasons, straining infrastructures, fragile ecosystems, wildlife habitats and sensitive natural areas

- Maintenance of aging trails and infrastructure
- Site access (e.g., insufficient parking, maintenance of FSRs)
- Absence of coordinated approach, and
- Cumbersome provincial processes (e.g., permitting, authorizations, approval of trails)

Participants in the transformation process heard that there is a willingness by government to assess, plan, develop and manage the diverse range of recreation opportunities to better serve public interests; and, that there is momentum for an aligned and intention-based provincial vision for outdoor recreation to effectively guide agencies and First Nations managing, supporting or contributing to outdoor recreation for everybody in BC.

While cautiously optimistic about this revisioning and transformation process, the FMCBC will continue to engage as opportunities arise and monitor developments as they unfold. There will be implementation challenges with institutional and vested

interests resistant to change. It will take leadership and time for new ideas to take hold and management priorities to change.

2024 Budget Consultations – BC Funding Commitments Benefiting Outdoor Recreation

In the 2023 Spring/Summer Cloudburst, we reported on the submissions made to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Governance in June 2023 by the FMCBC, Caledonia Ramblers (Prince George), Outdoor Recreation Council of BC (ORCBC) and other allies. As in the past, our “asks” were aligned with those of our allies: long-term, stable funding for BC Parks (about \$100M annual budget) and for RSTBC (about \$20M annual budget). FMCBC also advocated for funding to repair and upgrade roads to access provincial parks, trails



and recreation sites. A number of examples from across BC were included in the FMCBC submissions to demonstrate the province-wide need for greater funding for BC Parks, RSTBC and repairs to access roads.

The lack of funding for maintenance of backcountry access roads is a long-standing issue – see for example the article, [Managing B.C.'s Resource Roads](#), by Virginia Rasch of the East Kootenay Outdoor Club, published in the 2015 Winter/Fall issue of Cloudburst; and, the 2015 Forest Practices Board's report, [Access Management and Resource Roads: 2015 Update](#). With neither RSTBC nor BC Parks having the mandate or resources to maintain access roads, access to many parks, recreations sites and popular trails has been lost due to washouts and failing infrastructure (i.e., culverts and bridges) or is limited to those with 4WD, high clearance vehicles. This places pressure on those parks, recreation sites and trails which remain accessible.

On August 3, 2023, the Select Standing Committee released its [Report on the Budget 2024 Consultation](#). With respect to Parks and Recreation, the Committee recommended investment in BC's parks and recreation sites to improve maintenance and access to these areas



(see pages 6-9, 31-42, 103-104). Their recommendations are:

PARKS AND RECREATION

56. Provide increased, long-term funding for BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC to support:

- a. Long-term planning, development, and maintenance of trails, day-use sites, and campsites;
- b. Partnerships with First Nations on recreation projects;
- c. Improved accessibility of recreation facilities;
- d. Maintenance of roads and infrastructure;
- e. Climate change mitigation efforts; and
- f. Timely approval of applications for trail and site developments and maintenance from volunteer-led recreation groups.

57. Increase revenue in the BC Parks system by implementing a one-time

inflationary province-wide increase of \$3-5 per night for provincial campsite fees.

58. Provide increased grants and funding to volunteer organizations that maintain provincial parks and trails. With provincial elections scheduled for October 2024, it will be interesting to see if the Select Standing Committee's recommendations for parks and recreations are reflected in the 2024 budget. While the budgetary demands relating to housing, affordability, health and climate change, it will be a challenge to secure greater funding for provincial parks and recreation. However, with the greater realization of the importance of outdoor recreation as a driver of physical and mental well-being, regional economic diversity and community growth, there is good likelihood for long-term stable funding for the maintenance, enhancement and development of outdoor recreation assets in BC.

Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

In November 2019, the BC government passed the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act \(the Declaration Act\)](#), establishing the UN Declaration as the foundation for the Province's work to advance reconciliation and enshrining in law the human rights of Indigenous peoples in BC. Alongside

the new legislation, the government released its [Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples](#) to guide the public service in implementing the UN Declaration. If truly committed to meaningful reconciliation, this commitment should be reflected in changes to policies, programs, and legislation to align them with the UN Declaration and adequate resources implement advance reconciliation.

BC Parks is a good example. BC has 1039 parks and protected areas, covering over 14% of the provincial land base. Many parks and protected areas however were established with little to no consultation or consideration for Indigenous Peoples' historical occupation, use or connections to the land. This is reflected in the disclaimer, which appears under "Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples" on the webpage for each park:

BC Parks honours Indigenous Peoples' connection to the land and respects the importance of their diverse teachings, traditions, and practices within these territories. This park webpage may not adequately represent the full history of this park and the connection of Indigenous Peoples to this land. We are working in partnership

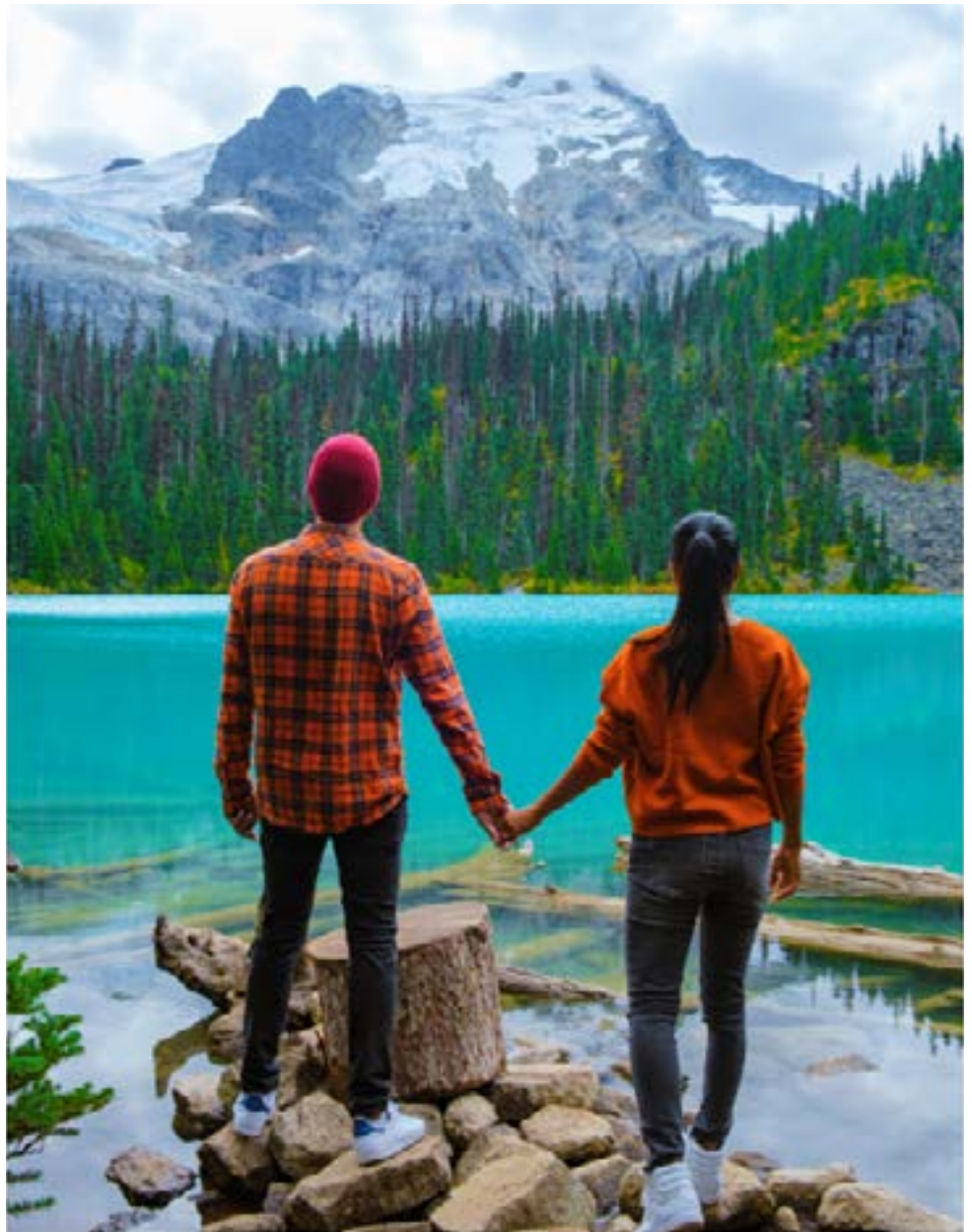
with Indigenous Peoples to update our websites so that they better reflect the history and cultures of these special places.

BC Parks' reconciliation vision and action plan is outlined in [BC Parks Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-2024](#). There is also a [Parks and Protected Areas Indigenous \(re\)Naming Checklist \[PDF\]](#) for Indigenous (re)naming of parks and protected areas.

The Action Plan highlights work being undertaken, as well as many actions BC Parks would like to start doing, subject to the availability of "capacity/resources". Actions include development of management plans that will reflect the full history and connection of Indigenous Peoples and collaborative management with First Nations. Given the challenges some regional offices are experiencing with staff recruitment and high staff turn-over, it may be some time before each park has a management plan that reflects BC Parks' reconciliation vision. A list of management plans currently in development or recently approved can be found under [Management Plans](#) on BC Parks' website. All other approved management plans are not currently posted. BC Parks advises this is a temporary measure while they build out their new website. In

the interim, digital copies of archived management plans can be requested from BC Parks via email (parkinfo@gov.bc.ca). Even with a "visitor use management action plan" in place, there can be bumps along the road to reconciliation when staffing and resources don't allow

timely response to concerns raised and implementation of aspects of the plan, as demonstrated by the closure and reopening of Joffre Lakes Park this summer (<https://globalnews.ca/news/9962771/joffre-lakes-deal-first-nations/>).



Joffre Lakes Park (Photo: Fokke Baarssen)

Do you identify as LGBTQ+ and participate in outdoor activities?



This sociological research project is exploring the ways that LGBTQ+ people's identities shape how they experience outdoor activities & outdoor communities.

We are looking to interview people 19 years or older who currently live in Canada, identify as LGBTQ+, AND who participate in outdoor activities/sports (ex. hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, kayaking, mountain biking, skiing, etc.). Participants will take part in a 30-60 minute interview over Zoom.

If you are interested in participating, please scan the QR code to fill out the interest form or email: lgoodson@student.ubc.ca

Principal Investigator: Dr. Tony Silva
Undergraduate Student Researcher: Lillie Goodson
University of British Columbia



Plowing of Rubble Creek

Monika Bittel, FMCBC Director

On November 20th, 2023, Erik Smeets, Area Supervisor, Garibaldi South, BC Parks, confirmed arrangements will be in place for Miller Capilano to plow the Daisy Lake Road and about 70 parking stalls to provide winter access to the Rubble Creek trailhead this winter season. This will be fourth consecutive winter season that the popular Rubble Creek trailhead will be accessible to hikers, snowshoers and ski tourers.

Importance of Garibaldi Park to the non-motorized recreation community

Garibaldi Park is important to the non-motorized recreation community (hikers, snowshoers and back-country skiers) in southwest BC because it offers exceptional terrain and is free of snowmobiles. Rubble Creek is also the only reasonable access route to Varsity Outdoor Club's Roland Burton (aka Sphinx) hut, built in 1969 on the east side of Garibaldi Lake. Garibaldi Park's non-motorized designation (with the exception of the permitted heli-ski operation in the Spearhead Range) played a significant role in limiting the non-motorized recreation areas outside of Garibaldi Park in the Sea to Sky Land Resource Management Plan. While it may appear that self-propelled recreationists have "all of Garibaldi Park" to recreate in, the reality is that winter access is extremely limited, consisting of Diamond Head, Rubble Creek and some terrain adjacent to and accessible from Whistler/Blackcomb.

BC Parks secured funding to plow the road and upper parking lot at Rubble Creek

In August 2020, BC Parks staff secured funding to plow the road to the trailhead and upper parking lot at Rubble Creek for future winters. This was after many years of concerted advocacy work by the FMCBC, Varsity Outdoor Club, ACC-Whistler, Friends of Garibaldi Park Society and allies. This winter, there was concern that due to staffing issues, BC Parks would not have the resources to arrange for plowing. However, BC Parks' staff came through.



BC Parks' commitment to ensuring plowing services will be in place this winter is welcome news!

Important information to ensure safe access during the 2023/2024 winter season

The road to the Rubble Creek trailhead will be plowed intermittently. During storm cycles, do not assume the road is or will be plowed. At all times, Miller Capilano's first priority is to maintain highways and primary roads.

Even if plowed on your way to the trailhead, the road may be snowed in on your return. Be prepared for ice and snow. There will be narrow sections to navigate, with oncoming vehicles. Vehicles should be equipped with winter tires and chains and should have good clearance. Visitors should ensure their chains fit their vehicle tires and know how to use them.

Please keep the turn-off to the Sea to Sky Retreat Centre clear. The Retreat Centre is open year-round, so please do not obstruct their road entrance. Call protocol in the event of issues affecting road safety:

1. For urgent issues affecting road safety, please contact Miller Capilano directly at 604.892.1010. Please keep in mind that during winter storms Miller Capilano's first priority is to maintain highways and primary roads.

2. For non-urgent issues, please contact BC Parks staff as noted below, and BC Parks will connect with Miller Capilano as soon as possible:

Erik Smeets, Area Supervisor Garibaldi South
Email: erik.smeets@gov.bc.ca, Phone: 778-266-1273

Andrea Zemanek, Senior Park Ranger Garibaldi South Area
Email: andrea.zemanek@gov.bc.ca, Phone: 604-815-8535

Dylan Eyers, A/PPA Section Head sea to sky section
Email: dylan.eyers@gov.bc.ca, Phone: 604-741-7302

Please let the advocacy team know about your



experience accessing the trailhead – good or bad – and share any suggestions for improvement. Let us know the date of the trip and send us photos of the road conditions. Reports can be forwarded to the Garibaldi@fmcbc.groups.io



Photos:

1. (Opposite page) 2022 01 09 Challenging road conditions – Daisy Lake Road with no room to pass – B Leigh photo
2. (Opposite page) 2022 12 02 Snow accumulating on Daisy Lake road; Retreat Center turn-off on left – please keep clear – R Siddart photo
3. (This page) 2022 12 31 Plowed Daisy Lake Road
4. Rubble Creek Map (<http://www.donhuysmans.ca>)



What Hiking Means to Some

Story and photos by Mary Hof

Outdoor Club of Victoria, Island Mountain Ramblers, Alberni Valley Outdoor Club

Soon I will celebrate 30 years of hiking – there must be a reason why I love to hike! I get very enthusiastic about hiking, and maybe some of my enthusiasm can inspire you to get out a little more. Not sure if retirement has given me more or less time to hike. It seems our lives are always busy, but I make sure I fit hiking in.

I'm Mary Hof, and I live in the beautiful Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island. I'm part of four hiking clubs: Cowichan Hikers, Outdoor Club of Victoria, Island Mountain Ramblers, and Alberni Valley Outdoor Club. Oh, and I also hike with my Thursday ladies' group.

I know we all hike for different reasons, but one thing we can agree on is our love for nature. That good feeling after a long day outdoors, even if it's just a short walk, is something special. Hiking is like a peaceful escape from all the family stuff, community buzz, and world problems. It calms us down



and helps us focus on what's coming up next. Plus, it's good for staying fit, and it's not too expensive or complicated. Personally, I love a good challenge and the feeling of accomplishing something.

I'm really into the challenges set up by The Island Mountain Ramblers. In 2022, I got the Lifetime Objective award, which was a big deal for me. I'm only the ninth person to get it since 1987! This year, I snagged the Ridge Rambler award by hiking 10





ridges on Vancouver Island with the club. Check out our [website](#) – it might spark some inspiration. It's cool to add these achievements as badges on my backpack. Lots of folks are into these challenges, and it makes hiking even more fun.

This year, I took on another challenge with different hiking groups on Facebook – the 47-hike challenge in the Sooke Hills. Some of those peaks have no trails, just a bunch of bushwhacking. I've been hiking in the Sooke Hills for 30 years, and reaching the top of Mary's Peak (yes, named after me!) was awesome. It's the ninth-highest peak there.

We're lucky to live where we do and explore beautiful BC. This summer, I hiked in the Northern Selkirk Mountains. Taking a helicopter to the Durance Lake Lodge was a highlight, and I made memories that'll stick with me. Every hike, I give thanks for good health, the awesome friendships from 30 years of hiking, and for those who showed me the ropes. I'm thankful I can show others the way too and plan to keep leading hikes as long as I can.



FMCBC SPRING 2024

TRAIL MARKERS

Thanks to generous donors and FMCBC support,
we provided **4,700 trail markers** to member clubs at an **83% discount!**

We are looking for **partners** to help support our trail marker discounts to
member clubs in Spring 2024.

Help your fellow outdoorsperson with a donation today!

MOUNTAINCLUBS.ORG/DONATE



Trail Clean-up Events

Story and photos by Taryn Eyton
Friends of Garibaldi Park

Friends of Garibaldi Park ran several trail clean-up events in the park this summer. Our volunteers picked up trash and cleared brush on the Cheakamus Lake, Helm Creek, and Wedgemount Lake Trails. Our volunteers also assisted BC Parks with installing a new information kiosk at Elfin Lakes. The kiosk will house information panels designed in collaboration with the Squamish Nation that explain their cultural history in the area around Mount Garibaldi, called Nch'ay in S'wxwú7mesh sníchim (Squamish language).

Images show BC Parks rangers and volunteers working on the kiosk installation.



A 6-Day Wilderness Odyssey: Backpacking the Rainbow Range in Tweedsmuir Provincial Park

Story and photos by Li Wan

Pacific Northwest Outdoor Association

In the heart of British Columbia's Tweedsmuir Provincial Park lies the challenging yet breathtaking Rainbow Range, a wilderness area that promises a true backcountry experience. Our intrepid group, known as the Magnificent Six from the Pacific Northwest Outdoor Association (PNOA), embarked on a 6-day, 82 km backpacking adventure, facing unpredictable terrains and encountering the untamed beauty of nature.

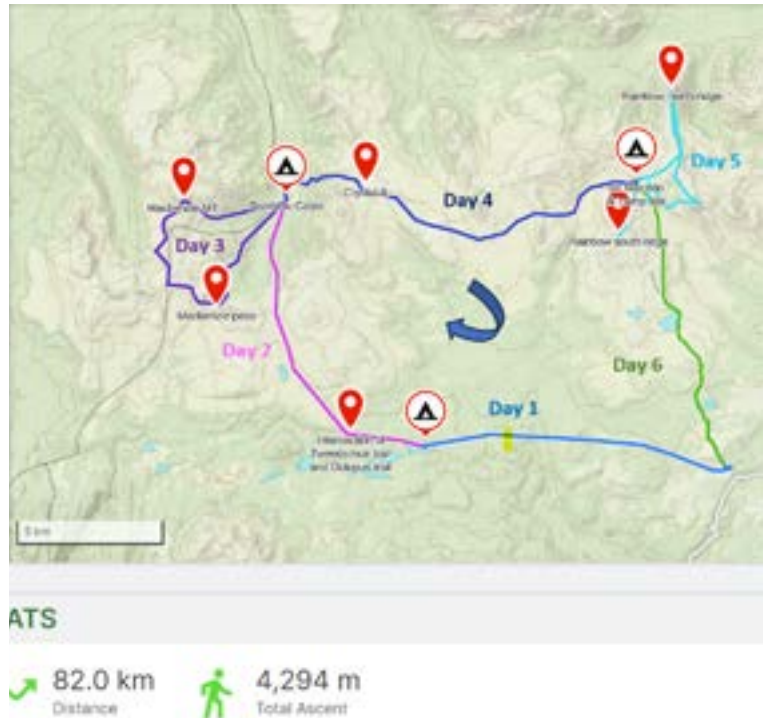


Day 1: Into the Wild at Octopus Lake

The journey began with a 16.2 km trek from the Rainbow Range Trailhead to Octopus Lake. Negotiating an old burnt forest, subalpine meadows, and marshy terrains, we overcame challenges such as elusive trail markers and fallen trees. Eventually, we stumbled upon a hidden gem - the Octopus Lake campsite, a 5-star Hilton of the wilderness, rewarding our perseverance.



PNOA trail detectives make their own paths



Day 2: Navigating Nature's Maze to Rainbow Cabin

On the second day, a 15.8 km hike led us to Rainbow Cabin. Facing the absence of clear trail markings, we relied on GPS maps and our wits. Despite encountering a rat metropolis in the cabin, we set up our tents outside, enjoying the comfort for cooking. The unpredictable trails and unexpected twists heightened the adventure.

Day 3: Mackenzie Heritage Trail and a Grizzly Encounter

Our third day involved tracing the historic Mackenzie Heritage Trail, covering 16.3 km. Amidst relentless rain, we encountered challenges such as bushwhacking and a lack of signage. A surprise grizzly bear encounter added a humbling and unforgettable dimension to our journey.



Day 4: Wilderness Odyssey to Even de Macedo Lakes

Day four proved to be the ultimate test, an 17.7 km odyssey with an elevation gain of 880 m. Navigating through thick alder bushes and unmarked trails, we reached Crystal Lake, a primitive backcountry campsite. After that, we had to carve out our own 10 km plus path from Crystal Lake to de Macedo Lakes in somewhere nowhere, our commitment to leaving no trace in this remote wilderness remained unwavering.

Day 5: Rainbow Range Day Hike

In an 11.5 km day hike, we ascended the Rainbow Range, encountering breathtaking landscapes. A close encounter with a grizzly bear and a surprise visit from mountain goats added a thrilling touch to our scenic wonders.

Day 6: Triumph and Reflection

The final day, covering 17.8 km, marked the triumphant return to Rainbow Trailhead. Conquering the South Ridge and navigating through challenging terrains, we celebrated the completion of our wild odyssey. Reflecting on over 95 km covered in six days, we marveled at the pristine beauty of Tweedsmuir Provincial Park.

Conclusion: A Wilderness Adventure to Remember

Our backpacking adventure in the Rainbow Range was not just a physical challenge; it was a test of resilience, navigation skills, and the ability to coexist with the untamed. The GPX files generated during our journey serve as a valuable resource for future trekkers, providing

insights into the pristine beauty of this remote Canadian wilderness. The Magnificent Six left no trace but carried back a wealth of photos and unforgettable memories from this truly wild experience.



A burst of color in the alpine tundra-fireweed's surprising blossom



PNOA Ascends in Historic Footsteps: Yuki and Li Wan on Mt. Macken-



Sky high food catch at horse camp: where



Our alpine dinning in below zero winds



Lost on Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail North of the Cabin

Some Good Reads

PEAK BROS.: A Whistler Comic Strip 1979-1992 (*By Gord "Rox" Harder*)

Written by Ron Dart

Chilliwack Outdoor Club, Alpine Club of Canada

Many are the books that have been published on the birth, growth and maturation of Whistler-Blackcomb. Many also are the multiple guide books for trekking, climbing, biking and huts-camping. The books are aplenty on ski runs worth the doing for all levels from beginners to advanced, off piste also on the agenda of many. But, the collection and publication by Whistler Museum of the whacky and on the edge ski antics of the Peak Bros. is more than worth the purchase and lively reads.

The graphic and short comic tales were published in The



Gord Harder from Whistler Museum

Whistler Answer and The Whistler Review—there are 21 short comics, often racy, ribald and tensions at the highest pitch between ski patrol and

a pushing the limits of on the slopes safety (and much else) of the Peak Bros.

Those who have some interest in the rawer, more unconventional and testing the boundaries phase of on and all the slopes life of Whistler being birthed will glean much from the Peak Bros.: A Whistler Strip 1979-1992. Obviously, much had occurred in Whistler life and growth before 1979 (and much afterwards) but the 21 snap shot comic strips offer the interested an animated gaze into a slice of Whistler life between 1979-1992. The black and white comic strips were published in



Rob 'Bino' Denham, one of the Peak Bros. windsurfing down Whistler Bowl. Photo courtesy of Dave and Laura Kinney.





Gordy 'SO', 'Rox' and 'Crazy Harry' all featured in the Peak Bros comics from [blog_whistlermuseum_](http://blog.whistlermuseum_)

memory of Gord "Rox" Harder (1957-2020) who was the "original Peak Bro. and creator of the Peak Bros. comics". The photo on the back cover of the comic booklet highlights Harder in colour with his rather dated thin skis, forest and blue ski in the background, snow at his feet, cigarette hanging out of his mouth ---all quite sedate and the opposite of the actual comics—the front cover is much more a taster and

teaser of what the reader is about to encounter in text and images, skiing ever the focus of the multiple melodramas and challenges between mountains, ski patrol and Peak Bros.

Those who have some minimal interest in the history of Whistler-Blackcomb and have read most of the books, booklets and much else on the mountaineering community will, decidedly and definitely, need

to purchase and enjoy the romp through Peak Bros.: A Whistler Comic Strip 1979-1992---the booklet can be purchased through Whistler Museum and the Museum offers, needless to say, a more comprehensive approach to the birth, growth, maturation and contemporary reality of Whistler culture and life.

Feeding the Rat

Written by Roger Chao

In the throbbing heart of chaos, where adrenaline cascades,
There lives a starving animal, a creature of the shades.
Its name is known by few who dare, the mind it's habitat,
For every soul who dares to delve, must learn to feed the rat.

This is not a beast of fur and claw, of whisker, tail, and fang,
No, this beast is born within, a silent, hungry pang.
It yearns for fire, for flight, for fear, for moments pure and raw,
For within the wild whirlwind's eye, it finds its sacred law.

The rat within craves not the scraps of ordinary days,
Not the idle chatter, nor the familiar, well-trodden ways.
It demands the sharp edge of adrenalin, slicing through the haze,
The thunderous roar of action, setting dormant hearts ablaze.

In the noise and rumble of the storm, it seeks the quiet core,
In the terror's tremble, it finds calm, and hungers all the more.
It craves the stillness found in speed, the peace in pounding hearts,
And in those moments, lost in time, the mundane world departs.

Feed the rat, the mantra hums, an echo in the soul,
A siren call to those who tire of life's incessant toll.
A remedy for weariness, for the weight of the passing days,
For those who wander the flatland, lost in the superficial haze.

To feed the rat is to quench the thirst, to heed the inner plea,
A feast of heightened sensation, a surrender to the spree.
In the quiet cocoon of fury, in the tranquil eye of fear,
Lie the morsels the rat savours, each moment crystal clear.

To feed the rat is prevention, a cure, a potent antidote,
Against the anemia of routine, against a life lived by rote.
Against the sickness of superficiality, the pallor of the mundane,
Against the dreariness of predictability, the shackle and the chain.

Each day we choose to feed the rat is a day lived in defiance,
Of the nebulous boundaries, of faceless compliance.
The rat refuses to be a slave to time, to live in bursts and spurts,
It craves the unrestrained, the open skies, the untrodden dirt.

Not all will understand this craving, this hunger raw and real,
It is a rhythm felt by few, an undercurrent only they can feel.
The ones who find their sustenance in the unpredictable, the wild,
The ones who reject the safety of the known, who long to be reconciled.

In their hearts beats the rat, robust, alive and free,
Unfettered by trivial pursuits, unburdened by decree.
The rat seeks no public praise, no validation in which to wallow,
It cares not for trends or crowd, it chooses its own path to follow.

The rat, if fed, is a faithful friend, a mirror of the self,

A measure of the soul within, not wealth or fame but health.
To know the rat is to know oneself, both the ebb and the surge,
To seek the summit and the depth, where fear and calm converge.

The rat in each of us is different, a personal compass of the mind,
A reflection of who we think we are, and the self, we seek to find.
It's revealed in times of pressure, in the struggles, we engage,
On the rock, in the water, through the air, its hunger sets the stage.

The rat, a duality within us, both of virtue and of vice,
Nourished, it guides us gladly, starved, it exacts its heavy price.
It reveals to us who we truly are, in moments raw and real,
The grit beneath the gloss, the strength within the ordeal.

Each of us harbors the rat, a part of us untamed,
It craves the rush of the cliff edge, the challenge yet unnamed.
Some will find their rat in mountains, where the snow meets sky,
Others in the silent depths, where the deep-sea creatures lie.

It's a siren call to sensation, to moments stark and pure,
A hunger for total focus, for feelings raw and sure.
Those moments when all fades away, except the task at hand,
These are the times we live for, which only the passionate understand.

It's in the heart of challenge, in the face of strife and toil,
That the rat reveals our inner selves, in this terrestrial coil.
To quench the thirst of this inner beast, to feel its wild elation,
Is to truly know oneself, in joyous revelation.

The moments of pure clarity, when senses are unfazed,
Are the feast that nourishes the rat, that sets the soul ablaze.
These are the moments that matter, the peak of the ascent,
The fragments of eternity, where meaning is intent.

To feed the rat is to delve deep, to confront the dark abyss,
To explore the breadth of the self, to court the serpent's hiss.
Through suffering, strife, and challenge, the depths of self unfurl,
An understanding profound, a rare and precious pearl.

So, feed your rat, let it feast on life, on fear, thrill, and delight,
Let it guide you through the storm, to the calm and quiet light.
For to starve the rat is to starve the self, of the zest, the verve, the spark,
In feeding the rat, we feed our souls, a beacon in the dark.

To snuff out life, not knowing this truth, the potential left untapped,
Is the greatest sorrow one could bear, in life's intricate, endless lap.
So let us strive, let us quest, let us dare to feed the rat,
For in the echoes of its satisfaction, we find where our true selves are at.

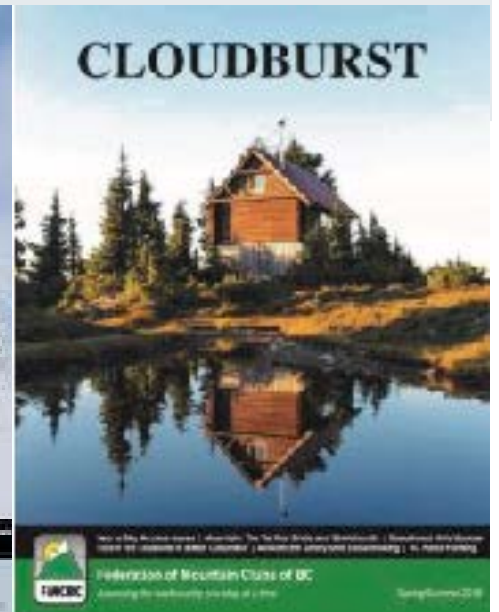
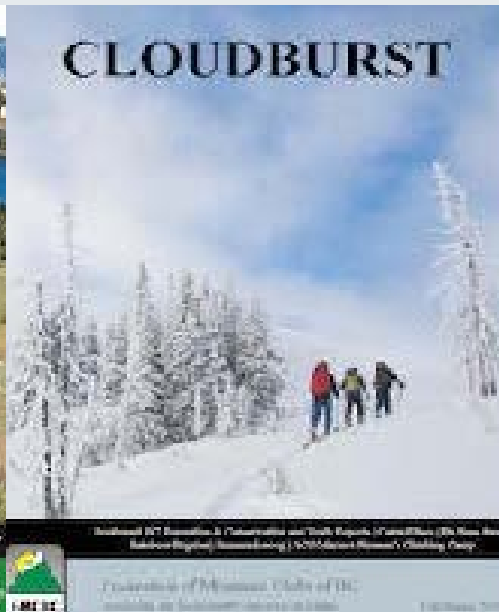
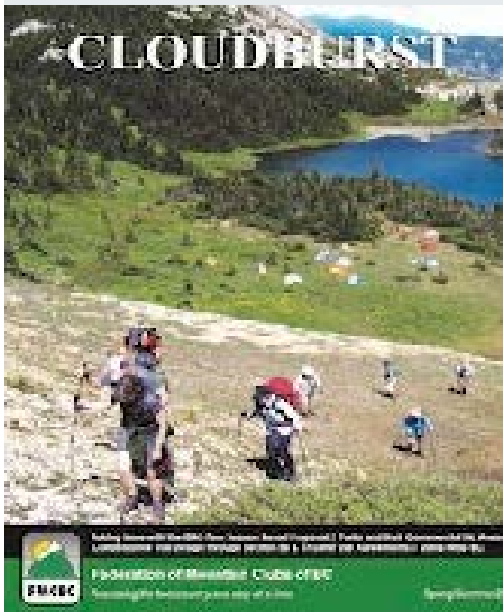


Roger Chao is an avid nature enthusiast, conservationist and lover of all things outdoors. Since a young age he has always been inspired by the concept of 'Feeding the Rat' which has lead him on numerous adventures and expeditions around the globe. Currently he spends more time reminiscing and writing as an armchair rat-feeder but is hoping this balance can change soon!

Cloudburst Cover Photo Contest

We're looking for Spring/Summer
action shots for our next cover of
Cloudburst!

Email your entries to
cloudburst@mountainclubs.org
by March 31, 2024



Get involved. Take action.

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

There are many ways to show your support and make a difference:

- *Join a member club or talk to your current club about becoming a member*
- *Make a donation to the FMCBC*
- *Volunteer your time by joining a regional committee*
- *Show your support by becoming an Individual or Associate Member*
- *Visit our website to learn about the latest issues affecting BC's backcountry and find out how to help*

Learn more at: mountainclubs.org