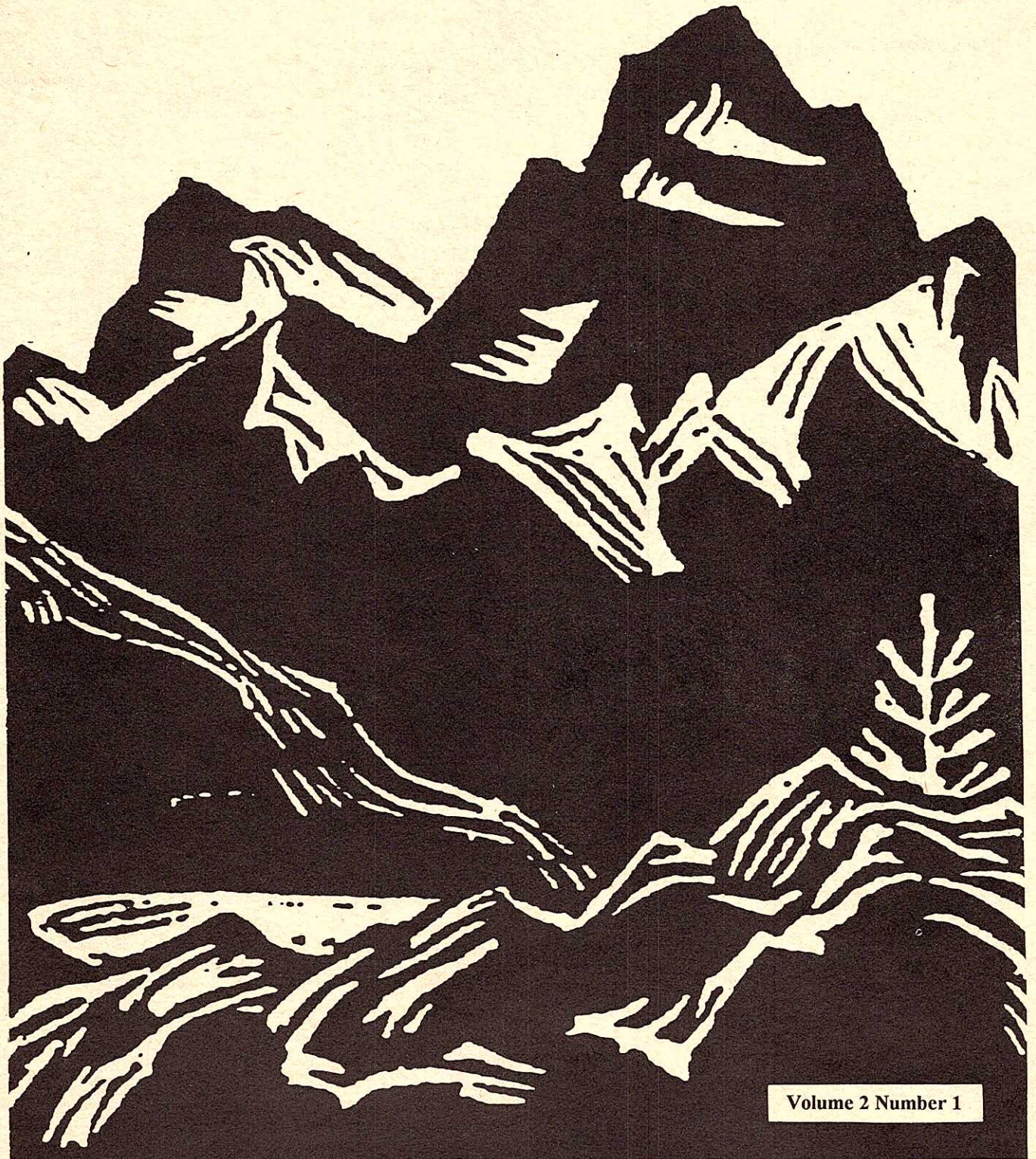

C L O U D B U R S T

Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia Magazine

March 1994



Volume 2 Number 1

CLOUDBURST

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.

Editor/Designer: Mary Watt

336-1367 W. Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6H 4A9

Tel: 737-3053 Fax: 738-7175

Deadline for submissions:

June 1, 1994

*Printed and published four times per year by:
SBC Distributions Ltd. 1367 W. Broadway
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9. Canadian Publications
Mail Sales Agreement #102202*

This issue financially assisted by the Ministry of Housing, Recreation and Consumer Services

This Organization is supported by:



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Jay MacArthur

Trails: Blair Mitten, John Otava

Safety and Education: Simon Austen

Smoke Bluffs: Jim Campbell

Volume 2 Number 1

Membership

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 conservation and access 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) with your VISA or MASTERCARD number or send \$25 with your name and address to: FMCBC #336 - 1367 W. Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9.

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FMCBC Meetings

Recreation and Conservation Committee:

Feb. 21, March 21, April 18, May 30

Safety and Education Committee:

Mar. 9, Apr. 13, May 11, June 8

Trails Committee:

Apr. 4, May 9, June 13

Board of Directors:

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.

LETTERS

Yew Lake

Dear Mary,

I read in **Cloudburst** of the FMCBC's project of rebuilding the Yew Lake Trail at Cypress Provincial Park to a standard which will make it wheelchair accessible. Many of the stroke survivors who belong to our Club are wheelchair bound and are delighted that the need has been recognized.

This \$25 donation represents the coffee fund collection taken at our last meeting. Our thanks for considering the needs of the disabled.

Sincerely,

JoAnne Baldassi

Coordinator

Trail and District Stroke Recovery Club

Dear Anders,

Many thanks to the FMCBC and especially yourself, for the vision and persistence to make the Yew Lake trail project a success.

Please pass our compliments to all the trail crew, volunteers and sponsors for a job well done. We hope a similar opportunity will be available next year to complete the loop on this trail.

Now our many park visitors, including persons with disabilities, can enjoy the special opportunities in the Yew Lake area.

Yours truly,

Ray Peterson

District Manager - South Coast Region

B.C. Parks

Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area

Ed Kelly, District Manager

Ministry of Parks (ELP)

Fraser Valley District Office

Dear Mr. Kelly,

Re: Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area and Skidoos

...We were preparing to leave on a day trip of backcountry skiing up the road system and on to Zoa Ridge. As we were about to depart on skis, a ...van arrived pulling a trailer.

I approached the people and advised them that the area was closed to skidoos... the area was a Recreation Area, and during the previous winter, signs had indicated that the area was closed to skidoos. They pointed out that no such signs were present now.

Therefore, my requests are as follows:

- a) That the Ministry of Parks confirm that the Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area is closed to all skidoos.
- b) That the Ministry of Parks undertake to post signs at both the Falls Lake exit parking area, and at the Zopkios Ridge Rest area clearly stating that the area is closed to

skidoos.

c) That a letter be sent to the B.C. Snowmobiling Association advising them that all Parks and Recreation Areas in the Province of B.C. are closed to all skidoos unless specifically excepted, and requesting that they advertise this to their membership.

d) That a letter be sent to the owner(s) of the vehicles identified above to advise them that the area is closed to all skidoos, and that they kindly respect that...

Yours truly,

B.P. Gavin

Dear Mr. Gavin,

Re: Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area

Thank you for your letter of January 23, 1994 concerning snowmobiles in the Cascade (sic) Summit Recreation Area.

During the Winter of 1992/93 that portion of the recreation area lying South-east of the highway was opened to multi-use recreation. This Winter, to provide maximum Winter recreation opportunities, the entire Recreation area, with the exception of the area identified as "Closed" (Cloudburst Dec/93) is open to multi-use. Please feel free to call if you have any further questions.

Yours truly,

E.B. Kelly

District Manager - Fraser Valley District

Editor's Note: The FMCBC has written to the Ministry of Parks outlining our concerns with this decision. A reply has not yet been received.

More Snowmobiles in Recreation Areas

Ken Pendergast, District Manager

Ministry of Forests

Prince George Forest District

Dear Mr. Pendergast,

There is presently a ban on snowmobiles in the Grizzly Den/Raven Lake Recreational Area. In the last few weeks there have been large numbers of snowmobiles using these areas. Several run-ins have occurred between skiers and snowmobilers with the potential of someone losing their control.

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. supports the continued ban of snowmobiles in this recreation area. The use of posted signs at entry areas and a discussion with the local snowmobile club by the Ministry may help the situation. Enforcement by the RCMP could be used as a last step, if no improvement results.

Sincerely,

Doug Perkins

Regional Director, FMCBC

New Provincial Park

Persistence does pay off — eventually. In a process that began 57 years ago, when the Vancouver Natural History Society first proposed it, the B.C. government recently declared a 233,000 hectare Class A park around the spectacular mountainous shores of Chilko Lake. Ts'yl-ös Provincial Park (pronounced "sigh-loss") is a tribute to the tenacity and dedication of a wide variety of groups and individuals who participated in the struggle to preserve an important wildlife habitat, recreation area and ancestral home.

Jay MacArthur, co-chair of the Recreation and Conservation Committee of the FMCBC, first got involved in 1982, when the area was set aside as a deferred planning area and left out of the estimates of the annual allowable timber cut. As a member of the Chilko Lake Study Team for the past 3 years, he has ably represented the FMCBC in a

process that eventually led to a consensus decision among its 38 diverse participants. Graphic designer and Trails Committee member, Gabriel Mazoret created information tabloids in 1989 and 1991, with maps drawn by Bob Harris, which were invaluable in bringing public attention to the issues involved.

As anyone who has visited the area will tell you, the landscape leaves quite an impression. The west side of the lake sweeps up into jagged mountains with long tongues of ice, while on the eastern shores of the lake, dry grasslands explode into blossoms in spring. Mount Tatlow, the towering peak of Nemiah legend which gives the park its name, marks the northern boundary of the park. The southern end of the park encompasses the upper Tchaikazan Valley. A 45,000 hectare "special management zone", covering the Taseko Lakes area, was also established next to the park.

Mineral rights were the key issue in the study team's discussions and the final boundaries of the park exclude the areas with the highest mineral potential. Timber values are low, with only 10% of the area suitable for commercial forestry. Several ecologically sensitive

wildlife species inhabit the park, including peregrine falcons, wolverines and grizzly bears. Chilko Lake is the third most important sockeye salmon spawning area on the Fraser River system, delivering over a quarter of the total population to the system.

Apart from its consensus report, which was quickly accepted and implemented by the B.C. government, the other notable feature of this process is the degree to which aboriginal issues were incorporated into the final report. This led to a memorandum of understanding

between the Tsilhqot'in people and the province of British Columbia which sets out principles for establishing and managing the park, and confirms First Nations interests and involvement.

Access to the park from Williams Lake is from Highway 20. Past Hanceville the road is gravel, but in good condition. The main access to the lake is from the Chilko Lake Recrea-



Marcus Kellerhals heads up Mount Kese with Chilko Lake below. Photo: Jay MacArthur

tion Site, near the Nemiah Valley Indian Reservation. From here, there are numerous hiking trails and canoeing opportunities in the area.

Although B.C. Parks has not yet produced recreation maps of the trails and camping spots in the area, maps of the existing recreation sites are available from the Alexis Creek Forest Service Office, Alexis Creek, B.C. V0L 1A0.

The FMCBC continues to support the Southern Chilcotin Mountain Wilderness Society in their efforts to have the Spruce Lake area preserved as a park or wilderness area.

Positive reinforcement always helps! Drop a line to Victoria to let the government know how much you appreciate it when they get it right. Send your letters to:

Anne Edwards,
Minister of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources
and
Moe Sihota
Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks
Legislative Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
with a copy to Premier Mike Harcourt.

Writers for Wilderness

by Bryan Evans

How many times have you read an article or tabloid on a local wilderness area scheduled for development, asking you to write to government and "save" it? Perhaps you have spent hours of your precious spare time crafting these articles. Do you ever wonder how many people actually write? Despite the fact that public appeals are the premier form of environmental campaigning, no organization that I know of does any kind of follow up to see how effective these appeals really are. What if no one is writing letters except a few dedicated souls who were going to write anyway? What if all that effort is not producing many letters? On the other hand, if the premier's office is being flooded with mail because of your latest riveting article, wouldn't it be useful to know that too?

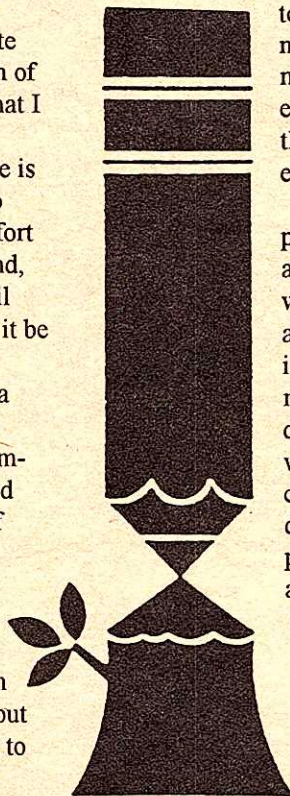
A few of us at the Alpine Club of Canada and the British Columbia Mountaineering Club figure it was about time we got a bit more systematic about this. So we started a little group called "Letter Writers for Wilderness" to keep track of our letter writing efforts and effectiveness.

We canvass our members through our newsletter and at meetings to get the names of people who want to "get more involved". We ask them to commit to writing a letter on an issue when we contact them. So far we have about 40 people. A few of us get together periodically to do the research and write articles. Articles are published in the club newsletters. The difference is that we now have the names of people to call in a couple of weeks to find out if they have written and give them more information if they need it. The personal contact

helps to remind people and to keep them informed of the issues. We keep a master list so that we can keep track of who has written in on what issue. That way, at any time, we will know how many letters were written in total, by issue, and by person. There is a minimum amount of bureaucracy (one person with a master list on computer), and no additional expense for printing and mailing, etc. since we use the existing newsletters. Simple, cheap and effective is the idea.

With decisions to be made on so many protected areas over the next year or so by CORE and PAS, it makes sense to get organized. There won't be a second chance. I really encourage anyone who is active in a club on conservation issues to think about how to be effective right now. One of the advantages of the model I have described is that clubs within the Federation can work with each other on local campaigns at critical times. For example, if you know that a decision is about to be made on a potential protected area in your area, you could fax a short article to us and we could broadcast that out to our letter writers. And vice versa. That way no one person is doing all the work to stay on top of the issues and write articles but we all can use the full effectiveness of our letter writers in concentrated "bursts" when the timing is crucial.

So give me a call if you want to get involved, either as a letter writer, or organizing your local writers group. My number is 872-6679 in Vancouver.



Thank you to our volunteers!

For help at the Jim Haberl K2 Slide Show:

Taylor Jackson
Beth Wark
Jim Craig
Greg Spohr
Cheryl Leskiw
Su'Zan Cook
Tony Webb
Lesley Bohm
Maureen Nyce
Brian Jones
Steve Berger
Mary Watt

For supporting the production of the Protected Areas Strategy Report:

The Alpine Club of Canada - Vancouver Section

Casino volunteers:

Steve Grant
Jayne Hardy
Orveel MacDonald
Gabriel Mazoret
Lisa Baker
John Otava
Skip King
Brent Ehrl
Phyllis Mallett

For reviewing Law Reform Commission Paper on

Liability and Waivers
Boudi Van Oldenburgh
Andrew Wilkinson
Simon Tooley
Simon Austen
Dave Hetherington
Cheryl Leskiw

Northern Perspectives

by Mike Nash

In the Fall of 1992, I received a phone call from a newly arrived staff member of the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC). He said he was a caver and was looking for a supply of calcium carbide for his caving lamps. "Have you done any caving around here yet?" I asked — to which he replied that he had been in Fang Cave several times.

Fang Cave is situated in the McGregor Mountains, and was first explored in 1981 by members of the Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club and guests from the Alberta Speleological Society. I was curious as to how he had heard of the cave, since we don't generally publicize our caves outside the caving community. "I read about it in 'Great Caves of the World' before coming out here", he replied.

Since that phone call, The UNBC Caving Club (UNBC³) was born and has grown rapidly. The keen nature of the club, and its penchant for publicizing the sport of caving has resulted in something of a rift with other cavers and mountain users. Several of UNBC³ members are employed by the media, with the result that there have been 2 media events in Fang Cave to date.

One, by BCTV, was aired nationally this Fall. The other was broadcast locally by CBC Radio at Christmas. Both spots were actually very well done, taking care to stress the safety and ethical aspects of caving as well as the fun. Both avoided divulging actual cave locations. Nevertheless, these broadcasts have added fuel to the fire.

When we pushed for the establishment of a Northern University, we accepted that our lives were going to be changed in ways that we couldn't anticipate. UNBC³ is one aspect of that change. Their ambition to replace Hamilton and Calgary as the premier caving center in Canada is bolstered by the amount of unexplored and undiscovered caves awaiting them in the mountains north and east of Prince George.

I believe that we should support this new wave of spelunkers by sharing our mountain and cave knowledge and values with them. While we may not agree with all of their activities or the publicity that has surrounded UNBC³, I think that this dialogue is paying dividends with the growing recognition that we share something unique and worth preserving in the mountains of Northern British Columbia.

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


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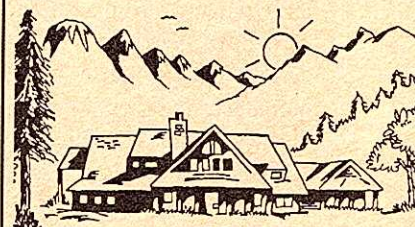
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Vancouver Island Report

by Thom Ward Jr.

by Ray Pillman

This winter has seen the completion of a couple of initiatives, which are now available for public discussion and for the legislature to act on. They are the Forest Practices Code and the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan, the latter from the Commission on Resources and Environment (CORE).

The Recreation Sector, which represented our interests in the CORE process, is generally in favour of the plan. There are shortcomings (as in any compromise) but it was viewed as a good starting point. Our sector has probably gained the most, not just in terms of areas preserved or prioritized for recreation, but in terms of respectability.

This is not a document to take lightly. At over 300 pages in three volumes, it takes some effort to digest. It does not meet everyone's needs, nor could it, but it does have a lot of good things in it. I feel that it would be in the FMCBC's interests to accept it, with a few recommendations of our own.

Key elements are the Land Use Charter, the Land Use Goals and the 90 recommendations. There is a lot more to the plan than this, but you need to read the whole plan before you can effectively discuss it. A lot of the current criticisms are coming from people who have yet to read the whole plan. It's important to keep in mind that it is to be implemented in conjunction with a number of other plans, and not in addition to, for example the Forest Practices Code. If anyone has any comments or queries on either of these things, I can be contacted through the FMCBC.

Other news of interest:

The Strathcona Park Advisory Committee has been selected and will be holding their second meeting on March 5, 1994 in Parksville.

Due to land claim interim discussions between the province and the Nuuchah-nulth Tribal Council, the Long Beach Model Forest is still on hold.

Thom Ward is the FMCBC Regional Director for Vancouver Island

The interest-based, consensus-seeking CORE process tested on Vancouver Island during the past year has ended. The negotiating Table, comprised of 14 sectors of which the Outdoor Recreation Sector (which included FMCBC members) was one, did not reach agreement on land use allocation. It did provide Commissioner Stephen Owen with a Vision Statement, a Land Designation System, a Transition Strategy and Policy Recommendations which were used as building blocks for the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan. This Plan protects 13% of the Island and designates 8% as Regionally Significant Lands (RSLs). The RSLs are special management zones in which resource extraction is permitted as long as it is done sensitively and nonextractive activities and values are not compromised.

The RSL category is an essential part of the package. It provides wildlife and biodiversity connections between Protected Areas, recreation corridors, viewscape and watershed protection. Protected Areas alone could not be made large enough to provide adequately for these.

Another essential part of the package is a transition strategy which will ensure that forest workers and their communities alone will not carry the full burden of change resulting from the Plan. Funding of the transition is to be accomplished through a combination of increased stumpage fees and private, government and community initiatives. In essence the Plan calls for reinvesting more of the revenues from the forest back into this public resource and creating higher levels of benefits and employment through better practices and utilization of the resource.

The Plan does not provide all that we asked for but it does provide the essentials. We consider the Plan to be a balanced one and have advised CORE and government that we support both the Plan and the CORE process. The process needs improvement but it is the best yet for providing the public with the facts and a full understanding of the impacts of land use changes.

Ray Pillman was a member of the Outdoor Recreation Sector Team at the Vancouver Island CORE Table. He is Past Chair of the Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C.

BULLETIN

New Books

Hiking Trails II - Southeastern Vancouver Island by the Vancouver Island Trails Information Society
The 7th revised and expanded edition of this detailed trail guide covers the Gulf Islands as well as the southeast end of the Island. Many new trails and routes are included and existing material has been updated and expanded. Also in this series: Hiking Trails I (Victoria and vicinity), and Hiking Trails III (Central and Northern Vancouver Island).

Available from Sono Nis Press, 1745 Blanchard St., Victoria, B.C., V8W 2J8

Proposed Protected Areas in the Coast Mountains by Randy Stoltmann

Covering the Coast Range from the Lower Mainland to Bella Coola, this submission prepared by the FMCBC for the Protected Areas strategy identifies 47 proposed protected areas. Totalling 3.4 million hectares, the proposal encompasses the complete range of landforms and ecological zones in the southern Coast Mountains. *To order a copy send a cheque or money order for \$25 to the FMCBC, #336 - 1367 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9. Copies have been distributed to club delegates for your reference.*

TBAM - '94

Following last year's successful chainsaw skills workshop, this Trail Builders and Maintainers one-day workshop, May 1, 1994, will cover trail building hand tools, techniques and safe use. Discussion will also include elements of trail design, engineering and drainage. Call the FMCBC at 737-3053 to register. \$5.00 fee.

Hike B.C. Days

This annual province-wide event is designed to promote hiking and hiking safety, while increasing awareness of outdoor and hiking clubs in B.C. Participants organize and lead hikes of varying degrees of difficulty which are open to the public. Last year's program drew 50 groups and over 1000 people into the great outdoors. This year is looking bigger and better with a media sponsor promising wide coverage of the events. To register your group or club for a public hike, call the FMCBC at 737-3053 for a registration form. Deadline for registration: March 30, 1994. If you have some free time and would like to help out with the coordination of this year's event, call the FMCBC office at 737-3053.

United Way signs up FMCBC

The United Way's Donor Choice Program, which distributes more than \$5 million dollars a year, now includes the Federation of Mountain Clubs among its recipients. Donors make pledges through their employers, who deduct amounts monthly from payroll and forward the money to the United Way.

Stein Valley Trail Work Party

The FMCBC Trails Committee, in conjunction with the Chilliwack Outdoors Club is organizing a weekend trail maintenance outing on the Stein River Trail. The outing is scheduled for April 22, 23 and 24, 1994. Most of the work will involve brushing and windfall removal from the cable car crossing and repairing its base. All participants will organize their own camping gear and food. Tools will be supplied by the FMCBC if necessary. For more info or to sign up, call John Otava at 469-9430

FMCBC Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will take place Saturday June 18th, 1994 in Nanaimo at the Tally Ho Inn, 1 Terminal Ave. (15 minute walk from the ferry). Members from the mainland who are planning to attend should consider carpooling to Horseshoe Bay and boarding as a foot passenger. If you need to be picked up at the other end, please contact Thom Ward at 743-4417. Billetting on the Island can also be arranged. The speaker for this year's AGM will be an avid explorer of the Coast Mountains, John Clarke

Mt. Brew Hut Correction

Last issue, we reported that the VOC was considering removing this hut which has been unusable since last fall. Not so! Blair Hammond, Director of Special Projects informs us that the club plans to repair and strengthen the hut in the fall of '94. For more information, contact Blair at 222-2070.

Leadership for Trip Leaders

This evening workshop will be offered by a professional outdoor recreation instructor on Thursday April 14, 1994 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm in Vancouver. The workshop will focus on effective group management and trip preparation. There is no charge for this workshop, but registrations must be made in advance. Call the FMCBC office at 737-3053 to register.

Calling All Hikers

The B.C. Mobility Society, dedicated to providing a hiking/wilderness experience for people with disabilities, is looking for volunteers for a new program at Pacific Spirit Park (near UBC). With the help of a two-seater multi-terrain wheelchair, the Society plans to improve the accessibility of hiking trails in the area. Volunteer hikers, preferably with knowledge of local flora and fauna, are needed to accompany wheelchair hikers on the trails. For more information, contact coordinator Laurie Hill at 688-6464

Varsity Outdoor Club Annual Banquet

Local film-maker and mountaineer Janet Roddan will give a multi-media presentation at this year's banquet to be held March 30th at Alexi's Taverna. For more information contact Jan Palaty at 732-0963.

Canada West Mountain School

by Brian Jones

Just when we thought winter had finally started, it's time to break out the rock shoes, find the bug juice and start planning some summer adventures!

At Canada West Mountain School, every new season has us poring over the previous year's course feedback forms, talking with instructors and interviewing past students to fine tune our program. This season is no different, as we have made adjustments to better reflect the needs of the modern day backcountry traveller.

The sheer number of people hiking, climbing and mountaineering has increased over the years to where mountain users cannot expect the same experience as in the past. Schools such as ours have an impact on both the number of users and the philosophy people have towards mountain recreation. Changes to our summer 1994 program reflect this. Our Complete Mountaineering, for instance, now has a reduced class size of eight, with two instructors. This helps minimize impact in the course areas, while also making for a more effective course. Another change this year has been to offer mid-week Introduction to Rockclimbing courses in Squamish. The crowding problems in Squamish are such that a weekend course is not only difficult to conduct, but also

incurs the wrath of many climbers! Coupled with this, we split our larger groups into two, so that there are smaller classes with less impact on other climbers.

Finally, we are also helping to generate an awareness of the need to search for new and different regions to play in. Continuing to revisit the same haunts over and over may destroy them for future generations, and also contributes to making all of our experiences less enjoyable in the present. Canada West Mountain School is expanding courses into the interior and the Island, we are developing new rock climbing instruction sites outside of Squamish and we continue to encourage hikers and climbers to head out into different areas of B.C. Not only will this help your personal climbing development, but you might also help spread the impact of the 1990's backcountry traveller around.

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Safety and Education

by Ed Spat

Avalanche Bulletin in Jeopardy

The Canadian Avalanche Association's toll-free avalanche hazard information line (1-800-667-1105), a source of information on which mountain travellers have come to rely, is in danger of disappearing due to funding cuts. According to a recent article in the Vancouver Sun, the B.C. government has discontinued its financial contribution to this service.

The \$60,000 a year cost of running the program is minimal compared to the rising costs of rescues and medical care in the province, to say nothing of the increased danger to recreationists which will result. Do your part to keep this service alive. Send your letters of dismay to the Ministry of Parks and your letters of support for the program to Jim Gouk, MP, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario.

Accident Reports

In the interests of learning from past mistakes, the Safety and Education Committee would like to publish a regular column in Cloudburst of accident reports, including details of contributing mistakes and hazards. Names will be omitted to protect the embarrassed and the actionable. Concise reports may be mailed to the committee c/o FMCBC, 336 - 1367 West Broadway, Vancouver, V6H 4A9.

Tuning up your Rack

Spring is a great time to check over your gear before the climbing season gets underway. Here are some guidelines to keep in mind:

Check over all your "software" (ropes, slings, including harness and protection slings). Anything over 3 years old or showing abnormal abrasion should be discarded. Your rope and harness should be replaced after two seasons of moderate use, a season being approximately 40 days of use. Feel over the full length of your rope for soft "mushy" parts which may indicate crushing of internal fibres. Ropes should be protected from dirt, abrasion, kinking, sunlight, heat and chemicals. Hand rinse them in the tub without cleaning agents and store in a cool, dark place. Minimize lowering and use a butterfly coil and a rope bag. Similar precautions should be taken for slings.

"Hardware" (carabiners, camming units and other protection) should also be examined. Check the action of all units. If they need lubrication, be careful that it doesn't drip onto slings or ropes. Replace any hardware that shows evidence of impact except pitons. Any such gear should always be discarded if dropped more than four feet onto a hard surface. Never climb with second-hand carabiners, slings or ropes.

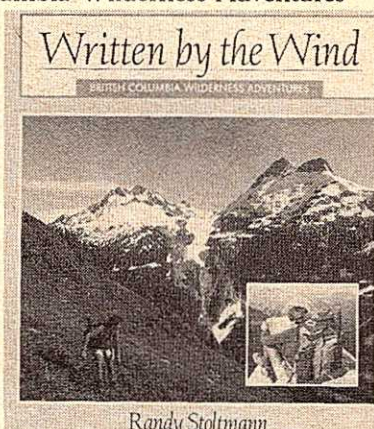
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Island Perspectives

by Chris Barner

Volunteers are wonderful people. They are the type that will do almost anything for you, as long as you allow them, and provided you don't expect them to. You can observe them at work on the Island (where I've noticed they seem to proliferate), particularly in Strathcona Park.

Thanks to the Island Mountain Ramblers, it is now possible to trek the Elk River Trail to Landslide Lake without fear of drowning. The Friends of Strathcona have given us a route from tidewater to glacier in the Bedwell valley. John Put works at Crest Creek more than he climbs there, and the Comox District Mountaineering Club has been working in Strathcona Park since before nylon rope. Every Canada Day, mountain-lovers from down Island drive over 400 miles in a weekend just to lend a hand.

With all this volunteer work going on, the folks at the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks have their hands full organizing who's to do what, and how! If you're the Ministry, you can't have just anyone laying out routes chopping away in a park that you're being paid to manage. There are liability concerns and safety regulations to be considered, trail signage and maintenance standards to worry about, and a Master Plan to conform to. In the end, volunteers are lucky if they can squeeze a deed in edgewise, while frustrated Parks employees spend years trying to prove funding is neces-

sary for a given project.

The problem is that you can't slow good volunteers down without discouraging them. They have to see results, because that's all they get for what they do. Furthermore, it takes money to be generous. It's just not worthwhile unless those who are willing, get support from those who are benefitting. If a project isn't kept in motion, volunteers tend to lose faith in the process and go ahead with their intentions - sanctioned or not.

If the Ministry wants to gain the confidence and harness the enthusiasm of the volunteer, more decisions must be made locally. Since the provincial government has decided that funding for park management should be reduced, even as they strive to increase park land to 12%, volunteer work has become an even more valuable resource. Because no two parks (or groups of volunteers) are the same, it's the Zone Managers who are really aware of what's going on in their areas. They should be given the authority to redefine standards and regulations as they relate to their specific circumstances. Province-wide standards can be a hindrance to the diversity we are aiming for in our parks system.

Let's give the locals the power to make, and act upon, decisions based on local needs. Let's get those volunteers out there doing what they're good at before they get tired of offering. Who knows, we may even get around to clearing some windfalls out of the way!

Trails

HELP NEEDED!

Volunteer coordinators for the Adopt-A-Trail program are needed for several zones. Coordinators report to the Trails Committee at their meetings (held every 6 weeks except in the summer) about trail conditions, problems, new trails or requirements for their section. This might entail visits to trails and phone calls to Parks and Forestry officers or the trail adoptee responsible for the maintenance.

At present, zone coordinators are required for Zone C, which includes trails from Mt. Fromme to Pitt River, and Zone E, covering trails from Maple Ridge to the Skagit. Coordinators for other regions may be needed.

Any members interested in volunteering for the Adopt-A-Trail program, or other aspects of the Trails Committee work are asked to contact the FMCBC office at 737-3053.

Skaha Trail Weekend

The dramatic increase in climber visits to the Skaha Bluffs has played havoc with the trails. Local climbers will be working to stabilize the trail between the Braeside car park and the Fortress on the weekend before Easter (March 26 & 27). Some help from other climbers would be appreciated. If you are willing, please contact Ray at the Sports Den in Penticton at 493-1216.

Outdoor Leaders Needed

The Student Conservation Association, based in Seattle, is looking for outdoor leaders to supervise high school work crews on conservation projects throughout the Pacific Northwest. This is a paid position and proven leadership, camping experience and Wilderness First Aid certificate are required. Trail construction and environmental education experience desirable. Training available. Send resume to: Student Conservation Association, 2524 16th Ave. South, Seattle, WA 98144.



Adopt-A-Trail Week

April 11-17, 1994

The Adopt-A-Trail program has been running for several years. It encourages and helps volunteers and organizations to take on the maintenance of a hiking trail or part of a trail throughout the province. You and some friends, or a community group can Adopt-A-Trail.

For more information, contact The Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C., #336-1367 West Broadway, Vancouver B.C., V6H 4A9,
Ph: (604) 737-3053 or
Charles Clapham at
(604) 224 0329.

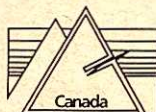


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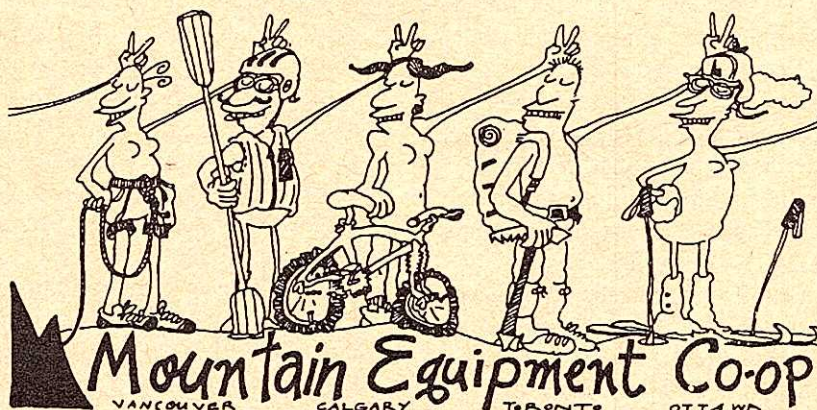
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THANKS!

Thanks to the following individuals and organizations who responded to the FMCBC's request for donations in the last issue of Cloudburst. Your support is much appreciated!

Doug Leard
Melanie Gruff
Gordon Dunham
Janet Noakes & John Pearson
Elly Morgan
Anders Ourom
Elizabeth Black
Eric Wilson
Donald Wood
Norman Purssell
Michael Nash
Tom Hall
Heidi Alberti
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Club Feature: The Crankin' Teens

by Alison Harding

The Crankin' Teens in Powell River (the FMCBC's newest club), grew from a need to provide rock climbing instruction to local teens. No formal training was available and I was worried that safety standards were not being met. Since 4 of my teenage boys wanted to climb, I was anxious to provide something for them. I organized a course late in the summer for 5 teens, and Dean Hart from Canada West Mountain School spent two days teaching at "Higgieland" a popular climbing wall at Powell Lake.

So many other teens wanted to climb that we decided to form a club. I put up posters in the local junior high, high school and pool hall and about 15 teens joined along with several interested adults. As money is a big problem for these members (some are full-time students, some have dropped out and are unemployed), we wanted to provide courses for the minimum rate and felt that joining the Federation would give us access to lower priced courses and help us to build a leadership base.

As summer had already passed, and rock-climbing weather sporadic, we decided to have a club outing, and

had a good day hike and bouldering session at Centre Lakes, northeast of Powell River. At Thanksgiving, two groups went climbing over two days at the Stillwater Bluffs area. Since then, I have been in contact with the Heathens (FMCBC member club) in Campbell River. Chris Barner and Gary Hartford have been very positive and encouraging. We hope to do some winter skills workshops with them and to join their rock-climbing and summer programs later this year.

We are hoping to have an Avalanche Safety Workshop through Canada West Mountain School in the near future and a snow camp at Emma Lake during the Spring break.

We have started negotiations with MacMillan Bloedel for a special-use permit for "Higgieland" which falls under their licence. We hope to obtain permission to use the area for climbing and to put up some portable toilets for summer use. The club will make a submission to MacMillan Bloedel for use of this area in the near future. Roll on summer!

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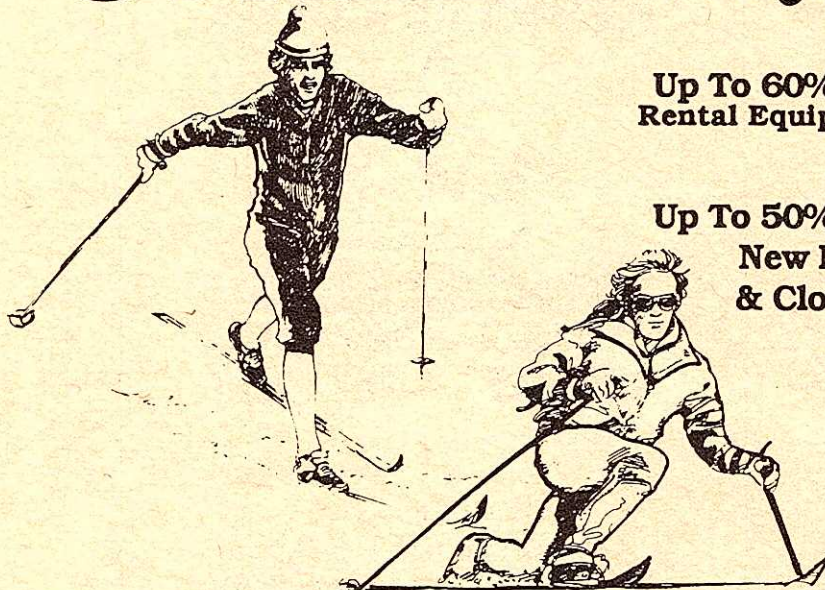


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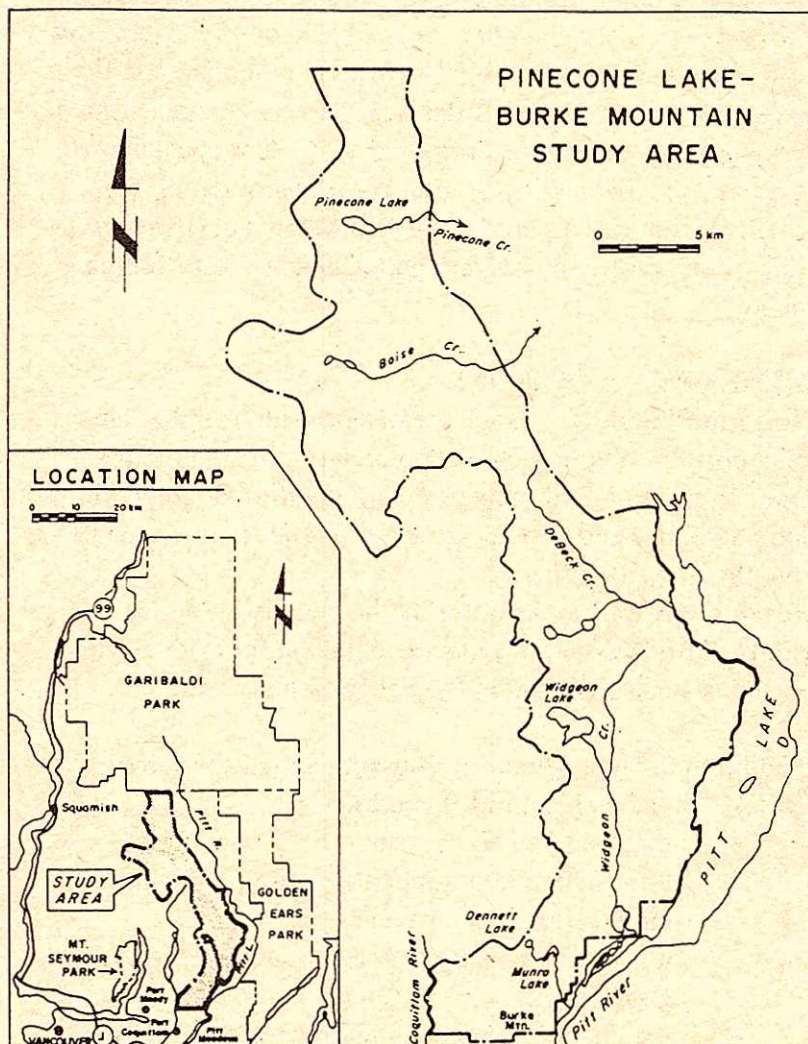
by Jay MacArthur

Pinecone Lake - Burke Mountain

A protected area study has been in progress for the past year for the area stretching from Burke Mountain (just north of Port Coquitlam) to Pinecone Lake on the edge of Garibaldi Provincial Park. The area includes Boise Creek, one of the last unlogged low elevation valleys close to Vancouver. The alpine ridges in the area offer high quality backcountry hiking opportunities.

Recent public meetings to "discuss" options displayed the continued polarization between the parties involved. **Your letters are needed to convince the government to protect the area.** The FMCBC has not yet taken an official position on the proposed boundaries. A proposal by the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, shown here, is being recommended by many of our members.

Please write to: Mel Turner, B.C. Parks, 1610 Mount Seymour Road, North Vancouver, V7G 1L3. A copy to the premier with a personal note would also help.



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The Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. represents B.C.'s mountaineers, rock climbers, hikers, backcountry skiers, and snowshoers. We are actively involved in mountain conservation and mountain access issues, and have an effective trail building and maintenance program. As well as speaking to governments, the media and industry on these issues, the FMCBC promotes mountain safety through a comprehensive skills-oriented course program with Canada West Mountain School.

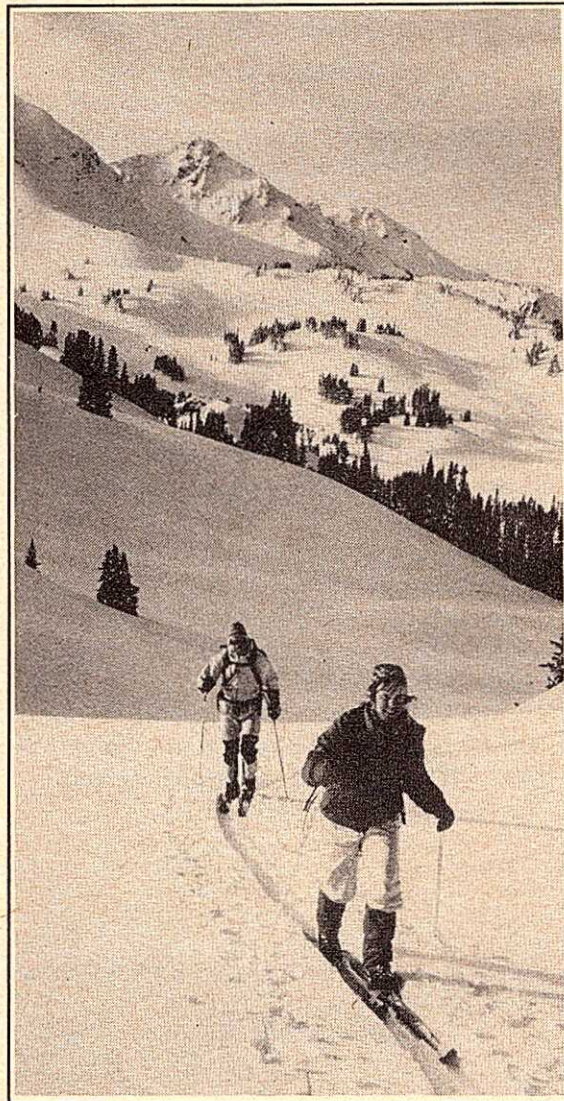
MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Club Membership: Join one of our many member clubs and a portion of your annual club fee goes to support the Federation. A club directory, including information about each club's activities and contact names and numbers is available from the FMCBC office.

Individual Membership: For all the benefits of affiliation with the FMCBC without joining a club, an Individual Membership is available through the Federation's office.

In addition to supporting the goals and activities of the FMCBC, membership entitles you to:

- discounts on all courses
- information about mountaineering and outdoors clubs around the province
- a yearly subscription to our quarterly magazine, **Cloudburst**
- the chance to become involved in the FMCBC's conservation, access, trail building, safety activities



Send to: The Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C., 336 - 1367 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9 or call 737-3053.

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If you have the time and energy to contribute to the volunteer work of the FMCBC, please indicate which area you would like to be involved in:

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Conserving Mountain Wilderness ☐

Building Trails ☐

How did you hear about the FMCBC ? _____

☐ Please register me as an INDIVIDUAL MEMBER with the FMCBC. I enclose a cheque or money order for \$25 to cover one year's membership fees.

☐ Please send me a list of all member clubs and their membership contacts.

☐ I enclose a tax deductible contribution to assist the FMCBC with its work in the amount of \$ _____