
CLOUDBURST

Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia Magazine

December 1993

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Volume 1 Number 4

CLOUSBURST

Articles: We welcome articles which inform our readers about mountain conservation /recreation issues or activities in B.C. We request regular coverage of current issues from our clubs for each region: Kootenays, Vancouver Island, and Northern BC.

Advertising: The FMCBC invites advertising or classified advertising that would be useful to our members. Please contact the Editor for a rate sheet.

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FMCBC

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) is the official sport-governing body for mountaineering in BC, representing the interests of hiking, climbing and outdoor clubs in the province. The FMCBC is a non-profit organization addressing mountain related issues, promoting safety and education through courses of instruction, and constructing and maintaining hiking trails throughout BC.

Membership in the FMCBC is open to any individual or group interested in non-mechanized outdoor activities and conservation concerns. Those interested in joining this non-profit organization have two options:

Club membership: Please contact the office to receive a free list of clubs that belong to the FMCBC.

Individual Membership: Call the office at 737-3053 (Vancouver) for a membership application form or send \$25 with your name and address to 336-1367 W. Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9

In This Issue...

FMBC Meeting Dates	1
Yew Lake Wheelchair Accessible Trail	2
Protected Areas Strategy - Coast Mtns	3
Avalanche Safety	4
Executive Director's Report	5
Donations	6
Comox District Mountaineering Club	7
Coquihalla Access Update	8
Bulletin	9
Who do you call?	10
Regional Reports	11-12
Trails Update	13
Canada West Mountain School	14
Island Insights	15
Thank Yous	17
Recreation and Conservation	18

FMCBC Meetings

Recreation and Conservation Committee: Jan 24/94, Feb. 21

Safety and Education Committee: Dec. 8/93, Jan. 12/94, Feb. 9, Mar. 9, Apr. 13, May 11, June 8

Trails Committee: Dec. 6/93, Jan. 17/94, Feb. 28, Apr. 4, May 9, June 13

Board of Directors: Dec. 4/93, Jan. 19/94, Feb. 16, Sat. March 19, Apr. 20, May 18, Sat. June 18 (AGM)

*** Safety and Education and Trails Committees meet in Room 201, Board of Directors meet in Room 106 at the Sports B.C. Building, 1367 W. Broadway, Vancouver. For more information about Recreation and Conservation meetings, contact the FMCBC office at 737-3053.

Yew Lake Wheelchair Accessible Trail

The "freedom of the hills" that forms such an important part of many of our lives is not so easily taken for granted by people with disabilities, whose access to the mountains is rarely if ever considered by trail builders and park planners.

The Yew Lake trail in the sub-alpine forests of Cypress Provincial Park is now an exception, thanks to the efforts of the FMCBC, many volunteers, and nine other organizations in an unusual trail building project.

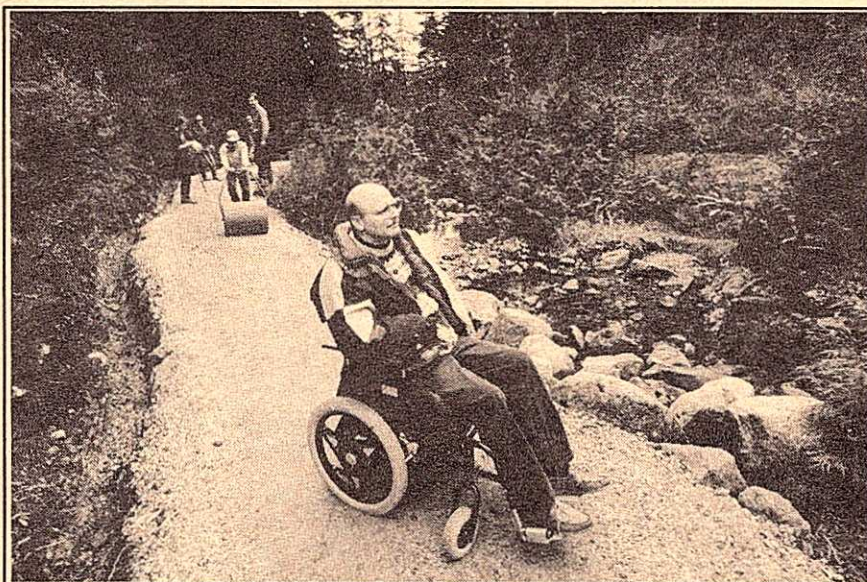
A gradual grade and a solid base are necessary for wheelchair accessibility, as well as enough width to accommodate passing and turning around. At Yew Lake, from 4 to 12 inches of gravel was laid on the trail bed, and ditches and drainage systems needed to be improved. Future work on the trail will consider the

addition of hand rails and braille markers for people with visual impairments.

Apart from the many volunteers involved in setting up and running the project, the FMCBC would

like to thank the following organizations for their support:

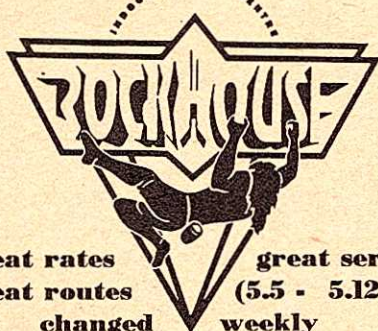
- Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks
- Employment and Immigration Canada - Canada Jobs Strategy
- B.C. Sport and Fitness Council for the Disabled
- Mountain Equipment Co-op
- VanCity Credit Union



John Neumann, of the North Shore Disability Resource Centre testing the trail Photo: Vancouever Sun

- Weldwood of Canada
- Ocean Construction Supplies
- Cypress Bowl Recreations
- Friends of Cypress Provincial Park

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Protected Areas Strategy - Coast Mountains

by Randy Stoltmann

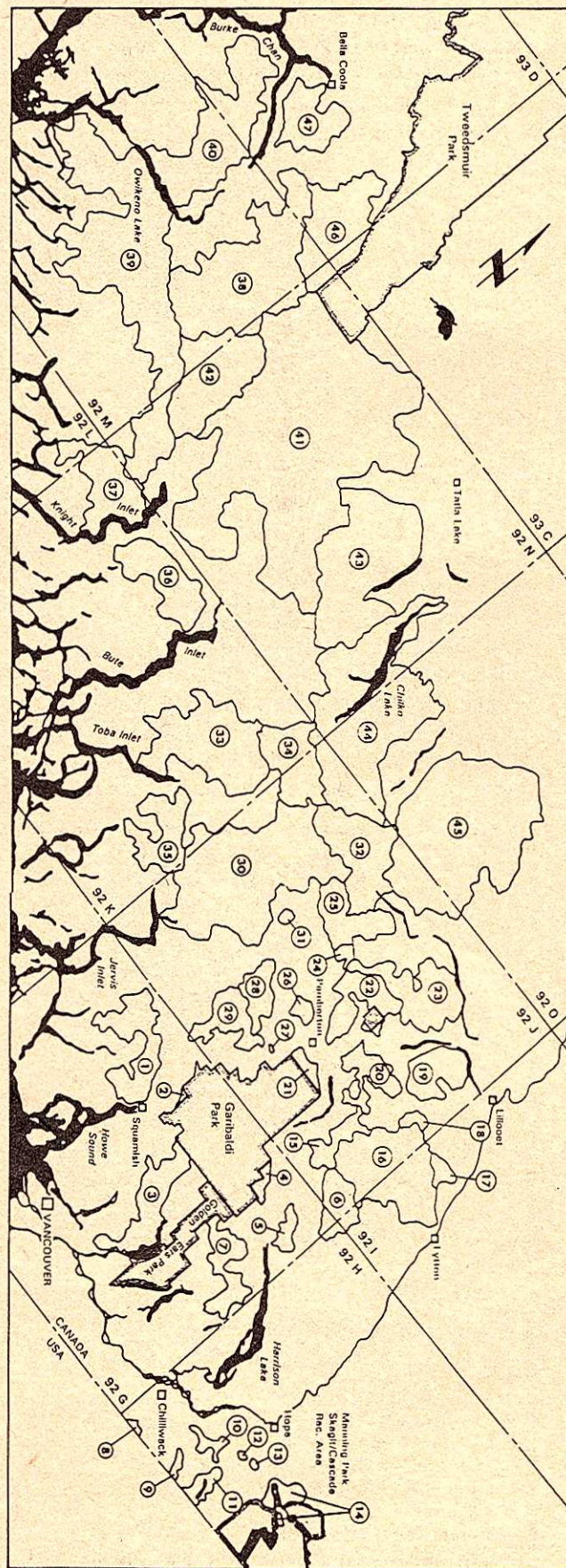
A project for the FMCBC identified, mapped and evaluated 47 proposed protected areas in the Coast Mountains between the Canada/USA boundary and the Bella Coola Valley (Mainland Region). These areas vary in size from small areas in the Chilliwack and Squamish/Pemberton areas to the 562,000 hectare Mt. Waddington/Klinaklini/Homathko wilderness area.

The completed report, including detailed evaluations of conservation, backcountry recreation and wilderness values for each area, along with a set of maps at 1:250,000 scale, will be submitted to the provincial government's Protected Areas Strategy (PAS). Before next spring, the PAS will decide which areas will become approved study areas for the Mainland Region.

Only approved study areas will be further examined as potential protected areas. It is very important that backcountry recreationists make their views known to government now. See p.18 for addresses and phone numbers.

Only approved study areas will be covered by development deferrals. All other areas will be subject to "business as usual," which means activities like road building, logging, mineral exploration or applications for commercial use will continue. The accompanying map shows proposed protected areas identified in the FMCBC study. Areas highlighted in bold type are either priority areas where imminent development could seriously compromise wilderness and backcountry recreation values, or very important areas for wilderness conservation regardless of current development plans. The full 100 page report, titled **Proposed Protected Areas in the Coast Mountains, Lower Mainland to Bella Coola**, is available from the FMCBC office for a fee covering printing and postage costs. Call 737-3053 for a copy.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Tantalus/Tzoonie | 25. Lillooet-Bridge Divide |
| 2. Cheekye River Headwaters | 26. Miller Creek/Ipsoot |
| 3. Pinecone Lake/Burke Mountain | 27. Cougar Mountain |
| 4. Glacier/Fire Lakes | 28. Upper Soo River Watershed |
| 5. Douglas Creek Watershed | 29. Squamish-Cheakamus Divide |
| 6. Mehatl Creek Watershed | 30. Clendenning/Elaho/Upper Lillooet |
| 7. Tretheway/Chehalis Peaks | 31. Overseer Mountain |
| 8. Liumchen Lake | 32. Upper Bridge River Watershed |
| 9. Pierce Lake/Mount Slesse | 33. Filer/Tahumming/Icewall |
| 10. Cheam Range/Lucky Four Group | 34. Upper Bishop River Watershed |
| 11. Chilliwack/Radium/Greendrop | 35. Powell Divide |
| 12. Swanee Lake | 36. Stafford/Bear Rivers |
| 13. Eaton Lake | 37. Ahta/Kakweiken/Kwalate/Ahnuhati |
| 14. Cascade/Skagit Addition | 38. Machmell/Sheemahant |
| 15. Lizzie Alpine | 39. Kingcome/Smokehouse/Owiken |
| 16. Stein Watershed | 40. Ickna/Clyak/Bentnck Spire |
| 17. Siwhe Creek | 41. Waddington/Klinaklini/Homathko |
| 18. Upper Gott Creek | 42. Ha-iltzuk Icefield |
| 19. Northern Cayoosh Range | 43. Niut Range/Nosetuko River |
| 20. Southern Cayoosh Range/Joffre Group | 44. Chilko Lake |
| 21. Garibaldi North Addition | 45. Southern Chilcotin Mountains |
| 22. Tenquille/Owl/Sockeye | 46. Monarch Icefield/Upper Talchako River |
| 23. Cadwallader/Bendor Ranges | 47. Smitley River/Big Snow Mountain |
| 24. Railroad Pass | |



Avalanche Safety

by Brian Jones

Getting ready to head into the hills this winter? Every year more and more people take up backcountry skiing as an outdoor activity. While this may seem great for us mountain minded folks, it also means that increasing numbers of people are venturing into avalanche terrain with little or no understanding of avalanche safety. Though the best remedy for this is education coupled with experience, a few timely tips at the beginning of the season will help us all to ski safe this winter.

The following are some of the basics that are taught on avalanche safety courses, and while they **do not replace a proper course in avalanche safety**, they are worth remembering when you head for the hills this winter.

Preparation:

A little bit of pre-planning will help a lot when you're at the top of a slope wondering whether or not to ski it. Don't forget weather forecasts and history, local conditions, route planning, the CAA Avalanche Information Bulletin (1-800-667-1105), equipment checks and, of course, education.

Recognition and avoidance:

Learning to recognise avalanche terrain (and avoid it!) is an essential skill for winter travellers, and is emphasised at all levels of avalanche safety education. Being able to safely choose a route that avoids hazardous areas often means the difference between a great day of skiing and turning back (or worse!). The bottom line is any snow covered slope steeper than 25 degrees is capable of avalanching. In addition, gentle or flat terrain is often overrun by avalanches from steeper terrain above.

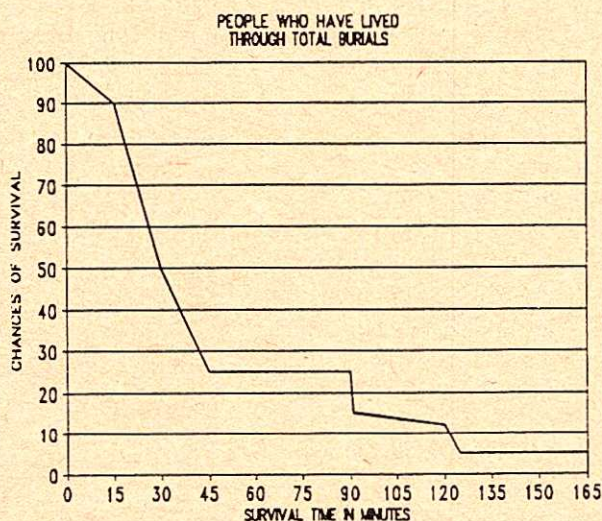
Snowpack assessment:

Every skier will want to ski 25 degree or steeper slopes at some time, but when are they safe? You must be able to assess the stability of the snow you are skiing

in, or you're back to the "relying on luck" stage! If you choose to ski in avalanche terrain at any time, ask "what is my decision based on"? Your answer should come from a careful analysis of data that you have gathered regarding factors such as: weather, snowpack structure, terrain and current conditions. If it doesn't, you probably shouldn't be there. Stability assessment is a very complex subject and can only be learned through a combination of courses, books, experience and instruction.

Chances of Surviving a Burial

submitted by J. Tindle
Avalanche Forecaster, Whistler, B.C.



This Probability of Survival graph was compiled from avalanche accidents in Switzerland between 1981 and 1989. The data consist of 332 burials. The previous IKAR statistic was a 64% chance of survival after 15 minutes burial time.

Reprinted from the Canadian Avalanche Association Newsletter

Travel techniques:

How you travel in the mountains has a huge impact on your safety margin. Observe basic travel precautions. Know your fellow skiers' abilities and objectives. Be sure that you are always in direct communication with all members of your group. Don't overestimate your abilities, and encourage everyone's input when making decisions, especially regarding route-finding and track setting. These are common sense suggestions, yet all too often they are forgotten, leading to accidents that could be avoided.

Education:

Take a course in avalanche safety. This is your best route to safe travel in the winter, and will start

you off on the right track. If you've already taken a course, don't pretend that your education in avalanche safety has ended, because it never will. Continue searching out more experienced people to ski with, read updated materials, attend seminars and take more advanced courses. Before you reach for the backcountry gear and head out this winter, keep in mind that the "trial and error" process of learning doesn't work too well with avalanche safety!

Avalanche Safety courses for all levels are offered through Canada West Mountain School. Discounts are available for club members. Call 737-3053

Executive Director's Report

by Anders Ourom

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. was founded in 1971 by outdoor clubs which had common interests in mountain access, mountain conservation, trail building and maintenance, and mountain safety. Our Mission Statement reads: "Committed to protecting the mountain wilderness and enhancing the quality of B.C.'s mountain recreation experience." This dual interest in mountain recreation and mountain conservation is unique to the FMCBC. Our members and their interests are diverse, and they are spread across a large province. However, they all share one thing: a love for mountains and mountain recreation.

There are currently two major land use planning initiatives in B.C., the Protected Areas Strategy and the Commission on Resources and Environment. These processes are complicated, time consuming, and sometimes frustrating. However, they will finally determine what mountain areas in B.C. are protected. The FMCBC is heavily involved in both processes. It takes a lot of effort, but we can't afford not to be involved.

There is no shortage of current challenges. We work on the protection and management of existing parks, and sometimes help to create new ones. Over the years, the FMCBC has been active in land use planning issues and processes of all kinds, ranging from the small (Cypress Provincial Park) to the very broad (Stein, Southern Chilcotins, Strathcona Park, Herrick Creek). Our involvement is constructive and effective, but often less than dramatic.

Most mountain areas in BC are public land, and open to all, however access issues are of growing importance. Private owners sometimes restrict access, and parking areas, trails and trailheads are frequently affected by development. There is also growing competition for the use of public lands. The FMCBC has had notable success in working on these issues. Some examples include our work at the Little Smoke Bluffs; monitoring helicopter and snowmobile use in the backcountry; and continuing efforts to ensure trail access at Lions Bay. Access will be a key issue for hikers and climbers during the 1990s, and only the FMCBC represents you.

Through job creation projects, we have also built many trails, including the new Yew Lake wheelchair accessible trail in Cypress Provincial Park. Entirely with volunteer help, we operate a very successful Adopt-a-Trail program, which coordinates trail maintainers with land managers from B.C. Parks and the Ministry of Forests. Our Trails Committee also works hard to protect existing trails.

We are responding to a changing funding environment with several initiatives, including a major membership promotion campaign. Perhaps 10% of those who

benefit from our work are FMCBC members, and we want to increase this proportion. The more members we have, the stronger our voice in land use planning decisions. Increased numbers also give us more financial stability - right now only 15% of our budget is membership fees.

Partnerships are also becoming very important to the FMCBC. Taiga Works sponsored the very successful Hike BC Days event, and Mountain Equipment Co-op has supported many projects over the years. The Yew Lake trail project alone involved partnerships with eight other organizations! We are looking at other possibilities; as always, we have to assess the investment against the risks and the expected return.

The FMCBC would like to do more, and do it more effectively, but sometimes has difficulty meeting the growing challenges with diminishing resources. In this issue of Cloudburst, we are for the first time appealing directly to our members for their support. Any donation over \$20 will receive an official receipt for tax purposes. Thank you for your support!

Club Liability Insurance Update

This thorny subject is still not finally resolved. We have received a quote from Sports B.C. Insurance which would exclude any form of technical climbing and cycling. We are awaiting a quote from our agent for a plan that would be much more inclusive. Details will be circulated to all clubs as soon as we have them.

Stawamus Chief

Through the efforts of the FMCBC, the Chief was added to the list of areas to be studied for protected status. We have been on the study team for the last year and a half. On October 23, 1993, the study team recommended that this outstanding recreation area be protected. After many years of lobbying - a success!

Squamish River Road

In October a club trip to Mt. Tricouni ran into an unusual obstacle. While driving up the Squamish valley road, the hikers were stopped by a resident who claimed that the road crossed his land and that they would have to pay a "toll" to continue. They went elsewhere. The FMCBC immediately wrote to the Squamish Forest District office to object to our members being denied access to a public forest road. With our help, the matter was also covered in the Vancouver Sun. On November 8th, we were notified by the Squamish Forest District that outstanding issues between it and the landowner were resolved, and the right of public access restored.

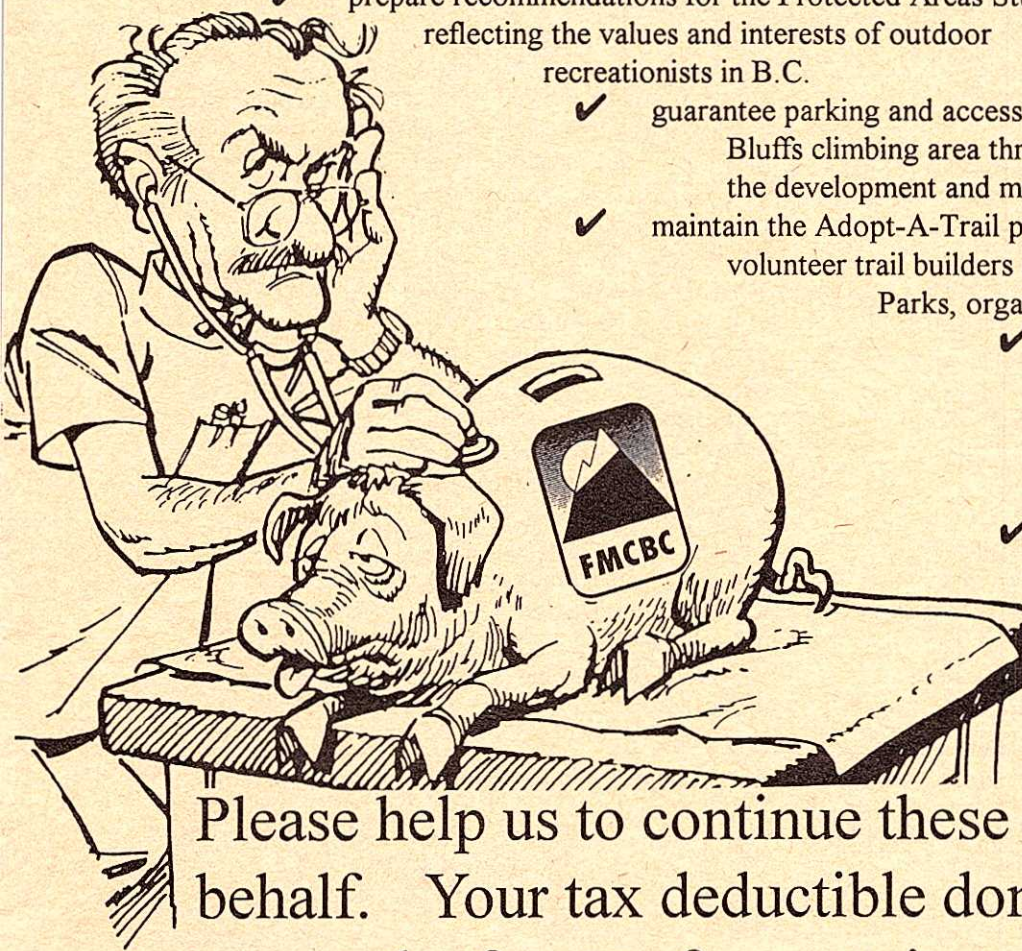
Mountain Equipment Co-op

Many of you will have recently received a patronage dividend from MEC. Why not donate some of it to the FMCBC?

While costs continue to rise and funding becomes more difficult to find the pressure continues to mount on wilderness areas in B.C.

Without your support, the FMCBC would not have been able to:

- ✓ build a wheelchair accessible trail in Cypress Provincial Park
- ✓ prepare recommendations for the Protected Areas Study reflecting the values and interests of outdoor recreationists in B.C.
- ✓ guarantee parking and access rights to the Little Smoke Bluffs climbing area through the purchase of land and the development and maintenance of a parking area
- ✓ maintain the Adopt-A-Trail program, coordinating volunteer trail builders and maintainers with B.C. Parks, organize workshops for trail builders
- ✓ provide high quality safety instruction in mountaineering avalanche safety, rock climbing, hiking and backcountry skiing
- ✓ continue to represent the interests of outdoor recreationists in land use planning processes around the province



Please help us to continue these efforts on your behalf. Your tax deductible donation will help ensure the future of mountain recreation in B.C.

----- ✂ -----

Name _____

Address _____

City/ Province _____ Postal Code _____

- ☐ Please send a tax receipt to the above address
- ☐ Please send more information about membership in the FMCBC.

Send to: Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C., 336-1367 W. Broadway, Vancouver, V6H 4A9 Tel: 737-3053

Club Feature - Comox District Mountaineering Club

by Ruth Masters

To all who have been inspired by the beauty of Strathcona Park, have been exhausted on the peaks, soaked or frozen up there, poured your sweat on the trails and shared your blood with our ravenous mosquitos - WELCOME!

Comox District Mountaineering Club was formed in 1927, shortly after the Forbidden Plateau area west of Courtenay (now included in Strathcona Park) was discovered by early prospectors and water supply workers, who were enthralled by this wilderness wonderland.

Hiking, climbing and skiing occupied members during the 1930's, 40's, and 50's, when the club became more preoccupied with skiing. Most trips were work parties maintaining the old Mt. Becher cabin, cutting and storing firewood for winter ski parties.

Then in the early 1960's, we hikers recommenced our busy schedule of summer hikes, canoe trips and trail work parties in Strathcona Park. Not looking for a medal or anything - but in addition to fun stuff, our club has built numerous trails - Price Creek to Cream Lake, Upper Puntledge, Comox Glacier, Century Sam, Upper Myra (our adopted trail), Drabble Lakes, Capes and Idiens Lakes, Gem Lake, Forbush Lake portage, Jack's Augerpoint and Boston Ridge Circuit and we worked with other clubs on Marble Meadows, Phillips Ridge, Elk River, Bedwell and Lady Falls trails. We also tidied up the old cabin sites at Croteau, McKenzie and Kwai Lakes and the Mt. Becher cabin ruins, and we brushed out trails on Mt. Becher several times over the years. Sixty hand-chiselled signs were made as a centennial project in 1966

and flown in to Moat Lake for making Forbidden Plateau trails which had become unused and overgrown. Many signs still survive. Our trails have enabled thousands to enjoy Strathcona Park. We suggest to anyone who doesn't like them, to please put on a heavy pack and thrash your way up to the alpine where our trails aren't if you really want an experience.

Members have also driven hundreds of miles to meetings encouraging park protection. We have had numerous park features officially named, Landslide Lake being the one most popularly accepted. And this past summer we were successful in having Mt. Haig-Brown officially named, honouring the late Roderick Haig-Brown, world famous environmental author, who led our battles in the 1950's and 60's, when the whole Buttle Lake area was vulgarized by logging, Hydro and mining. The 6390 foot peak lies just south of Mt. Cobb, and is visible from the Buttle Lake Parkway.

Several of our members shivered for days and nights on the Friends of Strathcona Park 1988 winter blockade at Buttle Lake when we flushed Cream Silver Mines out of the Price and Thelwood Valleys. Bear in mind that many hundreds of Strathcona Park acres have been logged, mined, burned, dammed, drilled, blasted, flooded, polluted, littered, bulldozed, eroded, paved, poisoned, looted - and stolen. We plan to defend what is left of the Park from the ravages of resource extraction. The price of retaining and preserving the ecological wonders of Strathcona Park (and Canada) is eternal vigilance.



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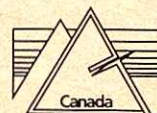
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Coquihalla Recreation Area - Access Update

by Cheryl Leskiw

Early in the 1992/93 ski season B.C. Parks closed the Coquihalla Recreation Area to skiers and snowmobilers. After phone calls from the FMCBC and club members, B.C. Parks held a meeting to brief us on the situation as it affects backcountry skiers. The closure was enacted at the request of Highways, as avalanche control for the Coquihalla Highway is done in this area.

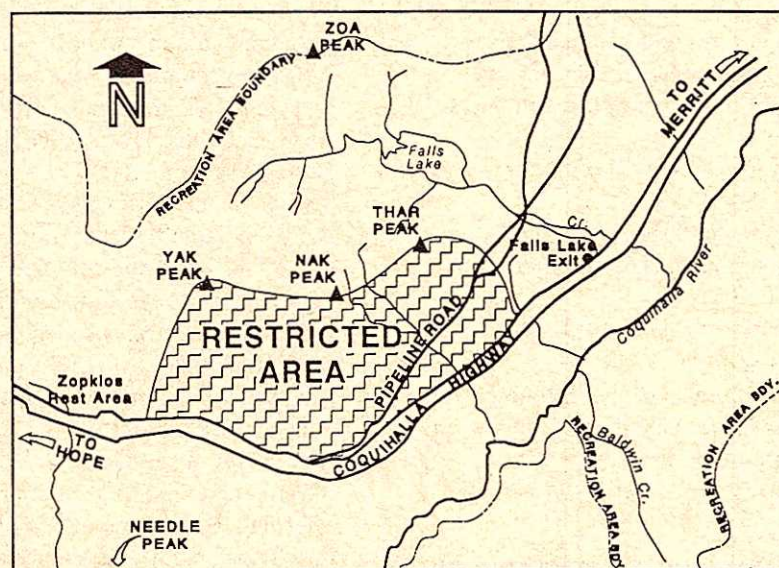
The safety concern was that they didn't want backcountry users in the area while they were blasting. Since the blasting takes place at unscheduled times, a blanket closure was applied. While examining this issue, it was also learned that the entire portion of the Coquihalla Recreation Area north of the highway is permanently closed to snowmobiles, although there has never been any signage to this effect, and the area is well-used by snowmobilers.

After some discussion, B.C. Parks reduced the closure to a portion of the Recreation Area north of the highway. After receiving a map showing this closed area, concern was voiced by club members and the FMCBC, as parts of this area (Zoa Peak and the approach to it) were not endangering the highway, and it was unlikely that Highways would be blasting there. As the ski season was approaching, I phoned B.C. Parks and confirmed that an area southeast

of Falls Lake is still closed to winter backcountry users (see map). This area is much smaller than that originally closed. A B.C. Parks representative explained that, if they didn't close this section, backcountry users would still use the pipeline road, directly below the area where blasting may take place, thus exposing themselves to danger. He also stated that signs would be posted at the

Falls Lake access in mid-November, making it clear where the closed areas are, and indicating that snowmobiles are not allowed in this area.

A new sign was placed at the Falls Lake winter trailhead the week of November 29th. Although it does not make any reference to the snowmobile closure within the Recreation Area, the sign consists of a



map showing "Hazard Areas". In addition to the restricted area shown on the adjacent map, the sign indicates that some steep areas south of the highway descending to the river are also closed.

While this closure was done for safety reasons, the way it was initially carried out, as a blanket closure without any preliminary consultation, warning to interested parties, or appropriate signage, is cause for alarm.

BULLETIN

New Books:

Written by the Wind by Randy Stoltmann

A collection of five essays, illustrated with colour photographs, chronicling adventures in the southwestern B.C. wilderness. Cost: \$18.95

Published by Orca Book Publishers, P.O. Box 5626, Stn. B, Victoria, B.C. V8R 6S4

The Avalanche Handbook by David McClung and Peter Schaerer

The first update of the 1978 classic includes all the latest techniques as well as the new international snow and avalanche classification system. Cost: \$19.95 U.S.

Published by Mountaineers Books, 1001 Klickitat Way, SW, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. 98134 (206)223-6303

Shuswap Pathways - A Trail Guide by Estelle Noakes

An overview of the hiking, skiing, paddling and cycling possibilities in the Shuswap area.

Published by Sunshine Studios, Box 625, Chase, B.C. V0E 1M0

The Climber's Guide to West Coast Ice by Don Serl and Bruce Kay

Over 130 routes are covered in a range roughly covering a weekend's trip from Vancouver. Cost: \$25.

Published by Merlin Productions, Box 5181, Squamish, B.C. V1L 5P4

Topo Guide to Cheakamus Canyon by Roger Chayer

An alternative to the busy crags in Squamish, this area is currently being developed by a number of local climbers. Cost: \$5

Available at the Mountain Equipment Co-op, Vancouver.

ACC Facilities Guide

A comprehensive guide to the hut facilities of the Alpine Club of Canada, including 2 huts in B.C. and many more in the Rockies.

Published by The Alpine Club of Canada, P.O. Box 2040, Canmore, Alberta, T0L 0M0

Guide to Crest Creek Climbing Area by Phil Stone

Information about this Vancouver Island cragging area in Strathcona Park is available from Phil c/o:

Strathcona Park Lodge, Box 2160, Campbell River, B.C., V9W 5C9

Trail Builders and Maintainers Conference

The FMCBC will be holding another training workshop for trail builders in the Maple Ridge area on May 1, 1994. The topic will be safe use of hand tools and trail drainage techniques. Check the March '94 issue of Cloudburst for details.

Wanted: Sturdy Shelving

The FMCBC office needs some strong shelves for our equipment room. Please call 737-3053.

Climb for a Cure

A group from Vancouver Island and Vancouver are planning an ascent of Mount Logan via the King Trench in May 1994. One of their goals is to raise awareness and funds for cancer research in B.C. and to that end they have created a t-shirt for sale for \$20 at Extreme Mountain Gear or from Ann Gillespie 228-8913.

Mt. Brew Hut

This cabin is apparently in sad shape at the moment with roof and walls caving in. It may be removed in the Spring of 1994. For more information contact the Varsity Outdoor Club at 734-0010.

Friends of Strathcona Park Trailbuilding

The "alpine to ocean trail" is almost complete, linking Strathcona Park to Bedwell Inlet on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. Over 5000 hours of volunteer labour have gone into this project, which still needs financial support to complete. Send your tax deductible donations to: Friends of Strathcona Park, Box 3404, 279 Puntledge Road, Courtenay, B.C. V9N 5N5 Tel: 338-1944

Baffin Traverse '94

This is the last and longest section of expedition organizer John Dunn's goal of traversing the eastern side of the Canadian Arctic and completing the first human-powered traverse of Canada's largest island. Fundraising for the trip includes a signed and framed lithographic print of an arctic wilderness photograph. To order, contact John Dunn, 4707 Vegas Rd. NW, Calgary, Alberta, T3A 1W2 Tel: (403) 286-6439.

Brand New Used Gear

Several outdoor manufacturing companies are now offering a new choice in outdoor wear - recycled clothing. Patagonia has developed a material called Synchronia, a fabric made of 80% recycled plastic bottles. DyerSport has developed a line of recycled fleece and a German company called Sympatex now has a collection of recycled polyester outerwear called Ecolog. When it wears out, you can send it back to the company for shredding. Deja, of Portland Oregon, makes footwear out of everything from coffee filters to styrofoam cups and even Reebok is offering a hiking boot called Telos made of recycled rubber tires, pop bottles, and wood pulp.

Season's Greetings

*from the Board of Directors and Staff
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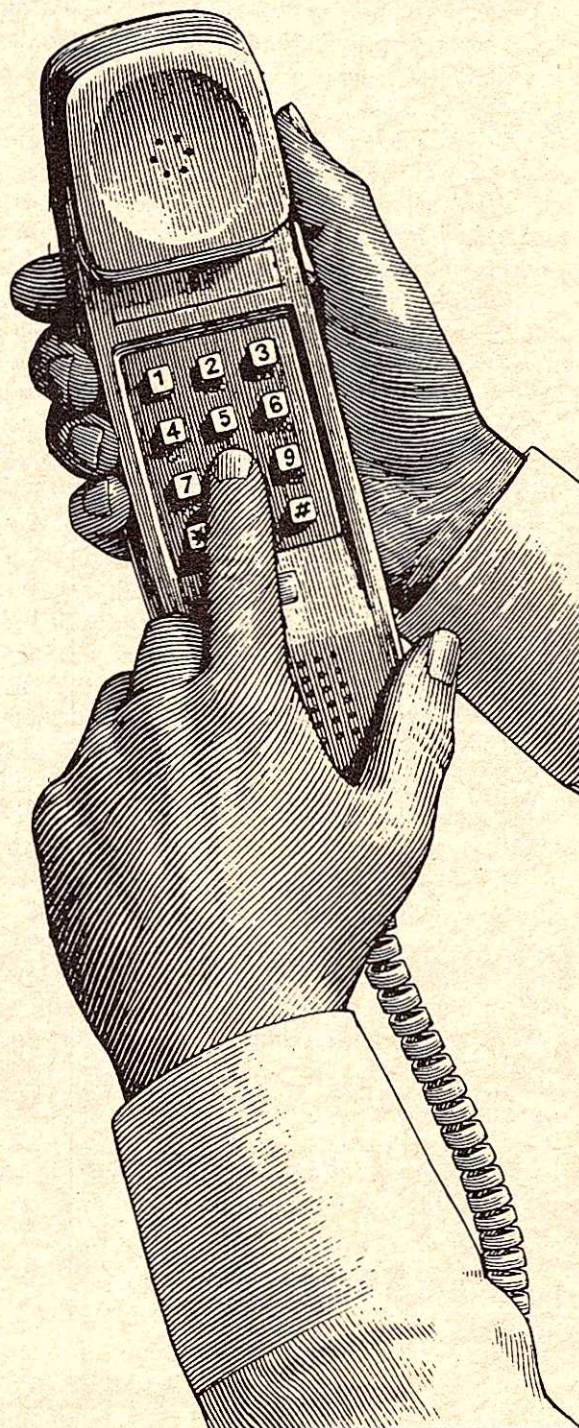
South Coast Region (Vancouver)	929-1291
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Winter Weather Conditions

Mountain Forecast	664-9021
General Weather Information	664-9032

24 Hour Road Conditions

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From the Kootenays

by David Mitchell, Nelson

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club appears to be the only organized group representing the non-motorized outdoor recreation sectors in both the CORE and PAS processes. Many outdoor enthusiasts who do not belong to clubs have been brought out of the hills (so to speak!) by community meetings.

For all the hours of meetings, the CORE process has only progressed to the point of determining what people find most valuable and developing some maps indicating favourite recreation areas. The encouraging news is that the unaffiliated people have similar intents and interests to those of us in the KMC. Areas with year round access rate high for protection. The Kaslo-New Denver corridor (the Goat and Kokanee ranges of the Selkirks), the Kootenay Pass (Stagleap Park), and Glacier Creek in the Purcells rated very high for protection. The latter is the site of the proposed Jumbo Pass ski resort.

The regional Protected Areas Strategy team has prepared two reports. One is the "options" report. It describes the proposed protected areas and the impacts to resources other than recreation (i.e. timber and mining) and the strategies to reduce the impact of these activities on outdoor recreation. Cynics call this the "hack and slash" option. The other report suggests that if a representative sample of each type of bio-geo-climatic zone is preserved, we will need to remove greater than 12% from all other uses. This is because 10% of the Kootenays is now park or otherwise protected. However, when one considers that the 10% includes areas such as Kokanee Glacier Park, the Bugaboos, etc., it is obvious that the preserved area is all rock and ice. At first, this might appear as a Catch 22 for mountaineers. Sure we want to protect the aesthetics and biodiversity of the lower valleys, but all that forest makes for a lot of the bush whacking and creek crossing. On the other hand, resource extraction gives us quick access to all that lovely rock and ice! It is this situation that forces us to ask ourselves what it is that we want from mountaineering. Do we want cheap and easy alpine thrill seeking, or preservation of the complete mountain environment?

Our winter trip schedule has been published. If you are visiting the Kootenays and are interested in participating in some cheap and easy alpine thrill seeking, I invite you to call me in Nelson at 334-4052.

Vancouver Island Report

by Thom Ward, Port Alberni

The Island clubs recently held their semi-annual meeting in Nanaimo. Access problems were at the top of the list of concerns brought to the meeting, along with safety and education at the club and Federation level.

A local forest company has been restricting access to some of their private lands on the Island. Right of way along the Koksilah River in the Duncan River is a problem at the moment and things don't look good for the Gowland Range, just each of Saanich Inlet on southern Vancouver Island.

The Clayoquot Sound decision was discussed and delegates were asked to solicit feedback from their club members as to the position they would like the FMCBC to take on this issue. The Strathcona Park Public Advisory Committee has been selected and will hold their first meeting on Dec. 11th in Courtenay. Due to land claim interim discussions between the province and the Nuuchah-nulth Tribal Council, the Long Beach Model Forest has been put on hold for the moment. The Vancouver Island CORE table has concluded its meetings. Although consensus was not reached, some key work was done and it is important not to view this effort as a failure. The Commissioner will present his report by January 1st.

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Northern Perspective

by Mike Nash, Prince George

The Fraser Basin Management Board has announced its first 6 demonstration projects. According to Board Chair, Tony Dorsey, "In the Fraser Basin, we have an opportunity that is the envy of the world to move towards the environmental, economic and social sustainability of a great river system." He goes on to say that "the Board seeks not only to assist the specific projects, but also to inform British Columbians how many people are already working together to achieve sustainable solutions to problems facing their communities." This year, I had the opportunity to be part of two proposals to the Fraser Board:

The **Prince George Riverfront Trails and Parks Project** was successful, and was the most northerly demonstration project to be selected. Situated at the confluence of 2 provincially significant rivers, the project will restore fish and other wildlife habitat, and continue the development of riverside recreation and educational opportunities that was begun 10 years ago.

The other proposal was made for the **Herrick Creek Local Resource Use Plan**. This proposal was

unsuccessful, partly because at the time we had not yet reached consensus on major issues. However, I think there will be further opportunities for the Herrick as a demonstration project, or at least as a working partnership with the Fraser Basin Management Program. The Herrick is a large watershed in the mountainous headwaters of the Fraser Basin, and it will be a afford a valuable opportunity to follow a plan that combines environmental stewardship and sustainable development.

New Trail and Cabin

Northwood Pulp and Timber Limited with the cooperation of the Forest Service, has recently finished construction of a new trail and day use cabin on Bobtail Mountain, 50 km southwest of Prince George. The project provides an easy mountain hiking opportunity close to town, and helps to fill the gap between easier low elevation trails and our more serious mountain trails. The summit affords a very nice view of the Interior Plateau. For more information contact Darcy Nygaard at Northwood in Prince George.



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Trails Committee

by Louise Irwin

Golden Ears Trails Preservation and Restoration Committee (GETPARC)

A non-profit group has been formed by B.C. Parks' Golden Ears Park Manager Jeff Such and a group of community volunteers for the purpose of repairing and maintaining the 80 km of trails in the park. Their aim is to raise several hundred thousand dollars over a seven year period to repair, reconstruct, improve signage and add bridges to the trail network. Horseback riders, hikers and mountain bikers are all frequent users of the trails. It is estimated that 435,000 people visited the park in 1992, with 17,000 camping in the back country areas. In addition to money, GETPARC will require the help of many volunteers to aid in their work. John Otava will represent the FMCBC Trails Committee on GETPARC.

Trails Maintenance Updates

The following is a summary of some of the reports received by the Trails Committee since last spring:

Manning Provincial Park

The Skyline I and II trails have been upgraded. Dewdney trail has had some major maintenance and the Cheakamus trail has been greatly improved. Singing Pass blowdowns, from the storm of September 11th, have been cleared.

Garibaldi Provincial Park

In the Diamond Head area, severe windfall debris has caused the old historical trail to Heather Meadows to be closed. The road access has been cleared of windfalls and is open.

Cypress Provincial Park

The Sunset trail from the Squamish highway to Yew Lake has been cleared and rerouted where necessary. Historical trails to Mt. Strachan from Hollyburn Mountain and Cypress Bowl have been cleared and marked. The Yew Lake nature trail has been upgraded to permit wheelchair access.

Grouse Mountain

The Thunderbird Ridge trail via Mosquito Creek/Pipeline Pass has been cleared and marked.

Dam/Goat Mountain

The Greater Vancouver Regional District has remarked and worked on the trail.

Petgill Lake

There is a new lookout accessible from the trail by the lake. The lake trail has been continued, allowing a circuit of the lake.

Shannon Falls/Creek Trail

The trail has been partly rerouted, cleared and taped to the upper logging road. It is now possible to return via the logging roads and the Squaw/Chief trail. A connection is planned to eventually link up the logging road with Petgill Lake.

High Falls Creek

Recently cleared and marked.

Eagle Ridge (Buntzen Lake area)

This area has been cleared of windfalls.

Baden-Powell Trail

This trail has been worked on and improved by a number of Adopt-A-Trail groups.

Centennial Trail (east of Monument 83, Manning Park)

The burned over, blowdown section east of the Pasayten River which was cleared several times in the last few years, is once more covered with windfalls.

Goldbridge area (Southern Chilcotin)

Several new bridges and a section of trail have been added to the Spruce Lake Trail, avoiding the dangerous slide areas by rerouting to the north side of Gun Creek. The Hurley Restoration Society, with assistance from the FMCBC has cleared trails and rebuilt a number of old mining trails in the Bralorne area. They plan to continue clearing the trail from McGillivray Pass to D'Arcy.

North Creek

The trail has been cleared, but the cabin has been damaged by a large tree fall. Repairs are underway, hopefully to be completed before snowfall.

Wedgemount

Two work trips in conjunction with B.C. Parks rangers have cleared the trail of debris and tended to the cabin.

New Trails

Furry Creek Area

A new access route to Phyllis and Marion Lakes, Beth Lake and Mt. Capilano has been cleared and marked. It starts up a logging road opposite a pull out parking area on the Squamish Highway, 0.7 km south of Porteau Park and eventually rejoins the old route at the power line. This new route will take 1-2 hours. The Furry Creek bridge has been replaced, making a circuit possible via the old route.

Lynn Peak/The Needles

A route has been cleared and taped from Lynn Peak to the Needles. Return trip is estimated to take about 8 hours.

Sigurd Creek

A trail has been constructed to give access to Mt. Ossa and Mt. Pelion (at the north end of the Tantalus Range). It starts at the junction of the Ashlu/Squamish River.

Cayoosh Creek

The trail that was blazed and cleared last fall up to the north arm of Cayoosh Creek is now complete. A work trip this fall re-routed the trail from the moist upper meadows to the drier ground above and into the alpine. Also, a trail is being blazed and cleared from the alpine down the northwest arm of Cayoosh Creek.

Canada West Mountain School

Over the past few years the instructional programs of the FMCBC have changed dramatically. Our current school originated as a volunteer based instructional service for inexperienced members. Through demand from the general public and through an increased awareness of professional safety standards, the FMCBC eventually opened up the program to non-members and phased out the volunteer segment of the program. In 1991 the school officially became Canada West Mountain School (a division of the FMCBC).

These changes have led to our school becoming the largest skills-oriented mountain school in B.C., yet we still honour our commitment to the clubs who gave us our start and have continued to support us.

CWMS now offers all courses to club members at discounted rates on a contract basis. If you or your club are interested in any program, we can organize one for you. Reduced rates will apply to all members for any customised program. Members from one club are welcome to take part in courses arranged by other clubs.

All members of the FMCBC are also entitled to 10% per course off regularly scheduled course fees (to a maximum of \$25.00 per course).

For more information or to receive a rate sheet for members courses, please contact the FMCBC office at 737-3053, or contact your clubs' FMCBC delegate. To find out more about what CWMS can do for you, please give us a call at the FMCBC office.

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Island Perspective

by Chris Barner

Unless you are an obsessive rock climber from northern Vancouver Island, you probably don't know too much about Crest Creek. This pleasant cragging area, located about 15 minutes east of Gold River in Strathcona Park, has seen some exciting development this season.

Probably the most important news is that B.C. Parks has begun to recognize the vast recreational potential of "the Creek". Anticipating much more day use over the next few years, they have established a parking lot, complete with outhouse and info shelter, to reduce the number of parked cars and pedestrians on Highway 28. The parking lot is situated on the logging road, which runs parallel to the highway, near the point where they both cross Crest Creek. In addition, there is now a turnoff on the south side of the highway, located about 100 metres west of the Crest Creek bridge (signed), that gives access to the logging road. At this point the turnoff is not very obvious, but Parks plans to erect a highway sign in the future.

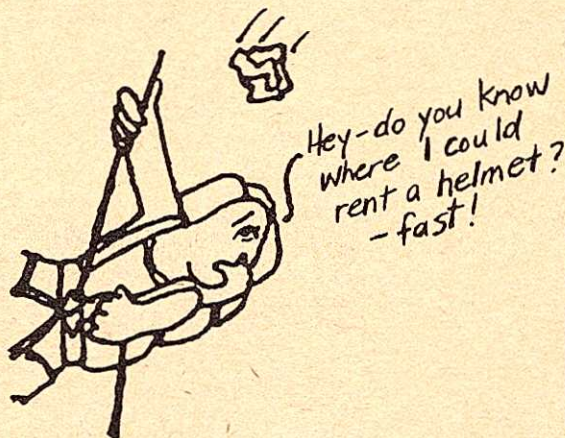
Over the years north island activists have steadily been developing several crags. There are now eight cliffs with cleaned routes to challenge novice and expert alike, offering unusual cracks and superb face climbing on solid, sticky rock. The routes range in length from ten to fifty metres, and protection is generally good. A guide

book, recently compiled by Phil Stone (see Bulletin), lists the more than seventy-five climbs and is now available locally.

Climbing areas with uncrowded crags, safe drinking water and a backcountry feel are rare now that the sport is becoming so popular. Local climbers and B.C. Parks personnel are determined to keep "the Creek" in its present, untrampled state. If you visit Crest Creek please:

- ➡ Use the parking lot and trails. Do not park on, or walk across the highway (unless high water makes following the trail impossible)
- ➡ Use the outhouse.
- ➡ Do not camp at the base of Crest Creek crag
- ➡ Be clean, careful and courteous.... and if you don't pack out all your garbage, butts and peelings etc., expect to have your rack confiscated and to be fed to the cougars by the Heathens!
- ➡ Observe the same rules of etiquette that you would at any other climbing area - except be friendlier!
- ➡ Have a great time.

For more information on Crest Creek, contact the Heathens, B.C. Parks or Strathcona Park Lodge. Local climbers would like to thank Fletcher Challenge and the Ministry of Transportation for their part in developing these new facilities.



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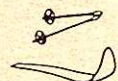
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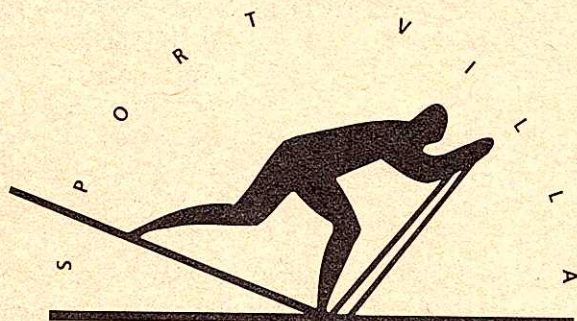
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Thank You

Thanks to the following volunteers for contributing their time, energy, effort and enthusiasm to helping the many programs of the FMCBC get off the ground.

For heaving and hauling gravel on the Yew Lake

Trail:

Jim Craig
Katherine Stieg
Phyllis Mallett
Tony Webb
Julie McCauley
Gabriel Mazoret
Suzanne Mazoret
Rick van Heyst
Greg Menzies
Harry Melander
Alf Strangen

For assistance in solving Squamish River Road access problems:

Squamish Forest District

For snazzy design of K2 poster:

Deanne Mould

For support in Canada Post application for cheaper mail rate:

Ron Roysten

For work on the Coquihalla access problems:

Brian Gavin

For awesome and inspiring dedication in cycling regularly from Port Alberni to Vancouver for Board Meetings:

Thom Ward

For bartending, set up and clean up help at the FMCBC Party:

Larry Lowden
Suzanne Mazoret
Marg Ellis
Steve Berger
Cheryl Leskiw
Julie Ourom

For organizing and running the annual Smoke Bluffs Clean Up (in a raging downpour):

Squamish Rockclimbers Association

For assistance with the wilderness tourism inventory:

Chris Bottrill

For help in soliciting sponsors for the Yew Lake Project:

Gerry Burch

For patience and perseverance above and beyond the call of duty:

The Heathens Safety and Education Committee

For support of the K2 Slide Show: Mountain Equipment Co-op

Recreation and Conservation

by Jay MacArthur

Chilko Lake Park Recommended

The Chilko Lake Study team sent its final report to the provincial government in October. A large 230,000 ha Class A provincial park is being recommended for the Chilko Lake area. The report, which represents a strong consensus among the participants in the process, is another step towards protecting this spectacular area.

The study team's 37 members represented forest industry, forest workers, tourism industry, mining industry, Nemiah Valley Indian Band, Outdoor Recreation Council, local residents and government ministries. The draft report was approved by the Commission on Resources and Environment's Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Strategy regional table.

Your action is needed to convince the provincial cabinet that this is an important issue that needs to be dealt with. Please write to:
Hon. Moe Sihota, Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks, Legislative Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4.
Please send a copy of your letter to the FMCBC office or fax: 738-7175.

Cariboo - Chilcotin Commission on Resources and Environment

I attended a meeting of the regional negotiation process in Williams Lake on November 12 and 13 to ensure that our proposals for wilderness protection of the Southern Chilcotin, Chilko Lake, the Niut Range, the Waddington area and the Pantheon Range were being considered. Unfortunately, the table was not even close to discussing protection proposals. The mapping committee has been trying to set some boundaries for the process with little success. A small amount of progress is being made to convince forest workers that protected areas are not going to take away all forest industry jobs in Williams Lake. Unfortunately the process does not allow enough time for real progress to be made.

For further information contact Jay at 987-1232.

Protected Area Strategy

The BCMC recently sent a letter to Andrew Petter and Moe Sihota asking questions about the protected area strategy. Here are some excerpts:

"We, and others want areas set aside for their wilderness or old growth forest values. Government bureaucrats apparently decided that only 12% of each ecosection should be protected and the entire focus of the PAS has shifted to finding this 12%... With all the attention being devoted to 12% of ecosections, the bureaucrats have lost sight of the fact that people like and value certain areas for reasons that have nothing to do with reserving a certain percentage of an ecosection. We do not believe that preserving half of a Mona Lisa here or

a fraction of a Michaelangelo's David there is the best approach. We believe that the wilderness and old growth forest protection processes have been hijacked by soulless technocrats in the bureaucracy. We urge you to make the PAS give greater consideration to what we, the public want."

PAS Recommendations

Anders Ourom, our executive director, has been working with the B.C. Wildlife Federation, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Earthlife Canada, East Kootenay Environmental Society, Federation of B.C. Naturalists and the Outdoor Recreation Council to develop recommendations for the government regarding land use planning. These were recently presented to the ministers responsible for PAS:

1. Flexibility must be practiced in order to establish a system of protected areas with integrity. Twelve percent should be the minimum target percentage of an ecosection to be protected.
2. Inter-agency management committees should consider more effective means of consultation with the network of involved conservation, recreation and other public groups involved in PAS, stressing in-depth consultation rather than information sessions with the general public. We recommend informal relationships with provincial umbrella organizations such as the Outdoor Recreation Council, the BC Environmental Network and the B.C. Wildlife Federation.
3. We recommend regional coordination of ongoing local processes through an improved land and resource management planning process, as well as the injection of consistent PAS policy into local ongoing processes.
4. Release of a comprehensive planning document which clearly sets out the following points is required immediately:
 - planning processes in progress in each region and the objectives of each process
 - opportunities for public input in PAS and other planning processes
 - how the various processes in a region are integrated and which takes precedence
 - a timetable for the completion of PAS in the different regions
 - how PAS communication occurs in regions with neither CORE or LRMP processes

What can you do? Write a letter to Moe Sihota, Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks and Andrew Petter, Minister of Forests, Legislative Buildings, Victoria, V8V 1X4 supporting these recommendations.



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