
CLOUDBURST

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC Newsletter

September 1995

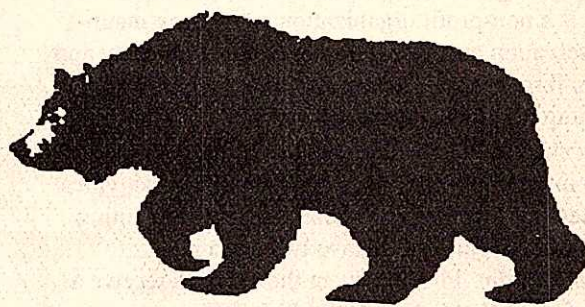
SPECIAL FEATURES:

- 🐾 Tribute to Paul Binkert 🐾 FMCBC Survey Results 🐾 Bear Encounters
🐾 BC Perspectives: Island, The North and the Valley 🐾 Recreation Issues
-

Be Bear Aware:

Are these black bear
or grizzly paw
prints?

Is this a
grizzly or black
bear?



Source: Minister of Supply and Services Canada 1984

Read "Bear Encounters"
on page 5

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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Executive Director: Linda Coss
Manager, CWMS: Brian Jones
Office Manager: Alana Prociuk

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

Volume 3 Number 3

Membership

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

Sept. 25, Oct. 30, Nov. 20 No meeting in Dec.
7:30 pm. Call office for location.

Safety and Education Committee:

Call FMCBC office for next meeting

Trails Committee:

October 23, Nov. 20 FMCBC office (Rm 336 at Sport BC)

Board of Directors:

Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20
Rm 336 at Sport BC.

Lower Mainland Delegates' Meeting:

Call the FMCBC office for next meeting.

Island Delegates' Meeting:

Sat. Nov. 4th. Call office for details.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Thom Ward

Last summer when I became President, I set out to address a number of concerns, in addition to dealing with a lot of administrative details, which included a rather lengthy search for a new ED. Change can be a slow, evolutionary process, especially within an organization that has as many diverse concerns as ours does, so I focused on initiating changes and supporting those that others had already begun.

One of the first major changes was decentralize the AGM. After the 1994 AGM, it was decided that a club should host the AGM and recreation events that members would want to come to. This would leave the FMC's administration with only the business portion of the meeting to organize.

Thus, this year's AGM was hosted by the Chilliwack Outdoor Club, who did a wonderful job of organizing the weekend. The meeting was well attended; an impressive feat, given that the weather was excellent and that most of us would rather be out of doors in such weather.

Next year's AGM is hosted by the Caledonia Ramblers in Prince George, and an entire week's worth of events are planned for those who wish to partake. This idea was warmly endorsed by all that were at this year's AGM.

This summer, several new directors joined the Board, they are: Darlene Anderson, Markus Kellerhals, Chris Mills, Marilyn Noort and Chris Rolfe. I look forward to the contributions they will make.

Work on the completion of the Yew Lake Trail has again been funded, and the trail should be finished this fall.

One of the many tools available for soliciting input from the membership about its thoughts/needs/desires is to conduct a survey. The June edition of Cloudburst contained such a questionnaire, and we are disappointed that only 55 out of about 3600 have been returned. We hoped for a better rate of return, and urge you to send your questionnaire in now. The more input we get the better we can address your concerns, and the more informed of them we are.

What city in BC has over 120 parks within the city limits?

(See Page 13)

Changes at the FMCBC Office

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC extends a warm goodbye and heartfelt thanks to employee Su'Zan Cook, who has left the Federation to spend time on her property on Read Island.

Welcome to Alana Prociuk, who started August 28th as Office Manager.

Alana originally comes from Alberta where she ran a legal aid company. For the past two years she managed "The Running Room". She is a keen runner and has "a passion for the outdoors". Please introduce yourself to Alana when you phone or drop in.



Brian Jones, Canda West Mountain School Manager, got married at the end of July. In August he and Maureen moved into their new home in Squamish. It was a busy summer for Brian.

Casino

The Federation of Mountain Clubs was the **big winner** at our annual fund raising casino which was held on August 15th and 16th.

Thank you to casino volunteers:

Tim Duty (Varsity Outdoor Club), Brent Ehrl (North Shore Hikers), Pat Harrison (FMCBC Board), Marcus Kellerhals (FMCBC Board), Cheryl Leskiw (BC Mountaineering Club, Alpine Club), Gabriel Mazoret (North Shore Hikers), Sue McIntyre (Richmond Outdoor Club), Chris Mills (FMCBC Board), Pat O'Gorman (Richmond Outdoor Club), John Otava (Klister Klub), Jessica Shintani (Alpine Club President), and Jeff Such (BC Parks).

FMCBC appreciates the long hours these volunteers put in at the casino on our behalf.

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION

By Jay MacArthur

Southwestern BC Wildlands Alliance

The FMCBC has joined with Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, BC Spaces for Nature, Burke Mountain Naturalists, BC Mountaineering Club, Sierra Club of BC, Alpine Club of Canada and Canadian Earth care Society to form the Southwestern BC Wildlands Alliance. We will work cooperatively to determine the best areas for protection in the lower mainland region.

Bryan Evans (ACC), Mike Feller (BCMC) and Brian Wood (BCMC) will be participating in a planning process started by the Land Use Coordination office and will be our main contacts with the alliance.

Map of Proposed Protected Areas Prepared.

A map of proposed protected areas in the lower mainland region was presented to the BC Land Use Coordination office. The map was created after meetings between BCMC and ACC members and was discussed at the FMCBC AGM. The map was inputted to a geographic information system by Tim Wilson at BC Wild. Thanks to Brian Wood and Tim Wilson for all their work!

The priority areas include:

- Randy Stoltmann Wilderness (Upper Clendemming, Elaho, Sims and Lillooet Rivers)
- Sockeye Creek near Birkenhead Lake
- Bear River (Bute Inlet)
- Joffre Lakes - upgrade from Recreation Area
- Tantalus Range
- Stawamus Chief
- Mount Richardson on Sechelt peninsula
- Mehatyl Creek - northeast of Harrison Lake
- Douglas Creek - near Harrison Lake
- West side of Chilliwack Lake and Radium Lake
- Greendrop Lake
- Skagit - upgrade from Recreation Area

Randy Stoltmann Wilderness

Information on hiking routes into the proposed protected area are available from the FMCBC office. Call 737-3053 for more information.

Spruce Lake Park Proposal

A video called "*The Southern Chilcotin Mountains - A Gift to Man from Nature - To be Respected*" promoting the park proposal is available from the

FMCBC office. The video was produced by Terry Jacks and features photographic images by Pat and Rosemaries Keough. Terry wrote and recorded some fantastic music for the video while Robert Bateman donated paintings and sketches of a trip taken last year. The video is available for a donation of \$17 or you can borrow it. Call Alana at 737-3053 for more information.

We're making another concerted effort to get the provincial government to protect Spruce Lake as a park. We need your help! **Please write a letter of support to Premier Mike Harcourt, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4**

BC Parks Master and Management Plans June 95 Update

By Murray Lashmar, *Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, BC Chapter. First printed in CPAWS quarterly Report Vol. 7, issue 1*

Many management plans are on hold due to the Protected Areas Strategy. If you want more information on Master Plans, contact the numbers given below. For toll-free long distance calling to Provincial government offices, call Enquiry BC at 660-2421 (Lower Mainland) or 1800-663-7867.

Although B.C. Parks' decentralization has eliminated Regional Offices, the following master plans are organized under the old regional names.

A. SOUTH COAST

(Planning Branch, North Vancouver: 924-2200)

Cypress Provincial Park: B.C. Parks is still administering Cypress Provincial Park including the Cypress Bowl Recreations Limited permit area. A special three-month planning process has replaced the process suspended in 1993. Commissioner Bryan Williams, Q.C., will be responsible for submitting recommendations for the master plan by August 31, 1995.

Strathcona-Westmin: The draft management plan is now being reviewed and is scheduled to be sent to the Minister for signing by the end of June.

Manning Park, Skagit & Cascade RAs: The planning process remains on hold pending the government's decision to designate parts of the two Recreation Areas as a Class A Park.

.....can't on page 9

SAFETY AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By Chris Mills

Bear Encounters

Answers to questions on cover: Paw prints are of a black bear; the picture is a grizzly.

Sooner or later one of the components of adventure experienced by Members while pursuing their favourite mountain activity in British Columbia will be an encounter with one or more black or grizzly bears. Frequently this will be limited to the sight or sound of the bear rapidly seeking greener pastures after detecting the presence of humans by scent or sound. Surprise encounters with bears have often occurred because the humans were quiet, the natural noise level was high (rapids and waterfalls on creeks), or the bear was upwind from the party. Although some may seek bears for photographic opportunities (which are best undertaken from a very safe distance), most will prefer to avoid bear encounters. Some pre-trip planning is extremely useful. Bears and bear food form a close association. Berry patches, particularly in logged-over areas, and salmon bearing creeks during spawning, are both high-probability encounter zones, as is the area

around carrion. Many grizzly encounters occur in or near avalanche chutes after Spring thaw. Human food is just as attractive to bears as natural food, and often the ease of obtaining human food may "habituate" a bear to human activities. Never feed, or leave food for bears. When camping, take low odour food, sealed in airtight containers and store food away from tents in locations inaccessible to bears ("bear bagging"). Do not take food into, or leave food

DO:

Make loud noises

Scan your route for bear activity

Pack low odour foods

Always grant the bear the right of way

in tents. Do not burn or bury food or food packaging in the backcountry. Pack it out. Do not camp at sites with previous signs of bear activity such as droppings or claw marks.

Evidence seems to indicate that groups of three or more persons are less vulnerable to aggressive bear behaviour. Carry a noise-maker (stones in tin can, cowbell, etc.) and use it. Talk loudly or yodel (you will be in the mountains!) in dense brush and high-probability bear areas. A whistle is probably not a suitable noisemaker because its use is normally restricted to emergencies, and some tones of whistles may be so similar to that of hoary marmots that they actually attract the interest of grizzly bears (who find marmots most attractive snacks). If possible, talk to Park Wardens, or other knowledgeable persons, about bear activity before you enter an area and take note of information, warning or prohibition postings. In the alpine, use binoculars frequently to scan ahead and to the sides of your planned route, and retreat or re-route if you sight bears or carrion. In all areas, be alerted by fresh tracks, droppings (particularly those with steam still rising from them) and claw marks on trees and stumps.

If you encounter a bear that does not move away, try to remain calm (this is considerably easier to write about, than to do as the adrenaline rushes in a real encounter). Determine whether you are dealing with a grizzly or a black bear, and try to determine the bear's intentions. Talk calmly, back away, and leave the area.

Tree climbing may be an option, but note that all black bears, and grizzlies up to three years old, are good tree climbers, and older grizzlies have been known to chew through tree trunks.

If a bear actually attacks, his or her actions may then depend upon whether you are seen as an intruder (competition), or food. If the first case is true, rolling up to protect your vital organs and playing "dead" may be the best option, particularly with a grizzly bear. You may then escape with a mild to severe mauling. However, if the bear is attacking with the intent to kill for food, then you will have to fight for your life. There appear to be an increasing number of black bear attacks of this type in northern British Columbia. While any weapon at hand should be used, the use of *oleoresin capsicum* based anti-bear sprays has been shown to be very effective. Those available in Canada (legally) are Assault-Guard Bear Repellent, Bear Guard Repellent, Phazer for Bears, and Bear Scare. Some pre-trip practice and/or instruction with these sprays is highly recommended.

Please remember that bear behaviour is highly unpredictable, and that avoidance of encounters is the best preventative measure you can take. Knowledge, awareness, and pre-trip preparation are your best defence. Strongly recommended reading, particularly for trip leaders are Bear Encounter Survival Guide by James Gary Shelton, 1994 (specific to B.C. and the Yukon) and Bear Attacks--Their Causes and Avoidance by Stephen Herrero, 1985. See also The Ministry of Forest Publication and Video Bear Aware, available by calling 356-7325. Both Parks Canada and the B.C. Ministry of Environment produce free safety pamphlets on bear safety.

Do Not:

Take food into a tent

Camp at a site with signs of bear activity

Bury or Burn food

Try to 'get close' for a better photo

Feed Bears

FMCBC SURVEY RESULTS

By Linda Coss, FMCBC Executive Director

The feedback from the FMCBC survey in the June edition of cloudburst was not overwhelming (only 45 replies representing 14 member clubs). The results, however, reconfirmed the opinions that were expressed at the Special General Meeting which was held last February. The members who responded were involved in hiking (98%), mountaineering and backpacking (93%), ski touring (84%) and rock climbing (67%). They felt the most important activities for the FMCBC to be involved in were:

Preservation of areas for their recreation value (61% said this was very important), working to resolve user conflicts (49% felt this was very important), protection of mountain access (48%) and preservation of areas for their wilderness and or ecological value (43%). Trail building (33%), education members (27%), public education (23%) and communication between member clubs (24%) were seen as of lesser importance but still of concern.

In response to the question on their preference for the focus of Canada West Mountain School, the respondents were split equally. Twenty eight said it should operate at a profit to support other FMCBC activities and 27 said it should provide education for members on mountaineering skills and safe backcountry travel.

Forty three percent of the respondents supported an increase in membership fees to \$20. Twenty nine percent felt it should be left at \$12 and 15% supported \$30-\$50. Many additional worthwhile comments were received:

"Increased representation outside of the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island must be a top priority."

"Mention is made of skier/snowmobiler conflict. The same problem exists with the hiker/mountain biker and this definitely needs attention."

"I participate in hiking, mountaineering, rock climbing, ski mountaineering and mountain biking. On my bike I'm seeking the same thing that I am in the other sports. Try including mountain biking clubs in FMCBC."

"You should reassess your method of levying fees on member clubs."

Do you agree with our survey findings? Write and let FMCBC know your opinion.

Yew Lake Nearing Completion

For the past three years the FMCBC has been working with BC Parks, to rebuild the Yew Lake Trail in Cypress Provincial Park. With support from Canadian Job Strategies, Mountain Equipment Co-op, Shell Environmental Fund, Active Living in the Environment Fund, VanCity, BC 21 Community Grants and several organizations, the FMCBC rebuilt the badly eroded trail so it is wheelchair accessible. An area of old growth forest, an opportunity often not accessible to the physically challenged, was also incorporated.

Federation members and their families and friends are invited to hike the trail on Thanksgiving weekend, the 20th anniversary of the Provincial Park.

We are also looking for club members who are interested in working with the FMCBC to plan an official opening of the Yew Lake Trail next spring. If you want to get involved phone the FMCBC office at 737-3053.

**Which city has
the newest free-
standing univer-
sity in Canada?**

(See Page 13)



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Jumbo Glacier Alpine Resort Proposal

In April 1991, Pheidias Project Management Corporation of Vancouver, on behalf of Nikkon Canada, submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks under the Commercial Alpine Ski Policy (CASP), to develop a four season destination resort including summer glacier skiing. In spite of local opposition to the development (3:1 vote against at the Invermere and Kaslo public meetings), in February 1993, the company submitted a formal proposal in response to a proposal call by BC Lands, which coordinates the CASP. In March 1993, Pheidias was selected as sole development proponent.

Consideration of the project was deferred from 1993 to March 1995 while the East Kootenay CORE process developed a regional land use. The East Kootenay CORE table recommended that an environmental assessment be conducted under the Environmental Assessment Act to determine whether the Jumbo Creek resort development is compatible with other values in the area.

In March 1995, the provincial government announced that the Jumbo Creek valley was included in the Jumbo-Upper Horsethief Creek special resource management zone (which allows a full range of resource uses to occur providing they respect sensitive natural and cultural values. In May 1995, Pheidias applied for a Project Approval Certificate to develop a four season alpine ski resort in the Jumbo Creek Valley 55 km west of Invermere. With the creation of BC's Environmental Assessment Act on June 30, 1995, administration and coordination of the project review was transferred to the Environment Assessment Office in Victoria.

The Development

The proposed three-phased development would include:

- A village with hotels, restaurants, meeting and convention facilities, ski schools and rental shops, commercial shopping, tennis courts, horse riding facilities, swimming pools, 18 hole golf course, luge run, and nordic facility
- Staff accommodation for 1000 beds
- A series of mini centres with support village, a residential ski village, a skier terminal area, a forward ski village and a day lodge with vehicle parking
- Base village would be located at the Jumbo Creek headwaters with potential remote lodges adjacent to three resort communities
- Ultimately, the village would contain approximately 5,500 bed spaces
- Alpine skiing would be developed on Glacier

Dome (directly above the Lake of the Hanging Glacier), Jumbo Mountain and ultimately Commander Glacier with ski lift towers up to Farnham Peak (the highest peak in the Purcells)

- A total of 30 lifts are planned with the anticipation of expansion. Total skiable terrain would encompass 1600 hectares of land in the Jumbo Creek Valley and would include a village with a capacity of 7000 bed spaces for both visitors and staff.

Issues Previously Identified

During the previous CASP process, several key issues were identified which are pertinent to members of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC. They include impacts on the wilderness character of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy and the Lake of the Hanging Glacier to the south and north respectively (and hence impacts on wilderness recreation values), wildlife habitat (and particular far-ranging carnivores such as grizzly bears), displacement of recreationists (especially locals) water quality and quantity.

The East Kootenay CORE table recommended to Commissioner Stephen Owen that firm guidelines be instituted for carnivores and for biodiversity, and that rural settlement was not acceptable.

If you want to be involved

The deadline for comments on the application specifically is September 28, 1995, although the review process will continue past that date.

The Environmental Assessment Office in Victoria has produced a newsletter describing the project and process. Copies of the application, including supporting documents and submissions by interested parties, may be viewed at the following locations:

Environmental Assessment Office Project Registry,
Victoria (see below)
Vancouver Public Library (Main Branch)
Invermere Public Library
Cranbrook Public Library
Nelson Public Library
BC Lands, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks,
Cranbrook phone (604) 426-4063

For more information, to be placed on a mailing list, or to comment on the application, contact:

Raymond L. Crook
Jumbo Glacier Project Committee Chair
Environmental Assessment Office
3rd Floor, 1810 Blanshard Street, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Phone (604) 952-0576 Fax (604) 952-0589

CANADA WEST MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

By Brian Jones, Program Manager

October provides CWMS with an opportunity to reflect on the summer season, and to prepare for the coming winter. Summer 1995 was a busy and very positive time for the Mountain school.

Our Aboriginal Leadership program, now in its 4th year, continues to gain momentum. Eighteen participants attended the 7 day Basic Trail Leaders course, in two different sessions. A further 8 attended an advanced course for Backcountry Leadership, while one leader and six participants conducted their own backpacking program with CWMS staff observing and coaching. Many thanks go to program coordinators Graeme Taylor and Ron Johnny, and to the Ministry of Housing, Consumer Affairs and Recreation and the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Our scheduled program continued to attract a high number of students in a full range of mountain education programs. Customised programs, from crevasse rescue to private guiding to survival courses are sought by students.

Winter is approaching quickly, with the first snow around the corner. CWMS's winter program has some new courses to reflect the changing demands in the winter backcountry. Snowboard courses are very popular, as more and more people discover that snowshoes and snowboards are a viable means of enjoying the mountains. The success of last seasons Avalanche course for 'Boarders (plus numerous requests for more snowboard courses!) has prompted the school to add a backcountry camp for snowboarders. Along more traditional lines, the boom in ice climbing on the coast over the past two years has resulted in a barrage of people who desire waterfall ice courses. Last, but definitely not least, ski mountaineering courses into Waddington, the Pantheons and Mt. Logan will ensure that the winter season ends on a "high" note.

Be sure to grab the winter '96 brochure from your nearest outdoor store, and check out what's happening this season!

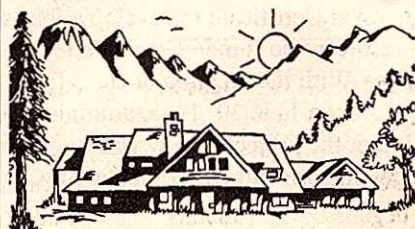
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**What city has more than 25
hiking trails within a 2
hour drive from the down-
town area?**

(See page 13)

Master Plan Update Con't from pg 4

Danes Point: The master plan has been signed off.

Maquinna (Hot Springs Cove): The final plan is finished and under review by First Nations people.

Newcastle Island: The master plan has been submitted for approval.

Parkinson Creek: Parkinson Creek park will be collapsed into the Jaun de Fuca trail park. As a result, signing has been postponed.

Broughton Archipelago: An agreement with First Nations is still being worked on.

Gordon Bay: The master plan has been submitted for signature.

Birkenhead

Lake: The master plan has been reviewed. The District Manager has postponed signing until the status of Sockeye

Creek under the protected Areas Strategy has been determined.

Tod Inlet: Gowland Range: The master planning process has begun and will include a public advisory process.

Indian Arm: The master planning process has begun.

Management Plans for Ecological Reserves

Robson Bight: The final plan is still under review by the First Nations.

Checleset Bay: The draft plan is still being prepared.

Haley Lake: The master plan is ready for signature.

Contact Mel Turner for further information on any of the above areas.

B. NORTHERN BC

(Planning Branch, Prince George: 565-6270).

Monkman: The master plan is still being reviewed with the Haida. Contact Dan Adamson.

Nisga'a: The master plan is waiting for final approvals from the Nisga'a Tribal Council and the Minister.

Stikine Country: Still on hold due to PAS commitments

Khutzymateen: An interim protection plan is in place. The master plan is scheduled to be reviewed by the end of this year. Contact Mike Murtha.

Tsy'los Park: The draft master plan is still being worked on. Call Kris Kennett, Caribou office (398-4889) for further information.

C. SOUTHERN INTERIOR

(Planning Branch, Kamloops: 851-3000)

Monashee Park: The master plan has been approved.

Apex Mountain RA: The status of the Apex Mountain RA will probably be examined under a Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP) process scheduled in the near future for the Okanagan-Shuswap area. Due to Apex's primary use as a downhill skiing area and the availability of other areas (eg Brent Mountain) with greater protected area potential, Parks may recommend cancelling Apex's RA status.

Silver Star: The Silver Star ski area has applied for construction of a golf course within the park. Since boundary issues are best dealt with under an LRMP, Silver Star will be examined during the proposed Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP.

Bugaboo Glacier Park and Alpine RA: Planning will be dealt with in the context of overall area priorities. There will no longer be a RA West of the divide of the Purcell Mountains. East of the divide, the Park will be expanded to include more of riparian areas along upper Vowell Creek.

Wells Gray: Although a review of the Wells Gray Master Plan is overdue, Parks will not be doing a complete rewrite, but rather will address specific issues on a priority basis.

What city is located within 100 km of three mountain ranges?

(See Page 13)

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VALLEY PERSPECTIVES

By Jerry Lies

Trip Report: Bow Hut, Banff National Park
Participants: Eve Wilgosh, Frank Wawrychuk, Jerry Lies, Jane Skinner

The Bow Hut is one of many structures that the Alpine Club has scattered throughout the Rocky Mountains and one that Frank and Kate act as occasional custodians. The location of the hut is one of sheer tranquillity and stark beauty.

The hike up to the Bow Hut is the best A1 (actually B2) trail that I've experienced. The trail has it all. Starting at the Bow Lake lodge area, the trail skirts a glacial fed, crystal blue lake for a forty minute flat trial warmup. Here the trail heads away from the lake following a delightful river size stream that feeds the lake. The uphill climb soon begins as the trail pulls above the stream which cascades through a deep canyon. Shortly one is treated to some real fun as the trail passes from one side of the canyon to the other by way of a massive boulder lodged between canyon walls and acting as a natural bridge some 150 feet above the rushing water below: this spot silently cries out for caution!

Further along, the trail picks its way through a stunted forest hundreds of feet up from the stream. Long before anyone can even remotely tire of this scenery, it changes, breaking above the treeline out across the bleakness of accumulated talus, home of many golden-mantled ground squirrels, pica, and hoary marmots who took turns scolding us for our boulder hopping efforts.

Several stream crossings brought us onto a large rock strewn bowl area looking like a desolate moonscape, with multi-colored and layered rocks. Once could not help but take time inspecting this Precambrian rock. Many white and cream quartzitic sandstone--some red and pink stained--shale lenses and many others. Negotiating several lateral moraines brought us ever closer to the imposing and looming glacier deluxe, which I wanted to call Bow Glacier, but which was actually a smaller no-name colossal conglomerate of ancient ice; one tongue of the mighty Wapta Ice Field.

Tearing ones eyes away from this glacier and scanning the rock cliffs above exposed the hut, perched in seeming defiance, blending neatly into the austere surroundings. The hut was a grand lunch and photo stop where, in thankful timing, it rained for a moderate 1/2 hour burst as we sat cosily in the comfort of the cabin.

Our descent went well up to the point where Eve twisted an ankle on one of the rock hopping talus stretches. She removed her boot and dipped the sore foot into the crisp cold stream at hand. We wrapped it and

she braved on. What a striking shock to the system; hiking out to the car past the lodge area which was crawling with tourists taking pictures of everything that moved or didn't. I felt a regular Mountaineer coming back from a Grand expedition.

Join geographer Tony Burton and resident naturalists to enjoy history, natural history and off-the beaten-track-Mexico



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| | | |
|------------------------------|----------|----------------------|
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(See Page 13)

ISLAND PERSPECTIVES

By Chris Barner, President, The Heathens

A Success Story

Where is the phantom we call 'a multiple use approach' to land management? We often hear government and industry paying eloquent lip service to it, but we seldom see a decent example. Want to hear a happy story for a change?

Back in 1993 the Heathens arranged a meeting with the Ministry of Parks to discuss increases, both current and projected, in the use of the Crest Creek Climbing area. We felt that these increases would be substantial, and have a profound impact on the crags. It was agreed by all that when it comes to these types of problems, proactive beats reactive every time.

Right down to the last employee, the good people we have dealt with at Parks' Strathcona Zone office have demonstrated unusual understanding and motivation. They promptly organized the formation of a steering committee composed of representatives from the ministry; local climbers and climbing clubs; and local outfitters and guides from nearby centers. Intermittent focus meetings have been held ever since to discuss current issues and exchange information. Soon the crags boasted an outhouse and parking area, and trailwork began in earnest.

Over the following year, new route development continued and new crags were discovered. A network of trails began to take shape. Parks convinced the Department of Highways to post warning signs on Hwy 28, and to provide a gravel turn off to access the parking area. The traditional log sign was posted to mark the spot. Things were definitely happening.

In November 1994 the committee was called to a focus meeting at the climbing area. BC Hydro, who have had a water diversion project there (including a berm and pipeline) for decades, announced that some maintenance work would have to be done. The work would entail the clearing of a swath of trees on either side of the berm, which would be reinforced, and placing a 'splash pad' at the pipeline terminus. Hydro's Russ Atkins asked those present what might be done to minimize the visual impact of the project. The committee responded by submitting several recommendations for Hydro's consideration. The work was completed by the end of March 1995, and it was done very well. Large amounts of slash that had littered the area beneath the power lines were gone. The splashpad was built and the berm reinforced.

The treeless swath had been neatly landscaped and planted with grass. There were paths and picnic tables, and the parking area had been expanded and improved. Ugly yellow gates had been replaced with boulders and earthen berms planted with native shrubs and berries. They even helped Parks develop an interesting and informative sign for the info-shelter. Local climbers were impressed.

In May, the Heathens adopted the trail network at Crest Creek to ensure that erosion problems are dealt with and that trails are safe. Additionally, "task forces" occasionally prowl the area inspecting and replacing fixed anchors and collecting trash. Bright slingage is replaced by less obtrusive chains. John Put, longtime activist and caretaker, oversees work projects for the club, and acts as liaison to Parks.

It's hard to recognize this fancy new day area as the 'good ol' crags' sometimes, but everything seems just right. People who care enough about what they are doing and are willing to do a little work have come together to create a balance. You remember balance? It's the amazing, intangible stuff that makes climbing--and indeed life itself--possible in the first place. If you visit Crest Creek, do absolutely everything within your power to maintain it there.

So what is Crest Creek?

Crest Creek is a top-drawer climbing area that boasts over a hundred routes; a hydro-electric project; a highway; a logging road; great fishing down at the lake; a powerline; and quiet trails through a lovely stand of virgin timber. Here, in the midst of this environmental enigma, cooperating citizens of vision have achieved what so many others only talk about--multiple use.

Another Success Story

I'd like to talk a little bit about two Heathen gentlemen that I know. Their names are Dave and Alexander Ratson. Dave is a forestry consultant from Campbell River, and Alexander is his ten year old son.

Some time ago now, Alexander developed a very keen interest in mountaineering. Unusually astute for a youth, Alexander has managed to see more in climbing than the romantic misconceptions that serve as most non-climbers' notion of the mountaineer, and he seems to have become 'dialled in' to the whole climbing scene. You can see it in his eyes...the

little man is serious.

Dave is the kind of parent everyone wishes they had. Game and supportive, Dave has nurtured Alexander's interests with the kind of care and patience that only a man who understands the value of a young boy's dreams might muster. Dave understands the woods and how to be comfortable there, and has passed these skills on to Alexander, but with no background in mountaineering, he realized that if further steps were to be taken, he would need some help.

They joined the Heathens a couple of years ago. With so many new members to meet, it was some time before I was able to become acquainted with their unusual relationship. It eventually became clear, however, that Alexander needed a definite direction to be pointed in--so together we came up with a five year plan.

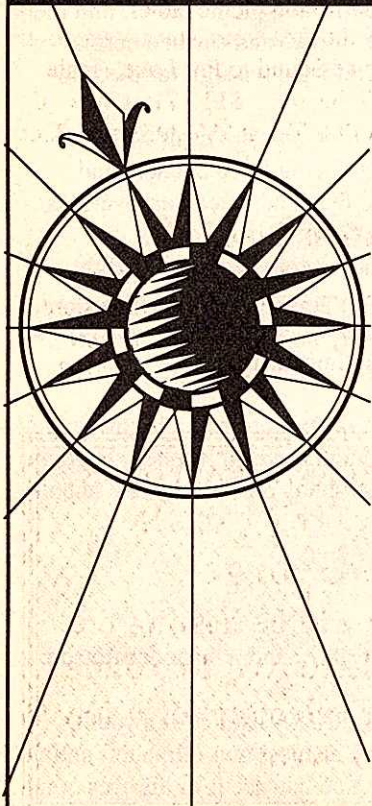
It wasn't easy. Planning obstacles included equipment requirements and the associated financial concern; age, size and strength limitations; and the availability of research materials. Trying to space all the necessary activities out over the five years with all this in mind, and still maintain some sense of logical progression took some time and effort. Nevertheless, a plan was devised that would teach Alexander all the skills a mountaineer's parent might regret he'd learned--from packing skills to big-wall climbing--by the time he reached the ripe old age of 14 years.

Dave is the kind of guy who puts his money where his mouth is. In addition to simply supporting Alexander's interest he has begun to share it, and has been taking part in all the planned activities with his son. They are a very likeable and open minded pair, and they regularly tolerate the Heathens frequent trespasses on the far side of accepted social mores with considerable understanding. Their relaxed attitude has left the club leaders and co-leaders, who have embraced Dave and Alexander's quest as their own, feeling very much at ease.

It's been wonderful to watch it all happening. Alexander is attending slideshows; pouring over recommended reading and video, writing articles for the Heathen newsletter; and climbing 5.8 in his brand new boreals. He knows what verglas, frostbite and convection are, and did a four day snowshoe trip to Jutland Peak. Dave has been there every step of the way. At May's Alpine Camp, they climbed Kings peak together, and spent many hours at the crags getting used to the feeling of falling.

Ensnared in the enthusiasm of it all, a couple of Heathen leaders are going to accompany Dave and Alexander to the Golden Hindè for a week or so this summer--just a trip for them to learn the route finding and mapwork skills necessary to tick off the "August, year one" objectives of the plan. But unlike many of us, who wait until it's too late to aim for anything before we acquire a sense of purpose and direction, these guys already know where they're goin'.

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BULLETIN

Access to Center Creek

Access is blocked by a new gate. To get a key to the gate, talk to Ted Holtby at Cattermole Timber logging company at 823-6525. The road is open, in fairly good shape at least as far as Mt. Rexford.

Banff Festival of Mountain Films

The festival comes to Vancouver November 15 and 16 at the Ridge Theatre. Mark the date on your calendar!

Trails Maintenance Work Parties

The Chilliwack Outdoors Club will be hosting a trail clearing event on upper Pierce Lake trail, assisted by the Ministry of Forests, who will provide helicopter access for eight persons. If you wish to volunteer, call Gary Sullivan at 604 467-2140.

North Vancouver Museum and Archives (Admission FREE)

Using early film, photographs and recreation equipment, the story of North Vancouver's wilderness and its popularity with daytrippers, holidayers, and serious athletes and hometown adventurers is told until Feb. 25, 1996

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Hiking the Gulf Islands

This new guide by Charles Kahn describes hiking trails and marine parks on the islands that lie in or on the edge of the Strait of Georgia. Each island is profiled with information on its special characteristics, history, accommodation and services. Maps show the locations of trails, described in detail throughout the text.

Available at Orca Book Publishers, PO Box 5626,
Station B, Victoria, BC V83 6S4 \$14.95

Cypress Provincial Park

Cypress Provincial Park is at the Crossroads--a rocky road; an uncertain future: A public meeting will be held October 12th to discuss the future directions of Cypress Provincial Park on its 20th anniversary. Come join us at the Planetarium, 7:30 pm, October 12, 1995. 5 guest speakers will address the questions: "What are parks for? Who should speak for Cypress Park?"

Meeting Sponsored by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC, Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Vancouver Natural History Society, Sierra Club of Western Canada
For further information, call 922-7974

FMCBC Call for volunteers

1. The FMCBC is looking for volunteers in: insurance, accounting, or financial planning. If you have a background in any of these fields and are willing to take on a short term project for the Federation please contact Linda Coss at 737-3053 for more information.

2. Netsurfing for Hiking Information

With all the hype about the Internet, perhaps the FMCBC should create it's own home page on the world wide web to offer services to our members. If you know about web servers we have a volunteer position for you! I would like to see club information, trip schedules, course schedules, Cloudburst articles, trail information, conservation issues and access issues made available. Please contact Jay MacArthur at 987-1232 if you are interested.

At least three conservation groups based around Vancouver have web servers: BC Spaces for Nature (<http://www.sunshine.net/www/0/sn0004>), BC Wild (<http://www.helixnet/bcwild/>), and the Western Canada Wilderness Committee (<http://www/web.apc.org/wcwild/>). Check them out. The WCWC site has a lot of good info. about the proposed Stoltmann Wilderness area.

Satellite Imagery Poster

The FMCBC is thinking of producing a satellite imagery poster size map of the area from North Vancouver to Squamish and from Howe Sound to Pitt Lake. (scale 1:100,000) The cost would be in the \$12 - \$15 range. If you are interested contact FMCBC at 737-3053 and place your advanced order.

Tools Cache Location Needed

Should any member in the Vancouver area have a location where the FMCBC Trails Committee can store the tools cache so generously housed by Paul Binkert over the years, please phone the FMCBC office at 737-3053.

**Answers to skill testing questions:
(are you ready for this?)**

Prince George!!

**Prince George will be hosting the
Federation's 1996 AGM on June
23. Mark your calendar for a fun
filled event !**

NORTHERN PERSPECTIVE

By Mike Nash

One of the finest mountain hikes in Western Canada is the loop through the Wokkpush Wilderness Recreation Area and Stone Mountain Provincial Park in northern BC. It equals anything in the National or Provincial Parks, with the added lure of solitude. I didn't know much about the area until I read the feature article "Wokkpush--Secret Wilderness" by James Page in the Aug/Sept 1994 edition of "Explore" magazine.

This August, a friend and I hiked this route, combining it with a 2,500 km drive around the circle route from Prince George through Watson Lake in the Yukon and back via Stewart. The Alaska Highway is now completely paved over this route, and the Stewart Cassiar road is over 89% paved. Stone Mountain, our starting point, is 1000 km or 1.5 days of easy driving north of Prince George.

As befits the highest point on the Alaska Highway, it was cold and wet the evening before we set out; and we stared with dismay at our enormous packs loaded with 10 days of gear and food. We thought that with the publicity the area has been receiving and by starting on the August Civic Holiday, we would certainly be sharing the area with others. In fact, we saw nobody else during the 8 day trek. Our companions were the caribou who approached closed on several occasions, and the chipmunks busy harvesting seeds from the Mountain Avenas.

After fording MacDonald Creek, we spent a long day walking up the abandoned, but scenic Churchill Mine Road to Wokkpush Creek. For the next 3 days we slowly worked our way on the Wokkpush Valley, with each day bringing new challenges and surprises. The weather was kind to us, and the northern latitude meant long days.

One of the highlights of the trip is the famous Wokkpush Gorge with thousands of spectacular hoodoos along a 5 km gorge, many with impossibly balanced capstones. It is surely one of the best displays anywhere. After the gorge comes the 6 km glacial blue Wokkpush Lake. Surrounding the lake are the peaks of the Muskwa Ranges that make up the northern end of the Canadian Rockies. Glaciers, as well as classic 32,700 metre peaks such as the White Tower, North Bastion Mountain and Mount St. Sepulchre make up this backdrop.

From the south end of Wokkpush Lake, we climbed 630 vertical metres to starkly beautiful Last Call Lake. The silence of the night at this place contrasted with the previous 5 nights of sleeping with the sound of running water. Sometime during the night the clicking heels of a lone Caribou betrayed its passage through our camp. The alpine in the far north of BC is quite different from what we are used to, being covered by Scrub Birch,

known locally as "shin tangle" or "buck brush". We used the maze of Caribou trails to pick our way through this bush. The next day brought us to the headwaters of MacDonald Creek, and a 2 day trek back to the Alaska Highway along a good horse trail.

If anyone is interested in seeing the slides of the trip and in discussing the route in more detail, please call me if you are in Prince George (e.g., for the Federation AGM next June). For detailed information, contact BC Parks Peace Liard District Office in Fort St. John or Area Supervisor in Toad River. Map sheets are 94K/10 Mount St. George and 94K/7 Wokkpush Lake

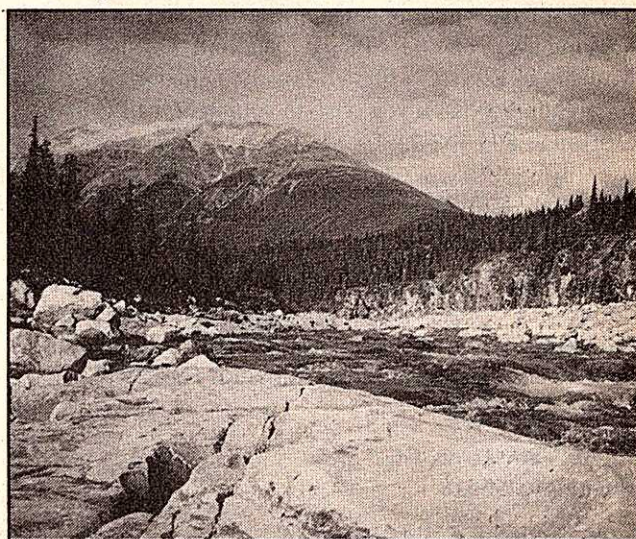


Photo Credit: Judy Leykauf. MacDonald Creek

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KOOTENAY PERSPECTIVES

By David Mitchell, Regional Director

Back-Country Skiing-Snowmobiling Conflicts

In the Golden Area, some commercial back country operators were on the brink of financial collapse because snowmobiles were in their terrain, spoiling the snow and experience for their big-money clients.

In BC Lands' discussion paper on **Commercial Back Country Recreation on Crown Land in British Columbia**, a major point was that the public would not be restricted from access to the back country because of commercial operations. The FMCBC fought hard to prevent the self propelled community from being excluded. Thankfully, we still enjoy free access to crown land. Unfortunately, snowmobilers feel that they have the same right to ride their machines on any crown land at any time. Snowmobiles have become ubiquitous. The new generation of snow machines are very powerful and they can now access many places previously inaccessible, except by helicopter or by self propelled means.

At the request of the Golden area commercial operators, BC Lands established a provincial committee. Its purpose is to try to resolve this land use dispute. With BC Lands as mediator, the participants are the heli-ski and snow-cat operators association, the back country lodge owners' association, the FC Federation of Snowmobilers, the Ministry of Forests and recently, the FMCBC (representing the public self propelled users).

Consensus land use decisions are in process for a few Golden area "hot spots," where the commercial operator and snowmobiler conflicts are the greatest. So far there has been little consideration for the non-commercial back country users' right to enjoy crown land free from snowmobile ruts, noise and stench.

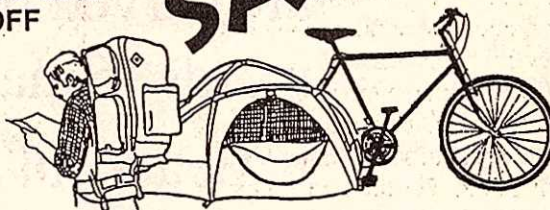
The FMCBC is bargaining with some big money operators. The heli-ski operators are big business who could sink \$50,000 into lobbying without much difficulty. The snow-cat and lodge operators are not quite as well funded, but they do have alliances with the big money ski industry. The BC Federation of Snowmobilers are big themselves, but are a smaller section of a very large, very organized and highly funded outfit based in the USA. They are capable of lobbying that could rival the NRA! Consequently, it is important that this consensus approach works.

Hopefully there will be room for everyone's winter recreation on crown land. As it stands now, only commercial operators have caught the attention of the snowmobilers. Many snowmobilers have yet to understand that not all public users enjoy their company. These short term resolutions may do well in Golden, where six National Parks are within a two hour drive. What about those back country skiers who live in more populated areas or areas with few parks? What about your favourite ski area? Snowmobilers will probably be there this season, if they haven't already been there. At present, this committee is drafting recommendations on how the issue should be dealt with in all areas of the province. Please call the FMCBC office and relay your concerns to me for the committee. We have a whole new land use plan to develop!

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In Memoriam - Paul Binkert - 1908-1995

By James Craig, Longtime Friend

Paul Binkert was a rare being. At home in the mountains and in the world of the Arts, he was a sculptor, a trail builder, a balletomane, a climber of mountains, a friend of the young and not so young (for no one was as old as Paul), at ease with politicians, academics, newspaper editors, priests and lawyers. He was a universal man, not a specialist. He would prefer to be called a mountaineer rather than a climber. Mountaineering for him was not the exercise of getting up and down a mountain using the latest high tech hardware and techniques. It was an escape from the world we have made with its noise, smell, hurry, conflict and glitz, into the solitude and the grandeur of the mountain world.

Paul was 87 years of age when he died on August 27th, 1995 in his home. He is survived by his wife June. He was born in Waldshut in Germany in 1908 and left it before the outbreak of war. He was a pacifist in a country engaged in preparing for war. He lived for a time in Colombia and then came to British Columbia. He was a long time member of the BC Mountaineering Club and was its honorary life president. He was still climbing when he was almost 70 years of age...In latter years, because of the ailments that afflicted him, he ceased climbing and once said he was now hiking with the ladies because he could keep up with them.

I first climbed with Paul a memorable two weeks at Lake Lovely Water in 1961, before the building of the Alpine Club hut. We climbed, I thought, everything in sight and out of sight. We were a party of eight. We talked music, politics, literature, personal experiences and climbing trips, and not about equipment. Later, I was with Paul on Mount Waddington--the 7th ascent I believe--

We allowed Paul to cut steps in the ice tower. It was typical of him that if no one done, he would do it; so that when we our food and equipment drop and one covered shelter was collapsing, it was bare feet, went out to fix the plastic shelter

Every climb with Paul was memorable; for he enjoyed life and he enjoyed a good raconteur. Those of us who know incidents he recounted in the day to day

There was an occasion, he said, had been advised to go there for the dry air suffering from asthma. He did not remain his return, he said, he answered a knock men in black suits and clerical collars. He give me last rites". He was relieved to about access to some mountain areas where from Westminster Abbey in Mission. One, the late Damasus Payne, was killed on Mount Edge some years ago.

Paul was a concert goer, a person who particularly enjoyed Chamber Music. As a balletomane and as a sculptor, working with metal, he long had the desire to create the figure of a ballerina. My wife had been with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet for many years and so, with Paul, we talked ballet and about his difficulty in doing the human figure. After some years, he called one day to say that he had completed the figure of the dancer and asked us to come to see it. He told us a story which is illustrative of him. He said that in the course of doing the work, he felt he needed a live model instead of working from photographs. Accordingly he engaged a model to attend at his studio and obligingly she removed all her clothes. I was, he said, too embarrassed to look at her.

Paul was a rare being content with his life, out of harmony with the world which, during his life, had become a technological monster. He was a person who genuinely liked people and looked on them all as equals; a person who liked the simple life, someone who never mastered the art of driving a car and could admit it. Fittingly, over the driveway of his home on the archway are carved the words "Small is Beautiful".

Paul is the man who, many years ago, dressed in the garb of a giant bird, stood by an airline office on Georgia at Hornby flapping his wings and bobbing up and down like a bird about to take flight, in protest at the impending new runway at the Vancouver Airport (for the flight path from runway would pass over his home in Southlands).

In latter years, those of us who were his contemporaries in climbing saw him infrequently; and this is a misfortune but a common experience with age. One realizes only with death how much a deceased was a part of one's life. Paul, we will miss you. Your great zest for life, with the unjudgemental attitude you had toward your fellow human beings, the humour with which you could recount day to day happenings, made every encounter with you a pleasure. Your demise was too soon. You have left many friends behind. I think you would find some amusement in the notion that you had gone ahead of the rest of us to set up camp.

Over the
archway in
Paul's home
are carved the
words "Small
is Beautiful"

and the first by a woman, Esther Kafer. that coated the rock slabs below the main else volunteered to do what had to be were on the Tiedemann Glacier awaiting night it began to snow and our plastic Paul who got out of bed, and I think in while some of us feigned sleep.

rable. Indeed, every encounter with him conversation. He was a good listener and him well will remember him by the many life of Paul Binkert.

when he made a trip to Death Valley. He and heat--said to be good for a person long. He returned, not well. Shortly after at the door. He opened it and saw two said "I thought the priests were there to learn that they had come to ask his advice he had been. They were Benedictines