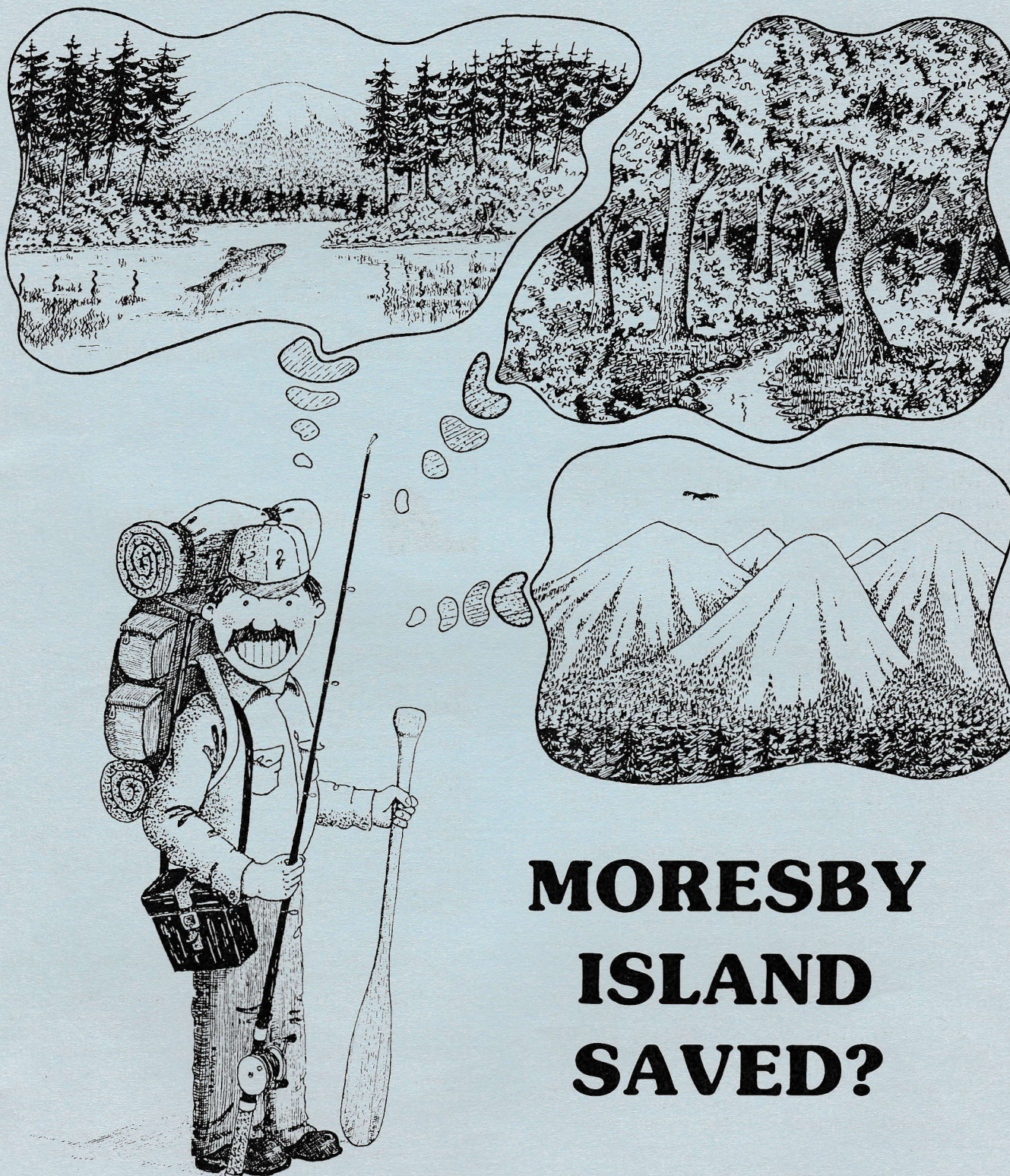


CLOUDBURST

Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia Newsletter

JULY 1984



**MORESBY
ISLAND
SAVED?**



Executive Director News

This must be the busiest time of the year for the FMCBC. The phone hums all day with enquiries. Unaffiliated hikers and climbers ask for local club contacts, beginners want to know how to start backpacking and should they have boots, and others wish to sign up for the FMCBC summer courses. The mail brings requests, mostly from the U.S., for route information. Climbers ask about Waddington, hikers about the West Coast Trail, and we try to help everybody.

It's difficult to think of summer when you can still ski to your car on Mount Seymour on the first weekend of June and the office staff is beginning to plan the winter programmes for '85. But summer it is.

The FMCBC basic mountaineering course filled rapidly with its maximum of forty. To meet club and public demand six more courses have been planned, two at Mount Baker, two at Garibaldi, one on Vancouver Island, and one at Cathedral Lakes. Enrollment is going well, with thirty-eight applicants to date.

Two seven-day backpacking trips in the North Cascades and Strathcona Park are also well booked. Leading these will be a healthy office break for me, and a chance to leave the ivory tower of Sport B.C. and get my feet back on the ground.

Continuing the FMCBC role of assisting our member clubs with their regional problems, I recently attended the third Vancouver Island club meeting in Courtenay. This meeting further defined the concerns of the clubs for Strathcona Park and gave Bill Munn of "Parks" plenty of input for his planning. Prominent members of the V.I. hiking community were present including the well respected Syd Watts.

These Vancouver Island meetings seem to be a successful approach to both communication between clubs within a region, and the definition of common recreational and environmental concerns for presentation to government agencies and private industry.

I will be writing to our clubs in the Okanagan to suggest that a similar meeting be arranged by the FMCBC for their region. Two clubs there are in the process of becoming Federation members, the Shuswap Outdoors Club in Salmon Arm, and the Kelowna Mountaineering Club. Welcome to those new members.

Other clubs applying for membership are the Kootenay Nordic Club (Cranbrook), Cloudrakers Climbing Club (Vancouver), the Vancouver Island Hostels, the Revelstoke Great Outdoors Club, and the Hornby Islanders.

This healthy, growing membership can only help our environmental lobbies. I asked for your letters to support the preservation of South Moresby Island; these letters to Minister Brummett are essential to our lobby. The Chilko Lake Park proposal also needs your written support. The addition of these two areas to the province's recreation resources will be a further guarantee of the future quality of life in B.C.

I'm certain you agree with me that this is a most worthy role for the FMCBC, one of benefit to all members wherever they live in B.C.



Recreation and Conservation

WILDERNESS POLICY DRAFTED

The Recreation and Conservation Committee has reached the second draft stage with their wilderness policy for the Federation, Reports Committee Chairman, Roger Freeman. He hopes that their September meeting will produce a final copy of the policy for ratification.

The policy intends to lend some guidelines to the Federation's position on future land-use controversies. In keeping with our constitutional mandate, it focusses on conserving wilderness areas as both a means of protecting nature and providing for skilled backcountry recreationists.

In the meantime, the Outdoor Recreation Council, of which the Federation is a member, is also in the process of drafting its own wilderness policy which will be consistent with FMCBC's. ORC has been successful in arranging a series of meetings with the Deputy Minister of Lands, Parks and Housing on a regular basis and two additional meetings with the Provincial Cabinet Committees on Environmental Land-Use and Economic Development. These meetings should give member clubs the highest visibility on environmental land-use issues, so our wilderness policy development is a major priority right now.



Lions Bay Update

HIKERS IGNORE SIGN

The Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing decided in March not to close the Lions Bay/Harvey Creek Watershed trails, north of Vancouver, to recreationists. Now, the village of Lions Bay has erected a sign at the trailhead warning hikers, "Watershed Area, Keep Out".

"Don't be intimidated by this sign," says FMCBC Recreation and Conservation Committee Chairman, Roger Freeman. "It is an unfortunate lack of co-operation on the part of the Village of Lions Bay since they have no right to restrict access to the Watershed." This committee is taking action through the Ministries of Forests and Environment to have the village amend their sign.

Last winter, the Mayor of Lions Bay and a local citizen's group unsuccessfully lobbied the government to close this area because of fecal coliform contamination in Harvey Creek which serves as the community drinking supply. Tests conducted by the North Shore Health Unit confirmed the presence of bacteria in Harvey Creek, but were never able to accurately trace its origin to hiker-related activities. The Federation played an active role in lobbying to keep this popular trail open and has offered to print a pamphlet to create public awareness of human waste management and hazards in the wilderness.

UPPER LYNN: A gem of a park

Picture a major recreational area, with facilities ranging from picnic tables to mountainside shelters in impressively rugged country, from beaches for swimming to expert-level hiking trails through spectacular back country. And all perched on the edge of the urban area.

Jim Rutter, the Executive Director of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. has been picturing such a park for some time now. He's been doing more than just dreaming, however, as he turns his eyes on the Lynn Creek area and sees its potential for a full range of recreational uses.

As well as working with such agencies as the Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks, Rutter and his association has provided the impetus that has put a 12-member crew into the area to construct the first trail.

"They're a great bunch of guys," Rutter says. "They're enthusiastic about this."

That "great bunch of guys", working four, 10 hour workdays for the next 20 weeks, will provide a trail that leads from the foot of the Lynn Creek watershed area into the area where Norvan and Hanes Creeks spill into a valley between towering peaks.

The trail won't open the area up to the public. It will remain closed, as it has been for a number of years, for at least a year and a half more.

But it will allow experts in a number of fields access to the area to ascertain the possibilities for a wilderness park area in the upper reaches of Lynn Creek.

"We came up with the suggestion that what was needed was an initial access trail so that groups of experts could get into that country to look at everything from the geology to the recreation potential," Rutter says.

Rutter, who has been the Federation of Mountain Club's Executive Director since last fall, says the work is the first step toward fuller development of the area.

There has been considerable pressure mounted to have the Lynn Creek watershed developed as a major park since it was abandoned as a source of water for the District of North Vancouver.

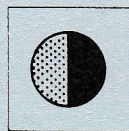
"I had just come on staff (with the federation) when I heard about the possibility of the Upper Lynn becoming a park," Rutter says. Because of the expertise the federation has available, the group moved quickly to meet with the GVRD's parks branch to discuss the possibilities.

"We've been working closely with them ever since, gathering information and making recommendations," Rutter says.

As well as the potential for the major wilderness park in the steep, wild areas of the Upper Lynn, the area being considered offers the opportunity for a full range of outdoor related activities.

Possibilities discussed so far range from a number of day-use areas closer to the urban area (at such places as Rice Lake) to the possibility of a dedicated trail bike "park" on the south slope of Mount Fromme. Says Rutter, the potential recreation opportunities are endless.

Reprinted courtesy of
Mark Hamilton,
North Shore News



Focus

Federal Environment Minister Recommends Park Status for South Moresby Island.

Support for the preservation of South Moresby Island has been shown by Federal Environment Minister Charles Caccia.

The minister recommended in a letter to his provincial counterpart, Tony Brummet, that a national park and a national marine park be created, complemented by a Class A provincial park.

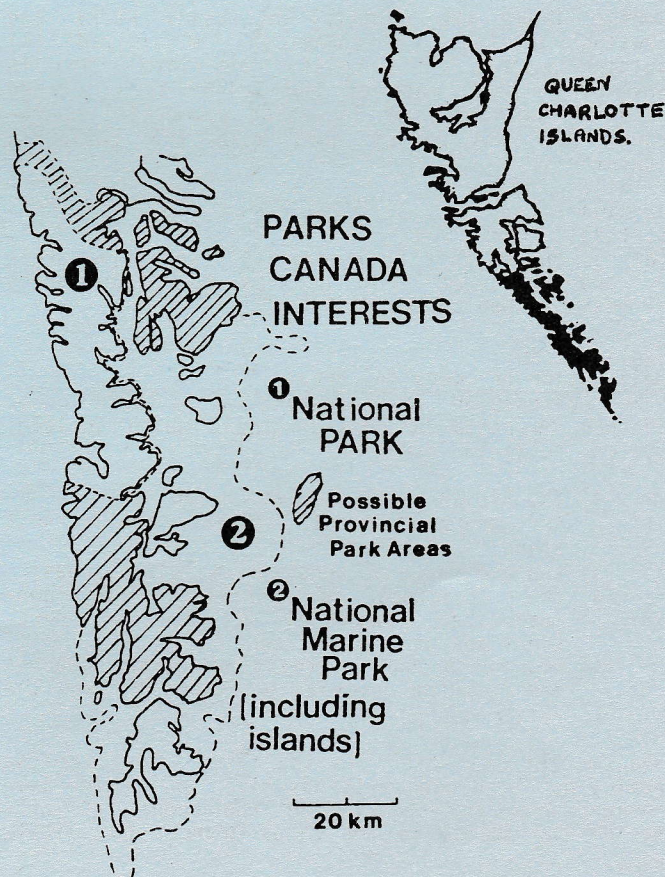
In his May 29, 1984 letter to Environment Minister Brummet, Caccia lauded the South Moresby area:

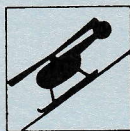
"The heritage values of the South Moresby area are of both national and international significance, and should therefore be protected for all time..."

"I propose that we examine the possibility of creating a national park/national marine park in the South Moresby area. This proposal would include some of the islands and sea-bed to the 50 fathom depth in the eastern and southern portions of the area, as well as a coastal component in the San Christoval Range to protect some of the most outstanding fiord and mountain landscape in Canada. Ideally, this could be complemented by the creation of a Class A provincial park, which would contribute to the British Columbia park system while helping to ensure the long-term ecological integrity of the national marine park."

Caccia also indicated his willingness to discuss any other proposal for federal involvement in park establishment.

The map shows the boundaries of the proposed parks.





Heliskiing Near Vancouver—The Current Situation

Private hire of helicopters for skiing purposes - Absolutely no restrictions at all. Anyone can hire a helicopter to take themselves anywhere inside or outside a park. Attempts to get the local provincial parks managers to place restrictions on private use of helicopters have been met by a bureaucratic brick wall with no-one in government or in the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division (P.O.R.D.) apparently concerned or interested in this issue.

Now, the western half of Garibaldi park is zoned by P.O.R.D. as mostly a Nature Conservancy Area (Mamquam Lake - Black Tusk area) in which "all forms of commercial activity as well as the use of combustion engines for recreational purposes shall be prohibited..." or as a Primitive Access Zone (most of the area north of Black Tusk which "provides park opportunities based upon non-motorized access". Most of eastern Garibaldi park is zoned as Wilderness in which "transportation is limited to foot access and non-motorized boats."

Despite this zonation within the park, anyone can use a helicopter to go anywhere in the park. Furthermore, as discussed below, commercial heliskiing is allowed in both Wilderness and Primitive Access zones. Helicopter access for skiing is completely inconsistent with the management plans for Garibaldi park.

Commercial heliskiing - If the situation with regard to private hire of helicopters is undesirable, the commercial heliskiing situation is little short of disastrous.

During 1982, the Ministry of Lands Parks and Housing developed a commercial mechanized ski guiding policy. This policy came into being in November, 1982. Much of the policy is concerned with the mechanics of licensing commercial operators, but the policy does make the following statements:

Section 1.2 Strategic objectives

(h) "To ensure that environmentally sensitive areas are precluded from use as operating areas established by the Ministry"

Section 2.10.1 Delineation of operating areas

"The delineation of operating areas held under licence is based on considerations which include, ... the following concerns:

- (1) the avoidance of population centres;
- (2) the protection of sensitive wilderness areas;
- (3) the avoidance of sensitive wildlife areas;
- (4) the avoidance of conflict with non-mechanized commercial ski guiding operations and other uses; and
- (5) the needs and interests of other agencies and resource users as expressed through the referral process."

The current ski season is the first time that the policy has been used. It has given us considerable insight into the thinking of the people administering the policy in the Lands Branch, but little else.

The policy refers to two types of commercial ski guiding operators - an existing operator who had been in operation for at least one of the 1979/80 to 1981/82 ski seasons, and a new operator who had not been previously in operation.

In the area near Vancouver there were essentially 2 existing operators - Mountain Consultants (H. Bleuer), and Coast Range Guides. There have been applications from 2 new operators - a small one in the Hemlock Valley area, and a major one by Powder Mountain Heli-Skiing (M. Jakobson).

Mountain Consultants applied for runs all over the place late last year - from Spearhead - Overlord, to Fee, Brandywine, Longspur, Overseer, McGillivray Pass, North Ck., all over the head of Hurley River, Tenquille Lake, etc. Limited opposition within the FMCBC and highly prejudiced Lands Branch staff who defended Mountain Consultants against arguments from wilderness advocates at an FMCBC meeting late last year, resulted in Mountain Consultants being granted virtually every run they applied for. This was finalized around the end of March, 1984 and Mountain Consultants were issued with a 10 year licence of occupation, dated from December 1983, in which they were given no less than 75 of the best ski runs around. A strong campaign against commercial heliskiing in the Garibaldi park resulted in Mountain Consultants not being given the Overlord - Singing Pass area.

Coast Range Guides reapplied for runs in the Wedge-Weart and the Misty Icefields areas of Garibaldi park. They were awarded these areas before wilderness advocates found out what had happened.

Jakobson, of Garibaldi park heli-hiking infamy, applied for runs in the Amicus-Icecap -Pykett area, Rainbow, Fee, Callaghan, Powder Mtn. and the head of the Soo and Ryan rivers. As of early April 1984, he had been offered the runs at the head of the Soo and Ryan rivers by the Lands Branch.

Now, what have we learned about all this?

1. Heavy pressure is required to convince the P.O.R.D. that wilderness users should be considered in Garibaldi Park, but apparently they can be convinced.
2. The entire procedure for obtaining commercial heliski guiding licences is a total farce. It is characterized by chaos, incompetence, and ignorance. To illustrate this -
 - a) According to the commercial mechanized ski guiding policy, any application for a licence on crown land, inside or outside a park, must go through the Lands Branch. If an application is made for land within a provincial park, then, according to Section 2.11 of the policy" ... tenure is required under the Park Act and the Land Act. The application for tenure over an operating area is made to the responsible Land Commissioner and jointly adjudicated by Lands and Housing Regional Operations Division and Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division." Also, according to section 2.10.5 of the policy, applicants are required to advertise their application.

The Coast Range Guides application apparently went straight to Parks with no advertising and no chance for public comment. Although the Coast Range Guides application was for runs they previously had, there were some differences, such as the Misty Icefields, which previously they did not have. This should have been treated as a new application, which must be advertised. Lands and Housing apparently does not want to involve themselves with applications for land inside parks.

- b) According to the local Regional Director for Lands and Housing, public comment on applications is to be sought. Thus the FMCBC was sent a copy of Mountain Consultants' application so meaningful comment was possible. In the case of Jakobson's application we were told we could not get a copy because Lands had discovered that they had a policy on proprietary rights which prohibited them from releasing information which could be used by other applicants for licences. We were able to see the runs Jakobson had applied for on a map and discovered that these runs were not quite as they had been advertised in the newspaper notices. The Lands and Housing personnel were unfamiliar with some of the areas applied for. Thus runs on Amicus and Icecap were not mentioned. Also, the newspaper notice mentioned runs in the "Squamish-Elaho icefield" which is a huge area, some parts of which are of more concern to us than other parts. In future, we were told, we would have to rely on these advertisements. How on earth can there be meaningful public input in such circumstances when the newspaper ads are incorrect or too vague?
 - c) Because the government has some type of reserve clamped over the Powder Mtn. - Callaghan area for a possible future ski resort, Lands and Housing say they can't grant any licences for this area. In open defiance of this, all 3 of the commercial heliskiing companies have been operating in this area this winter - it has become a giant free-for-all with all companies using the area "illegally". Lands and Housing is aware of this but say they can't do anything, and don't even reprimand the companies. They are completely impotent.
 - d) Early this year, a company known as Ariel Alpine Adventure Tours, put out brochures advertising guided skiing using Coast Range Guides on Powder Mountain and out to Brandywine Falls, despite the fact that no licence exists for this area. When informed of this, Lands and Housing responded by completely ignoring this fact and simply stating that Coast Range Guides have an approved Park Use Permit.
 - e) Lands and Housing, have not once shown any indication that they have considered Section 2.10.1 of the policy (described above) which takes into account sensitive areas and conflicts. At the only meeting held so far between Lands and Housing, a heliski operator, and wilderness advocates, the supposedly impartial land managers sided strongly with the heliski operator against the wilderness advocates.
3. The only bright spot in this otherwise gloomy picture is that there are problems granting heliskiing licences for land that is already held under another licence.

Weldwood's Tree Farm Licence which covers the Squamish river drainage basin is such a licence. Thus Amicus, Icecap, Pykett, etc. are likely to be given at least a temporary reprieve from the growing commercial heliskiing blight.

Mike Feller
B.C. Mountaineering Club.

LOGGING PROBLEMS WORLDWIDE (Does This Sound Familiar?)

The long-running controversy about Forest Service plans to log forests on the west bank of the Maruia River is reaching a climax. The forest is within Victoria Forest Park. The whole area has outstanding recreational and scenic value. The Park's advisory committee has recently recommended that logging proceed on a reduced scale to that originally planned.

Forest Service's case for milling this forest is set out in the North Westland Draft Management Plan published for public comment in 1980 and not yet signed by the Minister. This document is not a management plan in the true sense. It is a lengthy discussion of the wood supply problem in the region with Forest Service's preferred solutions. With the exception of recreation, non-logging uses of the region's forest are dealt with cursorily if at all. It is a fundamental assumption of the plan that timber supply takes precedence over other values.

FMC's submission to the plan accepted its basic premise but pointed out its general nature and a need for subsidiary plans. We also argued that the west bank Maruia should not be logged despite timber needs. The writer of this article was also the main author of the FMC submission. In hindsight I consider we were too ready to accept Forest Service's arbitrary perception of resource use. The North Westland plan was one of a series of plans and studies which placed great emphasis on the shortage of timber to sustain the West Coast milling industry. There had recently been an officials' report which defined West Coast forest reserves and decreed that all other forest including West Bank Maruia were open for logging. The patchwork of amenity and ecological reserves approved by the officials' committee did little to preserve overall landscape quality. There is an ecological reserve of 6000 ha further north in the Maruia Valley but this is not in the area of prime scenic value and recreational use.

The real nature of the timber supply problem is that there has been sustained over-use of the resource. Traditional milling methods of both beech and podocarp forest were timber 'mining' with no provision for forest renewal. Forest Service are now attempting to convert to perpetual timber management within a resource which is no longer adequate for the purpose. This is the source of conflict over whether areas such as west bank Maruia should be reserved or included in Forest Service's production "working circle". Techniques for sustained native timber production are still experimental. In the mid-70s, 'selective logging' was seen as a panacea for the problem. It would provide enough timber without damaging forest structure. It required extensive roading which NZFS argued improved recreational opportunities. In practice, it did damage forest structure by opening the canopy causing windthrow and by damaging root systems during logging operations.



Ministry News

"Privatization" in provincial parks increases

The B.C. Government recently announced expanded plans to let the private sector operate within provincial parks. Mr. Brummett, the Minister of Lands, Parks and Housing, in an April press release went so far as to say that: "where it is feasible, a contract may be issued for all operations in a particular park".

The government released a policy statement in April on "private sector participation in the operation of provincial parks". This policy statement is as follows:

- "1. Park land will not be alienated to the private sector by way of sale or lease.
2. Private sector development of fixed assets on provincial park land will generally not be approved.
3. Consistent with policy guidelines approved by the Minister, the purposes, use, type and level of service, as well as pricing of all provincial parks will be at the sole discretion of the Ministry.
4. Parks Division will remain responsible for overall management of every Park in the Provincial Park System.
5. Contracts for an entire unit of operation (i.e. whole park, entire campground and/or day use area) will only occur where requirements for management attention and resource protection are routine.
6. Individual service or maintenance contracts, under the direct supervision of Parks Division management, will be the preferred approach providing this alternative is equally or more cost effective.
7. The prescribed method of engaging private sector resources will be through publicly tendered fee for service contracts. This means that contractors will receive a fixed amount of money for services rendered to the Parks Division and will not be financially dependent upon the amount of revenue generated at any park site.
8. Letting of contracts for operation of an entire park unit (i.e. whole park, entire campground and/or day use area) will not convey to the operator any rights other than those specified in the public tender. No concession type business opportunity may be operated in conjunction with the contracted park unit unless the business opportunity has been approved by the Division and has been either included in the original tender or is tendered separately.
9. Concessionaire opportunities will only be considered in those traditional areas of visitor services that are found to be compatible with park objectives and which do not already exist within a reasonable proximity of the park (for example food services, trail rides, boat rentals, etc.).
10. The use of private sector contracts, in park operations, will be introduced over a three year period."

Mike Feller
B.C. Mountaineering Club.



Safety and Education

Rescue!

It's Sunday night getting close to midnight. I've just climbed into bed, glad that I'm inside because it's pouring rain outside, and I don't really want to get up for work in the morning. Then the phone rings "Call Out -- Mt. Seymour-- Three young men--hikers--meet at the first aid hut." Now I get to spend the next six to eight hours climbing around on the mountain in the dark, soaking and cold. I can't see five feet in front of me but I know that cliff is close by and I know that I have eight hours of work still to do after it's all over!

Have you ever wondered who is out there searching for the lost hikers on Mt. Seymour or on any North Shore Mountain? It could be your doctor, carpenter, mechanic, lawyer, or anyone else who is donating their time and knowledge freely and willingly to help people in need. This group of volunteers is the North Shore Rescue Team, members of the F.M.C.B.C.

The rescue team offers its expertise to the police for search and rescue. The Provincial Emergency Program (P.E.P.), the City and District of North Vancouver, and the Municipality of West Vancouver, share the costs for search operations, training and equipment.

The team was started in 1965 with a membership of fourteen volunteers who, through lack of funding were forced to supply most of their own equipment. Today the membership is in excess of fifty, with equipment supplied by donations, P.E.P., the City and District of North Vancouver and the Municipality of West Vancouver. In the past eight years, the call-outs have increased from an average of nine, to an average of about thirtyfive per year, with as many as two or three calls in one weekend.

The efficiency of a search such as this is brought about by hard work. The training of such a team is a vast undertaking, and causes many problems for the training officer. One of our training methods involves becoming more familiar with the local mountain, and the natural catch basins that lost people often wander into.

In order to become more familiar with the local mountain terrain, we teach a map and compass course in the mountains, and we also include: rock climbing, first aid, rock rescue, avalanche training, search and rescue techniques, and snow rescue. The training takes place once a week from September to June, with some weekend training sessions. We have a limited amount of time and money to train the rescue team, and so far it has proven to be worth every cent, and all of the time that has been spent.

Our business is searching for lost people, rescuing those trapped or injured, and recovering bodies. Team members are victim oriented and want to manage the rescue business in the most rapid and effective way possible. The organization and its members are periodically evaluated to be sure the team is functioning efficiently. Honesty, dedication and sincerity as well as physical fitness and practical skills, are some personal qualifications for membership. We are indeed fortunate to have people who are willing to give up a night's sleep and perhaps a days salary to help others in distress.

Article prepared by Jerry Butler.



Climbers To Be Licenced ?

Astonishing steps to have climbers licenced have been considered South of the border in the wake of numerous mountain rescues.

A young couple, college students, set off with full packs for several days, intending to traverse the Presidential Range in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Although it was early April, winter conditions could be anticipated along the 25 mile, above treeline route, which included the summit of Mt. Washington where the "world's worst weather" is reported to occur. Somewhere along the way the climbers were struck by an unexpected, if not unseasonable, blizzard which dropped some 30 inches of snow in 24 hours. It continued to snow and blow for a week thereafter, creating a wild, windy, whiteout on the mountains.

Two sets of suddenly concerned parents appeared on the scene, demanding the rescue be undertaken. Eagerly, the Appalachian Mountain Club, whose North country operation is based at the foot of Mt. Washington, volunteered a crew of its employees. Reluctantly, the Fish and Game Department, which bears responsibility for rescues under New Hampshire law, marshalled its district officers. Happily, in view of the additional flight pay, the military placed a helicopter at the disposal of the rescuers.

Needless to say, the weather was not suitable for flying, so for almost a week, parties on foot struggled up through the drifts in search of the lost pair. Ultimately they were discovered, hale and hearty, holed up in the emergency shelter in Edmand's Col, the bleak, blustery saddle between Mt. Adams and Mt. Jefferson. A local commented, "if it had been two boys, they would have died!"

This time consuming and costly rescue prompted chiding editorials in both the local newspaper and the influential Manchester Union Leader (whose owner also owns the governor and a majority in the Legislature). In essence, the editorials proposed that "climbers" be licenced in a manner similar to hunters and fishermen, the licencing fees being put into a fund to pay for rescues. The restrictive and basically unenforceable proposition unfortunately displays that typical contemporary attitude that money is the answer, the only question being whose.

Whether hiker, backpacker, rock climber, alpinist, the public mind, and particularly the bureaucratic one, they are all "climbers". This rescue is charged to the account at the climbing fraternity. In addition the continually increasing regulation and restriction of the use of the high country owes its growth in part to a responsibility felt by park officials and the like for the safety of members of the public in their jurisdictions. Or, perhaps more truthfully, one climber in the mountains poses a far greater problem than several hundred people in a roadside campground. So, in order to avoid rescuing him, why not prevent him from going?

From this latest incident, and numerous similar ones occurring throughout the mountains of North America, one basic fact clearly emerges: people who get into trouble in the mountains expect to be rescued. In fact, they expect it as a "right", apparently another of the burgeoning lists of "entitlements" described, and surprisingly lamented, by the well-known liberal sociologist, Daniel Bell of Harvard University. The quote often heard here in the North Country, "if we're not down by Saturday, send a rescue party", is truly not in jest, but amply confirms my contention. "What kept you?" said the Edmands Col Two upon the arrival of their saviours.

There is a second major point to consider, namely, the very existence of an organization to undertake rescue operations. If the climbers are not truly experienced they may continue beyond their normal limit, knowing full well that they can depend on a rescue being mounted. For example, I don't recall any emergencies at Edmands Col prior to the construction of the "emergency" shelter there. Now they occur on a regular basis. It has become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Indeed, it no longer serves as a last resort of the desperate, but instead as an objective of climbers who plan to camp in Edmands Col. Its presence entices them there. And, admittedly, it is not an easy place to escape from under adverse conditions. And what climber is not aware of today's automatic faith in the ability of radios and helicopters to unmake disaster?

Glaciers and icefields are for experienced mountaineers only. They are inherently dangerous and you should not venture into them unless you are properly equipped and experienced. Instruction in glacial travel and safety techniques is available through various mountaineering clubs and associations.**

We often talk a great deal about freedom with accountability, but equally as seldom do we do much about it. We who climb mountains thankfully still have the freedom to pursue our somewhat demented sport, but what kind of accountability do we have if we expect the government (or anyone else) to bail us out of to consequences of our own misjudgements? Therefore I offer the least expensive, the least complicated, the least regimented, and the most moral solution to the problem of what to do about people in trouble in the mountains: NOTHING!! Abandon all contingency plans, disband all mountain rescue groups, erect a sign at every trailhead, "Enter at your own risk". For if it is immoral for the climber to exercise his freedom at the expense of placing a burden on others (his rescuers and the public at large), it is equally immoral for society to seduce him into exactly that position by promising him rescue, no matter what. Mea culpa!

To conclude let me quote from the diary of the famed Antarctic explorer, Captain Robert Scott, who along with several companions perished on their return trip from the South Pole in 1912. "We took risks, we know we took them. Things have come out against us: there we have no cause for complaint."

Extract courtesy of Bob Kruszyna



Publications

NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM THE OUTDOOR RECREATION COUNCIL OF B.C.

Wilderness in British Columbia: the Need is Now.

There is no legislation in British Columbia specifically designed to protect wilderness or provide for the designation of wilderness areas. The Wilderness Act in the United States was passed as recently as 1964, after decades of struggle by conservationists to overcome the objections of developers and administration officials to an official Act. It now looks as though conservation groups in this province are going to have to put their shoulders behind similar effort to have wilderness legislation enacted in B.C.

The problem is not an academic one: current wrangling over the fate of such outstanding areas of natural beauty as Meares Island and South Moresby Island are the inevitable outcome of a situation in which wilderness issues are treated on an ad hoc basis without legislative guidelines or consensus about wilderness values.

By sponsoring a conference on Wilderness in May 1983 and initiating the process of developing a formal wilderness policy, the Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C. is seeking to spearhead the slow, painstaking process of reversing indifferent public and government attitudes toward wilderness preservation in the province. This year the Council published a summary of the wilderness conference proceedings, entitled Wilderness in British Columbia: the Need is Now. This publication provides an introduction to some of the issues involved in wilderness preservation and management. Many different perspectives on the subject are discussed, based on different legislative and management models developed in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere. Speakers at the conference were drawn from a wide variety of federal and provincial government agencies and conservation/user groups. Wilderness in British Columbia provides a good introduction to a topic that will take on increasing importance in the next few years.

Recreation Access In British Columbia: A User's Handbook

Access to and across land for the purposes of recreation is a subject important to all British Columbians who use the outdoors. However, a number of difficulties presently surround recreational access in this province. Many traditional routes have become closed to public use, or have been destroyed by logging or other activities. Laws and policies governing recreational access are fragmented, leaving the public unsure of their rights to access Crown and private land. A myriad of tenures on Crown land, as well as some public rights across private land, have produced a confusing picture of which land is or is not accessible.

Prepared in cooperation with the West Coast Environmental Research Foundation, the Recreation Access Handbook reviews existing legislation and policies affecting public access. It also examines solutions and approaches used in other jurisdictions and highlights problems which recreationists have experienced in B.C. Concluding that rights of access on Crown land are poorly protected, the handbook contains a number of recommendations to the provincial government. (The Access Report will be presented by the Council to the Environment and Land Use Committee this year).

The Access Handbook is designed to be a resource document. Ideally, any group involved in outdoor recreation should avail itself of a copy, in order to obtain the background information on legislation and policies so as to be able to discuss these issues with all the facts in hand. A very full appendix is included, containing specimen documents and forms. As the only existing publication to approach the recreational access issue in depth, the Handbook should be required reading for all user groups and interested parties.

Copies of both the Access Handbook and Wilderness in British Columbia are available from the Council and cost \$5.00 each. Send a cheque to: The Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C., 1200 Hornby Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2E2, or drop by the Council office to pick up a copy.

cont. from p.5

More recently there has been a return to clear-felling of specific areas either on a macro or micro scale. In the podocarp forests of South Westland this allowed the extension of Westland National Park in return for more intensive use of forests north of the extension. The forests of North Westland, including Maruia, are predominantly beech. The quality of beech forest and the economics of timber production therein are more variable than for podocarps. Past milling of beech has often been for the sprinkling of podocarp within the forest rather than beech as such. Forest Service now aims for more milling of beech itself to eke out the supply and as a basis for new industry. The corollary of this is that beech production extends into areas previously used little or not at all. A common technique now is coupe logging which is clear-felling of patches within a forest. The quality of the Maruia forests makes them attractive for this form of production as well as for other values.

The advisory committee's recommendation is for limited coupe logging of the West Bank Maruia. This could be described as the worst of both worlds. The value of timber production would be reduced but the impact on recreational and scenic values would still be substantial. The lower scale of logging appears designed to reduce the visual impact as seen from the nearby highway. For the active recreational user passing through the forest or viewing it from higher ground the damage remains. The committee's decision appears to have been made against a background of non-information. Wildlife Division and DSIR reports on the forest's ecology were reported only verbally to them. Forest Service's analysis of public submissions on the regional park were not supplied. A specific management plan for the Forest Park, which should examine management options in more detail than the broad N. Westland plan, has not yet been drafted.



Vancouver Island News

Delegates from the Vancouver (V.I.) clubs met with the FMCBC Executive Director, Jim Rutter in January of this year at Nanaimo.

Judy Wigmore (FMCBC Vice-President) promoted this meeting to improve the communications both between these clubs, and with the Vancouver-based executive.

This initial meeting defined the use and abuse of Strathcona Park as the major concern of the Island clubs. A second meeting was planned with this issue to be the focus.

The V.I. clubs are fortunate to have such an organized and energetic person in Judy Wigmore. It is with thanks to her that we had this next well-planned meeting, held at Malaspina College, Nanaimo, on April 14th. It was designed as a morning forum for the clubs to outline their concerns, and an afternoon for government and industry representatives to present their plans regarding Strathcona Park.

Sixteen delegates representing seven FMCBC member clubs attended and presentations were made by the following:

George Trachuk	Parks
Joe Gillings	Parks
Bill Munn	Parks
Mel Turner	Parks
Ken Collingwood	B.C. Forest Service
Ed Schum	Mt. Washington Ski Resort
Bruce Corra	Mt. Washington Ski Resort
John Herschmiller	Vancouver Island Nordics
Jim Boulding	Strathcona Park Lodge
Robert Hallam	Westmin Resources Ltd.

The Lands Parks and Housing presentation included a descriptions of the three zoning classifications, and the proposed developments to be included in the Park Master Plan (1985). Parks are confident that no developments can take place without their approval, and without their ongoing supervision. The Ministry has no plans for public meetings on the Master Plan before it is sent to the Minister for approval.

Mt. Washington Ski Resorts explained their plan to expand their groomed XC trails into the Paradise Meadows area. The Park boundary is being extended to include this. A rehabilitation deposit will probably be required as part of a Park Use Permit. The \$4.00/day charge was explained to be for services such as toilet and food facilities, road maintenance, and track setting.

The Westin Mines representative described the Thelwood Lake Pipeline Project to be used for power generation. Winter road access to the alpine would be created for hikers and the Thelwood Lake level would not be raised. This will prevent the need for transmission lines through the Buttle Lake corridor. The mine expansion will produce 3,000 tons/day, this will triple the truck trips to Campbell River. Westin have donated \$100,000 per year for 5 years to park improvements in the Buttle Lake area.

Strathcona Park Lodge owner, Jim Boulding, appealed for a FMCBC lobby to protest the imminent logging of Elk Mountain, the visual gateway (but privately owned) to Strathcona Park. He proposed a land swap and suggested the Salmon River Area on the northern boundary of the park.

As can be imagined, there was much inspired conversation as a result of these presentations. Clubs were asked to prepare their concerns and forward these to Parks, the Minister, and/or the industry concerned.

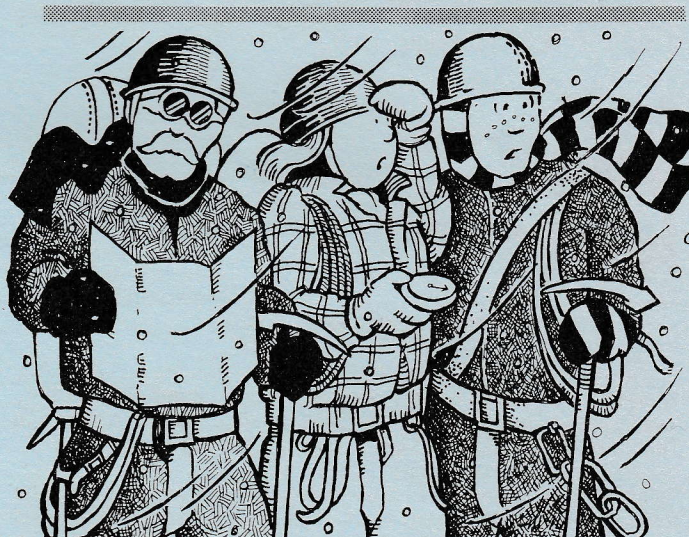
The general feeling was one of enlightenment through this opportunity to both hear "from the horse's mouth", and to ask questions of those directly responsible for development in the Park.

The Federation received commendations for arranging this meeting and for representing the concerns of their member clubs.

The third meeting, on May 26th in Courtenay, was designed to bring Bill Munn (Parks Master Plan) into contact with the hikers most knowledgeable of Strathcona Park trails. A Trail Priorities list was drawn up, with the Forbidden Plateau/Paradise Meadows area at the top. This heavily used/abused area is being "loved to death" and requires extensive maintenance, upgrading, garbage and toilet facilities, a parking lot, park information and signs.

This list, plus a summary of the other concerns of the clubs, has been sent to the Regional Director of the South Coast Region of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Housing.

These V.I. clubs have decided to meet three times a year in order to maintain this initiative. The Executive Director of the FMCBC will attend these meetings, as will the President whenever possible.



Take a F.M.C.B.C. course

cont from p 8

From our viewpoint Forest Service's timber production activities in the Maruia are a disastrous example of their management-orientated philosophy. The Maruia does not have the same history of substantial timber production as the Gery and Inangahua Valleys. It has more unmodified forests which blend well scenically with the areas cleared for farming. NZFS has allowed substantial "trial" milling of Station Creek (east Maruia) but this has now ceased. For lack of a local outlet the timber was carted to Nelson and the milling contractors did not renew their contract for economic reasons. The question now is whether logging for logging's sake will shift to the West Bank.

David Henson

Reprinted from Newsletter FMC of New Zealand



Events

ORC HOSTS WORLD CONGRESS

To coincide with Expo 86 and the Expo theme, "Man in Motion", the Outdoor Recreation Council is sponsoring a World Congress on Trail and River Recreation, May 31 to June 4, 1986. They hope to attract 250 participants including users, educators, politicians and professionals from around the world.

The Congress, by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and information from a global perspective, is intended to enhance participants' knowledge and awareness of:

1. How to promote to the decision makers the value to society of trail and river recreation.
2. The benefits of encouraging greater participation in trail and river recreation activities while still maintaining the integrity of the resource.
3. The need for improved management techniques to maintain the quality of trail and river recreation experiences.

For further information, contact the Outdoor Recreation Council, 1200 Hornby Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2E2 (604)687-1600.



Letters

FMCBC SENDS BEST WISHES

This telex was sent to Anthony Brummet, M.L.A., Minister Lands, Parks and Housing, June 25, 1984, three days before his reconnaissance visit to South Moresby, from Jim Rutter, FMCBC Executive Director.

"May the grandeur of the forests, the peace of the islands and the spirit of the Haida touch you and strengthen your heart to the preservation of South Moresby Island.

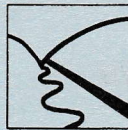
May you travel safely, and return as the man to be responsible for this historic and visionary decision.

Future generations will thank you, as do we in the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia."

* * *

COVER

The cover for this issue was designed by Mr. Ken Walker, a graduate of the Park and Recreation Resources program, Faculty of Forestry, U.B.C. Thanks goes to Dr. Peter J. Dooling for submitting the design in response to our request for cover material.
Deadline for material for our September (fall) Newsletter



Trails

FMCBC AWARDED GRANT

The F.M.C.B.C. has been granted money for its first project under the Federal Environment 2000 job creation programme.

A sum of \$73,470 was approved for the construction of a 10 km initial-access trail into the Lynn Watershed area of North Vancouver. The area is no longer used for water collection and will become a park administered by the GVRD. Work began May 22 and the crew of 12 have a minimum wage contract for 20 weeks.

The F.M.C.B.C. originally applied for three projects under the job creation programme, but two were not accepted. These were in provincial parks and not acceptable to the provincial government.

The F.M.C.B.C. now knows the mechanism for getting grants approved and we can assist our clubs with applications for future projects in their areas.

****Careful route selection is the key to safe glacial travel. Roping up and being practiced at crevasse rescue techniques are vital****



Footnotes

KULSHAN CABIN CLOSED

Western Washington University's Kulshan Cabin on the north flank of Mt. Baker is no longer a spot for laying out the sleeping bag.

"We regret any inconvenience, but due to deterioration of the cabin structure and imminent planning for a major renovation, the sleeping loft will no longer be available for overnight use," says the University's James Schuster. He adds that the cabin's caretaker will be performing minor repairs and surveying users of the area this summer.

Kulshan Cabin is located two miles up the trail along the popular climbing route to Mt. Baker from Glacier Creek Road in Washington State. Any questions, suggestions or concerns about the cabin may be directed to the Viking Union Administration, Room 202, WWU, Bellingham, WA 98225. (206)676-3450.

The Air Cadets are seeking volunteers to instruct rappelling. These sessions will be on weekends. If you wish to help, call:

Ed Robson
Training Officer
692 Squadron, Richmond
Phone: 270-5005 (O)
274-0656 (H)



Courses and Trips

SUMMER COURSES

Camping equipment and food is not supplied. All course costs are for tuition, guidefees, use of F.M.C.B.C. ropes, and insurance.

MOUNTAINEERING 6-DAY TENT CAMPS \$125

June 22-27 Squamish/Garibaldi

July 01-06 Mount Arrowsmith

10-15 Mount Baker

19-24 Cathedral Lakes
(rock only)

28-Aug 2 Squamish/Garibaldi

Aug 6-11 Mount Baker

Includes rock climbing, rapelling, snow and glacier travel, first aid.

BACKPACKING 7-DAY WILDERNESS TRAVEL \$75

North Cascades- PTARMIGAN TRAVERSE July 1-7

Vancouver Island- GOLDEN HINDE July 15-21

PHONE - Jim Rutter, F.M.C.B.C. office, Sport B.C.
687-3333 (Vancouver).

* * *

Cloudburst is published four times a year by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia. The Federation represents hiking, climbing and conservation groups.

P.O. Box 33768

Station D

Vancouver, B.C.

V6J 4L6

Jim Rutter, Executive Director.

COURSE CRITIQUED

Here are comments from students on this spring's FMCBC basic mountaineering course.

"The course provided much of the information I was seeking. All in all, a good job well done."

David Spall.

"Other than the weather, I very much enjoyed myself."

Anon.

"The basic mountaineering course was good. My only complaint is that weather caused us to cancel some outings."

Eve Ridington.



Simon Tooley points out a hand hold to student rock climbing in FMCBC basic mountaineering course.

FUTURE FMCBC COURSES

This is the time for clubs to plan their avalanche courses.

Last year, just one club (Chilliwack Outdoor Club) organized a weekend course for their members. This was most successful both in content and as a social occasion.

Of the eight courses taught last year it was the general public who benefitted the most. At \$35.00 per person for the two-day programme it was considered to be a "bargain", and "highly recommended" according to the course critiques. This next year we expect our clubs to benefit too. For groups of twenty, with registrations, etc. handled by the club (not the FMCBC office) we can keep the cost to the 1984 level of \$35.00 per person. The general public will be charged a higher price next year but this is unfixed at the moment.

Pick your weekend, pick your location, guarantee twenty AND ITS YOURS, your club's first avalanche course. Day One is THEORY, using slides, films, maps and a lecture format. All aspects of snow change and avalanche formation are illustrated. Day Two is a FIELD DAY. Snow pits, instability evaluation, observation of hazards, pips search and probe search. So before you snowshoe, or back country ski, take a lifesaver FMCBC AVALANCHE COURSE, and travel with security in future.

THIS MAY BE YOUR YEAR TO FIND AND SAVE AN AVALANCHE VICTIM. YOU WILL HAVE TWENTY MINUTES (AVERAGE). CAN YOU DO IT, OR WILL THEY DIE WAITING?

Clubs—please book by September.