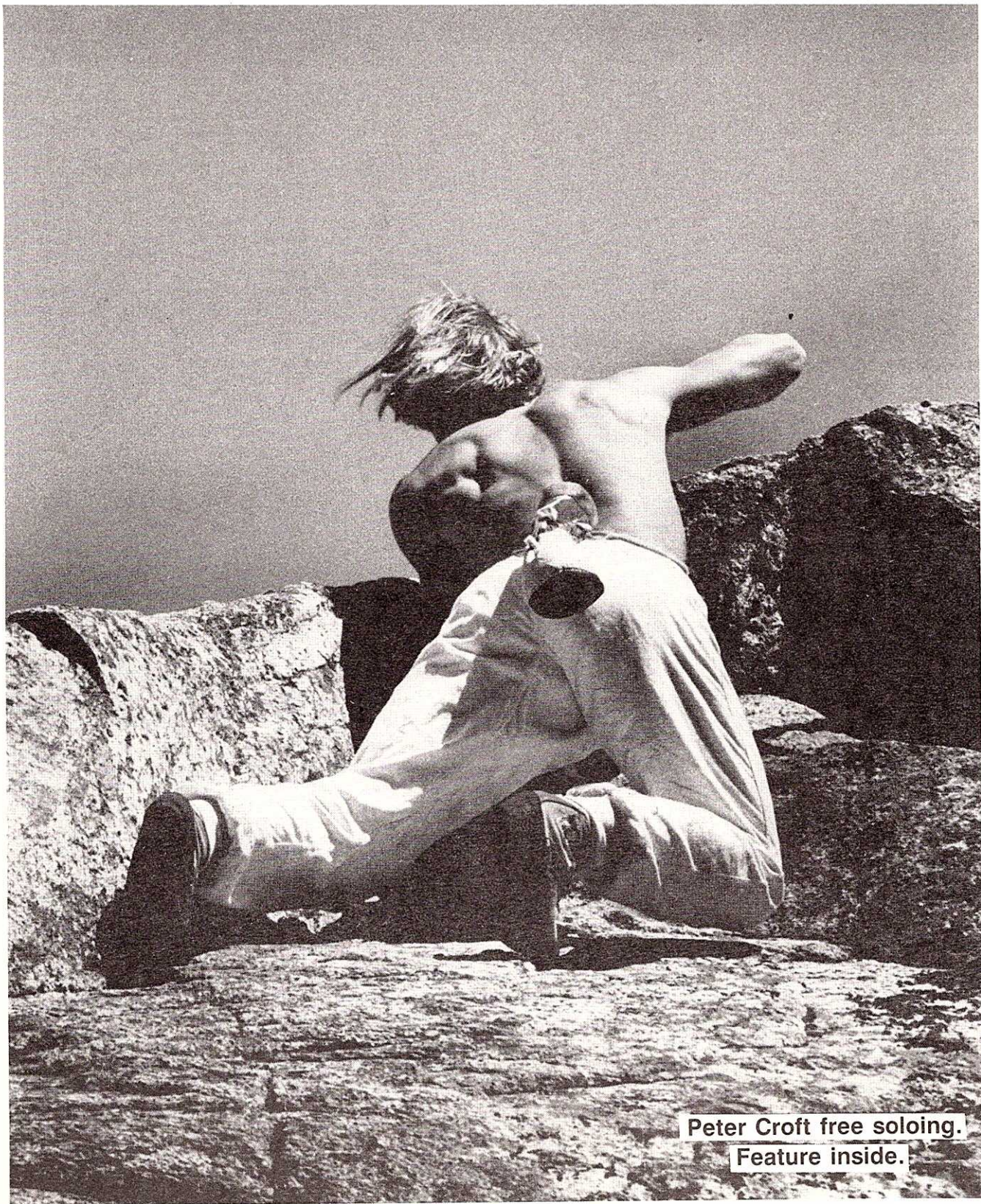


# CLOUDBURST



Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia Newsletter

Summer 1986



Peter Croft free soloing.  
Feature inside.



## Executive Director's Message

by Jim Rutter

The aim of the FMCBC is basically simple: to promote safe hiking and mountaineering in B.C. But achieving that aim requires concentrated effort in a number of related areas, including trail development, environmental protection, club promotion and course instruction.

A suitable physical environment is essential for safe hiking and mountaineering, but poor resource management practices in B.C. have given us some awful looking environments. The quality of our mountain experience is affected by these viewsapes even when we're not walking directly through them.

Trails provide the key to most of the B.C. backcountry and mountain peaks because we haven't the time to re-enact the month-long struggles the pioneers endured.

A system of skill sharing is also needed to further safe mountain recreation. Many learn from mentors in the clubs. Others learn from trial and error, and these survivors are frequently thought to be experienced; I'm sure they are. Increased access to clubs and assistance can increase participation and safety.

So how good is the direction of the FMCBC? It starts out well enough as the official provincial sport-governing body and heads towards the above aims due to the enthusiastic and generous contributions of the various committee chairmen and their volunteers.

Slowly, the club structure is growing and the number of FMCBC individual members starts to grow this year. Regional meetings start this fall in the Okanagan area, based on the successful club model on Vancouver Island. Courses have been more widely available this year than ever before, being run

successfully in Port Alberni, Courtenay, Prince George, Vernon, Penticton and Vancouver.

And where is the FMCBC going? With 23 winter courses and 61 summer courses, the FMCBC is a leader in mountain skill development in B.C. These quality courses will become the standard in B.C.; made available in most major communities on a regular basis.

With a number of presentations to the Wilderness Advisory Committee, strong lobbying for free access to provincial parks, an increased ENGO presence, a developing environmental-based newsletter and good developing relationships with most ministries in the B.C. government, the FMCBC is growing as an effective and responsible representative of the environmental concerns of B.C.'s hiking and mountaineering public.

With extensive Job Development and Challenge '86 funding to research and build trails, two new trail guide publications, a major role in the National Trail Project, a trail construction standards publication and new initiatives to coordinate the volunteer contribution to trail building, the FMCBC is developing as a major contributor to the developing as a major contributor to the development and protection of B.C.'s hiking trail network.

It is my belief that these accomplishments all lead towards the direction our member clubs wish us to go. A strong and responsible province-wide organization will result, capable of representing the values and needs of the B.C. hiking and mountaineering fraternity. It just needs time and continued support, both financially and from volunteers. Can you help?

## CLOUDBURST

CLOUDBURST is published quarterly by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C., 1200 Hornby Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2E2

The FMCBC is the only provincial organization which exclusively represents the interests of hikers, climbers and conservation groups in British Columbia. The FMCBC operates as a non-profit organization in addressing mountain-related conservation issues and in promoting the safety and education of its members through courses of instruction.

Membership to the FMCBC is open to any individual or group involved or interested in non-mechanized outdoor activities and conservation concerns. Membership includes a subscription to Cloudburst. Contact the FMCBC office.

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Forest Land Use Liaison,  
Mary Macaree

Unfortunately, we are unable to pay contributors at the moment, but unsolicited manuscripts or queries will be considered for publication.

Submissions should be typed or neatly hand-written, double-spaced, signed and accompanied by a SASE if return of the manuscript is expected. Your ideas are welcome. Contact the Editor.

Assisted by B.C. Recreation and Sport  
The Honourable Grace McCarthy, Minister

Cover photo of Peter Croft climbing near Squamish by Blair Ketcheson.

## Trails

# Creating Jobs, Building Trails

Thirty six, yes 36 people employed full-time by the FMCBC and working on trail building projects during 1986.

It began with applications to Job Development for an environmental mapping survey of the Lynn Headwaters Park in North Vancouver. After identifying three major hiking recreation areas within reach of our current administrative abilities, we applied for three more grants. These would fund trail development projects in Squamish, Chilliwack and North Vancouver. All were approved.

The current Job Development criteria emphasize training which will make workers more employable. So, for all these projects, appropriate training had to be created. For the trail crews this included Industrial First Aid, fire suppression, carpentry, surveying and chainsaw handling. The research crew concentrated on computer training, landscape and terrain mapping and other appropriate skills.

The mapping project ran for six months and is now complete. Their maps are being published by the GVRD and a trail construction manual was also completed (\$6.00 at the FMCBC office). These were prominently displayed at the official opening of the Lynn Headwaters Park on June 15.

On the basis of the experience gained on this project, the crew boss, Helen Habgood, has already found an excellent, full-time position.

At the FMCBC office a further project had by now been approved: three research positions to rewrite the FMCBC course curricula, design a feasible cross-province route for the new National Hiking Trail and design a trail user

survey.

Challenge '86 is a student employment program and the FMCBC was awarded three projects.

One provided a special office position for a course program coordinator by supplying 50 % funding. This was matched by a grant from Sport and Recreation.

Two positions for the summer, for park interpreters at Lynn Headwaters, were also funded and two North Vancouver students have been hired. In Mission, four positions were created for the B.C. Hydro Park and Hayward Lake, where this crew is completing the trail on the lake's west side.

The most recent funding has come in the form of a Section 38 grant to Capilano College for six crew to build a trail in Hanes Creek behind Grouse Mountain, North Vancouver. This will be administered by the FMCBC.

There is no promise that this type of funding will be available next year from the federal government. For now, it has provided a good learning and work experience for many people who will go on to better jobs as a result of this experience. Hopefully, their contribution is also significant with new trails, new signs, new facilities and new data provided for us all.

The FMCBC is proud to have sponsored these successful projects. These 36 trail builders, plus the 10 other positions described above for a total of 46 positions, contributed 1,134 weeks of employment in B.C.. It is doubly exciting that the entire contribution involved trail recreation in one form or another, helping to fulfill the FMCBC's mandate to its members.

## Trail Bikes at Cypress

Cypress Bowl Recreations have been given approval to rent trail bikes for use on the logging access roads south of the existing alpine area and there is some concern that users will try to take advantage of the trails as well.

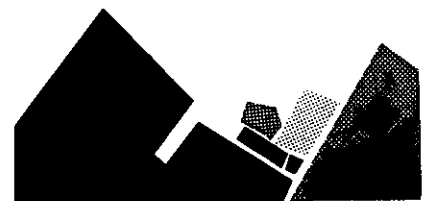
If you do encounter mountain bike users on the trails at Cypress, which are not included in the Permit Use area, a specific procedure has been recommended by Mel Turner of the Parks & Outdoor Recreation Division.

The first step is to inform the bikers in case they are unaware they are acting outside park regulations and to advise them to use the roads only, Turner said at a recent FMCBC Recreation & Conservation Committee meeting.

This should be followed up with a report, detailing specifics to John Rose, Supervisor of the Park. (This procedure should be followed for any infractions in the park, he added.)

"I don't anticipate any problems with rentals. I anticipate more problems with members of the general population that want to ride bikes up there," he said, adding that if the bikes are rented out by CBR, Booth should be advised as a matter of courtesy.

"If requirements of a Park Use Permit are not being met, it will be taken away from CBR or anyone else."



# Peter Croft

## Seeking Adventures of the Mind

by Sandra Leitch

"Normally when I solo my face takes on a look of keen concentration which some may mistake as blind fear. This time though had there been someone above to see they would have watched a grinning village idiot grope blindly up an off route groove to stand blinking in the sun, legs braced wide on the summit with nothing above to pull up on."

- Peter Croft, Canadian Alpine Journal; Volume 67, 1984



Photo by Blair Ketcheson.

His rock and mountain feats are the stuff of legends and he's among the best climbers in North America, but super climber Peter Croft isn't one to boast of his exploits.

Peter Croft, 28, wants nothing more than to "have fun" climbing, to teach others to climb and to keep pushing himself to greater adventures. For that, he doesn't need a writer tagging along after him, especially given his own writing talent, as illustrated in the CAJ. Therein, an individual style, an offbeat sense of humour and a light-hearted approach to life are apparent; as they are in person.

Just back from Yosemite Valley, sitting tanned and fit in front of the Klahanie Inn

after a full day teaching FMCBC students, Croft is wholly satisfied with the day. He'd rather talk about teaching climbing which he loves because the students are so enthusiastic, but in piecemeal fashion, divulges his latest climbing coup.

He and American climber John Bachar pulled off the first free ascent of the Nose of El Cap and the northwest face of Half Dome in one day. This sought-after achievement ultimately involved a midnight start to reach the summit of El Cap at 10 a.m.; noon departure from the valley floor for Half Dome, attaining the summit at 6 p.m. They were in the bar by nine -- with three hours left of the day to celebrate.

Peter's motivation and endurance had wowed the Valley crowd last year when he free soloed a great sequence of long, hard Valley classic routes in a day. He also did the first free solo ascent of Rostrum (12 pitches of 5.11c).

Obviously, not everyone has the right frame of mind to climb hundreds of feet off the ground with a shield of concentration offering the only protection. But, "if you do enough climbing, you get to a point where you really get a feel for whether you should be soloing or not," says Peter.

Some mornings, despite big plans, Peter knows after a few pitches he'd be better off in bed. "That's good enough. I go back to bed."

While he may retreat off relatively easy (5.7 and 5.8) climbs one day, he'll return the next to solo far more difficult routes.

"I get into a good mind set and everything will flow," says Peter.

Gliding smoothly, steadily up and down the rock, his pageboy haircut swinging gently as he continues from one hold to the next, absorbed in each move; when Peter is in the flow, he might climb up to 70 pitches in a day.

In the mountains, long ridge walks offer a physical challenge and an overall view "of where the different mountains are and the lay of the land". The changing views keep him psyched and he goes nonstop.

"He has this amazing

appetite for climbing. He really likes to do lots," says climber friend Greg Foweraker.

In the Bugaboos in 1983, after Croft and Hamish Fraser climbed the west buttress of South Howser Tower, he went off the same day and climbed three more routes. (The McCarthy route on the west face of Snowpatch, McTech Arete and the east ridge of Bugaboo Spire.)

He went as high as 20,000 feet on a Lang Tang expedition in 1984, but it was only last summer in the coast mountains when Peter says he "really started to feel comfortable in an alpine setting".

The transfer from the more controlled environment of rock climbing to mountains and glaciers came easily. He displayed his usual relentless energy and natural agility the day after he, Don Serl and Greg Foweraker climbed a new route on the east face of Razorback. He went off and soloed another new "pretty amazing ice route" up the couloir, says Foweraker.

Peter has been feeling his way up every kind of climbable rock since he read Chris Bonington's book, I Chose to Climb, when he was 16. Until then, he'd been happy enough hiking and mountain scrambling on Vancouver Island with his dad or the Mountain Island Ramblers. Committing himself to rock climbing involved devouring climbing magazines and guidebooks and lacing up his rock shoes as often as he could, wherever he could; as long as it was no further than a 15-minute hike from the road.

In those days he was "hardcore." Climbing in the middle of the winter in the pouring rain, sleeping in the caves near the Chief to get an early start and working out. His perseverance paid off as he and various partners put up a barrage of new hard routes at Squamish.

To name a few: Grub Street

(5.11), Knuckleduster (5.11), Zombie Roof (5.12c), Knackercracker (5.11), Excitable Boy (5.12), Crime of the Century (5.11), Battered Balls (5.10d), and Hummingbird (5.11).

The big Squamish breakthrough came in 1982 when he, Foweraker and Hamish Fraser made the first free ascent of University Wall (5.12). No one thought an unaided ascent of U Wall was possible then; now it remains one of Peter's favourites.

Peter and Hamish repeated the performance the next day using no fixed ropes and on another occasion, climbed the Grand Wall three times in a day.



Photo by Blair Ketcheson.

These days, he's out for fun; adventures where the outcome is uncertain. He's equally happy hill walking, mountaineering or testing his skills on types of rock he hasn't yet climbed "because it makes me feel like a beginner again."

His students, no doubt, appreciate the fact he can remember what it's like to be a novice.

His first Squamish climb is still quite clear in his mind. He, in three-quarter shank mountain boots, and Richard Suddaby, in slick-bottomed running shoes, boldly set off on Sickie, which features a short, relatively bare 5.8 slab crux.

"We figured we were ready," says Peter. But when he reached

the crux, he fell, tried to grab ahold of a sling and instead got rope burn and a distinct feeling he wasn't going to be able to climb it. With a few hexes tied to the rope end, he took aim and tried to lasso the tree above. The hexes stuck in the crotch of two rotten branches. Unable to pull it down, but knowing the branches were too rotten to pull up on, he turned to Richard and said, "I lassoed the tree, now it's your turn to take a piece of the action."

They got up, but not necessarily in the style they'd have others believe.

Peter doesn't figure he showed any extraordinary qualities as a novice climber, but he now sees a lot of wasted potential.

"Some people have natural strength and natural ability to climb, but if they don't push themselves, they won't get anywhere." He thinks anyone with the right frame of mind for climbing could do "incredible things" without improving their general level of physical fitness. "It's such a mind thing."

Although he enjoys climbing with other people, few climbers can keep his pace when he's pushing himself at exactly the rate he wants to go, without competing with anyone or having to slow down to wait.

Friend and climbing partner, Tami Knight says the reasons Peter's so good include his motivation, dedication and top physical condition. But most of all, she says "he's into having a really good time in the mountains. He loves climbing and any aspect of it."

Peter agrees he has a lot of fun, floating along, from one effortless move to the next. Buzzing on adrenalin.

He smiles that easy smile again and admits "sometimes it borders on having too much fun". And you wonder. He makes it sound so simple.

# The Magic of Untracked Powder

by Kathy Bonitz

Over the Easter weekend, 22 enthusiasts set off from the Air Alps base at Squamish and flew up the Squamish Valley in five plane loads. Their destination was the Pemberton Ice Cap for the FMCBC spring ski camp.

The contrast from the warm spring, budbursting day below to the cool white world on the glacier was exhilarating and set the tone for the week.

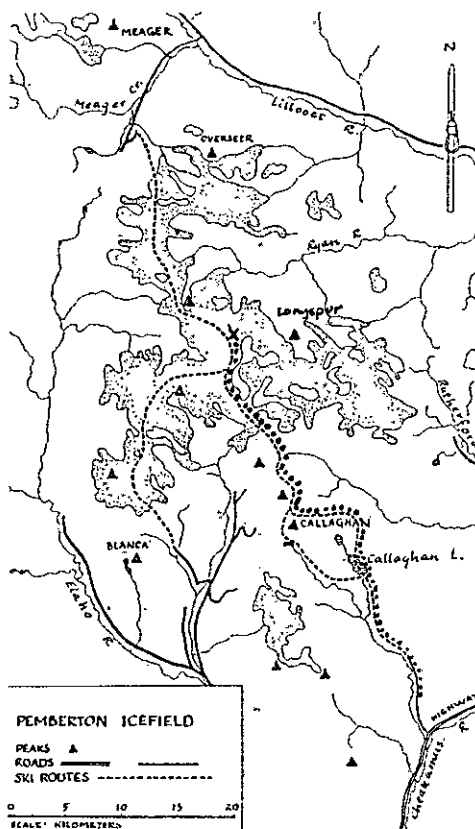
For many, these seven days would be the culmination of some of the winter FMCBC courses taken earlier in the season, where new skills could be put to the test and some just plain good skiing could be had. What better place than this pristine seldom-visited ice cap north west of Squamish.

Base camp was nestled into the protective hillside with many touring possibilities just a few hours away in any given direction. Over the next four days our party would split into several groups with day trips varying from a few hours to full days and ranging from easy low key jaunts to ascents of surrounding peaks.

Among the many highlights of the trip were ascents of Mt. Longspur and the nameless 8,000 ft. peak to the south west of Longspur, alternately dubbed April Fools' Peak, April Twelfth and Mt. Humphrey. (The author assumes no responsibility for this confusing nomenclature.)

Weather co-operated for the most part with light dustings of snow, infrequent white-outs and plenty of sunshine. Temperatures at night would plummet to well below zero, but sunrise seemed to coax the mercury back up each morning to inviting degrees.

On day five, the real work  
6 began with a slow, pleasurable



Map courtesy of John Baldwin; from "Exploring the Coast Mountains on Skis. A Guide to Over 150 Ski Touring Trips" by John Baldwin.

descent down the ice cap into the headwaters of the Soo River. Thus began the ups and downs of the trip. Despite the hard work involved over the next three days in wending our way back to civilization, our efforts were rewarded by superlative scenery. Occasional whiteouts would lift to reveal some of the most inviting velvety white peaks I've ever seen.

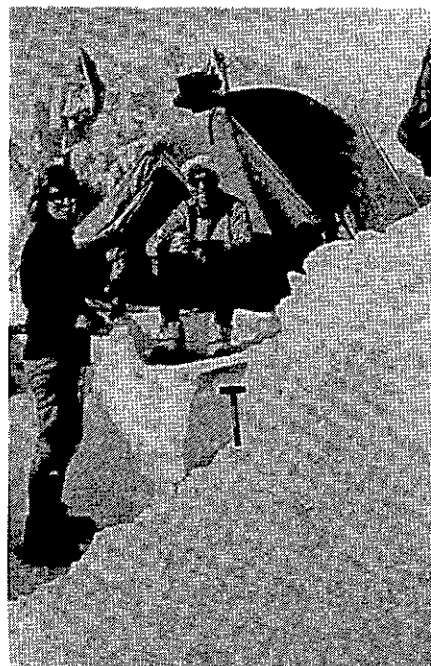
We encountered the worst weather on this first travelling day when a heavy wet snow began to fall a couple hours before making camp for the first time below tree line. Spirits lifted the next morning with the promise of better weather.

Final camp found us on the east shoulder of Mt. Callaghan and the coldest night of the trip with temperatures dipping to  $-17^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Glorious sunshine and unsurpassed telly skiing in perfect powder snow made the last day of the trip a memorable one.

Descent was via Callaghan Lakes and the Callaghan Lake Road where pre-arranged transportation was waiting to pick us up that evening.

All in all this trip was the experience of a lifetime as it afforded skiers of all levels an opportunity to taste the magic of an untracked part of the B.C. coast range. The trip was extremely well-organized and expert leadership was appreciated by all.

Hopefully, in the future, more trips of this sort will be sponsored by the FMCBC as it will allow many others to share the camaraderie of good company and the exhilaration of this white mountain world.



Kathy Bonitz and Dennis Brown at the FMCBC spring camp. Photo by Jim Rutter.

## Cypress Access Regained

by Jim Rutter

On May 1, a meeting was arranged with Deputy Minister Bob Flitton, Administrator Vince Collins, the FMCBC, and the Save Cypress Bowl Committee. As the SCC had Peter Waddington attending, who is also a member of the BCMC, I asked Peter Jordan of the ACC to attend.

This was the second such meeting. The first was arranged by the Outdoor Recreation Council after the Ministry of LP & H had cut off diplomatic relations with the FMCBC on this issue.

The FMCBC has been insisting that a genuine loss of free access to a provincial park had occurred at Cypress with the issuance of the particular Park Use Permit (PUP) given to Cypress Bowl Recreation Ltd. (CBR).

Although this first meeting was a decidedly rocky one, based, in my opinion, on the frustrations of dealing with Wayne Booth of CBR, a most stubborn, inflexible and unreasonable man; it did nevertheless manage to re-open the issue.

It was encouraging at the second meeting to hear Flitton agree that this problem would be resolved to everyone's satisfaction before the next ski season. It seems that the ministry has also had its frustrations dealing with Booth -- but then he has been holding all the cards in his PUP hand.

An agreement in principle has been reached with CBR that free year-round access to Cypress Bowl Provincial Park must be restored. Could the FMCBC agree to the idea that the PUP areas must have a boundary

within which people must have a purchased ticket? This would resolve the old problem of "how wide is a trail and am I on it or not?" So we agreed.

Our question was: "Would the free access be based on the powerline right of way?" and we were told that that was the expectation.

The FMCBC explained that free access should extend to Hollyburn Peak and that the only flexible route for skiers is the standard route up the south slope of the mountain.

Access across the downhill PUP area is essential too; otherwise skiers are cut off from the park corridor which includes the Howe Sound Crest trail to the Lions.

The meeting was generally positive and most of us left feeling as if a good solution would result. The skeptics, of course, will believe it when they see it, and their opinion is based on more situations and more promises that I have experienced. We will soon see.

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## The Battle of Cream Lake

The fragile alpine wilderness of Strathcona Park, once called the Vancouver Island Alps, will be destroyed if some of the recommendations of the Wilderness Advisory Committee are implemented.

The WAC recommendation to authorize the Parks Division to complete boundary changes in Strathcona Park would result in a huge net loss of park land. Proposed boundary changes are to add 8,000 hectares to the Park and delete 35,000 hectares.

If the government endorses the Parks Division's proposed boundary changes, the WAC recommendation that land exchanges should be of equal value must be followed.

In addition, if the status of the central area is changed from Class B to Recreation Status, this would allow Cream Silver Mines Ltd. to exploit its mining claims; leaving minetailings and tree stumps from the road building. It is also feared that logging would be allowed in the area.

Cream Silver staked 155 claims in 1966/67 in the central south site of the park in an area which includes Cream Lake, Big Interior Mountain, Price Creek and Flower Ridge, but a 1973 moratorium stopped further development and exploration in the park.

"The noise of mine-sites and increased traffic will be the final killing stab for Strathcona Park as a tourist attraction or for preservation of its unique flora and fauna for future generations," says Steve Smith of Friends of Strathcona Park.

The government is doubtless under pressure to lift the moratorium because of a precedent set by the Tenner Case (a gold mine in Wells Gray Park) where the Supreme Court ruled in favour of the mine, forcing the government to lift its moratorium.

Friends of Strathcona claim politically-involved people hold shares in Cream Silver Mines and would favour exploration or compensation of these claims.

As an example of resource development in a Provincial Park in B.C., Strathcona has been a battleground for political debate and controversy for several decades. Current boundaries make no consideration 7

## Conservation

of wildlife, conservation of ecosystems and watersheds, or outdoor recreation and commercial resource values.

Changes are needed, but they must be beneficial to the park and its resources, not detrimental. Individual support is needed.

For further information, contact Friends of Strathcona Park, Box 310, Errington, B.C. V0R 1V0

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## Tragic Mess at MacGillivray

by Jim Rutter

MacGillivray Pass is a pristine and rugged alpine area visited by hikers and backcountry skiers. It is located between D'arcy and Bralorne, about 120 miles north of Vancouver. It has a recognized and well-marked trail and a discreet rustic resort below the pass. Access has always been by foot or helicopter -- until the end of last summer.

Then, ACC members visiting the area were appalled at the presence of a new road, apparently built to access mineral claims. But it was more than the presence of a road which upset them; it was the way it had been built. Steep grades, no culverts, and debris cascaded down the slopes in a tragic mess.

The FMCBC began to make inquiries and reasons why the system doesn't work started to emerge.

Because the Mines Act supercedes the Forestry Act, the MOF personnel cannot stop the construction of a mineral claims

access road. So they do what they can and flag in the best and least damaging road route. But it seems that the cat operator chose to ignore this marked route, putting in his road his way.

Now, perhaps his route was cheaper, but the grades are reported to be very bad and without culverts. This means that the road is already starting to wash out and the grade is hopeless for most vehicles. In other words, we have an example of how poorly protected are the wilderness areas by the current land management policies, even when those areas are of high recreational value.

The FMCBC executive has chosen to make this a test case of just what is not acceptable to our membership. Next issue -- the process of complaint.

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## On Wilderness

The Wilderness Advisory Committee public hearing process provided the best opportunity yet to address environmental concerns in this province. Although many conservationists were sceptical of the process and the committee make-up, the committee members provided well-reasoned recommendations.

The FMCBC supports the committee's conclusions, in general, but some modifications would improve immensely upon the proposed solutions.

Executive Director Jim Rutter forwarded a letter outlining the FMCBC's reaction to each of the recommendations, with suggestions for improvements, to Premier Bill Bennett, Minister of the Environment Austin Pelton, to

all members of the Environment and Land Use Committee and all members of the WAC.

Comments included: On South Moresby: the FMCBC cannot support logging such a key component of the archipelago, Lyell Island. If logging must proceed, a protective buffer strip along Darwin Sound, on the west side of the Island should be established.

On the Stein: The Committee's advice to remove Stein timber from the AAC is well-founded, however further recommendations for the area are disappointing. The Stein Watershed is a superb candidate for the wilderness legislation the WAC proposes. The FMCBC urges the government of B.C. to preserve the entire Stein Valley as a Wilderness Conservancy.

On Strathcona: Recommendations for the area "were disappointing," says Rutter. Concerns include the net loss of park land recommended by PORD and inadequate protection for this much maligned park area. Deletion of Bedwell drainage, added to the recommended Cream Lake Recreation Area, creates a division of the park into two separate areas. This would be disastrous to this wilderness park.

On Manning Park: The recreational value of Paradise Meadows warrants its preservation from logging.

On Tatshenshini: The recommendations reflect an unfamiliarity with the area's unusual terrain and do not preserve the scenic values.

Overall, the FMCBC was pleased with the carefully-considered conclusions of the WAC. Hopefully, further input from concerned groups, the FMCBC included, will be



considered before final decisions are made on this critical topic.

Unfortunately, space prevents duplicating the entire FMCBC letter here. Complete details can be obtained from the FMCBC office.

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## Rare Marmots Endangered

Permanent, protected reserves are needed to prevent the Vancouver Island Marmot (*Marmota vancouverensis*) from becoming extinct.

The Vancouver Island Marmot Preservation Society says the population of this unique and rare animal is at a "very dangerously low level" and many areas historically inhabited by this species are unoccupied.

The Society has written to the government requesting two separate sub-alpine, non-forested areas comprising of a total of 500 acres be used as protected reserves, as announced by then Minister of the Environment Stephen Rogers. (The land was donated to the Crown by MacMillan Bloedel.)

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## New Member Clubs

The FMCBC wishes to welcome the following new member clubs whose applications for new membership were ratified at the last Delegate's meeting:

The Vernon Outdoors Club

The Kamloops Outdoors Club

The Vancouver Skiers and Outdoors Club

## Club Trips

The BCMC and ACC summer camps are filling up fast. Contact the camp chairmen as soon as possible if you're interested.

BCMC Summer Camp at Tchaikazan Valley - 19 July - 4 August

Tchaikazan Valley is bounded on the south by the Toba Icefields, on the west by Chilco Lake, on the east by Lord River and Taseko Lakes and on the north by the Interior Plateau of the Cariboo Country. Suitable terrain for hikers and climbers. Base camp is at 1700 metres. Contact Paul Kubik at 876-0764.

ACC Summer Camp at Goddard Glacier - Mt. Good-Hope - 19 July - 4 August

A fine camp for general mountaineering with the added bonus of a peak over 10,000 feet. Refer to map 92 N1/E (1:50,000) Contact Grant McCormack, 2450 Oliver Crescent, Vancouver, B.C. V6L 1S7

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## Agony and Ecstasy

Improve your climbing abilities with one of North America's best.

The outstanding climber and FMCBC instructor, Peter Croft, is available for individual Advanced Rock Climbing courses on the Squamish Chief. Lead or second; client's choice. Maximum ratio is 2:1, but for maximum benefit book alone. And book in advance. Cost: \$80.00/person/day for 2:1 ratio or \$125.00/person/day for 1:1 ratio. Prerequisite: Intermediate Rock Climbing or equivalent experience. Contact the FMCBC office for booking.

## FMCBC Abroad

A number of new and exciting mountain trips are available to FMCBC members. Albi Sole, recently returned from the Everest Light expedition where he carried to Camp 6, has proposed three trips out of Canada.

1. Jan. 3-18 Trekking and possibly some easy climbing in the Paine area, Chile. \$1,200 - \$1,600 plus airfare (about \$1,500);

8 people maximum.

2. Jan. 24 - Feb. 16 Mount Aconcagua (22,868 ft.), Argentina

\$1,500 plus airfare (about \$1,500); 6 people maximum.

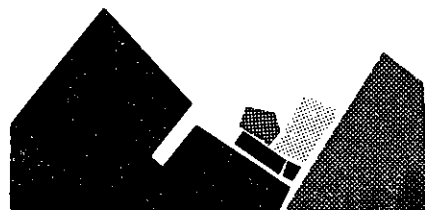
3. May 1 - May 31 Island Peak (about 20,000 ft.), Nepal; \$2,000 plus airfare (about \$1,600); 8 people maximum; (a relatively easy climb near Everest)

The above prices include all food, hotel and porter guide costs. All technical equipment is also supplied.

Albi is a personable and well-experienced climber. He visited the FMCBC office recently to thank us for helping to support his position on the Everest Light expedition.

These trips should be appropriate to strong travellers with moderate climbing ability.

The FMCBC office is accepting letters from those interested in climbing with Albi. He will reply to you when he returns from Peru in the near future.



# Squamish at the Crossroads

by Kevin McLane

The rock climbing scene at Squamish is being threatened by a number of developments over the last year or two. These include road building and blasting in the Little Smoke Bluffs, land fill in front of the Malemute, threats from Squamish Council to quarry the Malemute and apparent intention from the Highways Department to start quarrying operations at the Bulletheads.

The most significant action so far has been the blasting of part of the Geritol Wall to make way for a road being built from Hospital Hill northward along the base of the cliffs for property access.

Greg McDonald, a local logger, bought two lots from B.C. Hydro in 1984 underneath the major powerline running north-south in front of Crag X and the Smoke Bluff wall. During the last two years he has been clearing the land and has half-finished building a barn for the purpose of ranching horses. He had been gaining access to the property via a rough road he built from Logger Lane in the north, underneath Crag X, but when another property owner removed his right to cross his property, McDonald petitioned Squamish Council for a road easement from Hospital Hill. This was granted last summer with virtually no strings attached. As a result, part of the Geritol Wall was blasted; leaving the area between the climbers' parking lot and the Smoke Bluff Wall

an unsightly mess. The lower part of Geritol Wall was blasted

away, despite the fact there was a reasonable alternative that would have left the crag intact.

Work has been proceeding very slowly and there are fears that the rough, unfinished mess will become semi-permanent.



Other effects of these attempts at road building have been to annoy local residents at Hospital Hill and Geology students at the High School.

The residents used to enjoy the place as a pleasant area for walking the dog or taking an evening stroll, and, ironically, the blasted rock was part of a popular and interesting field trip for the students.

Squamish Council has acted with poor judgement in allowing the building and blasting, with little or no effort made to check on the impact it would have on other groups. Several people raised the matter with Council when the work began, but their reaction was one of disinterest.

One result of this sad affair has been to bring home to climbers the realization that if they do not act to help

themselves and protect the cliffs, more climbs and even entire cliffs will be lost.

## NEW ASSOCIATION FORMED

To provide a focus for lobbying efforts, The Squamish Rockclimbers Association has been formed. Some of the activities underway are an ownership survey of the entire area to determine who owns the crags we use, an economic impact analysis of the benefits to Squamish of the sport of rock climbing (initial calculations suggest that it is at least equivalent to the Royal Hudson), and plans to produce a report to present to the various levels of government and other interested parties.

The SRA is open to membership and it is hoped that a broad base of support can be established.

Long term plans exist to redevelop the waterfront at Squamish; a project that would be of considerable benefit to the area economically.

The large sums of money required for such a development are not yet forthcoming, but when they are, the Malemute will come under the threat of being quarried to provide fill and additional area for a deep sea port.

The recent dredging of Blind Channel has seen the deposition of a huge amount of sand in front of the BCR tracks between the MacMillan Bloedel yard and the Malemute.

This is the first stage in construction of a log sorting

ground; operations which are presently conducted on the west side of Blind Channel and do not affect climbers.

The new development will affect climbers and removal of the Malemute would be a major disaster.

The Department of Highways and the Parks Branch have built a major turn-around and parking lot in front the Chief on the highway; an action that is aimed at tourists, with climbers being the jam in the sandwich that will encourage them to stop and look. The various levels of government are bending over backwards to encourage and develop tourism.

Let's hope they'll come to recognize that climbers are tourists also, and drop their plans for blowing up a valuable non-renewable resource.



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# Squamish Rock

## CELEBRATE

the  
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of the  
First Ascent of the Grand Wall

Saturday, July 19th

### AN AFTERNOON OF:

- World Class Climbing
- Stunning Scenery
- Mountain Burgers
- Pop
- Suntans
- Climbing Movies

### CLIMBING LOCATION:

New Viewpoint 1/2 mile  
north of Shannon Falls.

### TIME:

12 noon - 5 p.m.

Watch a re-enactment of  
this famous first  
ascent in 1961-style.

See today's climbers in  
action in 1986 style.

### CLIMBING SLIDES & FILMS

### LOCATION:

Squamish Elementary  
School

TIME: 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Slides feature the  
Squamish area.

Price: \$2.00 (slide show)

You may never climb the  
Squamish Chief yourself, so come  
to this slide show and see the  
"other side" of Squamish.

Sponsored and organized by the  
Squamish Rockclimbers'  
Association and the Federation  
of Mountain Clubs of B.C.

## MOUNTAINLINK

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MountainLink will provide accomodation  
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enjoy the New Zealand way of life.

Your tour group of 12 will travel by  
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mountaineers.

Remember, it will be summer in New  
Zealand. Total price for accomodation,  
guiding, and all transport, including air-  
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Next Tour: February 1987 - four weeks.

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FMCBC, 1200 Hornby St., Vancouver  
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increases, so does our  
readership. In the next few  
issues, you'll notice  
improvements (we hope) in  
editorial content, as well as in  
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To support the magazine's  
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Cloudburst. As the only  
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ad in the next issue of  
cloudburst, contact the FMCBC  
office today.



# Selecting Lightweight Boots

by John Manuel

The emerging generation of lightweight boots is the most recent example of an improved product that performs so much better its worth soon becomes obvious.

Most new equipment on the market offers only marginal improvement over what was previously available. A product may be a bit lighter or a bit more waterproof or it will boil water 30 seconds faster, but there isn't enough of a difference to justify retiring your current whatever. Exceptions, of course, include internal frame packs, fleece or pile clothing and lightweight boots.

There are many models of lightweight boots available that offer dramatically better performance and greater comfort than the boots available just a few years ago.

Rather than recommend by model or manufacturer, I'll try to describe the features that, in my opinion, are found in a good lightweight boot.

The upper should be a good quality full grain leather with minimum seams. Ideally, the only seams will be on the sewn-in tongue and on the backstay. Seams are natural points of leakage and, especially on the side of the boot, are broken by abrasion. The full grain leather provides an excellent combination of waterproofness, durability and support, particularly when compared to fabric/leather combination uppers. Although it may look heavier, the boot with a leather upper is actually very little heavier than the same boot with a fabric/leather

A good boot will be well-padded through the ankle and will be fully lined, usually with leather. Some manufacturers line their boots with Cambrelle, a synthetic which dries quicker than leather, holds less moisture and is easily to care for.

A major question to be resolved is: how valuable is a Gore-Tex liner? Many users report that a fully seamed inner sock liner of Gore-Tex makes the boot far more waterproof. As user's opinions vary and as the Gore-Tex liner does add considerably to the price, I'm rather skeptical. If I did buy a pair of boots with a Gore-Tex liner, I'd make sure of the guarantee.

On the inside of lightweight boots, a molded footbed helps locate the foot more positively within the boot. It can usually be removed or replaced with your own orthopaedic inserts if necessary.

The upper part of the boot may be either stitched or glued to the lower. The glued or bonded construction was often a disaster a few years ago, but with improved technology, you should be able to buy boots with this construction without worries.

The next considerations are support and cushioning. A good walking/hiking boot should be flexible in the sole; allowing for natural stride, but it should also have torsional rigidity; that is, it should resist being twisted. Torsional rigidity is the characteristic that gives you support, usually with a nylon or other synthetic shank or midsole. These can be surprisingly effective.

Fortunately, boots can be lightweight without being wimpy.

Cushioning was introduced into hiking boots within the last few years for those of us whose knees and feet have suffered the cumulative effect of years of hiking and running. Cushioning, especially under the heels, reduces fatigue and, hopefully, the probability of injury. The most common form of cushioning is with a layer of soft rubber such as EVA, borrowed from running shoe technology.

The last feature to consider is the sole. Soles on the light boots tend to be lighter and thinner than on heavier traditional boots. They won't last as long, but do tend to be less destructive to trails. Many of them now feature more rounded, big patterns designed not to get slippery, clogged with mud and heavy. Soles should be replaceable.

While light boots are generally easier to fit than the heavier stiffer backpacking/mountaineering boots, nothing is more important than a good fit. Nothing! Try out different brands of boots at different shops. Wear them around the house for a week or two and if they don't continue to feel good, return them (in new condition).

Good lightweight boots will take you to some of the fine places we have in our province with a minimum of discomfort and fatigue. Have a good summer!

(John Manuel is an employee of the Mountain Equipment Co-op.)



# From Coast to Coast: A Hiking Trail

by Poyin Aeyeung

A 10,000 km hiking trail, from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean, sounds like a dream, if not a grandiose historical undertaking. However, this "dream" is materializing incrementally and regionally across Canada.

The National Trail Project began with the vision of a group of ardent hikers who have been pursuing this mammoth task with hope, perseverance and prudence. One of the concrete outcomes of their effort is the establishment of the National Trail Association of Canada (NTAC), comprising of regional representatives from the Atlantic Provinces, Quebec, Ontario, the Prairies, and B.C. The regional representatives are responsible for coordinating the planning and development of the trail route within their respective provinces.

The project is expected to promote hiking and outdoor activities across the country, forming a basis for communication and unity among hikers.

Some of the criteria used for designing the proposed National Trail include: maximizing the use of existing trails; selecting trails which are close to urban communities; and incorporating a variety of topography and hiking experiences, including such trails as urban, scenic, historic, wilderness, flats, slopes, etc.

## WHERE WE ARE NOW

B.C. has made the most progress in terms of developing a feasible route and coordinating with relevant public agencies. To date, a tentative route for B.C. has been identified. Numerous

government agencies and outdoor organizations have been notified. Overall, many have expressed support for the general concept and some have submitted suggestions for alternate routing.

The Baden-Powell Trail, being the western terminus of the National Trail, was recently recommended for Provincial Recreation Corridor Status. Under this status, the recreation value of designated corridors will be recognized and coordinated with other types of development.

The NTAC also made a presentation to the International Congress on Trail & River Recreation, held in Vancouver May 31 to June 4. A press conference on the NTAC was held concurrently with the Congress. The delegates expressed a great deal of interest in the project.

## WHERE WE'RE HEADING

After gathering significant recommendations from various sources, alternative routes will be developed. This will be followed by a rigorous evaluation process which assesses the numerous options. Once a feasible route has been

identified, legalistic concerns such as land titles, access points, permission will be dealt with.

## CONSULTATION

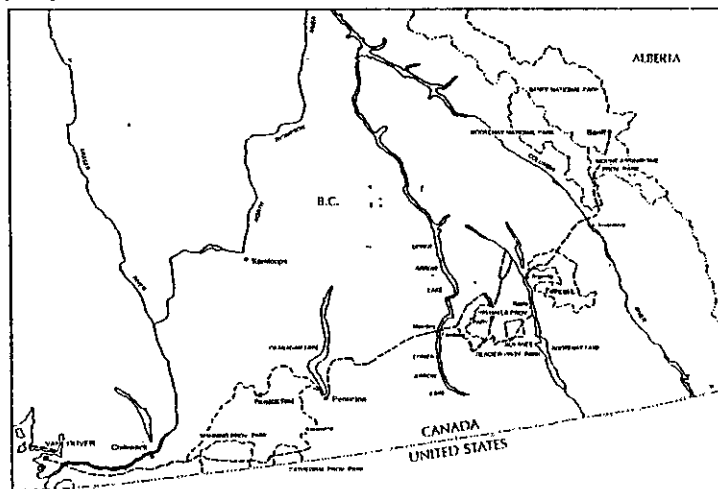
Since the proposed route traverses various jurisdictions and may affect local communities, it is essential that a public consultative approach be adopted in the planning process.

## MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES:

The construction and maintenance of the trail will have to be fulfilled by volunteers, outdoor clubs, and job creation projects. In other words, the NTAC has assumed the challenging mandate of not only initiating and organizing the project, but also mobilizing the necessary resources to implement it.

## RESPONSIVENESS

The attitude of "think continentally and act locally" is an indispensable ingredient at such a breath-taking endeavour. While it is important to maintain a nation-wide perspective, it is also critical that the project be responsive to local needs and characteristics.



TENTATIVE NATIONAL TRAIL - B.C. SECTION

# International Congress on Trail and River Recreation

by Nora Layard

People representing trail and river recreation interests from around the world gathered at UBC during the first week of June to share ideas, philosophies and practical advice. The International Congress on Trail and River Recreation, sponsored by the Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C. and several government agencies, brought together people of many disciplines to explore what trails and rivers can and do mean to the world.

Over 300 delegates from ten countries participated in four days of sessions and social events designed to address the value of society to trail and river recreation, ways of increasing participation and different management issues.

Rod Nash of California shared a vision of wilderness needed by civilized man and important in its own right. His question, "can we as a culture become civilized enough to appreciate wilderness?" was a challenge to all attending the Congress.

Bing Lucas from the New Zealand Walkway Commission demonstrated his countries' commitment to trails and rivers, and followed up his interest in the Congress by offering to coordinate the next one, in New Zealand!

Speakers consistently spoke of the emerging pattern of quality experiences being sought by today's recreationists. Mediocre experiences are no longer acceptable; true wilderness experiences are being demanded in the face of resource extraction and other debilitating uses of the land.

Delegates also recognized the commitment by volunteer agencies and personnel in developing,

lobbying for, maintaining and using trails. Examples of exciting projects in other countries designed to facilitate volunteer involvement were presented.

Increasing leisure time in modern society was seen by speakers as an opportunity to increase participation such as special population needs, lack of public involvement in the decision making process and legal and liability issues were also addressed.

Speakers William Penn Mott, Jr., Director of the U.S. Parks Service, and Max Petersen, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, shared their agencies' commitment to recreation programs and the preservation of their remaining wilderness areas, even though both parks and forests are subject to intense industrial demands.

Field trips to the Skagit River Valley, the Chilliwack River Valley, the Whistler Corridor and the North Shore Mountains gave delegates an opportunity to see first hand B.C.'s management techniques for integrating timber harvesting with varying recreational uses. A trip to the Mount Baker National Forest demonstrated to many the successful American method of integrating different uses. Throughout all field trips, delegates were able to contribute comments from their own experiences, leader to much "shoulder rubbing" and information sharing!

As a result of efforts by the Friends of Stikine, a unique field trip was arranged. On the last day of the Congress, many delegates boarded a CP Air 737 jet at 3:00 a.m. to fly to the Stikine River. After an hour of flying at high altitudes, the

jet descended to 1,000 feet and flew the entire length of the river. The Grand Canyon, threatened by flooding for hydro purposes, was the highlight of a trip which included close views of Mount Edziza, the spectacular mountains of the Coast Range and even some mountain goats. The jet returned by 8:30 a.m., in time for the Congress' morning sessions.

Other special events, including lunches, a salmon barbecue, a boat cruise up the Indian Arm and a final banquet featuring guest speaker Andy Russell, created ample time for all to meet, exchange ideas and to develop contacts for future interchanges.

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## New Guidebook

### Exploring Lynn Canyon and Lynn Headwaters Park

This new guidebook by Roger and Ethel Freeman provides every detail necessary to explore and enjoy a wilderness experience minutes away from Greater Vancouver.

Detailed maps, descriptions, instructions and photos of the Lynn Canyon area provide a useful supplement to the Freeman's comprehensive Exploring Vancouver's North Shore Mountains. All of which are excellent.

Lynn Canyon was established as a park in 1912, but the upper valley of Lynn Canyon was closed to the public from 1929 to 1985. It re-opened last year with a new trail network and increasing interest in the area.

The guidebook features the first complete and accurate trail coverage of Lynn Canyon Park and its surrounding areas, a full description of the new Lynn Headwaters Regional Park and its trails, a separate waterproof map of both parks and interesting historical background of the area.

It's well worth having your own copy.

Available at the FMCBC office for \$6.00.

## Fairweather Bagged

All six members of a B.C. expedition to Mt. Fairweather reached the summit June 25, claiming the first ascent by a Canadian (B.C.) approach route. The 15,320 ft. peak is the highest in British Columbia.

Expedition members were Fred Theissen and Gord Franks of the Kootenay Mountaineers and Rob Brusse, Grant McCormack, Eric White, and Ellen Woodd of the ACC.

An application will be made to call the route "Taylor Ridge" after the first Canadian to ascend Mt. Logan and the first Canadian to attempt Mt. Fairweather, says Rob Brusse.

The group had good luck in that the weather was good, but avalanche hazards dictated 2:30 a.m. starts and early afternoon dinners, says Brusse. Fixed lines proved useful for 3,000 feet of the "moderately technical route with a steep



### A Conservationist Prayer

by Theresa Duynstee

Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the lands development shall keep, The trees, wildlife, water, scenery and sounds, provide for now and when we're no longer around.

The gifts of nature have given me a home, the logging roads lead to where ever I roam. Industry has allowed our growth to leap, yet how much longer can we continue to reap.

My fear is for the vast amount of waste, thoughtlessly produced often with haste. The dollar value gives this right to abuse, but the losses measured seem to confuse. The damage to soil, water sources and sights, prevents birth, regrowth and looks like a blight.

My concerns are not to profit a few, but benefit many both old and new. Conservation is to provide the greatest good, for all, in the longest time that it could. Utilizing resources can provide for man's needs, but will not satisfy every man's greed. I cannot continue to watch men skin the land, I need strength, foresight and a helping hand.

Alone we are weak, but in numbers we can progress. Through knowledge and commitment, nothing is useless. We must listen to the experts, hear what they speak, stand up for what is right and not be meek. I will try each day I awake, to give a little and not just take. My words and actions can contribute to, conserving our resources for me and you.

exposed ridge and crevasse and avalanche hazard".

"At one point an avalanche came off the ridge and destroyed part of the fixed lines. We watched as this happened from a safe vantage point," says Brusse. The summit was gained after 10 days hauling loads up; four days were taken for the descent.

Watch for upcoming slide shows, magazine articles and radio interviews.

**PROPOSED CHILKOOT TRAIL**  
NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

Environment Canada, Parks invites you to participate in the preparation of the management plan for the proposed Chilkoot Trail National Historic Park.

A PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE MEETING has been scheduled to provide you an opportunity to meet Environment Canada, Parks representatives, present your viewpoints and discuss planning issues for the Canadian portion of the Chilkoot Trail.

LOCATION: Hotel Vancouver  
Waddington Room  
900 W. Georgia St.

DATE: July 9, 1986  
Wednesday

TIME: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

If you cannot attend the meeting but wish to receive information and be included on our mailing list, please complete the section below and mail it to:

Environment Canada, Parks  
Prairie and Northern Region  
Chilkoot Trail Public Participation  
457 Main Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3B 3E8

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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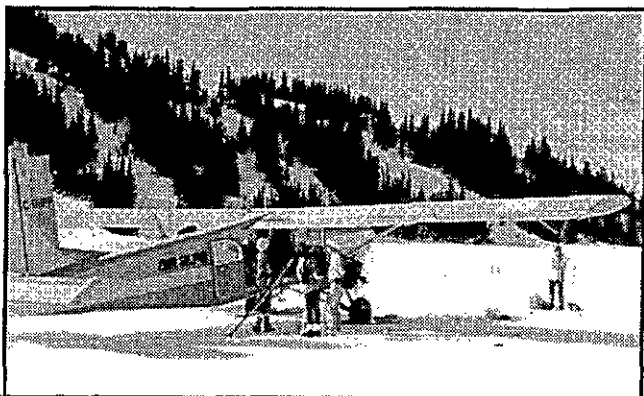
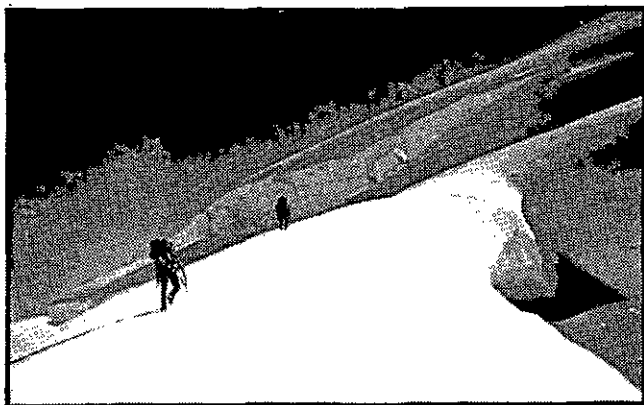
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# TIME IS MONEY



## THE PROBLEM.

For most of us, WORK, is one of those things that you have to fit in between weekends. Unfortunately, weekends are only 2 days long. Here on the coast we have some of the best climbing, hiking, and touring the world has to offer. Unfortunately, most of the "really good" area's are at least a 1 day hike to get to. As the weekend is only 2 days long, the majority of your VALUABLE TIME is spent getting to and from the great spots. Right?

## THE ANSWER.

Our ski-equipped PILATUS PORTER. The Pilatus can carry 6 passengers, and a reasonable amount of gear to most area's within a 1 hour radius of the Squamish Airport. If you have a "special" place in mind, discuss it with our chief pilot Ron Banner, he has landed the Pilatus on hundreds of Glaciers in the Southwest corner of B.C.

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