

CLOUDBURST

Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia Newsletter

December, 1989



FMCBC

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

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

Membership in 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**.

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CLOUDBURST

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Unsolicited manuscripts are welcome and will be considered for unpaid publication. Submissions should be typed, double spaced, signed and accompanied by a SASE for return. Your ideas are welcome.

ASSISTED BY B.C. RECREATION AND SPORT.

COVER PHOTO

Backcountryski touring, Southern Chilcotin Mountains. Photo JR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

"By the people, for the people" is how our neighbours describe the mechanism and mandate of electing their government.

We talk of public sentiment and political will, which amounts to the same thing in that we expect our representatives to represent us, and it follows that our governments will ignore what "we" want at their peril.

Just a few years ago the environmentalist was someone different from the norm, perhaps also a vegetarian. Probably not a union man, and rarely a business suit wearer. And, as other idealists and odd-thinking persons have been thought of throughout the ages, environmentalist was a bit of a dirty word.

Traditionally the squeaky wheel may get the grease, but in our political system the squeakers will get only the gears unless they also have a majority, which is why it has been so convenient and normal for government to give little heed to the environmental voice.

But, in just a few years a public concern for the world, both global and immediate, in which we live has grown into a movement, a movement of environmentalists from all walks of life, and as such, a movement with an unignorable message.

Such an awakening of social conscience that even has the Premier scrambling to be seen as green has probably surprised those few early voices who worked so hard to warn us.

For this province it comes late. Conferences on old-growth forests will soon be unnecessary as we use up the last of them. New forest ministry policies which recognize and protect wilderness will find each year fewer areas that qualify.

Protection of whale habitat, forest wildlife and tourist viewscapes is also needed. Protection of workers' jobs is needed too. Everybody is affected by the land-use decisions which have been made for them.

A public that is becoming educated about choices which affect them is demanding a say in the decision-making process. From highlighting single issues by using confrontation and the media, the advocacy groups now also produce newsletters and brochures to inform a curious and furious public. Changes are demanded not only in what is done, but what is policy. For example, a decree against bad logging from the premier is just as dangerous to the provincial situation as bad logging. It is the policies, the rules themselves, that need to be changed and this is where advocacy groups now focus their demands. It is the level at which the FMCBC represents its members' concerns.

Whether Save the Stein or Share our Resources; whether WCWC, Friends of Strathcona or Clayoquot or The Earth, or the loggers of TFL 44, the hiking clubs or Sierra Club or Valhalla Wilderness Society - the concern is there about what and how land use-decisions are made. A general call for a provincial land-use policy is emerging, so that we move from a system of power struggles and short-term interest to a long-term plan into which all interest groups can invest.

Sustainable Development, where the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs, is the buzz word of today and the hope of tomorrow. Our policies will have to recognize and even be built on it.

None of the above comes without a price. To save Robson Bight's prime whale habitat, forestry options must be foregone. To save viewscapes, selective logging must be used. To save wilderness areas, road construction and mining options will have to be curtailed. To save the wildlife, most hunting may have to be forbidden. To save jobs, forest harvesting will have to slow down to a sustainable level. Are today's environmentalists willing to live with the results? Probably. Can today's politicians afford to put off the serious decision making which today's environmental movement demands? The next election may answer that for us. With a new year and a new decade approaching it is truly important that we each ask ourselves if we are doing all we can for where we live. It's late for B.C.

Here's what is new with the FMCBC's Adopt-A-Trail program. We have begun the formal adoption process for Mt. Brunswick and Ford Mountain, two beautiful hikes. We would like to thank the Klister Outdoor Club for agreeing to make it official. As you may know, they have traditionally looked after these two trails.

We would also like to mention the North Shore Hikers, who have taken on the lion's share in the Howe Sound area, with Petgill Lake, Deeks Lake, and the Stawamus Squaw, as well as Dog Mountain closer to home. Let's not forget the Varsity Outdoor Club, who have taken on the Howe Sound Trail from Cypress to Mt. Harvey. They also tend the trail to Brew Lake. Our newest applicant for trail "parent" is the Grade 10 Social Studies class of Burnaby North Secondary School. They wish to adopt the historically rich Harrison to Lillooet Lake Trail and the trail from Alexandra Lodge to Lake House.

The Adopt-A-Trail Program is planning to give tangible credit to these groups by acknowledging their commitment at the trailheads, with signage which will name the group and list its phone number along with ours. It can be a permanent record and good club advertising. The trailhead sign is now past the development stage and into production.

We are still looking for "parents" for some very popular trails that don't need very much work. The only commitment required is that your club maintain the trail you pledge to adopt once a year, checking for blowdowns, cutting back trailside brush, checking the condition of the trail marking, picking up any garbage and cleaning out waterbars. You will make small repairs to steps and railings but any major construction needs are reported to the title holder of the land over which the trail runs.

In the area from Petgill Lake to Grouse Mountain we have the Baden Powell Trail to Cleveland Dam, the leg of that trail to Black Mountain, and the trail to Black Mountain from Horseshoe Bay available for adoption. In the Whistler area the trail to Rainbow Lake has no club sponsor and seems to be a most attractive trail to adopt. Your club's yearly maintenance expedition could be co-ordinated with a stay at the soul-renewing Alta Lake Youth Hostel nearby. If you recognize "your" trail when you read this, please speak up to

avoid duplication; we have no paperwork on these.

We also have trails in more remote areas which would suit a club wanting a real challenge. At Mount Dewdney near Manning Park, for example, there is quite a bit of ground work to be done and major brush clearing.

We have info on all the trails in a "trail inventory" at the office. It is divided into geographic sections and in most cases we can estimate the work to be done and give other general information on the trail. Each section or zone has a knowledgeable co-ordinator who will give you guidance in trail maintenance and even go with your group on your first trail clearing club outing. We have access to some tools as well.

Trail adoption is available to large or small groups of any age bracket and you need not be a hiking or mountaineering club to help us. We have a church group, a high school socials class, army cadets, boy scouts and a legion already involved in Adopt-A-Trail. Please phone us at the office if you have a question.

REPORT FROM YOUR TRAILS COMMITTEE

If you or your group would like to help out with trails but cannot adopt a trail, how about becoming a watchdog?

If a trail is not in a park, it is vulnerable to development of one kind or another as well as logging. As forest companies seek out the last of the available timber there will be more and more conflict with the recreational user.

The high profile of the Carmanah and the Stein Valleys have public support, but be aware that there are literally dozens of trails threatened at the moment, and pressure will continue to increase.

Through conversation with Forestry and the companies involved, your Trail Committee is attempting to keep up with the continuing allotment of cutblocks, and we are having a fair degree of success. However, as a group of volunteers we find it difficult to address all the concerns. We ask you the user to contact both Forestry and the Trails Committee if you have concerns about a trail.

The Trails Committee would welcome additional volunteers on the Committee. The success of the Adopt-A-Trail program particularly depends on volunteers who are able to make a


long term commitment and who would be able to give leadership and guidance to groups interested in adopting and grooming a trail. If you would be interested in joining the work of this committee, contact the Federation of Mountain Clubs' office or one of the Committee members for more information.

We all wish you a Merry Christmas and lots of hiking in 1990.


Ed Note: The A-A-T program is developing only in SW B.C. at the moment, but will expand to the Island and the interior over the next few years.

KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

The KMC's November 17 AGM included a vote to stay in the Federation. Brian Gavin, FMCBC President, attended the meeting and fielded a variety of questions. He also returned to Vancouver very impressed with the KMC and its very busy and comprehensive agenda of interests. Brian will provide a detailed report for the next newsletter.



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The past few months have been very busy for your Board of Directors. Also, there are a number of issues facing us which will require decisions. The following notes summarize our activity.

The next steps in the development of our Long Term Management Plan have been taken. In preparation for the planning retreat of October 27/28 the Board decided that a B.C. Skills workshop on Long and Short Term Planning would be useful. This structured approach sees us developing a Mission Statement, identifying Areas of Emphasis and a list of priorities, goals and objectives which can be translated into an action plan for the FMCBC. This was excellent preparation for us and provided a framework within which our previous efforts could be considered. We are preparing our work for review by club delegates at the Vancouver Island meeting on November 25 and at the Lower Mainland Meeting on December 6.

The Management Committee, made up of the Past President John Randall, Vice President Suzanne Mazoret, Director Larry Lowden and I, have reviewed the performance of our Executive Director, determined his contract and identified his objectives for the next term. This formalizes this procedure, compared with past practice, and has resulted in a clearer understanding of expectations.

The area of Membership Fees and Relations was initiated through Direc-

tor Ken Legg to help improve our annual budgeting/planning process. A Club Dossier, kept at the office, is being compiled to help promote club membership to those interested.

In the area of Parks Master Plans, Director Paul Kubik has put considerable effort into submissions on the Lake Lovelywater area, Garibaldi Park, Manning Park and the Skagit Recreation Area.

The latest Lower Mainland Delegates' meeting was held on September 27th. Twelve clubs were represented and the meeting was attended by five Directors and the Executive Director.

The Chilliwack Outdoor Club expressed concern about trails threatened by logging plans. The delegates also provided direction to the Board on BCGEU's campaign against contracting in Parks. This was an excellent exchange of information.

The Board reviewed the course brochure for 1990. Novice skiers and snowshoers are better accommodated this season.

FALL FORUM REPORT

On November 4th, I attended the ORC Fall Forum on your behalf. Three key items were discussed at this all-day session.

1. "Recreation Access in British Columbia" produced for ORC by Ms. Meredith Quartermain advocates amendments to various Acts to improve access and reduce liability. ORC is to establish a cross agency co-ordi-

nating body to facilitate dealing with land use issues which involve Lands and Parks and Forests. Also, documentation of current recreational access in land agency records is encouraged. All of these aspects are of great significance to our members and the Adopt-A-Trail program.

2. The meeting unanimously rejected the report "The Action Challenge: Strategic Directions for Recreation" as submitted to the government. The report advocates creation of another body in the Sport and Amateur Fitness Fund administration while also potentially removing control of member groups' decisions on hiring or firing of their executive directors.

3. The Wilderness Policy of 1985 was reviewed. This policy is still effective and ORC was urged to devote a part of their energies to wilderness protection and access to recreation areas used by our members.

A number of issues facing us are: FMCBC certification courses, our relationship with sport climbing, sponsorship of the National Trail in B.C., and the relocation of our office.

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Merry Christmas and

Happy New Year.

COMOX GLACIER PROJECT

An FMCBC trail building project, which commenced on June 26 and ran to November 11 and was funded by a federal government Job Development Grant of \$80,000, upgraded the Comox Valley Glacier Trail on the Island this summer.

The project's two objectives were rebuilding the trail to Parks' standards and providing job training for the eight crew members.

The crew rebuilt and re-routed the first 2 km of the 10 km trail. This work cut return time by at least 1 hour by rerouting and improving grading and construction.

The crew received a wide range of job training including wilderness first aid, mountaineering, treeplanting, tree spacing, forest survey and recording, chainsaw handling and maintenance, tourism marketing and trail construction. The Comox Glacier Trail is about

an hour and a half drive west of Courtenay along the Fletcher Challenge Comox Lake logging road. Turn right off the main road after the Cruikshank River bridge. This last section after the bridge is recommended 4X4 access.

The trail starts in old growth forests of the Comox Creek valley bottom at 500 meters. The trail rises 1500 metres to the rock summit on the west end of the glacier, passing through four distinctive eco-zones: old-growth forest, sub-alpine, alpine and ice and rock.

The trail is recommended for experienced hikers and is not widely known. The view from the west side of the glacier is the alpine lakes, peaks and glaciers of Strathcona Park.

If you visit the glacier next summer stop in at the tourist info center in Courtenay and pick up a trail guide brochure produced by the FMCBC trail crew. David Stapley, Courtenay

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PARKS MANAGEMENT PLANNING UPDATE

It is with considerable regret that I must announce my resignation from the position addressing Parks Management Plans for the FMCBC. I am taking over as President of the B.C. Mountaineering Club and feel that the workload will not permit me to do both jobs.

During my four months of tenure in the Federation position I was able to solicit feedback from the B.C. Mountaineering Club, Varsity Outdoor Club, Alpine Club and various FMC Committees regarding the draft Lake Lovelywater Management Plan. I then wrote a submission to Parks representing the Federation viewpoint.

In October, the Federation participated in a round table discussion on the Garibaldi Management Plan with Parks and various user groups. We forcefully made statements objecting to the granting of heli-skiing and heli-hiking per-

mits in the Park and to the use of mountain bikes on hiking trails and in alpine meadows. We also made the point that the proposed Spearhead high level trail and hut were poorly researched and a potential hazard for the general public. I feel that our comments were well received.

My purpose in writing this is to portray what the position here involves. I hope that some Federation members will get involved in an ad hoc Committee for addressing Parks Master Plans. The work is interesting as one gets to know many of the decision-making individuals involved in these plans. You also will meet many of our members. It is an opportunity for personal growth and with the right people I believe we can be an effective lobby for proper management of our parks.

The individual(s) should be prepared to attend Recreation and Conservation

Committee meetings to find out what the management issues are. The clubs should be consulted through their executive committees so that you can understand what the members interests and concerns are. Finally, position statements should be discussed with the Directors and Rec. and Con Chairpersons.

If you have not been involved in this kind of thing before it may seem intimidating. This was certainly how I felt when I first started with my own club's executive committee and later as a Director of the Federation. However, within two years I think you will have a good grasp of the issues and know who is involved. If you have the willingness to make the commitment I think that you won't regret it.

Paul Kubik

Please contact me or one of the other Directors if you can help.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Sure, I'm all for the environment, wouldn't live without it. Problem is, all my friends ask me if we're using cloth diapers on our new kid, then look at me as if daring me to say no. Holy of holies, who wouldn't lie or blush if it wasn't so. I mean we all know if you put one of them Huggy things under a rock and watched it for 2 million years the rock would be gone but the diaper would still be there. We should learn to build things with that stuff, it'd last longer than wood anyway.

Now, we are 96% green minded, you gotta be, right? 'Cept this newborn loves her Luvs, and is darned miserable and wet and diaper rashed from knee to navel with the cotton stuff. So how do you choose then, sleep eight hours in synthetic, or eight minutes in real? We're wrestlin' with it. It's not my kid's fault they can invent the stuff and sell it before they know how to waste it. After all, they've done the same with atomic energy. Nice to have a lot of clean cotton dusters though. Anon

Dear Jim:

Your Executive Director's Report in the new Cloudburst hits the nail on the head.

As to the credit card, I for one think it's a great scheme and I support it even though I do have twenty pieces of plastic in my wallet....I have been a North Shore Hiker for many years and

personally I welcome outdoor equipment catalogues, holiday brochures and anything relating to the outdoors. The real 'junk' mail comes to every house anyway, regardless of one's interests or affinity and that should be banned by law, even if it were printed on recycled paper!

Carry on the good work, Jim. We need you and we need the Federation.
Muriel Lambert

DECISION MAKERS

Dear Brian:

...I am more and more convinced...that to really be an effective Federation beyond the Lower Mainland you will have to find a way to budget to fly directors from afar to the directors' meetings. In no other way will those of us who live this far or farther ever feel we have a voice in the affairs of the Federation or that the Federation serves us much...clubs will not feel represented by the Fed until they have someone on the Board. Since these someones will all be volunteers with other jobs, they will only be able to afford the time if you can fly to board meetings. So there's my suggestion. If you want the Fed to be truly province-wide and not just Lower Mainland, you are going to have to fly in the decision-makers regularly.

Ian Brown, ACC Vancouver Island

TELEMARK LESSONS

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Beginner and intermediate telemark lessons every Sunday from December 3 through the end of the season.



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CLouDBURST: OFFICE NEWS

The following will bring you up to date behind the scenes in the Federation office for 1989 and set the stage for our new year - THE FIRST OF THE 90'S!!

PAPER: In an effort to maintain an environmentally friendly atmosphere, the Federation Office is now recycling all its paper. We are also (as you may have noticed) printing Cloudburst on Recycle 100 paper (the least hazardous paper available). Second class mailing privileges have been applied for and we await a decision by Canada Post. If our application is accepted, Cloudburst will become 50 grams (12 pages or more) instead of 30 grams maximum 10 pages) and we will not need to use envelopes or fold the quarterly. Labels will be affixed to the back of each copy. We hope you enjoy the new look.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

The Kamloops Outdoor Club invites skiers to explore backcountry routes of the Mt. Morrisey Ski Touring Area. This is accessed by driving to Todd Mountain and parking at Shuswap Chair. The ski area itself begins one km east of the parking lot. A map is posted at the main entry point at the one km mark.

STAFF: Office Project 89 is running smoothly and immersed in the production of the General Brochure, the Adopt a Trail Brochure and our Program Brochure. The project ends December 29. If funds are available, the position of Office Manager is to be established. Jim Haberl, new program Director, has also signed a contract for 11 months.

SOLID GOLD coupon extravaganzas are available for \$39 at the office. Sports, food, entertainment, accommodation...it's all there at 50% off. Coupons are valid now until Christmas 1990.

FEDERATION COURSES

You will have received our new course brochure...the biggest and best ever! This season there is something for everyone. Even if you will never take a course, we thought having a brochure to read would help you know more about what the Fed is doing. After you've read it - please pass it on. Beginning in the new year, the Fed office will be equipped to accept payment of courses through Visa. Also, course booking procedures have been computerized for our mutual convenience.

PRICES

The new brochure tells you that as a FMCBC member you will pay \$10 less than a non-member for a course. There were many complaints that individual (read non-club) memberships took away potential club members. Also, our research has shown that requiring FMCBC membership in order to take a course did nothing in the long run for club membership anyway. Now anyone can take a Fed. course, but members pay \$10 less, which immediately gives them back more than their FMCBC membership fee. And, we haven't mentioned non-club memberships in the brochure. We hope this works well for everyone.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Our Employment Plus Tourism Grant ends November 28 and we lose the invaluable Margaret O'Leary. We cannot apply for a new grant until March 31, 1990. Until that time the Federation Office will be urgently in need of volunteer assistants capable of answering phones, typing correspondence, data entry, and booking people in courses. Due to a training requirement, we ask that only those capable of a day a week or more respond. If you are interested, please contact Sara. This is an excellent opportunity to learn new skills, brush up on old ones, be an active contributor to the Federation and have a busy, fun day to look forward to every week.

All the best in the new year,
Sara Kammerzell

INSTRUCTOR NEEDED: UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Faculty of Physical Education requires instructor for kayaking, climbing, backcountry skiing, backpacking, leadership, counselling, programming and administration. Resume and three references to:

Dr. W.L. Veale
Dean
Faculty of Physical Education
University of Calgary
2600 University Drive, N.W.
Calgary, AB T2N 1N4
BY: December 15

NORTH SHORE RESCUE TEAM

Has produced a 30 minute video on "Hiking Safely". The three part program covers
Planning and Preparation
Conduct on the Trail
Dealing with Emergencies

Highly recommended for club members and all trip leaders. This video can help you prepare for a safe season, every year.

Order from Hiking Safely Video, North Shore Rescue Team 165 East 13th Street, North Vancouver, B.C. V7L 2L3 (\$25 plus 6% BC Sales Tax)

ADVANCED AVALANCHE COURSE

George Evanoff of North Rockies Ski Tours is offering an Advanced Avalanche Course Jan 12-15 at his base in the Dezaiko Range of the Northern Rockies. Cost out of Prince George is \$360 which includes air access, accommodation and food. Maximum number of clients is 8. Contact George at 604-564-7814

George also offers 5 lodge-based back country ski packages:

Feb 7-11 5 days \$450

Feb 18-24, Mar 4-10, Mar 18-24 7 days \$585

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All of the above include air access, food and accommodation

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SMOKE BLUFFS CLEANUP

The second clean-up day at the Smoke Bluffs produced many barrel-fulls of garbage and broken glass. Volunteers, principally from the BCMC, laboured for a full day, but since the road access has opened up across the construction site the mess has grown astronomically.

We know it isn't the climbers, it's the night partiers with their bottle throwers and 4WD's trashing the area. All we can do is pick up what we can. You can help by taking home your trash, not dumping it at the parking lot where there is no garbage service, and by taking home anything else that shouldn't be there. We understand your complaints but they would be better placed with the Municipality of Squamish. We are doing what we can.

RECREATION & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

BACKGROUND

The following are some comments on recent activities; they are not all inclusive. The Committee has dealt with other issues, as represented in our minutes that are mailed to a large group of interested persons, and I as Co-Chairman have gradually become involved in an ever-widening circle of related activities, some of which will be mentioned briefly. I regret that space limitations require the use of many technical acronyms.

Please feel free to contact me, if you have any questions, comments or suggestions, at 263-3900.

COMMERCIAL BACK-COUNTRY USE

We have continued to be concerned about the loss of opportunities for solitariness in the backcountry as more entrepreneurs apply for, and receive, special use permits and licenses of occupation for heli-skiing, heli-hiking, etc. Mike Feller of the BCMC has been a tireless advocate of protection for areas long used by our member groups. However, the Ministry of Crown Lands is following policy in promoting commercial use. We have met with them, and may be able to make a case for a "protocol agreement" that sets out existing uses in advance of the receipt of commercial applications.

CHILLIWACK FOREST DISTRICT

As part of the pilot project previously described in Cloudburst (in part the result of the Greendrop Lake case), Jay MacArthur and I will be meeting with District staff and members of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club on November 29th to review development plans that may impact recognized trails in that District.

BC FOREST RESOURCES

COMMISSION (FRC)

The Ministry of Forests has established a standing Commission with 10 members and a Chairman (Sandy Peel) and Executive Director (Derrick Curtis). I am one of the 10, and am appointed for 3 years.

The three initial tasks assigned to the Commission are: to examine the suitability of TFLs as a form of tenure (rollovers of existing TFLs or establishment of new ones are on hold until the Commission reports); ways of improving harvesting practices, with special reference to clearcutting; and ways of improving public involvement in forest planning and management.

A discussion paper on TFLs will be available for public comment in February; hearings will then be held, with a report to government by summer. A 6-month-later time frame has been planned for the harvesting practices issue, and public involvement is to be

touched upon in the two earlier processes, but given its own special attention thereafter.

Many other issues of concern to this Federation are also being discussed at FRC meetings.

TREE FARM LICENCE 44

AD HOC PLANNING GROUP

In addition to ourselves, four Provincial groups are involved in planning for the Management and Working Plan (M&WP) of this contentious area on southern Vancouver Island: B.C. Wildlife Federation, Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society, Outdoor Recreation Council, and Sierra Club. This "Ad Hoc Planning Group" has met several times and has had one field trip with MacMillan Bloedel. We hope to gain experience with TFL M&WPs, and understand their advantages and weaknesses from direct involvement. Any areas of disagreement with MB will be discussed in the final report. This process should also help with the FRC's mandate to examine TFLs as a suitable form of tenure.

This particular planning group is not to be considered an exercise in public involvement (for which there have been, and will continue to be, other opportunities), because it evolved out of a process at the Forest Land Use Liaison Committee (FLULC). The individuals participating are bound to work together in good faith and have agreement to do so in principle from their organizations, but neither they nor their groups are contained from expressing their own opinions about the M&WP or MB's other activities. Terms of Reference have been carefully worked out and are available upon request. (Note that recreational input will not be limited to that which can be provided by group members from the Lower Mainland.)

FOREST LAND USE LIAISON COMMITTEE

Now that much public involvement is to be handled by companies, rather than the Forest Service directly, we need better methods of notifying the public about these opportunities. Neither use groups nor industry are happy with the results of the present system. As Co-Chairman, I suggested to the Chief Forester that we try to develop such a system, and he has agreed. If we and industry can make a joint proposal, it is likely to be implemented by Government.

FLULC's "Consensus Statement on Public Involvement" is now about 5 years old, and will be reviewed for presentation to FRC. Prior to the recent Old-Growth Workshop, FLULC was suc-

cessful, with Bob Peart's leadership, in producing an interim Consensus Statement on Old-Growth.

Finally, FLULC has been invited to participate in the B.C. Forest Research Advisory Committee which will be setting research priorities.

MINISTRY OF FORESTS' OLD-GROWTH WORKSHOP

Bruce Blackwell was our representative at this invitation-only workshop in Parksville in early November. The results will be helping to set the Ministry's future strategy for old-growth identification and management.

SOUTHERN CHILCOTIN MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Jay MacArthur is involved with the Society, which will soon be releasing its draft proposal for Chilko Lake Recreation Area.

SQUAMISH-WHISTLER-PEMBERTON CORRIDOR

The FMCBC has continued to be concerned about development pressures on Garibaldi Park. We have proposed an integrated land-use planning exercise for the region, crossing jurisdictional lines, so that all developments do not impact the Park. ORC is presently trying to organize this. The next Recreation & Conservation Committee meeting on November 20th will be discussing the Local Resource Use Plan of the Ministry of Forests and a study by the Ministry of Crown Lands.

NEW STEIN GUIDEBOOK

So far, the Stein remains undeveloped purely because of the high level of public pressure.

Exploring the Stein River Valley was written by David Thompson and myself with the help of others in our Federation and in other groups, and published in 1979. It is now out of print and there have been many changes in the valley. David and I have been co-operating with the Stein Alliance in developing the new book, and many of the trails have been accurately measured.

The book is expected to be published by next summer.

CONCLUSIONS

I hope this gives some indication of the many activities and involvements in the past year. We thank government and industry members, as well as those from other organizations, for their helpful participation.

Remember that our Committee meetings are open to all interested persons, and that issues are considered that are developed by ourselves, via the Board, Delegates, or member groups. Don't be shy!!

Roger D. Freeman, Co-Chairman Recreation and Conservation Committee

NEW COURSE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

In the spring of 1989, David McCashin left the FMCBC and his role as co-ordinator of the Federation's course program. The summer courses ran smoothly, but behind the scenes it was apparent that the position that Dave had vacated needed filling. To that end, Jim Rutter and I came to an understanding at the end of October giving me the responsibility of ensuring that Dave's good work be continued.

I come to this position as no stranger to the FMCBC's course program. In 1976 I participated in the Federation's Traditional Mountaineering Course and thus began a climbing career which is becoming more like a career as the years roll by. I am now a member of the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides and have taught both summer and winter mountain programs across B.C. and into Alberta since 1985. I guess it is time to pay some dues in the office now.

I am excited about the upcoming year and the courses the FMCBC will be offering. As each year passes, we seem to consolidate our program and solidify our role in the mountaineering community in B.C. I see 1990 as a year where the Federation will make large strides towards achieving our mandate of educating and promoting safe and enjoyable travel in the mountains.

Winter is here. And just because there is a bit of snow out there on the trail doesn't mean that we hang up the gear and wait for the spring thaw. The joys of travel in the winter are difficult to describe, but I'm sure everyone knows a skier who simply cannot wait for the snow to fly. I guess I am guilty of that emotion, the thought of an untracked bowl of light powder on a clear, crisp morning sends shivers up my spine.

The FMCBC has a full range of winter courses to ensure that you feel you have the knowledge to travel safely. Avalanches are the first thing that come to mind when you think of backcountry skiing. Once again, we are offering two levels of instruction in avalanche awareness. As well, there are introductory courses in snow camping and ski touring.

I feel that our best winter courses are the backcountry ski tours. They seem to be a well-kept secret, but over the length of one of these courses the input from an experienced instructor is invaluable. The learning to be done in terms of route finding, snowpack evaluation, snow camping, skiing technique, and hazard forecasting is difficult to achieve in any other forum.

Have a safe holiday season and we'll see you on the slopes in the New Year.

Jim Haberl

CHILLIWACK CLUB

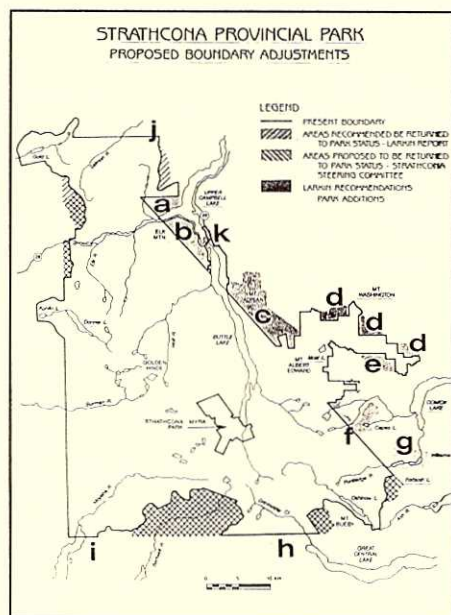
The Chilliwack Outdoor Club, Vancouver Region's furthest flung group, was visited on October 30 by the executive director, Jim Rutter.

The Club meets on a Monday evening once a month to organize trips and enjoy a planned presentation. Jim talked about the work of the Federation, and used Strathcona Park as a working example of land use conflicts and how they may be resolved.

Showing slides taken from the air of the Park's controversial boundary areas, both deleted and recommended for addition, and slides taken on Fed. hiking trips through the Park, he spoke of his work on the two government committees formed to deal with Strathcona.

The Club had previously appealed to the Fed. for help in dealing with local logging plans affecting hiking trails. The Fed's Co-Chairmen of Recreation and Conservation were reported by Jim to be meeting with the logging contractor in November to discuss this. Thanks to the Chilliwack Outdoor Club for an evening well spent with pleasant company.

STRATHCONA BORDERS UNVEILED



Proposed new boundaries for Strathcona Park were presented to a public meeting in Campbell River on Wednesday.

Strathcona Park Steering Committee member Jake Masselink, the Assistant Deputy Parks Minister for B.C., told the packed auditorium that he personally feels the new boundary leaves the park incomplete.

He said many additions proposed in Dr. Peter Larkin's landmark report would have to be added to the park at a future date.

"His additions are logical, but it is not going to happen overnight," said Masselink. "I personally feel that Strathcona Park is incomplete without those additions."

Masselink acknowledged that the proposed new boundary was established

behind closed doors, but he stressed that the public will play a decisive role as the committee designs the Park Master Plan. "We want your input, but if you send us a message don't attach it to a javelin," he added.

Committee member Jim Rutter, of the Federation of Mountain Clubs, said that though provincial approval of the new boundaries would leave the park 8,000 hectares smaller than it was before its area was cut in 1987, it would enlarge the existing park by 13,000 hectares and provide a base boundary on which to develop a Park Master Plan. See map. Further "long term" additions would be considered during this planning process. (Other meetings have been held in Port Alberni and Victoria). Mostly reprinted from the Courtenay Comox Valley Record.

THE ETHICS OF INDISCRIMINATE CAIRN BUILDING

The symbol of a mountain summit or ridge top is traditionally a cairn. It is used to mark the highest point; perhaps also serving as the cache for a summit register, and a friendly reminder of other people in an isolated place. It can serve to mark a safe route along a ridge or through open meadows during periods of poor visibility. In Europe, the cairns may be centuries old and are very much an accepted part of the landscape. In the sub-Arctic regions of Canada, the "Inukok" met the practical needs of route finding. These 'stone men' of the tundra also helped with the psychological and spiritual needs of a people faced with harsh survival conditions daily.

In British Columbia, there are still large alpine areas which are relatively untouched. It is still easy to find places where there are yet no traces of man. When we reach a new ridge or summit, we often have the pleasure of experiencing a completely pristine environment and wondering, are we the first to have walked here?

Invariably, our next thought is....."Let's build a cairn!". Many of us will have to admit to building our share, but do we satisfy our ego by this action? Must we leave a sign of our passing? Surely a moment's reflection will show that the person who follows will not have the same opportunity to experi-

ence the place as we found it.

In a time of increasing industrial and recreational pressure on the mountains, the place which epitomizes the wilderness more than anywhere is surely the summit. If we can't leave this as we found it, without having to construct something, what chance is there for anywhere else? Is the act of cairn building as necessary today as it might have been 50 years ago? Leave the cairns on prominent well visited summits, and definitely where there is a need to identify a safe route. But, otherwise the old adage about taking nothing but photographs and leaving nothing but footprints still applies.

Although built from local materials, the cairn is an artifact whose message is clear to the next visitor. A classic example occurred during a recent week-long fly-in trip to Monkam Provincial Park, when four members of the Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club made it to the top of a nondescript peak above Lupin Lake. There was no evidence of man having been there before, especially considering the short technical pitch we had climbed. Despite objections by the author, the trip leader - whose ethics do not permit leaving orange peel in the mountains even though it will vanish in a year or two - insisted on building a cairn which might endure for centuries.

One K. McNish of Edinburgh, Scotland wrote in the August 1989 edition of the National Geographic Magazine:

"When Galen Rowell describes climbing to the top of the peak and placing a pile of stones on the summit, I can't help think that he has taken the opportunity to show his own self-importance and destroyed another's opportunity to feel the same 'untouched by man' sensation."

Perhaps it's time the Federation developed a policy regarding the proliferation of cairns on undesignated peaks and ridge tops. Some of our members are quick to call foul when they see others changing the natural environment for economic reasons. What excuse do we have for recreational purposes? Outdoor ethics can change significantly over a period of twenty years, so we should leave some choice for future generations of mountain users. Our member clubs might even consider organizing work hikes to restore such places to their natural state. We could even have a competition to see which club can restore the most sites in one season!

I invite your comments, and those of your readers

Michael Nash, Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club, Prince George

LIONS BAY TRAIL PROBLEMS

Hikers planning to get up to the Lions from Lions Bay often have a problem with parking at the trailhead. There is limited room for cars near the gated entranceway, and the Municipality has been exceptionally enthusiastic about towing cars. The Fed has proposed a parking lot to be built on the Crown Land at the trailhead.

But parking by-laws, and statements from some residents, the Mayor and Council, indicate a strong wish to close all hiking access there.

Working with the Ministry of Forests, the FMCBC has successfully answered every concern of the Municipality about the project, only to receive the following letter from the Mayor:

LIONS BAY

Dear Jim:

I regret that we did not respond to your letter of January 25, 1989, however we have been dealing directly with the Ministry of Forests on this matter as it is under their jurisdiction.

In reply to the letter from Mr. Frank Vican dated June 30, 1989, the Council of the Village of Lions Bay has chosen not to encourage the unregulated use of our watershed by promoting a parking lot.

I understand that the Ministry of Forests is not prepared to proceed without Council's support.

I would suggest that it would be

appropriate if all hikers chose one of the many mountains in BC that are not sources of community drinking water, or make arrangements to hike in their own watersheds

Gordon Prescott, Mayor

The facts - that trail access was well-established before the municipality existed, that the water system is filtered and chlorinated, that local residents hike in the area and that it is the quickest and safest hiking route to the Lions - are obviously not regarded by the Municipal Council.

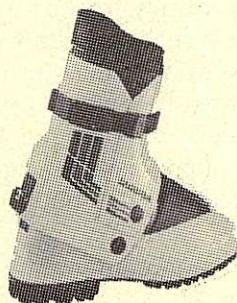
The FMCBC will continue to represent this issue of access and pursue the parking lot project.

Skiers!

The new stuff is in!



Winter's here, so make sure you and your equipment are ready to ski. Now is the time to come in and check out the new gear at Carleton.

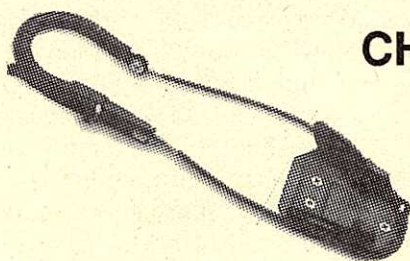


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