
CLOUDBURST

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC Newsletter

December 1995

SPECIAL FEATURES:

- ✎ Volunteer Profile: Halvor Lunden ✎ Stein declared a Park
 - ✎ Hypothermia ✎ Who is the Fed?
 - ✎ BC Perspectives: Island, The North and the Valley
-

Members of the Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club below Mount Ida



Mount Ida, Kakwa Wilderness Recreation Area. Photo credit: George Evanoff

Read "AGM in the North"
on page 6

CLouDBURST

Articles: We welcome, and space permitting, will print articles which inform our readers about mountain conservation /recreation issues or activities in B.C.

Word limit: 500

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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Recreation and Conservation: Roger Freeman,
Jay MacArthur

Trails: Blair Mitten, John Otava

Safety and Education: Chris Mills

Volume 3 Number 4

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, building 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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FMBC Meetings

Recreation and Conservation Committee:

Jan 22, Feb. 26, Mar. 18, Apr. 22, May 27

7:30 pm. Call office for location.

Safety and Education Committee:

Call FMCBC office for next meeting

Trails Committee:

Jan. 22, March 4 FMCBC office (Rm 336 at Sport BC).

Board of Directors:

Jan 17, Feb. 21, Mar 20.

Rm 336 at Sport BC.

Lower Mainland Delegates' Meeting:

Jan. 18, Mar. 21, May 16

Island Delegates' Meeting:

March 23. Contact office for information

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Thom Ward

It has been a year since Linda Coss joined us as Executive Director. She has injected a lot of energy and enthusiasm into the Fed and has brought a number of new ideas, especially for fund raising and improving communications. This year's Board has many new faces, lots of energy and ideas, and another Director from the Island would make it just right.

Whilst access issues are still on the top of most clubs' list, a growing problem is user conflicts. Traditionally this has been a simmering issue between mechanized and non-mechanized recreationists (e.g. snowmobilers and backcountry skiers). As the backcountry becomes more popular it becomes more crowded and the wilderness experience, which we value so highly, is more often a shared one rather than one of isolation. Some parks have resorted to user fees and/or quotas to deal with user impacts and I fear that this will become more common as the demand increases.

We have lobbied and continue to do so, for more protected areas, but as the Government nears its goal of 12 %, future successes will be more limited. These areas also need to be managed for the values that they were set aside for, and this may not always be for recreational usages. Limits of acceptable change and minimum impact standards will become more common and, I fear, so will user conflicts. To prevent our values from being compromised too drastically, we need to have knowledgeable people involved in the various land management/planning processes and to have a good working relationship with the various land managers (i.e. Parks, Forest Service, Lands, municipal and private owners).

To ensure that our representatives at these various processes are informed of current issues, situations and concerns, we need have club trips/outings to specific areas with the purpose of gathering first hand knowledge. It can then be passed on to our representatives in a timely manner. This might give some trips a different sense of purpose, make them more enjoyable, and is a good reason to revisit some places. Hopefully those members and non-members who are concerned with specific areas will contact our office and inform a club rep. Remember, the Federation is us, the individual members, and to be a success we have to work together. One of the ways is to improve our two-way communications (i.e. members, especially club delegates, bringing forth their concerns, observations and comments).

Who Is the Fed anyway??

By Linda Coss, Executive Director

It is my first anniversary as Executive Director of the FMCBC. It seems appropriate at this time to put my thoughts on paper with respect to "the Fed".

Last evening I attended a club meeting where a comment was made about "those guys" - the Fed. This was not the first time I had heard this kind of remark from a member pointing the finger at "those guys".

"Who is the Fed"? Is it the Executive Director? I believe the Fed was alive and well before I arrived and will continue long after I leave. Is the Fed the Board of Directors? Partly yes, partly no. We have a new Board, young (or at least young at heart), committed and energetic. They are your representatives, volunteers generously giving of their time to give direction, advice and help to the paid staff. They are certainly an important component of the Fed, but they are not the Fed.

Who then is the Fed? The Fed is its members - You. You, who annually pay dues to member clubs or as individuals to support the principles the Federation stands for - "Committed to protecting the mountain wilderness and enhancing the quality of BC's mountain recreation experience."

As members you have a right, even a responsibility, to provide input in to the direction and workings of your Federation. A volunteer organization is only as strong as the commitment of its member.

If anything has impressed me in my first year as Executive Director it is the commitment of the many volunteer committees of the Federation. I strongly urge those of you who think "those guys" aren't doing enough or aren't doing it the way you think it should be done, to give me a call and get involved. Help move the Fed into the '90's.

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VOLUNTEER PROFILE

By Louise Irwin, FMCBC Trails Committee Member

HALVOR LUNDEN: MASTER TRAIL BUILDER

Hiking in the Lower Mainland woods can be a very rewarding experience, thanks to the numerous volunteers who help to maintain our extensive trail system. Frequently, hikers may meet a lone figure on these trails energetically whacking away at the overhanging shrubbery, rerouting and marking trails, or sawing windfalls and other debris that block the traveller's way. This industrious worker will usually be Halvor Lunden, volunteer designer, builder and maintainer of trails.

Halvor arrived in Vancouver from his native Norway in 1951, to settle and work in a city where he was able to spend his free time in the forests and mountains, as he had in Norway. He joined the North Shore Hikers Club, formed in the early 60's, and a few years later became a founding member of the B.C. Mountaineering club. He is now a life member of both clubs. His wife Edna was also an early member of the North Shore Hikers, and in 1973 they became the first members of the club to marry.

Halvor saw the need for extending the limited trail system in the Lower Mainland and began working as a volunteer on trails in 1957. Together with other members of the North Shore Hikers, he surveyed and worked on many of our present day hiking trails, continuing at an unflagging pace to this day, generally on his own. With the population of Vancouver growing rapidly, Halvor believed that to establish additional trails closer to the city which would involve shorter travel distances was of prime importance. At that time then he commenced the extensive work in the Buntzen Lake area, on addition to continuing his labours in all the other regions, such as Mt. Gardner, Stawamus Squaw, and Petgill Lake.

The network of trails around Buntzen Lake - Diez Vistas, Eagle Ridge, Lindsay Lake, Swan Falls, and Croker Lookout, were for the most part planned, developed and are still maintained almost solely by Halvor, with occasional work parties from the North Shore Hikers and others. During 1995 the Eagle Ridge area achieved park status, a culmination of Halvor's work over the years plus the popularity of the area.

Halvor usually works alone, not particularly through choice but because most people are unable or unwilling to put in the long hours that he believes are necessary to get the job done. Even today, at an age when many contemporaries have slowed down or stopped, Halvor will be out two or three times a week in good weather, and will always keep working until dusk, with few stops for food or water.

During 1994 Halvor spent 54 days on trail work and is the official maintainer of 9 trails in addition to the unofficial work. How many of us spend even one day a year on trail maintenance?

Halvor's wish is to share his pleasure in the undisturbed forest with other hikers. Due to this concern with the forest, his trails usually proceed through wooded areas, involving many side trips to viewpoints of beautiful natural features or outstanding trees. Halvor enjoys informally naming these trails according to their noteworthy features, such as Diez Vistas (after his Spanish studies), Jessica Lake, and Polytrichum Lookout (a moss). The carefully handmade wood signs he places

on these features are, unfortunately, frequently stolen, a tribute perhaps to his craftsmanship but a loss for us.

His recent concern for Cypress Bowl led him to conduct West Vancouver Councillors to a grove of ancient yellow cedars which were in jeopardy due to a proposed golf course club house. West Vancouver Council members later cancelled this proposal. In 1994 he drafted blueprints and built a steel and wooden bridge at the Cypress park maintenance yards. Parks' staff helicoptered the bridge up to the mountain and with Halvor's help placed it over a creek on the Baden Powell trail between Hollyburn and Cypress Bowl. Halvor has also been very busy rehabilitating some of the old trails in Cypress Bowl so that everyone may know what a wonderful natural resource is there.



Halvor Lunden, 1995

Photo Credit: Gabriel Mazoret

Continued on page 15

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION

By Jay MacArthur, Committee Co-chairperson

New Parks Announced

Since the September Cloudburst went to print, the government announced two parks that the FMCBC was very involved in: Stawamus Chief and Stein Valley. In addition, the Tetrahedron Provincial Park near Sechelt was announced in September.

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park is the culmination of 22 years of work by FMCBC members, the Lillooet Indian Band and many other environmental groups. The original proposal for protection of the Stein came from Roy Mason in the BC Mountaineering Club. The cooperation needed to work on the park proposal was one of the reasons for the formation of the FMCBC Recreation and Conservation Committee. Roger Freeman and David Thompson, who wrote the first guidebook to the Stein, are still very involved with the FMCBC. Roger co-chaired a Stein Advisory Committee about 15 years ago and was able to stop the encroachment of logging and mining roads. **Thank you to Roger, David and all members who worked on this project.**

The Stawamus Chief is the most popular rock climbing destination in B.C. and the trail on the backside is one of the most popular hikes near Squamish. We were able to convince John Cashore to add this area to Parks Plan 90 and we must thank Drew Carmichael, from BC Parks and Anders Ourom, our former executive director for their work on the Stawamus Chief study.

With all these announcements comes the ongoing responsibility of management. We need volunteers to work with BC Parks on the management plans for these areas. Call Jay MacArthur at 987-1232 if you are interested in reviewing management plans.

Spruce Lake and Lillooet LRMP

On November 23, with the Stein announcement Premier Harcourt announced the formation of a land and resource management planning (LRMP) process for the

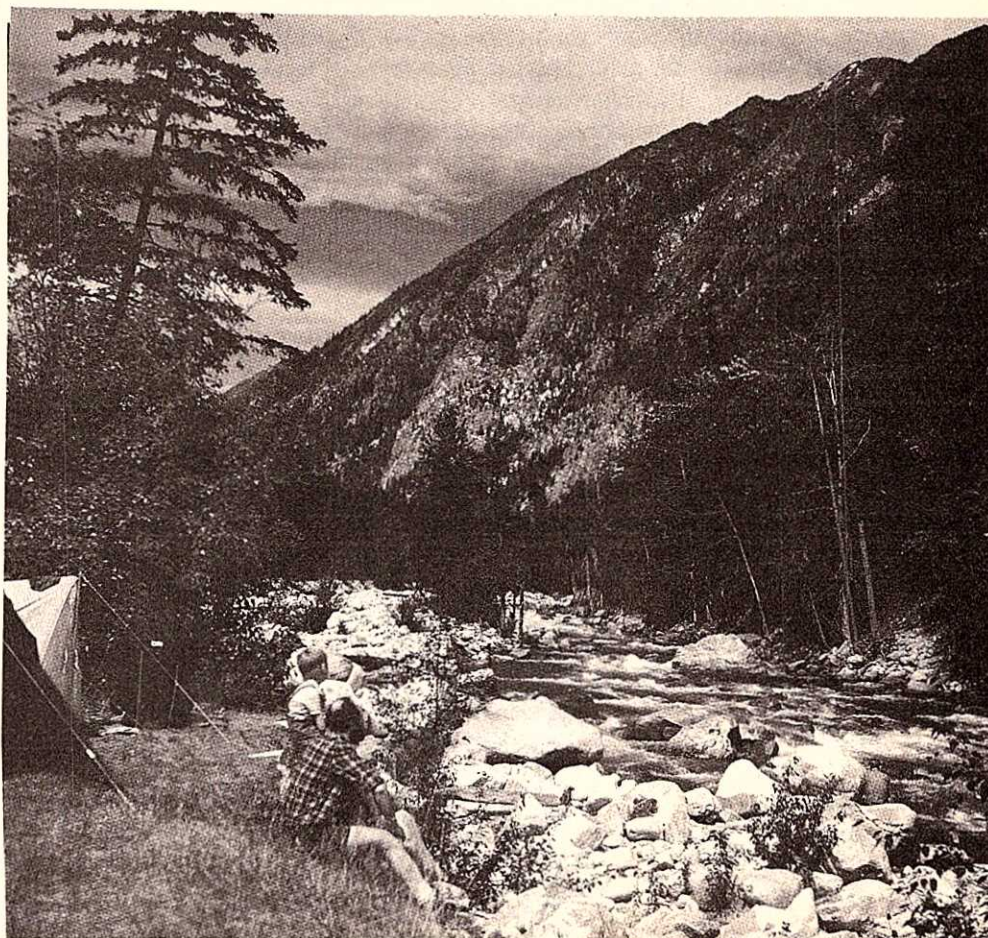
Lillooet timber supply area. This means that the proposed Spruce Lake park will probably not become a reality for two years. The two year study process will start in April 1996.

Also with the Stein announcement, the government removed interim protection from 11 areas of interest or study areas including Bonanza Basin, which is an integral part of Spruce Lake proposal. This means that logging could start soon and destroy the wilderness values of the Tyaughton Creek valley. We will be carefully monitoring this situation.

We need your support to prevent logging in this important area. Please write to Hon. Andrew Petter thanking him for protecting the Stein and requesting that no logging occur in the Bonanza basin area until some consultation takes place at the LRMP.

Spruce Lake Slide Show available

In order to increase public awareness, I am available to give slide shows on the Spruce Lake area. There is also an excellent video called "The Southern Chilcotin Mountains" available from the FMC office at 737-3053.



Stein River Valley. Photo Credit: David Thompson

FMCBC's 1996 AGM: A NORTHERN EXPERIENCE

By Mike Nash

25th Anniversary Celebrations and 1996 Annual General Meeting

The Caledonia Ramblers invites you to plan a few days of vacation time now, and join us as we show you our city and our mountains. Help us celebrate the 25th anniversary of the FMCBC on the occasion of the first Annual General Meeting outside the lower mainland or Vancouver Island.

Situated in the heart of British Columbia, Prince George is the centre of commerce, transportation, government, health, education and culture for the north. From the campus of the new University of Northern BC, one can look across the city towards the Cariboo, McGregor and Rocky Mountains. Despite its growth, Prince George still enjoys a small town atmosphere. It's a place where it's hard to go anywhere without meeting someone that you know, and where the average commute to work is less than half an hour. Prince George is located at the confluence of 2 major rivers. The Fraser and the Nechako rivers have carved out the "bowl" area, whose escarpments present a scenic backdrop to the city.

Along the rivers, the community and local industry have collaborated to develop the Heritage River Trail. Above the Fraser River cutbanks, one can walk in a mature forest overlooking the river and downtown Prince George. Prince George is home to 120 parks. Of these, Cottonwood Island Park, Forests for the World, Moores Meadow, MacMillan Creek and Ferguson Lake are all in a natural state with extensive walking trails. Better yet, we are only 100 kilometers, or 1 to 2 hours drive west of 3 mountain ranges. They offer superb hiking and backcountry skiing opportunities, where solitude and wildlife encounters are the norm.

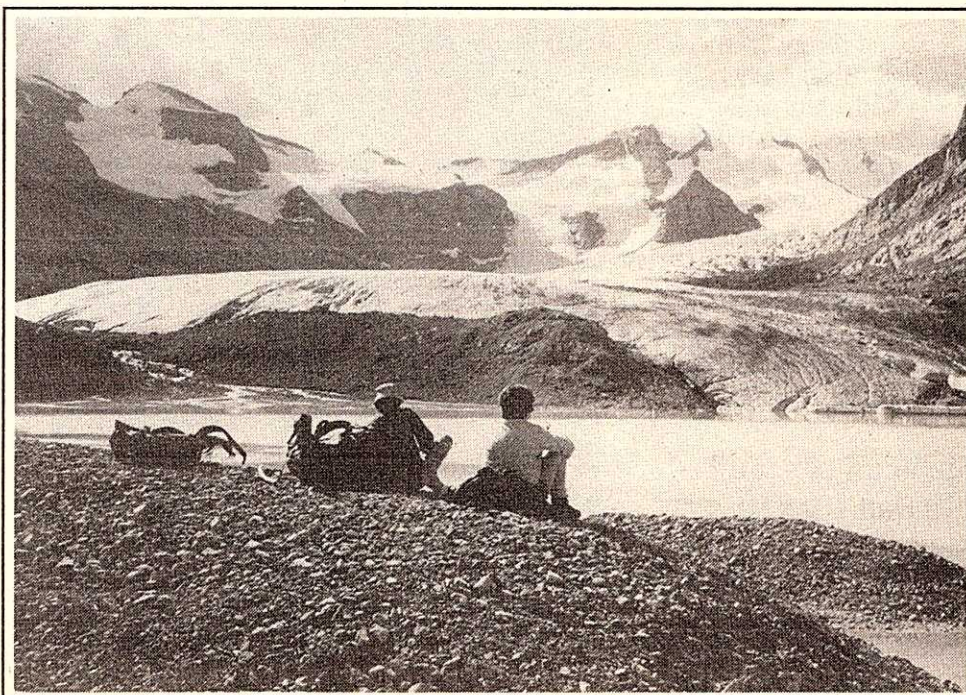
You have two main options:

You can plan either the whole week of **June 16-23** if you would like first to participate in a 3 day Mount Robson adventure. Or, join us for the main 5 days of **June 19-23**. These dates include driving time both ways. For those of you coming from Vancouver, it's a relatively easy day's drive. (Trust us on this, we've done it many times!) If you are coming from Vancouver Island, you will need a little longer; but you can still do it easily in one day if you catch the first ferry.

Sunday 16th to Wednesday 19th: "early bird special". Enjoy a 3 day hike at Mount Robson along the world famous Berg Lake Trail. Meet in Prince George or drive via Kamloops and meet at the trailhead.

Wednesday 19th: drive to Prince George; "welcome to PG" reception.

Thursday 20th to Friday 21st: Choice of easy, moderate and strenuous day hikes. Destinations will include 7,500 ft Erg Mountain in the Cariboo Range; Grizzly Den Recreation area; Pope Mountain and Fort St. James National Historic Park; the Grand Canyon of the Fraser; Eskers Provincial Park; Teapot Mountain and the historic Giscome portage, and more. Other opportunities will include a visit to Canada's second largest underground room in Fang Cave, led by the UNBC Caving Club; and a
continued on page 18



Members of the Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club below Robson Glacier. Photo Credit: Mike Nash

YEW LAKE UPDATE

By Linda Coss, Executive Director

Over the past three years, the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C., in cooperation with BC Parks, rebuilt the Yew Lake Trail at Cypress Provincial Park. The Yew Lake Trail is in a "special feature zone" of Cypress Provincial Park, because of its high natural and scenic values.

The badly eroded trail was upgraded to be wheelchair accessible and an area of old growth forest, often not accessible to the physically challenged, was incorporated.

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. wishes to thank the following sponsors for their support of our work on the Yew Lake Trail: Human Resources Canada, Active Living in the Environment Program, Mountain Equipment Coop, Shell Environmental Fund, VanCity, BC 21, Cypress Bowl Recreation, MacMillan Bloedel, Weldwood and Construction Aggregates.

To official open the Yew Lake Trail a ribbon cutting ceremony is being planned for July 3rd, with guided hikes for the public being offered on Sunday July 7th. Persons interested in leading a Sunday hike please contact the office at 737-3053.

The FMCBC has also agreed to work with BC Parks next summer to upgrade the Howe Sound Crest trail. Anyone interested in being involved with this project please phone the office at 737-3053.

Register Now for 3 Trail Building Camps.

BC Parks and FMCBC are organizing two volunteers trail building camps in Garibaldi Provincial Park to recondition damaged trail in **Singing Pass** (July 20-21, 1996) and on the upper **Helm Creek** (August 19 to 23, 1996).

In Manning Park, a trail building camp to recondition the **Nicomen** trail is planned from June 21 to 23, 1996.

Participation is open to volunteers on first come first served basis. Spaces are limited, so register now with the FMCBC's office at

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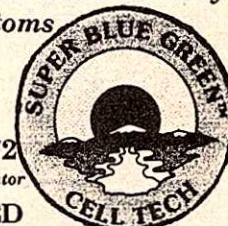
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SAFETY AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By Chris Mills, Safety and Education Chairperson

HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia, which has often been referred to as "exposure" by outdoor writers, is a potential enemy of all who participate in mountain activities. Its onset is basically the result of the human body's inability to meet its heating requirements when heat is lost faster than it can be produced through metabolism of food, or stored energy. It is usually a factor in mountaineering accidents in all seasons, but becomes increasingly significant with seasonally lower temperatures and increased precipitation.

The body loses heat by conduction (sitting on a cold rock to rest), convection (the chilling effect of wind), radiation (the direct loss of heat to the air on a cold day), and evaporation (sweat from the skin and moisture in exhaled air). The body gains heat directly from the environment if the temperature is above about 25° C (77° F), from physical work, and from shivering, while to protect against heat loss the body begins to close down circulation to the extremities (hands and feet). When this body heat balance is disturbed by losses exceeding gains hypothermia begins, with a fall in body temperature, which if untreated will eventually lead to death.

A hiker or climber is usually conscious of the direct effects of cold air and wind, but often less aware of the effects of moisture. Water conducts heat from the body at about 25 times the rate of dry air, so that wet clothing from either sweating or precipitation is often a forerunner of hypothermia. Careful choice of clothing that is both wind and waterproof, and that allows layering of garments to avoid wetting by sweat is extremely important. Fitness and adequate food and liquid intake are also excellent preventative measures. However the most important safety aspect of hypothermia is the understanding that it can develop in adverse conditions, and that treatment is urgent.

The symptoms of hypothermia are not easy for most of us to spot, but if you or one of your party has cold extremities, shows lethargy, shivers violently, or lacks coordination, it is prudent to immediately seek shelter, replace the person's wet clothing with warm dry clothing, and give a hot drink or easily digestible food. Lighting a fire is a legitimate activity. The aim should be to halt the progression of hypothermia and restore the body's heat balance, with all available means at your disposal (but not by the use of alcohol, which increases blood flow to the extremities). Any other action will be dictated by the seriousness of your situation. Hypothermia progresses in three generally recognized stages with different symptoms, degrees of seriousness, and treatment protocols, and I would urge the reader to study *Hypothermia - Death by Exposure* by Forgey, *Medicine for Mountaineering* by Wilkerson, and *Hypothermia, Frostbite and other Cold Injuries* by Wilkerson and others. As with all hazards of outdoor recreation, awareness, knowledge and preparedness pay high dividends in the avoidance of hypothermia. Enjoy the winter safely!! *Welcome to Chris Mills, as the new chair of the Safety and Education Committee. Thanks to Simon Austen, past chair, for his commitment and effort over the years.*



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VALLEY PERSPECTIVE

AUTUMN ACCOLADE

By Jerry C. Lies

Chilliwack, the green heart of the Fraser Valley, is certainly a great place to live in the fall. At times the clouds will lift and offer peaks or clear sight of the surrounding mountains and it becomes clear that magic was on the brew on these dark, damp, dreary days of rain. Up in the mountains the snow surreptitiously settles, gradually lowering the snow-line and leaving that delicate dusting on the fringes like abundant icing sugar. You can see this as you drive through Chilliwack and stop at a spot near the Lickman overpass where you get a grand view of all the lovely snow laden peaks. Mt. Tomyhoi, Mt. McGuire, McFarland Range to Mt. Slesse, Lady Peak, Cheam and others are all enshrouded with snow interlaced with the rock.

Cheam is an Indian word which means mother-like protector, which the mountain seems to do as seen from Chilliwack. North of the top of the peak is a frightening drop where the rockline parabolically slopes to blunt snub-like drop to the portion I call the elephant trunk. Further along the skyline is a great protuberance of rock called the cradle. Here Cheam holds a baby mountain tenderly in her arms. I have hiked to Cheam peak several different times with different results. Logging roads enable a four-wheel drive vehicle to get to a trailhead that is an embarrassing two hour hike from the less than seven thousand foot high peak.

The first time I achieved Cheam Peak was during opprobrious weather. We struck out into a thin glossy mist of cloud that soon shifted lower to envelope us in a thick, dense, blinding fog that closed like walls of cotton batting on every side. There was no impression of height on the peak and the only view was that of figures magically appearing in the translucent haze.

Recently I led a group of twenty-six members of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club onto the mountain. This day was deliciously clear; the view was engaging. Mt. Baker dominates attention in the south; Harrison Lake and the Fraser River, snaking its consistent path to the ocean, engulfs one's attention to the north and below. The peak was uncomfortably crowded, with our large group and at least that many independent hikers, some with dogs that wore silent smiles of happiness in their countenances. Add helicopters landing and taking off, hang gliders walking up the mountain and soaring high over the peak, parasailers featherlessly fledging forth and floating about aimlessly. This hike was a long cry from the tranquillity of more pristine wilderness areas. I had to face the fact that Cheam has become popular.

I drive to my brothers in Agassiz along route one from Chilliwack and study Cheam as it slowly blocks off all view of nearby peaks. I silently call out to Cheam "you great big majestic rock, you'll still be here when my offspring have gone." Some days I imagine the Mountain voicing out to any that might hear. "Stand proud and face your looming destiny."

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BULLETIN

Back Country Sanitation

The Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC) recently produced a brochure which describes how to obtain safe drinking water, treat water in the backcountry, dispose of camp and human waste, etc. For your free copy, please contact ORC at 737-3058

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BC Hydro Transmission Line in Squamish to be Relocated

(The following is an excerpt from a letter from BC Hydro's Public Affairs Coordinator Barry Wilkinson)

BC Hydro is relocating one of the two transmission lines which supply the Squamish area. The line to be relocated currently runs down Loggers Lane in the Smoke Bluffs. Relocation will be to the west side of the BC hydro right of way below Smoke Bluffs. The new route facilitates highway widening, utilizes existing rights-of-way, requires minimal vegetation clearing and provides a reliable supply of electricity. Access onto the right-of way for the construction will be from Loggers Lane, re-establishing an old road along the current right-of-way. The access will be as unobtrusive as possible and property owners will be consulted. During construction, which is tentatively scheduled for March/April, 1996, every effort will be made to minimize the construction impacts on the residents of the community. If you would like further information on this project or have any questions or concerns, call Barry Wilkinson at 623-4260 or toll free at 1-800-663-1377

Shoot Hoops Not Grizzlies

The killing of wild grizzlies for sport and profit continues, and the destruction of the grizzlies' habitat is accelerating. Each year, at least 300 grizzlies are killed legally, and many others die from illegal poaching. You can help keep the grizzly wild and free in BC by writing to BC Minister of Environment Mr. Moe Sihota and demanding adequate protection. For more information, please call the Grizzly Project at 1-800-836-5501 or write: Box 957, Nelson, BC V1L 6A5

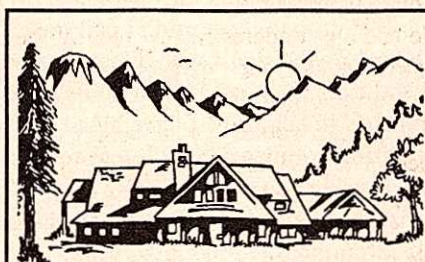
BC's First Eco-Certified Forestry Site

Greenpeace heralded a new beginning for BC's forest industry with the announcement of Canada's first

eco-certified forestry site after two years of searching for a logging operation which met the demands for environmentally certified wood products. The Silva Forest Foundation, headed by renowned forester Herb Hammond, has given its stamp of approval to a Vernon operation, run by the Ministry of Forests Small Business Programme. For more information about this forestry operation, contact Tamara Stark or Herb Hammond at Greenpeace at (604) 253-7701

The FMCBC turns 25!

1996 is the twenty fifth anniversary of the Federation of Mountain Clubs. To commemorate the occasion, a special issue of Cloudburst will be dedicated to "The Federation 1971-1996". Anyone interested in writing for this special edition, or willing to share information or historical photos on the early days of the Fed, please contact Linda at 737-3053



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ISLAND PERSPECTIVES

TO BOLT OR NOT TO BOLT... IS THERE A PROBLEM?

By Chris Barner, *Heathens Club*

In an early autumn drizzle, John Put is putting up a new aid line at one of the crags. The climb begins in a nice crack, but it soon peters out into a twisting and bottoming seam. Two solid nuts are followed by a series of tied-off blades and a manky beak. By the time John is contemplating "two camming" a piece between two suspect looking flakes, things are beginning to get kinda dicey. We start trundling huge blocks off the spot where he'll most likely crater, muttering something about not selling the farm for a route on a 120 foot chunk of broken basalt. John thought about it for a long time... then placed a bolt.

Since we all grow in different environments it is natural that we make decisions based on our own unique sets of circumstances. Experience is what waits at the end of a long process of elimination, reinforcement and osmosis, as each individual constructs a framework to aid in their decision making process. However, when we take our experience on the road, whether it's to a nearby cragging area or an unsupported traverse of the Spitzbergen Islands in a loincloth and sandals, we must be conservative. Our hard-earned criteria may suffer from culture shock as they adapt to a new, or changing, set of circumstances.

Case in point: Paul and I were climbing in Utah at a place called "big bend" on the Colorado River near Moab. The objective was "Dolomite Spire" (5.7, A3), one of those graceful sandstone towers that always topples onto Wile E. Coyote. The landscape was like Mars... except that there was oxygen... and it was 106° F. We strategically chose a route on the shady side, but our water ration was hopelessly short, and by the time we were 3 pitches up we could neither talk nor swallow. We had also underestimated the toll the heat and unfamiliar rock would take on our ability to move quickly. We boiled. We are from BC; our experience was of less value there because we were in a different world from the one we knew.

And then there was the time I went rock climbing in southern India near Bangalore. Ramanagram is a tropical wonderland of granite domes surrounded by coconut groves. I had not come to India to climb - I was partnerless and not fully equipped - but I did have a very foul pair of rock shoes and a harness along just in case. At the trailhead I fell in behind a gang of helmeted (which I thought odd) and enthusiastic locals as they sped off into the trees towards the rocks.

It was a very windy day, and with no helmet I was nearly killed or crippled a dozen times on that approach. I began to feel a little like Dorothy... "coconuts, tigers, and cobras... oh, my!" My frame of reference was back in Kansas! Yeah, yeah. I know... what's this got to do with bolting ethics? Well. The point is that climbing geography and climbing philosophy are very much the same. They are geocentric in nature. When we judge climbers of one part of the world with a philosophy that evolved in another part, we should make every effort to favour them with the benefit of the doubt. My theory is that no single ethic can be universal because ethics are, in fact, universally regional... even personal.

Enter the relatively isolated north island climbing community... who love to go shopping at MEC and chuckle when they ask us what we need crampons for. Perched on the quiet crags and summits that are half the reason for Georgia Strait, one can almost feel the seething mass of humanity that is the lower mainland. As our sport becomes more popular, it's only a matter of time before the "ethics police" begin to patrol the island.. and what will they find? They'll find the bolt that John placed, and they'll look up at it and sneer, and shake their swollen heads. They'll call it a "chicken bolt," and they'll say that the climb should have been left for more daring climbers to ascend. But of you knew John's family (especially that 4 1/2 year old honemaster, Scotty) you'd know why that bolt is there... and why it should be.

For the most part, climbers everywhere try hard to earn the respect of their peers. Though there are well protected bolted routes on the Island, they exist alongside a tradition of clean climbing and bold ascents that even a pompous pundit like Royal Robbins might appreciate. John chose the Warren Harding option that day out of consideration for family and friends - a choice this peer will always respect. Scotty needs a dad.

I've been thinking a little about ethics since then. For us, ethics are personal. There are as many ethics as there are climbers. The collective soul of all the Island climbers weaves a tapestry that is a reflection of our character - our "regional ethic." It can't be modified, just discussed. It is what it is. It will evolve as time passes, and if we all make an effort to be reasonable, it will evolve positively. My grandfather nailed it down; "Never judge a man 'till you've walked a mile in his shoes." (Ed. Comment: I assume your grandfather extended this courtesy to women too?)

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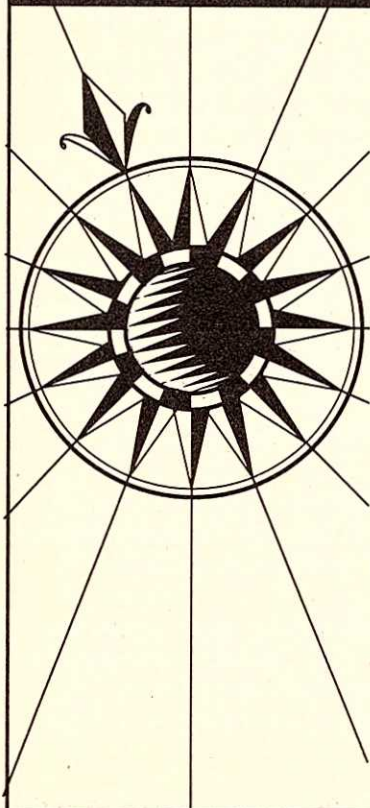
ISLAND PERSPECTIVES con't**REGIONAL REPORT - VANCOUVER ISLAND***By Thom Ward Jr.*

The Vancouver Island club delegates held their semi-annual meeting in Nanaimo on November 4th. The meeting was well attended by club delegates, interested club members, and representatives of both BC Parks and the Forest Service.

Our special guest, Dave Chater, District Manager for Southern Vancouver Island parks, brought us up to date on the recently developed Master Plan for Gowlland-Todd Park, the addition of Mt. Finlayson to Goldstream park, the plan to have these two parks connected, plans to expand Goldstream Park up Niagara Creek, and the continuation of work on the Juan de Fuca Trail, which is south of Port Renfrew towards Jordan River. Other issues dealt with were the Occupier's Liability Act, the effective closure of Schoen Park due to removal of CanFor's bridge on the access road; development of a Bus to Trails Brochure(s) for the Greater Victoria area, and an update on Strathcona Park.

Access issues are still of great concern, primarily access to private forest lands which have been traditionally used by mountaineers. For the last year or so access to private forest lands has been inconsistent. The concerns of the forest company have been liability related, but many suspect other reasons also exist. I've attempted to address this issue, as has our Executive Director, several times. While it doesn't appear that the issue will ever be fully resolved, hopefully improved access will be realized this winter.

Another item that has been of interest to some is the Long Beach Model Forest. When I was first made aware of this federally funded program, I had hopes that we could get some trail work done in the area. While the access trail to the MacKenzie Range and the lower Bedwell Trail were the two that I foresaw as being likely candidates, other trails also exist and would be worthy projects. However, at present, it doesn't look likely that we'll get any funding for trail work. This is unfortunate because it should have fit in with their stated goals and objectives. However, if people wrote to them things might change. Their address is P.O. Box 1119, Ucluelet B.C., V0R 3A0.

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ISLAND PERSPECTIVES *con't*

A WOMAN IN MOUNTAINEERING

By Jackie Rankin, Heathens

It seemed like a dream. I was totally aware of every part of my body - elated, exhausted. Standing in what appeared to be a sea of mountain peaks. The summits of all the mountains, including the one I was standing on, seemed to be drifting, floating on a sea of white fluff. The cumulus cloud had rolled into the valleys and separated us from the reality below.... I was in heaven, it was beautiful, surreal.

In the beginning, hiking and climbing in the mountains was a physical and emotional challenge. I was barely 100 lbs, trying to pack almost half my weight on my back, out of shape, but determined and strong willed. Curiosity got me started and my love for the outdoors, fresh air and exercise prompted me to accept an invitation to go hiking in the Mountains of Strathcona Park. Day hikes were fun - light packs, long days. There was so much to see and learn. Wild animals and awesome views abounded. I was humbled by the forces and power in the mountains. Drawn toward the beauty of it all. It was like an addiction.... getting high off the adrenalin coursing through my veins as I paced up a trail or less travelled route into the back country of Vancouver Island.

Having been raised here, I felt a little shamed at my ignorance to what lay in our back yard. Barely more than an hours drive west of where I have lived most of my life, I was oblivious to the potential adventure that took me 15 years to discover. At least now I know.....

Often in the beginning, I wondered why I was there, out of breath, tired, sore. But always, something within kept me going. Motivated by

an unknown force, I put one foot in front of the other reminding myself, one step at a time.

Overnight packs were a burden, but always worth the effort to be able to see a sunset or sunrise at elevation. The proper gear is essential and with guidance from my trusted and experienced companions, I soon accumulated the best of what I needed to make an enjoyable stay in the mountain environment. The feelings of accomplishment were continuous; watching and feeling my body develop physically, emotionally and spiritually was exciting and gratifying. Each trip into the mountains. I gained a clearer perspective on who I am, where I belong and what life is really all about.

My intuition was heightened and a deeper sense of love settled into my being. Respect for my body, my

How many
times have I
been
humbled...
In joy... in fear...
here in the
mountains?

continued on page 17



Catherine Temple and Heather McDonald on the summit of Mt. Big Interior, Strathcona Park. Photo Credit: Jackie Rankin

NORTHERN PERSPECTIVE

By Mike Nash

Map of Proposed Protected Areas Prepared

Although the FMCBC was not officially part of this process, several FMCBC members were. George Evanoff represented the Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club; Mike Nash represented himself; Con Nostwold represented the Sons of Norway Ski Club, and Sandra Kinsey was an alternate for the Prince George Naturalists Club.

A map of proposed protected areas in the Prince George Forest District has been prepared following consensus reached by members of the Prince George Land and Resource Management Planning Team. A few small details remain to be resolved. The final protected area proposal will be presented to government as part of the overall LRMP plan when it is completed in 1996.

The Prince George District was significantly under represented before this process began at less than one percent protected. The consensus agreement protects about 2,400 square kilometers, or 8.3% of the land base; this being the final percentage allowed by Victoria. The LRMP team has spent the last 15 months debating and prioritizing the 20% that was originally on the table, first down to 12% and then down to the final figure.

Major areas proposed are:


- Kakwa Recreation Area - 1,372 sq km of the Rocky Mountains
- Sugarbowl/Grizzly Creek - includes 7 mountain trails and 3 huts
- Southern extension to Monkman Provincial Park - Hart Ranges
- Arctic/Pacific Divide lakes area - MacKenzie's historic route
- Major expansion of Carp Lake Provincial Park
- Major extension to Eskers Provincial Park
- Stuart River to Nechako River confluence
- Expansion of Dahl Lake Provincial Park
- Bobtail Mountain - serpentine outcrop
- Wolverine Mountain - north side of Bowron Lakes Provincial Park
- Fraser River - south of Prince George

Smaller Goal 2 areas, designed to protect specific features include:

- The Grand Canyon of the Fraser - east of Prince George
- Ptarmigan Creek - Erg Mountain
- Fang Mountain - Fang Cave
- Dezaiko Range - deepest pothole in North America
- Fort George Canyon - hiking trail
- Giscome portage - historic trail
- MacKenzie Heritage trail

Several of these areas will be included in the field trips next June during the week of the FMCBC annual general meeting.

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ACCESS ISSUES

Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area

By Linda Coss, Executive Director

For the past number of years there has been conflicts between winter user groups in the Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area.

At meeting held this past summer with BC Parks and representatives of the Snowmobile Association, a number of issues were identified: there is very little parking available; the use of motorized vehicles in the Falls Lake area creates a considerable amount of noise; the Falls Lake Road offers snowmobilers the opportunity to access both Falls Lake and the Cold Water River wilderness areas; the Falls Lake and Zoa Mountain offers skiers a range of skiing opportunities from easy to most difficult in a wilderness mountain area, quickly accessed by highway.

To reach some resolution on the conflict the following was agreed upon by all parties: BC Parks will encourage the Ministry of Transportation and Highways to remove snow from parking areas on both sides of the highway at the Falls Lake access road. As snowmobiles are not licensed to travel on highway right-of-ways, they will park on the west side of the highway. Skiers are asked to park on the east side of the highway. There will be no overnight parking at the Falls Lake parking area because of snow removal. Overnight parking will be at the Zopkios or Briton Creek pull offs.

A snow play area will be established where the use of snowmobiles will be prohibited. The access road from the parking area to the pipeline right-of-way will be shared by both user groups. The snowmobiles will use the centre of the road and the skiers are to stay along the edges. The road will be posted with a 20 km speed limit. The operation of snowmobiles will be prohibited from using the Falls Lake and Zoa Bowl area.

This plan does involve compromise but your adherence to the restrictions will make it work. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. If you have any concerns or questions phone Linda at 737-3053.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Continued from page 4

Another favourite place - High Falls Creek near Squamish - has been improved through the years due to Halvor, who submitted a report to add High Falls Creek to the list for consideration for Protected Area Status. Halvor's latest project over the last few years has been developing the trail between Shannon Falls and Petgill Lake. This was finally accomplished during 1994 and is becoming a well used, popular hike as are most of Halvor's trails.

Recently he is becoming known for his diligence and has been interviewed for the CBC Morning Show and mentioned in a number of newspaper articles. The interviewer usually takes a lengthy hike in the area to be discussed before the interview. Becoming recognized for his work on trails has resulted in many requests for his advice, and although he is essentially a rather quiet, retiring lover of wild places, he attends numerous meetings to speak and write on favourite areas which may be currently under threat for development or logging.

All hikers owe Halvor Lunden alot of appreciation for his many hours of labour. We are indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated volunteer contributing to their enjoyment and education in the wilderness.

Thank you Halvor, from the FMCBC

FIRST AID TIP



HYPOTHERMIA

Shivering, slurred speech, stumbling and drowsiness after cold exposure are indications of hypothermia. Condition is severe when shivering stops. Unconsciousness and stopped breathing may follow. • Remove gently to shelter. Movement or rough handling can upset heart rhythm • Remove wet clothing; wrap in warm covers • Rewarm neck, chest, abdomen and groin — but not extremities. Apply direct body heat or safe heating devices • Give warm drinks if conscious • Monitor breathing; give artificial respiration if needed • Call for medical aid or transport gently.



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KOOTENAY PERSPECTIVES

By David Mitchell, Regional Director

In the last issue I wrote about the provincial committee that BC Lands set up to address the issue of snowmobile and skier conflicts. This is still the focus of the FMCBC activity in the Kootenays. Because of the improved capabilities of their machines, snowmobiles are ubiquitous. We are working to keep them out of our traditional ski-touring areas. For the short term resolution (ie, this winter only), we seem to be losing terrain rapidly. It appears that there is little value in peace, quiet and solitude in the backcountry.

Here is what has transpired so far:

- The Catamount and North Star Glaciers have been a destination for ski tourers for years. Now the area is divided into a snowmobile zone and non-snowmobile zone. The intermediate area (the Catamount Glacier) is a ski zone for the beginning of the season, a snowmobile zone for the end of the season (See page 178 of the "Summits and Ice Fields" by Chic Scott for a description of the area).
- The area about 4 km south of Purcell Lodge on Bald mountain is available to snowmobiles. Bald Mountain is bisected by the Glacier National Park boundary and is one of the few back country destinations accessible to cross country skiers.
- Amiskwi Lodge, at the boundary of Yoho park is on the chopping block, and will likely be divided into shared terrain.

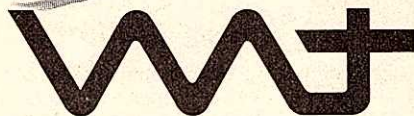
Do these resolutions imply a high value attached to the wilderness experience? Hopefully, long term solutions will come about that provide suitable recreation on crown land.

The Nancy Green Recreation Area near Rossland was changed from "special management" to "integrated use" in the land use plan. This is a very popular ski touring and cross country ski area which adjoins to Nancy Green Park. We have a good relationship with the Forest Service responsible for this area but a change of government could put the area in jeopardy. We are working to gain a little more security for recreational use in the area.

A third issue of concern is the Kinnaird Bluffs. These have been our local climbing crags for 25 years. There is now a paved road with shoulders, curbs, lamp posts and all the trappings of a subdivision, right in front of it. The Kinnaird Bluffs Access Society was a group set up to protect the area, but has floundered, mostly as a result of lack of leadership. The Kootenay Mountaineering Club is taking over to try to protect access to bluffs.

Despite all the work that needs to be done, we still have time to go ski touring. **If anyone is visiting the area, and wants to explore, call me at 354-4052.** I can put you in touch with other skiers. Happy shredding!

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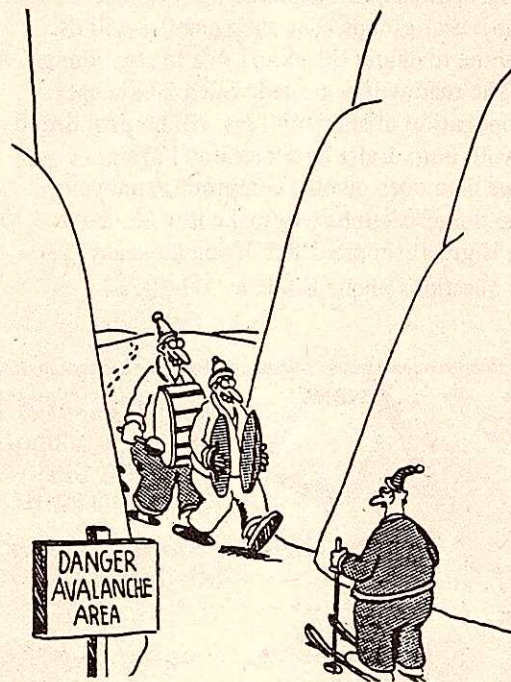
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A woman in Mountaineering

continued from page 13

companions and the earth grew stronger within me. Many times I stood in awe of what lay before me. Tears filling my eyes at the beauty and wonder of it all. Colours vibrant and pure like I could never have imagined to be real as the sun rose or set on the horizon. Rainbows in full circle, flittering glaciers icy blue, and foliage in all shades and hues. How many times have I been humbled..... In joy.... in fear.... here... in the mountains?

Building character and courage, I eventually ventured beyond Vancouver Island into the Coastal Range and Cascades to the south. New challenges expanded my sense of self, and circle of friends.

There is something unique about a relationship with someone you've been in the mountains with, especially one you share rope with. The rope, like an umbilical cord is the life line. There is no place for the ego: but for these sincere at heart, it is a window into the soul of the universe. Indescribable beauty. To be in the mountains, is one of the precious joys in life. To begin: one does not need strength, courage, or ability, these all come with experience. One needs only a spark a curiosity, a desire. A journey onto the mountains is a journey into one's self. It is exciting, challenging, inspiring and enlightening.

Moving though one's fears into aspects of an expanding personality that may have gone unexplored is therapy to the human spirit. The more we can stretch beyond our boundaries the greater the perspective we can view life with. Like parallel lines, the mountain experience can reflect deeper awareness into one's personal life experience. The lessons that come from communing with nature overlay social interaction in society. I have more patience, more understanding, more confidence, with a balanced sense of well being. I have discovered a peace within that grows and glows like the light of an eternal flame.

I have found something in the mountains that stays with me now: comforting, calming. The friendships are eternal. Even when we put away the rope, I still feel the connection. There is trust, there is love, there is a knowingness WE ARE ALL ONE..



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FIRST AID TIP




FROSTBITE

Frostbite makes the skin white, waxy and numb; freezing causes hardening. • Warm frostbitten area gradually with body heat; **do not rub** • Do not thaw frozen hands and feet unless medical aid is far away and there is no chance of refreezing. They are better thawed in hospital • If there are blisters, apply sterile dressings and bandage lightly to prevent breaking • Get to medical aid.




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AGM Northern Experience

continued from page 6

voyageur style canoe trip and picnic down the Nechako River. On Thursday evening we plan a sit down dinner and guest slide presentation with a northern theme. And on Friday evening, there will be a public slide show arranged by Island Alpine Equipment Ltd.

Saturday 22nd: FMCBC Annual General Meeting. Even if you are not a club delegate, this is your chance to see what goes on in the loftiest regions of the Federation. For non-delegates or significant others who would rather spend your time exploring our fair city, we will offer a variety of local events, including a chance to go birding with the Prince George Naturalists Club, a tour of the University, and a selection of 3 walks:

- ☐ Forests for the World;
- ☐ The Heritage River Trail and the new Fraser cutbanks trail;
- ☐ MacMillan Park and Ferguson Lake.

Saturday evening will be a wrap-up BBQ hosted by the Caledonia Ramblers.

Sunday 23rd: Au revoir and drive home.

Our part is to make this all happen; to help you to meet new friends, see some new country and to have fun. Your part is to come and see what our "northern perspective" is really all about!

Editors Note: Details and registration form will appear in the March 1996 Cloudburst.

For information, please call Judy Leykauf at (604) 962-9428 or Doug Perkins at (604) 563-0305. We will provide you with a billet in one of our homes, or if you prefer we can direct you to a campsite or to a hotel.

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By Brian Jones, Program Director

FIRST AID TIP



FRACTURES

- Steady and support the injury. Do not move the victim
- Dress wounds and control bleeding
- If he must be moved, secure the limb with bandages over padded splints
- Check for signs of a pulse beyond the fracture or joint injury. NO PULSE! get medical aid quickly
- Hold neck and back injuries steady and call for help
- Reassure and keep warm to prevent shock.



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FIRST AID TIP



UNCONSCIOUSNESS

Loss of consciousness may threaten life if the person is on his back and the tongue has dropped to the back of the throat, blocking the airway.

- Make certain that the person is breathing before looking for the cause of unconsciousness
- If the injuries permit, place the casualty in the recovery position with the neck extended. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious casualty.



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As this new year begins we all sit back and reflect on the past 12 months. With luck, our memories are of good times, growth, happiness and of course our friends and family. If anything in the previous year wasn't as well as hoped for, perhaps now is the time to seek out a way of learning from the past, looking at "resolutions" for the future.

This last year has been a positive one for CWMS. A quick review shows a year of growth and development in our programs. New courses, students from a diverse background, a perfect safety record and increased enrolments.

Of course, as proud as we are of our schools record, there will always be room to move forward, to strengthen our program. One area we will be focusing on is educating people about *the importance of proper education in the mountains*. All too often after a tragic accident (or a near miss) we find out that it may have been avoided by proper training, pre-planning or simply listening to the correct information. Whether you are a climber, hiker, skier or snowmobiler education and experience are the best ways to avoid accidents in the mountains.

Our goal is to prepare people to *become self reliant in the mountains*. To that end, we provide skills training in all aspects of mountain travel, and experiential programs for gaining experience. Our instructors are among the best in Canada, and our safety standards are reflected in our 100% accident free record with over 700 students in 1995.

Proper education in safety skills should always be of first priority. When you choose to get training, make sure that you are being taught by a professional, competent in the area of expertise that you are learning. Qualified, trained instructors and guides are the only way for you to know that you are learning the correct, most recent skills and techniques to keep you safe.

Enjoy the new year, and ski safely!

Is it worth the risk to enter into hazardous terrain without the skills or knowledge to make your own decisions?

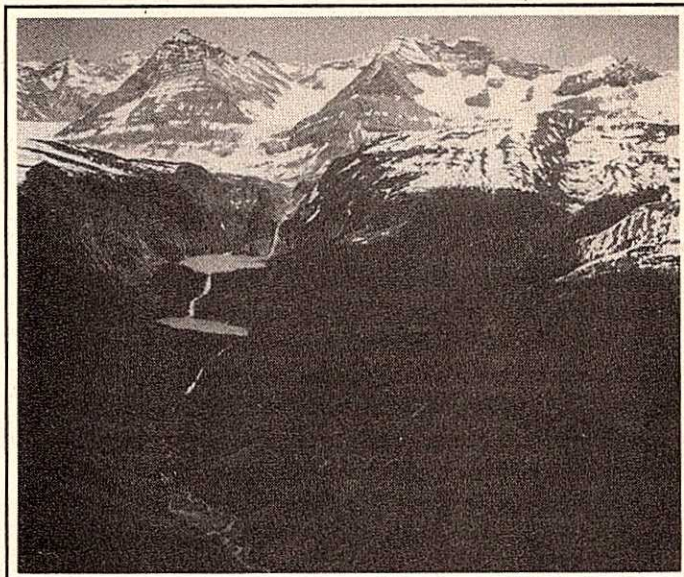
THE LAST REMAINING ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAINFOREST: THE CUMMINS RIVER VALLEY

Large intact tracts of temperate rain forest are rare. Most of what is left is found in coastal North America. Few people realize, however that beyond the thin band of temperate rain forest running from northern California up to Alaska coasts lie isolated interior temperate forests.

One of the few remaining interior rain forests is found in the grizzly bear and moose-rich Cummins River Valley 140 kilometers north of Golden B.C.. The valley is large and links through the Athabasca pass to Jasper National Park. The upper portion of the watershed, which received protected status under the Kootenay Land Use Plan, is spectacular with twin lakes joined to the Clemenceau Icefields by majestic waterfalls.

The lower valley, 14,000 hectares of pristine old-growth hemlock and cedar, meandering river and wetlands, and large wildlife populations, remains awaiting final designation - logged or protected. Rated as high priority by the PAS, the Cummins River Valley is the last unlogged low elevation habitat of its kind anywhere.

From the Protected Areas Strategy for BC (1993): The Cummins River Valley "...offers a multitude of ecological, scientific, social and economic benefits and values. It fulfils the criteria of providing natural benchmarks and ecological blueprints for long term scientific research, serving as a genetic reservoir for a variety of resources, maintaining natural and biological diversity,



Cummins River Valley: Photo Credit: Michael Peterson

providing recreational opportunities, notably the opportunity for deep wilderness experience, and contributes to the long term viability of the province.... It fulfils the mandate of conservation biology by providing vastly under represented low and mid-elevation and riparian habitats, old-growth, connectivity, and size while addressing the requirements of proponents of pristine wilderness with its naturalness, vast beauty, and geographic remoteness. ..."

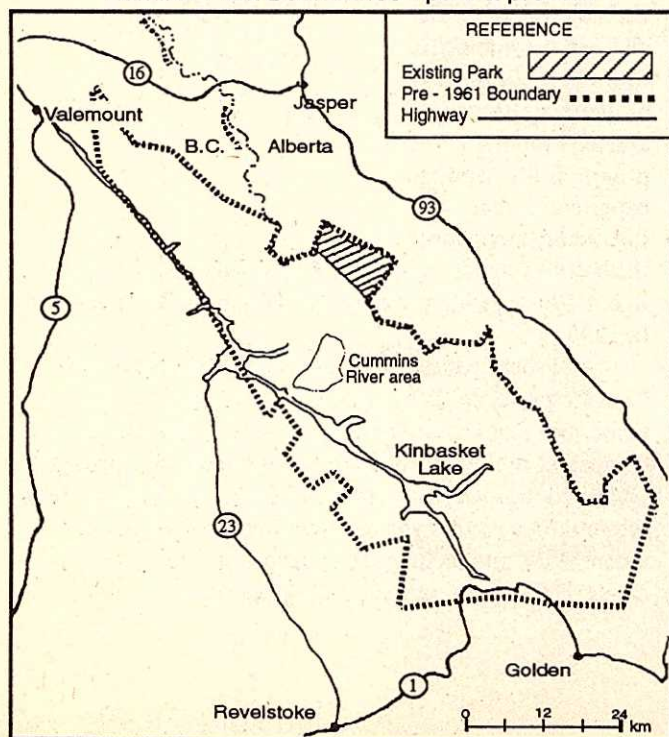
A rain forest is a rarity in the middle of the dry ecosystem of the Central Rocky Mountains. The Cummins offers a wealth of biodiversity that has yet to be understood since no biological inventories have been undertaken.

This remote and untouched deep wilderness area contributes to several under represented biogeoclimatic subzones and provides wintering range for the caribou, healthy populations of grizzly and black bears and an unusually high number of moose. A broad-sided, as opposed to V-shaped valley, the Cummins enjoys early springs providing animals with important spring feeding habitat. This remote valley provides shelter, not impacted by human activities, to Grizzly bears.

This ancient hemlock and cedar forest of the Cummins was once part of Hamber Provincial Park. Created in 1941, Hamber united the Big Bend Area with Mount Robson Provincial Park and the national parks; Jasper, Kootenay, Banff and Yoho. Hamber park protected the low elevation slopes of the Rocky Mountain Trench and the pristine Wetlands of the Columbia River which made one of the most significant ecological parks in all of North America.

In 1961 the then Social Credit government gutted

Hamber Park Boundaries - past & present



Hamber park, opening all but 24,300 hectares of it to "sustained yield logging," reducing the park to only a remnant.

Contrary to the claims of the time, much of the area's accessible old growth forest was denuded by clearcut logging or flooded out with the completion of the Mica dam in 1976. The only remaining large tract of valley-bottom forest is along the lower Cummins River.

Despite the overwhelming case for preserving the Cummins, there is strong pressure from industry to log this hemlock-dominated forest. Golden Forest district has severely over-harvested in the past, reducing the options for timber extraction. But logging the Cummins will not solve the timber supply shortage.

As Stephen Owen's CORE report noted:

"...even if the whole of the Lower Cummins were logged, it would only delay for approximately three years the inevitable impact on harvesting and milling employment"

Well over half of the timber in the Cummins Valley is Hemlock leading; problem forest type. This means that the wood is rotten and is either unrecoverable or of minimal economic value. The high degree of rot makes it impossible to transport, and the licensee may elect to leave large portions of these ancient trees on the ground. Most of what would be removed from the site will be pulp-quality and only a fraction of that would make it to local mills.

The very qualities that make this forest so poor in terms of its timber values are those that make it rich in most of the trees being piled, burned or ground under the tracks of machinery, represents an unacceptable degree of wastefulness and one that will create an international outcry of censure.

Indeed, the Cummins should remain as it has for centuries, and lead to unparalleled wilderness recreational opportunities. The potential for a continuous connector to Jasper park through the historical Athabasca trail over the Cummins pass and down through the Cummins to Kinbasket Lake is high. Once completed the trail would provide hikers with an experience to rival the West Coast Trail on Vancouver Island.

This natural viable treasure will be lost if politicians succumb to the quick fix economic solutions of the logging industry. The Cummins is a true wilderness, remote and wild. Help us save the last pristine Rocky Mountain Rain forest, write today to Premier Mike Harcourt, the Hon. Andrew Petter, Minister of Forests, the Hon. Moe Sihota Minister of Environment Lands and Parks, and Jim Doyle, MLA Columbia River-Revelstoke to protect this heritage wilderness area. The East Kootenay Environmental Society is a non-profit organization that has been active in the East Kootenay since 1987. For more information contact:

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YOUTHFUL PERSEPECTIVES

By Alexander Ratson, Heathens Club

AN ATTEMPT OF THE GOLDEN HINDE

On September 8, 1995 nine members of the Heathens Club departed for the Phillip's Ridge trail head at Westmin Mines in Strathcona Park. The group included John and Jenny from Victoria, Steve and Sandra from Vancouver and Peter, Donna, Chris, my dad and I from Campbell River. We left shortly after Donna got off work and were hiking by noon. The weather was clear and promised to hold for at least the weekend. A low pressure system was expected by Monday or Tuesday. We were planning to be out by Wednesday or Thursday. The plan was to take 3 days to get in, a day to summit and 2 days to get out.

This was to be my most ambitious trip to date, but one I had dreamed about for a long time. Our group included 3 who had previously summited, including Chris who had made the first winter ascent of the Hinde in 1993 (written up in the spring/summer 1993 Newsletter). Preparations began some weeks earlier. "Routes and groups" changed a number of times as individual schedules and climbing abilities were incorporated. My pack was heavier than ever before at 22 pounds which my dad said was 30% of my body weight. I agreed that it was indeed heavy for me. This however left 70 pounds for my camp partner, dad, which I could see from his grunting, was heavy for him.

A group this size always seems to have a problem with "pace." My dad and I were without a doubt the slowest but determined to make the destination. We arrived at Arnica Lake over an hour behind the trail leaders, John and Jenny. After a supper break at the lake we continued on for another 3 hours but still short of our goal for the day. It was now 8 pm and a full moon was expected in the clear skies.

Should we continue on and setup camp in the moon light or camp where we were? It was decided that we should stay. That night we had the heaviest dew I have ever seen. Puddles of water were inside our tent by morning. We were trying to dry things a bit as we packed up but this delayed departure to 9 pm and we still had to dry things during our midday break anyway. We were continuing to fall further behind schedule and it appeared to the leaders that given the weight of our packs and their toll on our hiking speed that we were not going to make our destination. I was willing to do anything to be allowed to continue but everyone said that was not realistic. I wanted to summit, perhaps more than anyone else and people were telling me this whole discussion

was a good example of setting aside strong desires for good judgment. This was a painful learning exercise but after a while I could see that the right decision had been made.

Steve, Sandra, Jenny and John the continued on towards the Hinde reaching the point on the ridge where you drop down to Schielderup Lake by 9 pm. They signalled us by head lamp some 5 km across the upper Phillips Creek Valley. As a safety measure we signalled back as previously agreed. They planned to attempt the summit the next day and return to their current camp site

that night expecting a 16 plus hour bid. At 9 pm the next day we again exchanged light signals and assumed they had achieved the objective.

When they met up with us in Campbell River we found out that they kept getting bluffed out in their attempt to get off the ridge and down to Schielderup Lake.

They lost too much

time to summit and get back to camp that night so had to abort. Meanwhile, back at our camp, we were enjoying the mountain views, sunset and moonlight and generally resting our weary bones. The next day, Chris suggested that we have a couple of workshops as part of the 5 year mountaineering program he developed for me and do a trip along the ridge later. I think he was trying to off set some of my disappointment at not being able to continue on to the Hinde. He succeeded, as I have never had such a good time bouldering.

We found a boulder that we all would have loved to have in our backyards. It included a 4 m chimney that Chris used to demonstrate the technique of chimney climbing and we all practiced. We then played a game of selecting a route for some one else to climb while we watched. We learned by both doing and watching. It was great fun. Thank you Chris! All the while we were bouldering Chris was planning in his mind the next workshop. There was a long steep snow field with a good

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run out nearby and Chris was waiting for the late morning sun to soften it up enough for us to practice ice axe self arrest.

After a noon break he put on his rain gear and told us to do the same and follow him. He and Peter demonstrated the recovery techniques for every imaginable falling position. I found that I could recover even better than my dad from a headfirst fall down a slope on my back. After Chris felt we had the basic skills down he demonstrated and we practiced "glissading." The first run my dad took he got to practice self arrest again. By the end of the session I felt much more comfortable traversing snow fields and look forward to more practice opportunities.

We knew from the weather forecast that a weak low pressure system was expected the next day. We had been observing a build up of cloud far out to the west over the ocean the past couple of days. We discussed the various types of clouds we could see and related them to the forecast and build up of the gray cloud mass to the west. The sunset that night was particularly awesome with the sky aglow in oranges, yellows and reds. This was soon followed by the rising of the full moon. We were in heaven on earth!

The next day we decided to head out. The cloud build up to the west was no longer to the west but upon us. We remained one step ahead of conditions that could have hampered navigation all the way to Arnica Lake. We felt especially good about our weather observations and forecasting. We discussed the potential situation of being overcome by weather and the difficulties of route finding if that were to occur, which it didn't. We arrived back at the van at 5:30 and headed to town for a pig-out at Cafe California. With 4 days of stink, dirt and generally normal Heathen condition we arrived and got our usual table in the far corner.

This was a truly great trip, thanks for good measure to Chris for the day on the rocks and ice and to Donna and Peter for their patience and participation in the workshops. We felt we may have ruined the trip for the others but when Steve and Peter said we should climb with them some time soon, we were again reminded of how many there are in this club who are willing to help a budding mountaineer achieve his dream. Thank you all.

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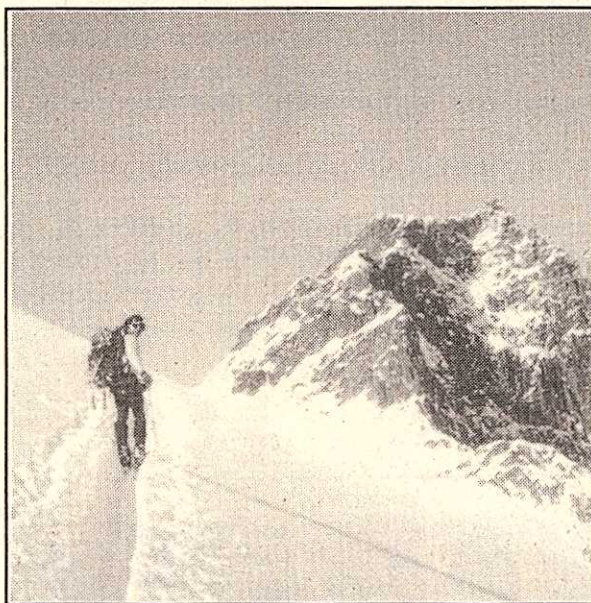
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