

CLOUDBURST



Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia Newsletter

December 1991



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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Anders Ourom

Manager, Member Services:

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Manager, Instructional Program:

Brian Jones

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RECREATION AND CONSERVATION:

Jay MacArthur and Roger Freeman

SAFETY AND EDUCATION:

Graeme Taylor

TRAILS:

Gabriel Mazoret and Blair Mitten

SMOKE BLUFFS:

Jim Campbell

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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. Deadline for next issue is March 1, 1991.

ASSISTED BY THE RECREATION AND SPORT DIVISION, of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Housing.

COVER PHOTO:

Winter in the Chilcotins
Photo credit: Jim Rutter



President's Report

Suzanne Mazoret

I am pleased to announce on behalf of the Board that a new Executive Director Anders Ourom, started with the Federation on October 15, 1991. Sara Kammerzell and Brian Jones very ably managed the Federation in the absence of an Executive Director. However, the fact that Anders was able to start as soon as he did meant that there was little disruption in the operations of the Federation and Sara and Brian were then able to concentrate on their normal activities.

Anders is a lawyer and has been an active member and a volunteer with the Varsity Outdoor Club and the B.C.M.C. He has recently been President of the Mountain Equipment Co-op but has resigned from this role in order to assume the position with the Federation. As a volunteer for the Federation, Anders has assisted in trail building and casino nights. He has also participated in writing climbing and hiking guidebooks and articles. His knowledge of the Federation and committed involvement in mountaineering, rock climbing and ski-touring activities make him an ideal person for the position of Executive Director and we look forward to working with him.

Anders has attended all Committee and Delegates meetings since he started so that he can get to know and work with us better and I'm sure that he has been welcomed to the Federation by all.

For those who are wondering about the move to a new office, but have tactfully not asked, lease negotiations for the new office space are still on-going and a moving date is not yet confirmed. Len Dudley, Director and Legal Counsel for the Board and Anders have been working on the lease for the new office space. As there are some major changes that are needed in the lease, negotiations with the owners and their lawyers are taking some time. In addition, there are problems with zoning and getting a permit depends on whether we can provide sufficient parking to meet the zoning regulations.

It is unfortunate that these "road blocks" have developed, but better to discover them now than later when we are committed to a lease. The Board hopes these matters can be resolved soon as the need for larger premises is increasing as the Federation's activities expand. The proposed new office would be ideal because the size and location would allow us to serve our members better and we would like to move as soon as possible.

We also welcome Jim Campbell as new Chairperson of the Smoke Bluffs Committee. Jim is a member of the Squamish Rockclimbers Association and is a new member of the committee. We thank him and wish him well in his new role.

*Best wishes from us all for a safe and happy Christmas season
and for the New Year.*

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Executive Director's Report

Anders Ourom

My first month as executive director passed in a blur. Never a dull moment. There have been innumerable people to meet, meetings to attend, things to learn, and calls to make. As well, I have been working to familiarise myself with the organization and dynamics of the FMCBC. At this point, I can only say that my new position is an honour, a high responsibility, and a challenge. I must pay tribute to my predecessor, Jim Rutter, for his role in building the Federation to its present position. It is my duty to take the FMCBC as it is now and, together with the Board, the clubs, and the members, develop it so it further serves our members. I look forward to serving the FMCBC and its members for many years in the future.

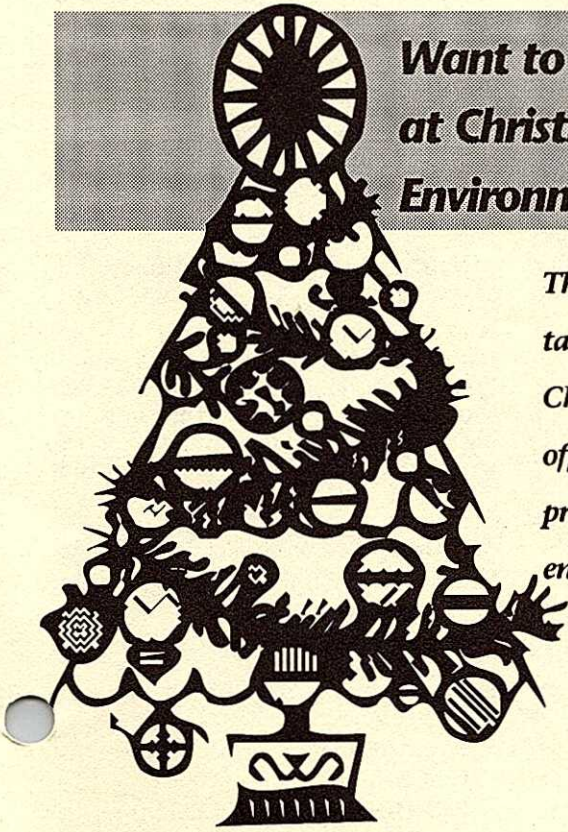
My initial goal is to become completely familiar with the FMCBC and its operations, and to ensure that inasmuch as it is a kind of business, it is organized and managed in a business like fashion. This provides the foundation for everything else the FMCBC does. In addition,

I will be addressing any immediate concerns or problems that may arise. In the near future, I will work with the Board to identify priorities and goals for the next few months in each of our areas of operations. However, it would be premature for me to suggest any significant changes in what the FMCBC does or how it does them. This can wait until I have found my feet, and had a chance to do some medium and long range planning with the Board.

One of my objectives, which I believe very worthwhile, has been to attend FMCBC committee and delegates meetings wherever possible. I plan to continue doing so, and indeed to extend this to include club meetings. To some extent my role is to provide glue, to hold the FMCBC together, while I also provide oil, to keep the machinery running smoothly. By attending as many meetings as possible, I help do both, and in addition get to meet and work with the active members.

At this point, I can only say that I am amazed and gratified by the wide range of the FMCBC's activities, and the interest and dedication of its many members, particularly the volunteers. The time and energy contributed to the FMCBC by many volunteers is nothing less than astounding. I encourage all members to fully participate in and support the affairs of the FMCBC, as members, volunteers, directors, delegates, advocates and students. There are a growing number of access issues; as well, any B.C. mountain area not preserved as a park or wilderness in the next ten years will probably not be preserved. There is thus no shortage of interesting and important issues for members to become involved in. The easiest way to contribute is by being a member of a FMCBC member club, and by encouraging all your outdoorsy friends to join a club. After that, it's up to you, but in contributing to your club, and to the FMCBC, you get out of it what you put into it.

Christmas at the FMC



Want to give something different and worthwhile at Christmas this year? Contribute to the FMC's Environmental Advocacy Fund or Trails Fund.

The FMC is a registered charitable organization and will issue a income tax receipt in the name of your choice for donations of \$10.00 or more. Cheques should be made payable to the "FMCBC" and mailed to our office. Your support of the Federation and its work in maintaining access, preserving trails and parks, protecting wilderness areas and supporting environmental issues is greatly needed and appreciated.

Recreation and Conservation Report

Jay MacArthur

Committee Projects

Here is an update of the many projects that the Recreation and Conservation Committee is working on. We can always use more volunteers interested in wilderness conservation. There are many more projects that we could get involved in if we had your help.

Chilko Lake Interagency Study

This is the first area being studied in detail after the Parks and Wilderness for the '90s process. Jay MacArthur is representing the FMCBC and the Outdoor Recreation Council on the 30-member study team. An options report will be presented to the public for comments in late 1992. Please write a letter which supports the FMCBC park proposal to the Hon. John Cashore, Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks and ask to be put on the study team's mailing list. A newsletter which describes the study process will be available soon.

Lions Trail Update

We are still working to have the Lions Bay Council approve the proposed parking lot at the start of the trail. Doug Herchmer mentioned that John Tisdale will be the new Recreation Officer (RO) in the Squamish Forest District and that the BCFS is considering designating the trail under the Forest Act. Mr Tisdale has worked in Campbell river as a RO for a few years and has related experience. Doug White and Gerry Burch are working on this project.

Forest Resources Commission

Roger Freeman was appointed by the Minister of Forest to this commission in 1990. The commission released a report The Future of Our Forests after a fair amount of public consultation. The commission is waiting for the new government to provide further direction.

Southern Chilcotin Mountains

The FMCBC supports the Southern Chilcotin Mountains Wilderness Society's proposal to designate this area as a recreation or wilderness area. The Wild Chilcotin Educational Report which describes the proposal and action required is available from the FMCBC office.

Duffey Lake Corridor

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District has begun a study of the Duffey Lake Road Corridor. Director Joy Davidson or Anders Ourom will be attending these meetings on behalf of the FMC.

Cariboo Mountains Park Proposal

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee and the Cariboo Mountains Coalition have prepared an educational report on the Cariboo Mountains. We request input from our member clubs on this park proposal.

Herrick Creek LRUP

Mike Nash from the Caledonia Ramblers is on this local resource use planning team. Herrick Creek is near Prince George.

Forest Service Practices Code

The Ministry of Forests has asked for direction from the public on how to develop a Forest Practices Code. We need someone acting for the FMC to comment on this.

McGillivray Creek

Bob Harris and Judy Wigmore will check into the status of small business development plans with the Lillooet Forest District.

Hut Policy

Judy Needham and Judy Wigmore are working on this.

Squamish Chief

Logging of windfall was proposed behind the Chief. Jay MacArthur and the Squamish Rockclimbers' Association are following this up.

Commercial Backcountry Recreation

A summary of public comments is available from the Ministry of Lands and Parks. Mike Nash will be attending a conference/workshop organized by BC Lands to discuss this issue further.

Niut Range Heli-skiing

A proposal for the Niut range from Coast Mountain Heli-skiing was received by BC Lands. Contact Jay for more information.

Garibaldi Lake Aviation Guidelines

Some private pilots are not happy with the voluntary guidelines or restrictions for flights in or above Garibaldi Provincial Park that were agreed to by the B.C. Aviation Council. Roger and Larry Lowden met with three members of the Aviation Council to discuss their concerns. Roger will discuss further with B.C. Parks.

Mountain Bike Trail Britannia to D'Arcy

Ross Kirkwood is trying to put together a group to work on a Sea to Sky mountain bike trail. He has asked for a letter of support. The committee recommended that we support the trail in principle and that we offer our assistance to find a route that would have little conflict with traditional hiking trails.

Land Use Processes

The Recreation and Conservation Committee is discussing how we can find people willing to get involved in the many land-use studies that will result from Parks and Wilderness for the 90s and the Forest Resources Commission's report. We need to work together with other environmental and outdoor groups to find the right people. Jay is working on funding for travel expenses and honorarium for volunteers.

Nahatlatch River

We are concerned about the Ministry of Forest's decision to not study the Nahatlatch as a potential wilderness area. We decided that the decision was premature since we had asked that all areas be studied further. The Ministry of Forests is also involved in a Fraser TSA planning process. Jay will write a letter.

Chilliwack Valley Logging Plans

Jay MacArthur

We need to continue to keep a watch on logging plans in the Chilliwack Valley. Neil Grainger has volunteered to visit the Chilliwack District office in 1991.

Ministry of Forests Old-Growth Strategy

Bruce Blackwell

Bruce is on a special Forest Service committee that is working on policy issues related to old-growth preservation. They are studying legislation to determine the best designation that will protect special old-growth forests.

Jumbo Creek Resort Proposal

Please write letters which clearly state that you do not support the creation of a 4 season resort near the Lake of the Hanging Glacier.

Please keep us informed of issues in your area by contacting:

Roger Freeman	Jay MacArthur
Co-Chair	Co-Chair
263-9101 (h)	987-1232 (h)
263-3900 (o)	432-2580 (o)

TRAILS



National Trail and "Green" Hiking

Charles Clapham

At its Annual General Meeting, the Federation recorded its support for the effort to create a National Centennial Trail from Victoria to the Alberta border as part of a National Trail across Canada. This summer, Charles Clapham of the Trails Committee led a group of hikers from downtown Vancouver to Fort Langley following trails or footpaths nearly all the way. The general outline of the route is B.C. Place Stadium, seawall to English Bay, Prospect Point, Lions Gate Bridge, Capilano Canyon, Grouse Skyride, Lynn Canyon, Deep Cove, water taxi to Belcarra, Sasamat Lake, Ioco, Port Moody, Mundy Park, Colony Farm, Pitt River Bridge, Pitt and Alouette Dykes, Horse trails around Maple Ridge, Albion Ferry, Fort Langley. The route was split into six approximately 15 km sections, each end of which was accessible by transit. Every hiker arrived at the start of each hike by transit and went home from the end also by transit. Each hike was called a "Green Hike" because it could be done using buses and not cars. These six sections have been written up and will be published in the New Year.

While travelling to Lynn Canyon for the start of one of the sections, Charles was photographed on the Seabus by a reporter for the National Geographic. No doubt, a hiker in pack and boots reading the newspaper on a rush hour Seabus looked newsworthy. The picture and a mention of the project will appear in the Vancouver article published in the April 1992 National Geographic Magazine.

Shell Environmental Fund

The FMCBC is privileged to have been awarded \$4,500 for the Adopt-A-Trail Program by the Shell Environmental Fund, after application had been made by Trails Committee member Charles Clapham.

Trail-building in Goldstream

Lilian Salmon

This article calls to your attention the trail-building accomplishments of the Outdoor Club of Victoria, a FMCBC Member Club devoted to the tradition of hiking.

In 1966, the Outdoor Club of Victoria created centennial trail-building projects in Goldstream Provincial Park to commemorate the formative years of British Columbia (1866-1966). The trails were built with the approval and encouragement of the Provincial Parks Branch, and the Outdoor Club of Victoria's members and guests.

Today, the trails known to hikers as the Arbutus Ridge Trail, Gold Mine Trail and Prospector's Trail weave pockets of rainforest and dry ridges, typical to the region, into a rich tapestry of landscape experience.

Rails to Trails Symposium

Gabriel Mazoret

It was full house at the Rails to Trails Symposium organised by the Outdoor Recreation Council in Kelowna on November 14 and 15, 1991. The goal of the forum was to finalize a Provincial strategy for converting abandoned railway lines to trails. Utilizing abandoned rail right of ways for multi-use trails holds enormous potential for hikers, cross-country skiers, horseriders, naturalists, bicyclists, and others.

Approximately 160 persons representing a wide range of outdoor recreation organizations and land authorities participated in reviewing and discussing the "Rails to Trails: Moving Forward" discussion paper and draft which had been produced by ORC and circulated to all participants beforehand.

After a long day of brain storming workshops on the Saturday, the backbone of a new organization emerged and a steering committee of six was appointed to form a "Rails to Trails Association". A collection taken at the meeting raised \$700 as "seed" money for the new association.

The main tasks of the new group will be to represent local groups to the many land agencies involved in the conversion of the many miles of abandoned railway lines to multi-use trails, to co-ordinate the interested groups, and to raise funds or create a trust fund/foundation for the work. It will also work to establish a moratorium on the railway lines immediately threatened by an irreversible change of ownership until studies of the impact of such changes can be completed.

I hope that you will welcome and encourage this new association and their conservation and recreation goals.

The Vancouver Island Backbone Trail

Rosanne Van Schie, Western Canada Wilderness Committee

The mid-island branch of Western Canada Wilderness Committee initiated a proposal to create the Vancouver Island Backbone Trail. The proposed trail, when completed, will link existing hiking and historical routes and develop connector routes to form a continuous north/south hiking route for Vancouver Island. The proposed route will mostly be alpine as the backbone of Vancouver Island is one of the most spectacular alpine areas in the world. It is the hope of the organizers that the proposed trail will provide users with an educational, accessible and quality outdoor recreation experience in the Island's high alpine country. From a conservation point of view, the Backbone Trail as proposed would encourage organized minimal impact foot travel rather than freeway frenzy through the mountains. The route itself would be dedicated to the preservation and public enjoyment of its natural features.

The organizers call for support, through donations of time, trail building expertise, or money. For further information, or to participate, please contact:

Rosanne Van Schie 756-4016
Sarah Brenner 753-7454

Trails Committee

Louise Irwin

Hiking Trails Atlas Project

Colin Evans has been working with BCIT students on a computer mapping project for hiking trails. It was proposed that they commence with the mapping of three trails to test the system, and if this works out well then thirty trails could be mapped and published next year. The committee has suggested that they start on these trails: Black Mountain from Horseshoe Bay; Eagle Ridge; and Sumas Mountain.

Bus to Trails Brochure

Mary Macaree is continuing to revise the folder describing trailheads and a brief outline of trails readily accessible by BC transit in the Vancouver area. A preliminary list of twelve hikes of varying degrees of difficulty is in preparation.

Trail Maintenance Tools

A portion of the \$1200 donation from the Y Outdoor Club has been spent on an assortment of equipment to add to the collection of tools owned by the Federation. There will eventually be two separate tool kits available for trail maintenance work. One set at present is available from Paul Binkert (263-4360) in Vancouver. The second set will be placed in Sardis, where Theo Mosterman (823-4713) has volunteered to take charge of these.

Trail Condition Report Cards

An updated edition of the old cards will be printed and distributed in the near future.

Adopt-A-Trail

The Adopt-A-Trail idea is catching on, with new groups taking on responsibility for maintaining particular trails. Additional brochures describing the program are being printed for distribution. The list of coordinator contacts for the zones of the Lower Mainland was published in the June issue of Cloudburst. Due to the numerous trail clearing efforts of clubs over the summer, most trails were in good condition after last winter's winds and heavy snowfalls. Unfortunately, with the recent winds and rains there have again been many blowdowns and much of the work must be redone. Several trail access roads and some bridges have been washed out, resulting in the need for expensive construction projects next year. It is to be hoped that Adopt-A-Trail members will not become too discouraged by the caprices of nature.

Club Feature - Outdoor Club of Victoria

Ruth Clay

Soon after the fall of France in 1940, founding members decided to form their own hiking club. At first it was organized in an informal way by Tom Goodlake, with the help of Gordon Bowes and Elizabeth Thorneycroft. The inaugural general meeting took place on March 7, 1942.

Many of the first hikes took place in the immediate area of Victoria, using the E. and N. Railway transportation to the Malahat, Shawnigan Lake, and the Sooke Hills. Other activities soon followed, with camp outs at Della Falls, Forbidden Plateau, the Olympic Mountains, the west coast of Vancouver Island, Strathcona Park and Mount Arrowsmith. Further efforts included cross country skiing, snowshoeing, boat trips to islands, and canoe trips in local waters.

In 1950, an offshoot of the club, the Victoria Sno-Bird Ski Club, set up a ski area at Mt. Brenton and, later developed one on Green Mountain.

Unusual opportunities arose for club members - to go caving with the Speleological Society in Euclataws Cave and Home Lakes Cave; to ride the rails at Gerry Wellburn's private narrow gauge railroad

and logging museum; to meet the challenge of the West Coast Trail; and to canoe in Indian Dugouts, hike to Carmanah Point Light and then to Tsusiat Falls in the Nitinat Lake area.

Since the 1960's our members and others have worked on trail building - on the Cowichan River trail, the Centennial trail and others in Goldstream Park, the Rossalan and MacInnes Trails at Sombrio Point, the Phillips Ridge trail, Matheson Park and Roche Cove trails and the Miner's Trail at Lomas Lake. At the present time, most trail building takes place in the Gowlland Range.

Our club strongly supported the development of Buttle Lake and helped with the trail up to Marble Meadows on the west side of the lake. Our support helped make it possible to have crews to construct a trail to Flower Ridge. We still participate in the Comox District Mountaineering Club work parties on the Phillips Ridge Trail.

We cooperated with the Alpine Club on occasional hikes, and later with the Island Mountain Ramblers. Latterly we have exchanged visits internationally with the

Klahanne Hiking Club of Port Angeles. Hikers from other countries and visiting servicemen were often guests on our hikes and are always welcome. Members with like interests have organized hiking trips in Britain, Hawaii, Australia, and New Zealand. The next overseas trip will probably be in Britain in 1993.

Summer camps are organized on a yearly basis. Previous sites include the Olympics; Mt. Rainier and Mt. Hood; Garibaldi, Manning, and Cathedral Lakes Provincial Parks; Waterton Lakes, Kootenay and Yoho National Parks; the U.S. Glacier National Park in Montana; Yosemite and Lassen Volcanic National Parks and the Eastern Sierra Nevada including Mt. Whitney (14,494 ft.).

In 1971 the Outdoor Club of Victoria Trails Information Society commenced publishing books - Hiking Trails (I) Victoria and vicinity (II) Southeastern Vancouver Island and (III) Central and Northern Vancouver Island. These guides are either approaching or have passed their 10th editions so are meeting a real need for those hiking on the Island.

In the 1970's the club established a conservation committee which represents us to Government. We have a representative on a Capital Regional District Planning Committee and on a committee considering Mt. Douglas Park trails. We participated in meetings which led to the consensus report of the Federation of Mountain Clubs on Strathcona Park.

The Outdoor Club of Victoria will be 50 years old in 1992, but is still extremely active with 256 members.

Monthly meetings are held from September to May at which many of our travelling members describe their experiences with slides and lectures. A quarterly newsletter is sent to members listing at least two hikes most weekends throughout the year.

During 1991 there were 12 club activities requiring travel from the Victoria area. Examples are Llama Trekking on Steens Mountain in southeast Oregon, the ascent of Mt. St. Helen's, a ten day camp out based on Whistler followed by a backpack to Garibaldi Lake, and numerous shorter trips on Vancouver Island.

During 1992, our 50th anniversary will be celebrated at our Annual General Meeting and Banquet in February and at a special camp during the Victoria Day long weekend. When it is reasonable, we plan to have three hikes for each weekend as well as bike hikes on a monthly or more frequent basis. With our more active retired members, we will break new ground by running a Spring Hiking Tour by bus to Death Valley, Arizona and California, leaving Victoria in late February.

Spring Bus Tour

Stan Buxcey

February 22 to March 15, 1992

Capital Tours and the Outdoor Club of Victoria have worked together to provide 3 weeks of hiking and natural history opportunities in the U.S. South-west. The bus will travel via Springfield, Reno, and Tonopah to Death Valley for 2 days of relatively easy hiking on the sand dunes and in the canyons. The next stop will be in Scottsdale with an opportunity to visit the Boyce Thompson Arboretum and/or hike the Superstition Mtns.

Our first 5-night stopover will be in Tucson where we will explore the East and West Sections of the Saguaro National Monument, visit the Arizona Saguaro Sonora Desert Museum, shop in Nogales, a Mexican border town, and hike in Madera and Sabino canyons. The next move is via the Kitt Canyon National Observatory, to Yuma and the waters impounded by the Imperial Dam.

The second and final 5 night stopover will be in Palm Springs where we will walk the trails of the Living Desert Reserve, visit Joshua Tree National Monument and the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and ride the gondola

to 8,516 ft. for access to Mt. San Jacinto Wilderness Park. From Palm Springs we will return to Victoria with brief stops for outdoor activity as feasible. There will also be an opportunity to see one of the plays at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival when we stop for the night in Ashland.

The Capital Tours Escort will be Mary Goulding, who is a member of the Outdoor Club. Hikes and other outdoor activities will be led or arranged by Stan Buxcey who is now the President of the Outdoor Club and has adequate knowledge of the areas to be visited.

Reservations may be made in person, by telephone or by mail with: Capital Tours:

215-645 Fort Street
Victoria, B.C. V8W 1G2
384-1432

Out of town: 1-800-668-3341

Prices:

Double \$1799

Twin \$1849

Single \$2399

Triple \$1629

Safety and Education

Brian Jones

The "in between seasons" time has always been busy around the FMCBC, contrary to our hopes. This fall has been no exception, with everyone gearing up for our winter courses, preparing for a possible move to a new location, helping Anders Ourom, our new Executive Director, settle in and continuing to deal with all of the usual work that is thrown our way.

We have just finished off a great summer season, with approx. 80 - 90 courses running. Thank you to those who managed to get out on one of these courses, and to the instructors who contributed into making our courses so successful.

There are many changes facing Canada West Mountain School this year, not the least of which is the move to a new location. We

are currently expanding our instructional program to ensure that the demands of our club members are answered; instructor development policies are undergoing changes to maintain the high calibre of our instructional staff; new courses are being added in response to demand from participants, instructors and members; and, in order to fulfil our mandate of offering educational mountain safety courses to members of the FMCBC and the public, we are striving to create an added public awareness of our existence.

The input of members, participants, instructors and other people associated with the Mountain School is always highly regarded - we are an organisation that represents you, and need your feedback. Write down your thoughts on what you would like

to see from Canada West Mountain School, what sort of programs you would like to see, how you felt about some of our courses in the past, or just about anything that you would like to say about the Mountain School. Please send these comments attention to Brian Jones, at the FMCBC office, or, bring them to the attention of your FMCBC delegate. We will be able to print a selection of these in the next issue of Cloudburst if we receive them before March 1, 1992.

Our brochure has been out for a while now and if you haven't received one or picked one up make sure that you do so. We have an exciting list of programs to offer everyone this winter, and we would look forward to your participation. If we don't see you on a course, enjoy your Holiday season and have a great winter in the hills!

Smoke Bluffs Committee

Anders Ourom

Jim Campbell, a member of the Squamish Rockclimbers Association, recently became the Chair of this committee. He replaces Dave Jones, who stepped down after several years' hard work on behalf of the Committee and the FMCBC. We owe Dave much gratitude for his contribution.

The Committee had a meeting on 28 October, attended by representatives of involved clubs. Several issues were discussed, including concerns expressed by the developers of the Harbour Heights subdivision to Squamish Council (a response had been

sent); the continuing parking situation; an updated financial statement; and our future course of action on the park proposal.

Our general strategy is to work with the various parties towards creation of the park, on a properly planned and managed basis, by the beginning of the 1992 climbing season. The process will begin with the new Executive Director meeting those parties on behalf of the Committee, identifying remaining obstacles, and working to resolve them. We are also hoping to arrange a Smoke Bluffs tour for FMCBC directors and

executive (many of whom are not familiar with the area) in the near future. A letter will be circulated to Squamish residents living near the Smoke Bluffs, outlining the status of the park proposal and related developments.

On a final note, FMCBC staff are preparing an updated financial statement relating to the Smoke Bluffs account. The mortgage loan was of course paid off over a year ago; there have, however, been some expenses and fundraising since then. The update should be available soon.

FMCBC MEMBER CLUBS CONTACT LIST

Alpine Club of Canada

c/o FMCBC
336-1367 W. Broadway
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9
Contact: Helen Habgood 327-6302

B.C. Mountaineering Club

c/o FMCBC
336-1367 West Broadway,
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9
Contact: Karin Rolles 876-0764

Chilliwack Outdoor Club

P.O. Box 706
Vedder Crossing, B.C. V0X 1Z0
Contact: Don Corbett 792-1600

Fraser Valley Hikers

Box 3511
Mission, B.C. V2V 4L1
Contact: Dorothy Johnson
856-8095

Klister Outdoor Klub

301-7030 Hall Avenue
Burnaby, B.C. V5E 3A9
Contact: Ann Gytenbeek 433-2537
Kathy Fletcher 530-5417

N.V.R.C. Outdoor Club

c/o Rec Centre Lonsdale
123 E. 23 St.,
N. Vancouver, B.C. V7L 3E2
Contact: Brian Ratcliffe 987-9865

North Shore Hikers

P.O. Box 4535
Vancouver B.C. V6B 4A1
Contact: Annie Danielson 929-2807

Outsetters Club

P.O. Box 33903, Station D
Vancouver, B.C. V6J 4L7
Contact: Stephanie Dykstra
275-1459

Vanc. XC Skiers & Touring Club

P.O. Box 34165, Station D
Vancouver, B.C. V6J 4N1
Contact: Neil England
590-1778

Varsity Outdoor Club

Box 98, U.B.C. SUB
6183 Student Union Mall
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 2A5
Contact: Fiona Manning
224-6710

Recorded Schedule 222-3522

Richmond Outdoors Club

7191 Granville Avenue
Richmond, B.C. V6Y 1N9
Contact: Michael Brand 271-7370
Bruce McLean 272-9359

Valley Outdoor Association

12-12915 16th Avenue
White Rock, B.C. V4A 1N8
Contact: Marj Rodwell 538-7883

Alberni Valley Outdoor Club

4487 Elizabeth Street
Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 6L4
Contact: Douglas Clifford
723-9930

Alpine Club of Canada

(Vanc. Island)
Box 863, Station E
Victoria, B.C. V8W 2R9
Contact: Sandy Briggs 592-4979

Comox District

Mountaineering Club
c/o Ruth Masters
R.R. #3
Courtenay, B.C. V9N 5M8
Contact: Don Apps 338-5130
Scott Larson 338-7377
Ruth Masters 334-2270

Heathens Outdoor Club

307-324 Cedar Street
Campbell River, B.C. V9W 2V2
Contact: Fred Stanley 287-4563

Island Mountain Ramblers

P.O. Box 691
Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5M2
Contact: Bill Chapman 758-5020

Outdoor Club of Victoria

P.O. Box 5637, Station "B"
Victoria, B.C. V8R 6S4
Contact: Stan Buxcey 385-7501

Caledonia Ramblers

(Prince George)
P.O. Box 26, Station "A"
Prince George, B.C. V2L 4R9
Contact: Dave King 564-8887

Kootenay Mountaineering Club

Box 3195, Castlegar, B.C.
V1N 3H5
Contact: Rita Holmes 362-7723

Westside Outdoor Club

40 West 41st Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V5J 2R9
Contact: Brian Prentice 327-3426

Kamloops Outdoor Club

P.O. Box 526
Kamloops, B.C. V2C 5L2
Ron Baker 372-8468

Letters to the Editor

FMC courses

Sid Jones, Vice President GetC Software

Just thought I would write a short note to congratulate your organization and the people who ran this course. The instructor and his two helpers displayed a caring attitude and their encouragement, support, and enthusiasm were superb. I enjoyed the course immensely and plan to pursue climbing in the future. Please pass on the enclosed personal thank you cards to Keith, Janet and Becky

On the Way Up

Victoria Berns - Heathens Club

In a way I am grateful for the lack of sun today. My back aches (again), and my knees are scraped-up (again). And if I just happen to sound like a novice rock-climber, you're right, because I am! I'm actually enjoying these bumps and bruises that were briefly allowed to heal - only to get up there and joyfully do it all over again. To all those normal people down there, this would strike them as nothing short of twisted I suppose, which is excellent, since now I know I'll fit right in with you fellow crazies somewhere "gettin' air under yer butt."

My battle-wounds are a cool testimony to my efforts and rewarding accomplishments that have inspired me to tell the whole world what they're missing - and perhaps remind those who already know, just what an experience learning can be.

As a member of Mt. Washington Ski Patrol, I am a fairly able skier and competent First Aid Attendant, but unfortunately I only dimly remember the thrill of beginning and learning which is so often rushed and subsequently sacrificed in order to become better. Fortunately, I have met and grown to respect and love a circle of same-minded people called the "Heathens Outdoor Club" (you know who you are!) who are making my progress a safe and enjoyable experience. For once, learning is where it's at, and I am quite happy where I am. Although very curious to learn more, but being in no big rush, I am planning to savour my novice status while I still can!

Do y'all remember your first climb? Well, let me refresh your memories...I was full of intrigue, amazement and admiration for those who were climbing up at the Elk Falls, Campbell River, Vancouver Island. It was like watching a well orchestrated choreography on a vertical stage...and with that obvious gleam of envy in my eyes, it's no wonder I was offered a pair of perfectly fitting booties (which have since been thankfully donated to my cause and still feel great), a harness, and a rock wall! So there I was, shaking like crazy inside (and maybe outside once or twice), and full of a mixture of doubt and determination. With some

gentle encouragement and thoughtful observations from below, determination won out and "we" made it to the top. Followed by climb after climb...Needless to say, life for my husband and myself has not been the same since. We're hooked beyond words, but not beyond actions. We have dedicated ourselves enough to spend oodles of money on oodles of equipment - which in itself was made to be a fun time had by all, with the knowledgeable and super-friendly staffs in the Vancouver stores of "Extreme" and "Mountain Equipment Coop". We proceeded to decipher our list of foreign objects and we are happy to say it all makes sense to us now. Thanks for "showing us the ropes"...pun intended.

So now, with no more than eight days under my belt of satisfying climbing, I am filing my resumes until later...much later, and am writing my parents to inform them that I will be going "up" in the Summers, as well as "down" in the Winters. I can't forget to thank them for those ten grueling years of Ballet lessons. We knew they would come in handy for something one day, though I am sure my parents did not count on ballet and rock-climbing complimenting each other so well! The news will make my Dad's day for sure, as the McClelland's were prolific on the mountaineering scene in my home country of New Zealand, when they did it with the basic equipment of the day. I am proud to answer the call, as it must be in our blood.

My whole point here is this: Climbing is not a sport where one can go out and buy the necessities, then go and play as one would with a tennis racquet or bicycle. We as students, really need and appreciate your experiences and patience while sharing the tricks and techniques safely. I'm infinitely touched by the comradeships; the new friendships created while swapping ropes with a stranger in order to try a different route, the encouragement yelled from below, "You can do it!" ringing in my ears that probably made all the difference in making it, and the pride that I feel upon reaching the top being mirrored in our leader's eyes. It's my pleasure to return the favour of such a feeling to those who do so much to provide the thrill in the first place! You are all a very bizarre, exciting and wonderful bunch who welcome us beginners as warmly as you do. Pleased to have met you, or to one day make your acquaintance. You make it fun, and most of all, safe. If you ever want to borrow our (new) ropes - you've got a deal. Just look for me, the nervous, yet "willing to try anything" gal who has all new stuff - and a grin from ear to ear"

Marjorie Meredith

Dear Members of the Council of Lions Bay:

Twenty three years ago my husband and I climbed the Lions for the first time. It was our introduction to Lions Bay, and we fell in love with it immediately. We have lived here, with one short spell of absence, for over twenty years. During that time we have constantly found stimulus and refreshment from climbing the Lions by the old and the new trails.

The types of individuals that one meets on a strenuous hike of that kind are almost exclusively people who have a love of the natural mountain beauty and a respect for protecting and maintaining the balance of its ecology. The careful work done by the BC Mountaineering Club on the well-marked trail beyond the Harvey Creek crossing is evidence of this.

I fail to see what damage to the purity of the Lions Bay Watershed is done by allowing such people access to the Lions, to Harvey, Brunswick, or Unnecessary Mountains and the Howe Sound Crest Trail. On the contrary, those who enjoy a day in the mountains come away with a greater desire to preserve such places unspoiled, and add to the numbers of those concerned for the survival of the planet. It seems a short-sighted policy, in the wider view of things, for those of us who live in Lions Bay to oppose the building of a parking lot beyond the access gate on Mountain Drive.

I wonder how we would feel, if we happened to move away from Lions Bay, to find that we could not go again on our well-loved trails. As a village, we would gain more say in the satisfactory operation of the scheme, which the Federation of mountain Clubs of B.C. is hoping to introduce, by co-operating with them rather than opposing them. Surely we would be in favour of any scheme which would cause more public love of the beauty of Howe Sound, which we who live in Lions Bay are so fortunate to enjoy.

Valley Outdoor Association

Colin Brown

We are pleased to enclose a copy of our Fourth quarter activity schedule, covering the period October 1, to December 31, 1991. Your continued efforts in promoting our association and its activities amongst members of your organization, or your customers, readers or employees is very much appreciated. Response and enquiries regarding our activities over the last quarter has been very encouraging....

Western Hemisphere Summits Expedition

Alaska to Patagonia

Starting in May 1992 this Expedition will travel to Mt. Logan, Canada's highest mountain, and then proceed to the Arctic Ocean coast of Alaska. Then southward along the Continental Divide of North, Central and South America to the Antarctic Ocean coast of Patagonia. Then northward again through the eastern-slope countries of South America, all the way to Mt. McKinley, the Expedition's last major summit, before returning to Colorado. The primary goal of the Expedition is to summit the highest peaks of all 23 mainland countries in the Western Hemisphere, a feat not yet accomplished by any single expedition. The organizers are Kevin Haight and Kay Yeagley, and they are the permanent members of the Expedition at this time. They will provide the element of continuity, but participation from many other permanent and non-permanent is expected and encouraged. The Expedition is intended to be self-supplying on route. Temporary members will be responsible for themselves and their own expenses for transportation, equipment, supplies, accommodations, etc. An Expedition vehicle will be used as the base camp, and be equipped with medical supplies, support facilities and communication systems. The Expedition needs funds, and can issue tax deductible receipts. For more information, please contact:

The South American Explorers Club, 1510 York Street, Suite 214, Denver, Colorado 80218.

Cypress Master Plan

The Ministry of Parks is now in the process of updating its "Master Plan" for Cypress. Proposals have been developed for expansion of commercial operations within the park. Strong pressures exist in some quarters to expand commercial operations such as enlarged restaurant and downhill ski facilities. These expanded commercial operations would encroach on the last relatively pristine summit, Hollyburn Peak. Please express your views now while the Master Plan is under revision:

John Cashore
Minister of Environment,
Lands and Parks,
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 4R3

Precedent Setting Logging in BC Parks

Crestbrook Forest Industries (CFI) is planning to start logging next year in Vowel and Malloy Creeks, and perhaps Crystalline and Conrad as well. These areas are in the Bugaboo Alpine Recreation Area, and should be protected from logging by merit of being a recreation area. If CFI are allowed to log in this area, all other recreation areas in BC Parks may be in danger. Please write and insist that this precedent does not take place:

Tom Moore, Regional Director, Ministry of Lands and Parks
101-1050 West Columbia Street, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 1L2
George Trachuk, Regional Director, South Coast Regional District
Ministry of Parks, 1610 Mt. Seymour Road, N. Vancouver, B.C. V7G 1L3

Mountaineering Maps, Books, Art

Brendan M. Moss, Member, BCMC

I stock a good collection of books and maps on mountaineering, mostly of the older variety. I also carry a large stock of older photographs on mountaineering and mountains. Please come down for a look at my showroom!

"Lemagazin", 110-332 Water Street, Vancouver, B.C. 662-8171

First Annual FMC Party

The FMC staff were extremely pleased with the attendance of 145 mountain-minded party-goers on October 5th. Thank you all for making our first party bigger and better than we intended...and join us again next year!

P.S. Thanks, Vic and Janet! Same time next year?

Waiver Forms... Good or Bad?

John Hart, Sport B.C. Insurance

Any release of liability or waiver program must never be used as a substitute for a sound risk management, safety or loss control program. Waiver forms are used to control exposure to civil liability and, if properly developed, are a valuable tool for a sound legal defence. A release of liability or waiver should form one major element of an organization's risk management strategy. A generic seminar would benefit recreation commissions as it does not focus on a specific sport or activity. This seminar takes approximately one hour and covers the following key factors.

1. Risk Assessment
2. Risk Avoidance
3. Risk Control
4. Risk Transfer
5. Risk Handling
6. Risk Assumption

If you are interested in this seminar or general insurance information, please contact the following:

Mr. John Hart
All Sport Insurance Marketing Ltd.
107-1367 West Broadway

Donate to the Environmental Fund

Chilcotin Educational Report

We want to publish an updated report on Chilko Lake and the Southern Chilcotins. Mountain Equipment Co-op has pledged \$4,000 for this project, but another \$5,000 is needed to print more copies.

Southern Chilcotin Poster

Rick Blacklaws, a professional photographer, has donated a photo for a poster of the Southern Chilcotins. We want to print 5,000 posters to promote the recreation area proposal. All donations will receive a tax deductible receipt upon request.

A Northern Perspective

Michael Nash

We have recently completed another successful hiking season, with most of our trips being in the Cariboo, McGregor and Rocky Mountains east of Prince George. Many new people have hiked with us this year, with a general preference for day trips rather than overnight hikes. We expect to see a continuing growth over the next few years as we approach the opening of the University of Northern BC in 1993.

A disturbing trend we have noticed is the number of people showing up for mountain hikes with expensive lightweight hiking boots, affording little or no ankle support. We have traditionally discouraged people with inadequate footwear from participating in our more serious trips, but it's getting hard to turn somebody away who is sporting brand new \$160 Gortex boots. Yet there have been several cases of sprained ankles, typically involving light hiking boots on a descent late in the day, and in one instance involving both ankles. We have warned people of the risks, and in some cases included the statement 'boots required' in our newspaper announcements, but it's not a complete solution. We would be interested to hear through Cloudburst whether this has become an issue for other clubs, and how you are dealing with it?

On a lighter note, 1991 has been a great year for wildlife viewing. There were the usual numbers of Moose and Caribou seen, including five Moose in a city park recently near the UNBC campus site. There were also some unusual Moose sightings on higher elevation mountain trails this Fall, and a Lynx was seen by some people on the drive out to one of our hikes. Unfortunately, on a personal note, this season has done nothing to diminish my undeserved reputation for attracting bears! In reality, my English origin causes me to talk a little more excitedly than most about sharing the outdoors with animals that can eat you! After seeing no Grizzly Bears at all last year, I have to report that I am back to my yearly average of three sightings. But the year's most unusual experience occurred while walking alone on a forest trail south of town, when I was confronted by three Black Bears literally bounding towards me. They covered 20 of the 30 metres separating us in less than two seconds, just giving me time to throw up my arms and yell 'Go!'. They glanced up, veered off the trail and ran past me, obviously enjoying their run on a nice Spring day.

A significant change which we have experienced and welcome this year is the increased demand and opportunity for involvement in backcountry issues; almost to the point where it is becoming a problem. Some that we have been involved in (and there are several others) are the BC Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, the Herrick Creek Local Resource Use Plan, the Fraser Basin Renewal Plan, and Commercial Backcountry Recreation on Crown Land in BC. With respect to the latter, I will be attending BC Lands' Policy Workshop in Kelowna at the end of November as a representative of the FMCBC. I hope to report on this in the next Cloudburst.

Next Spring, the FMCBC Directors may hold a meeting in Prince George; marking the beginning of a new outreach to communities in the interior and the north. We look forward to the day in the next five or ten years when the FMCBC has another 15 or so member clubs from these areas, and can begin to rotate an enlarged format annual general meeting throughout the Province. Perhaps by then, the AGM will become a popular meeting of members and friends, incorporating seminars, workshops, social functions and field trips.

This Fall brought the news that BC Lands have settled a three year old dispute by ordering the removal of the radio repeater from the summit of Fang Mountain in the McGregor Range by the end of November. With this in mind, my final thought returns to our own mountain artifacts, namely cairns. I was told at our annual general meeting this Fall by a long time alpinist, that it is a mountaineer's traditional right to build a monument to his or her achievement on the summit. The problem is that the world is getting smaller; true wilderness opportunities are fast disappearing, and ethics are changing. The cairns at issue are not those built for route finding, or the ones which mark a much visited summit; rather those cairns which have no other obvious purpose than satisfying somebody's ego on an obscure peak or ridge. To borrow a line from a recent article on the ethics of using explosives in caves, they are a symptom of a society which wants it all, and wants it now. Why can't we leave the next generation the same opportunity to discover their own untouched 'peak experience'?

FMC MEETINGS

Board of Directors

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm:

January 15

February 19

April 15

May 20

Saturdays at 9:30-5:00pm

December 7

March 21

Safety and Education Committee

Wednesdays at 7 pm:

December 11

January 8

February 12

March 11

Trails Committee

Mondays at 7 pm:

January 6

February 24

Recreation and Conservation Committee

Mondays at 7:30 pm:

December 2

January 6,

February 3,

March 2

Delegates

Island:

Saturday, March 28, 9-5

Lower Mainland:

Wednesday at 7pm

January 29

March 18

Smoke Bluffs Committee

Monday at 6:30

January 27

February 24

March 30

F M C B C

Annual General Meeting

Saturday June 20th.

1992 9-5