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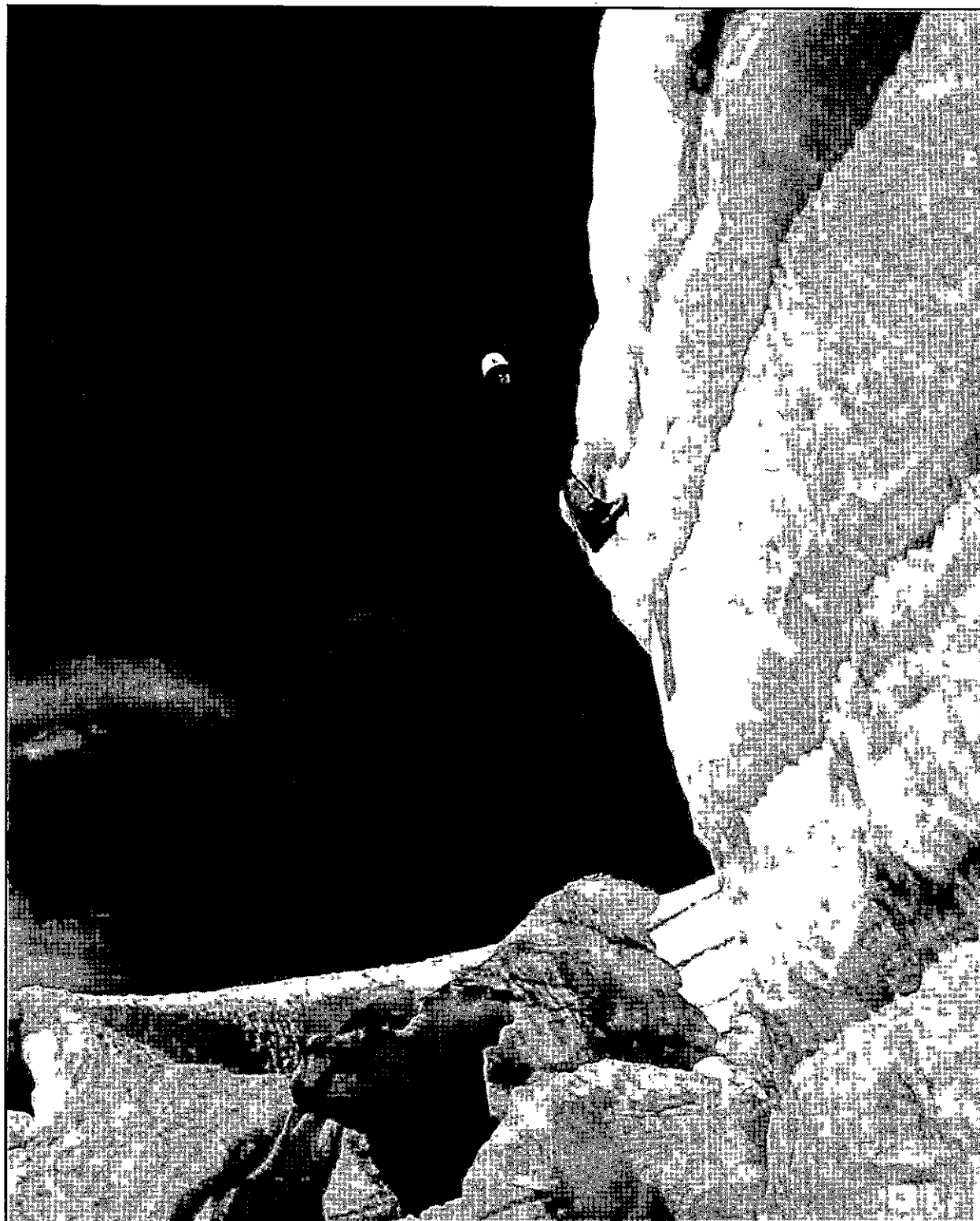
# CLOUDBURST

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Fédération of Mountain Clubs of BC Newsletter

March 1995

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**Photo: Brian Jones. Franklin Glacier, Waddington Region. Canada West Mountain School Instructor Jim Haberl hangs out as 'victim' in a crevasse rescue scenario staged during the course.**

## 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, Van. Island, Northern BC & Lower Mainland.

**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

### Deadline for submissions:

**June 1, 1995**

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**President:** Thom Ward

**Executive Director:** Linda Coss

**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 Ansten

**Smoke Bluffs:** Jim Campbell

Volume 3 Number 1

## Membership

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

### Recreation and Conservation Committee:

May 1, June 5

Contact FMCBC office

### Safety and Education Committee:

Call FMCBC office for next meeting

**Trails Committee:** Apr. 10, June 5

FMCBC office (Rm 336 at Sport BC)

**Board of Directors:** April 19, May 17

Rm 106 at Sport BC

### Lower Mainland Delegates' Meeting: May 18

Thunderbird Community Centre, 2311 Cassiar Street

Info: Cheryl Leskiw at 534-8863

**FMCBC AGM:** June 17, 1995

### Island Delegates' Meeting:

April 1 at Bowen Recreation Centre, Nanaimo

**FMCBC AGM:** Saturday June 17

Thurston Room, Cheam Centre, CFB Chilliwack

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*By Thom Ward*

On February 25th, we held a workshop in Burnaby to address some of the concerns of Member Clubs. Linda Coss, our new Executive Director, did an excellent job of organizing the afternoon. John Cowlin, President of the Island Mountain Ramblers, said "I and others from the Island were impressed with the procedure for obtaining opinions from a cross section of Federation members". Specific topics were targeted, and Linda kept us strictly to them. While the questions asked of the participants may not have dealt with some member's specific concerns, they were good general questions designed to initiate positive, constructive discussions.

Because it is not possible to resolve all of the difficulties of the Fed in one meeting, the main objective of the meeting was to initiate discussion amongst the clubs which would reveal the clubs' primary concerns. Realizing that amongst the membership of each club there are usually several divergent views, I felt it was important to get as broad a representation as possible, so the meeting was not restricted to only club executive. The meeting was well attended, considering the wonderful weather that we had that day. About 35 attendees, representing 15 member clubs, contributed valuable feedback. We hope you will continue the important discussions that were started with other members that day.

An awful lot of very good ideas came out of this meeting, and will greatly assist us in recommending a direction and focus that the Fed should have. Volunteers are synthesizing the results of the meeting, and a follow-up survey will be sent to all members of the FMCBC so that everyone has an opportunity to contribute. These recommendations are intended to be presented at the June AGM, for possible ratification by the Member Clubs.

If any members wish to discuss their concerns with me, or to continue a discussion from the meeting, feel free to contact me, through the Fed office (604) 737-3053. I'm always prepared to meet with clubs or individuals, and I enjoy doing so. I also want to encourage members to get involved with a Fed committee, because it is through our committees that a bulk of the Fed's objectives are achieved.

## CYPRESS BOWL BACK-COUNTRY ACCESS

*By Michael Shillingford*

In a movement reminiscent to the recent Rogers Cable fiasco, Cypress Bowl has implemented a manda-

tory ski lift charge to anyone who wishes to set foot in Cypress Provincial Park, whether you plan to ski using the lifts or just walk by foot into the backcountry. This came out of the blue today, as I was standing in line to purchase a lift ticket to do some downhill skiing. Behind me, an elderly gentleman, carrying a pair of beaten snowshoes, was yelling at a local Cypress Bowl employee--"I've been hiking these woods before you were even born--I'm not going to pay to walk on these public lands". Staff were actually patrolling the grounds to insure no one snuck into the park to walk without a lift ticket. Dumbfounded by this exchange, I walked into the guest relations office to inquire about this incredible phenomenon--surely one did not have to pay to walk in a provincial park. "Yes," the lady behind the desk said, "You are required to buy a lift ticket even if you do not use the lifts or walk on the ski runs." Why? Well, another man behind the desk spoke up saying that, "We provide road access to the mountain and a parking lot." "But", I argued, "The road and the parking lot were here before Cypress Bowl purchased the lease to the ski lift area." "OK," he says, "We provide all the maintenance for the road, keeping it ploughed and in good shape." After some more probing, the lady admits it's political. Apparently Cypress bowl and Cypress Provincial Park are hot under the collar on a long standing disagreement.

Shame on you Cypress Bowl, for taking out your political problems on the very ones who pay you to survive--the customer. The above gentleman was probably living on a meager pension, with hardly enough money at the end of the month to pay for food, and you have the nerve to charge him to walk in a provincial park. I have decided not to purchase any more tickets at Cypress Bowl until hikers are given back some respect. I also suggest you keep your PR people informed of the actual situation. According to the contract between Cypress Bowl and the Park, the Ministry of Highways supplies you with capital to plough and maintain the road right up to the parking lot (capital which originates from the taxpayers' pocket).

So how much does it cost to hike up Black Mountain or stroll over to Yew Lake (a 15 minute walk) under your own steam? Back at the ticket booth, I inquired about the cost to hike up the Baden-Powell Trail. "The cost of a full day lift ticket, which would be \$29," she smiled. Arching an eyebrow, I said "\$29 to walk up a hill?" She looked at her co-worker, asked a

**How much  
does it cost  
to hike to  
Black Mountain  
or Yew Lake  
under your own  
steam?**

**\$29 dollars!**

*...continued on page 4*

....Cypress Bowl, continued from page 3

question, and then replied: "Oh, you could also buy just a rope tow ticket, which is \$10. Would you like one?" she beamed at me.

## The FMCBC & Cypress Bowl

By FMCBC Director Lesley Bohm

Since the January 6 fee implementation for backcountry use in the Cypress downhill area, the FMCBC has participated in:

- ✓ BCTV News report
- ✓ Article in Vancouver Sun by Dawn Hanna (January 26, 1995)
- ✓ Video by Robert Crease (release unknown)
- ✓ Video for Roger's Channel 4 (to air April 1st)
- ✓ Letter of protest to Moe Sihota
- ✓ ORC meeting with Vancouver MLA's on hold
- ✓ Ski-in with Dawn Hanna March 6 to Yew Lake.

This group was not stopped, but two members who split from the group and went up Black Mountain unaccompanied by camera man and press were stopped. If you want free access, take a camera crew.

Ongoing: Meetings with Lands Ministry, Friends of Cypress, consulting with Sierra Legal Defense.

Contact with MLA's:

Jermey Dalton (Liberal, Capilano), Tom Perry (NDP, Little Mountain), Darlene Marzari (NDP, Point Grey).

Cypress Bowl Recreation (CBR) continues to charge a fee for access to the park's backcountry through the downhill skiing permit area. Although CBR's right to charge this fee seems contradicted by BC Park's policy that "Operation of facilities by the private sector on provincial park lands will not impair the public's right of free access to and within such park lands except as required for the proper conduct of business", the government appears unwilling to request CBR to allow access. CBR's campaign of intimidation has driven away many less assertive backcountry users, but the feeling is that enforcement and harassment may be slackening, as it appears counterproductive. On February 19, six FMCBC members were persuaded to carry out a scheduled trip to Black Mountain via the Baden Powell Trail, accompanied at the start by Craig Delahun, a camera-man from Rogers Channel 4. The group was not stopped either coming or going, and reports from snowshoers indicate no harassment in the last three weeks when passing through the downhill area.

The Federation will not sanction illegal activity, so all protest ski-ins are a personal responsibility and may entail arrest, although this is seen as unlikely. I intend to maintain visible access--any participants on well mannered ski-ins gratefully accepted--phone Lesley Bohm at 224-1098.

## Trek Nepal!



Challenge yourself with a walk among the world's highest mountains. Join a small group with a Canadian leader departing Vancouver in October. Select from high altitude treks in the Everest region to a low level ridge walk in Gorkha and jungle safari at Tiger Tops Lodge. High quality trek service with caring Sherpas and trained kitchen staff. Two days in Hong Kong. Travel extensions available.

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# SAFETY AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By Chris Mills

*The Safety & Education Committee exists to serve the Members of the FMCBC. We invite input from individual Members and from Clubs and will try to address your issues in this column or by other appropriate means.*

*Please contact the FMCBC office - we need to hear about your concerns*

## Descending Snow Slopes

Every year the S&E Committee hears from members of accidents and injuries resulting from loss of control during "bum slides", or more properly *sitting glissades*. Usually the victim has collided with rocks in, or at the bottom of, a snow slope. To avoid such situations, check your run and run-out before you start and always maintain control over your speed and direction (often easier said than done).

The use of an ice axe should be considered essential when descending snow as it can be used for balance, for steering, and for emergency braking using *self-arrest*. An ice axe for hiking and general mountaineering should have a shaft length of 60-85cm, measured from your grip to your ankle, and have a slightly curved pick - the specialized ice tools designed for ice climbing are very difficult to use in *self-arrest*. Some mountaineering texts suggest that a ski pole can be used for *self-arrest*, but while this may be true under certain conditions, an ice axe definitely offers a greater safety margin (if you have your hand through the pole wrist loop you will not be able to use a ski pole for braking).

There are three body positions used in *glissading* - standing (favoured by competent downhill skiers), crouching (favoured by competent mountaineers), and sitting (the choice of everyone else). Of the three, sitting offers the least visibility and the least opportunity for control of direction, but is the easiest to convert into *self-arrest* since the body is already at snow level. Sitting also appeals to the less adventurous, and to the less-experienced, since it appears to be very natural and easy. Remember that the speed of descent when sitting is influenced by the slipperiness of outer clothing and that standing or crouching will keep you drier. Hand covering will prevent the destructive effects of speed and snow on bare flesh.

An ice axe is a tool with sharp edges and points that can inflict serious bodily injuries (and wreck your car interior trim) if used inappropriately. Please take care while learning its use, and cover the adze, pick and spike with suitable protectors when off the hill (particularly on public transport).

If descent by *glissade* appears unsafe, or you simply lack confidence, then you may be able to deal

with a snow slope by *plunge-stepping*. To do this, face outward from the slope, step assertively downwards, and land solidly on your heel with your leg vertical. As you move, transfer weight solidly to the new position and do not lean backwards into the slope - keep knees slightly bent. Use your ice axe for balance and be ready to execute a *self-arrest* if you fall. Climbing downwards, facing inwards and kicking steps, is a further alternative, using your ice axe for security.

During Spring we all hope for increasing sunshine, but this increases avalanche hazard as the day progresses on slopes facing the sun. Cornice collapse may also be a hazard throughout Spring warming. *Glissading, self-arrest and snow travel* are skills best learned under instruction, and ones that should be practised regularly to develop confidence—call Canada West Mountain School for instruction information (604-737-3053, or Fax. 604-738-7175).

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## CANADA WEST MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

*By Brian Jones, Program Director*

Once again, summer is quietly easing into view. It's March, and climbers are already complaining of crowds in the Smoke Bluffs; people are inquiring about hiking conditions in the mountains ("...is there really snow - still up there in April?"); and, of course, everyone is basking in the longer days and sunshine.

As usual, Canada West Mountain School is gearing up for yet another exciting summer full of great courses and adventures. This season will have us embarking on a full complement of programs.

### Courses:

A few new courses have been added to round out the traditional offerings. Based on much demand, we have brought on board a Survival Course, geared towards day hikers. This two day overnight course will help prepare hikers for dealing with an unexpected night out, or worse. At the other end of the spectrum, our section on Classic Ascents includes such notables as the NE Buttress of Mt. Slesse and the East Ridge of Mt. Logan amongst others. Every year we have members requesting that we run "destination" style courses such as this - now we are!

Make sure that you pick up a brochure at one of the local outdoor stores, or give the FMCBC office a call at 737-3053 to have one sent to you.

This summer will also see the school increasing advertising and attracting new markets to our courses. CWMS has been breaking even at the financial end for the past few years, now it is time to start generating a few extra dollars for the FMCBC. This goes hand in hand with raising the profile of the school.

If you or your club are looking for any style of training, give CWMS a call. Not only is it your school, but continued support and use of the school by our members will help ensure that CWMS supports the FMCBC, not depends on it.



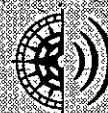
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## BULLETIN

### Hot off the Press!

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society--BC Chapter has just published the latest issue of its **BC Wildlands** series on the Southwest region. The aim of the publication is to inform the public about the importance of setting aside representative elements of the various ecosystems within BC for future generations to enjoy. Previous issues of the BC Wildlands series cover the following regions: the Thompson-Okanagan, the Central Interior, and the Southeast. Copies of the reports are available free of charge. To order copies, contact Karin Albert at 604-685-7445.

### FMCBC Display Unit Available to Clubs

The FMCBC has a large free-standing display unit which is available (FREE!) to member clubs who wish to provide information about themselves or the FMCBC. If your club is interested in borrowing the system, call the FMCBC at 737-3053.

### Pitch-In Week

#### Is there garbage on your trail?

#### Help clean up your small piece of the world!

May 1-7 is Clean up the World Week! Pitch in Week operates in co-operation with the United Nations Environmental Program. If you wish to register your event, obtain free garbage bags, or a catalogue of promotional materials write NOW (by March 31, 1995) to: Pitch-In Canada, Box 45011 Ocean Park RPO, White Rock, BC V4A 9L1

#### Plan Ahead:

**September 16/17:** International Coastal Cleanup (also sponsored by Pitch-In Canada) and  
**September 24:** BC River's Day  
 (Outdoor Recreation Council, 737-3058)

### Kamloops Outdoor Club Cabin for Rent Heffley Lake

Cabin holds ten, is equipped with electricity, kitchen, and fridge, and is available to rent. Call Robert LeBlanc at 376-2376 or write: Kamloops Outdoor Club, Box 526, Kamloops BC V2C 5L2

### New Skiing Opportunities!

#### Dakota Bowl Ski Area

The Tetrahedron Ski Club is happy to announce that we are in the process of opening a new day use ski area at Dakota Bowl on the Sunshine Coast. Access is from Willson Creek up Field Road to the end and turn right and follow the ski signs to the bowl. When finished there will be groomed cross country ski trails, back

country and telemark routes and hiking trails. The area is made up of Mt. Elphinstone on the south side and Dakota Ridge to the north and east. The views are of Georgia Straight and Howe Sound, Chapman Creek and McNair Valley. The cross country ski area will be on the north side of the bowl on Dakota Ridge at approximately 2,800 ft altitude. The roads will all be 2 wheel drive accessible. Snow conditions in the area are similar to Cypress Bowl. We are hoping to be organizing trail marking and clearing events this summer and will give you notification as soon as dates are set. We will also be having a major kick off event in December with activities for the whole family. Anyone wanting maps can obtain them by sending a self addressed stamped envelope to: Tetrahedron ski Club, Box 545, Gibsons, BC V0N 1V0

### Wilderness of Women

This non-profit organization run by and for women is looking for women committed to building a collective open to all women. WOW offers women opportunities to experience the wilderness and learn outdoor recreation skills. If you are interested in learning guiding skills or in participating in wilderness trips, please call: (604) 725-3230 (Tofino) or 255-5409 (Vancouver) Or write: Box 548, Tofino, BC V0R 2Z0

### The FMCBC wants you!

Are you outraged about  
Cypress Provincial Park Access?

Do you want to protect BC's  
Wilderness?

Do you feel you have something to  
offer BC's Mountain Community?

Here is your chance to become a member of the FMCBC Board! The FMCBC is looking for directors. If you or someone you know is interested in the position or in receiving more information, please call Director Cheryl

Leskiw before April 20th.

Cheryl Leskiw, 534-8863

FMCBC Nominations Committee

## FMCBC's New Executive Director

*The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC is pleased to announce the appointment of Linda Coss as the new Executive Director. Linda began work on December 1, 1994. She has a background in recreation and education and has worked in a variety of roles including managing a non-profit society and as a coordinator of education programs in the forest sector.*

My first three months with the Federation of Mountain Clubs has been an interesting and challenging experience. I am very impressed with the dedication and caring of all the people I've met so far. I have managed to attend some club meetings to introduce myself and am looking forward to meeting many more of you in the year ahead. As many of you are aware, on February 25th, a Special General Meeting was held to solicit club input. The response from members was gratifying, with over 35 people attending. Many interesting ideas and valid concerns were presented. A summary of that meeting will appear in the next issue of Cloudburst.

I believe this meeting was a first step in a process of restructuring the Federation. As a newcomer, I see many strengths in the organization. I also see the need for you, the membership, to pull together in setting direction and then getting involved in making it happen. By working together, I believe we can become a federation that truly represents the interests of its members. I am pleased to be part of such an energetic and committed organization and I look forward to serving all of you in these challenging times.

It is important to me to get to know you and what is important to you, so please feel free to call me, or write, with your ideas on how we can improve our services and communication to you. To this end, please do take a moment to fill in the Cloudburst Survey on pages 9/10.

## UPCOMING FMCBC AGM

Saturday, June 17, 1995

*The 1995 Annual General Meeting is fast approaching, so please mark it down on your calendar!*

At the AGM, each club is allowed one vote (the Directors of the FMCBC do not vote), so make sure your club is represented. Clubs are encouraged to send as many members to the AGM as are interested in attending.

At the 1994 AGM, the Caledonia Ramblers (Prince George) proposed that a different club host the AGM each year. They also proposed that the AGM be in the Lower Mainland every second year, and in an outlying region in the intervening years. The AGM was in Nanaimo in 1994, so the Chilliwack Outdoor Club has accepted the challenge by hosting this year's AGM.

In past years, the AGM has been organized by FMCBC staff. Having a club host our AGM each year is one way in which the clubs can participate as FMCBC volunteers, sharing the workload. It also gives us the chance to meet more of the members of the host club, and to see the region in which their club activities take place.

In addition to hosting the meeting, which will be held in Cheam Centre at CFB Chilliwack, the club is also offering the following:

- lunch during the AGM
- a Barbecue Saturday night at Cultus Lake
- hikes in the Chilliwack area on Sunday
- billets at club member's homes for those that

need a place to stay (Friday &/or Saturday night).

*To take advantage of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club's generous arrangements, please fill in the registration form below and send to the FMCBC office before April 15th, 1995.*

Register  
Now!!!

AGM, Saturday, June 17, 1995

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

I will be participating in:

☐Lunch ☐Saturday Barbecue ☐Easy Hike ☐Challenging Hike

I need a place to stay ☐Friday ☐Saturday

Return to the FMCBC by April 15  
336-1367 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6H 4A9  
Telephone: 737-3053 Fax: 738-7175



## MEMBER SURVEY OF CLOUDBURST

*This survey is designed to determine what you, the member, wants from your FMCBC newsletter, Cloudburst. Your replies to the following questions will help make Cloudburst the optimum club newsletter.*

### A Brief History.....

The first Cloudburst was produced in the Fall of 1974. It was three pages long. Since that time, Cloudburst has provided a link between the FMCBC and individual club members. Over the years, Cloudburst has grown, and so have the demands placed on it, and the cost of production. To offset the ever-rising cost of postage, labour and paper, advertisements have been increasingly solicited. Currently, **between six and eight of your twelve FMCBC membership dollars** goes towards producing Cloudburst. The FMCBC feels that it is time to evaluate both the focus and future of Cloudburst.

### 1. CLOUDBURST AND YOUR MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS

Recognizing that the cost of Cloudburst is between \$6 and \$8 per year of your \$12 membership fee, should we: **Choose only one.**

- ☐ Reduce number of issues      ☐ Continue as is  
☐ Look for more advertising      ☐ Not produce Cloudburst

Should we try to cover costs by carrying more advertising?

- ☐ Yes      ☐ No

What percent of Cloudburst should be advertising? **Choose one only.**

- ☐ Less than 10%      ☐ Between 11-30%  
☐ Between 31-50%      ☐ Between 51-75%

### 2. CLOUDBURST FOCUS/FUNCTION

Rank in order of priority. The main focus of Cloudburst should be:

- ☐ A report to clubs on the activities of the FMC (Directors, Committees, Canada West Mountain School)  
☐ A medium for club-to-club exchange (club forum)  
☐ Information Service to clubs (educational materials, available services, etc.)

**Other suggestions:**

Rank according to interest (1-8) the regular features of Cloudburst:

- ☐ FMCBC Committee Reports      ☐ President's Report  
☐ Regional Director's Reports      ☐ Club Features/Events  
☐ Meeting Dates, Bulletin      ☐ Hut/Trail/Services Updates  
☐ FMC club writers (Island Insights, Northern Perspective, Kootenay Corner)  
☐ Canada West Mountain School Courses Information

Page 2

**3. CLOUDBURST CONTENT**How would you rate the current content? **Check the best choice**☐ Boring ☐ Informative ☐ Inspiring ☐ InnovativeHow could the content be improved? **Choose two best responses.**☐ More club event/news coverage ☐ More province-wide representation  
☐ More humor ☐ More practical/how to articles  
☐ More free-lance articles on topical mountain recreation issues  
☐ More coverage of equipment/publications/services**Other suggestions:****4. CLOUDBURST IMPROVEMENTS****Please check one answer for each question in this section**

Is the current layout:

☐ Reader friendly ☐ Confusing ☐ Boring

Is the current paper size:

☐ Appropriate ☐ Too large ☐ Too smallPaper currently used is the cheapest most environmental **bond** paper available.**Indicate preference:**☐ Stay with environmental paper ☐ Use glossy paper  
☐ Move to cheaper newsprint

Cloudburst is usually 16 pages. It can be increased to 20 pages at no extra mailing costs. Should we:

☐ Maintain current size ☐ Increase to 20 pages  
☐ Reduce size

There are currently 4 issues per year. Optimum issues/year:

12 6 4 3 1

**5. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CLOUDBURST?****THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO GIVE US THIS INFORMATION!**

Fax or mail this survey to the FMCBC by April 15, 1995

Mail: Cloudburst, 336-1367 West Broadway, Van. BC V6H 4A9

Fax: 738-7175



## KOOTENAY KORNER

### WEST KOOTENAY-CORE TABLE

By Claudette Burton

*Claudette Burton is Director of the West Kootenay branch of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee and an environmental representative at the recent West Kootenay CORE table.*

A recent BC Forest Alliance report revealed that less than 17% of the province's total workforce depends on the forest industry to earn a living, and that less than 18% of the province's gross domestic product came from forestry. These figures from the Alliance clearly show that the majority of people in this province are being held to political ransom by the shipped-up emotions of the timber industry, the IWA and Share groups. The provincial government's Timber Supply Review proves that the present level of forest harvesting is not sustainable, yet people continue to dither for fear of the political and personal ramifications of having to reduce.

Although continued overcutting will maximize company profits and IWA jobs today, it will result in the further degradation of our clean drinking water and fisheries habitat, and the loss of magnificent forests, grizzly bears, mountain caribou, and other endangered species. It will also destroy many communities' opportunities for sustainability and economic diversification, because their options for secondary manufacturing will be gone, their viewscapes denuded, recreational opportunities lost, and quality of life drastically diminished. There are really only two choices: bite the bullet now while communities still have a chance of creating the future they want; or wait until all the marketable trees are gone and then somehow adapt, like the Newfoundland fishermen. The timber industry, IWA and Share seem to prefer the second option. But why should 80% of the people, 88% of the landscape and 100% of all the other critters be held hostage to the economic desires of 16.5% of the workforce. For more information, call Claudette Burton, 229-5462.

## Adopt A Trail Program bids farewell to Founding Member

By John Otava

Nearly everyone has seen the green and white Adopt A Trail signs at the beginning of trails. Over the last six years when he first started working on compiling a Trails Inventory, to the launching in 1989 of the Adopt A Trail Program, Charles has been persuading and encouraging groups and individuals into adopting and maintaining trails.

After Charles consulted with and explained his ideas to the ministries of Forestry, Parks and Municipal Agencies, he was able to go ahead and recruit adoptees for trails. Charles has spent a great deal of his time on the telephone, mailing out letters and renewal forms, and entering everything into the computer.

British Columbia is divided into zones, with 7 zones in the Lower Mainland, one on Vancouver Island and the rest of BC as one zone. Each zone has a coordinator who worked closely with Charles to ensure that trails were maintained. There are 75 trails adopted and about 55 groups looking after them, including such diverse organizations as a Legion, a High School, Elementary School, individuals, and of course, hiking clubs.

The AAT program has come a long way, and finding a capable successor in Mary Macaree, Charles decided it was time to pursue his curiosity and love of Urban Trail adventuring. He has helped hiking clubs for many years, particularly the Valley Outdoor Association. Each Saturday in the Spring and Fall he leads 20-30 people around Vancouver and environs and Southern Vancouver Island. This is a great way to see cities, and get your name in the press! One day in 1992 as he was reading the Globe and Mail on the sea bus heading for a hike on the Baden-Powell Trail, Charles was interviewed by National Geographic and his picture appeared in an article entitled VANCOUVER - Good Luck City (April, 1992). Good Luck Charles, on your retirement from the Adopt A Trail program. We all appreciate the work you have done!

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## VANCOUVER ISLAND UPDATE

*By Thom Ward*

Vancouver Island has had much interest paid to it, especially with respect to land use planning and conflicts over Protected Areas. The CORE report, of last year, and the subsequent Land Use Plan, were both broad scale plans and fine tuning of the boundaries was required for both the Protected Areas (P.A.) and the Low Intensity Areas (LIAs).

A technical team was formed to deal with these boundaries, by rationalizing them. They were to make the boundaries logically comply with the objectives of the area, the facts, and the actual geography of the land. In doing this, the total area represented by each of these two areas was to remain the same. Protected Areas were classified into two groups: Goal 1, or large areas, and Goal 2, or small areas. Goal 2 areas are small pockets of land that are not easily defined at the 1:250,000 scale, and were missed by the broad scale planning process of CORE, but were identified as P.A.S. candidates and recognized in the Land Use Plan.

The results of the technical review are a mixed blessing for us. On one hand, the Drinkwater estuary was included in the McBride Creek P.A. Drinkwater Creek flows into Great Central Lake, and this is the main access route into Della Falls, and subsequently into the southern portion of Strathcona Park. This area has been recommended for inclusion into the park by every process that I am aware of, and I'm very happy that it will finally happen. Yet, on the other hand, it appears that only the Crown owned land along the Cowichan River is recommended for P.A. status, and now there are recommendations for acquiring the parcels of land in between the Crown land to make the parcels of land contiguous. The C.O.R.E. recommendation was to work towards acquiring the private parcels and I am distressed that John Allen (Deputy Minister, Ministry Lands, Environment and Parks and ADM of the Protected Area Boundary Advisory Team) has not supported this part of the Land Use Plan.

On to brighter topics. The province had managed to acquire the Tod Inlet--Gowlland Range lands for a park, via the Commonwealth Nature Legacy. This has well pleased South Islanders, and a Master Plan for this park is receiving a lot of public input. This planning process was to end this month, but it may take longer than that to resolve some of the user conflicts, and ecological concerns.

The Island Delegates meeting is 9:30 April 1st, in Nanaimo at the Bowen Recreation Centre. Guests from the Forest Service & Parks will attend the afternoon session, all members are welcome to attend. Some of the topics of concern are the development of the Crest Creek climbing area, with respect to Parks, and the cut block plan up Schoen Creek, with respect to the Forest Service. It usually is an informative session, with lots of lively debates.

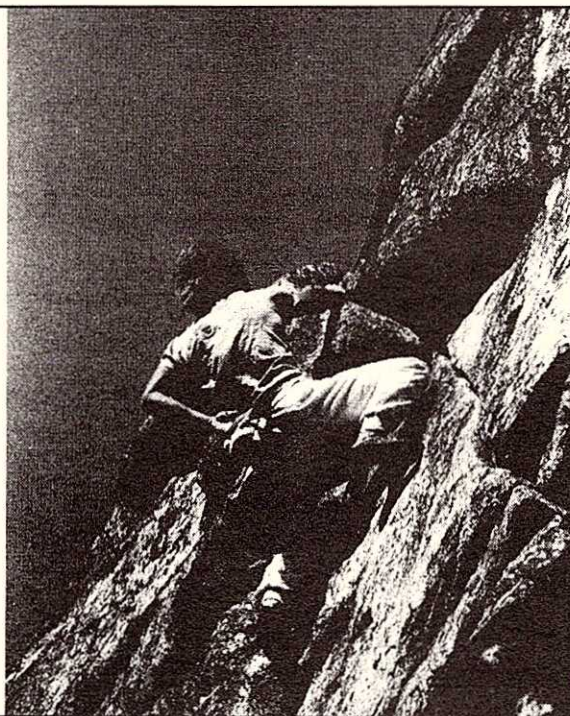
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## ISLAND INSIGHTS

*By Chris Barner, President, Heathens*

As a boy I can remember staying up late in my room reading Terray and Rebuffat; "Annapurna", and "The Unknown Mountain". After turning each tattered page, I would stare whimsically across my room towards my often neglected homework, and imagine myself in the layback corner of the Bonatti pillar, or dodging lightning at Fury Gap. Those days were days of wonder...of dreams.

Now, twenty years later I have fallen in love with the mountains, and many of those dreams have become reality for me. I can recall long walks through alpine flowers, hard climbs and long falls, powder up to here, campground parties and courses, boulders and big walls. They all mesh to form a collage of proud memories, sad losses, good feeling and cold fingers. I spend my rainy evenings with the kind of friends you can hand your life to with a smile, planning adventures for the new future.

With loving comes caring. My appreciation of the mountain environment is motivation--motivation to lobby, to learn, to help protect, to care for all our mountains. The FMCBC is well stocked with those who care. Thoughts from the clubs and committees spill from the pages of Cloudburst....



In the village of Gold River, right in the heart of our beautiful Island and its misty peaks, something wonderful has been happening. Spawned and inspired by true mountain lovers John and Fred Put, a young tribe of village Heathens is reaching mountain maturity as members of our club. There is Chris, the artist. Graceful and agile, he climbs as though any struggling would somehow tarnish the beauty of the pattern--disturb the balance. Gary the thinker, who is the new force behind Safety and Education, is quietly brave. Richard, the "squid", whose reach makes many climbs a five move affair, is always ready with a smile. And Donna, the clever and determined one, who manages our nervous system. She can be found on the forest crags, bespeckled with sun and shadow, touching her long blonde hair to the rock and caressing its features with her fingertips...feeling the way. They are young mountaineers--they dream. I don't know what we'd do without them....



Recently I searched through those pages of Cloudburst and all the proud words spilled out...to inform us...to arm us. The Cariboo/Chilcotin land use plan; Lending a Hand; Trails Information; Safety and Ed; Courses; Bulletin; Island Insights...volunteer extraordinaire, hut refurbished..update; Recreation and Conservation; slip this handy dandy list into your pocket for the next

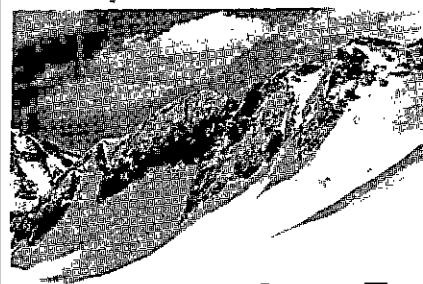
meeting. At thirty-five, I was the youngest member save one at the last AGM. Proud words on a dusty shelf?

Why do we, as a Federation, fail to appeal to the bulk of the younger generation of mountain folk? Are we unwilling to recognize contemporary attitudes? Are we hindered by attitudes fashioned in another time? Are we too much work and not enough play? Perhaps we need to show ourselves to be as active in the mountains as we are in mountain issues.

I really enjoy Cloudburst. Cloudburst is a great magazine for those who already well understand their duty to replace what they have taken from the mountains, but it is not for many of those who are still discovering their mountain world--still learning the importance of such work. I propose we restore the balance. Let's get some material into Cloudburst that appeals to the dreamers...the doers. How about some of those hard climbs and long falls, some whiteouts and avalanches, some hard won summits on glorious days...some inspiration for the young--an investment in the future of the FMCBC...the new future.

(Ed note: Chris, I hear you. Readers, we'd love to carry some of your epic adventures in Cloudburst. Send them in!)

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## NORTHERN PERSPECTIVE:

### Commercial Backcountry Recreation Policy and Backcountry Access

By Mike Nash

From 1991 to 1992, BC Lands developed a draft Commercial Backcountry Recreation (CBR) policy using an alternating process of public input and structured workshops. The policy was to have been released in January 1993, but instead there followed a 2 year hiatus, punctuated with bursts of activity. In December 1994, we were asked to help review a final draft that was later released as an interim policy this February.

#### Access

Despite the slow and somewhat secretive process of the last 2 years, the policy does reflect much of what came out of the original public consultation. The FMCBC's main area of interest was to protect public access to the backcountry. The subject of access is addressed in several places in the policy document, reflecting the feelings expressed during the workshops by most sectors.

There are 2 types of tenure covered by the policy. The main type is a 5 year License of Occupation to conduct commercial recreation activities over a large area of Provincial Crown backcountry. The other is a 15 year Lease on a small developed site such as a backcountry lodge, usually one hectare or less in size. During the workshops we supported both of these tenures, including a commercial operator's right to protect his or her investment at a lodge site. Our key concern was that any trail into the backcountry developed or maintained by the commercial operator must remain free to the public to use. This is particularly important in mountain areas where there is often only one good access route.

Although the policy seems to address this, we are concerned with the vagueness of some of the wording around the access issue. For example, in the section on Competitive Process: *"Successful proposals may be those which meet some or all of the following criteria: ...those that best recognize and maintain public access"*.

When we reviewed the final draft in December, we were alarmed to find the following statement in the section on License of Occupation: *"Any proposals by CBR operators to charge fees for public use of trails/trail systems which they construct and/or maintain must be clearly outlined in the management plan, and must have the support of relevant government agencies, public interests and first nations, particularly those in the local area."* This opened the door to fee for use of the backcountry. Even though the supporting words offered some comfort, the section effectively meant that our access rights were not entrenched in the policy. Public interest groups would have to monitor every proposal - hundreds today, and likely thousands in the future. And,

what about the backcountry we haven't discovered yet? Would we arrive in 10 years time to find that a commercial operator had obtained exclusive use?

As a result of our objections to this paragraph, a puzzling change was made: The entire paragraph was deleted except for an opening sentence that stood unchanged: *"Trails/trail systems constructed on Crown land are not to restrict public access"*. The best interpretation of this is that there will be no fee for use of trails into the backcountry since this would constitute an access restriction. That is to say, it would restrict access to those who are unable or unwilling to pay. However,

since the policy is not explicit, this question of fee for use of trails could be open to interpretation. As one backcountry user said shortly after the policy was released: "Is the next step having to pay to go walking in the backcountry?" I think it's important that we all voice our feelings to government on this before the policy is finalized.

Another question with the policy is a statement that backcountry access may be limited by public safety considerations. Is this motherhood and apple pie, or should we be concerned? If we

*...Overall we are cautiously optimistic about the policy, while recognizing the need to remain vigilant to protect our traditional access to the backcountry...*

look at the situation south of the border, we find that a number of national and state parks and national forest offices have managed public safety by the simple expedient of closing the backcountry. See the Dec 94/Jan 95 issue of "Coulair Magazine", page 32: "Access - The Cost of Freedom" which talks about backcountry closure in the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Another famous example a few years ago occurred in Maine's Katahdin State Park at the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail. Each morning the ranger would emerge at 7 am to inspect Mount Katahdin and inform impatient hikers whether or not the mountain was open for the day!

#### Unregulated Commercial Recreation

Despite its avowed aim to protect the backcountry environment by managing commercial activities, the policy ignores the issue of large numbers of snowmobiles visiting small mountain communities. In the north these places include McBride, Valemount, Wells and Smithers. The "sled" invasions are unregulated and fall outside the CBR policy despite being heavily promoted by commercial interests in the communities. A "hill climb" meet of 500 machines has a significant impact on the environment and other recreational users that is out of all proportion to a small

....continued on Page 19



## EFBC--A New Coalition of Environmental Organizations

*By Tony Webb*

The FMCBC has recently joined the Environmental Fund of BC (EFBC), a new coalition of 12 environmental organizations working together to raise badly needed core funding through workplace giving (donation by regular payroll deduction). The FMCBC needs to actively pursue all sources of revenue. A critical part of the EFBC's work in this early phase is access, which involves convincing CEOs and Human Resource Managers to allow the EFBC to conduct a fundraising campaign in their workplace each fall. The EFBC is targeting workplaces with 50 or more employees that are situated in the Lower Mainland and southern Vancouver Island. FMCBC members can greatly help these access efforts by informing Gordon White at the EFBC office of contacts and company profiles you may have. Since the access process is largely based on personal contacts and good research, any information you can provide will be most welcome. The EFBC phone number is 682-3439 (Fax: 685-7813). If you would like further information, or are interested in getting involved, please contact FMCBC Directors Tony Webb (224-1773) or Pat Harrison (224-7368), who are representing the FMCBC at EFBC meetings. This is a great networking opportunity!

### Member Organizations of the EFBC:

- ◆ Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
- ◆ BC Environmental Network
- ◆ Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
- ◆ Federation of BC Naturalists
- ◆ Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society
- ◆ Outdoor Recreation Council
- ◆ Save Georgia Strait Alliance
- ◆ Sierra Club of Western Canada
- ◆ Sierra Legal Defense Fund
- ◆ Steelhead Society of BC
- ◆ Wildlife Rescue Association of BC
- ◆ Wild Bird Trust of BC



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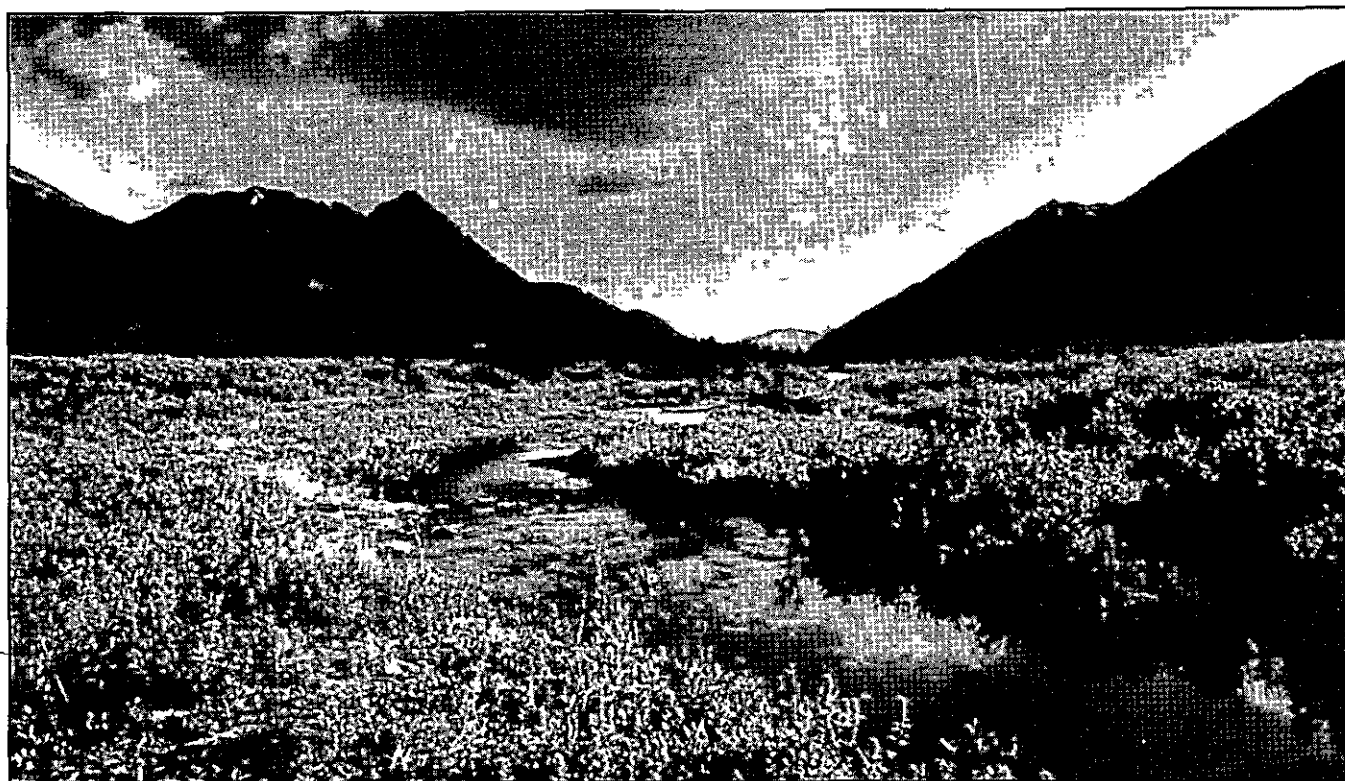


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## RECREATION AND CONSERVATION

*By Jay MacArthur*

### Protected Area Strategy

We need your help to encourage the government to designate more parks. Last year there were quite a few new parks created: Ts'yl-os and Kitlope were the largest while many were announced as a result of the Vancouver Island and Cariboo-Chilcotin CORE studies. Listed below are some of the areas where the government is close to making a decision:

#### Kootenays

We are still waiting to hear which areas in the Kootenays will be protected.

#### Pinecone Lake-Burke Mountain

This area near Vancouver has been studied for about two years. A final report was sent to the RPAT in late 1994. There is strong public support for this park proposal and not much timber involved.

#### Tetrahedron Plateau

This area northeast of Sechelt has also been studied extensively. There is strong local support for this park proposal.

#### Spruce Lake

The FMCBC has been working with the Southern Chilcotin Mountains Wilderness Society on this area that is being studied by the Kamloops RPAT. We have recently supported a video that has been produced by Terry Jacks. We need your assistance to urge the RPAT to include Bonanza Basin in the protected area proposal.

#### Vancouver Mainland RPAT

An advisory committee that was formed in the fall has not met for two months. The study is on hold until the government gives the committee more direction on how much is to be protected in the area and how large an area should be studied. Conservation groups and the FMCBC were disappointed with the areas given high priority by the RPAT. We are continuing to work to protect the proposed Randy Stoltmann Wilderness which includes part of the upper Squamish River, Clendemming Creek and part of upper Lillooet River.

It is not too late to send a letter about your favourite area. Spend ten minutes right now to encourage the government. Write to Hon. Moe Sihota, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4



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## CLUB CORNER

*This page of Cloudburst is open to all members and member clubs who wish to share news, issues, events, trips, workparties, handy tips—you write it, we'll print it! Share your dreams, trip plans, and social events with other readers!*

### CALEDONIA RAMBLERS

#### Summer Schedule

The Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club leads 1 to 3 day hikes every weekend from May to October. Most of the hikes take place in the mountain ranges of the northern interior, and are rated moderate to strenuous, with technical difficulty no greater than scrambling. We have not yet developed our summer schedule, but 2 trips have been identified for this issue of Cloudburst:

**June 16-18:** Berg Lake Trail, Mount Robson  
**August 12-19** Week Long Trip, Destination TBA

Any FMCBC members travelling in the area are welcome to join us, provided you are adequately equipped and willing to sign a liability waiver. Please contact club President Doug Perkins at 563-0305 for more information on these or other trips.

#### Work Hikes

Although not formally part of the Adopt-a-Trail program, the Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club maintains a dozen mountain trails in the Prince George area. In addition to our regularly scheduled work hikes, we are participating in a joint project this year with a local cycling club, the City of Prince George, and BC Rail to develop a 3 km trail along the Fraser River cutbanks within the City of Prince George. This will provide a "Stanley Park" like experience for residents. Any FMCBC members traveling in the area are welcome to join us in this project or other work hikes.

For more information please call George Evanoff at 564-7814.

### VARSITY OUTDOOR CLUB

The Varsity Outdoor Club, a university club at UBC, brings together students interested in all forms of mountain travel. Our outdoor interests are primarily rockclimbing, ski touring, hiking and mountaineering but we also have members participating in kayaking, canoeing and paragliding. The club offers a number of instructional events each year that are primarily targeted at newer members. Examples include rockschool, glacier school and telemark school. In addition, the club has a varied schedule of weekend trips throughout the school terms. The VOC maintains three cabins: The Harrison Hut (near Meager Creek), the Burton Hut (by the Sphinx Glacier) and the Brew Mountain Hut. All three are open to the public for non-commercial use. Brew Hut recently

underwent major repairs, but more work remains to be done next year. Future projects may include a rebuilding of the decrepit McGillivray Pass Hut. Each year, since 1958, the club has published the VOC Journal, a summary of the year's activities. The club meets every Wednesday at 12:30 in Chemistry 150 on campus for slide shows and news about upcoming events. Membership is open to students and alumni. Current membership dues are \$30.00. For Information, call 822-2228.


### VOC Oldtimers' Renunion for members 1918 to 1955.

**Reception/Dinner** - Friday September 15th, 1995 at 6:00 pm - Dinner 7:30 pm. Cecil Green Park, UBC  
**Further information** - Call Dawn Levy, 822-8917


**VALLEY OUTDOOR ASSOCIATION** achieved a new record for members this year: 329! The club is involved in many conservation issues, and has financially contributed to the Pinecone/Burke Mountain Fund, to Share Legal Defence Fund, and to the Nature Trust of BC. The **ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA** Vancouver section is planning a spring ski traverse of the Lillooet Glacier April 22-May 7. Call Mike Thompson at 534-8863. A summer camp in the Bugaboos is also being planned. Call Calvin Osborne at 877-2258. The **CHILLIWACK OUTDOOR CLUB** is travelling to Wells Gray Park to ski from the hut in Fight Meadows. The **NORTH VANCOUVER RECREATION CENTRE OUTDOOR CLUB** will be skiing from huts based in Manning Park. The club is currently maintaining Brandywine Trail, and raising funds to buy space for the Trans-Canada Trail. The **BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB** has submitted feedback on the Protected Area Strategy. The **RICHMOND OUTDOOR CLUB** is sponsoring a trip to Kilimanjaro in the summer of 1996. If interested, call Garth Musto at 278-9201.

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### Northern Perspective, continued from page 14

commercial backcountry ski operator who is subject to the full rigors of the policy. The discrepancy seems to be a jurisdictional matter between BC Lands and the Ministry of Forests that will hopefully start to be addressed once the policy is in place.

#### Non-Profits

The policy is unclear on non-profit operations like the Canada West Mountain School or the Alpine Club of Canada who do not have fixed operating areas. The CBR policy refers instead to a separate policy.

#### Land Claims

It seems likely that implementation of the new CBR policy in BC will follow the experience of the Yukon a few years ago and move very slowly as native land claims unfold. This may be good news for BC Lands who lack a level of advocacy support enjoyed by the Ministry of Forests and consequently have no plans to increase staffing to administer the policy.

#### Conclusion

Overall we are cautiously optimistic about the policy, while recognizing the need to remain vigilant to protect our traditional access to the backcountry. The policy underlines the continued importance of the FMCBC's advocacy role on behalf of members and prospective members throughout BC.

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### Agenda: (might be modified)

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- Introductory Remarks
- Review of Hand Tools and Accessories
- Forest Practices Code
- Trail Work Party Organization

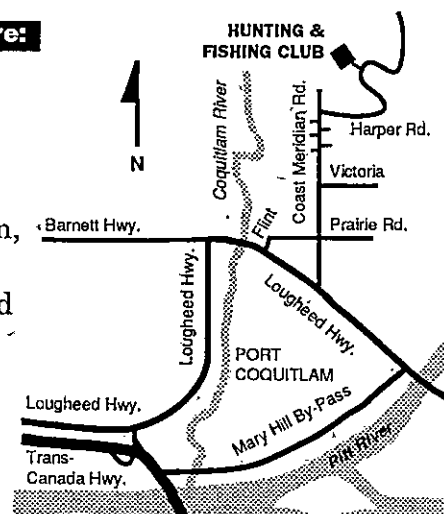
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