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# CLOUDBURST

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Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia Newsletter

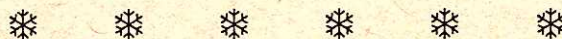
September 1994

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*Ski Nirvana this winter!!*



*Students on a Canada West Mountain School tour in the Pantheon Range cross the Siva Glacier en route to Nirvana Pass, March, 1994. (Photo - Gerry Kahrman)*



The Pantheon Range: unspoiled beauty in the heart of the Coast Mountains. In winter, this majestic range of peaks, glaciers and untouched valleys becomes a ski tourer's paradise. Few people visit this remote area of B.C., situated approximately 250 kilometers west of Williams Lake. Even fewer go there in the winter. Neighbours of the better known Mt. Waddington, the Pantheons boast a dry climate, moderate terrain and an endless array of untouched valleys, glaciers and bowls. Last winter, 8 students and instructors with Canada West Mountain School set up a zero impact camp in Nirvana Pass for a week of exploratory ski touring. The sense of wilderness and adventure that is the Pantheons experience left them all with memories to last a lifetime.

This winter, plan some adventures to the Coast Mountains!



## 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:** Sara Kammerzell  
336-1367 W. Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6H 4A9  
Tel: 737-3053 Fax: 738-7175

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**Manager, CWMS:** Brian Jones  
**Office Assistant:** Su'Zan Cook

### Committee Chairs:

**Recreation and Conservation:** Roger Freeman,  
Jay MacArthur  
**Trails:** Blair Mitten, John Otava  
**Safety and Education:** Simon Austen  
**Smoke Bluffs:** Jim Campbell

Volume 2 Nimber 3

## 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 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:

Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 14

### Safety and Education Committee:

Call FMCBC office for next meeting

### Trails Committee:

Oct. 24, Dec. 5

### Board of Directors: (tentative)

Sept. 21, Oct. 15 (9-5) Nov. 16, Dec. 21

### Usual Meeting Locations (check with office)

\*\*\* 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.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*By Thom Ward*

This summer has presented me with many new and interesting challenges, not the least of which was becoming President of the FMCBC. I would like to thank all of the many volunteers, and staff, who work so hard to make the FMCBC be the best that it can be.

Our Federation is a many faceted one, with four standing committees and one subsidiary (Canada West Mountain School) that represent our main interests. These committees are made up solely of volunteers, who have expressed an interest in the activities of the respective committee. For the most part these are very dedicated, hardworking volunteers--a good thing, because the committees are so small.

A very common problem for most volunteer organizations is that too few people end up doing most of the work. A committee starts off full of interested volunteers, but as time goes by, the committee shrinks in size, because as long as someone is prepared to take on a task, everyone else is prepared to let them do so. After a while, everyone assumes that someone will do what needs doing, and eventually everyone expects that the task has been dealt with.

This past year I have heard many criticisms of both the committees and the Federation as a whole; the main one being a lack of communication. Communication is a two way thing, getting (and staying) in touch with the general membership is only half of it, and the membership must be prepared to both listen and respond.

Until now we have relied upon this medium, "Cloudburst", to inform members what the Federation is doing, and to ask for the membership's support/approval/input into those activities. Since there had been only marginal response, it was difficult to gauge the effectiveness of this method of communication.

I have spent these past few months reflecting upon the problems of the Federation, and attempting to find ways to resolve them. The first step, as always, is to define what exactly are the problems. What most people see as the problem is quite often only a symptom. A careful analysis of the symptoms, which can be time consuming, has been protracted due to the summer and the nature of the people involved in our Federation.

A number of things have been done this summer to address some of the problems:

◆ In the way the budget was previously written, the finances of the CWMS were not clearly separated from the rest of the FMCBC's finances, this has now been done. It took a lot of revisions and was unfortunately not ready when the Annual Report was printed.

◆ Many clubs have complained that the Federation has not adequately dealt with their concerns. This has generally been because the FMCBC was either unaware of those concerns or didn't have the resources, usually

volunteers, to address them. I have asked all directors and committee chairs to attend as many club meetings as they can, the objective is that each club is visited by someone from the FMCBC at least once a year.

◆ As many of you know, we have been without an Executive Director for some time now. This has been a rather unfortunate circumstance, but it has given us the motivation necessary to seriously reflect upon the purpose and goals of the organization. By gathering together concerned members, the FMCBC has received some valuable input, and will be repeating the effort. We hope the vacant position will be filled in the near future.

◆ With grant funding becoming increasingly scarce every year, the need to do fundraising has become increasingly more critical. In the past, this task has been left to the Executive Director, but with the many various demands upon that person's time, it has become impractical to continue doing so. Hence the formation of a new standing committee, the Fundraising Committee, which is in dire need of volunteers.

This all takes time and volunteers. Consulting with member clubs would be easy if every club had monthly meetings, but most don't. Since some clubs only meet annually, to get any sort of consensus is a very protracted effort. This is unfortunate, but it is the nature of our Federation and must be recognized and considered when dealing with issues fundamental to the Fed's structure.

I know there are some members who are unhappy with the rate of change, but I would like to ask them to be patient. Since I've had no new volunteers stepping forward, I can only do so much with those already overworked volunteers that there are. It's easier to withdraw one's support, if the changes you want aren't happening fast enough to suit you, since it's a lot of work to make those changes come about.

All of this would be more than enough to keep most people busy, but I'm yet to even mention any of the external concerns that the Fed has been dealing with -- Issues such as CORE and the Forest Practices Code Act. Please note the committee coverage of these. On the lighter side, Jim Croft, the recreation officer for the Mid-Coast Forest District is currently having a reactional inventory of the district done. Anyone with any knowledge and/or interest in the fascinating area can contact him at 982-2017. To save the toll charges, call Enquire BC at the number for your area or 1-800-663-7867.



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## CLUB FEATURE

North Shore Hikers

*By Charles Nash, Past President*

The North Shore Hikers' activities are as diverse as the interests of the nearly 900 members. While hiking the many trails of the Lower Mainland predominates, the year-round program includes trips by bicycle, canoe, kayak, ski or snowshoe with daypack or backpack for a day or longer.

Every trip is coordinated by someone already familiar with the territory. Sometimes a car camp will combine a trip further afield with the opportunity to explore a new area. Occasionally a few members pool their resources and efforts and fly offshore to trek such as Nepal, backpack China or discover Australia's outback. How do we manage this?

The secrets of success are simplicity, informality and communications. There is an elected executive with good working committees. The Program Committee draws up the program for every weekend and holiday in each quarter of the year and mails a copy to each active member. A coded description of every trip, easy, medium or strenuous, gives information on which to base a decision to join a trip or not. The name and phone number of the coordinator is listed for those who need more details. A decision to go is followed by showing up at the indicated place and time to join others in carpooling to the trailhead.

The program appeals to all from beginners to those with years of experience in the outdoors. It includes helpful hints on what to wear and what to bring. North Shore Hikers members get much satisfaction from participating in activities where and when they choose. Work hikes are scheduled periodically to build or maintain trails. These provide opportunities to give back to nature some of the benefits they derive. No-trace hiking or camping makes it difficult for any casual observer to detect that a North Shore Hikers trip actually took place.

Once in a while the members go indoors for the fun of a social evening with the exchange of experiences or the showing of slides. Through the year, the common thread among all members is the shared love and enjoyment of the outdoors in a country that offers us everything.

## From Ocean Swell To Cloudburst



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## FMCBC INITIATIVES

### YEW LAKE BARRIER FREE TRAIL

By Lesley Bohm, FMCBC Director

This is the second year in which the FMCBC has organized the building of the wheelchair accessible trail to Yew Lake in Cypress Park. The project started June 13 and employs seven crew members and a supervisor who work with BC Parks staff.

Sponsors were Canada Jobs Strategy, BC Parks, BC Sports and Fitness Council for the Disabled, Mountain Equipment Coop, Shell Environmental Fund, Active Living for the Environment, Vancouver City Credit Union, Construction Aggregates, Hole in the Sky (Film) Productions, Black Diamond Equipment Ltd., and Cypress Bowl Recreations.

This year the excellent crew and supervisor enabled us to make fast progress fixing winter damage to last year's trail, joining it to the parking lot with a new section and continuing the trail past Yew Lakes to the regeneration area. At Parks' suggestion, instead of making a loop, we continued on to the magnificent old growth forest at the north end of Yew Lakes. This piece of trail makes a very different impression from the open subalpine marshes of the Yew Lakes as it winds between huge western hemlocks, fir and yellow cedar.

The Parks wheelchair access consultant, who was responsible for the Kananaskis barrier-free trail, congratulated us on the results and said the trail would be graded easy to medium and that it will provide barrier-free access not only to wheelchairs but to strollers and the elderly who can no longer manage hills or uneven ground. We hope to have made one of the most attractive subalpine areas in BC accessible to as many as possible, and very much thank all the participants.

*It is planned to have Rick Hansen open the trail at the end of September, but this has to be confirmed.*



Joe Higgins enjoys Yew Lake Trail

Photo Credit: L. Bohm

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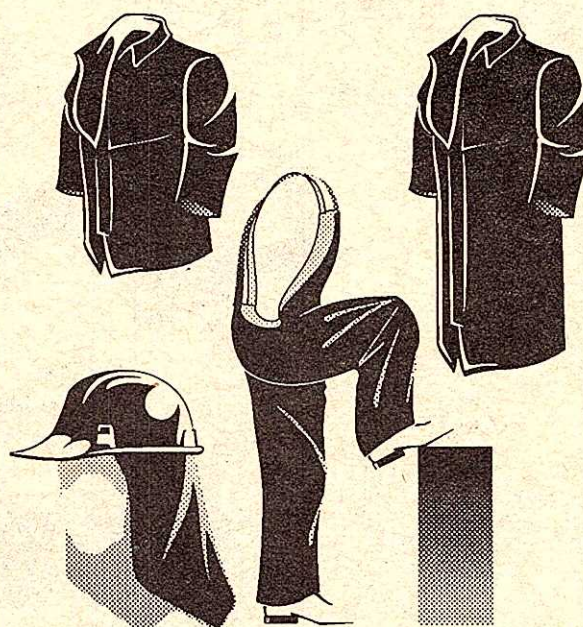
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## CANADA WEST MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

*By Brian Jones, Program Director*

What a summer! It seems that everyone I've talked to had great trips, fine weather and lots of stories to tell. As it should be, right? Equally so for CWMS. Our courses kept over 350 people busy this season learning everything from basic rock skills in Squamish, to apprenticing as Trail Leaders in the Stein Valley. The weather helped make this season memorable, but once again credit goes out equally to a great team of hardworking instructors and the truly enthusiastic students on every course. Thanks to all who contributed to an excellent summer!

Now, it's time to turn our attention to the upcoming winter, when we all start to pray to the powers-that-be for months of low temperatures, short storms and endless powder days under blue skies. With this vision in mind, we're preparing for yet another season in the snow here at CWMS!

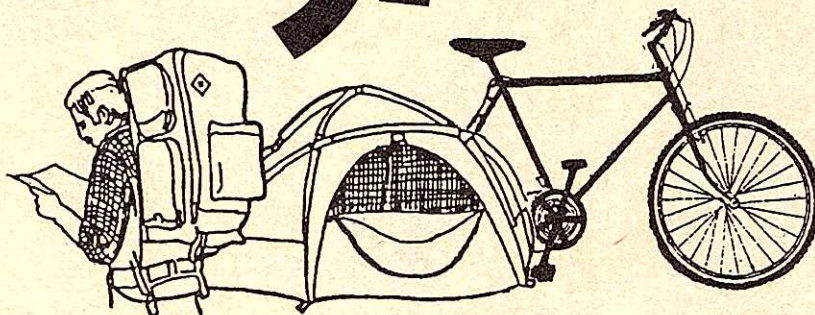
This fall the FMCBC and CWMS are joining forces with the Canadian Avalanche Association (CAA) to host an Avalanche Safety Workshop over the weekend of November 19-20. This is not an academic symposium for professionals and academics, but is geared towards all winter backcountry travellers, whether novice or experienced. Held at the Images Theatre at Simon Fraser University, the best avalanche experts from B.C. and Alberta will gather to teach a variety of subjects such as, mountain snowpack and weather, terrain and route selection, field tests of snow stability and self rescue and first aid. As an added bonus, join Jim Haberl on the evening of Nov. 19th for his slide show and talk, **Alpinism around the world!** The cost for this 1-1/2 day workshop and slide show is an incredible \$65.00 (+ gst) for club members, \$75.00 (+ gst) for non-members! All proceeds go to help support the CAA's Avalanche Safety Bulletin, a 1-800 telephone (or computer) hotline on avalanche conditions throughout B.C. and Alberta. Call (or drop by) the FMCBC office at 737-3056 for more information or to register.

Don't forget to pick up our winter brochure coming out in October (and remember, many of our programs book early, so call soon about courses you're interested in). **New on the brochure this season is an Avalanche course for Snowboarders.** There has been an increase in the number of 'boarders heading to the backcountry, and onto our Avalanche courses. One concern raised was that many safety aspects taught on ski touring based avalanche courses were not applicable to 'boarders. Also, their mode of uphill travel (usually snow-shoes) often requires a different route selection than touring skis. So, we offer perhaps one of the first "Avalanche Awareness for Backcountry Snowboarders" courses in BC.

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## BULLETIN

### Search and Rescue Advisory Committee

The Ministry of Attorney General has established the SAR Advisory Committee to advise the Provincial Emergency Program on all matters related to ground and inland water search and rescue. In 1993/1994 fiscal period, there were 605 search and rescues involving 940 people. To reduce the number of SAR operations needed, the committee has developed a TRIP ITINERARY FORM which is available to the public upon request. For an educational handout and a trip itinerary, contact the PEP program at 222-7150

### FMCBC Volunteer Recognition

Volunteer Recognition certificates were presented at the AGM on June 18 to the following people for their contributions to the FMCBC:

**Bob Dempsey** - Bob Dempsey served as our Treasurer for nearly two years. We thank him for the many hours he devoted to our organization.

**Bob Harris** - Bob Harris has been involved in the FMCBC since its beginning and until recently was a member of the Recreation and Conservation Committee. He has written hundreds of letters to government regarding the preservation of historic trails. In these letters he has used his extensive knowledge gained as a member of the FMCBC, Fed. of Naturalists, BC Historical Society, and North Shore Hikers.

**Neil Grainger** - Neil is a long time member of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club and also a former zone coordinator for the FMCBC Trails Committee. His particular interests have been the Pocket Wilderness and the trails in the Chilliwack Valley.

**Jay MacArthur** - Jay has been one of our most active members for over fifteen years, first as Varsity Outdoor Club delegate, then as an FMCBC executive member, President twice and since then as co-chair of the Recreation and Conservation Committee. In June he was again elected as a director. Jay's special field of interest has always been the Chilcotins. He was a participant in the Chilko Lake planning process which resulted in the creation of Ts'ylos Park. Since the establishment of Ts'ylos Park Jay has been concentrating on the preservation of the South Chilcotins.

### Rails to Trails Council of BC AGM

**Date:** October 1 & 2.

**Contact:** Harvey Quaame

RR#3 S-5 C-7 605 Russet Dr. Penticton V2A 7K8

**Speakers:** Jerry Joynt (Trans Canada Trail - Calgary)  
Dan & Sandra Langdon, authors of the Guidebook to Cycling the Kettle Valley Railway.

**Cost:** \$16 including BBQ lunch, heritage railway tour, field trip to Myra Canyon.

### FMCBC Advisor Steps Down

Paddy Sherman has recently stepped down from his position of FMCBC Advisor. We thank Paddy for his support and advice, and extend our appreciation of his assistance with Hike BC

### Banff Film Festival

Will be held November 4-6 in Banff (403-762-6349) and Vancouver November 23/24. Tickets at 731-6181 or at Coast Mountain. Buy early, this show will sell out!

### Silver Spray Cabin Replacement Underway

Volunteers from the Friends of West Kootenay Parks Society began replacement of the cabin in July. It is hoped that the cabin will be open for use this fall. Funding is by donation; please send your tax deductible contribution to the Friends at:  
Box 212, Nelson BC V1L 5P6

### CPAWS-BC Forestry Course - Sept. 24

CPAWS is organising an intensive one day course at UBC on Sept. 24 from 9-5. Outline: Ethical issues, history of forestry, legal aspects, tenure arrangements, new practises and perspectives. Cost: \$20. Send cheque to: CPAWS, Box 33918, Stn D  
Vancouver, BC V6J 4L7  
Call Tim Wilson at 685-7445 to reserve space.

### Pender Harbour Trails Project

The project intends to build a multi-purpose, ferry-to-ferry trail on the Sunshine Coast. A feasibility study funded by Employment and Immigration Canada is currently underway. Letters of support and information are needed. Please forward to: Pat Thibodeau  
Pender Harbour Trails Project, 5557 Garden Bay Road  
RR#1, Site 3, C-9, Garden Bay, BC V0N 1S0  
or call 883-2567 with information.

## FMCBC CASINO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The FMC is very pleased to host a casino **October 23/24 at the Vancouver Renaissance Hotel. We are seeking the help of 5 good samaritans who will volunteer to work the event. The Casino is an important fundraiser which allows the Trails and Recreation and Conservation Committees to pursue issues of mountain access and preservation. Please call the FMC at 737-3053 if you can help us out!**



## TRAILS INFORMATION

### Committee Report

*By Blair Mitten*

This year your trails committee ran a Trail Builder's and Maintainer's workshop on handtool safety and maintenance. A cache of new trail building hand tools was established in the Fraser Valley, call the office for details. The Committee voted to remove chainsaws from the present cache due to concern about liability, safety, proper maintenance and operation.

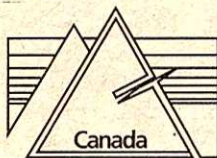
Co-Chairman John Otava led a trail work hike organized through the FMCBC for individual and club members. The Committee hopes that this very appropriate activity will set a precedent and become a regular event.

Adopt-A-Trail is working with over 70 trails being regularly maintained by 'adopting' parties. We continue to liaise directly with forest and wilderness managers, noting trail conditions across the province.

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### Update on Canada's National Trails

*By Charles Clapham*

There have been a number of requests for information about the National Trail Association of Canada (NTAC) and the Trans Canada Trail Foundation (TCTF). The NTAC is an organization dedicated to the creation of a foot trail across Canada. It is a volunteer organization with almost no funds. The TCTF is an organization created to establish a multipurpose trail across Canada and to the Arctic. It was established with legacy funds from Canada 125 and has moneys from corporate sponsors.

Neither organization has yet selected a route defined throughout its length. The TCTF will likely prefer a route at lower elevations with lower grades. Old railway rights of way will be ideal. Hikers will tend to prefer the height-of-land routes. It may be that the TCTF will establish a major alignment and there will be diversions to suit particular user groups in specific locations where traffic warrants.

The advantage of the multipurpose approach is that in the more remote areas there is a better chance of getting maintenance funds for the combined total of users. People who have tried to travel the Centennial Trail will be aware of the lack of maintenance and the trail's consequent near disappearance in many places. The disadvantage is that many hikers will find sustained portions of railway grade boring and uninteresting.

The National Trail Association of Canada is looking for a BC director. If you would like to help in promoting the hikers' point of view on a trail across Canada and feel you might be able to volunteer, please call Charles Clapham at 224-0329.

### FMCBC SEEKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The FMCBC is a non-profit society based in Vancouver. Our mission is to serve, foster and promote the interests of member clubs and individuals involved in hiking and mountaineering.

We are searching for an individual with administrative and interpersonal skills to work with volunteers and represent our members. You will be a leader who has demonstrated results working with a team. Practical or professional experience in the natural resource management and outdoor recreation fields is desirable. Please send your resume to:

**Search Committee, FMCBC**

336-1367 W. Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9.



# ► Recreation & Conservation Special Bulletin ◀

*An occasional publication on specific issues*

*By Roger Freeman, Co-Chairman*

## PETGILL LAKE LOGGING: PRESENT ISSUES

Thanks to Dave Albert of the North Shore Hikers for bringing the blowdown and logging situation above Petgill Lake to the Forest Service's and our attention (The Lake has become an increasingly popular destination on the east side of Howe Sound, north of Britannia Beach).

In the fall of 1993, logging (mostly salvage logging justified by massive blowdown on steep slopes caused by storms between 1990-92) commenced east of the lake. There is a 10 metre leave-strip along Gonzales Creek and an approximate 100 metre timber reserve along the lake. The logged opening was not supposed to be visible from the lake or the Squamish Highway. What is visible from the lookout above the lake is blowdown adjacent to Block B, which extends to the northeast corner of the lake and affects the Lake Circuit Trail, built by Halvor Lunden.

A camper coming down the trail on May 22nd told me that he had heard motorbikes or motorcycles in the cut-block area the night before.

The Forest Service told me on June 6th that they intended to clear the Lake Circuit Trail, which was passable only with difficulty, although the logging did not cause the blowdowns. (This became unnecessary, because Halvor Lunden immediately cleared the trail upon hearing of the problem).

A major question we considered is: whether or not it would be good for the recreational stand point for the Forest Service to lift out the down timber between the lake and the cutblock edge (by helicopter). There are some valuable threes there, but we fear that this will actually be more of an eyesore than it is already and may make trail-bike access too easy. We have recommended that they not remove those trees, based on the fact that the Forest Service cannot assure us that motorized access will be effectively excluded. As a result, we were notified that salvage logging has been deferred. We have asked that if the decision is changed, we be notified.

We were also told that the logging road has been at least temporarily de-activated, preventing motorized access to the area. We are pleased with these decisions by the Forest Service, but have little reason for confidence about future actions. Clearly, a careful 'watching brief' must be kept on activities in the Howe Sound area. Reductions in the AAC have resulted in shortages of available timber, and increased pressures may be expected to have an effect on planning decisions. Our input to balance these pressures is essential.

## PETGILL LAKE LOGGING: THE FUTURE

It isn't just the present situation that should be of concern! The forest cover map faxed to me shows that in order to meet their timber supply goals, the Squamish District will be advertising TSL A44917, which extends into the beautiful forest southeast of Petgill Lake, up lower Goat Ridge, and will massively impact the viewshed above the lake. Some of the proposed cut will obliterate the start of the Goat Ridge Trail that begins just south of Petgill Lake. The District is obligated to inform potential licensees about this proposal, and logging will almost certainly occur in the absence of protests from outdoor recreationists.

Although it will impact the views less, area A44916 northwest of Petgill Lake is also proposed for logging around the year 2006. It was recommended that the Federation write to the Squamish District Manager, Paul Kuster, and indicate our opposition to the proposed Goat Ridge logging. This has been done. At the very least, the Goat Ridge Trail should be properly mapped by GPS so that its location can be on their maps so that any logging can take the trail into account. If you are interested in helping with mapping or the blowdown/logging situation, write or phone:

**Paul Kuster, District Manager**  
**Squamish Forest District**  
 42000 Loggers Lane, Squamish, BC V0N 3G0  
 Phone 898-2125 Fax 989-2191  
 File Number 19620-20/A44917

As a result of the meeting on June 6th, when members present expressed concern over the future of Howe Sound in general, we requested a meeting with the Forest Service to discuss other 5-year development plans along Howe Sound. They replied that they were too busy with other processes to arrange such a meeting at that time. We have notified them that we still expect to have this meeting as soon as practicable. For further details, call me. **Roger D. Freeman, Co-Chairman:**  
 Phone: 263-9101 Fax: 261-5344

## CYPRESS BOWL ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

Responsibility for Administration of Park Use Permit 1506 (Cypress Bowl) has been transferred from the Parks to Lands branch of the Ministry. The FMCBC is monitoring any changes in use of the area by the public and Cypress Bowl Recreations - Call FMC Director Lesley Bohm at 224-1098 with reports.



## Recreation and Conservation Special Bulletin Continued...

### SECTIONS 102/103/143 OF THE FOREST PRACTICES CODE ACT: CRIMINALIZING TRAIL BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Would you believe...Sections 102 and 143 of the new Forest Practices Code Act (Bill 40) make it an offense to build, rehabilitate, or maintain any trail on Crown Land without permission of the District Manager: "(1) Subject to subsection (2), a person must obtain the consent of the district manager before constructing, rehabilitating or maintaining a trail or other recreation facility on Crown land. (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person who is authorized under another enactment...(3)The district manager may, in a notice served on a person who contravenes subsection (1), order the person to (a) remove or destroy, or both, the trail or facility, and (b) restore the land...(4) If the person fails to comply with the order, the district manager may carry out the order and the person must, on demand, reimburse the government for the costs incurred."

The penalty provided in Section 143 is up to \$100,000 or a year in jail or both, with double these figures for a repeat offense. As you probably know, most trails in BC were built and are maintained by volunteers. Damage to trails often requires urgent attention. Imagine having to obtain timely permission for all such activities! Considering how must many District Manager are, they could have many legitimate (or suspect) reasons for not granting permission.

Our concerns are somewhat different from those of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee and the BC Environmental Network, who have already met with the MoF about this. Their concern is that the legislation would place final decision-making power over access to certain areas slated for development in the hands of the District Manager, who might see their trail-building activities as trouble-making. While sympathetic to the preservation goals, our major concern is that the legislation could impede volunteer trail work for recreation.

Section 103 makes it an offense to place a nail or spike in a tree without permission. "A person must not (a) drive or place any nail, spike or other potentially hazardous object into any timber that the person does not own or is not authorized to alter." Although aimed at dangerous tree-spikeing, it includes nails used for trail markers or signs.

It is easy to see why some members of our member clubs, the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC, and many other groups have been worried about these draconian measures. Marc Angelo, Chairman of ORC, has already expressed his outrage (in a powerful letter dated June 15th) that the outdoor recreation community was never consulted. Ian Brown, Chairman of the Alpine Club, Vancouver Island Section, also wrote a good letter on June 3rd (to which the Minister's reply was not responsive), and an excellent follow-up letter on July 10th.

### ACTIONS TAKEN

A meeting was held at the Richmond Inn on July 27th for about 3 hours with Prof. Gordon Baskerville and Jeanne Halleran (one of his staff), assigned to get feedback on the Act and report to the Ministry of Forests (MoF). Attending as resource persons for the MoF were Tom Hall, Director, Recreation Branch, Bill Marshall, Senior Recreation Forester, and Ralph Archibald, Senior Operations Manager, Integrated Resource Section. They were able to assist us in thinking through some of the possibilities for action, but were not involved in writing the code themselves.

We had a good cross-section of attendees from our Recreation and Conservation and Trails committees, our member clubs, and the Sierra Club. Because of short notice and other activities, other groups invited to attend were unable to participate but are being sent this newsletter (Steelhead Society, BC Wildlife Federation, CPAWS).

Concern was expressed that the process of developing legislation was not done properly. It remains unclear whether safety, political sensitivity, or environmental and wildlife issues were paramount in triggering these provisions. It seemed clear, though, that they were not intended to hamper our volunteer efforts. No definitions are available yet, but it seems that the use of cairns and flagging tape, and the development of "trails of use" are not covered by Section 102.

There was unanimous opinion expressed that the sections should be amended or abolished. This cannot be done until the next sitting of the House, at the earliest. However, it is possible that we can influence non-proclamation of the sections, and this was agreed to be the first choice. If this comes about, we may be willing to work with the MoF in drafting better legislation.

If these sections are proclaimed, however, there are several possibilities: The regulations developed for these sections can narrow their scope and application, so as to exclude our volunteer activities. We could provide feedback in the development of the regulations, though we think such a process should involve other stakeholders as well.

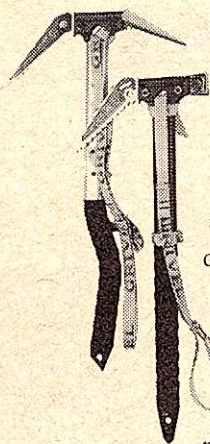
We can also work to amend or repeal these sections in the future. There is a category of "unassumed" roads for which the government assumes no responsibility; perhaps we should have the same for trails. (It is important to realize that the purpose of 'designating' a trail under the Forest Act is to empower the MoF to enforce existing legal provisions on or beside that trail, not to preserve it.) We enjoyed working with Prof. Baskerville and look forward to receiving a copy of his report to the Deputy Minister in the very near future.

Please make your concerns known to: Tom Hall, Director, Recreation Section  
Ministry of Forests, 2nd Floor, 610 Johnson Street  
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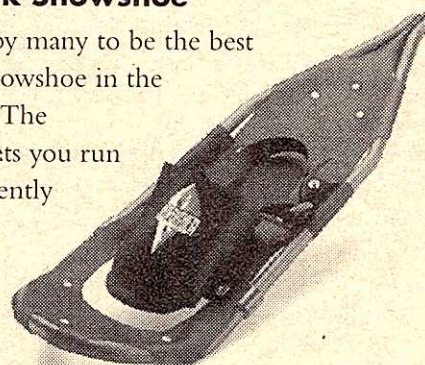


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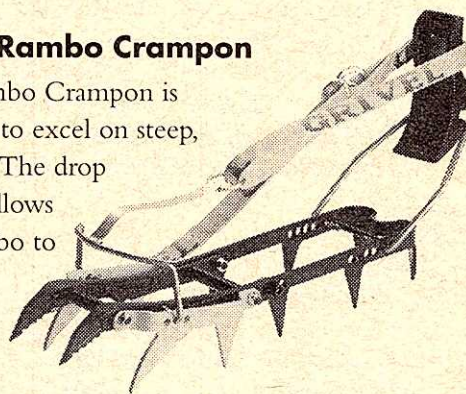
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## RECREATION AND CONSERVATION

By Jay MacArthur

### Cariboo - Chilcotin CORE Report Released

A land use plan for the Cariboo-Chilcotin was released by Stephen Owen in July. It recommends that 21 new protected areas be designated. Unfortunately many of the areas planned for protection are alpine areas that will do little to protect the forest resources in the region. **We need your help** to lobby the provincial government for slightly more protection. The Cariboo Chilcotin is such a special place that exactly 12% is not nearly enough to protect the fantastic wilderness and wildlife values in the region.

We as hikers and mountaineers can be pleased that the following areas have been recommended as protected areas:

- ♦ Itchas-Ilgachuz (129,000 ha)
- ♦ Mitchell Lake - Cariboo Mountains (70,000 ha)
- ♦ South Chilcotin (25,000 ha)

As mentioned above each of these three areas is primarily alpine and will protect little of the forested wilderness in the region. One key forested area that has been recommended for protection includes part of the Homathko River and Mosely Creek.

The areas in the Chilcotin that have been proposed for sensitive development include:

- ♦ Mount Waddington, Pantheon area
- ♦ Niagara Penfold valleys adjacent to Cariboo Mountains
- ♦ Niut Range
- ♦ South Chilcotin to Churn Creek

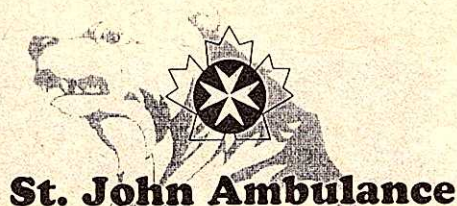
The definition of sensitive development is still under discussion but CORE has recommended that objectives be set for these areas to maintain non-extractive values such as tourism, recreation, fish and wildlife, while providing for some development.

Areas recommended for general management:

- ♦ Nostetuko River, access to Queen Bess area south of Tatlyoko Lake
- ♦ Upper Taseko River, access to proposed South Chilcotin protected area.

The Nostetuko river area should be upgraded to sensitive development zoning and I have been pushing for an enlarged South Chilcotin protected area to include Denain, Battlement and Powell Creeks and the upper Taseko River.

**Please call the Premier's office (660-2421 or 1-800-663-7867) supporting the Cariboo Chilcotin CORE plan and ask that these important recreational areas be protected.**



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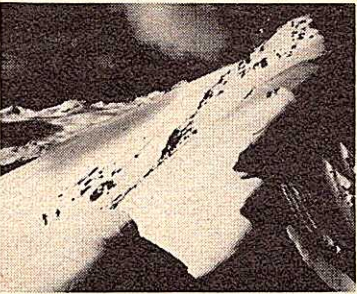
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## Safety and Education

*By Chris Mills*

### LATE SEASON MOUNTAIN TRAVEL

Autumn is here and with it comes a traditionally busy time for mountain rescue groups. The two main traps set by nature are changes in the weather pattern and reduction of daylight hours. Weather system control moves from the Pacific Low to the Aleutian Low with storm tracks shifting generally from SW or W to NW, lower temperatures and more frequent, wetter storms.

Before setting out, obtain a reliable weather forecast from Environment Canada. 664-9010 (general), 664-9021 (mountain), 270-7411 (marine) and 273-1151 (aviation) are useful in the lower mainland. Observe weather regularly on a trip—changes of wind direction easterly, rapidly falling pressure and rapidly changing temperature are all storm indicators. Observe cloud formations. Temperature falls with increasing altitude (the Lapse Rate) at approximately 6 degrees celsius per 1000 m so that tree-line will generally be 10 degrees celsius colder than sea level. Dress accordingly, carry extra food, and ensure that equipment is suitable for expected worst-case conditions.

Use your topo map and compass regularly and familiarise yourself with surroundings. Always carry a flashlight, or preferably a headlamp, with fresh batteries and start your trip as early in the morning as you can. Judge your pace and turn back in time to avoid benightment. If you intend to camp above the tree-line, use a mountain or expedition tent, and a sleeping bag suitable for expected temperatures. Remember, even at 1600m, food takes twice as long to cook as at sea level.

### SKI PRE-SEASON

Two things to do before the first snows are to start a fitness program and to check your equipment after last winter's abuse. Skis should be examined for binding function and security of attachment, bases checked for gouges and other damage and repaired (usually a P-Tex candle), and new base wax applied. Bent poles should be straightened or replaced and worn wrist straps replaced. Skins should be checked for damage and fresh glue applied if the 'stick' is failing. If you are tele-skiing soon after the first snows, use kneepads to avoid angry confrontations with barely covered stumps and rocks.

Avalanche awareness is an integral part of backcountry skiing and a course on this subject should be part of every participant's agenda. Early in the season in southwester B.C. the highest avalanche risk tends to be on 20 to 50 degree slopes facing NE to NW, but remember that avalanches can and do occur almost anywhere that snow accumulates.

Above all, have safe and wonderful journeys in the mountains at this challenging time of year.





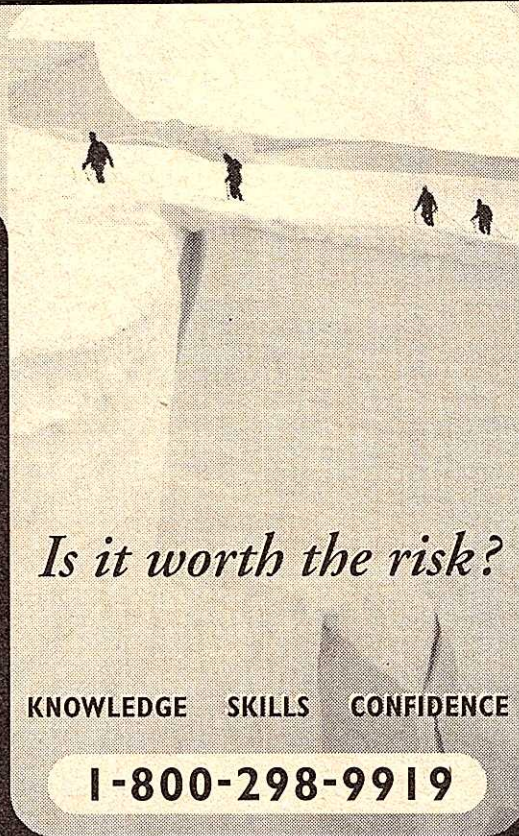
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## NORTHERN PERSPECTIVE

By Mike Nash

There are three basic rules that govern my approach to seeing wildlife in the mountains: Don't go expecting to see any. Do spend lots of time out there. And, don't stop looking. So it was that other day, when I had my long awaited first encounter with a wolverine. I was bushwhacking around an alpine lake in the Viking Ridge area east of Prince George. Suddenly, there it was. Three meters in front of me; head and shoulders jutting out of the vegetation, round ears--just watching. We looked at each other for a minute or so before it silently took off scrambling up the lightly treed boulder slope above. None of the hallmark ferocity, just a shy, curious demeanour and a quiet departure.

Two weeks earlier during the August long weekend, I was walking slowly back down to a treeline camp. A movement caught my attention. Below me on the slope, retracing my track of an hour ago, were cow and calf caribou. I settled down to watch. The cow was nervous, alternately browsing and snorting as she caught my earlier scent. The wind was in my favour as they slowly worked their way up towards me, heels clicking. The cow had a rough coat; ribs showing, short antlers in the velvet. The calf displayed the usual curiosity of the young, and appeared to be in good shape. After 20 minutes they were quite close and I made my presence known. The cow played her time honored predator-prey role and she retreated from me, protecting her calf.

The next day these roles were reversed. I pushed through waist high alpine flowers in the meadow at the head of the valley. Stopping momentarily by the outflow creek of a blue lake, I contemplated a cooling dip, fortunately deciding against it. I moved on a few metres, cresting a small rise that was about my height and just big enough to hide the grizzly bear grazing on the other side. It had a golden coat decorated with a dark stripe down its back, like a mane. My brain seemed to take all this in during the split second it took for the adrenaline to hit, and for me to make like yesterday's caribou.

The next day, two golden eagles soared nearby as we were leaving the mountains. It was a fitting end to the weekend, and a reminder of what we have in B.C.

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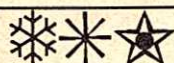


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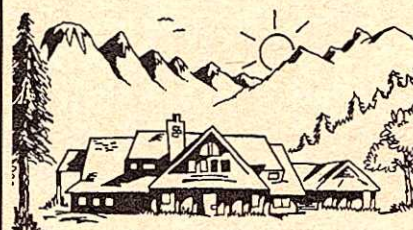
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