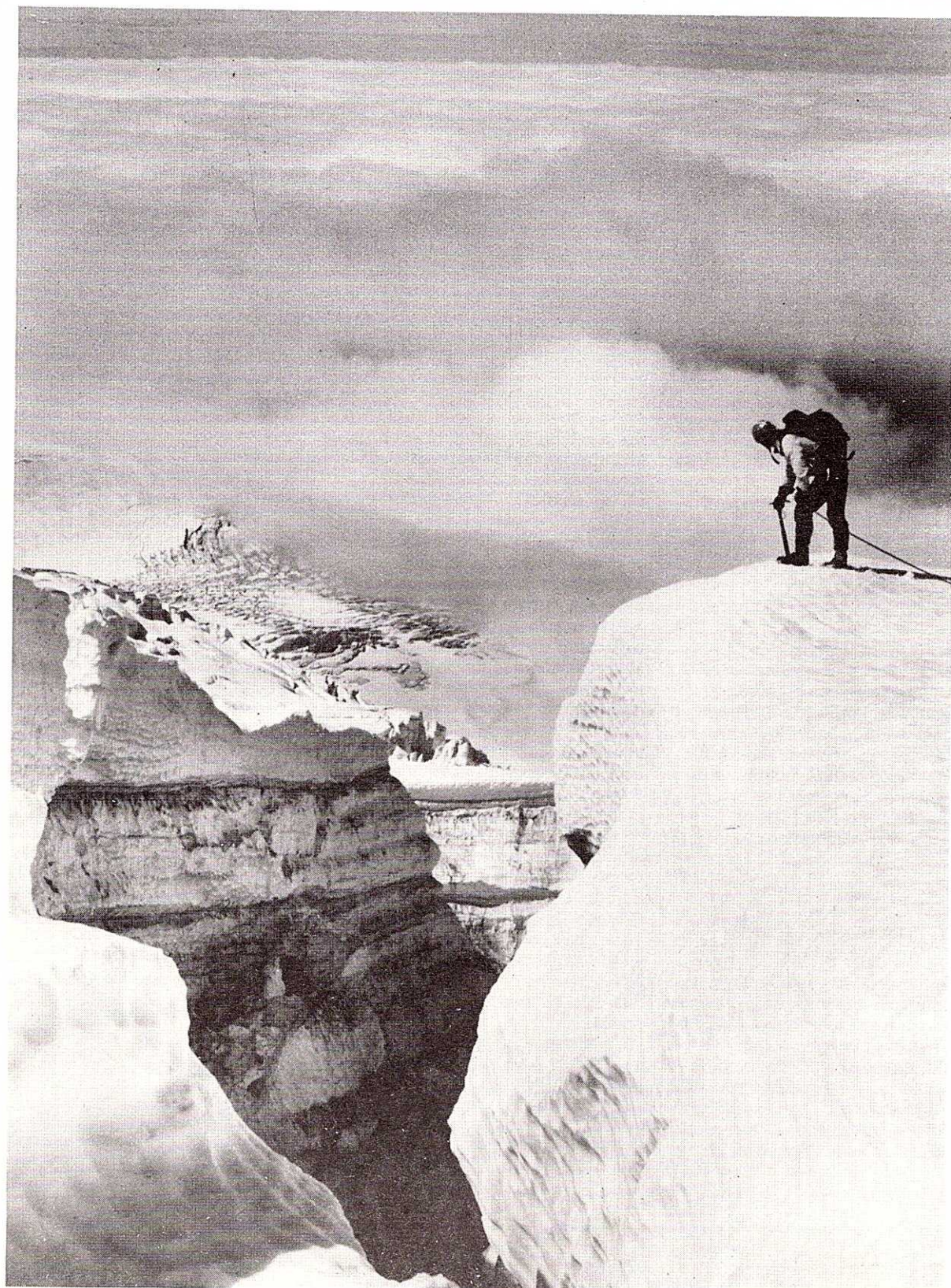


CLOUDBURST



Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia Newsletter

WINTER 1986



South Moresby: A Summer of Contrasts

by Jim Haberl

The Federation of Mountain Clubs broke from their traditional base of strictly mountain-oriented courses this summer by offering trips to the South

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. Contact the FMCBC office.

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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 BC Recreation and Sport

Moresby Wilderness in the Queen Charlotte Islands. The fact that this area is a key environmental issue in the province had much to do with the departure from the normal course offerings of the federation. Environmental issues are a priority at the Federation and thus a trip of this nature fits the mandate very well.

As an experiment of sorts, the trips went exceptionally well. Those who did manage to get out on the boat, the beautiful 56' sailing ketch, "Compass Rose V", had a great time in near perfect weather.

From the airport in Sandspit, the crew immediately joined Tom Ellison and me on board and we headed south past the logging on northern Moresby Island. That night we anchored in Thurston Harbour, an old log booming ground on Talunkwan Island. There we viewed the area provincially reknown for the exceptionally poor standard of tree harvesting. The completely denuded slopes are now sliding down from road-sides etched out of steep sidehills and the second growth timber consists largely of hardwood species — undesirable in such an area.

The next morning we explored Windy Bay on the east side of Lyell Island. Huge spruce trees dominated the untouched coastal forest, thousands of pink salmon spawned at the mouth of the creek and the thick, richly coloured moss beds cushioned our footsteps as we walked silently through the ancient land. The contrast between the serenity of that watershed with the destructive logging process taking place around the corner in Gate Creek was almost unbelievable. But it served as an all too obvious lesson and showed the need for a greater conscience within our forest industry.

We continued south into the proposed Moresby Wilderness, exploring the islands: hot tubs followed by salmon barbecues, sunsets over the San Cristoval Range, fishing for halibut (successfully!!), hiking to the divide for a view of the Pacific Ocean, and many other adventures before leaving the Juan Perez area to move still further south.

The southern islands of the Queen Charlottes are very special. Among them is Anthony Island, or Skungwaii by Haida definition, where the powerful west coast meets the legends of the Haida culture. Unique and mystical, a rare spot in a rare setting, Skungwaii provides a central focus for the entire

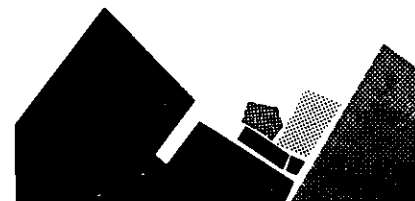
South Moresby issue. The aura of the southern Charlottes is best portrayed on this island. It offers a glimpse of all the environments available to Moresby wilderness visitors.

Thousands of nesting seabirds flock to the island where Haida poles enchant visitors with a strong sense of past cultures and the need for preservation. The island's west side displays the power of the Pacific Ocean — a strong contrast between the island's east side and the mature decaying forest which provides a base for new life in a renewal process that is a wonder to behold.

We moved further south onto Kungit Island, a savage and unexplored space, and took advantage of the clear weather for an unparalleled day on one of the spectacular white, sandy beaches of the west coast. We lounged in the hot sun, rode canoes in the swells and even managed a pick-up baseball game to round out a perfect relaxing day. Our journey back north was highlighted by a storm sail in 35 knots of wind and two metre seas around Reef Island. The savage power of the ocean environment was felt by everyone. The sense of excitement and exhilaration was overridden by our feeling of smallness in such a sea.

So the first FMCBC sailing trip was a great success. We were blessed with exceptional weather for the Queen Charlottes and we took full advantage of our luck.

The real questions, those related to continued logging practices on Lyell Island, remain. Why have the cutting permits allowed such scars to creep into plain distasteful view of the proposed park and wilderness area? There is a real tendency for people to become immune to such acts when we have been subject to clear cut logging throughout our lives. We learn to accept the devastation and can actually blank such travesty from our minds. I guess the option is to go crazy. But a few extra letters may help and I am sure there will be at least nine letters sent to Victoria this fall from the crew of the first Federation trip to the Charlottes.



Guided Backpacking: Strathcona Park Vancouver Island

by Jim Rutter

"I understand now why your organization works so hard to protect Strathcona Park," said Nora Layard, staff member of the Outdoor Recreation Council and one of 11 people who had just completed a 10-day trek across this magnificent wilderness on Vancouver Island.

Located between Campbell River and Gold River with its southern boundary by Great Central Lake, Strathcona is B.C.'s oldest provincial park. This past summer marked its 75th anniversary.

Sadly, this park's history is not a happy one. Not being one of this province's statute parks, it has been the victim of government decisions to allow logging and mining to take place within its boundaries. It is currently threatened with the development of legal* mineral claims in a most beautiful alpine area near Cream Lake. (*The park was once opened by the government to mineral claim staking. It has since closed again.)

Despite its checkered history, this park is still mostly wilderness; without trails, signs or campsites. Few have travelled its length due to the level of commitment it demands of alpine visitors. Those who have been there understand the grandeur of its rugged 7,000 ft. peaks, the purity of its alpine areas and the superb open ridge routes with views to Waddington, Georgia Strait and the Pacific.

Our reasonably fit and well-prepared group ranged in age from 20 to 59. A straight line on the map from our starting point where the Elk River trail leaves the Gold River Highway to our exit point due south at the Westmin Mine Site measured 25 miles. The route on the ground was easily twice that and there were a few ups and downs along the way.

The Elk River Trail gives a gentle introduction to city limbs. But the bags are heavy. When you have to carry everything, including tents, stove, fuel and food for 10 days, it's difficult to carry less than 50 pounds each. The trip leaders, being well aware of what may be needed if something goes wrong four days into the backcountry, carry a rope, extensive first aid supplies and emergency kits. The weight of their bags is a trade secret.

With no pressure to hurry, we were out of the woods on day three and into the high and barren U-shaped valley

where the Elk River grows from melting snow and up to the pass looking out over the middle of the park.

Straight ahead and far away are the glaciers of Nine Peaks and Big Interior Mountain; to the right the imposing Mt. Matchlee and behind the immense headwaters valley of the Wolfe River is the massif of the Golden Hinde and its sidekick the Behinde.

The sighs of disbelief are not hidden as the guide tells the fast-fit hikers how, three days from now, they will stand on that summit and see the whole world below them.

In camp that night at Dead Bear Lake, named by us for the not-long-dead baby black bear we found nearby, the group eased its forest-torn bodies at the camp fire. The pattern was becoming pleasantly familiar — packs off, tea water on, damp clothes off, warmies on, tea up, dinner down, then, blissfully, nothing. By the fire we share out thoughts and feelings. Coming from very different backgrounds, the group is quite a mixture. A former test pilot, Bud and his wife Lea, make up one tent group. Stephanie and Doug, a doctor and pharmacist, another. Nora has teamed up with two travellers, Irene from Norway and Susan from Germany. And Cindy, an articling lawyer, is sharing with Gerta, a nurse, from Victoria. The two trip leaders are both from Vancouver, one a high school teacher, the other an FMCBC staff person.

By day five, everybody is well broken in to crossing loose scree slopes, climbing steep snow and the weight of their pack. A disappointed group meets at the campfire that evening after a failed summit attempt on the Golden Hinde, the trip's major peak. After travelling so far, it's difficult to accept that bad weather can change all the plans, but a slow ascent in a constant drizzle had forced an end to a summit climb that day.

But it wasn't long before a revitalized group, amused by Doug's account of the history of vintage port, and cheered by a generous sample of the same, went to bed hoping for another try.

The morning broke with a cloudless sky and the team moving up the snowfields on the Hinde by seven. A series of rock gullies and dirt slopes led to the final pitch, a 53° snow couloir, treated respectfully with a fixed rope. An hour on the top fulfilled all promises with every peak on the island in view. It was

a tired crew that walked in to base camp 12 hours after leaving.

Two days later we shared our last camp together in the alpine above Westmin Mine. During the two fourteen hour days that almost got us out before the food was finished, we managed to include amid the hard work a leisurely close-up (60 m) view of a stag elk grazing on an alpine meadow, swims in the most perfect lakes imaginable and awesome limestone scenery with pink flowering heather.

Now, with the air disturbed continuously by machinery noise from the mine, it was time to descend from paradise.

Nine more people understand why the FMCBC and the Vancouver Island clubs do all they can to push for full protection forever for this, the oldest and most threatened B.C. provincial park.

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Next Tour: February 1987 — four weeks. Number of places available: 8 only.

Address inquiries to MountainLink c/o FMCBC, 1200 Hornby St., Vancouver V6Z 2E2.

Chilko Lake Proposal

by Liz Pope

Two hundred kilometres southwest of Williams Lake, the Interior Plateau halts abruptly at the 3000 meter mountains surrounding Chilko and Taseko Lakes. This remote portion of the southern Coast range, the Chilcotin Mountains has repeatedly been identified by the B.C. Lands, Parks and Housing ministry as worthy of park status. Yet the 300,000 hectare area's future is still in limbo while mining exploration roads haphazardly push further up its valleys.

The Chilcotin Mountains area is noted for the immense scale of its topography, rivalling that found in the Rocky Mountain National Parks. Long tongues of ice flow from massive peaks into the broad forested valleys braided by rivers such as the Tchaikazan and Taseko. The Chilko Lake watershed is the terminus of nearly 35% of the Fraser River sockeye run. The mountains frequently attract climbing camps including the BCMC summer camp in 1986 and the Alpine Club summer camp in 1982, both in the Tchaikazan valley.

A Deferred Area Plan by the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing observed that the area contains landscapes and recreational features and values which are of provincial significance and not represented elsewhere in the Provincial Park system. Chilko Lake itself is scenic enough to warrant national significance. The study team concluded that "protection and special management of the natural features and values is more important than optimizing the development of all resource values in the area."

The ministry's report resulted in the area's recent exclusion from Provincial Forest designation. Its remoteness makes timber harvesting unviable and the trees are not included in the Annual Allowable Cut. The Chilcotin Mountains are currently designated a Park study area, awaiting decision by the Environment Land Use Committee of Cabinet regarding future resource use.

The principle resource use conflicts within the study area center between mining interests and a myriad of resource uses which can be negatively impacted by mining and mineral exploration activities. These include wilderness recreation pursuits such as mountaineering, canoeing, backpacking, backcountry skiing, horseback riding, hunting and fishing. The area also supports guide outfitters and trappers who maintain cabins and trails up the valleys and into the mountains.

Several rustic resorts attract tourists from abroad seeking a variety of wilderness recreation experiences.

Increasing mineral exploration is pushing roads into the mountains with inadequate regard for other resource uses and the areas natural integrity. Traditional trails have been obliterated and wildlife populations detrimentally impacted. A large open-pit mine in one of the more scenic areas is a possibility. FMCBC Recommendations—

The FMCBC urges the provincial government to proceed immediately to preserve the wilderness values found in the Chilcotin Mountains. The optimal is designation of the area as Class A Provincial Park. The park would preferably be managed as a roadless area with the aim of preserving wilderness and the visual and aesthetic integrity of the mountain ranges and valleys. At the

same time, traditional resource use activities including native resource harvesting, guide outfitting and trapping should be permitted to continue provided these do not threaten the viability of wildlife populations, nor conflict excessively with other recreational users. What Can You Do?

Those who are interested in the outdoors are encouraged to visit the Chilcotin Mountains and experience firsthand their superb recreational opportunities and unique natural history. Communicate your views on the area's future to the Environment and Land Use Committee of Cabinet which is currently deciding how the area's resources will be managed.

Please write: Stephen Rodgers, Minister of Environment and Parks, or Premier William Vander Zalm, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C.

Okanagan Meeting

The Vernon Outdoor Club, one of the FMCBC's newest members, organized and hosted the Okanagan Regional meeting of FMCBC clubs November 20.

After opening remarks by Executive Director Jim Rutter, Dr. Roger Freeman, Chairman of the Recreation and Conservation Committee, gave an enlightening overview of the FMCBC's successes and failures in conservation issues over the last 12 years.

The main presentation on access featured John Rich, a volunteer representative from the West Coast Environmental Law Association. A lively discussion on this misunderstood and hard to understand legal situation followed, but John had prepared a very clear presentation complete with summary notes for hand outs.

After lunch were two presentations. Gene Leduc, Kamloops Regional Staff Manager responsible for Timber, Range and Recreation, represented the MOF and outlined the ministry policy regarding recreation and necessary site development. Phil Whitfield, Regional Planning Manager, of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division (PORD), Southern Interior Region, Kamloops, outlined his agency's area of responsibility and its policies regarding outdoor recreation in the Okanagan region. Both speakers were well received and many questions followed.

Club representatives were in agreement that this level of meeting is extremely valuable and that they should be planned on a six month basis.

Valhallas Project

The project to rebuild the Drinnan Pass Trail is now complete. This summer a FMCBC crew of six, working out of a tent camp at road's end, build six kilometres of high standard trail into the Gwillim Lakes area of the Valhallas Provincial Park.

Originally started in September 1985, and snowed out before any trail could be constructed, this project had more than its share of problems. Many of the difficulties related to the FMCBC operating 400 miles from home base, and on a very tight budget made worse by the expenses incurred last year setting up the first camp.

But the trail is now finished and to a standard which has gained favourable comment from all agencies concerned. The experience has given the FMCBC a valuable opportunity to know better how to plan for, staff and budget such long range projects.

It is anticipated that the FMCBC will be applying for similar contracts throughout British Columbia.

Buying Backcountry Skis

by Dave McCashin

How many people do you know that have bought "backcountry" skis and have either resold or bought a second pair? Certainly one pair of skis can't do everything, but there are a lot of buying mistakes out there.

The term backcountry is location specific rather than performance specific. A good backcountry ski performs well in alpine terrain in the absence of trails. Buying the proper gear is difficult because most people don't know what performance characteristics are important for this type of terrain and to complicate matters, often sales clerks don't know what performance characteristics any particular ski has.

But if we assume you find a knowledgeable salesperson, the first step is to be specific. For example, if you say: "I was up at Diamond Head last weekend with my wooden cross country skis I paid \$15 for 15 years ago and I saw some people doing beautiful telemark turns. I tried to do a few turns but I couldn't even get started. They told me my skis belonged in an antique store. I don't understand. I couldn't turn at all. I did lots of downhill skiing when I was a kid."

The sales clerk is starting to get a profile on you, but more information is needed, so hopefully, the right questions will follow. "So, you want to get away from the crowds, do a bit of telemarking, maybe winter camping — am I right?"

"Right," you reply.

"Are you a backpacker or climber and familiar with alpine terrain?" This is a good prerequisite for a backcountry skier but you also found your last pair of skis lacked strength and control. "Just before my ski snapped, I had really built up some speed, but I wish I had some of those edges to slow me down on that icy road coming down from Diamond Head."

Almost any ski package on the market will get you up to the alpine for an overnight stay, but you might never do it again because your feet were too cold or you fell down so many times you had to take off your skis and walk. Once the cross country skier leaves the packed trails and heads into the alpine with a pack on his back, the recreational track ski becomes sorely inadequate. Quite simply, it lacks strength, turning ability and control. A good backcountry ski is abused and keeps a good sense of humour, gives the skier confidence

to execute a graceful turn on the down hill and has an edge that's there when you need it in the often unpredictable snow the mountains offer.

Without knowing anything about skis, even an untrained eye can see that backcountry skis are wider and have less camber than traditional track skis. Width varies considerably between backcountry models. Beginners should consider at least 65 mm at the tip for a stable base to put that monstrous boot on.

What's more important is the difference in width between the tip and the waist (middle) of the ski. This parameter is called sidecut and without it your skis have a tendency to behave like a couple of javelins. With the ski on its edge, a generous sidecut will allow the ski to trace a curved pattern on the snow to help initiate the turn. The waist should be at least eight millimetres narrower.

Appropriate sidecut is useless without a good flex pattern. When the ski is weighted during a turn, it will bend. In a powerful turn, a good rounded flex pattern will turn the ski into a banana. The less the ski hinges, the better. If the ski flexes easily it will turn without weighting it very much, but not have the control needed for the speedy aggressive turns of the more advanced skier on icy terrain.

Edge contact from tip to tail is essential to complement the flex pattern. Contact is not positive unless the forebody of the ski has a certain amount of torsional rigidity that is transferred to a full-length metal edge. Don't bother settling for anything but an offset, steel edge that can be sharpened from time to time.

A comparison of rigidity along the axis of the ski can be demonstrated by your highly trained salesperson.

That fluid diagonal stride behind the track-setting machine deteriorates rapidly with 40 pounds on your back, but if you're going to spend a substantial amount of time on flat or rolling terrain, double camber makes skiing more enjoyable and more efficient. A double camber allows a wax pocket to rise above the snow in glide phase, facilitating better tracking and wax retention. Obviously the flex pattern is compromised, and your turn is affected.

Single camber is favoured by the purist telemarker, but is sluggish on the long haul across the lake. When reality smacks you in the face on a slow uphill slog through calf-deep fresh snow with an overnight pack on your back, you'll

realize that the advantage of a good kick and glide in your skis isn't going to be noticed until you drop your pack at the hut and go out for a quick spin before dinner.

Skins are a necessity in this part of the world, especially with weight, but should be complemented with some good waxing skills or a non-wax ski.

Strength and durability is not only your insurance against post-holing through the night to the highway, but makes for a good investment. Fiberglass determines the ski's strength, flex pattern and stiffness. The core of the ski adds some personality, weight and durability but is basically just the filler in the sandwich. What's under the binding, however, is important for screw retention. Construction isn't that important as long as the manufacturer has a good reputation and the ski carries a good warranty.

There is a lot to know about skis to make a good decision, but in reality the boots are more important than the skis. Buy the best boots you can possibly afford, then rent, borrow or demo every ski you can get ahold of to get a feel for how they handle. Recommendations from serious skiers is the best way to start.

If you're a beginner, it will be hard to anticipate your future skiing, but with a bit of homework and shopping around, you can make good decisions. And don't take it too seriously. Statistics say you're bound to trade in your perfectly adequate backcountry skis just to buy another set of similar boards in two to three years; only the second pair will have fancy racing stripes.

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Regional Clubs Meeting

Vancouver Island • September 21, 1986

Mel Turner of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division was the star attraction for the afternoon session. He outlined the proposed Master Plan for Strathcona Park, complete with proposed boundary changes including deletion from the park of the Bedwell River drainage, and proposed recreation area status for the large area around Cream Lake and between Buttle Lake and the Bedwell.

The morning session had seen strong opinions expressed about these same areas. The club delegates were unanimous in their condemnation of the history of abuse that Strathcona Park has experienced. They had discussed all the proposed changes and felt that it was essential to oppose this Master Plan, and advocate instead a plan which would preserve the integrity of Strathcona Park as an undisturbed wilderness area.

The delegates stated that further whittling of this park's boundaries is not justifiable, especially not for exchanges of timber in the park for areas elsewhere — even when perceived to be of higher park value as in the case of Pirates Cove park in the Gulf Islands. These small deletions add up to an effective threat to the park's wilderness values which are maintained partly by mere isolation from any type of developments.

Contrary to Mr. Turner's suggestion that because a public review of this proposed Master Plan will take place in the near future there was no need for a club response at this time, the delegates decided to start their campaign now for both full Statute protection for Strathcona Park, and for Class A protection for the whole park right now. They also decided that:

- minor land designations of park boundaries could be acceptable but only with no net loss of land.
- compensation be provided to owners of legal mineral claims within current park boundaries.
- as a short term measure extend Nature Conservancy and Class A park boundaries right up to the edge of mineral claims.
- any disturbance of the surface at mineral claim sites not be permitted.
- further expansions of the Westmin Mine operation not be permitted including those for water collection, power generation or logging.
- the park's boundaries need to be extended to define the wilderness

mountain area and adjacent buffer zones, views, river valleys, salmon spawning areas, wildlife ranges and wilderness recreation opportunities both for now and the future.

Delegates represented the following groups:

FMCBC Member Clubs

Alpine Club — Victoria, Island Mountain Ramblers, Comox District Mountaineering Club, Victoria Outdoor Club, Independent Hikers and Sierra Club.

Other Organizations

Campbell River Hikers, Vancouver Island Resources, National and Provincial Parks Association, Friends of Strathcona Park, and Friends of Clayoquot Sound.

National Trail Development

Directors from across Canada representing national and provincial parks agencies met this September in the Maritimes.

Vince Collins, Assistant Deputy Minister of Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division, B.C., presented a report on National Trail developments prepared by Poyin Ayeung, a staff member of the FMCBC.

Many of the directors were not aware of the National Trail Association or the national trail concept, although directors

from Ontario and B.C. did know of the national trail concept through promotion and support provided by the Bruce Trail Association and the FMCBC respectively. Their approval of the concept was given agreement in principle.

The directors suggested that major constituency support is now needed which can only be provided by politicians where a good profile already exists. Clearly there is a long road ahead for the National Trail Association and hopefully a long trail too.

Liability Insurance

The problems of determining and answering the liability insurance needs of our members has been with us for some 15 months.

The FMCBC has for many years enjoyed the benefit of a liability insurance package which covered clubs, course participants, and all FMCBC activities. Times have changed things.

Last year, though, we had a package under development, which would cover the member clubs who requested it, on the basis of a \$1.00 premium per club members per year. About 65% of our members wanted this coverage and many clubs collected the premium and sent it to the FMCBC. A number of new clubs joined the FMCBC specifically because of this insurance coverage.

The standard FMCBC insurance policy was continued last year while insurance companies debated a sport-wide type of insurance available to all.

This has not emerged.

What we were presented with last month was a new policy covering only third party liability at a premium of about \$.50 per member/year.

The reaction of some club delegates to this policy is very positive; it being exactly what they want. Confident that their own members will never sue them or will release the club by signing a waiver, those clubs wish to be protected from a liability suit from those adversely affected by a club activity, eg., hit by a rock kicked loose on a club hike, or a guest who is injured on a club activity.

The downside of this is that the good old FMCBC has lost the participant coverage it had protecting it from a suit for liability on an FMCBC course.

You will get to vote on accepting the third liability coverage for your club — and have all your questions answered at the AGM, Saturday November 22nd.

Skagit Commission

Funds totalling \$500,000 U.S. are now available annually for development of the Skagit Recreation Area on the Canadian side of the border. This sum is the annual interest from compensation paid by the Seattle Light and Power Authority to Canada for Canadian land in the Skagit flooded when the U.S. constructed a power dam on the river.

The FMCBC has submitted two funding applications for projects in that area. The first is for the development of a comprehensive land use development plan which will study and map wilderness and non-wilderness areas as well as wildlife habitat.

Such a study has never been undertaken on the Canadian side and the FMCBC is concerned that plans outlined by the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division and published in an authoritative manner are not founded on comprehensive research but on opinion, albeit a professional one. However, when this might include logging in previously untouched valleys in order to attempt to demonstrate the compatibility of forest harvesting and recreation, it is doubly alarming that the study proposed by the FMCBC has not been done before.

The FMCBC would be responsible for gathering information and would act as the coordinating agency for contracted environmental consultants who would plan the survey and produce the reports.

It is anticipated that all agencies concerned with the Skagit area will only be in agreement with the merit of, and need for, such a comprehensive development plan.

The second FMCBC application is a re-building project for the Galene Lakes trail including appropriate signs and construction of alpine tent sites and outhouses.

This border trail is accessible from both countries and gives easy access to an alpine area which provides views of the border peak area.

FMCBC Facts

During the 1985/86 year the FMCBC administered \$438,000 in Federal Government Job Development projects and contractual funding. 1,064 person/weeks of work, i.e. 20 person/years, went into building and reconstructing 100 km of trail.

MOF "Wilderness Policy"

The FMCBC has serious concerns about the "Discussion Paper on Natural Areas and Wilderness - Type Recreation Policy". Since the Wilderness Advisory Committee released its report "The Wilderness Mosaic" the FMCBC has continued to lobby for wilderness legislation. The Recreation Management Branch has not recognized the reasons why the WAC and the FMCBC have called for wilderness legislation.

We don't want to be entirely critical since many good ideas are presented in the discussion paper. We are very pleased "that steps are now being taken to correct the inadequate attention by the ministry ... to resource planning and management of "natural areas"". We commend the Ministry of Forests and Lands for writing the discussion paper

and asking the public for comments.

If you would like a copy of the Federation's response to the discussion paper, please phone or write the office.

NEW FMCBC LAPEL PIN

Produced by Birks and presented in their traditional blue box, this elegant pin will identify you as a Federation of Mountain Clubs supporter.

Available now from the FMCBC office for \$5.00 plus 75¢ mailing this high-quality pin is ideal as a Christmas stocking stuffer.

Wear it on your pack when hiking and promote the FMCBC to your friends.

If you have an Individual Membership for \$20/year this pin is already in the mail to you.



Wilderness in Western Canada: A Forum

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(Victoria, B.C.)

To prepare a Western Canada Status Report
for the Fourth World Wilderness Congress
September 12 -17, 1987, Fort Collins, Colorado

Seven major western wilderness groups are collaborating to produce a report entitled **Western Canada Wilderness: The Unfinished Work.**

This report will be written and edited over the winter months and discussed and approved in a plenary meeting May 20-27, 1987.

The plenary meeting will include a series of speakers and audio visual presentations on the value of wilderness as a resource important to contemporary society.

If you are interested in participating in this work, or would like to be kept informed of our progress, please return this coupon to the address below.

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Breakthrough for Wilderness

Criticism directed at environmental and outdoors organizations that participated in the Wilderness Advisory Committee achieves nothing and should be stopped, says Stephan Fuller, former FMCBC president.

"Those (organizations such as the FMCBC) that did participate are optimistic about what it can and did achieve ... and we will continue to defend ourselves," adds Fuller, who is currently a policy advisor to the Director of Policy and Planning, Department of Renewable Resources, Yukon.

On a sight by sight basis, there are reasons to quibble with the report, but there are also a lot of good recommendations, he says.

The fact the WAC recommended legislation based on the United States model is a major breakthrough, especially considering the government approved the report in principle.

That would have taken another 10 years to achieve if we would have had to do that outside government," says Fuller, adding that there are elements within both the Ministry of Forests and

the Lands, Parks & Housing ministry that oppose wilderness legislation.

"But that report endorsed it and government endorsed it in principle." The FMCBC's and the Outdoor Recreation Council's presentations on a wilderness act were major influences on that decision, but the philosophical influences of Committee Chairman Bryan Williams and committee member Ken Farquharson were valuable assets.

For the time being, if criticism continues, "we will continue to defend ourselves, but "if we should be doing anything we should be redoubling our efforts to make sure the Premier's office is aware there's a constituency out there monitoring the process."

So far Fuller doesn't feel there's any reason to be negative about either the Wilderness Advisory Committee process and report or the change in government. And as a continuing director of the FMCBC, he concludes that there's immense personal satisfaction to be gained from the much-needed volunteer work within environmental and outdoors organizations such as the FMCBC.



Kamloops Outdoor Club 50th Anniversary

The Kamloops Outdoor Club celebrated 50 years activity with an outstanding reunion in July that included speeches, songs, a skit, slides and a hike up Trophy Mountain.

"Over the years the Kamloops Outdoor Club has provided comradeship for people of all age groups and occupations, not only locally, but from different provinces — and for that matter from various parts of the world. During the 50 years of its existence, over 700 members have belonged and we can be proud of the harmonious relationships — and, in many cases, lasting friendships — which have prevailed. Surely this must indicate that companionship and cooperation must be particularly strong in people interested in the outdoors," writes Kamloops Outdoor Club President Jack Robinson in the club's reunion pamphlet.

The club has maintained a steady profile over the years and while there have been fluctuations in membership, both the total number of members and those participating in outings have been amazingly consistent. For example, 14 members took part in the thirtieth organized hike, and this is representative of our present level of participants, he continues.

Jack Gregson, who with his wife Barbara, started the club 50 years ago and were given a well-deserved standing ovation for their strength and guidance over the years. Congratulations to all the members.

Chilliwack Mountain Project

by Neil Grainger

The mountain climbing phase of the Chilliwack Mountain Project was completed with the ascent of Mt. Green, ending two and a half years honouring a total of 67 veterans from the upper Fraser Valley with 65 trips to lakes, streams or mountains.

The Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society began the project in 1984 to mark the 40th anniversary of the end of WWII in 1945 and to remember veterans from the Chilliwack area who died in the war. Many of these men had mountains or other geographical features named in their honour and it was decided to research the life of the person the mountain named for, to climb and photograph each mountain and to publish a series of articles on the project.

The first peak climbed was Mount MacFarlane, named after Flight Lieutenant Ronald E. MacFarlane. Some trips simply involved putting up a cross beside a highway, others involved two days hiking and climbing to place a cross on a mountaintop, but many volunteers gave their time, energy, expertise and even film to carry out individual trips.

Access to some areas was awkward and took some time; sometimes more than one trip was needed just to find a way up the mountain. Very few had trails. Some trips were done via helicopter by family members who had no viable alternative.

Several winter ascents were made and I am sure some of them must be first winter ascents. There were quite possibly other first ascents as well.

The project has involved the Chilliwack Search and Rescue Group, Chilliwack Outdoor Club, Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society and Branch 4, Royal Canadian Legion, Chilliwack.

Assisted by
BC Recreation and Sport

Cover Photo - Jim Rutter

With the Strait of Georgia and the Gulf Islands covered in cloud, one of the Mount Baker Summit course participants checks out a crevasse on the way up the hill.