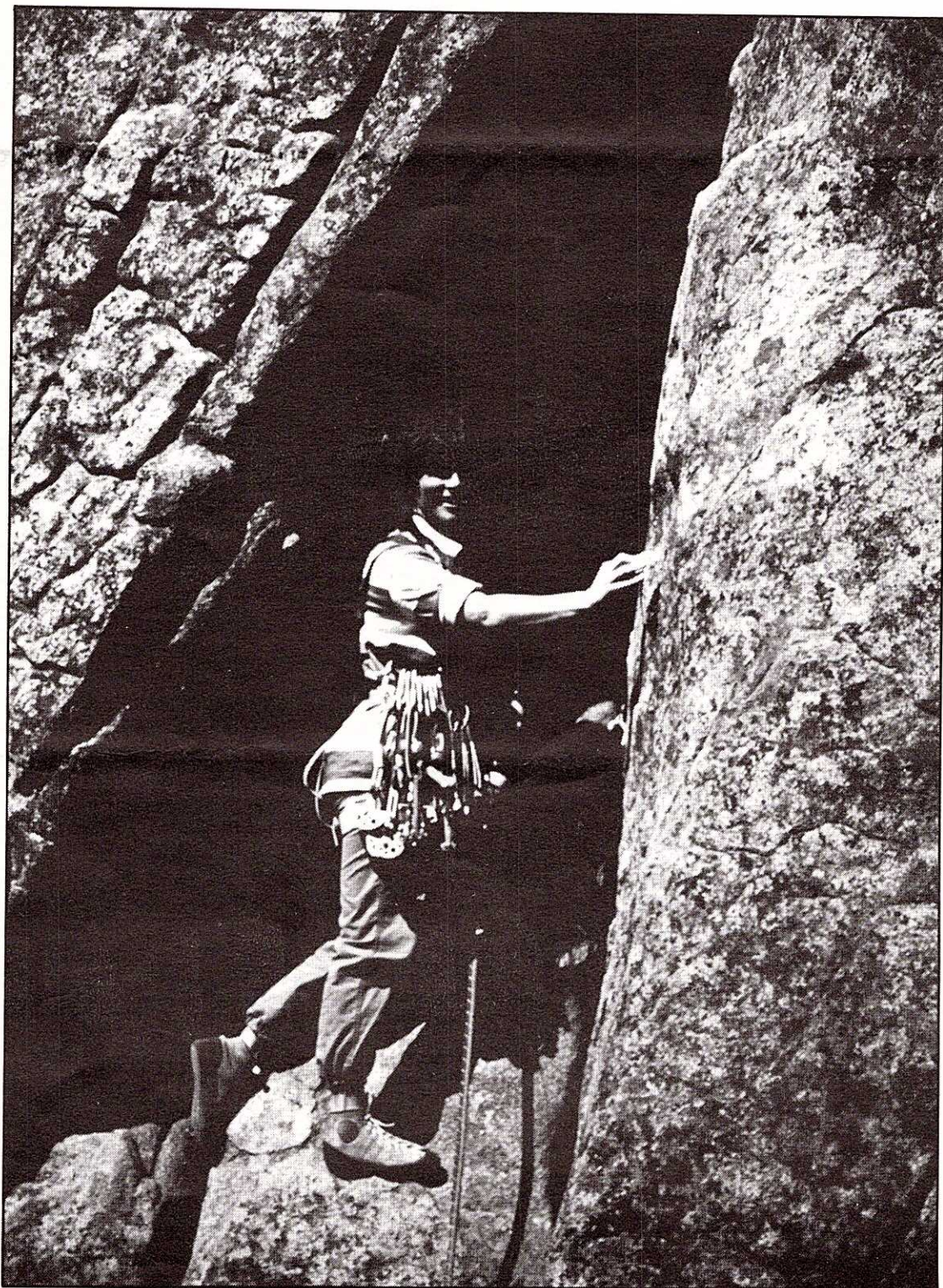


# CLOUDBURST

Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia Newsletter

Summer 1989





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## FMCBC

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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 conservation 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.

### Executive

**President:** John Randall

**Treasurer:** Simon Anderson

**Directors:** Len Dudley, Brian Gavin, Paul Kubik, Suzanne Mazoret, John Howe, Anita Miettunen, Larry Lowden, Judy Wigmore, Gerry Burch (Advisor).

**Executive Director:** Jim Rutter

### Committees:

**Recreation and Conservation:**

Roger Freeman, Jay MacArthur

**Safety and Education:**

Richard Howes

### Trails:

Gabriel Mazoret, Peter Westlake

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## CLOUDBURST

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Cloudburst is published quarterly by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia, 336-1367 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9.

Phone (604) 737-3053

Editor: Jim Rutter

Layout: Five Seasons Designs

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.

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## COVER PHOTO

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"Lady with friends". It's that season again.... What's missing from this photo?

J. Rutter photo.

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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Seeing the province from a concrete tower dulls the mind and jades the spirit, and so it was a wonderful bonus to visit the Caledonia Ramblers of Prince George on the May 5th weekend and experience some northern country hospitality.

This very active member club of hikers and skiers has been a strong Federation supporter for many years. They have managed to send down a delegate to most AGMs and have recently supported the member fee increase even though their Federation contribution is three times their own club fee.

It was my pleasure to attend a Friday night club meeting and give a talk about the work the FMCBC is doing, and then enjoy a slide show featuring many of the areas visited on club trips.

The club has easy access to some superb areas, especially the foothills of the Rockies (1 1/2 hours away) and the Kakwa wilderness on the Alberta border. The Kakwa looks to be exceptional, with peaks over 10,000 ft. high and an unspoiled alpine home to goats, caribou, and grizzly.

Sunny winters with powder snow is the general rule in these parts, allowing for a long and active season. One member operates his own back country ski lodge, and another, Niilo Itkonen, a World Masters cross country skier, is the driving force behind an excellent cross country ski area with groomed trails and lights for night training, right on the edge of town.

While I was there, club president Dave King organized a Saturday trip to the Torpey River area where logging roads allow car access almost into the alpine itself. A quick half hour hike, with skis in hand, took us up to the snow at 6,500 ft. I was impressed to cross caribou tracks and to hear about a grizzly and 3 cubs that members had seen there on their last trip.

My office fitness programme soon showed itself as I tried to keep up with George Evanoff, an avalanche expert and ski guide, who at near-retirement age graciously found reasons to make frequent stops so I wouldn't look too bad!

This past winter, along with two family members, George made the first winter ascent of Mt. Sir Alexander (3,274 metres or 10,750 ft) -- a most notable feat.

The summit treated us to a hail storm with lunch. But we had a sunny tele-run back through the bowl and a thoughtfully chilled brew awaited us when we got back to the trailhead. Certainly, our Prince George colleagues know how to do things well.

Besides a thoroughly enjoyable outing and social gathering, the trip and our conversations gave me a better understanding of the club's looming concerns. Their beloved Kakwa Recreation Area is visited by droves of ATVs driving in from the Alberta side; the huge clearcuts which extend across most of the area from Prince George to the Bowron Lakes have taken advantage of the beetle infestations and stripped the country bare; game poaching, wolf pogroms, and more than 1,200 moose killed by trains during a deep snow winter all add to the threats to nature's balance; and finally, recent plans to log almost to alpine brings non-mechanized recreation interests and industry plans too close together.

I would like to thank Dave and Judith for hosting me, and George for his Italian dinner. Thanks to Mike for the libations and humour, to Bob and Sheila for their company on the ski trip, and to the Caledonia Ramblers for reminding me how much fun it is to be in a club and share the best of times together.

Jim Rutter

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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The FMCBC's Annual General Meeting will be held at the Delta Airport Inn in Richmond on **June 17th, 1989**. Coffee will be served at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. Clubs will be represented by official delegates. Due to seating requirements, observers who are FMCBC members are welcome if they inform us in advance of their planned attendance.

## TRAIL NEWS



The FMCBC Trail Committee wish to announce the ADOPT-A-TRAIL PROGRAM. The Trail Committee is asking you, the user, to help. The program is very simple. A participating group will volunteer to maintain a trail on an annual basis. It's theirs to maintain and be proud of henceforth.

Someone is bound to say; "let the government do it." The government is not going to do it. Even Parks trails get only sporadic funding. No, it's up to us, the trail users.

The FMCBC Trail Committee has spent several months categorizing the 200 odd trails in SW B.C. as to the owner of the land, condition of the trail, and who maintains it. All this is now on computer. We found that a few trails are maintained by unsung groups who quietly look after one or more trails. Hopefully with the Adopt a Trail program in place, we can have most trails maintained. Eventually, we hope that the Adopt a Trail idea will spread to the rest of the province.

Adopt a Trail had a modest beginning in 1988. Participating are Outdoor Clubs, Church Youth Groups, Venture Scouts, a School program, a group of loggers, Army Cadets, the Legion, and field naturalists, to name a few.

Your group does not need to be affiliated with the FMCBC. Any group wishing to Adopt a Trail, or who is interested in finding out more about it, please contact the FMCBC office at 336-1367 W Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6H 4A9 or phone (604) 737-3053.

**\* NEW \***

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Lisa Whiteside 277-1963 (Leave Message)

### CHILLIWACK TRAILS

"Five thousand dollars to finance the replacement of a hiker's bridge over the Chilliwack River" was an enthusiastic announcement made in the last newsletter.

Responding to an appeal from the Forest Service for the funding of the bridge project, the FMCBC assigned a \$5,000 charitable donation from Taiga Works to pay for the overhead costs of the Army building a Bailey Bridge. No Forest Service money was available at this time.

Shortly thereafter, the FMCBC was informed that the Forest Service would after all pay for the bridge. The FMCBC will be paying close attention to plans to log the Radium Creek Valley.

### Lions Bay Update

New negotiations by the FMCBC and the Forest Service have almost cleared the way for the trail head parking lot project to go ahead. If the last few pieces fall into place soon, there could be a new parking facility, on Crown Land, before the main hiking season gets underway. To date, there has been no provision for parking at the trail head, which has caused conflict between some hikers and residents who find many cars parked outside their houses and blocking their driveways.

### FRASER VALLEY TRAIL PROPOSED

A detailed report has proposed a route for a hiking trail spanning the Fraser Valley on the north side of the river, linking Vancouver with Hope. Conducted last summer under sponsorship from the University of B.C. Research Forest and Federal Job Development Program, the study notes that much of the route already exists as trail, logging road, or Hydro right-of-way. The study shows how these can be linked to form one co-ordinated regional transit system.

A Fraser Valley Trail has the potential to rival the best long-distance trail systems of the world, conclude the authors. They note, however, that it is important to preserve and protect the route before the recreation potential is lost. Although many groups and individuals with interest in, or jurisdiction over, the proposed route have expressed support for the idea, the Fraser Valley Trail is not, at present, being formally acted upon.

Details of the trail proposal are in the report, "The Fraser Valley Trail: A Proposed Route and Strategy for Development" by Cheryl Power et al., published by UBC Malcolm Knapp Research Forest, Maple Ridge, July 15, 1988. For further information contact GVRD Park Planner, Wendy DaDalt, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, V5H 4G8, phone: 432-6323.

### Vancouver Island Clubs

At the well-attended meeting of Island clubs, held on April 1 in Nanaimo, the trail building priorities in Strathcona Park were discussed.

For some years, the volunteer effort has focused on the Phillips Ridge Trail which leads north from Myra Creek up to the alpine -- one of the routes to the Golden Hinde.

Parks District manager, Ron Lampard has wanted this upgrading programme to continue until the trail is at park standard. But club members felt strongly that the current trail was good enough, and that in order to keep up the volunteer effort, a new trail project was needed.

There was strong support from club delegates for a new trail linking Bedwell and Buttle Lake, especially if Parks could use available Westmin funding.

A route up Shepherd Creek to Millar Lake will be scouted this summer by Marg and Ian Brown and Syd Watts, as a volunteer project. Parks was asked to rebuild Flower Ridge Trail. There were some objections to the FMCBC planning a Job Development Project at the Comox Glacier trail instead of a new route at Kookjai Mountain.

## THE GOWLAND RANGE - A PARK

The Gowland Range? Where the devil is the Gowland Range? Leaving Victoria by the Island Highway, the driver emerges from the dark jungle of Goldstream to climb the Malahat Hill above our only local fiord, Finlayson Arm. Across the Arm is a range of hills with its high point at Jocelyn Hill (1000'). That's the Gowland Range.

As yet undeveloped, with spectacular views, these hills are an excellent area for rambling and hiking. Most of the ridge above the sea is open grassy bald tops with scattered Arbutus and Fir. Manzanita and Ocean Spray are the obvious shrubs. The open vegetation allows for great views in all directions and easy walking.

Hikers can access this area by driving up Millstream Road deep into the Highlands and turning left at all the mailboxes at Millstream Lake road. When this road narrows sharply and

enters the forest, instead of entering the forest, turn left and park in the first hundred yards. Rough roads lead directly west to the heights overlooking Finlayson Arm. Just a bit north, a sequence of footpaths and horse trails lead on northwards along the tops of the bluffs. These trails run up to the summit of Jocelyn Hill. The Highlands Trust hopes to eventually extend the trails to connect with MacKenzie Bight and Mount Work.

All of this area is private land. A large part belongs to a developer and a smaller part to a logging company. The Capital Regional District intended this area for a park several years ago, but through a series of legal maneuvering, we lost out. Now the Highlands Trust is reviving the proposal and is looking for sponsors or grant money to buy out the present owners. The bluffs and cliffs rising straight out of Finlayson Arm

form the most spectacular shore line within 50 miles of Victoria. With the open tops and their wide views, this area will be a prime addition to our park system. So the Vancouver Island Section of the Alpine Club is supporting the creation of a park or Nature Reserve in the Gowland Range.

You could support the acquisition of this land for a park by hiking the bluffs yourself and taking others along to see the potential. If you have energy for more direct action, contact Michael Bocking (592-1132) or Nancy McMinn (478-4403) and ask what is needed. They might ask you to write a letter to possible funders or to help make trails. If you think this proposal is worthwhile, any follow up at all to reading this article would be worth something, even if you only phoned the above two people and encouraged them.

Ian Brown, A.A.C.

## GUIDING REGULATIONS

The Association of Canadian Mountain Guides is lobbying B.C.'s Ministry of Parks to make ACMG certification a requirement for professional mountain guiding in B.C. parks.

The ACMG has already made their certification mandatory in all national parks and in Alberta's provincial parks. The FMCBC views this development with some alarm -- partly because many competent guides may not want to be processed by ACMG and partly because the tradition of mountaineering has maintained that the hills are open to all, with or without paper certification.

However, as evidenced by the river rafting accidents which occurred two years ago, there is a definite need to protect the public from the unscrupulous and unqualified who may attempt to pose as trained and competent guides.

The question of certification for mountain leaders in BC's parks is a thorny one. Your opinions and informed comments to the editor will be appreciated and help us to formulate the FMCBC's position on this issue.

## NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Have you ever wondered why this newsletter has only 10 pages? It isn't for lack of material, it's due to simple economics. In order to aid the recreation and sport organizations, the provincial government mails our letters for 8 cents each. But this huge saving in postal costs has its own price -- a maximum size and weight.

Our newsletters would be overweight at 12 pages and the postal charge would be 59 cents. Check the math, but our calculation of 5,000 pieces at full postal rates would cost \$2,450 more than the present \$400 expenditure at 8 cents. Eventually, with more advertisements, and perhaps with a 3rd class postal rate, your newsletter will be larger. As the FMCBC grows, so should its newsletter. Send your content suggestions to the Editors.

Thanks are given to the students of the TREK outdoor programme at Prince of Wales High School in Vancouver. As part of their public service time these students fold, label and stuff all

5,000 FMCBC newsletters four times a year.

The Trek programme combines outdoor skill development, environmental awareness and academic achievement to offer an exciting and formative grade 10 year.

### **THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST CLOUDBURST!**

IF YOUR CLUB MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED, OR YOUR 'INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP' IN THE FMCBC HAS LAPSED, YOUR NAME WILL BE DELETED FROM OUR MAILING LIST ON JULY 1, 1989.

**TO RENEW, CALL 737-3053**



# NO FEDERATION, NO STEIN!! A LESSON IN HISTORY

There's been lots of publicity lately about the Stein by other groups who are now taking a leading role in the attempt to save the Valley. But did you know that our Federation is largely responsible for the fact that it's still there, unlogged? Very few of those now involved were there during those difficult early years when the area was largely unknown. The struggle went on without much publicity partly because the threat of industrial development seemed so far off.

In the description that follows, I will, naturally, highlight our own Federation's role. That is not to say that others were not important. In particular, members of the B.C. Wildlife Federation, People for the Stein, and the Federation of B.C. Naturalists played major roles.

It was Roy Mason, a pilot and member of the B.C. Mountaineering Club, who prepared the first brief. This was presented at the first conference the Federation had ever sponsored, at UBC in 1973. The result of the conference led the Government to place a moratorium on the watershed until a study could be completed. When the study seemed to be less than adequate by our standards, we passed further resolutions, put together a public slide show, and made 8 trips into the area in 1975, culminating in our own two-volume study. We obtained an endorsement of this study and its recommendations from the B.C. Wildlife Federation, Federation of B.C. Naturalists, Canoe Sport B.C., and the B.C. Horse Owners Association.

After the Government changed, the Stein Basin Moratorium Study report was sent to ELUC in early 1976 but was not released to the public. In May, the Government news release revealed their decision to develop the Stein, but the report on which the decision was based was not made available until October. (By this time our federation members had made 20 trips to the area.)

Immediately following the release of the Stein Basin Moratorium Study it became clear that the Government had not followed its recommendations. Public meetings were held at which our Federation (David Thompson, our Vice President) and the B.C. Wildlife Federa-

tion made the major presentations. Shortly thereafter the Save the Stein Coalition was formed, in which the FMCBC was a major player. Simultaneously, we convinced the Government, after considerable pressure, to appoint a "Public Liaison Committee for the Stein" in March of 1978, later renamed the "Stein Public Advisory Committee."

In 1979 David Thompson and I published the guidebook *Exploring the Stein River Valley* for the Save the Stein Coalition (now out of print). This helped more people to appreciate the Stein's history and to convince them to experience it first-hand.

The Public Liaison Committee operated under the constraints of the Cabinet's decision; preservation was not an option for consideration. But a great deal of information was collected, gaps were identified and useful contacts were made. The most important benefit occurred in the summer of 1979. Ken Morris staked a line of 44 mining claims across the Stein to his vesuvianite claim on Antimony Mountain, later beginning a road from Van Hornick Creek toward the height-of-land without the necessary permits. A forest company staff member spotted the unauthorized road from the air and notified us. We then began the urgent and complex process of stopping the road-building (twice!) before it reached the Stein. There were legal skirmishes leading to an injunction in November. The claims were rescinded in December, which is not easy to achieve and would not have succeeded without our intervention. This was successful because of our participation on the Committee and the co-operative efforts of industry (Evans Products and B.C. Forest Products).

It had always been understood that all development options would be considered by the Public Advisory Committee. In 1982, when the Regional Manager decided to disallow consideration of access to the Stein timber over the high pass and leave the lower valley intact, David Thompson and I boycotted the Committee. The Ministry of Forests deemed the matter serious enough to enter negotiations with us. Early in 1983 the Ministry resolved to grant us an additional 18 months of

study. But once again, a decision was made in the start of 1985 to begin road-building. Before this was commenced, however, the Wilderness Advisory Committee (WAC) moved to freeze the planned activity. The WAC recommendation required an agreement with local Indians and it delays development to this day.

One more important element must be mentioned in our reflections upon the role the Federation has played in the attempt to save the Stein: The crucial interpretation of the economic value of the Stein -- logged or unlogged. In 1983 the FMCBC published Trevor Jones' highly successful *Wilderness or Logging?* This book stimulated intelligent debate on the economic factors of the region. Jones then followed up his first title with a second study on *The Profitability of Logging the Stein Valley*. I also played a role in the economic interpretation of the region. During my work with the Federation on the Stein, I was working on a Master's degree in SFU's Natural Resources Management Programme. Several course papers I wrote were on the Stein. These papers influenced the faculty and students to select the Stein as the senior project in 1986. The result of this study was a momo graph published in July 1986 titled the *Stein River Watershed Resource Evaluation*. The study included a benefit cost analysis.

## Conclusion

This is a very condensed summary of our intense efforts to study and preserve the Stein. To those who are now involved in more dramatic and widely publicized efforts and who doubt that public involvement is of any value: Remember, the Stein is still unlogged because we took the risk of investing time and energy into going through all those long trips, attending seemingly useless meetings, writing publications, and making contacts with Government and industry. Keep in mind, when you see us trying to be fair to Government agencies or to the forest industry, that we have had our share in struggles that have paid off.

Roger D. Freeman,  
Co-Chairman  
Recreation and

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## TRIP LEADERS AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS

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A frequent problem for volunteer leaders of club trips is the fragile balance between maintaining absolute control at all times, and the loose-knit arrangement of being out there together as a group doing "one's thing". Unlike paid guides, a club trip leader has usually been asked to help out, perhaps with the minimum requirement of having made at least one previous visit to the area. But the question arises as to whether such a leader has the right for example to decide at the trailhead that a certain member of the group (due to overweight, lack of proper attire or required equipment), cannot go?

Concerns about liability have persuaded some clubs to have participants sign waivers for each trip, but surely most leaders go out just hoping that nothing goes wrong.

Of all the skills that a leader may need, the "hard" skills such as avalanche awareness, route-finding and first aid may, in the end, be the easiest to acquire. The "soft skills" that depend on a leader's experience, maturity and personality -- such as keeping a group together, dealing with opposing personalities, and helping the proud or encouraging the tired -- may take years to develop.

The mentor tradition of the mountains, where the novice learns from those who are experienced, is still the club way. Today's follower is tomorrow's leader. He or she will learn best from experiencing good leadership in action.

Above all else, the experienced leader will keep the group together. This may require the leader to either set the pace or to follow the proven maxim of putting the slowest at the front of the line (they always speed up). An aware leader will be sensitive to the state of each member and how they are faring - are they moving strongly, staying dry, drinking enough at stops.

Ego is often involved when travelling with those you don't know well. An experienced leader will observe and meet the needs of each individual without drawing unnecessary attention to that person. For instance, the leader might call the first stop after five minutes or after a first hill, for a reassessment of the situation -- are group members overdressed, etc.? No one else in the group will want to look poorly prepared by calling a halt so soon. Attention to ill-fitting packs or to those who have trouble moving into second gear may be attended to in a similar manner.

A leader can encourage people to speak up without loss of face, especially if thanked for doing so. One such situation, a common one but one which is fraught with both danger and embarrassment, arises when help is needed by someone in the group but those ahead had no difficulty. It can be a log over a stream, a narrow bit of trail with a drop off, a technical move on a rock or any kind of exposure.

A leader can set the tone of the trip early on by asking for a hand from someone in the group, or by reminding each person to check how the person following is doing on a wobbly bit, watching your follower over that log before you take off up the trail out of sight or earshot. A leader's encouragement and helping hand is always welcomed by those who need it over the chance of injury.

Many-a-person has survived a trip and not had a good time. Travelling safely and enjoyably should be the goal of every leader. Keeping the group together, returning on schedule, and passing on the tradition of fine leadership, taught by example, is the hallmark of experience.

Jim Rutter

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## SMOKE BLUFFS PARK UPDATE

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### ACCESS

A recent bid by Squamish developer and adjacent property owner, John Drenka, to acquire ownership of a right of way common to both his land and to that owned by the FMCBC, was not supported by Squamish Council.

This followed an intense lobby by the local Squamish Rockclimbers Association (SRA) - a Federation member club and some strong politicking by Jim Rutter (FMCBC staff). Their concern was that this extension of Drenka's property would include all the flat land above Burger and Fries Cliff, Canada's most climbed rock, and allow Drenka to stop the climbing there - his stated intention.

Council's landmark decision clearly shows how the recreational value of this land is now recognized by the community. The disputed land is also a

walk-in access route between the residential area and the future park (see Granite Monoliths of Squamish) and an important cliff top viewpoint for park visitors.

Rutter is continuing to meet with other park neighbours to plan a new parking lot site and park access road. This may be the last summer for Vista Crescent road access to the area because the parking is so inadequate.

### BUTTONS

The pink and green lapel buttons being worn by climbers at Squamish are the newest funding initiative for paying off the land mortgage. On sale at climbing shops everywhere and at the Bluffs, these buttons show the wearer to be a park supporter.

Every penny of the \$10 paid for a button goes to create Canada's first rock climbing park. If every climber

seen at Squamish buys a button, the mortgage will be paid this year. Please encourage other climbers to buy one and wear yours to show you've "given at the office."

Generous contributions continue to come in to the FMCBC office. Support has come from individuals (cheques are tax deductible, of course) and both the Varsity Outdoor Club and the Squamish Rockclimbers Association have recently sent sizeable donations.

The support of the Mountain Equipment Co-op continues with a 12 month extension of the mortgage loan. Do your part - buy a Smoke Bluffs Park button.



Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.

# CLIMBING PUMORI WITH THE AUSTRALIAN EXPEDITION

By Richard Howes, an FMCBC Course Instructor and former President of the Varsity Outdoor Club

What do FMCBC instructors do when they are not leading courses in the BC mountains? You can be sure that their thoughts turn again to mountains. And so it is in my case. After a satisfying summer of work, I flew to Nepal to take part in the Australian Pumori Expedition of September, 1988.

Pumori - 7,161 metres (23,500 ft) - lies among some of the giants of the Nepalese Himalaya, only eight kilometres from Mt. Everest. While Pumori is 1,700 metres lower than its giant neighbour, the mountain possesses an incredible beauty and purity of form which never fails to draw the eye of the visitor.

To a climber, its daunting slopes are irresistible, creating a strong desire to stand on the apex of its elegant, icy pyramid. Many feel that Pumori is one of the most beautiful mountains in the Himalaya. George Mallory ("because it is there") named the mountain "Pumo Ri" - or "Daughter Peak" - after his young child when he first explored the Tibetan side of Everest in 1921.

Pumori has no straightforward route to its summit. We chose the South Ridge route, which took perhaps the most striking line on Pumori, but one which also promised difficult climbing. Five years previously, after climbing a smaller peak in the same area, I had gazed in awe at this ridge. I felt then that such a climb, with all the difficulties of Himalayan weather and the altitude, would be one I could scarcely hope to be capable of doing. Yet by the time Jeff Williams, an old climbing friend from Australia, phoned me to tell me that he "expected me to come along," I had reached considerably more

summits and climbed harder than I ever thought I would, and felt that, just possibly, I was ready for this route.

Landing in Kathmandu exposes one to an onslaught of exotic smells, sights and impressions. For me these often brought on a rush of old memories, but for the most part these feelings were submerged by the hectic activity of organising a full-scale Himalayan expedition.

Soon our group of seven climbers and six trekkers were able to depart Kathmandu. We flew the first stretch of the approach, and our airplane terrified first-time passengers by dropping from the sky towards the ridiculously short, sloped dirt runway perched on the side of a mountain. This was the

standard approach to the village of Lukla, however, and soon we were breathing in the crisp mountain air.

We had entered the world of the Sherpa, and experienced as profound a change in lifestyle, customs and religion as we had earlier upon arriving in Kathmandu from our western homes. The Sherpas, whose forbears moved centuries ago over the high passes from the Tibetan Plateau, were gentle Buddhists with open, friendly and enterprising natures.

Our arrival had placed us five days' walk from the nearest road. There are still people there who, while they are quite familiar with planes and helicopters, have never seen bicycles, cars, trucks or buses! Eventually the rest of our gear arrived and we began the trek in to our Base Camp. I was put in charge of organising and keeping track of our 43 porter-loads of equipment, and in this I was ably assisted by our Sherpa staff. Expeditions are required to employ a sirdar (organiser of porters, etc.), cook, cook's assistant and mail runner, and a liaison officer.

Continued on page 7...

## climbing Into the 90's: Shoes

**THE '89 CLIMBING SEASON IS  
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## New Position at FMCBC Office

### Course Director

The FMCBC ran 92 mountain skill courses last year, with 901 participants.

A Course Director's position is available to start September 1, 1989. This position will have a base salary equivalent to 2 days per week, with a profit sharing incentive to be arranged for the balance of salary.

The ideal candidate will have an extensive record of mountain experience, be able to develop a positive working relationship with local climbers, have well established teaching and programme development skills, be an independent worker, have a strong understanding of how environmental concerns are incorporated into mountain skill programmes, be able to develop and ensure instruction standards, and be able to create a 2 year course development plan.

Resumes are now being accepted.

## ...Pumori continued

This obligation was no chore and soon we were the best of friends with all our staff.

We moved higher up the Dudh Kosi Valley, and lush forests gave way to pine trees. By Namche Bazaar, the almost mythical "capital" of the Sherpa world, we were beginning to feel the altitude. From now on a gentle pace to allow safe acclimatization would be the rule. As we made our way further toward our goal, we switched to great shaggy yaks for load-carrying (these beasts are actually uncomfortable below about 3,500 metres) and we felt the thinning air more and more acutely. The magical Thyangboche Monastery, perched on a ridge below the mighty, soaring form of Ama Dablam, was a welcome resting place several days after leaving Lukla, and we spent a morning being blessed there, before continuing on our trek.

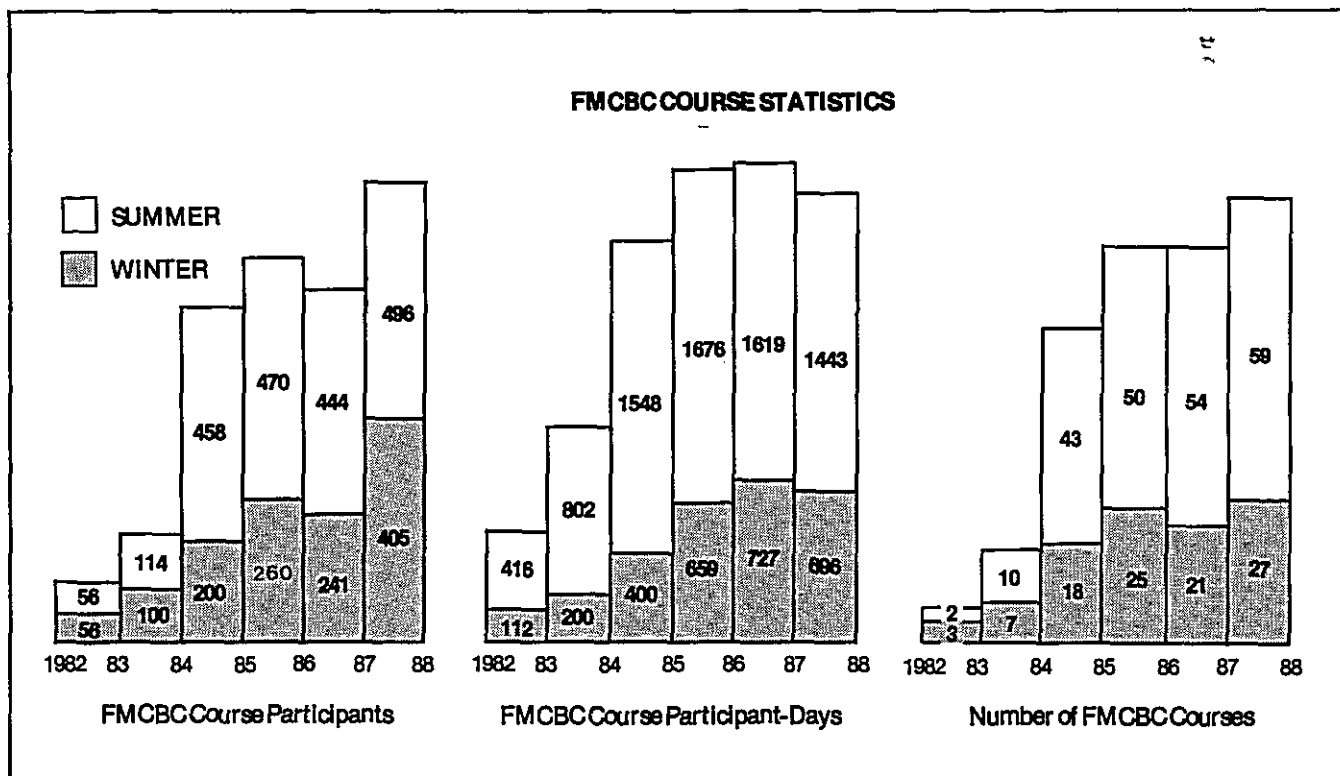
As we made our way up the Khumbu Valley, we left the treeline behind and travelled on glaciated terrain. Bad weather often obscured the surrounding peaks from our view, yet I wrote at the time: "The mist which has dropped down to just above us has forced the gaze to the Jackson Pollock canvas of muted reds, greens, yellows, greys and wildflower blues of the beautiful alpine country; a rugged, heaped moraine with a confusion of rises and hollows, with rocks scattered over all, carpeted by the most gentle layer of that colourful vegetation."

The altitude became more noticeable. I also wrote: "Felt quite breathless; was left 'drowning' after conversation while walking on almost level ground." This was at 4,300 metres (14,100 ft); how on Earth would we manage at 7,000 metres? The answer would be the incredible adaptability of the human body in its ability to acclimatize to a lack of oxygen and, perhaps more importantly, the resilience and stubbornness of our psyches in the face of discomfort, cold and uncertainty.

This article will be continued in the next edition of *CLOUDBURST*.

## FMCBC SAFETY & EDUCATION COURSE STATISTICS

Below is a graphic display of the previous six years of Safety and Education course participation. For your copy of our current brochure describing instructional courses and guided trips, please call or write the FMCBC office.





## CLUB SUGGESTIONS FOR CARMANAH

The following is taken from a letter sent to Pt. Alberni Forest District by E.H. Grenager of the Valley Outdoor Association (A FMCBC Member Club).

Dear Sir:

We have visited the Carmanah Valley, attended the Ministry of Forests' Open House in Vancouver on February 23, 1989 and inspected MacMillan Bloedel's displays there. Also, we have read the MacMillan Bloedel Limited Management Plan, Carmanah Valley, Folio I, dated January 1989.

The main feeling that we are left with after experiencing your effort in public relations is that we are witnessing a conflict of interest situation.

Here we have representatives of the Ministry of Forests acting as spokespeople for MacMillan Bloedel and basing their statements on data collected by that company. Apparently, the Ministry of Forests has no important data on the Carmanah Valley. At least, no such data was available at the display. Therefore, this whole effort, by the Ministry, in public participation is totally subjective and in favour of MacMillan Bloedel. y

We therefore suggest that all of the Carmanah Watershed be designated a reserve until an enquiry can establish who is ultimately in charge of our Crown Lands. Once it is established that the Ministry is in charge of said lands, it must then compile an objective plan on which the public will have an opportunity to comment in a meaningful manner.

Looking at the individual points of the present MacMillan Bloedel Plan, we feel that the spruce trees are given little or no protection, other than the fact that most of them will not be logged.

In reality, all that the company is offering is to give protection to approximately the lower half of the Carmanah Creek stream bank. According to the M.B. map, the strip varies in width from 200 m to 900 m. In a couple of places, approximately two-thirds of the way upriver, logging is proposed so close to the bends in the river that not even streambank protection is achieved. As far as we know, modern logging practices call for bank protection for a creek like Carmanah in any

case, as it is a river frequented by fish. As such, the Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans would probably insist on that protection. According to this plan, therefore, the company has not yielded any noticeable part of the Carmanah Watershed to uses other than that of logging.

The proposed logging road crossing the lower Carmanah is unacceptable. The suggested parking lot at the end of this road in the vicinity of the Carmanah Giant is totally unacceptable. This is only a stark example of how the company stands entirely without a shadow of understanding of wilderness values. Not only are the road and parking lot far too close to the Giant, but they also give easy access to the world-famous West Coast Trail at this point. No one who uses this world-famous, unbroken 80 km strip of supreme wilderness wants this to happen.

The proposed road and parking lot on the west side of the creek are far too close to the trail and creek -- and their related recreational experiences. The parking lot seems to be located only 100 m from the creek. This is just another example of how the company is unable to comprehend what wilderness is all about.

Why does the proposed trail run only approximately half the distance of the reserve area when the existing trail runs all the way from the point at which Jacobs Creek enters the Carmanah Creek to the Carmanah Giant? Does the company not want us to enjoy the swimming hole just north of the proposed reserve boundary or the spruce grove at the confluence of Jacobs and Carmanah Creeks -- or the Emerald Pool swimming hole, the Box Canyon, the waterfalls, or the deep pools of the lower Carmanah?

- In order to achieve protection of the Carmanah ecosystem, the total watershed must be designated a reserve.
- In order to achieve the absolute minimum protection for spruces from logging-related hazards such as increased wind velocity, land slides, flash floods, slash burning, etc., the 538 ha proposed reserve has to be expanded to include the total special management area of

1912 ha. It would also have to include the area at the confluence of August and Carmanah Creeks due to the aforementioned spruce grove. In addition, the area on the east side of the Carmanah Giant would have to be widened to the full width of the watershed in order to absolutely ensure that no man-made disturbances could adversely affect the environment of this 95 m high Sitka spruce, which is the tallest known tree in Canada.

- No new roads would be constructed in this above-mentioned reserve.
- The rest of the Carmanah Watershed would then be treated as a Special Management Area with all the protection that such a forest deserves as per MacMillan Bloedel's proposal for logging guidelines in a special management area.

In closing, we would like to say that in order to keep the Carmanah situation in proper context, we must remember that the whole Carmanah Watershed is only 2.3% of T.F.L. 44. We must also remember that no compensation has to be paid to MacMillan Bloedel for withdrawal of this area from their T.F.L. except for the T.F.L.'s which could be accommodated elsewhere according to your representatives.

We therefore want to reiterate that the entire Carmanah Watershed be designated a reserve until an objective plan can be formulated. It is our feeling that the issue has been blown totally out of proportion by the company. After all, the most frequently used word in the forest industry today is SHARE. Here we are asking for 2.3% of the T.F.L. and all we are offered is .18%. All we can say is that the word "share" must mean something different to the industry than what it does to the general public.

We thank you for giving us this opportunity to be part of the decision making process.

E.H. Grenager  
Valley Outdoor Association

For more on TFL and TSA planning processes, see page 9

## The Granite Monoliths of Squamish

Remember the movie 2001? That's probably where you last heard of monoliths, but we checked and that is really what those Squamish area rocks are.

The catchy title actually introduces a serious report commissioned by the FMCBC on climbing areas around Squamish, access to them, and their recreational and tourism values. Using funding generously donated by Talga Works and the Archaeology and Outdoor Recreation Branch of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the FMCBC retained Ken Youds, a consultant and park planner (Whistler's Park planner for Garibaldi Park).

Youds' report addresses the FMCBC's concern about ad hoc development in the Vancouver/Pemberton corridor. Key to the report are Youds' recommendations that the climbing areas and their access routes be protected from other developments. He details what should be done by Parks and Lands agencies, by the Municipality, and by the FMCBC to ensure that these lands remain available for recreational use.

The next step will be to bring together the above interest groups.

Copies of the Granite Monoliths are available for \$10 from the FMCBC office, postage included.

## PRECEDENT SET FOR TFL PLANNING

MacMillan Bloedel is presently approaching certain public groups, including the FMCBC, for input into the management and working plan for Tree Farm License (TFL) 44. This TFL involves several environmental "hot spots" on the west coast of Vancouver Island, namely Carmanah Creek, Clayoquot Sound and the Meglin.

The Federation and several other provincial groups have considered how to be constructively involved in the planning of the TFL. No system is presently in place to propose "wilderness area" withdrawals from TFLs except through existing Integrated Resource Management Plan process which makes this an official "window of opportunity". After Much discussion, the FMCBC has decided to participate with MacMillan Bloedel as part of an ad hoc planning team.

This unusual role may not be understood by groups committed to specific preservation proposals or with other styles of action. Participation in this group will not restrict the FMCBC from taking its own position when the plan is open to full public participation.

Further progress will be reported in the next *Cloudburst*.

## Blackcomb Expansion Needs Park Land

In anticipation of demand for a daily skier capacity of 17,140 by the year 2000 at Whistler, Blackcomb Skiing Enterprises is proposing that 460 hectares, including the Blackcomb Glacier (and a further 680 hectares to be studied over five years), be removed from Garibaldi Provincial Park to allow for downhill skiing development. Jim Rutter, representing the FMCBC, attended an on site presentation organized by Blackcomb. Rutter has met with Vancouver area delegates and spoken at a public hearing organized by the Parks Ministry. The following is a summary of the FMCBC's position as prepared by Rutter:

- a) New class A park land is not easily created.
- b) At Strathcona Park, deletions recommended by the Wilderness Advisory Committee three years ago took place almost immediate-

ly by Order in Council. The recommended additions have not been made at Strathcona to date.

- c) The public is suspicious of park deletions and is not generally accepting of them.
- d) There is a history of deletions from Garibaldi Park, made to accommodate ski resort expansion and made without a public consultation process.
- e) Blackcomb Glacier has 800 skier visits a day. It is no longer a wilderness area.
- f) Avalanche control is now required in that area.
- g) Blackcomb is willing to guarantee this to be a limit to their operations.
- h) Blackcomb would probably get the deletion by political means.

Rutter outlines that this deletion should only be considered in the con-



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### NEWS FLASH

FMCBC awarded \$79,000 Job Development contract to re-build Comox Glacier access trail. Start date July 3, 1989.

text of an overall park boundary review. If such a process recommends significant additions of high park value wilderness and recreation park land including such areas as Mt. Currie, Alice Ridge and others, and only if the Blackcomb Glacier deletion and these additions are made at the same time, could it then be understood and supported by the Federation's members.

This position must in no way be understood to indicate a willingness by the FMCBC to accept deletions from provincial parks. To the contrary, the FMCBC believes the current area reserved as provincial park land to be far from adequate. The FMCBC actively supports a number of proposals for large, new provincial parks, including Chilko Lake and generally opposes any deletions.