

CLOUDBURST

Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia Newsletter

June 1992

Member Services

AGM 1992 REPORT

Please join us in welcoming the FMCBC's new Board of Directors. They are: President: Beth Wark; Vice-President: Doug White; Past President: Suzanne Mazoret; Secretary: Joy Davidson; Treasurer: vacant; Directors: Leslie Bohm (North Shore Hikers), Margaret Ellis (British Columbia Mountaineering Club), Taylor Jackson (FMC Individual Member), Larry Lowden (Outsetters) and Simon Anderson and Regional Directors: Doug Perkins, (North Central), Judy Wigmore (Vancouver Island), Susan Knoerr (Kootenays) and Judy Needham (Lower Mainland).

On behalf of the membership, we thank outgoing Directors Len Dudley and Karin Rolles for their generous contributions to the FMCBC.

The following were adopted: Hut Policy; Mechanical Access Policy for Canada West Mountain School; Volunteer Recognition Policy; Fee increase of \$1 per year for three (3) years commencing January 1st, 1993; Annual Report (1991/1992 audited financial statements); Budget for 1992/1993.

The FMCBC and its clubs are hosting a new event called "Hike B.C.". This will be held May 15/16, 1993.

The first component of a member services survey was conducted at the AGM. Please be prepared to assist your Delegate in determining what services the FMCBC can provide for your club.



Left to right: Beth Wark, Leslie Bohm, Roger Freeman, Taylor Jackson, Suzanne Mazoret, Doug Perkins, Judy Needham, Larry Lowden, Doug White, Joy Davidson, Margaret Ellis, Judy Wigmore.

Granby River Wilderness Area

W.C.W.C. has made a proposal for saving this old growth area with its richly diverse biosphere. A trail along the Granby River (60 kms north of Grand Forks) takes you through majestic scenery and abundant flora and fauna. Call Bruce Sumner 765-5883 (fax 861-7074)

Thanks to all the great volunteers that helped the FMCBC at various functions:

To Don Ourom, P.Eng. for drawing the plans for the proposed new office and for help with the applications to the city.

The B.C. Great Outdoors Show -

Eileen & Colin Brown, Denise & John Campbell, Bev Cline, Cora-May Ennis, Erling Grenager, Ruth & Paul Guimond, Marg Hunter, Carol & Ian Monaghan, Vivian & Allen Sharpe, Valley Outdoor Association; Alice Chan, Dave Hammer, Sue McIntyre, Lois Parker, John Sloan, Richmond Outdoors Club; Ken Butler, Kathryn Cuming, *office staff*.

FMCBC Casino Fundraiser -

A hearty thank you to the following volunteers for braving the smoke-filled midnight hours and assisting the FMC in raising \$12,500.⁰⁰. They are: Jim Blackburn, Sev Heiberg, Suzanne & Gabriel Mazoret, Margaret O'Leary, Anders Ourom, Manrico Scremin, Sheena Stewart and Beth Wark.

Centennial Trails Trust

The aim of the Centennial Trails Trust is to extend the Centennial Trail so that it provides a continuous hiking trail from Victoria to Vancouver to the Alberta border and subsequently across Canada. Canadian Hostelling Association, BC Region (224-7177) supplies a leaflet which generally describes the trail from Vancouver to Keremeos. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Trust, call 731-9195.

Free meeting space available for

Community Groups! Meeting space is available for non-profit organizations in the Metrotown Centre and Eaton Centre malls. The meeting rooms are available free of charge on a first-come, first-serve basis during mall hours.

Metrotown Centre's Public Conference Room, Peg 438-2444.

Eaton Centre's Community Room, Christine 438-4700.

Bus-to-Trail Brochure

This project has been completed. It shows popular trail routes around Vancouver accessible by bus. Call the FMCBC office, 737-3053.

Mountaineering Books

Old-time maps and books available at Le Magazin, #110-332 Water St., Vancouver. Call Brendan Moss at 662-8171.

Events

Take a Hike!

Saturday, August 8, is Trails Day in Manning Provincial Park. Come and join a naturalist on one of the many trails in Manning Park and learn about the flora and fauna of this diverse park. There are four campgrounds to camp at and full lodge and restaurant facilities. For more information please contact: Michael Tilitzky, Square Bear Interpretation, #105 - 985 Jervis Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6E 2B7 or phone 687-4681.

Friends of Strathcona are sponsoring a symposium entitled:

"Wilderness - Where the wild things are."

This exploration of wilderness perceptions will be held: November 13-14-15, 1992, at Strathcona Park Lodge. Call 338-1944 for further information.

Rivers Day

September 27, 1992. Sponsored by the Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C. Call 737-3058 for more information.

Whistler Conference on adventure travel and eco-tourism. Sept. 20-23, 1992. Call (303) 649-9016 The Adventure Travel Society.

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: Beth Wark
VICE PRESIDENT: Doug White
TREASURER: vacant
SECRETARY: Joy Davidson
DIRECTORS: Simon Anderson, Leslie Bohm, Margaret Ellis, Taylor Jackson, Larry Lowden, Gerry Burch (Advisor)
REGIONAL DIRECTORS: Doug Perkins, Judy Wigmore, Susan Knoerr, Judy Needham.
Past President: Suzanne Mazoret
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Anders Ourum
MANAGER/MEMBER SERVICES: Sara Kammerzell
MANAGER/INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM: Brian Jones

COMMITTEES:

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION: Jay MacArthur and Roger Freeman
SAFETY AND EDUCATION: Ed Spat
TRAILS: John Otava and Blair Mitten
SMOKE BLUFFS: Jim Campbell

CLOUDBURST

Cloudburst is published quarterly by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia, 336-1367 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9
Phone: (604) 737-3053

Editor: Sara Kammerzell
Production: Kathryn Cuming,
Employment Plus Grant staff

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
September 1, 1992.

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



Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Housing
Hon. Robin Blencoe, Minister

Directors' Report

The last year has been a time of transition, consolidation and financial challenge. While membership has remained constant, increased expenses associated with the departure and hiring of the Executive Director, a poor winter season for the Canada West Mountain School due to weather and the recession, fewer (and less remunerative) projects to manage, and increased general expenses have caused us to incur a deficit this year. These difficulties were presented to the Delegates at the Annual General Meeting on June 20th. Active working committees produced a Hut Policy (Judy Needham, Judy Wigmore) and a revised Constitution and Bylaws (Beth Wark, Suzanne Mazoret, Len Dudley and Larry Lowden), both of which were adopted at the AGM. Delegates' and Directors' Handbooks were produced (Judy Needham and Sara Kammerzell).

Job creation projects have not been as significant part of our activities as in previous years. It is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain federal government grants for these projects, and funding for associated overhead expenses is leaner each year. Sara Kammerzell managed two office job creation projects for us, which provided the FMCBC with office support staff. We may not be able to continue the tradition of grant staff in the future. The Backcountry Leadership Training Program project will be reactivated this year, to complete and implement that program. Our trail building projects this year included continuation of construction in the Bra-lorne area, in combination with the Hurley Restoration Society, and with some support from Mountain Equipment Co-op. We also continued work in Belcarra Regional Park, in conjunction with GVRD Parks.

The current Section 25 project employs an individual who will explore fund-raising possibilities and strategies. In summer and autumn of 1991, Brian Jones managed an assistance guides' training program, and six individuals were provided with the training and experience necessary to take the program leading to qualification as an ACMG Assistant Summer Guide. They also assist in many ways with the operation of CWMS and the FMCBC, for example by cleaning new training crags at the Little Smoke Bluffs.

Executive Director's Report

As we had long feared, in early June we were told that the FMCBC's 1992-93 grant from the provincial government has been cut by 15%, from \$53,000 to \$44,370. Virtually all sport organizations funded by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Housing were similarly cut. This will create some problem for us, as the amount cut represents a much higher proportion of our unallocated, or discretionary, funding.

In addition, Sport B.C., our landlord, had its grant cut by 25%. Our rent, which in effect is subsidized by Sport B.C., will not increase this year, but many of the other services provided by Sport B.C. will no longer be available, and those remaining will cost more. It is also likely that Sport B.C., and its tenants (including possibly FMCBC), will move in spring 1993 when the lease ends.

Finally, we will be managing fewer job creation projects this year, due to federal government cuts. At most we may have five during the year, when previously we sometimes had as many as a dozen. Through these projects we provide useful services, such as trail building, staffing the office, and training instructors. We are also given some overhead costs as part of the budget for these projects. These are now very much reduced, to the point where we must in effect subsidize projects with money, as well as time and energy, if they are to proceed. Certainly they no longer add to our bottom line.

As a result of these developments, the FMCBC will likely be facing some difficult decisions over the next few months. We will need to consider our purpose and priorities in light of our changed circumstances. We have also hired Anne Der on a term position to work with the Board and me, to develop an effective fund-raising strategy. We welcome any suggestions that our members might have.

In the meantime, we are reducing costs wherever we can, although there is no immediate crisis. Our activities are continuing much as they have, although this may not be sustainable in the long term in all cases. Some effective planning and fund-raising should see us through what will likely be a challenging time for the FMCBC.

Need a Challenge?

Hikers and climbers enjoy a challenge. Clubs can meet this need by developing a list of climbs, hikes and peaks. Anyone completing all of them can be suitably recognized.

The Island Mountain Ramblers, as part of the club's 25th anniversary celebration in 1983, initiated two lifetime objectives for its members. The first consists of walking 16 routes on Vancouver Island, mostly mountain trails but including two shore walks. The climbing objective is to ascend 20 peaks, including the island's highest, The Golden Hinde.

These challenges are attracting new members to the club. The committee that selected the objectives, chaired by Bob Tustin, chose trails and peaks requiring at most the use of an ice axe or scrambling. Where a main summit is too technical, ascent of a subsidiary summit is sufficient. The committee selected a few objectives which are difficult to approach, for example Splendor Mountain on the uninhabited west coast which must be reached by boat from Gold River. One of the hikes involves walking the 40 kilometres along all of the beaches and headlands between Ucluelet and Tofino, including Long Beach.

Each year some of the hikes and climbs are included in the schedule, and more and more members are taking up the challenge. Members who can demonstrate completion of all 16 hikes or 20 climbs receive a suitable plaque. To date Doreen and John Cowlin have completed all of the hikes, but only David Rutledge of Courtney has completed all the climbs. Some are close in either category. On joining the Island Mountain Ramblers, you receive a list of the lifetime objectives. Other clubs may want to develop similar objectives for their areas, to challenge their members. The club's annual fee is \$10.00 for single membership and \$11.00 for family membership, plus the FMCBC fee, if not already paid to another club. Send the fee to The Island Mountain Ramblers, at P.O. Box 691, Nanaimo, B.C., V9R 5M2. The list of lifetime objectives will be included in the schedules of activities which are distributed in February and April or May.



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: Merna Richter 856-5666

Klister Outdoor Klub

301-7030 Hall Avenue,
Burnaby, B.C. V5E 3A9
Contact: Ann Gytenebek 433-2537
Don Williams 521-1482

N.V.R.C. Outdoor Club

#1104 - 444 Lonsdale Avenue
N. Vancouver, B.C. V7M 3H5
Contact: Lesley Chandler 985-8123

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 (UBC)

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: Margaret Dixon 272-2583
Alice Chan 940-3323

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

R.R. #2
Courtenay, B.C. V9N 5M9
Contact: Don Apps 338-5130
Ruth Masters 334-2270
Scott Larson 338-7377

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: Nicki Westarp 247-8868

Outdoor Club of Victoria

P.O. Box 5637, Station "B"
Victoria, B.C. V8R 6S4
Contact: Alan Warren 721-3088

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: Peter McIver 362-9513

Kamloops Outdoor Club

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

Canada West Mountain School 737-3053

We still have lots of space left on a selection of our summer courses!

Stein Valley Backpacking

July 18 - 26 (9days)
July 26 - Aug. 3 (9 days)

Strathcona Backpacking

Aug. 1 - 9 (10 days)

Navigation Courses

One day and overnight programs for Mountain Navigation

Beginner Rock Climbing

Every weekend through the summer (2 days)

Advanced Rock Climbing Courses

Learn to Lead (3 days)
Multi-pitch (4 days)
Movement on Rock (1 day)

Give us a call soon to find out more about our summer program. Remember, club members get **\$10.00 off all courses.**

Recreation and Conservation Committee

LIONS BAY

Gerry Burch, Doug White and Anders Ourom have now had two meetings with Lions Bay council to discuss the issues of access and parking for the Lions/Harvey/Brunswick trails. At both meetings we had a full and frank discussion. With the assistance of John Tisdale (Squamish recreation officer for the Forest Service) a number of options and alternatives have been identified and examined. By agreement, John will be examining several options in more detail. None of them are likely to entirely replace the existing parking area and trails, but they might present alternative starting points or new trails to spread out usage. The alternative parking areas depend on the goodwill of the Ministry of Highways, and so seem unlikely solutions. Construction of entirely new trails is likely to be costly and time consuming, even if feasible. Also, whether there is a new start to the existing trails, or entirely new trails, they would still traverse at least part of the Harvey Creek watershed but would to some extent 'decentralize' access.

We hope to have a final report on the different options from John by late June. It seems quite possible that the best (although perhaps not ideal) alternative will be a new parking area about a kilometre above the existing gate. Access to it would have to be well managed. However, given our dialogue with Lions Bay council we believe it is important to first make a full and fair examination of the alternatives. The process will take a little more time, but as we are now talking with the other party, and it has been an issue for some eight years, there is increased hope for a mutually acceptable solution.

LITTLE SMOKE BLUFFS

It appears that a long term solution to the parking problem at the Smoke Bluffs will be implemented soon. We were recently told that an agreement in principle with two private landowners was nearly concluded. By it, a substantial area at the north end of the Bluffs (near Crag X) would be made available for a parking lot. The negotiations and associated survey work were done by the District of Squamish, and the donors include Pacific Granistone and Pat Morgan. The remaining details include clearing, grading, installing a culvert, fencing, signage, a gate, and toilets. The FMCBC has al-

ready received a grant from Mountain Equipment Co-op for placement of toilets, and we will likely use some of the moneys accumulated in the Smoke Bluffs fund for the necessary improvements.

The longer term management issues still remain unresolved, although we hope a recreation user survey this summer will show just how large an impact rock climbing has on the economy of Squamish. This would in turn support establishment of the proposed park.

If you are a rock climber, keep your eyes open for changes in the parking situation - many people already park near Crag X, and most climbs only involve a moderate walk from there. Also, please be considerate of the neighbours. Finally, if you are accosted by someone doing a survey, take a minute to fill out - it's in all our interests.

STAWAMUS CHIEF

In 1989 the FMCBC commissioned a report, 'The Granite Monoliths of Squamish', which advocated creation of a provincial park centred on this landmark, which is of national significance for its scenic values, its hiking, and its rock-climbing. We renewed the suggestion at a meeting with the Minister of Parks in February, and are pleased to report that the Stawamus Chief and environs have now been added to the list of areas to be studied for park status. The exact area of the study area is not yet determined, but much of it is crown land already designated as a recreation reserve. There are some obstacles, including private land and some mineral (quarrying) claims, but we hope they can be resolved and a park created in the near future.

On a related note, an exploratory quarrying operation will be occurring about one kilometre east of the main summit of the Chief, just outside the likely boundaries of the study area and just off the Shannon Creek road. Its impacts are likely to be minimal, and it may never proceed further, but we are monitoring the situation closely and have outlined our concerns to the Ministry of Mines. It is just visible from the summit of the Squaw (but not the Chief), and we would appreciate hearing from anyone noticing any problems.

CYPRESS PROVINCIAL PARK

The planning process for Cypress Provincial Park has become rather

complex. Cypress Bowl Recreations (CBRL) submitted its 'Master Concept Plan' in late April, under the terms of its Park Use Permit. Essentially it presented only one option, that is extensive redevelopment of the existing operation, including new lifts, lodges, restaurants and parking lots. Their plan also included extension of the CBRL permit area to allow construction of a lift and runs on the west side of Mt. Hollyburn. B.C. Parks responded that CBRL's plan had not met the conditions that had been set for it, i.e. that it should include several options including one 'no-growth' option. Up to then CBRL's planning had been 'parallel tracked' with planning for the whole park, and both the CBRL plan and B.C. Parks own background document for the park master plan were to be presented to the public at a meeting on 6 May. Because CBRL's plan did not meet the conditions set for it, B.C. Parks cancelled the public meeting. However, CBRL went ahead with a public presentation of its plans on that date anyway. CBRL's plan and the supporting documents are substantial and thorough. The presentation on 6 May, which was well attended by the FMCBC, was a subtle and sophisticated promotion, and it is clear that CBRL is employing formidable resources.

A sub-committee of members of interested clubs of the FMCBC has been formed. Although on a brief review there appears to be some merit in some of CBRL's proposals, the FMCBC will in any event be opposing any development on Hollyburn, and has gone on the record to that effect in a letter to the editor of the North Shore News. Our plan is to prepare a submission to the park master planning process which in part addresses the CBRL plan but which also generally addresses the various issues, challenges and opportunities facing the park. It is important that members express their views on these proposals to the Hon. John Cashore, Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks, Parliament Bldg., Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

GARIBALDI LAKE AVIATION

The FMCBC continues to work on this somewhat difficult issue. B.C. Parks has decided to continue with the current voluntary guidelines (no landings on Garibaldi Lake) for 1992. Apparently aircraft do still occasionally land on the lake, especially at the east end. It seems

FMCBC Meetings

that the B.C. Aviation Council is an advisory and lobbying body, much like the FMCBC, and so it has no direct control over its member's activities. Also, many fliers are not members of the Council. The FMCBC's policy is to oppose aircraft use and landing in this part of Garibaldi Park. However, we recognize historical floatplane use of the lake. Accordingly, we can accept the current guidelines for the time being, as during the summer of 1992 B.C. Parks will be conducting a survey of park users to determine whether aircraft use and landings in the Park, particularly at Garibaldi Lake, are a concern. Depending on the results of the survey, and the extent of any aircraft-related concerns it reveals, an appropriate management strategy would be developed. B.C. Parks believes it has the legal power to prohibit landings on the lake, and perhaps regulate overflights. The FMCBC has helped in development of the survey, and has met with both B.C. Parks and the Aviation Council several times. We encourage anyone visiting Garibaldi Lake or vicinity this summer to complete the survey, especially if you are affected by aircraft use during your visit.

PARKING AND BREAK-INS

Break-ins and thefts from vehicles at trailheads have become an epidemic throughout B.C., particularly in the Squamish-Whistler corridor. The RCMP has limited resources for patrolling remote trailheads, although some thieves have been caught. Neither do the Ministries of Forests and of Parks have the resources. A proposal to gate the Black Tusk parking lot, charge a parking fee, and provide an attendant, was turned down as it is in a Civil Defence Zone - there were 165 reported break-ins there in 1991, at the total cost of \$300,000. So don't leave any valuables in your car, and keep your eyes open for suspicious goings on.

Parks and Wilderness for the 90's

On May 6, the government announced development of a Protected Areas Strategy for B.C. The strategy, to be developed by autumn 1992, will coordinate and integrate all provincial protected area processes and objectives.

Over the next eight years, almost 200 areas will be studied for possible designation as parks or wilderness.

The Ministries of Forests and of Parks will write terms of references for the studies, while the Commission on Resources and the Environment will establish standards and procedures for park and wilderness planning.

The FMCBC made several proposals which will be studied. It is likely we will be asked to participate in those study groups, and perhaps others. A map that shows all the study areas is available from all Forest Service or Parks offices or call 1-800-663-7687. If you have a special interest in any area, or would like to participate in a study group, please contact Jay MacArthur at 987-1232.

Here is a list of some mountain areas that will be studied:

Decide by 1993 -

Khutzymateen - to be definitely protected; Seven Sisters - near Smithers; Betty Wendle / Cariboo River - between Wells Gray and Bowron Lakes Parks; Spruce Lake - an FMCBC proposal; Callaghan Lake - near Whistler; Middle Stein - a long term FMCBC proposal; Tetrahedron Plateau - Sechelt; Pinecone Lake / Burke Mountain - an FMCBC proposal.

Decide by 1995 -

Tatshenshini River; Chutine Lake - Stikine; Pine Pass / Mt. Lemoray; Kakwa Addition; Kitlope; Mt. Waddington / Klinaklini River; Ape Lake / Monarch Glacier; Niut Range; Chilko Lake - an FMCBC proposal; South Chilcotin; Tenquille Lake; Bishop Glacier - south of Chilko Lake; Upper Lillooet River - an FMCBC proposal; Chehalis area; Radium Lake - an FMCBC proposal near Chilliwack; Walbran.

Decide by 2000 -

Mt. Waddington; Premier Range; Clemenceau Glacier; Garibaldi Park additions; Lizzie Lake; Mt. Sir Sandford; Mt. Assiniboine additions; Golden Ears additions; Mt. Cheam.

Board of Directors

Wednesdays at 7 pm:

July 15

Aug. 19

Sat. Sept. 19

Oct. 21

Safety and Education Committee

Wednesdays at 7 pm:

July 8

Aug. 12

Sept. 9

Oct. 14

Trails Committee

Mondays at 7 pm:

July/Aug. out of session

Sept. 14

Recreation and Conservation Committee

Mondays, at 7:30 pm:

July/August out of session

Sept. 14

Oct. 5

Nov. 2

Delegates

Island: Sat., Nov. 21

Lower Mainland: Sept. 9

Smoke Bluffs Committee

Monday at 6:30

July 27

Aug. 24

Sept. 28

Oct. 26

**FMCBC
Annual
Party!
October 17,
1992**

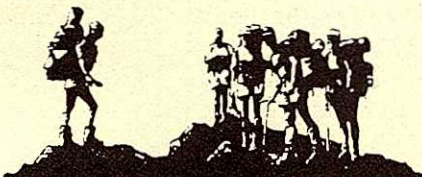
SHANNONS'
BED AND BREAKFAST
Squamish, B.C.



40 Min. from Whistler

Children Welcome

892-3740



Trails Committee *by Louise Irwin*

Trails committee members have been busy attending meetings around the Lower Mainland to gain information on the numerous developments which may affect hiking trails.

Elk Mountain - Chilliwack Forest District will put up for tender two woodlot licences above and below the road. The first of three public information meetings on their proposal held at Ryder Lake on March 7th was attended by club members from Vancouver and Chilliwack. They were generally satisfied that the plans presented will probably not interfere excessively with the current trail. Woodlot Licence # 083 is below the road, and # 084 will leave a strip unlogged on each side of the trail. A principal concern was that cutblocks 19, 20 and 21 above the trail at the edge of the sub-alpine area could cause problems, but these may be removed from the plans. Logging would take place over a 70 year rotation period at about 1.4 hectares per year. Two additional public meetings will be held before the final plans are approved by the Forest Service.

Greater Vancouver Regional District - Workshops have been held concerning plans for regional trails, green zones, etc. Committee members have attended and reported on GVRD discussions of trails around the North Vancouver coast and Indian Arm, Widgeon Creek, etc. A regional trails network has high priority. Charles Clapham presented the Burnaby meeting with a map of 400 km of trails currently in use in the GVRD region, from Burnaby to Tsawwassen.

Baden Powell Trail - Great news from Cypress Provincial Park! Parks has accepted our request to allow the Baden Powell Trail from Alpine parking lot to the Hollyburn Trail to be adopted. Many thanks to the Hollyburn Trekkers who are willing to adopt this trail. With funding assistance from Taiga, the Federation might also be able to help with some needed bridge construction as well. The District of North Vancouver has approved \$40,000 for upgrading and maintenance work on the Baden Powell Trail.

Trail Maintenance - Many trails are being put back into shape or being improved by the Forest Service, B.C. Parks, Adopt-A-Trail participants and

volunteers. Thanks to all.

Bus to Hiking Trails Brochure - This brochure describes seven areas/trails in the lower mainland and how to access them by bus. We hope it will be printed and available for distribution by summer. B.C. Transit will assist us with the printing of the brochure. Mary Macaree, Uta Aarj and Gabriel Mazoret also contributed to this project.

Urban Trail Networks - The Municipality of Burnaby has approved a network of 75 kms of trails or walking paths. Langley Township is also interested in developing a trail system as well and is inviting public participation (Gordon Lovegrove, 533-6082).

Workshops: Early Warning - "Power Saw Safety" and "Trail Building/Maintenance" workshops are being planned by the Trails Committee. Details to follow later. Please register your interest with Anders at the FMCBC office.

New Co-Chairperson - John Otava has been enthusiastically nominated by the Trails Committee to replace Gabriel Mazoret as Co-Chair. Gabriel, who has ably lead the Trails Committee over the last four years, is stepping down but will continue to participate on individual projects for the Committee. Blair Mitten's term as Co-Chair continues for another year. He is doing a great job and the committee's good work is continuing.

Logging Plans - Many logging plans are being created and submitted for approval. However, with the cooperation of the Recreation and Conservation Committee, we are monitoring plans and responding to them as best we can. Many thanks to the volunteers who let us know when these plans are inappropriate and who assist us.

HELPI - The Trails Committee needs a new member able to be Zone Coordinator for Zone "E" (from Pitt Lake to the west boundary of Manning Park). If you can help, please phone Blair Mitten at 922-0215.

A-A-T news - The Shell Environment Fund has been used to print 2000 A-A-T brochures, also for mailing of some of those, and trail signs production. It has

also paid for advertisements in local papers regarding A-A-T week April 6-11. This activity has resulted in some new trail adoptions, but many more are needed. Thanks to the support of the Shell Environment Fund, signs have now been prepared to indicate a trail is available for adoption. These signs will start to appear at trailheads next month. It is hoped that groups who travel a particular trail regularly will see the notice and be prompted to think about adopting the trail. Important trails in the lower mainland which have not yet been adopted are: Grouse via BCMC hut, Lynn Loop, Lynn Peak, Alouette Mountain, Weaver Creek, Skagit River, Eaton Lake, Greendrop Lake, Cheam, Radium Lake, Mt. Outram, Silverdaisy, Rainbow Lake, Joffre Lakes, Blowdown Creek. It is planned that as trails are adopted, the signs will be moved to other locations to gradually increase the amount of adoptions. The Trails Committee would welcome suggestions from other parts of the province for priority trails for adoption in their area.

Trail Notes

Galiano Island - Members are warned that significant changes have taken place in the last year or so since MacMillan Bloedel started selling off its Galiano holdings. Comprising more than half of the island, much of the land has been bought by small land owners, most of whom are denying access to the old routes to Mounts Galiano and Sutil. Description #27 for Galiano Island in 103 Hikes, for instance, is no longer valid. Fortunately for outdoors people the Galiano Club has managed to raise funds to buy some land for nature conservancies and, as part of its plans for administering these, is in the process of developing a designated trail to the Galiano summit viewpoint which should be ready later in the summer. For up-to-date information on the Mt. Galiano and Bluffs areas write 'The Galiano Club', Box 219, Galiano, B.C. V0N 1P0, or phone Debra Holmes (President) at 539-2803. In addition, the Galiano Conservancy Association (Pres. Ken Hardy) has taken responsibility for the Mt. Sutil area and can be reached at 539-2424 (office) or 539-5778 (home).



Club Feature - Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club

by Dave King

When asked about Prince George, most 'Vancouverites' think of a town far away in the frozen north dominated by sawmills, pulp mills and surrounded by a sea of spruce and pine. In reality Prince George is a lot more. It is a vibrant community with dozens of active community organizations and clubs including the Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club. The hiking club was started in 1974 by a few urbanites who had moved to this relatively raw city and wanted an outdoor outlet for their energies. The club was named after the territory of New Caledonia as the Interior was known prior to B.C. becoming a province in 1871. From the beginning, prime objectives were the promotion of hiking and an appreciation of the outdoors. It has maintained close ties to the Prince George Naturalist Club and Sons of Norway (X-C) Ski Club.

Like all clubs it began small with monthly trips, but within 3 or 4 years was holding day hikes, backpacking trips and easy mountaineering trips every week from May 1st to late October. Mountains in all directions, from Jasper in the east to Smithers in the west to Pine Pass in the north were explored. Developing a guidebook became an early project. The guidebook began as a few loose pages but demand led to the publishing of a booklet which the club continues to upgrade annually and sell through local stores. The guidebook covers the northern Cariboo Mountains, the McGregor Ranges and Rockies to the SE, E and N along with a few isolated mountains and trails to the west. It includes descriptions of about 40 trails and walks with maps for most. In the beginning, most existing trails were old horse trails developed by hunters, or were Forest Service fire lookout trails. Thus the club quickly got into trail construction, gradually building about 20 trails which it continues to maintain. All are in the trail guide and some such as those to Fang, Torpy, Caledonia, Viking, Sugarbowl and Erg Mountains are heavily used by the public. The club has also been fortunate to have had the assistance of the Ministry of Forests and forest industry, especially Northwood Pulp and Timber, in trail construction and maintenance. They are responsible for the Raven Lake - Grizzly Den area in the north Cariboo which is not only used extensively in summer, but is also a favourite backcountry ski area.

Early in the club's history, the club got involved in conservation and wilderness-type issues such as access, logging and parks, and also in conflicts with other outdoor users such as snowmobilers and ATV users. Recognizing we were not alone and that these issues and concerns were provincial in scope, the club joined the Federation of Mountain Clubs. It continues to be a strong supporter of the Federation and had the first Regional Director outside of the Lower Mainland / coastal area.

As time has gone by the club has become more and more involved in land use type issues. It made a successful presentation to the Parks Branch commission hearings for the establishment of the Kakwa Park Recreation Area and has participated in three provincial park master plans. The club has also made presentations to the Forest commission hearings, the Parks/wilderness hearings and on several issues more local in nature. One of our members has played an active role in the development of the commercial backcountry policy by Lands Branch. For the past 8 months we have been very involved in a Local Resource Use Plan for the Herrick Creek watershed (190,000 km² tributary of the McGregor River). It is becoming difficult to respond to all of the land use issues and resource planning initiatives and it is clear that priorities will have to be set. Nonetheless, it is far better to be asked by government for input into land and resource planning and use, unlike the old days when plans, policies and projects were developed without consultation and suddenly one found a new road (logging or something else) that was impacting or destroying a trail, a wilderness gem or otherwise occurring in an insensitive manner.

The club is looking forward to a healthy future. Anyone visiting Prince George is very welcome to join in on a trip. Membership is not required but is \$12 for those wanting to receive newsletters and take part in club social activities such as slide shows and the Christmas party. For information write to Box 26, Prince George, V2L 4R9; or phone 564-8887.



Canada West Mountain School

Summer. A time for everyone to get out of town, enjoy the weather and go into the hills with friends. Even the dedicated skiers amongst us admit that this is a good time for the mountains as long as there is snow somewhere.

This is also the busiest time of year at CWMS, as we keep up with running courses, customizing programs for groups and planning for next year. This summer we have been focusing our energy towards developing the FMCBC's Mountain School into one of Western Canada's premier schools for mountain skills. An ongoing objective that is fast becoming a necessity has been to turn our school into a professionally run, provincially recognised institution for teaching mountain related skills. This year we are one step closer, as more and more outside organizations approach us to conduct such courses as beginner rock, rock rescue and leadership training programs. Our instructors are among the most qualified and experienced on the coast, adding a high degree of safety and professionalism to the quality of our programs.

Still, the roots of Canada West Mountain School are firmly embedded in the history of both the FMCBC and its member clubs. This aspect of the school has not changed, as we recognise the importance of working with the people representing the majority of mountain users in our part of the country. The progression of our school from volunteer based to professionally run can only benefit the members of the FMCBC through increased service, higher standards, up-to-date techniques and an ability to offer higher end courses. Communication with clubs will allow us to further offer courses suiting your needs, either on a custom basis or as scheduled programs.

Your support of the Mountain School is critical, as this is *your* school teaching people you may be climbing or hiking with. Refer people to CWMS if you think they could benefit from some skills upgrading - or take a look at the courses to see if there might be one for you. Remember, education is the best way to avoid accidents!



COMMERCIAL BACKCOUNTRY RECREATION POLICY - AN UPDATE

BACKGROUND

BC Lands' Commercial Backcountry Recreation policy is moving steadily towards closure. Early this year, policy writers incorporated the results of the Fall 1991 Kelowna workshop into a draft White Paper for public discussion. To check how well this captured the mood of that workshop, a Focus Group met on April 11th in Richmond for a day long review of the draft. Nine of us were present from the original 35, split about evenly between public and commercial interests; plus staff and facilitators. Surprisingly, this small group included representatives of two large heli-skiing operators. I wondered what kind of a message this gave since heliskiing is specifically excluded from the new policy.

Despite this anomaly, the day went well, and there was good consensus that the policy writers had captured the essence of Kelowna. Most of the issues of concern to the FMCBC, including the key public access question, had been addressed. There remain two principal areas of concern:

ONE POLICY

Our position on the separate heli-ski policy was well stated by Anders Ourom in his 'Vancouver Sun' letter of April 22nd: "Heli-skiing licensees use a surprising, and growing, proportion of that land. There is a separate policy governing heli-skiing, but in the interests of consistency, we hope that it will be assimilated by the new policy... The new policy should effectively address the growing need for accessible areas which are free from commercial (especially mechanized) recreation, and if provincial parks and wildernesses are included in those areas, so much the better."

GRANDFATHERING VERSUS COMPETITIVE PROCESS

Second, the question of what to do about existing untenured commercial operators. Two options have been proposed: One is to grant 'grandfathering' rights to untenured operators who can demonstrate historic use during the previous five years. The other is a full competitive process. The stakes are high: The heli-skiing operators may seek heli-hiking tenure, and the guide outfitters

may seek tenure on a wide range of commercial recreation activities within their traditional territories. The present leaning seems to be towards grandfathering despite the hard questions this may present.

Heli-hiking operators should require a smaller area for their activities than the present winter skiing range. And they could avoid the more readily (road) accessible front ranges. But how much of the mountain backcountry should be allocated to this type of mechanized use? Helicopters would be less objectionable if they were not simply ferrying tourists up and down to a scenic site. Better that they are used to move people to and from the start and end of a day or longer hiking trip on selected days of the week. In the case of the Mt. Robson dispute (Northern Perspective, Cloudburst, July 1990) BC Parks' resolution was to allow helicopter access on Mondays and Fridays only. In talking with the operators represented at Richmond, some of them have a vision of helicopters providing an alternative to the ubiquitous cable lifts found throughout the European Alps. I hope we don't lose sight of what it is that makes British Columbia special, and why the Europeans and others are seeking out the BC experience.

Some operators are committed to providing year round employment as part of their license of occupation. Thus, for a heli-skiing operator, compliance may have included untenured heli-hiking with the tacit approval of the licensing agency. Therein lies BC Lands' dilemma in looking at grandfathering. Alternatively, some operators have provided additional employment through other imaginative ideas. These have included landscape and selective forest harvesting of adjoining valleys which might otherwise have been clear-cut and have visually impacted the recreational experience. Another is the utilization of government grants in the construction of public recreation trails, much as we do in the FMCBC.

What about the guide outfitters? Are they the best suited to run guided hiking or nature tours? Are they correct when they say that only by the layering of multiple tenures in a given area will guides be able to make a living?

CONCLUSION

It is our firm conviction that there

should be only one Commercial Backcountry Recreation policy, and that it should contain all the safeguards discussed in Kelowna. Only by following a full competitive process can we be sure that proposals are subject to the public scrutiny necessary to protect the public interest. Existing untenured operators already have a substantial natural advantage obtained through their experience on the ground. And those others who have waited for the new policy will be treated equitably.

Following the Focus Group meeting, the revised White Paper was to go to the Cabinet Committee for Sustainable Development, and is planned for public release in June. We recommend to each of our 4000 members that you obtain a copy of the White Paper from BC Lands, and take the time to comment on it. This is your final opportunity for input before the policy is published this Fall. Good or bad, it will have far reaching consequences for the future of our mountain backcountry.

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