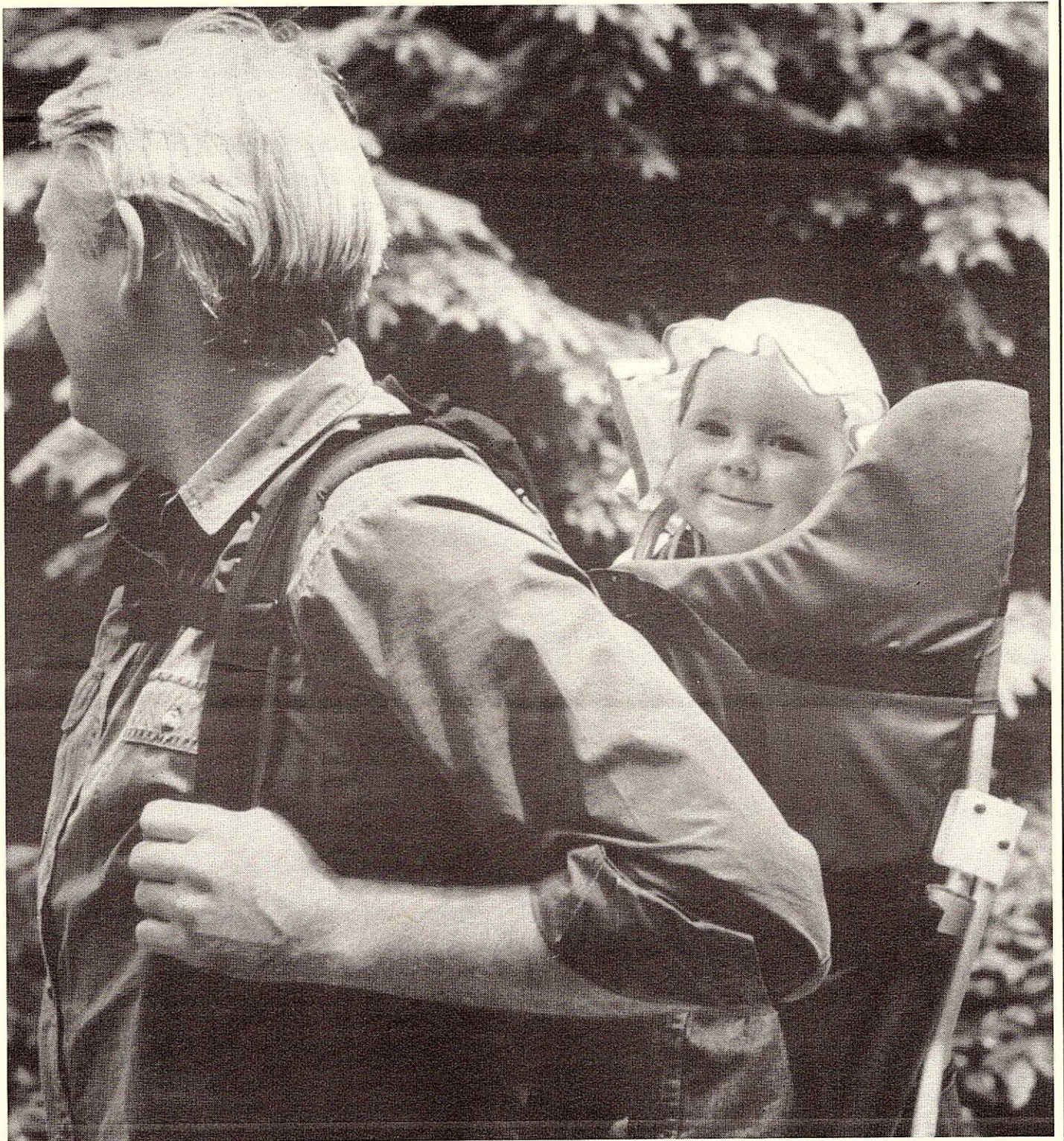


# CLOUDBURST

Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia Newsletter

September 1991





# FMCBC

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

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

Membership in the FMCBC is open to any individual or group involved or interested in non-mechanized outdoor activities and conservation concerns. Membership includes a subscription to CLOUDBURST.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**PRESIDENT:** Suzanne Mazoret

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Beth Wark

**TREASURER:** Simon Anderson

**SECRETARY:** Joy Davidson

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George Evanoff (North-East BC)

Rita Holmes (Kootenay)

**Manager, Member Services**

Sara Kammerzell

**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, Blair Mitten

### SMOKE BLUFFS:

David Jones

# CLOUDBURST

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Editor: Sara Kammerzell

Layout: Sport B.C. Print Shop

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 November 15, 1991.

**COVER PHOTO:** Jim Rutter and daughter Mary. In British Columbia a new generation of hikers are being introduced to the mountains and trails with the use of new, high quality carriers as shown here. Jim thought this photo symbolised his moving on from the FMCBC. Photo credit: Jim Rutter

**ASSISTED BY THE RECREATION AND SPORT DIVISION,** of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Culture



# Executive Director's Report

Jim Rutter

*A final word, (The following is personal and not necessarily the opinion or policy of the FMCBC).*

By the time you read this I will be a part of the Federation's history, not its future. I leave with some concerns.

When I first heard of the Federation, its executive committee was risking all the money it had to hire a part time executive director, with the intention of developing an all-volunteer, home-based organization into something which even more successfully represented its members' interests. I believe we have that now.

The bottom line is always to find the money. Today the membership fees cover just 10% of the annual budget, and the other 90% must be found elsewhere. But, we are succeeding there too.

And the middle line is to represent the membership. When in a single week I meet with a Squamish alderman to further develop the Smoke Bluffs park concept, the minister of Municipal Affairs to lobby our concerns over the Lions Bay trail issues, and Pemberton/Lillooet region districts to participate in the Duffey Lake Corridor planning process I feel that the Federation is where it wanted to be.

When I see plans for us to have a representative at the Chilko planning meetings in Williams Lake - a two year process, work with the national Alpine Club on a backcountry recreation symposium to be held in Whistler in '92, and hold one of its regional directors' meetings at Prince George and have ten Vancouver directors attend, I have a sense of our progress as a provincial organization.

When I return from ten days in the mountains leading a Federation hiking trip from the Elk River to Westmin mine, climbing the Golden Hinde on our sixth day, I return renewed; not just from being in the great outdoors, but from hearing about the Federation from the other participants.

I heard strong approval of our instructional program, the courses offered, the quality of instruction and how valuable that role is to those joining the hiking/mountaineering community.

As we travelled and discussed the history of Strathcona Park and the role played by the

Federation these past seven years, I experienced again why I believe in the Federation of Mountain Clubs.

In the whole spectrum of land use representation there are few groups committed to working together with government and industry to resolve issues without open conflict. The Federation is one.

As we witness the increased polarization which has the WCWC and others squared off against the newly formed industry-sponsored Forest Alliance we have cause to worry. When I first heard one of our directors describe this polarization as "evil" I was taken aback at such a strong word. But, as I see what is taking place I agree, it is evil, with no one side being much more honest and reasonable than the other.

But as I said, I leave with some concerns.

Throughout my eight years with the Federation I have worked constantly to improve the perspective of those who cannot see or understand the provincial level role of the Federation. Many still do not appreciate the value of our instructional program; our development of a backcountry leadership training course; a membership drive that is province wide and not just club-based; the need to be in the driver's seat as mountain tourism is developed in B.C.; the need for staffed huts to resolve land destruction at high use, environmentally sensitive, locations; the need to promote hiking and mountaineering to the general population of our province, and the provision of trails and signs that will help people leave their cars and begin their affiliation with the mountain environment.

This "big picture" for the Federation is my concern. There are many who visit the mountains now and want things to never change. The problem is, it's changing anyway. We can participate or be left behind.

As a final word, I urge the members of the Federation to understand that their Federation is looking after their interests, and that it is doing so in a comprehensive and influential way, as the provincial level organization it dared to become so long ago.

*Good luck, and my continued support.*

# Indonesia

**Bali • Java • Lombok**

**March 27-April 17, 1992**

**Borneo • Java • Bali**

**October 2 - 23, 1992**

Our small group tours are ideal for outdoor enthusiasts.

Tour participants will see lots of wildlife, forests, culture and art.

For our free brochure and slide shows, **contact:**

**Gina at Back Road Tours, 101-8741 Selkirk Street**

**Vancouver, B.C. V6P 4J5, Tel: 266-7514 Fax: 266-1120**



# President's Column

Suzanne Mazoret

Over the next few months, the FMCBC finds itself facing two major changes.

The first is the resignation of our Executive Director, Jim Rutter, effective at the end of August. In the eight years that Jim has been our full-time Executive Director, the office has expanded from a single position to include full and part-time office staff, project staff, and a course program manager supervising our many instructors. The FMCBC has grown from an annual budget of \$15,060 in 1982 to \$311,359 in 1991. As a spokesman for the FMC, Jim has represented us effectively to other organizations and local and provincial governments. The leadership and guidance that Jim has provided, and his creativity and vision, will be missed. We hope that Jim and his family will enjoy life in Victoria and wish him well in his new role as an outdoor recreation consultant.

In order to have the least disruption, the Board wishes the position of Executive Director to be filled as soon as possible. It has already been advertised provincially and the hiring process is underway. Maintaining the current operations, services and projects is also important; existing and temporary staff, as well as Directors and volunteers, will be assisting as needed.

The second major change affecting us in the near future is that after almost a year of looking, we are moving the Federation's office from the fortress-like Sport B.C. building to premises at 8th and Yukon, located above Taiga Works, across the street from Mountain Equipment Coop.

The new space will include an open area office and a combination meeting room, classroom for courses, and reference and display area as well as some separate offices. The new location will help us be available to members and the public as they visit the outdoor stores, and make it possible to be open on Saturdays.

To facilitate the move and to assist in making the new space more functional to our needs, we are asking for support and donations in the following areas:

1. Moving trucks and labour
2. Assistance to construct a dividing wall and door between the office area and general meeting area.
3. "Classroom" type furniture and equipment - tables, stacking chairs, notice boards and bookshelves.
4. Office furniture - desks, chairs, filing cabinets and dividers.

Some of the moving expenses, such as leasing a copier and a FAX machine, have been budgeted for and we do own some desks and office furniture already. However, assistance of help and donations, whether private or corporate, in-kind or monetary are needed. As the Federation is a registered charity, receipts for income tax purposes can be issued for donations.

The better-equipped and more functional the new premises become, the more able we will be to serve our members and meet our goals. It is hoped that clubs will be able to utilize the meeting space for their own meetings and activities, once the space is properly set up. Information regarding the use of the meeting area will be communicated at a later time.

Other than these two major events in the Federation's life, the Board, following the direction given at the AGM, has struck a number of working committees. Judy Wigmore and Judy Needham continue as the Hut Committee and will be compiling the members' questionnaires in order to formulate a Hut Policy. Beth Wark and Joy Davidson have agreed to be a Membership Committee and will look at ways to improve and expand membership in both the Federation and its Member Clubs. Len Dudley, Larry Lowden, Beth Wark and

Suzanne Mazoret will meet as the Constitution Committee to try to define the changes that we need in our constitution and by-laws, for discussion at Delegates' meetings, and final ratification at the next AGM. Judy Needham and Karin Rolfes have agreed to co-chair the Lower Mainland Delegates' Meetings as Judy Wigmore already does for Vancouver Island. Judy and Karin have also agreed to assist in the development of a Delegates' Handbook.

The volunteer committees of the FMCBC continue to invite volunteers from FMC member clubs to participate. The work of all the committees is unlimited in scope and is restricted only by the number of committed volunteers who are able to undertake the work.

The Trails Committee will be co-chaired by Gabriel Mazoret and Blair Mitten for the next year. Charles Clapham, resigning co-chair, is remaining as Adopt-A-Trail coordinator and will provide support for the program. The Recreation and Conservation Committee continues to be co-chaired by Roger Freeman and Jay MacArthur. The Safety and Education Committee will continue under the direction of Graeme Taylor as Alastair Foreman has resigned to pursue some personal travel goals. In the coming months, this committee will provide direction to Canada West Mountain School, the new division of the FMCBC. The Smoke Bluffs Committee continues to manage the Smoke Bluffs negotiations and monitor the development of the area as a park and seeks a new chair following the resignation of Dave Jones due to other commitments.

Thanks are due to both Alastair and Dave for their contributions to their committees over the past few months. Both have served their committees and the Federation well.

All in all, the next few months will be very exciting and very busy for the Federation as these changes and events develop.

## Party! Party! Party!

**The FMC Celebrates Eight Years of Successful OUTDOOR EDUCATION and invites all the people who made it possible. Saturday 8 PM, Oct. 5 at the Anza club**

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. would like you to reserve Saturday evening, October 5th, 1991 for a very special occasion. Why?!

Because we want to have more fun with all of the good people who have shared the

mountains with us over the past years. If you're a member of the FMC, have ever taken a course with "The Fed", know someone who has, or just plain want to party with a lot of people who appreciate the mountains, then come on out to our First Annual Mountain Clubs Bash on October 5th, 1991.

(P.S. If those aren't enough reasons, there's more - much more! It is the FMCBC's 20th anniversary; we'll be celebrating our move to a new location; this is the start of the first season for Canada West Mountain School; a chance to meet all those people you've heard of, but not met; and on and on ...)

There are bound to be many familiar faces there, so be sure to show up for lots of stories, music, door prizes, snacks and beverages. Feel free to bring a friend and the family, and if you have any pictures, bring them along, too. (Especially ones of instructors....we always want to see those!)

So grab your shoes (dancing - not climbing!), and show up at

8:00 PM, Saturday, October 5th, 1991 at the Anza club for some good times with good folks. A \$3.00 donation at the door will help to cover costs.



# 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: Mark Haden 736-3653

## Chilliwack Outdoor Club

P.O. Box 706  
Vedder Crossing, B.C. V0X 1Z0  
Contact: Donna Maser 792-6655

## 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  
Don Williams 521-1482

## N.V.R.C. Outdoor Club

#1104 - 444 Lonsdale Avenue  
N. Vancouver, B.C. V7M 3H5  
Contact: Rick Negus 985-9263

## 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  
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 Don Apps  
R.R. #2, Courtenay, B.C. V9N 5M9  
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

## Squamish Rock Climbers Association

Contact: Bruce Langereis 431-3960

To join the FMCBC by becoming a club member - please refer to this list of Member Clubs and their contact phone numbers. These clubs would be glad to send you the appropriate paperwork.

## Club Feature

### *Lucille Barfield*

The Outsetters Club celebrated its 20th anniversary this spring with a dinner/dance at the UBC Faculty Club. Over one hundred past members and newcomers mingled and reminisced about the "good old times". One of the original founders, Roger Bedford, is still actively involved with the club, and recently led a canoe camping trip on the Ruby Lake/Sakinaw Lake/Agamemnon Channel circuit on the Sechelt Peninsula.

The Club has always been firstly an outdoor club, with activities ranging from downhill and cross-country skiing in the winter (with the occasional evening of ice-skating for variety) to alternating bike trips and hiking from spring through the fall. Every long weekend, the Outsetters are off on an excursion, and as the membership becomes larger and interests become more diversified, these trips have included such events as a "Storm Watch" at Long Beach, Whistler ski/hike/bike trips, Manning Park

skiing and hiking ventures, whale-watching at Ucluelet, trips to the U.S. to see such scenic spots as Snoqualmie Falls, the Ellensburg Western Art Show, Lake Chelan, Leavenworth, and so on.

Day trips have covered a wide range of activities such as sailing, charter-fishing, hikes up the Stawamus Chief, Mt. Sumas, Rainbow Lakes at Whistler, Brandywine Falls, etc. and bike trips to Gabriola Island, Semiahmoo Park in the U.S., the Sannich Peninsula, as well as rides along local bike paths.

The Outsetters plan social activities once or twice a month, the most popular being the dinner/dances to some of Vancouver's finest cabarets. We've been to Ma's & Me's, the Theatre Under the Stars, the ever popular Blarney Stone Pub in Gastown, Frank Baker's Sing-Along, and the Moka Restaurant, to name a few.

The aim of the Club has always been to provide an opportunity for people to get

## Outsetters Club

together and share the enjoyment of group outdoor activities. At a quarterly Planning Meeting, members put forth their ideas for activities and coordinators are established to act as a contact for participants and to plan and oversee the event. The executive, comprising twelve members who hold maximum 2-year terms, meet monthly to deal with the general operation of the Club, and an annual general meeting is held, usually with a very favourable turnout, wherein the new executive is elected and matters pertaining to the general membership are dealt with.

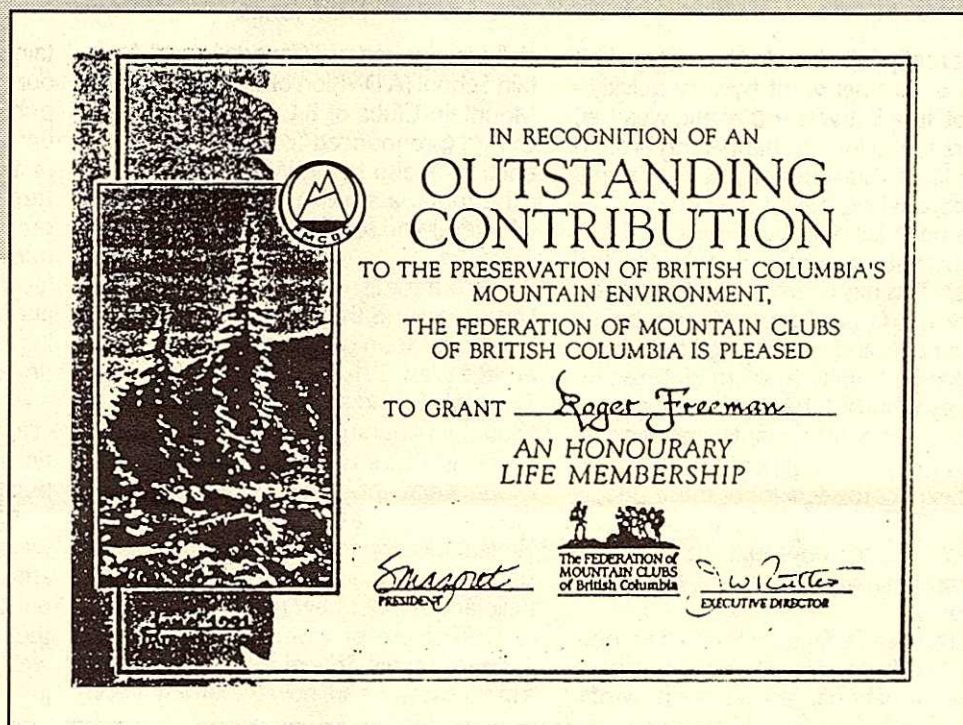
Following each executive meeting, the club's monthly newsletter, "The Outset", is produced by the club secretaries listing the upcoming events plus any interesting bits of news and information.

The Club is an affiliate of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C., and at each executive meeting, our delegate gives a report keeping the directors up to date on FMCBC news.



## Roger Freeman: Life Member of FMC

At the June AGM, 24 clubs voted unanimously to award the FMC's first Honorary Life Membership to Roger Freeman to acknowledge the enormous contribution he has made. The Recreation and Conservation Committee has been co-chaired by Roger for 20 years. His vision and dedication have resulted in important submissions, reports, books and presentations that have benefited the mountain travellers of this and other provinces. The FMC takes great pleasure in presenting this token of appreciation to an individual who most truly deserves it.



*Honorary Life Membership Plaque awarded, with appreciation, to Roger Freeman.*

### Office Project 91

The FMC is sponsoring a Canadian Job Strategy Job Development Program for 3 employees for 6 1/2 months starting August 12th. Sara Kammerzell is the supervisor of this project, and will be training the candidates to upgrade their office skills. The FMC has applied for an Employment Plus Grant from the Ministry of Social Services and Housing to start at the end of Office Project 91 and this application has been accepted as well.

### Trail Maintenance Manuals

Now Free to those club members who request a copy

### Fond Farewell

Thank you to Administrative Assistant **Jude Harms**, who carried the FMC through a challenging year and busy summer. We wish you luck with your studies and hope you'll have time to visit us in our new office!

### Entertainment 92 Books

Will be for sale at the FMCBC office September 15th. This delicious two-for-one bargain book is effective immediately

### Alpine Club of Canada - Press releases

#### Sydney Vallance Hut

Effective April 1, 1991 the Alpine Club of Canada assumed the management of the Sydney Vallance (Fryatt) Hut, Mount Alberta Hut and Mount Colin Centennial Huts from Parks Canada.

We are now accepting reservations for these facilities.

Special Note: the Sydney Vallance Hut is a locked hut and an Alpine Club of Canada member must be in each group using the hut when no Custodian is present.

Reservations for these huts can be made through the ACC Facilities Office, Box 519, Canmore, AB T0L 0M0 or by telephoning (403) 678-5855.

Rates for the huts are \$6.00 per person per night for ACC members and \$10.00 per night for non-members.

### Fay Hut Renovated and re-opened

In 1927 The Alpine Club of Canada constructed its first mountain hut which was named after mountaineer, Charles E. Fay. Today the Club operates 17 backcountry huts and celebrates the re-opening of the Fay Hut which has been closed for several years.

The Fay Hut is located below treeline on a bench above Tokkum Creek, B.C. and is accessed from a trail starting at Marble Canyon.

In July, 1991, the Fay Hut underwent extensive renovations by the Rocky Mountain Section of the Alpine Club and is now open for reservations. The renovations, done in cooperation with Kootenay National Park, included a new roof, new windows and a completely renovated interior.

The hut accommodates 12 people and is equipped with wood heating, Coleman stoves and lanterns as well as cooking and eating utensils. Rates for the hut are \$9.00 per person per night for ACC members and \$15.00 per night for non-members. Reservations to stay at the Fay Hut can be made through the ACC Facilities Office in Canmore, address and telephone number above.

### Cloudburst Deadline

The deadline for the Christmas issue is November 15th, 1991



# SAFETY AND EDUCATION

Brian Jones

**Is it really fall already?** I have to admit that this summer went by very quickly - I'm not sure if it was the erratic weather, the fact that a lot was happening around the FMC this summer or just age (everyone keeps telling me it's the latter!).

I've been keeping busy these past few months with running very successful courses. This has been one of our biggest programs so far, and there are many happy new climbers and mountaineers out there to prove it. Thanks again to all those instructors who put 100% of their energy into giving over 500 people a safe and rewarding mountain experience this summer! I expect to see a lot of those people out in the mountains in the years to come and I'm glad to know that we've helped them on their way with a safe, high quality course.

Many changes face the Federation these days. The Instructional Programs have adopted a new name - we are now offi-

cially recognised as "Canada West Mountain School (A Division of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.)". The acronym CWMS (pronounced "cooms") has the distinction of also being Welsh for "...an escape route; a small mountain valley", so whenever you see CWMS, think of a place of safety!

Also on the list of new challenges for the Federation and the School is our impending move. Soon our offices will be located at 388 West 8th Ave., right upstairs from Taiga Works and across the street from the Mountain Equipment Coop. This new location will give us added options for the Mountain School, such as a lecture room, increased storage for gear, plus a more convenient location for people to drop by and see us. Be sure and stop in this fall to say hello and see our new place.

Our course programs, under Canada West Mountain School, are developing at a rapid pace - we are now the largest moun-

tain skills school in B.C. This, coupled with our move to a bigger location with a greater public profile, will ensure that CWMS continues to maintain the leading edge in recreational mountain safety courses in the future. This year is sure to be a pivotal year for our program, and we would like to remind our members that CWMS welcomes any feedback regarding the School. The Safety and Education committee will be reviewing ideas and suggestions about the Instructional Program over the next few months, and we will be soliciting opinions on specific areas of the Mountain School's operations. Look to the Christmas issue of *Cloudburst* for more information on this.

Even though the summer has passed, we still have the ski season coming up around the corner. It's just about time to get those boards out and start looking to the hills for that first hint of white. I'm sure we'll see you there somewhere this winter - just make sure you're having lots of fun!

## Backcountry Leadership Training *Brian Jones*

In April of this year, Jim Rutter represented the Federation of Mountain Clubs at a conference hosted by the Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Society of B.C. This conference, held in Kamloops, was to help bring together the many different individuals and organisations that are involved in either organised sports or outdoor recreation within the province.

One goal of the Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Society is to develop recreational programs throughout B.C. that will benefit native communities. A key area that has been identified as needing further development within these communities is that of outdoor recreation, and the Ministry of Sport and Recreation have become involved to the extent of helping develop and fund a Leadership Training Program.

A pilot program was run from June 14-28, 1991, based out of the North Vancouver Outdoor School facilities in Brackendale, B.C. The FMC conducted a one week intensive Mountain Leadership Skills Program for 16 people during the first half, and Capilano College canoe instructors taught a one week Flat Water Instructors Course for the second week. Both programs were highly successful, with all of the participants learning lots about the various leadership skills and techniques used in running mountain and canoe based trips.

The Federation has been further involved with a second level of training that took place in August. A few of the participants from the first course were selected to re-

turn for further training. During this session, the return participants selected 4-5 students from their own communities, and using a ten day trip into the Stein Valley as the objective, continued on in their apprentice leader roles by organising and leading the trip from start to finish. This trip into the Stein, taught by the same two FMC instructors that conducted the first training course to maintain continuity, was again very successful.

This program has given the Federation of Mountain Clubs a chance to pilot a Backcountry Leadership Training course,

based on the research that went into developing the Backcountry Leadership Training Manual for the FMC last winter. At the same time, the opportunity to work closely with a group of people that are eager to learn mountain leadership skills, yet have not had access to this sort of instruction in the past, is very rewarding. The Federation's ability to provide this sort of service further reflects its role as an organisation committed to developing and maintaining backcountry skills standards, whether recreational or professional.

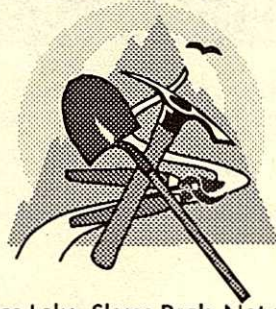


*Instructors Graeme Taylor and Brian Jones with native leadership trainees Murphy Johnnie and William Jack.*



# Trails Committee

Gabriel Mazoret



The Trails Committee welcomes as its **new co-chair, Blair Mitten**, a member of the BCMC. Blair takes over from Charles Calpham who has filled the co-chair role for the last two years. Charles has agreed to continue on the Trails Committee as the Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator.

We thank the Y Outdoor club for their **\$1200** donation for trail building tools. This donation will enable us to upgrade and add new tools to those available now. If you need tools for a trail clearing trip, contact Paul Binkert at 263-4360 to arrange.

The Trails Committee is concerned by the plans for the housing development and golf course planned for Furry Creek. The creation of a water shed for this development could lead to the same kind of parking and access problems for the hiking community as now exist at Lions Bay. We are monitoring the plans for this development very attentively.

Do you have a good knowledge of trails north of the Fraser from Pitt Lake to the Skagit Valley? Would you be willing to help the Trails Committee to protect and maintain the trail system for the use and enjoyment of all? Well, it just happens we need a Coordinator for that Zone. To monitor the land agencies' activities and help trail maintainers are the main responsibilities of our Zone Coordinators. If you can help, contact us through the Federation's office (phone 737-3053)

A series of Open Houses for the **North Vancouver City, District, and Recreation Department** to develop a Five Year plan has now ended. The plan calls for the creation of new municipal parks and if approved will spend \$80,000 a year on the maintenance of the Baden Powell Trail. The inter-river (between lower Lynn Creek and lower Seymour River) will be managed for recreation. There is a strong possibility a tournament centre could be created in the south end of the inter-river for a price of \$1.5 million.

The Chilliwack Outdoor Club received the BC Forest service answer about the **Pocket Wilderness Proposals** they submitted for the Chilliwack area. They are fairly happy that some of the proposals are seriously considered. Here is the Forest Service position to date:

1. Custer Ridge: Not a priority for study. Once the concern about boundaries is resolved, the area will be made a recreation reserve.
2. Radium-Hanging Lake: Proposed study area for wilderness designation
3. Lindeman-Greendrop-Flora Lakes: Proposed study area for park extension

4. Pierce Lake, Slesse Peak: Not a Priority. The alpine and sup-alpine area will be incorporated into a recreation reserve.
5. Liumchen Lake: The bowl around Liumchen Lake and the area to the US border will be incorporated into a recreation reserve. Not a wilderness reserve.
6. Clear Creek Hot Springs: The already existing recreation reserve will be expanded to a size not yet determined. The actual activity precludes the area to be a wilderness.
7. Ling Lake: This area is included in the Cheam-Ling Lake Proposal for study for designation as wilderness
8. Slollicum Lake: A recreation reserve will be placed around the Slollicum Lake bowl. The inclusion of the other lakes will be evaluated. Not a wilderness area.
9. Chehalis Headwaters: The recreation reserve already existing on Statlu Lake will be extended to the area of the bowl. Other parts of this proposed area are under review. Not a priority.
10. Eaton Lake: The area will be made into a recreation reserve once the boundaries are clearly defined. Too small to be a wilderness.

*(Summary of the B.C. Forest letter from John Hall, Chilliwack District Manager, to the Chilliwack Outdoor Club.)*

After inspecting many logging plans to detect potential conflict with trails, Neil Grainger mentioned that the viewing of the small business blocks in five year logging plans is fairly easy. However, the big business blocks are advertised throughout the year in different places, and the time and place of viewing those plans are also all over the place. To try to make it easier to have a comprehensive overview of the whole TSA logging plan, Neil suggested in a letter to the Chilliwack Forest Service that the district maps be grouped on two or three maps then each company's plan could be laid on transparent overlays. We hope they'll follow up on the suggestion.

If you are planning to work on trails this year, here is a summary of seasonal trail maintenance:

- Clear new growth to a width of 6'
- Clear windfalls obstructing the trail. If too large, notify the land agency responsible
- Clean waterbars and ditches that are not draining properly.
- Inspect, repair or report damage to wooden structures
- Repair soil erosion damage
- Clear and repair or if major, report land slide damage
- Make sure markers or tapes are in good condition and clearly visible to show the route
- Pack out garbage and other man made debris
- Destroy fire rings and any other evidence of camping.

## Rails to Trails, National Trail

Beth Wark/Liz Osborn

Derek Morys-Edge has joined the Outdoor Recreation Council to co-ordinate their Rails-to-Trails Project (preserving abandoned railbeds for multi-use trails) which will cover most of B.C. He is also the Executive Director of the Centennial Trails Trust; a newly incorporated agency which holds the mandate for establishing the National Trail in B.C. Its Directors include Bob Harris, Ted Stubbs, Boudi Van Oldenborgh, Charles Clapham and Alfred Watts. Both purist and moderate routes are being studied. The ORC Fall Forum will be the Rails-to-Trails Symposium and will be held in Kelowna in November. The FMCBC will be represented at the forum.

## Outdoor Club of Victoria Trails Information Society

Hiking Trail Guides

Hiking Trails I - Victoria and Vicinity

1990 revisions included

95 pp paper \$8.00 ISBN 0-9690401-3-X  
Hiking Trails II - Southeastern Vancouver Island

1991 revisions included

96 pp paper \$8.00 ISBN 0-9690401-4-8

Hiking Trails III - Central and Northern Vancouver Island

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# Recreation and Conservation

Jay MacArthur

## Logging Threatens Southern Chilcotin Wilderness

Have you sent a letter to the Minister of Forests about the proposed logging in the Tyaughton Creek area of the Southern Chilcotins? If not please send a short letter asking for the Southern Chilcotin Wilderness to be protected as a recreation or wilderness area. The logging proposed for the Bonanza basin area south of Tyaughton Creek will really reduce the wilderness values of the area. Please write to : Hon. Claude Richmond, Minister of Forests, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4.

Please also send a copy to the FMCBC office, we like to know how many people support us.

Only 200 km north of Vancouver is one of the best hiking areas in the province. The Southern Chilcotin is one of the areas proposed for interagency study in the Parks and Wilderness for the 90's process. The FMCBC has formed the Wild Chilcotin Coalition which has proposed that the area be designated as a provincial recreation or wilderness area.

Ainsworth Lumber in Lillooet is continuing to plan logging in the Tyaughton Creek and Leckie Creek areas. They have recently submitted logging plans to the Forest Service. Road construction scheduled for this summer is on hold pending announcements by the provincial government.

Members of the Wild Chilcotin Coalition:

Environmental Youth Alliance

Community Education on Environment and Development

Nechako Environmental Coalition

BC Public Interest Research Group

United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union

Alpine Club of Canada

British Columbia Mountaineering Club

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

Federation of British Columbia Naturalists

Guide Outfitters Association of B.C.

Heritage Society of B.C.

North Shore Hikers

Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C.

Recreational Canoe Association

Sierra Club of Western Canada

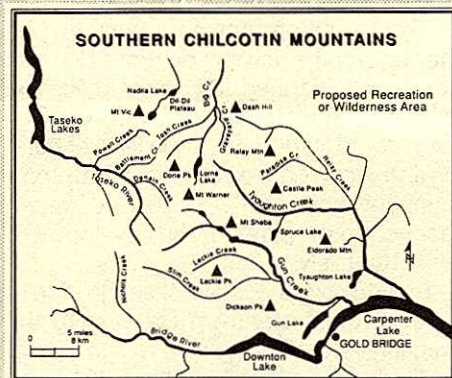
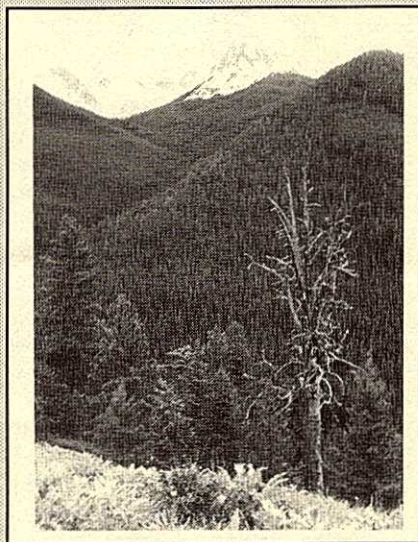
Southern Chilcotin Mountains Wilderness Society

Valley Outdoor Association

## Logging Proposed in McGillvray Creek

The Lillooet Forest District has preliminary plans for logging in the McGillvray Creek area south of McGillvray Pass. We have written to the Forest Service asking that some of the cut-blocks be deferred until a plan for a wilderness area is decided on.

We need someone to take this on as a project. For further information call Jay MacArthur at 987-1232 or Ron Letham at 256-7531 (BCFS in Lillooet)



## Letters to the Editor

### Hikers from Powell River

H. Godau

I am writing to you from Powell River the jewel near the end of the highway. A hikers life is not easy here. We have wonderful alpine meadows, glaciers and beautiful lakes, however, the pulp KGB is guarding the accesses. They do not want us there and do their best to keep the outdoor fraternity at bay. We do have unorganised rambling groups who maintain excellent programs, but to organise these fragile bodies of like-minded is next to impossible. From the various groups have now come a few ardent activists whose effort it has been to slash and secure good trails through a still existing semi-wilderness. Marking the pathways has always been a very ambiguous undertaking. Many other trail blazers may have found similar difficulties. The Forest Service which should lead the way is perishing in overcrowded quarters and our Parks people look at pretty pictures and maps without colours. Is not then possible for the FMCBC and like-minded organisations to approach policy makers and elected bodies to adopt concise standards which would ably to all trails? Europeans or outdoor fraternities to the south may have to offer some advice. A norm must be found and the Forest Service should be made to maintain rigorous standards.

Now to another subject, the "Slave Trail", I have been told by natives their forebearers used to explore the vastness of their hinterland. Salish people were great travellers. But today their routes have lost the romantic tang and the steps were reclaimed by nature. Wide logging roads lead into even wider clear cuts, they seem to be our quixotic norm, a pity. Yet there exists a way which may introduce us to something the native foragers must have seen. A 14 day pack path from Powell River's Mowat Bay Park across the mountains via the top of Jervis Inlet to the Squamish river valley is distinctively feasible. The building of such a trail system would involve hard work and Park funding, but it is not insurmountable. Some of the trail is already existing in unused old logging roads and here in Powell River locally maintained trails. Considering the nearness of such a project to the metropolitan area of Vancouver and facilities here on the Sunshine Coast, such a vision may grow into another outlet for countless outdoor enthusiasts and lead us into an alpine frontier of immense beauty. In New Zealand they have the Milford Sound Trail and they treasure, foster and maintain the complete length. Our West Coast trail is now over used and logging is encroaching on the core pristine shrine. Why not begin another great one, the "slave trail", from Squamish to Powell River? Any takers?



## Letters to the Editor

### Return From Strathcona West

Jo Anne Gray

*The Federation Mountain Clubs of B.C. summer course offerings this summer included a nine-day high ridge traverse of the wild central part of Strathcona Park, on Vancouver Island. Six backpackers, including the Federation's outgoing executive director, Jim Rutter, as guide, hiked up the Elk River valley past Landslide Lake to reach the base of the Golden Hinde, Vancouver Island's highest peak, on day 6. After three of the group ascended the Hinde, we continued to Burman Lake, Schielderup Lake, along alpine ridges and descended at the south end of Buttle Lake.*

Participant Jo Anne Gray offers her reflections at the conclusion of the trip.

### Saturday, August 17

Five miles along the ridge. Final bushwack descent to the lake, and final swim, but someone else is also in the lake. Walk by him on our way out; he's lying, face up, nude. I avert my eyes. Four thousand switchbacking feet; we can hear the mine ventilators almost from the top. Meet two German hikers; I don't want to talk with anyone else. We stagger our departures so each walks the forest alone. I am last.

I use my hiking stick now as a cane to ease the pressure on the soles of my feet. The now-clothed swimmer approaches and passes me with a greeting. An uneasy wave washes through me, I realize I hadn't had any wariness of unknown men for 10

days. We are fed and bedded at Strathcona Lodge. I hear our trip become story, already.

### Sunday, August 18

On the drive down the Island, we six talked, for the first time, politics. Realized how different we are. On the ferry retraced our times, distances, and stops on the map. We hugged our good-byes; some A-frame, some side saddle, and some full-bodied. Have made a couple of new friends and some great acquaintances. At home, don't return phone messages. Do laundry, throw out grungy plastic bags, rinse out food containers. Make dinner actually standing at the stove; eat actually sitting at the dining table with the weekend paper.

A close friend calls: short phrases quickly rush into extended monologue:

"Life changing...stretched beyond my limits...up to nine and ten hours with a 50 pound pack...55 miles in nine days...heat, sun, ascents, descents, bush, scree, losing my footholds, fear, pain, exhaustion. Tears sprung loose with fear, then flowing from the wells of life sadnesses. Walking in the unarguable, undoubtable presences of the divine..."

"Kindness, respect, teaching, learning, silence, farts and belches unexcused, nakedness and shyness, campfires, stars and meteors. Days and nights and days of no trace hiking, no trace vistas, no trace camping. The shock of seeing a small well-

intentioned pile of cut firewood; of hearing the voices of another hiker. My trust in Jim for route finding and every quality of safety; in all the others for accepting and assisting me, the slowest and smallest and least tempered of their midst..."

### Wednesday, August 21

The small spidery fissures on almost bald fingertip pads are healing into the old fingerprint lines. Fingers and toes have returned from cocktail-sausage to almost normal shape; sensation is returning to baby toe. At this rate, scratches and bruises will have almost healed before my photos are developed. Can almost rise from bended knees without assistance. Am continuing to show off biceps, shoulders, hardened waist and hips, and the new bulgy muscles just above my knees to anyone who will look and feel; have begun to think about triathlon training. Keep remembering the velvety feeling of swimming nude.

Seamsealed my tent fly, cleaned and re-waterproofed my new boots, which now look five years old; left my equipment out in the living room and the B.C. Fed pamphlets on my bulletin board. Ask Jim about hiking clubs. Ask to borrow his slides for my classes, friends, family. Think about friends from Quebec wanting to do the trip. Plan to buy a better compass.

Pick up my photos this afternoon.

## Commercial Backcountry Recreation on crown land in B.C.

### A Northern Perspective

Mike Nash - Caledonia Ramblers

The public discussion paper which was published in December 1990 by BC Lands has raised some concerns among B.C.'s backcountry recreation users.

Without doubt, there is a need for a review of policy and procedures for the fast growing field of commercial backcountry recreation. And there is a need for better regulation of incompatible uses, in particular the impact mechanized use has on the environment, wildlife and other people. However, concerns about some aspects of the paper have been already been expressed publicly by the BC Wildlife Federation, and are being echoed by other outdoor groups and individuals in the north and elsewhere in the Province.

On one side there appears to be the potential for a proliferation of commercial backcountry use through direct marketing of opportunities by the government to provincial, national and offshore interests. On

the other side, there is the right of continued free access to crown land to the citizens of B.C. The Federation of BC Naturalists at their recent annual general meeting held in Prince George, passed a resolution calling on the Minister of Crown Lands to "ensure existing free public access rights to Crown lands affected by commercial backcountry recreation be maintained."

The Ministry of Crown Lands has been compiling input on the discussion paper for the past several months, and is preparing to consult with what they call "key shareholders", namely industry associations and the executives of provincial level public organizations by means of a 3 day public workshop in the fall. Hopefully this will include the F.M.C.B.C. and the F.B.C.N. Unfortunately, they do not intend to hold public hearings on this key matter and will move onto policy developments in the new year following the elections in the upcoming

year. Now is the time to get involved, by writing to the Ministry of Crown Lands, Land Policy Branch, 3rd Floor, 4000 Seymour Place, Victoria, BC, V8V 1X5. Also, be sure to have your say about the public hearing process by writing to your MLA and the Ministry of Crown Lands, both during the formulation of the policy, and in subsequent commercial applications concerning geographic areas of interest to you.

If you haven't already done so, get a copy of the discussion paper and read it. Having said this, and at the risk of quoting out of context, here are a few selected highlights, interspersed with my commentary, which illustrate some of the issues:

From the Minister of Crown Lands' Introductory Message:

"These same recreational resources form the foundation of an adventure travel or backcountry recreation industry which



offers significant opportunities to contribute to the economic growth of the province. This emerging industry, providing packaged recreational experiences on a fee-for-service basis, generates significant revenue with strong growth potential."

### From the section "Allocating Commercial Land Rights":

"Proposed Policy: Commercial backcountry recreation opportunities will be offered on a local, national and international basis, as appropriate."

Following a recent debate between BC Lands and The BC Wildlife Federation which was broadcast in the north by CBC Radio; one listener called in to express his concerns that this was being viewed by government as the next great 'goldrush' of resource exploitation, with the public being excluded. In fairness, the discussion paper talks about the public's rights and expectations regarding free access to Crown land. I think it's up to us to ensure this is adequately reflected in the final policy and its implementation.

### Thus, from the section "The Challenge for British Columbia":

"Another major challenge to managing this emerging industry, is the public's high expectations for recreational access to Crown land. B.C. residents have a long tradition of free access to Crown Land for outdoor recreational use. This use is largely unstructured and unorganized. In fact, many residents choose to live here because of the outstanding outdoor recreational resources and the ease with which they can be accessed."

But, the same section also states:

"Commercial Backcountry Recreation, because it normally requires large land areas, however, is often difficult to 'fit in' with existing resource uses. It also depends heavily on relatively pristine, wilderness-like experiences. Consequently, such things as noise and the visual impact of resource development and other overlapping recreational uses can seriously impair the quality of the recreational experience."

Backcountry tour operators cannot be expected to welcome non-paying ski tourists or hikers into their operating areas while their clients are in residence. We can anticipate lobbying (by more powerful interests than present day owner operators) for more restrictions, unless public access rights are clearly spelled out and entrenched. From the same CBC radio broadcast, another listener expressed the fear that "High priced clients won't want to see the other hikers or skiers when they are paying for wilderness".

### From the section "Public Access to Crown Land":

Some disturbing words which lend weight to the words of the worried listener:

"In view of the stated objective to maintain public recreational access to Crown land in B.C., the central issue is whether or not all areas should be available at all times to accommodate public use, or whether there should be some areas or instances where public access is limited in support of commercial ventures."

"Proposed Policy: Maintaining future public use or access options will be a consideration when evaluating commercial proposals." Only a consideration?

"Proposed Policy: Public use will generally be allowed in all areas used by a commercial backcountry operation, except on site specific, approved facilities the commercial operator has constructed and maintains."

Generally, I don't think many of us would object to access restrictions on the immediate confines of a lodge site, unless it is proposed for an obvious place of public interest such as the shore of an alpine lake. But the real concern is of trail access to an area. So, the paper goes on to say:

"The exception would be that the public can be excluded by the operators to authorized physical improvements which have been built by the operator (e.g. lodges, campsites and possibly trails)."

### And, from the section "The Nature of Rights":

"Proposed Policy: Rights to Crown land may be authorized by a license where there is a need for tenure security due to physical improvements on the land for a strategic site or trail system."

My view, which I hope many of you share, is trail access restrictions would be offensive and unacceptable. Often, there is only one obvious trail route into an area. This is particularly true of the mountain backcountry where a dry ridge may offer the only reasonable access. Usually, when you select an obvious route, you find the remains of an old foot trail or horse trail, built by guide outfitters, hunters, prospectors, Forest Service (fire lookout access), hiking clubs, or others. Trail access into the backcountry, whether constructed by a commercial operator or whoever, must be freely available to all. This is part of the cost of doing business on publicly owned Crown land, just as the public use of logging roads in the forest industry. (Which, incidentally, commercial backcountry operators use freely).

In conclusion, there are positives in the discussion paper, including the prospect of putting some teeth in the hitherto poorly guided and enforced restrictions on

mechanized use of the backcountry. And the recognition and guarantee of public access to our wilderness, so we may all share in the economic and the spiritual richness of British Columbia. The paper talks strongly of both public and commercial rights to Crown land. We must ensure there is an appropriate public balance in the final policy.

Our wilderness at times seems limitless - particularly in the north. But it has shrunk noticeably in the thirteen years I have lived here. Our government should not be too anxious to promote the commercial exploitation of this last resource which is so important to the physical and mental well being of British Columbians. Most of us feel it is moving fast enough at its own pace.

However, it is becoming clear there has to be some way of regulating the amount and type of use of specific areas of open Crown lands. If an area is heavily used by the public, then the commercial use should be regulated downwards as has happened with the guide outfitters. Ultimately, the public has to have the first right of use of publicly owned land.

## FMC MEETINGS

**Note:** Meetings usually held in Sport B.C. may be changed after the pending move. All changes will be circulated in advance on the agenda. Please contact the office should you need further confirmation.

### Board of Directors

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm:

October 16

November 20

December 18

### Safety and Education Committee

Wednesdays at 7 pm:

October 9

November 13

December 11

### Trails Committee

Mondays at 7 pm:

October 21

November 25

### Recreation and Conservation Committee

Mondays, at 7:30 pm:

October 7

November 4

December 2

### Delegates

Island:

Saturday, November 16, 9-5

### Smoke Bluffs Committee

October 28

November 25