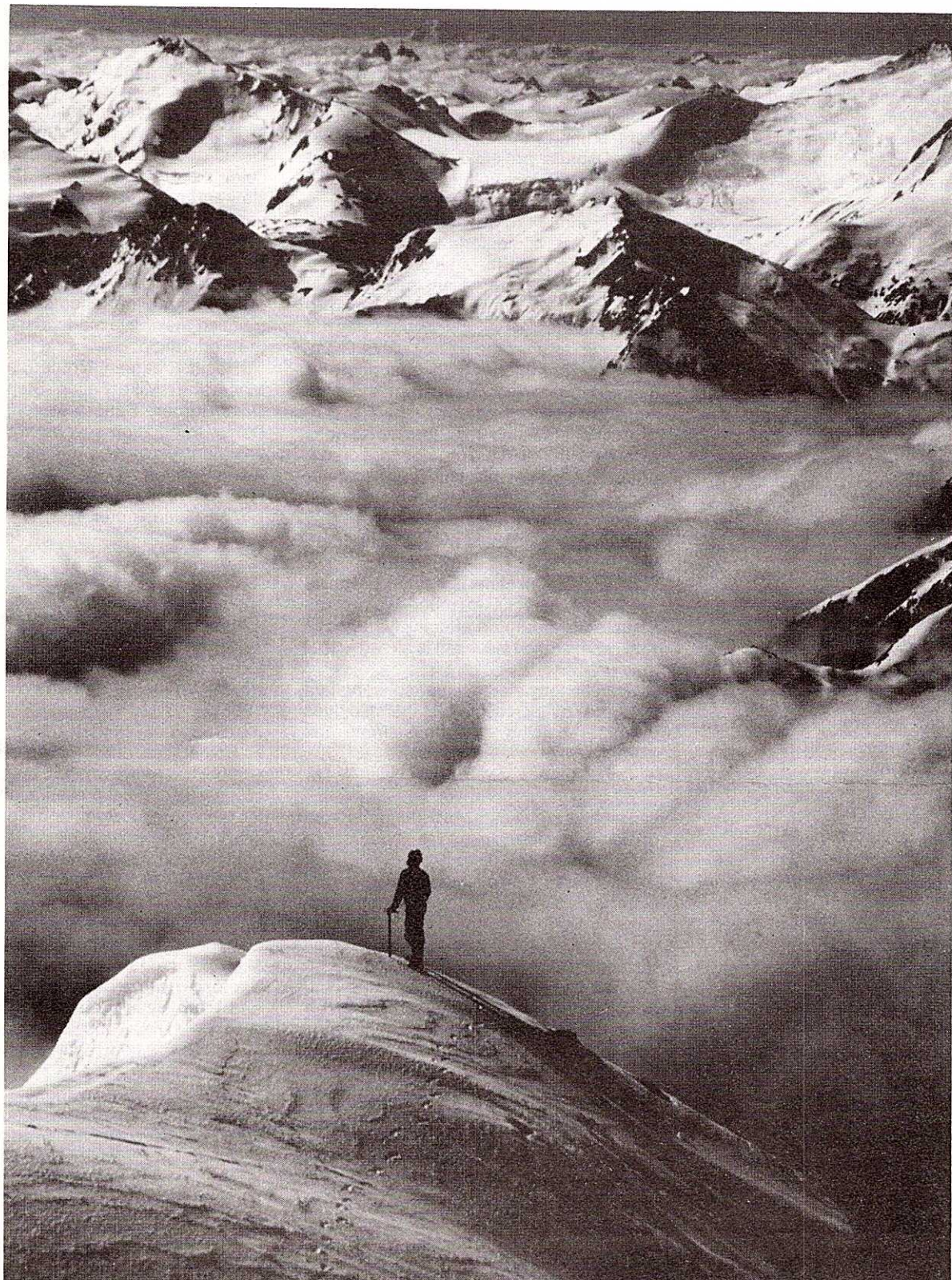


# CLOUDBURST



Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia Newsletter

SPRING 1987





# The President's Message

## FMCBC Conservation Efforts Require Member Involvement

During the four years I have been associated with the FMCBC it has grown from an organization with an annual budget of \$12,000 that relied on the efforts of a few volunteers to one with over forty employees and a budget that may reach \$1,000,000 this year.

In a few short years we have become the provincial organization which is:

- i. The leader in teaching and promoting safety in the mountains, with 75 courses serving 782 participants last year.
- ii. The leader in trail building with over 100 kilometres of trails built last year.
- iii. One of the foremost voices in conservation matters, respected as being responsible and sensible by government, industry, and other conservation organizations.

### **CLOUDBURST**

Cloudburst is published quarterly by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.

1200 Hornby Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2E2,  
Phone (604) 687-3333  
Hoke Holcomb, Editor

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) is the official sport governing body for mountaineering in B.C., representing the interests of all hiking, climbing, and outdoor clubs and individuals in the Province.

The FMCBC operates as a non-profit organization addressing mountain-related conservation issues, promoting safety and education through courses of instruction, and constructing and maintaining trails throughout B.C.

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. Executive

Executive Director: Jim Rutter

President: John Randall

Treasurer: Dale Harper

Past President: Stephan Fuller

Director: Bruce Blackwell

Director: Mike Down

Committees

Recreation & Conservation:

Roger Freeman and Jay MacArthur

Safety and Education:

Simon Tooley and Jim Sibley

Trails: Bruce Blackwell

Unsolicited manuscripts will be considered for unpaid publication. Submissions should be typed or neatly handwritten, double-spaced, signed and accompanied by a SASE for return. Your ideas are welcome. Contact the Editor.

Assisted by B.C. Recreation and Sport.

We have failed, however, in one crucial area. We have failed to attract more active participation from member clubs. Our underpaid staff is overworked and yet more and more demands are being placed on them by member clubs who in return contribute little to the maintenance of this successful and growing organization.

Because of the nature of our funding, it is our environmental efforts that suffer most from this lack of member participation. With a budget of over \$600,000 last year, only \$8,000 came from clubs. Course fees accounted for about \$70,000, and most of the rest came from the government, primarily through trail contracts and Jobs Canada projects. A small amount came from industry or foundations primarily supported by industry.

Environmental advocacy work often involves resolving differences between the public at large, the government, and industry. Since we represent the public, the government or industry are not going to directly fund these efforts. Even if they did we couldn't accept the money without compromising our integrity. Thus, support for these efforts must come from the club members themselves.

At about the time this **Cloudburst** goes to print we will have a meeting of the presidents of member clubs in the Lower Mainland to explore ways in which we can attract more involvement. We believe that through these types of meetings and better communications between the Federation and member clubs our entire organization — staff and club members alike — will be able to work more effectively on these vital conservation issues. It is already clear that we must:

- i. Significantly increase our conservation budget by increasing membership dues and receiving donations (now tax deductible).
- ii. Complete our confidential mailing list of all individual members.
- iii. Receive significant volunteer help from member clubs to assist in important conservation issues.

There are many major conservation projects underway at this time. About mid-January we learned that land adjacent to the Smoke Bluffs was up for sale as residential lots. Since that time a major effort has been underway to buy this land and have the Smoke Bluffs area designated as Canada's first climbing park. As Jim Rutter mentions elsewhere in this issue, the FMCBC has been active in assisting our island member clubs in fighting the Strathcona Park boundary realignment.

Although most of the attention in environmental issues gets directed toward efforts that involve conflict, the Federation does a lot of work that gets environmental

issues on the table before the conflict stage is reached. We are developing an inventory of areas in southwest B.C. which are used by members and notifying relevant government departments and industry of our desire to protect them. We have been approached by the G.V.R.D. to develop a trail system in the lower Seymour Valley and have done projects for Squamish and Pemberton municipalities at their request. Past President Stephan Fuller will be presenting a major report on Wilderness in Western Canada to the World Wilderness Conference in Colorado next fall.

I could go on with many other exciting projects that we have successfully completed or are about to undertake, but the point is there is more work than the paid staff and handful of dedicated volunteers can do.

**YOU HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY, AND WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

In closing I would like to thank specific people for the tremendous volunteer contribution they have made to the success of the Federation:

Roger Freeman, Bruce Blackwell, Jay MacArthur, Mike Feller, Stephan Fuller, Dale Harper, Sandra Leitch, and Mike Down. In addition several staff members volunteer work beyond their job duties: Kevin Haberl, Dave McCashin, Hoke Holcomb and, of course, our Executive Director, Jim Rutter.

John Randall

## FMCBC Guide Books

**Exploring Vancouver's North Shore Mountains (September, 1985)**

Retail: \$14.95, FMCBC: \$12.50

Some "seconds" are available for \$6.00. These have a slightly damaged book cover. The original presentation folder was too large and too light, and a better-fitting, sturdier folder is available as a free replacement (the original presentation folder must be supplied).

**Mt. Harvey Trail.**

A detailed, printed description of the trail and the logging-road side-trail to it. \$1.00 postpaid or \$0.50 in person

**Exploring Lynn Canyon and Lynn Headwaters Park (May 1986)**

Was: \$6.95 retail and \$6.00 at the FMCBC office Now: \$4.94 retail and \$4.00 at the FMCBC office

A supplement with text and map changes is planned for the summer, and we welcome corrections, additions, and comments. Contact: Roger and Ethel Freeman, 3507 W. 47th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6N 3N9. Phone: 263-9101 (h), 879-1434 (o).

# The Executive Director's Page

## Strathcona, Stephen Rogers, and Strategy

The reaction to Stephen Rogers' January 29 announcement on boundary decisions for six provincial parks was one of quiet dismay ... except on Vancouver Island. Here a number of groups were outraged by the decision to permit mineral claim development within the Strathcona Park boundaries.

The groups became quite vocal, and within a few weeks of the boundaries announcement the press dug up the fact that the Rogers family held stock in Westmin, a mining company with claims in Strathcona Park. This apparent conflict of interest led to the transfer of Rogers to the Ministry of Intergovernmental Relations.

We do not want to let these conflict of interest charges divert our attention from the central issue, which is public input into the decision making process in park boundaries and development.

Strathcona, the province's oldest park, has an unenviable record of mismanagement and abuse. Poorly defined from its conception by geometric boundaries, and exploited for timber and mineral resources, it has only its rugged mountainous nature defending it against all comers.

The provincial government has continuously traded Strathcona's resources for park land elsewhere, and continues to do so. But Rogers' transfer to Intergovernmental Relations does not change in any fundamental way a decision making process that is devoid of meaningful public input.

On Feb. 22 of this year I met with the seven Vancouver Island members of the Federation (Alpine Club of Canada - Vancouver Island Section, Outdoor Club of Victoria, Club Tread, Sierra Club - Vancouver Island Section, Island Mountain Ramblers, Comox District Mountaineering Club, and Alberni Valley Outdoor Club). The spirit of the meeting was one of distrust for our provincial government and their decisions regarding the environment.

This distrust has some foundation, since these groups had been told that there would be an opportunity for public input before all the decisions were made. At a Sept. 21 meeting of Vancouver Island Clubs Mel Turner of the Parks & Outdoor Recreation Division said that there was no need for the groups to report on the issues at that time because public meetings would be held soon. Derek Thompson was present, and both agreed that their ministry had promised such meetings before park boundary and land designation decisions would be made.

In a letter to the FMCBC dated November 5, 1986, Austin Pelton, Minister of Parks and Recreation, stated that "I hope your organization will avail itself of this opportunity to present its views."

Meetings promised by Turner and opportunities offered by Pelton never existed.

The Boundary decisions were announced with no significant public input.

Without public input, the provincial government works with a rather limited range of options. For example the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that mineral claims within Parks can be settled by paying compensation. The Ministry of Environment and Parks has not even considered this option. Given the state of the mining industry in B.C. and the price of world metals, such compensation may not be excessive. The option should at least be considered.

## Smoke Bluffs Park

An unusual but exciting challenge has presented itself to the Federation — the possibility of incorporating the Smoke Bluffs near Squamish into a park.

To the visitor, Squamish abounds with recreation potential. Mountain routes, ski touring, hiking trails and rock climbing areas are in abundance. Although some Squamish residents are outdoor enthusiasts, the community in general has focused its attention on industrial development such as logging, pulp, trucking, and shipping. However, with the slump in industrial employment, the community is now developing an awareness of the need for diversity.

During the past two years the FMCBC has been working closely with the Municipality of Squamish. A recreation plan for the area has been developed, we have administered three trail building projects there, met with the Tourism Advisory Committee of Squamish Council, held a rockclimbing promotion at the Chief, and greatly increased the number of FMCBC courses taught there.

Conspicuously absent from our list of positive contributions is the designation of lands for new recreation reserves. Our efforts in this area have met with no success — until recently.

Because of our visibility in the area, an enterprising real estate agent called us when three lots adjacent to the Smoke Bluffs climbing area came up for sale.

The insanity of the FMCBC getting into real estate was outweighed by the possibility of creating North America's first climbing park, and we began exploring several possibilities. Things are moving fast and in a state of flux, but here is a summary of the action:

We have made an offer on the three lots that has been accepted.

We are working on ways to come up with money or some kind of land exchange

The FMCBC has asked Premier Vander Zalm for a moratorium on all the new legislation for the park until public input opportunities are created. He has replied that the appropriate ministries will be made aware of our request. However, given the history of the decision making process it is clear that we must continue to exert the kind of pressure that the Vancouver Island clubs did if we want the Ministry of Environment and Parks to do its job, which is: protecting parks, developing them appropriately, expanding them, and creating new ones in accordance with the desires of the people of British Columbia.

deal to make our offer good.

We have developed a plan that involves combining several privately owned lots, the land behind the lots — the Smoke Bluff cliffs, and some road right-of-ways to form a park to be administered by the provincial government.

The Squamish Council has approved the plan in principle.

The Ministry of Environment and Parks has committed itself to helping us put the project together.

I have met with John Reynolds, MLA for West Vancouver/Howe Sound. He responded positively to the proposal and is looking into several possible methods of getting the land together.

I am gratified to see the public and political support we have received for this project. That we have earned the respect to justify this support is a real tribute to everyone who has worked with the Federation.

Jim Rutter

## Clubs Reject Cadbury's Campaign

As FMCBC President, John Randall, points out elsewhere in this issue of **Cloudburst** we have little stable funding for environmental advocacy work. All of our work gets done in bits and pieces, often after an issue has reached the crisis stage.

We are constantly reviewing options for raising funds and dreaming of the day when we will have an investment fund with enough interest to form a stable funding basis. Last fall representatives from Cadburys outlined a fund raising plan they said could net \$100,000 if we conducted a province-wide campaign through all our member clubs.

While developing the Cadbury's proposal we contacted the Vancouver Foundation and they tentatively offered to match

## Cadbury con't.

for three years any funds we raised up to \$50,000. The \$450,000 raised and placed in a trust fund was to provide interest of \$35,000 a year — enough to support a very powerful lobby on behalf of all the FMCBC members.

This concept, called the Wilderness Conservation Fund, was presented at the Annual General Meeting in November. Your delegates approved the FMCBC plan to market Cadbury's product, but after more than two months of efforts to gather

support there were only five clubs willing to join the campaign, and we canceled our contract with Cadbury's.

Obviously, the Board of Directors and the delegates misjudged its membership. It is now clear that if we are to represent our club's environmental interests we need to know what kind of support we can expect from the members. We plan to poll our membership to obtain a realistic basis on which to plan future environmental funding projects.

## Good News

The Vancouver Island Marmot, the animal ahead of the wolf on Canada's endangered species list, is now being protected. A 93 hectare parcel of land at Haley Lake southwest of Nanaimo has been donated to the Province by MacMillan Bloedel in response to concerns expressed by naturalist groups and conservation agencies.

In a February 19 press release the Provincial government stated that only activities which do not affect the rare mammal will be allowed in the new ecological reserve.

A tip of the hat to the Vancouver Island groups and clubs that have brought this issue to public attention and congratulations to MacMillan Bloedel and the provincial government for this positive step.



### Wilderness in Western Canada: A Forum

#### Supported by:

Alberta Wilderness Association  
Ecology North  
Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.  
National & Provincial Parks Association of Canada  
Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C.  
Yukon Conservation Society  
Sierra Club of Western Canada

#### PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

### The Value of Wilderness in Western Canada

#### Robson Square Media Centre

Friday, May 29, 1987  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

A professional development seminar to highlight recent advances in our understanding of the range of values and benefits which accrue from wilderness protection. International speakers on the scientific, recreational, economic, educational and social-psychological benefits of wilderness in contemporary society.

#### FEATURING:

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- *Wilderness for Tourism & Recreation*
- *Wilderness for Sciences*
- *Wilderness for Education*

#### ALSO INCLUDING:

- *The Wilderness User: A Profile*
- *The Wilderness Debate in B.C.: An Overview*

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**FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
1200 Hornby Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2E2 • Phone 687-3333

## Park Boundaries Confirmed

Final boundaries for Pacific Rim National Park were confirmed February 19 by the environment ministers for Canada and British Columbia. The federal and provincial governments are sharing equally the \$25,000,000 cost of buying back the existing timber rights in the area.

The agreement calls for final land transfer to Canada by December 31, 1987. The province is committed to moving quickly to acquire clear title to the areas under Tree Farm Licence Tenure and subsequently turning these lands over to federal administration.

Following transfer of the remaining lands to Canada, Pacific Rim will be formally established by Parliament under the National Parks Act.

## 1849 Hudson Bay Overland Hike

Ron Vader of the Centennial Fire Brigade Committee has organized a 100 mile hike for 40 persons to follow the Hudson Bay Trail from Tulameen to Hope. Participants will leave for the six day trip from Langley on July 26 and end with festivities in Hope on August 23.

A few spaces are available in this hiking group. If you wish to join you need to provide your own food and gear and contact Ron Vader at 433-8187 between 6:00 and 9:00 a.m.

## Canadians Involved in 4th World Wilderness Congress

In a letter to the FMCBC, Vance Martin, Executive Director of the 4th World Wilderness Congress, states that the Executive Committee "would like to include the work being done by 'Western Canada Wilderness Forum' in the next international congress."

The World Wilderness Congress is an international group that focuses on integrated solutions to critical environmental challenges. Their 4th meeting will be next September 11-18 in Colorado.

The Canadian contribution to this worldwide effort consists of a coalition of groups working on a number of issues in British Columbia, Alberta, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. The groups are:

Alberta Wilderness Association - Calgary, Alberta; Ecology North - Inuvik, N.W.T.; Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. - Vancouver, B.C.; National & Provincial Parks Association of Canada - Victoria, B.C.; Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C. - Vancouver, B.C.; Sierra Club of Western Canada - Victoria, B.C.; Yukon Conservation Society - Whitehorse, Yukon.

The efforts of these groups are being coordinated by the FMCBC under the guidance of Past-President Stephan Fuller.

Two projects are being undertaken in preparation for the World Congress in Colorado next September.

The first project is development of a document entitled "Wilderness in Western Canada: The Unfinished Work." This will include:

- an overview of the adequacy of existing protective mechanisms for wilderness in Western Canada,

- case studies for each of the four provinces and territories,

- an examination of the benefits and costs of wilderness protection in each jurisdiction, and

- recommendations on finishing the unfinished work.

This report is currently being written and will be discussed and approved in a plenary meeting May 30. Stephan Fuller says "through demonstrating these problems and proposed solutions we hope to focus the international eye on the situation in western Canada — and to generate some interest and financial support for the movement."

Secondly, the coalition is sponsoring a one-day professional development seminar on the value of wilderness in contemporary

society. High profile speakers — academics and other experts in the field — will give seminars targeted to address wilderness policy makers and analysts from both the public and private sectors. See the accompanying announcement for details of this event.

### 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

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.

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## Project Update — February 1987

Two years ago the Federation signed contracts with the federal government for three trail building projects totaling about \$70,000. This year we will administer projects involving about \$800,000 in funding, with benefits to all wilderness enthusiasts and to every facet of your Federation.

Trail construction projects continue to employ the most people. An expanded crew is carrying on the work in Lynn Headwaters Regional Park (North Vancouver). In November the Federation's continued involvement in Lynn Headwaters was recognized by the Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks Department with an

award of appreciation — a wall clock you will have to see to believe.

A new crew in Squamish is working on the joint F.M.C.B.C./Municipality of Squamish Recreation Plan. The impact of our involvement in Squamish is becoming more and more evident and certainly contributed to the positive reception the proposed Smoke Bluffs Park is receiving. (See Executive Director Jim Rutter's report for details.)

The Village of Pemberton approached the Federation to develop its own recreation plan, and is now sponsoring a project that starts in March and runs until October.

In addition to these ongoing trail projects the F.M.C.B.C. has applied for funds to run crews in North Vancouver, Belcarra, Chilliwack, Harrison, and Maple Ridge.

Last year the Federation developed its first office project with phenomenal success. Hoke Holcomb edited, revised, and modularized the basic mountaineering handbook, and it is now available for all summer courses. Poyin Auyoung developed a model for, and conducted, the first independent survey of trail users in Southwest B.C. This will be a useful tool for the F.M.C.B.C. and land management agencies in determining who and how many people use B.C.'s trails and how much economic clout trail users have. Along with project manager Lindsay Mitchell, this crew also staffed the office from last March until now.

Following the success of the first project, three more office projects have been started. For the one that began in December three people are focusing on safety and education courses and conservation projects.

In February we began a Trail Inventory project — one the Federation has been trying to fund for several years. This four person crew, directed by Mailis Valenius, will make an inventory of trails in Southwest B.C. and record data on their condition. With the help of the Outdoor Recreation Council, this information will be put on a computer network where it will be available to the public and land management agencies. In addition, the Trail User Survey started in 1986 will be continued.

An Instructor Training Program under the direction of Dave McCashin was started in March. In this program, which lasts until August, eight people who already have considerable mountaineering experience have been selected. They will work for certification in B.C.I.T. avalanche training, industrial first aid, wilderness first aid, and as Association of Canadian Mountain Guides summer guides. The training will also include a rescue component and field experience assisting with Federation courses.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Employment Development Branch of the federal government for funding of these valuable programs.

Kevin Haberl

### SOUTH MORESBY



### FOR YOUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN

If wilderness in B.C. is a concern  
of yours, Act Now.

The Islands Need Our Help  
TODAY

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT  
SOUTH MORESBY COMMITTEE

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Dave McCashin at FMCBC office.

## Garibaldi Park

I view with alarm the ever-increasing encroachment of commercial interests into Garibaldi Provincial Park, and a procedure that does not allow for full public review of proposed changes in park boundaries.

I refer specifically to the recent changes in the boundary of Garibaldi Park that have been made to accommodate downhill skiing interests, and which were made with no opportunity for public input. Once ski lifts are built in this area, part of the buffer zone between the ski area and the environmentally-delicate Singing Pass area will be removed and the aesthetic boundary of the Park will be effectively pushed back about five km from the present real boundary. The history here is particularly intriguing — first the Park boundaries changed to exclude the peak of Whistler Mountain, thus allowing Whistler Mountain Ski Corporation to build a ski lift to the summit. Then the company expresses concerns that skiers from the top of this lift are able to ski into the uncontrolled Flute Creek Drainage (Burnt Stew Basin) of Garibaldi Park and the park boundary is pushed back even more. Who is in control here?

If ski lift companies can be granted concessions so easily, could park boundaries not also be expediently changed for other commercial operations, such as mining or logging activities?

Frank W. Baumann

*Reprinted from the Whistler Question*

## Alpine Journal Directory Listings

The Canadian Alpine Journal has for over 80 years been the annual publication of the Alpine Club of Canada. It is a quality journal documenting mountaineering in Canada and is an important reference source for mountaineers.

As the result of new publication policy, the Journal will feature a Service Directory starting with its 1987 issue. The Directory is intended to be a comprehensive listing of products and services which are of interest to a select group of outdoor enthusiasts.

Listings will be organized by the nature and location of the product or service and will consist of one column inch (6 lines, 30 characters per line) containing the name, address, and telephone number of the supplier.

The deadline for the 1987 listing is 30 April 1987. Contact the FMCBC office for a Directory listing order form:

## South Moresby Park Threatened

A National Park in South Moresby supported by millions of people in Canada and world-wide is in jeopardy. Today, clear-cut logging (cutblocks 35 and 36, authorized by the Ministry of Forests) is taking place on the south side of Lyell Island in the visually prominent area of Faraday Pass. This logging is destroying the visual integrity of the northern third of the South Moresby Wilderness Proposal and might eliminate the possibility of National Park status for the world-renowned South Moresby area.

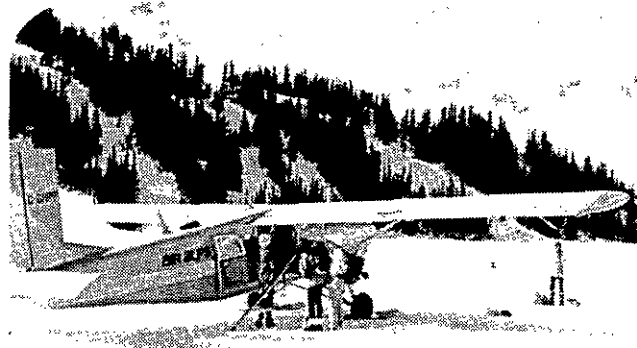
On Thursday, February 19, 1987, Federal Environment Minister Tom McMillan clearly stated the Federal government's position on a National Park in South Moresby. The Sun newspaper states that "... Tom McMillan declared that Parks Canada wants a park with no logging on 'the major part' of Lyell Island. McMillan

said there are aesthetic reasons for putting 'the major part, if not all' of Lyell into the park, because logged areas could be seen from the heart of South Moresby. He said boundary options were being 'foreclosed' as more of Lyell is logged."

The situation is urgent. South Moresby has long been recognized internationally as a unique area of world heritage significance, yet we are on the verge of losing it. A moratorium on the logging on Lyell Island must immediately be declared. Federal and Provincial negotiators must sit down again at the table and plan the future of South Moresby for the benefit of all Canadians.

Urgent action is needed to halt the destruction of one of Canada's greatest natural treasures. To help, phone the Save South Moresby Office at 662-3228.

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Federation of Mountain Clubs - Pemberton Ice-cap  
Varsity Outdoors Club - Annually to huts



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## Mountain Equipment Co-op/FMCBC Lecture Series

This year, for the first time, the Federation is co-sponsoring the highly successful spring lecture series annually run by the Mountain Equipment Co-Op (M.E.C.). As in past years, there will be six free lectures, running once a week through April and early May. These lectures are designed to be both informative and entertaining, and are given by some of the most highly qualified experts in each of the fields addressed.

This year's lectures and dates are:

Wednesday, April 1: "Overview of Wilderness Crisis Management" by Anna Christensen, President of the Wilderness First Aid Association of B.C.

Tuesday, April 7: "Fool's Paradise:

Mountain Biking in Nepal".

Wednesday, April 15: "B.C.'s Coast Mountains in the 80's" by Mike Down.

Wednesday, April 22: "Sea Kayaking".

Wednesday, April 29: "Alpine Hiking: B.C., Europe, and New Zealand" by Jim Rutter, Executive Director of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia

Wednesday, May 6: "Rock Climbing in North America" by Jim Haberl.

All lectures take place at the Ironworkers Hall, 2415 Columbia (two blocks east of the Mountain Equipment Co-Op), 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact John Manuel, 872-7858 or Jennifer Fenton, 687-2468 for additional details.

## Hollyburn Peak "Hikers Access"

B.C. Parks has opened a new "hiker access" to Hollyburn Peak in Cypress Bowl Provincial Park. The trail starts just north of the powerline from the road leading towards the nordic area. It is called a "hikers access" by B.C. Parks but is really intended for ski-tourers who don't want to pay Cypress Resorts to access the backcountry.

This new trail is the result of two years of protests by the Federation, the Save Cypress Bowl Committee, and the public. I feel that the trail is a good compromise. It is unfortunate that this issue could not have been solved two years ago. Hopefully in the future the government will listen more carefully to our concerns.

The trail's grade exceeds 20 percent in two sections, so if you don't have skins be prepared to walk or side-step a fair distance. The first steep section can be improved by lengthening the switchbacks into the forest. I think the second steep section could have been avoided entirely by more careful trail planning. I'm sure B.C. Parks will improve the trail this summer, they built it in a bit of a rush last fall.

The trail's steep grade was not too enjoyable for skiing down. I think it would be safer to use the main trail for a quick descent. Cypress Resorts only seems to be checking for nordic area tickets at the entrance, so if you ski quickly down the main trail you shouldn't get arrested for trespassing in our Provincial Park.

Charles Bunji

(The above article does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the FMCBC.)



## Wilderness Leadership Program 1987



### "For those who want more than the basics"

#### Rec. 162 WILDERNESS CANOEING I (Section 02)

Lectures: Evenings May 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28

Field Sessions: May 9/10, 16/17, 23/24

#### Rec. 162 WILDERNESS CANOEING I (Section 01)

Lectures & Field Sessions April 20 to April 30/87

An introduction to the skills, techniques, and knowledge of basic paddling in open canoes.

#### Rec. 262 WILDERNESS CANOEING II

Lectures: Evenings April 2, 9, 16, 30

Field Sessions: April 4/5, 11/12, 17/18/19, May 2/3

This course includes both tandem and solo paddling in moving water.

Also included: teaching ability and leadership techniques.

#### Rec. 168 MOUNTAIN TRAVEL I

Lectures: Evenings (Wednesdays) April 22 to May 20/87

Field Sessions: April 25, May 2/3, 9/10, 16/17

This course will cover basic principles of equipment, safety, glacier travel, snow travel, and top rope rock climbing.

#### Rec. 268 MOUNTAIN TRAVEL II

Lectures: Wednesday evenings, July 8, 15, 22 & 29/87

Field Sessions: July 25/26 & Saturday, August 1 - 8/87

This course will cover rock climbing to approximately grade 5.4. Emphasis will be on planning and organizing an extended backpacking trip.

For information, phone or write

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North Vancouver, B.C. V7J 3H5  
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### FMCBC

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## A Second Chance

by Jim Haberl

The rubber edges of my rock shoes just slipped away from their holds. I'm forced to grasp quickly at the small handholds again. The moisture on my fingertips is making the holds greasy. Sweat rolls unchecked into my eyes. My mind struggles with the consequences of this action.

This is the real thing. I'm a long way up. A fall now is probably the last fall, Jim. What is the plan?

I don't know. My fingers are slipping. My mind, I think, knows the hopelessness of my situation. Fear is the main emotion in my head. Why am I here? I'm struggling to gain control. My fingers are slipping.

I'm off ...

...I am off to physiotherapy.

Thanks to true luck and the wonders of modern orthopaedic surgery, I am once again climbing, skiing, and just simply walking. It could have been a fatal fall, and the question I have asked myself since that day is the obvious one. Why?

I didn't ask why when we scrambled out

of the canoe after three straight days of paddling. The solid feeling under foot after the pitching and rolling in the boat felt good. Everyone wanders off in their own direction; a break from the travelling of the past few days is exactly what is needed. There is time for each of us to do our own thing.

The sensation of movement over the smooth, solid rock is stimulating. My rock shoes dangle from my neck and bang together in front of me as I scramble along the shoreline in search of quality bouldering. The rock is perfect: craggy, weathered, with lots of good holds. Everything seems solid. Memories of other hot, sunny days on rock pass through my mind; the irreplaceable times in places like Eldorado, Squamish, Smith Rock, Leavenworth, and Yosemite.

I spot a prow of rock — 40 feet of vertical cliff — thrusting out from the forest above. It is the only steep, continuous climb in sight, so I lace on my boots and scramble onto the face.

I know that unroped climbing is a potentially dangerous situation. To put myself in positive control I block out fear and force

all negative thoughts to my subconscious.

A difficult move right off the ground frustrates me momentarily, but I pass it and move to more secure holds. Positive holds enable easy movement towards the top and I am soon unconscious of the terrain. I look up and survey a clean finger crack and beyond that rock that looks blocky and fairly straight forward.

I twist my fingers knowingly into the crack. The movement comes back easily. I am controlled and comfortable in the vertical environment. Near the end of the crack I see the solid horizontal seam and foot holds I spied earlier from below. It looks like a welcome chance to relax.

The exit move from the crack is hard. I inch carefully back down to the finger lock and take another look. I become conscious that I am twenty-five feet above a jagged, barnacled deck.

Once I reach that spot above I will be home free. I move up off my good lock and reach high for the horizontal crack. A few quick moves and the crack is behind me.

But suddenly I'm not where I want to be. This is not blocky, straight forward climbing. The horizontal crack is shallow and I

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can find no relaxing purchase. Just standing on the small holds is tiring me out. A new feeling invades my consciousness — fear. Indecision, hesitation, and terror control me for an instant. I draw on years of experience to regain control from these emotions. I talk to myself about composure. Control. I am in control.

My rapidly increasing fatigue is changing the potential outcome. Time is moving by quickly. My fingers are beginning to sweat and slip.

Yosemite, digits unconvincingly stuffed into old, flared pin scars; no quality of chalk seems to improve the tenuous jam. Chalk? ... where is my chalk bag? I'm not supposed to need it. This climb was supposed to be easy. Where is the easy line I saw?

You're a long way up, Jimbo. How do you get out of this one?

I probably fell.

I'm desperate. I'm actually biting the rock. A small corner offers a place to hook my teeth so I can hold on and shake my arms in a desperate attempt to regain strength. I can feel my stomach knotted and my jaw muscles tensed.

arms, the small foot holds nó longer s  
fice, and the inevitable happens.

During recovery I had a lot of time to read and think, and what I think now is that solo rock climbers need to be guided by the idea of being in complete control. Too often we fail to objectively appraise a situation because we are subconsciously guided by amazing exploits of our fellow climbers.

Royal Robbins, in his book, *Advanced Rockcraft*, says "though he may be moved by romantic notions of the freedom of soloing, the most unromantic common sense must govern the soloist's actions on rock." Sage advice.

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