

# CLOUDBURST

— SPRING/SUMMER 2023 —



**Celebrating BC Trails Day | 50 Years of the Fed | Insurance Waiver Best Practices  
| Member Club Grants | A Bike Trip to Victoria | Hemingway on the Slopes**

**Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia**

*Accessing the backcountry one step at a time*



# CLOUDBURST

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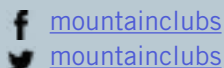
The Federation of Mountain  
Clubs of British Columbia



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## Cover Photo

Photo by Bengül Kurtar.

“A hike with North Shore Hikers in Golden  
Ears Park in Oct 2022.”

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

Cloudburst Spring/Summer 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 Spring/Summer 2023

## Liz Bicknell, President

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Welcome to Spring. It's been chilly but new shoots are sprouting and have already blossomed in Victoria – a sign that summer is not too far off.

As President of the FMCBC I continue my outreach work to build relations with our Indigenous neighbours. In the Victoria and Sooke areas and it is a challenge to identify lands and come to agreement on the transfer of those lands as Treaty elements. Specifically the inclusion of Sooke Mountain Provincial Park as Public Treaty Land is a welcome development. I have had the opportunity to attend several of the recent open houses in support of the Te'mexw Treaty and wrote to the Chiefs and the Provincial Government with FMCBC's support of this process. For more information or to view detailed maps of the Treaty Lands visit: [engage.gov.bc.ca/temexw-treaty-negotiations](https://engage.gov.bc.ca/temexw-treaty-negotiations).

I am part of the advocacy work the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC is doing. In February, along with ORC and others, I attended several meetings with provincial Ministers and Ministries advocating for more funds for trails and outdoor recreation. It is great to see some of our primary requests directly reflected in the 2023 BC Budget, for example:

- Support for routine and critical repair and maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities, including trails.
- More staff, including rangers and recreation crews, for BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC.
- Improve inclusion and accessibility in BC Parks.
- \$49 million in additional funding to maintain and upgrade forest service roads.
- The single largest investment in building active transportation networks.
- \$100 million for the Watershed Security Fund.

Paula McGahon, FMCBC's Treasurer, and I attended an excellent workshop on Governance Essentials, led by Don McCreesh. I would be delighted to provide the slides to any club that's interested. It behooves every organization to look at continuous improvement, to ask questions, and be curious about our roles. For example, how much energy and time is being devoted to a particular task? What

are we bringing to the board? Are we providing good service to our member clubs? What new ideas are we bringing to the board about improving our service? What skills is our board currently lacking? These are all the questions that we, and member clubs, should be asking. For more information on this, please see my article on [Governance](#) included below.

In keeping with best business practices, FMCBC has requested insurance policy assessments from four companies and are reviewing two competitive proposals. FMCBC reviews its insurance every four years. We do not anticipate major increases in our insurance premiums after last year's substantial increase.

FMCBC is hosting an in-person AGM at the University of British Columbia campus on Saturday, October 21st, 2023. I look forward to meeting some of you and to hearing your ideas as to how we at FMCBC can work more closely with individual clubs and how we can improve our service to you.

Liz  
President, FMCBC

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**FMCBC SPRING 2023**

# TRAIL MARKERS

THANKS TO GENEROUS DONORS AND FMCBC SUPPORT,  
WE PROVIDED **4,700 TRAIL MARKERS**  
TO FMCBC MEMBER CLUBS AT AN **83% DISCOUNT!**

WE ARE THRILLED TO PROVIDE THIS TRAIL BUILDING ASSISTANCE TO  
OUTDOOR CLUBS IN BC.

SEE YOU ON THE TRAILS!





# FMCBC MEMBER CLUB GRANTS

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Since 2012, FMCBC Member Club Grants have been used to fund trail upgrades, trail extensions, backcountry huts, equipment purchases, educational events, community events and so much more!

## 2023 GRANT RECIPIENTS

**Mountain Mentors**

**\$500 • Training costs for mentors**

**Pacific Northwest Outdoor Association**

**\$500 • 2-day trail clearing trip**

**Vancouver Island Trail Association**

**\$1000 • Travel expenses for trail work**

**Skeena Climbing Society**

**\$400 • Seed money for indoor climbing space**

**UBC Varsity Outdoor Club (Vancouver)**

**\$1700 • Rebuild of Brian Waddington Hut roof**

**Prince George Backcountry Recreation Society**

**\$500 • Purchase of trail maintenance tools**

**Apex Community Association**

**\$400 • Purchase of trail building tools**



### FMCBC and ACC-VI at Outdoor Recreation Film Event

In the spirit of organization partnership, FMCBC president Liz Bicknell and Manager Tori Escallier took part in an engaging and important event. On January 29, 2023, the Alpine Club of Canada - Vancouver Island Section hosted a screening of some of the best videos from the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival at UVic's Farquhar Auditorium.

This event was both a major fundraiser and an opportunity for outdoor recreation groups to promote their programs and initiatives to the wider public. The show attracted a wide cross-section of the local outdoor and conservation community and proved to be a full house!

It was an entertaining evening of new connections with outdoor recreation enthusiasts who were eager to learn about the FMCBC and member clubs.

Together, we are stronger!





# GOVERNANCE TIPS FOR NONPROFITS

As our demographics change, our members are aging out. Now is the time for clubs to engage in succession planning – we need to find new blood to continue our advocacy for non-motorized access to trails and backcountry.

## Organization Documents

Look at your Governance Structure to ensure you have an up-to-date Constitution and Bylaws in accordance with the BC Societies Act.



## Board Composition

Every board should have a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary to form the core Executive. Other Director roles could include: marketing/communications, Indigenous Relations, legal, Membership/Volunteer Coordinator, Diversity, or Equity and Inclusion Coordinator.

## Executive Job Descriptions

Job descriptions should accompany all Director positions so everyone has a clear understanding of what their role is on a working board.



Contact FMCBC President, Liz Bicknell, at [president@mountainclubs.org](mailto:president@mountainclubs.org) for more information about succession planning and to receive slides from a governance workshop.

# FMCBC Insurance Waiver FAQ's

Tori Escallier, FMCBC Administration

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FMCBC Member Clubs have the option of participating in the FMCBC's Insurance Program, which includes Third Party Commercial General Liability (CGL) insurance and Directors and Officers (D&O) Liability insurance. All club members and trip participants need to sign a waiver to help protect the FMCBC, its member clubs, their club members and all FMCBC and club volunteers, leaders and instructors.

Clubs participating in our Commercial General Liability coverage must use the FMCBC Universal Waiver available from [fmcdbc@mountainclubs.org](mailto:fmcdbc@mountainclubs.org).

Some common questions regarding waivers:

- **Which waiver do I use?**

Clubs should choose the waiver that covers all the activities in which their club participates, but not one that covers activities their club does not do. The waivers can be downloaded, printed, and used as is, or clubs can request to have their name included at the top. Email your request to us directly and we should have it back to you within a few days.

New! The FMCBC now offers e-Waivers for each of the printable waivers. Get your club members to complete the form digitally.

- **Who needs to sign waivers?**

All club members and trip participants need to sign a waiver to help protect the FMCBC, its member clubs, their club members and all FMCBC and club volunteers, leaders and instructors. Note: Minors cannot legally sign waivers. Please see the following section for more details on how to handle participants under the age of 19.

- **Do minors need to sign waivers?**

Minors (under the age of 19) cannot legally sign

a waiver and their parent/guardian cannot sign on their behalf to waive any claims. The minor and his/her parent/guardian should instead sign the Acknowledgement of Risk (AR) form. Clubs need to make it clear to their trip leaders that neither a waiver nor an AR form will protect them in the case of a lawsuit from a minor. Both a waiver and AR form are ways to minimize the risk, but the risk cannot be eliminated. Therefore, trip leaders should be made aware if a minor has signed up to participate in their trip, and the trip leader should have the right to refuse allowing a minor to participate if he/she feels that there is too much risk involved. Sign the AR on PAPER ONLY!

- **How often do waivers need to be signed?**

The FMCBC's Universal Waivers can be signed annually or on a trip-by-trip basis. Technically, there is no expiry on the waiver, but we recommend having members sign it annually when they renew their membership. Signing annually ensures that all current members have a signed waiver on file with the club, shows that a club has good risk management processes in place, and reminds the member that he/she has waived their right to make a claim against the FMCBC and member club.

- **How far in advance do waivers need to be signed by members and guests?**

A copy of the waiver should be posted on your website for members and guests to review before participating in a trip. It is not advisable to surprise trip participants with a waiver they have never seen at the trailhead and which they are required to sign if they want to participate. This situation would reduce the strength of the waiver in court.

Best practices for use and storage of online and paper waivers can be obtained from the FMCBC. For more information, please send us an email at [fmcdbc@mountainclubs.org](mailto:fmcdbc@mountainclubs.org).





# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

FOR 50 YEARS, THE FMCBC HAS BEEN THE VOICE OF  
NON-MOTORIZED OUTDOOR RECREATION IN BC

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## CELEBRATE WITH US!

FMCBC MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US AT OUR  
*ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21ST, 2023**

IN -PERSON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, VANCOUVER BC

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TO BE INCLUDED IN FUTURE UPDATES VISIT US -  
**[MOUNTAINCLUBS.ORG/AGM2023](https://MOUNTAINCLUBS.ORG/AGM2023)**

# 50 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO BC'S BACKCOUNTRY

## 1980'S

The FMCBC initiates the Adopt-A-Trail program for trail maintenance. The FMCBC receives thousands of dollars of government grants in the late 1980s and early 1990s to do trail maintenance.

The FMCBC writes a trail maintenance guide and starts the TBAM program (Trail Building and Maintenance).

## 1972

The Mountain Access Society formally incorporates as the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC. The newly formed FMCBC holds a major conference at UBC on access to the backcountry.

## 1982

Canada West Mountain School (CWMS) is started by the FMCBC to provide high-quality backcountry courses to its members using highly trained guides. CWMS is no longer owned by the FMCBC but it continues to provide many guiding and instructional services.

## 1987

The FMCBC assists local clubs to raise funds to buy – and hold – 27 parcels of land near the Smoke Bluffs rock climbing area to prevent further housing developments which would restrict access to this very popular area. The FMCBC continues to hold the land in trust for the benefit of the climbing community.

## 2012

In 2012, the FMCBC begins a grant program to support projects initiated by our member clubs. Unless specified otherwise, all donations to the FMCBC now go directly into the Member Club Grant fund, providing a great way for organizations and individuals to give back to our trails and the outdoor recreation community.

## 2023 AND BEYOND

The FMCBC continues to advocate for

- Right to Roam legislation
- Increased funding to BC Parks
- Recreation and conservation
- Trails and access



### SWBC Recreation & Conservation Committee Report

By Monika Bittel, Chair

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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.

#### **BC Funding Commitments Benefiting Outdoor Recreation Interests**

In June 2022, the FMCBC, Caledonia Ramblers (Prince George), Outdoor Recreation Council of BC (ORCBC) and other organizations made submissions to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Governance for greater funding for BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) to allow both agencies to expand public recreation opportunities, restore long-neglected trails and recreation facilities and support volunteer groups; and, for funding to maintain critical roads to access parks and recreation sites. In the fall, the Select Standing Committee issued their report, which included recommendations for further investments in BC Parks and RSTBC to address gaps in maintenance and staff, improve the accessibility of outdoor recreation and build the capacity of volunteers. In

February 2023, the provincial government announced a further \$40M to be spread over three years to fund routine and critical repairs and maintenance and ensure more parks meet basic accessibility requirements. The February 2023 budget also provides an additional \$35M in operating funding and \$14M in capital funding to maintain and upgrade forest service roads, which are essential to access many remote rural and Indigenous communities, as well as many provincial parks and recreation sites.

In June 2023, the FMCBC will again be making submissions to the Select Standing Committee to ensure long-term stable funding for our provincial parks, recreational assets and access road. To help build our case, the FMCBC will be reaching out to member clubs for examples of provincial parks and recreation sites where trails, campsites and other facilities could be expanded, enhanced or upgraded; and, for examples of access roads that need maintenance or upgrades.

#### **New Vision for How the Public Service Manages Public Recreation in BC**

With BC Parks and RSTBC now under the Ministry of

Environment and Climate Change Strategy, the Minister is seeking to develop a new vision and strategic plan for the newly created BC Parks, Recreation Sites and Trails Division. John Hawkings, formerly the executive Director for RSTBC, has been appointed the Executive Lead for Recreation Strategy and Service Transformation (RSST). After a new shared vision and strategic plan is developed for the new Division, Mr. Hawkings will focus on organization, design and implementation to support the new vision and service delivery. While integration of BC Parks and RSTBC is his primary focus, there may be some level of integration of other departments and agencies, whose policies and mandates are often implemented with little consideration of their impact on public recreation and access.

In late December, the FMCBC responded to ORCBC's invitation to provide initial feedback on issues and opportunities that we would like the Minister to consider as the Ministry moves forward with the RSST project. The FMCBC provided our perspective on what we see as the top challenges within the public sector in managing parks





View from Mt. Seymour - Mt. Baker in the distance. Photo from [www.lynnncanyon.ca](http://www.lynnncanyon.ca).

and public outdoor recreation and the top challenges for the organized recreation sector and recreating public to be addressed by the new Division. Lack of staff, resources and annual budgets were a recurring theme underlying many members' frustration with the public service's inability to serve the public's outdoor recreational interests, address climate change, manage and maintain access roads and support volunteers that are integral to the maintenance of much of BC's outdoor recreation infrastructure. The lack of a "whole government approach" to managing and delivering recreation opportunities was identified as a major hinderance as much volunteer time is spent navigating multiple Ministries, agencies and departments

which have jurisdiction over matters relevant to the recreating public. The lack of public input and accountability in all phases of decision-making about public outdoor recreation is another major frustration for members. Integration of BC Parks and RSTBC into one Division offers the potential for eliminating some redundancies, alignment of policies and mandates and improving delivery of services to the recreating public.

At a recent presentation to ORCBC members, Mr. Hawkings recognized that ORCBC and members have advocated for a province-wide outdoor recreation strategy since the 1970s. He identified several changes since then which have made today's environment increasingly

complex.

Some of the changes that RSST will have to address are:

- Co-management of parks and recreations sites with First Nations. The scope of such co-management arrangements will vary to reflect the diversity of First Nations and interests.
- While public interest in outdoor recreation has always been high, changes in use patterns and demographics have made the 1990s recreation model obsolete. For example, data has identified day-use activities at or near lakes as the number one outdoor activity. Also, greater participation and interest in outdoor recreation by people with disabilities require parks and recreation sites to become more accessible and



**Perimeter Trail, Mt Seymour Provincial Park, showing serious long-term neglect. Photos provided by Monika Bittel**

inclusive.

- The recent heat dome and atmospheric river events have exposed the vulnerability of many parks, recreation sites, trails and infrastructure. The impacts of climate change on wildlife and ecosystems must also be considered in the management of parks, recreation sites, trails and recreational activities.
- With resource roads providing critical access to many parks and recreation sites, maintenance for recreational purpose needs to be addressed.

While the two-year timeline for the RSST project is daunting, with more staff and resources coming on line, Mr. Hawkings anticipates there will be more opportunities for the

recreation sector to contribute to the development of the new vision and strategic plan for BC Parks, Recreation Sites and Trails Division.

### **Recreation Facility Plans for Mount Seymour, Golden Ears and Cultus Lake**

In response to BC Parks' mandate to expand outdoor recreation opportunities in our provincial parks, BC Parks is undertaking recreation facility planning in Mount Seymour, Golden Ears and Cultus Lake Provincial Parks. These three parks were selected due to their high visitation levels and need for facility improvements. Stakeholders and the public will be invited to contribute to the planning process through the

project website, stakeholder workshops, surveys and mapping tools.

A Recreation Facility Plan for Mount Seymour is a welcome initiative, since much of Mount Seymour trails and infrastructure is in serious need of upgrades and the park management planning process, commenced in 2020, has stalled due to staffing changes and vacancies in BC Parks. When completed, the Recreation Facility Plan will inform the park management plan.

In early April, representatives from FMCBC and several member clubs - ACC-Vancouver, North Shore Hikers, Varsity Outdoor Club-UBC and North Vancouver



Outdoor Club – joined other organizations at a stakeholder workshop for Mount Seymour Park. During the Zoom workshop the group identified strengths, challenges and barriers, objectives for new facilities and ideas for the future. Feedback at the workshop included prioritizing expansion of trailhead access points, creation of directional loop trails (i.e., a loop trails for Mystery Lake and for De Pencier Bluffs) and trail connectors to expand the capacity of the current trail system and reduce wear and tear of the trail system; facilitating access for people without cars by upgrading the park road to make it more bike friendly and by developing connector trails from the park entrance to the upper trail system for those accessing the park via transit; earlier gate openings to expand access, particularly in winter; and, improving parking for visitors and providing more accessible washrooms.

The timeline for completing the Mt Seymour Recreation Facility Plan is tight. After stakeholder and community engagement ends in early May, BC Parks plans to release draft recommendations for stakeholder review in Summer 2023. A draft report and recommendations will be shared in Summer 2023, followed by the release of the final report in Fall/Winter 2023.



Nairn Falls near Pemberton.

Photo taken at 9 am on June 26, 2022 by Doug Wylie. This was part of his research into the possibility of connecting the Sea to Sky Trail south of Nairn Falls using the east side of the Green River instead of following the proposed route near Hwy 99. The FMCBC sent a letter of support for this idea to the SLRD, however, they decided to go ahead with their original plan.



# Trails

## Trails Update

Guest Author - Sri Chaitanya, UBC VOC Trails Coordinator  
Varsity Outdoor Club - Vancouver

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The UBC Varsity Outdoor Club actively maintains three trails: The Phelix Hut Trail, The Brew Hut Trail and The Harrison Hut Trail. The trails to Phelix and Brew are frequently used and in decent condition. A couple of work hikes in the fall of 2022 pushed back overgrowing weeds in certain sections. Both trails are well-marked and suitable for both summer and winter access.

In October 2022, we cleared significant sections of the new Harrison Hut trail. We pushed overgrowth a couple of meters out, thus widening the trail. We also fixed the trail markers leading from the valley in the old trail while redoing all trail markers from the new trailhead to the Hut.

We don't expect the FSR which passes through the landslide area to be maintained for more than a few years due to safety, hot springs and logging concerns. This will be an issue in a decades time for access to the hut. In the future, we hope to find strategies that allow more club members and non-motorized recreationists to enjoy Harrison Hut and the surrounding area.

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Photos by Mike Nash

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words.

These images of the Viking Meadows in Sugarbowl-Grizzly Den Provincial Park, east of Prince George show the stark difference between last year's very cool, late spring and this year's very warm, early spring.

I can only recall one otherspring during my 45 years living in Prince George when the alpine flowers were in bloom in earlymid June. It's a different perspective of this year's unusually warm spring to add to the ubiquitous wildfire images.

– Mike Nash, Caledonia Ramblers

### Province of BC Gives \$10 Million Grant to ORCBC for Endowment Fund

Liz Bicknell, FMCBC President

On May 1, 2023, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy announced that they are giving a \$10-million grant to the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC to help the charity set up a new endowment fund – the Outdoor Recreation fund of BC.

Starting next spring, volunteer outdoor recreation groups, Indigenous Nations and local governments will benefit from grants coming out of the new \$10-million endowment fund managed by the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC. Volunteer groups dedicated to building and maintaining nature trails and outdoor recreation sites will soon have access to a steady stream of funding for their projects. FMCBC was proud to be part of this historic announcement. I have invited the Outdoor Recreation Council to give a presentation on the endowment

fund at our Oct 21, AGM, to be held in person in Vancouver. Please mark the date in your calendar as you don't want to miss this opportunity.

Front row, L to R:

Aman Singh, Parliamentary Secretary, Ximena Diaz, ORC Communications, Louise Pederson, ORC, BC Environment Minister George Heyman, Paula Amos, Indigenous Tourism, Andrew Pape-Salmon, Southern VI Nature Trail Society

Back row, L to R

Kim Reeves, Four Wheel Drive Association, Liz Bicknell, FMCBC, Tennessee Trent, BC Govt, John Hawkings, BC Govt.





# *Congrats!* **DAVE KING**

**CITIZEN OF THE YEAR  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**



PRINCE GEORGE  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
all for our community.

Dave has provided volunteer service for decades in Prince George and has shown exemplary leadership through his tireless work on trail building and maintenance. Dave has served the FMCBC and his local club, the Caledonia Ramblers, tirelessly and with great heart.

Thank you and CONGRATULATIONS,  
DAVE!



# Dave King - Lifetime Achievement Award

Written by Mark Nielson, photo provided by Mark Nielson  
Caledonia Ramblers

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Dave King, long-time member of the Caledonia Ramblers and a familiar face to the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMC-BC) has been named a Citizen of the Year in his home community.

The Prince George Community Foundation has bestowed the honour on Dave for his contributions to outdoor recreation in B.C.'s Central Interior - and they are many.

If you are a member of the Ramblers, it is only a matter of time before you run into Dave. Along with regularly leading weekend hikes and snowshoes, Dave has organized and led the club's annual weeklong trip for many years. Held every August, the trips have taken club members to destinations across northern B.C. - from Kakwa to Edziza to the Rainbow range in Tweedsmuir Provincial Park to name a few.

Dave is a prolific maintainer and builder of trails in this region. He was instrumental in the creation and construction of a series of well-used trails in the Robson Valley east of Prince George. Among his more recent achievements, he organized installation of cedar plankway

along a marshy section of the popular Viking Ridge trail in the valley. And when he is not hiking, he is often out with a chainsaw clearing blown down trees.

Along with Nowell Senior, who was named a Citizen of the Year a few years ago, Dave played a key role in the creation of the Ancient Forest/Chun T'oh Whudujut Provincial Park, and in building the foundations for a universal boardwalk that provides wheelchair access to the park.

With help from Bob Nelson, who recently passed away, Dave has edited, printed and distributed the Central Interior Trail Guides - one for Prince George and area and one for the Robson Valley. They have become a mainstay for anyone interested in exploring the region's backcountry.

Dave has been heavily involved in the FMCBC as a director for many years. He has kept the Ramblers informed on important developments and provided valuable information and advice on how to better outdoor recreation across the province.



June 3rd, 2023

# BC Trails Day

The Tla'amin Nation, qathet Parks and Wilderness Society (qPAWS), and the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC (ORCBC) team up again for a Nature Hike on BC Trails Day. They welcomed community members for an introduction to the Tla'amin Trails Network, commemorating this annual event



FMCBC Director, Adam Steele, and the UBC Varsity Outdoor Club were out on Trails Day doing outhouse work at their Julian Harrison Memorial Hut.



The Penticton Outdoors Club held their third annual species count



FMCBC director, Judy Carlson, and the Alberni Valley Outdoor Club celebrated with a trail pruning hike on one of the trails in their local Community Forest.





Friends of Garibaldi Park held a trail maintenance day on the first section of the Cheakamus Lake Trail on June 3 for BC Trails Day.

Twenty-five volunteers came out to help with brush trimming, culvert clearing and garbage pick up. Many of the volunteers came from the Pacific Northwest Outdoor Club as part of that club's first ever trail maintenance event.

FMCBC Director, Monika Bittel, was also pleased to participate in this event.



FMCBC President, Liz Bicknell, out on the trails during her cross-Canada travels!



The Trans Canada Trail up the Chilliwack Lake Rd saw over 40 Chilliwack Outdoor Club members commemorate BC Trails Day. Two teams led by member volunteers hiked towards each other starting from Riverside Campground and Thurston Meadows. Along the way were clues for how to find hidden caches full of hiking prizes, and guides provided history and stewardship information.





### North Shore Hiker's Bike trip to Victoria for mouth-watering Pizza!

Story and photos by Ye Chu  
North Shore Hikers

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**Saturday, February 11, 2023**

**It was a day of magic, a day of wonderful surprises, a day that would leave you smiling ear-to-ear for years to come.**

**Our 7 am ferry suddenly slowed down. The captain announced, "It is your lucky day folks. We have pods of Orca whales on both the starboard and port side of the ferry". Half the ship's passengers – including me! – ran to the stern. Two pods of orca whales swam in unison on either side of the ferry.**

**I have never seen orca whales in my entire life, except in the movie "Free Willy". Their towering dorsal fins sliced in and out of the sea. A passenger told me that this J-Pod crew regularly hangs out in winter between Mayne and Galiano islands. She pointed out a rocky spot on Mayne Island where the winter salmon are plentiful. It is the favourite fishing spot for the local First Nations.**

**As we ate our traditional ferry breakfast, we heard a "Hello!" and I looked up to see my oldest and dearest friend from Toronto. It was**



**a crazy surprise. He is the only friend in the world who has met four generations of my family. Can this day get any better?**

**Well of course it could! Another North Shore Hiker emailed me the night before saying she hoped to meet us and guide us to Victoria. Oh, joy! She is a wealth of knowledge and knows the historical significance of almost every hike and bike ride on Vancouver Island.**

**Our guide for the day, she pointed out the significance of the Blenkinsop Trestle, Lockside trail, Swan Lake as "the First Auspicious Feng Shui site in Canada", and the famous "Old Farmer Roy statue". She showed us glacial terminal moraines that hold sandy beaches on one side and great hiking trails on the other, and indigenous art by the Songhees people. We saw the grand BC Legislative buildings, the coastal bike trail along the shoreline of Victoria, and over to cliffs hiding salty sandy beaches that are a hidden gem for private picnics – and all before noon!**



We biked at an average speed of 10 km per hour and it took us 4 hours and 17 minutes to get to our final destination (43.06 km): Prima Strada Pizzeria in Cook Street Village, across from Beacon Hill Park.

Meeting us at the pizzeria was a fellow cyclist who worked on my Mariposa bike in 1984 before my big bike race from Paris to Nice. He had moved to Sidney from New Jersey with his family, and had texted me at 2 am to say he and his wife would be joining us for pizza – more magic!

My Napoli-certified “Vera” pizza was mouth-watering and delicious. It had slices of garlic and spicy pepperoni on a thin crust that was cooked in 90 seconds in a 900-degree Napoli-made pizza oven. In fact, it was too much good food! Maybe our stomachs were full after visiting Adrienne’s tea garden at Michell’s and Mattick’s farms for elevenses.

We jumped back on our bikes to catch the 5 o’clock ferry and as we got closer to the Johnson Bridge, heard a loud announcement. The draw bridge was opening and all bikers and pedestrians must wait. An unforeseen, but delightful, delay in our tight schedule. It was an amazingly engineered structure to watch open and close.

We hustled off to catch our ferry with a laugh, peddling wildly to make up for lost time. At one point, my forearms started to sweat and



my forearms never sweat! The odometer fluctuated between 19.3 km to 25.75 km/hour. One cyclist said he had reached his limit but kept peddling – we didn’t need a rescue line just yet.

Another cyclist was riding a fancy ultra-light Niner gravel bike and I swear she could coast uphill! I was peddling my heart out and it was exhilarating. We howled with joy. It was now 3:30 pm and my Apple watch decided to expire at 68 km. We had 12+ more km to go. No time to drink or pee, we just flew like the wind. We got to the Swartz Bay ticket booth at 4 pm – we made it!

I loved biking on Vancouver Island. It was the fastest ride I have ever led for North Shore Hikers and so much fun with a great group of seasoned riders. Two of us will be partaking in my North Shore Hiker’s self-guided Italian bike trip in May 2023. This gives me great confidence that 70 km daily is very doable and it can be quite fun with a group of lively cyclists. The key is to be kind, laugh in moments of stress, leave space for magic, and be positive that it will all work out.





## Brian Waddington Memorial Hut Repairs

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The UBC Varsity Outdoor Club continues to plan for its roof renewal project at the Brian Waddington Memorial Hut. The VOC has been overwhelmed by the community's generosity since launching a fundraiser with the FMCBC's help, and is looking forward to commencing the project on July 29th. Donations can be made [here](#) (selecting "Brian Waddington Hut project" under the "fund" dropdown), and parties interested in learning more can read about the project from the VOC's own [press release](#), as well as [this article](#) published by Pique



Photo by Evan Wong, courtesy of the VOC



Photo by Ryan MacDonald, courtesy of the VOC



## Some Good Reads

### Ernest Hemingway: Ski Nomad

Written by Ron Dart  
Chilliwack Outdoor Club, Alpine Club of Canada

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*“There were no ski lifts from Schruns and no funiculars. You climbed on foot carrying your skis and higher up, where the snow was too deep, you climbed on seal skins that you attached to the bottoms of the skis. At the tops of the mountain valleys, there were big Alpine huts....*

*The most famous of these high-base huts were the Lindauer-Hutte, the Madlener-Haus and the Wiesbadener-Hutte.”*

*– Taken from ‘A Moveable Feast’, Ernest Hemingway’s rich memoir of getting started in Paris in the 1920s.*

*Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) lived a life of diverse adventures. When he was a young man, he took many ski trips with his 1st wife, Hadley Richardson. Hemingway had a tangential engagement in WWI. He served as an ambulance driver and infantryman with the Italian army. Given the fact WWI ended in 1918, Hemingway’s involvement was short-lived –he was only 19 years of age at the time.*

*There was the “Beat Generation” that emerged after WWII, but there was the “Lost Generation” that came into being after WWI. Ernest Hemingway was a leading member of the “Lost Generation” and this short essay*

*will reflect on his younger skiing years – rarely embodied in the “Beat Generation”.*

*From 1921-1926 Hemingway, his wife Hadley Richardson, and their son Bumby, lived in Paris. When Paris winters were wet and cold, they took to Schruns in Austria to ski (the winters of 1924-1925 and 1925-1926). When in Paris, Hemingway and Hadley hobnobbed with the literary high mucky-mucks such as Stein, Pound, Fitzgerald, Ford, and others, but it was to the winter beauty of the Austrian Alps that they often turned to for oxygen of the soul and literary inspiration.*

*Hemingway’s breakthrough novel, The Sun Also Rises, was written in drafts when in Schruns. In the final chapter of A Moveable Feast, Hemmingway writes “We loved the Vorarlberg and we loved Schruns. We would go there about Thanksgiving time and stay until nearly Easter.”*

*Ernest and Hadley began their skiing days together in Switzerland and Cortina d’Ampezzo in the Dolomites when Bumby was near birth. But it was to the spacious Montafon Valley in Austria where Ernest and Hadley turned to ski when Paris was*



Hemingway and family at Schruns, 1925. Photo from Wikipedia.

*not pleasant to live in. Schruns and Tchagguns were their preferred ski treks.*

*Ernest was in his mid-20s and Hadley was in her early 30s at the peak of their ski years. The Hotel Taube in Schruns was their winter home. Hadley and Ernest were fortunate that Walter Lent had started a ski school in the area. Lent was a disciple and friend of the ski pioneer Hannes Schneider (1890-1955). Lent took them to the high glaciers and superb ski*



Ernest Hemingway skiing in Schruns, Austria 1927. Photo from Wikipedia.

*runs – no lifts in those days! They trekked to the high alpine huts and experienced scenic delights, Madlener-Haus a favourite ski trip.*

*Many of the Austrian huts mentioned by Hemingway are beauties worth the visit as hikes in the summer or ski trips in the white-clothed winter. Hemingway mentioned the dangers of avalanches. He completed courses in avalanches with Lent, who saw 13 buried (9 killed) in an avalanche when Lent did not heed his own sense of mountain safety. Lent was called a coward for not taking guests from Germany to places he should not have taken them—sadly so, he lived to*

*regret this intimidation. Lent's ski school took a dive afterward and, in many ways, Ernest and Hadley became his only students.*

*Hemingway makes a gentle dig against the Roman Catholic Church by mentioning a man killed in the avalanche "was refused burial in the consecrated ground by the local priest, since there was no proof he was a Catholic". He also mentioned attending a Christmas play in Schruns by Hans Sachs (a passionate Lutheran of the 16th century) he wrote a glowing report of. Hemingway was called "the Black Christ" and "the Black Kirsch-drinking Christ" by many of the locals given his dark sun-tanned skin, thick black beard, and delight in kirsch. Sadly so, as the final chapter of A Moveable Feast ends, the seemingly idyllic relationship between Ernest and Hadley comes to an end as Ernest cavorts with another woman. As Hemingway reflects on such a path taken, he says in retrospect, "All things truly wicked start from an innocence". This wisdom reveals experience – serious errors on the slopes leading to tragedies, serious misreads of relationships leading to similar results.*

*The marriage of Ernest and Hedley came to an end in 1927 but Ernest continued his ski journey. He continued mixing and melding, in a suggestive and not to be forgotten manner, the relationship between skiing and life, the apt and ample*

*lessons of skiing formative for the journey.*

*"The Snows of Kilimanjaro" (1936) is a layered short story of a man and woman (Hemingway's final wife?) on a big game hunt. The man becomes injured and infected with gangrene. He seems to be near the end of his all-too-human journey and his relationship with the woman is tense and feisty. As he ponders his future fate, his mind turns to earlier phases and stages of his journey. His first reflection is on his ski years post WWI, and a Christmas Day in the high alpine above Schruns. The simple and exhilarating ski descent on the glacier and time spent in Madlener-haus, a tale told of those in WWI, the German-Austrian tensions by Herr Lent. Herr Lent had seen much tragedy in WWI and gambling became his addiction, his common refrain "sans voir" (unseeing) his reality.*

*Hemingway, in his deft and sensitive way, walks the reader into the deeper inner life of a much-admired ski instructor, the ghosts of his past ever haunting him. While enemies in the war they share post WWI a common interest in skiing. Hemingway does not flinch from going to such places as the ailing elder of "The Snows of Kilimanjaro", the memory of Schruns still very much alive, its message ever deepening. "Cross-Country Snow" (1925) is a charming and shorter tale than "The Snows of Kilimanjaro", the classical Nick Adams Hemingway persona at*

work.

Nick and George take the funicular up the mountainside. They jump off and ski down the white powder, “like a shot rabbit” – the Arlberg, Christy and Telemark their descent styles. The ski trip seems to be in Switzerland. A German-speaking waitress, in obvious anxiety, is pregnant with no ring on finger. It is these small touches in a Swiss “Weinstube” (a restaurant that serves wine) that Nick and George notice, Hemingway ever the alert observer.

Both men have thoroughly enjoyed their day on the white gold, pub, dinner, and fine wine a fitting finale. What next? Shall they go from hill to hill, village to village, ski run to ski run, ski bums that live such a life? Or was such a cross-country snow ski but part of a larger vision of

life? Nick and George have fuller goals and responsibilities, education, family, and much else, skiing is just a pleasurable hobby or avocation. They can romanticize the ski dream, but both realize there is much more to life. Such is the gist of the varied issues pondered in “Cross-Country Snow”.

“An Alpine Idyll” (1927) is a surreal sort of short story. It begins with Nick and John coming down from a lengthy period of spring skiing in the enthralling Silvretta Alps. Nick and John have been too long in the snow and bright sun, the valley in early spring and much hotter.

The title has an ironic twist and bends to it for two reasons. First, the lingering spring skiing in the Silvretta seems to be much desired by those keen to be on the slopes and enjoy nights spent in high huts. However, a good thing indulged in too long can lose its sheen and luster.

Nick and John sum up their thoughts and feelings in the Inn after a hearty “Ski-heil” by saying, “You oughtn’t to ever do anything too long”. John concludes with “Too damn long----It’s no good doing a thing too long”. Hemingway’s message cannot be missed in this short story.

Second, there is a tendency to idealize the ski world of the Swiss and Austrians, the people living a halcyon mountain life, Rousseau style. When Nick and John descend from the initial idyllic ski trip that lasted too long, they notice a funeral of sorts. They continue to the Inn, good ale and food served and John rather weary from too much sun and skiing. The tale is soon told of a peasant whose wife died in the densely packed snow mountain in the winter. He had no way of getting her to the town for a burial, her body soon froze. He put her standing up in his work shed, her mouth open, a lantern in her mouth when he had to cut wood. This was his reality from December to May. The innkeeper insists “These peasants are beasts”. The priest and sexton do their best to make sense of a bizarre situation. So much for a Swiss idyll! Nick and John having indulged too long, the peasant and his dead wife offer a picture of Swiss mountain life not often noted in the tourist brochures.

There is no doubt Hemmingway was one of the finest writers of the 20th century, his style of writing was accessible, plain, and readable. Many of the stories he tells have subtle significant insights and truth-telling ways. Hemmingway, in his 20s, spent much time in the Alps and could not resist the tendency to tell ski stories – each tale well told and packed with wisdom.



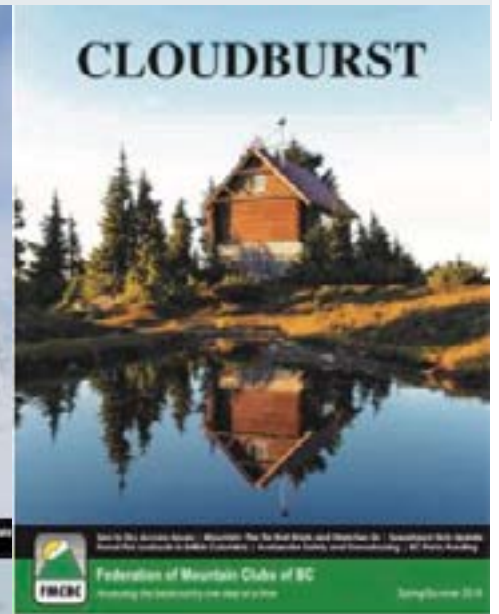
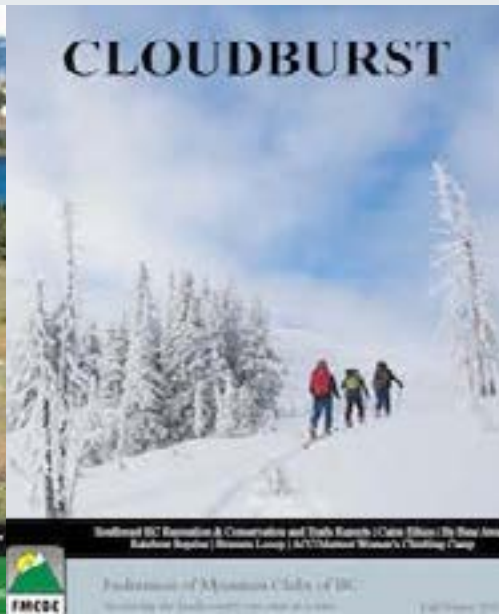
Ernest Hemingway’s 1923 passport photograph.  
Photo from Wikipedia Commons.



# Cloudburst Cover Photo Contest

We're looking for Fall/Winter action  
shots for our next cover of  
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Email your entries to  
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