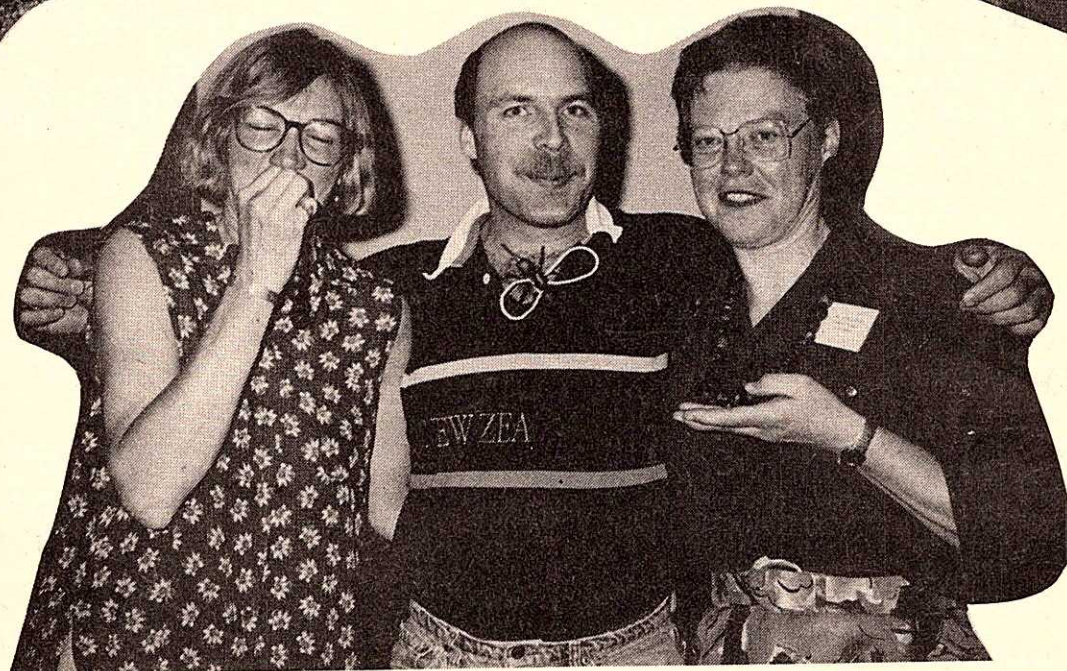
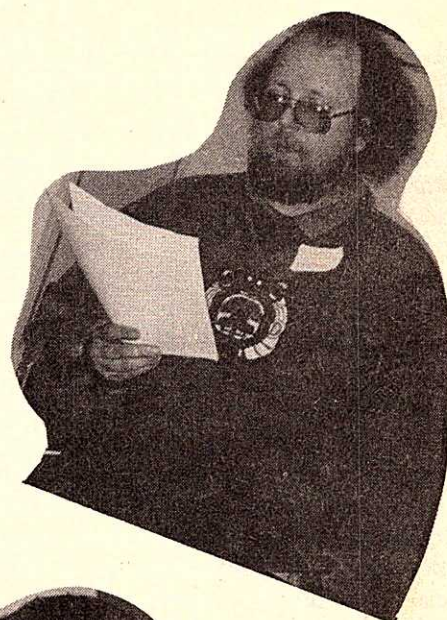

CLOUDBURST

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC Newsletter

JUNE 1996

SPECIAL FEATURES:

- A Tribute To Brian Waddington, Janet Noakes and John Pearson
 - FMCBC Annual General Meeting
 - Lower Mainland Protected Area Strategy Update
 - Volunteer Profile: Bob Nelson
-



Faces of the FMCBC AGM

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: Chris Mills

Volume 6 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:

7:30 pm. Call office for date and location.

Safety and Education Committee:

Call FMCBC office for next meeting

Trails Committee:

(Rm 336 at Sport BC).

Board of Directors:

July 17

Lower Mainland Delegates' Meeting:

Contact office for information

Island Delegates' Meeting:

Contact office for information

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (WE CAME, WE SAW, WE CONCURRED!)

By Lesley Bohm

You missed a great time! If you didn't go to the AGM in Prince George you weren't awakened at 6am by sun on your face, (a new concept for us Vancouverites) didn't smell the wonderful tang of spruce pine and poplar and see the aspen in spring green. The Berg Lake - Mt. Robson trip was great in spite of less than perfect weather and our only regret about the events in Prince George was that they were concurrent so we couldn't do them all. Hikes ranged from those up through natural subalpine forest to still snowy lakes and peaks, to Fang Cave plugged with ice, to low elevation esker formations with moose lakes and spring flowers (false solomon seal, paintbrush and violets) to Forests for the World with replanted trees remnant Douglas Firs and a beaver dam lake - full of early morning birds. Best of all were the river views from the Canoe trip down the Nechako and the closing barbecue, where the sun bounced across the water as we said a regretful farewell to our wonderful, energetic and friendly Prince George hosts after a week of total relaxation away from our regular lives and city landscapes.

Oh yes, we also held a meeting! It was held at the University of Northern B.C. with its impressive innovative architecture and high tech computerized set up. We had a rousing session of brainstorming on a problem common to all of us - intrusion of mechanized access into our winter playgrounds, quiet places and wildlife habitats. It was wonderful to get so many ideas and offers of help to sustain us in our year round efforts, which will bolster us against discouragement (A complete report on our discussion and action plan will appear in September Cloudburst).

We were glad to hear reports from members around the province and talk to them personally about their regional interests, and we seriously missed those who were unable to attend. Especially the contingent from Smithers who were prevented by a traffic accident and to whom we extend our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

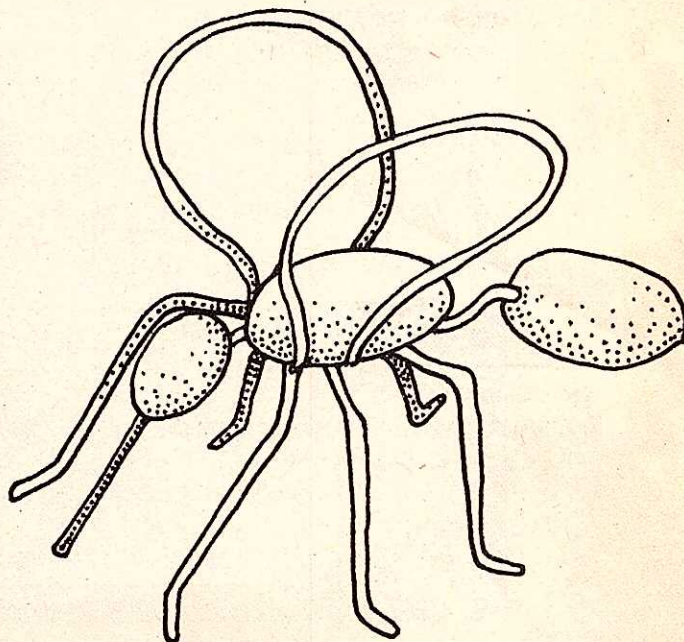
We had a chance to appreciate Prince George, and most especially we met wonderful people who went all out to communicate their enthusiasm for their surroundings and make us at home with them for a whole week. We should do more joint trips! Keep Cloudburst informed of your club's major trips.

We learned how the control of flooding on the Nechako has increased the growth of brush and sandbars removing fish spawning grounds, and learned about local efforts to maintain public trail, water and greenway access in a fast growing community - something none of us can ignore nowadays in B.C.

We watched slide shows of incredible overland exploits and stuffed ourselves guiltily with homemade goodies (recipe on page 17) and some of us walked away with a magnificent assortment of door prizes donated by generous Prince George businesses and lower mainland including list donors*. I am the proud owner of a "moose-turd mosquito" (picture below) courtesy of Uta Schuler my hostess in Prince George.

We honored members for their volunteer contribution to FMCBC including Roger Freeman and David Thompson for their work on the Stein, Michael Feller for his work on the Protected Area Strategy and Pinecone-Burke and Halvor Lunden, our tireless trail builder. Finally we elected a new FMCBC President Pat Harrison formerly Vice President and we thanked our past President Thom Ward for his on-going dedication and commitment.

***Thank you to the following businesses for their generous donations of door prizes;** Backwoods Corner, Books on 4th, Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club, Canadian Tire Store, Centre City Surplus, Coast Mountain Sports, E. & I. Sports, Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C., Island Alpine Equipment, Koops Bike Shop Ltd., Mountain Equipment Co-op, Northern Hardware & Furniture, Olympia Ski & Cycle, RnR The Walking Store, Timberline Outfitters, Ultra Sport Ltd., Viberg Boots (PG)Ltd.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Thom Ward

As this is the last time I have the privilege of writing an article as president of FMCBC I would like to thank those who have helped make my two years as president memorable. I would also like to reflect back on the many changes that we have seen over the last two years.

During the last two years the government has attempted to resolve some of the province's land use issues. As a result of we have seen the amount of protected areas double in size. We have also seen a steadily shrinking BC Park's budget, and Parks is the ministry responsible for managing all of these newly protected areas, in addition to the existing parks.

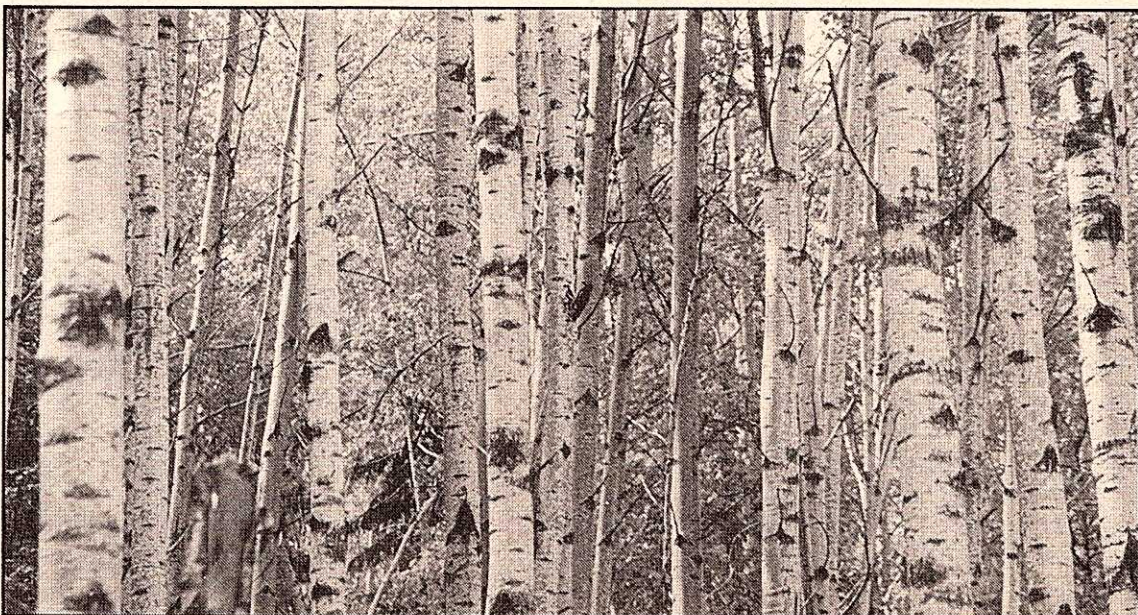
Where we once faced the challenge of getting areas protected, the challenge we now face is to ensure that these newly protected areas are wisely managed. The government ministries that are responsible for managing the land base need to be sufficiently funded and tasked to do so. I strongly urge you to write your MLA to let them know how important these protected areas are to you and how important it is that BC Parks is adequately funded to wisely manage these areas. Make the effort to meet your MLA this summer and tell them in person your concerns.

As for our own Federation, we too have experienced a number of changes. New office staff have brought new ideas and ways of doing things, hopefully for the better. New technologies have created changes, such as the Internet and the World Wide Web. are now "on-line" with both e-mail and our own Home Page on the Web. This will hopefully assist in improving communications among members of our federation.

Another big changes has been moving the location of the AGM and having it hosted by a member club. This began two years ago when the AGM was held in Nanaimo. This policy decision has set a new course for the FMCBC, making us less regional and more provincial. In turn this will affect our focus on issues, and will remind those involved with the FMCBC that we are a provincial organization.

By the time you read this edition of Cloudburst, the FMCBC will have held its AGM in Prince George with the Caledonia Ramblers as this year's hosts. Thank you Caledonia Ramblers for the effort of organizing activities for the week. The success of our federation is the result of the tremendous dedication of our volunteer members.

As times change so do the issues and causes and so will the individual volunteers. The number of new faces on the Board is an example of how things do change. A heart felt thanks to those that have done what they could for our federation, and to those that continue to volunteer their time, keep up the good work, yours is a tradition to be proud of.



Prince George AGM, Photo by Pat Harrison

VOLUNTEER PROFILE- BOB NELSON

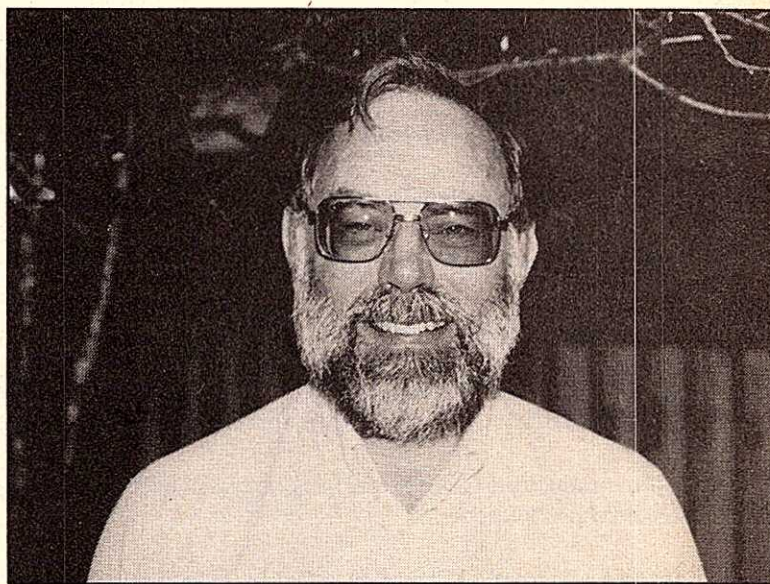
By Mike Nash

Bob Nelson's love of hiking and the mountains began in the late 60's while completing his PhD in Physics at UBC. His interest was first aroused by the "Vancouver and District Trail Guide" that was published by the Mountain Access Committee, forerunner of the FMCBC. From this beginning, his imagination was caught by the trails he hiked around Vancouver and the people he met on them.

In 1970, Bob moved to Prince George to teach Physics at the recently established College of New Caledonia. He still holds that position 26 years later. For the first year or so, he often traveled the new Highway 16 east of Prince George to discover and explore the Jasper area. In 1971 he joined the Prince George Naturalists Club, and helped them construct the Sugarbowl Mountain trail that was the genesis of recreational mountain hiking in Prince George.

In 1972, Bob and some of his students started hiking Lucille, Belle and Teare Mountains at McBride. The following year, accompanied by two companions, he bushwhacked up a beautiful peak between McBride and Prince George that he later called Erg Mountain. Bob's interest in that area led to the construction of two spectacular mountain trails from one access point: Erg Mountain and Hammell Lakes.

In May 1974, the Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club was formed. In 1975, Bob assumed the presidency and remained in that role until 1979. Also in 1974, Bob spearheaded the development of the "Prince George and District Trail Guide." Over the years, this has grown to include some 40 trails, half of which are actively maintained by the club. With its familiar yellow cover, it is a popular item in local book and outdoor stores and has long been the main fund raiser for the Caledonia Ramblers. Bob edited the trail guide for the first ten years, and since the mid-80's he has co-edited it with Dave King.



In 1977, Bob became a member of the Alpine Club of Canada (ACC), and has since been a regular participant at some 15 General Mountaineering Camps. As well as his mountaineering endeavors, and raising two sons and a daughter with his wife, Lois, Bob also found time to be involved in two greatly unrelated fields: provincial politics and Astronomy.

In 1979 he founded the Prince George Astronomical Society (PGAS), and was its President until 1992. During that time, the society built the Tabor Mountain Observatory, with a 24-inch telescope that is the third largest in Western Canada. Under Bob's direction, the Observatory has since been relocated to an improved site and teaching facility closer to Prince George. Because of the odd hours involved, Bob found that the mountains, Astronomy and family life didn't always co-exist well, and required constant juggling and compromise.

Not one to sit still for long, and with his PGAS presidency behind him, Bob turned his attention back to the ACC. In the Fall of 1994, he helped found the Alpine Club of Prince George (ACPG). The objectives were to provide an organized outlet for climbers; to realize the personal satisfaction of pioneering new mountain trips in the Prince George area, and to apply for ACC section status. In fact, there had long been many members of the ACC in Prince George, but they had no local affiliation. So, in May 1995, the ACPG made application and was accepted as the newest chapter of the ACC, with Bob as its first President.

Bob has had a low profile in the Caledonia Ramblers club in recent years, although still finding the time to co-edit the trail guide, lead hikes, and to take a turn as treasurer. He has therefore been something of an unsung hero, and I was delighted to have this chance to tell his story.

continued on page 23

CLUB BULLETIN

We are hoping Club Bulletin will become a regular feature in Cloudburst. If your club is planning an event or trip you want others to know about contact the Cloudburst editor at 737-3053 prior to the deadline for submission.

ACC - Vancouver Island: call FMCBC for information.

ACC - Vancouver: The ACC General Mountaineering Camp committee are looking for amateur leaders. ACC is offering a largely subsidized leadership development weekend for perspective candidates. After successfully completing the leadership course candidates will have the opportunity to attend the GMC at no charge and act as volunteer leaders. If interested please send climbing resume to Brad Harrison, 4689 Mackenzie St., Vancouver, B.C., V6L 2R4. For more information call 261-7378.

B.C. Mountaineering Club: The 1996 Summer & Fall Trip Schedule is out, if you would like a copy give FMCBC a call.

Caledonia Ramblers: Are the host of this years AGM, they have been busy planning hiking trips, slide shows, barbeques for our enjoyment.

Chilliwack Outdoor Club: Trail maintenance is needed at Pierce Lake Trail, 20 volunteers needed. Also looking for a helicopter.

Comox District Mountaineering Club: call FMCBC for information.

Fraser Valley Hikers: call FMCBC for information.

Island Mountain Ramblers: call FMCBC for information.

Klister Outdoor Klub: trip to Cathedral Park must be booked soon, since jeep transport is required. Trip is planned for August 3 to 5. Also, Klub barbeque is set for August, more information in future.

Kootenay Mountaineering Club: Steed Hut is pretty well finished. It is important that club members visit places like the Bonnington Range huts to keep a "presence".

North Vancouver Recreation Commission Outdoor Club: call FMCBC for information.

North Shore Hikers: Wednesday hikes are up and running, for general information call Steve Hailstone at 929-1069 or call 988-9525, Sunday evening to Wednesday morning for specific information on hikes.

Outdoor Club of Victoria: The Annual Summer Picnic is set for July 21 and the Annual Campout will be at Manning Park followed by Cathedral Park, date set for July 27 - August 10.

Outsetters Club: Congratulations! They are celebrating 25 years. Lots of events set for June.

Richmond Outdoor Club: call FMCBC for information.

Valley Outdoor Association: summer camp happening July 28 to August 5 at Ross Lake, daily hikes going out between 8:00 and 8:30 am. All clubs are invited to attend. There are 80 campsites available, John Vandeermir will be reserving some of the campsites in the next couple weeks. Please contact John Vandeermir at (604)855-7316 for more information or to book a space.

Varsity Outdoor Club: call FMCBC for information.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME?

By Linda Coss

A annoyance or the lifeblood of vital clubs?

The following is an excerpt from a letter recently received at the FMCBC office: "I would like to inform you that my attempt to join the NAME OF CLUB has been very disappointing and discouraging." "... we ended up getting a very obvious cold shoulder." "... we eventually stopped going because the old members just would not take in a new one."

Is the writer of the letter is speaking about your club? What can we do to change this impression? I feel new members bring fresh ideas and energy to a club and are an important asset in maintaining a healthy and vital organization. Lets make It is every club members responsibility to make newcomers feel welcome.

To that end FMCBC is always looking for new faces with fresh ideas to join the Board of Directors. We welcome new members who feel they have the energy to contribute to the governance of this organization. If you have an interest in working on some of our sub-committees such as Safety and Education, Cloudburst editorial, CWMS or the Partnership committee give me a call.

BURGERS AND FRIED!!

B.C. Hydro recently contacted FMCBC regarding the Smoke Bluffs rock climbing area in Squamish. A serious public safety issue has arisen in the "Burger and Fries" area, it involves fully energized 69,000 volt powerlines. A number of rock climbers are attaching their ropes between the rockface and the B.C. Hydro high voltage woodpole powerlines located below the rockface and on the B.C. Hydro right-of-way. The climbers then proceed to slide down the rope as their means of descent.

This practice is both a serious public safety issue, and unauthorized use of B.C. Hydro's property and it should cease immediately. B.C. Hydro is prepared to take all necessary measures to stop this unauthorized and dangerous use of Hydro's works in the interests of public safety and to protect Hydro's plant and equipment. This may include increased monitoring of this area if required.

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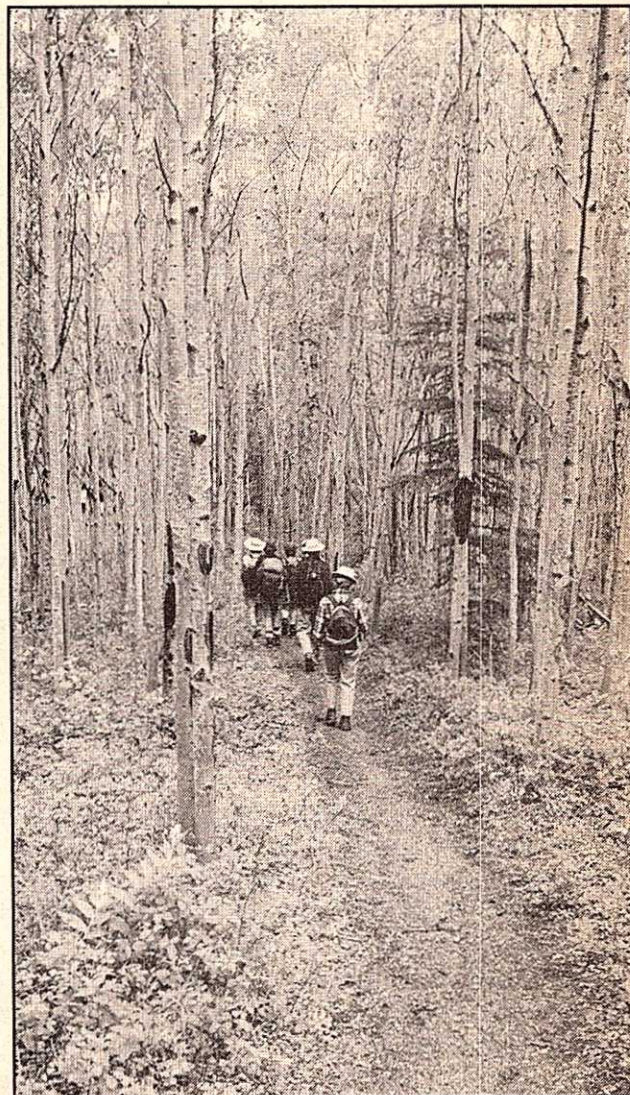
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Prince George AGM, Photo by Pat Harrison

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION

BCMC - Lower Mainland Protected Area Strategy - an update - by Jay MacArthur, Committee Co-chairperson

A near consensus has been reached on proposed protected areas near Vancouver. **We urgently need you letters of support for this package** to Glen Clark, Premier, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, V8V1X4. **Tell Glen we want another 1000 ha to protect the North Creek and Sigurd Creek trails.** I have included portions of two articles to update FMCBC members on the protected area strategy negotiations for the lower mainland area. Mike Feller represented the FMCBC at the regional public advisory committee as part of the recreation sector and Bryan Evans represented the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society as part of the conservation sector.

BCMC May Newsletter - by Michael Feller

After frantic attempts to reach a consensus by the end of January, including an all-night session, the Regional Public Advisory Committee (RPAC), on the surface, appears to have shut down. Since early February there has been no attempt to quickly finalize the agreement and the B.C. government has recently told people that nothing will happen until after the election, so we are in limbo.

From your editor's perspective this is not necessarily bad since the deal on the table was not particularly palatable and one in which recreation, particularly wilderness recreation, interests were treated as totally subservient to biological conservation interests. The upper Lillooet valley portion of the Randy Stoltmann wilderness and the Tantalus Range were the two biggest losers in that the most heavily used portions of these areas, i.e. the North-Pebble-Salal creek valleys and the Sigurd Creek valley and most of the forest below 600 m in the Tantalus area, respectively, were not included for protection. The delay may give us time to get some or all these areas included in a consensus agreement. In the meantime, any letters to, or discussions with, local politicians over these areas would greatly assist in attempts to protect them.

Avalanche Echoes (Alpine Club - Vancouver Section) - by Bryan Evans

After many deadline extensions, the Regional Protected Areas Public Advisory Committee is close to reaching a consensus on recommendations for new protected areas in the Lower Mainland. The "package" includes 24 proposed protected areas including four of the six remaining large intact valleys in south western B.C., significant additions of old-growth forest and wetland habitat, and many important recreational areas. We will exceed the regional target set by government of 13% and will come in at closer to 14% with 138,000 hectares

of new recommended protected areas.

A few details need to be worked out but consensus agreement has been reached on the following (areas are approximate):

Upper Lillooet Valley (20,000 ha) all of the Upper Lillooet west of Salal Creek including Manatee Meadows. The road into the Upper Lillooet that was temporarily halted last fall will not go ahead. Clendenning/Elaho (32,000 ha) the entire Clendenning Valley, including Raccoon Pass. Also included are the floodplain cedar and Douglas-fir forests extending south to the junction of the Sims and Elaho on the west side of the Elaho river. The park boundary extends north on the west side of the Elaho river to Elaho lake at about the 3,500 ft. level. Construction of the bridge and road into the Clendenning that began just before Christmas will not resume; an alternative bridge site will be found to cross the Elaho north of the Clendenning valley. Mehatl Valley (23,000 ha) an intact valley with important grizzly bear and spotted owl habitat adjacent to the Stein will be protected in its entirety. Upper Bishop (20,000 ha) the headwaters of the Bishop River, south of Tsy'los (Chilko Lake) Park. Sockeye (6,000 ha) an intact valley adjacent to Birkenhead Lake Provincial Park will be protected in its entirety. Chilliwack (9,500 ha) a proposed protected area around Chilliwack Lake including Greendrop and Lindeman Lakes.

Continued on page 10



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BC PARKS MASTER AND MANAGEMENT PLANS

MAY 96 UPDATE

By Murray Lashmar

Many management plans are on hold due to the Protected Areas Strategy. If you wish 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 1-800-663-7867.

Although BC Parks decentralization has eliminated Regional Offices, for convenience sake, the following master plans are organized under the old regional names.

A. SOUTH COAST (Planning Branch, North Vancouver - 924-2200)

Cypress Provincial Park: The final draft master plan has been completed and is awaiting signature.

Strathcona-Westmin: The management plan has been completed and approved.

Manning Park, Skagit & Cascade Recreation Areas (Ras): The land use decision has been made and the master plan is being finalized. The Cascade and most of the Skagit (except for the Silver Daisy area, which will be available for mineral exploration) have been given park status.

Maquinna (Hot Springs Cove): The review of the final plan by the First Nations is continuing.

Newcastle Island: The master plan has been approved.

Parkinson Creek: Parkinson Creek will be collapsed into the Juan de Fuca trail park. Signing has been postponed.

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

Gordon Bay: The master plan has been signed off.

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 - Bowlland Range: The master plan has been completed and approved.

Indian Arm: The master planning process is continuing.

MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

Robson Bight: The final plan is still being reviewed by the First Nations.

Chelciset Bay: The draft plan is being finalized.

Haley Lake (reserve for the Vancouver Island marmot): The master plan has been approved.

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

B. NORTHERN BC (Planning Branch, Prince George - 565-6270)

Naikoon: The master plan is close to completion. Work on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to address joint stewardship is still in process. Contact: Dan Adamson.

Nisga'a: The master plan is expected to be signed off by mid May.

Stikine "Country": Still on hold due to PAS commitments.

Khutzeymateen: The master plan is on hold and an interim protection plan is still in place. A background document is being prepared. Contact: Mike Murtha (565-6348).

Ts'il'os: The draft master plan is nearing completion and will be going out to the public by the end of May. Call Kris Kennett, Caribou office (398-4889) for further information or a copy of the plan.

Tatshenshini and Kitlope: BC Parks has signed co-management agreements with the First Nations. A management planning process in association with the sub-regional planning is beginning for Big Creek and Itcha-Ilgachuz areas.

C. SOUTHERN INTERIOR (Planning Branch, Kamloops - 851-3000)

Management of new parks in the Kamloops and Kootenay areas are being addressed by interim Management Direction Statements. Background documents for the Stein, Bonaparte, and Fintry parks in the Kamloops area and Elk Lakes, Height of the Rockies and a number of other parks in the Kootenays are also being developed.

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION

Continued from page 8

Tantalus Range (10,000 ha) the eastern slopes of the Tantalus Range from the Lake Lovelywater Recreation Area to Sigurd Lake. The Sigurd Lake trail is not in the protected area but an agreement is being worked out with International Forest Products to protect the trail.

Other protected area proposals include Homathko estuary (500 ha), South Texada Island (1,000 ha), Confederation Lake near Powell River (4,000 ha), Caren Range (2,800 ha), Mt. Richardson (1,000 ha), Brackendale Eagle Reserve (500 ha), Callaghan Lake (2,600 ha), Liumchen (2,000 ha), Nahatlatch Lakes (2,000 ha), and Duck Lake (750 ha)

Several important proposals which are largely private land and therefore outside the mandate of the Committee will likely be acquired by the government. We recommended Princess Louisa Inlet (part of the Stoltmann Wilderness) and Burns Bog as high priorities. Approximately 3,500 ha of wetlands in the Fraser River will also be protected as parks or Wildlife Management Areas

Obviously, we would like to protect more of the Randy Stoltmann Wilderness, especially the Upper Elaho. However, this package will protect the key low elevation forests of the Clendenning and Upper Lillooet valleys. A recommendation has been included in the RPAC report that much of the alpine and subalpine areas of the Stoltmann Wilderness should be managed as a primitive backcountry recreation area. We will continue to seek a special management designation for these areas in the subsequent Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP) process for the Soo Timber Supply Area. In his report on behalf of the FMCBC, Randy recognized the wilderness area would likely be protected through a combination of Class A parks and special management zones. This has been a long and, at times, painful process. However, I am convinced that given the pace of road building, logging and urban development proposed into these few wild areas over this year and next, we will never be in a position to protect as much wilderness or wildlife habitat again in southwestern B.C.

BC PARKS

Continued from page 9

Apex Mountain RA: The status of the Apex Mountain RA is being examined under the Okanagan LRMP process which is now underway. Due to Apex's primary use as a downhill skiing area and the availability of other areas (e.g. Brent Mountain) with greater protected area potential, Parks may recommend canceling Apex's RA status.

Silver Star: The government has agreed in principle that the area proposed as a golf course by the Silver Star ski area may be removed from the park providing that environmental requirements can be met. A replacement area will be identified during the Okanagan LRMP, which is also examining the Silver Star area. BC Lands is coordinating the environmental review. Contact John Thompson at the Kamloops BC Lands office, 828-4800.

Bugaboo Glacier Park and Alpine RA: Planning is being dealt with in the context of overall area priorities. The East Kootenay CORE process led to the expansion of the Park east of the Purcell Mountains divide to include more riparian areas along upper Vowell Creek. The RA west of the divide has been removed.

Wells Gray: Although a review of the Wells Gray Master Plan is overdue, Parks is addressing specific issues on a priority basis rather than doing a complete rewrite. A completed Recreation Management Plan for Myrtle Lake and the Clearwater corridor also addresses the needs of Wells Gray.

For further information contact Mike Hanry or John Meeson.



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INTERNATIONAL WILDERNESS FIRST AID

By Anna Christensen

The word is already out on the streets, or more accurately people are whispering in the woods: International Wilderness First Aid Associates Inc. (IWFA) will be administratively merging with FMCBC as of July 1, 1996. What exactly does this mean?

Well, the standards and the curriculum for the courses will remain the same: As Curriculum Director, Anna Christensen will still be in charge of research, development and innovation in consultation with both the Course Standards and General Advisory Committees. Instructors will maintain the high standards which have earned us our international reputation for excellence in back-country safety education. The FMCBC will be handling all inquiries and student registrations as well as general course promotion.

I can assure both the FMCBC membership and IWFA clientele that there will be a smooth transition of administrative duties. The reason for being able to say this with confidence, is that I was involved with negotiations involving the FMCBC staff and Board of Directors over the last few months. I have been astounded at the level of cooperation, enthusiasm and good will that I encountered during this process. It was fascinating for me to be involved with such a dynamic and committed team of individuals.

I would specifically like to acknowledge Pat Harrison, Linda Coss, Executive Director and Alana Prociuk, Office Manager for their invaluable assistance and patience with this process.

I first started teaching wilderness first aid in 1977 at which time there were no standards for training and much of the material taught was anecdotal: The material was passed along on a hear-say basis, much of which was dangerous or grossly out of date. As an instructor, I wanted to offer my students the most accurate information available, but found it to be a real challenge to uncover facts among fallacies. These early endeavors were to be the foundation for my commitment to the evolution of excellence in standards for training and certification.

Our courses have undergone revolutionary changes since that era, and are now state of the art: Not only in curriculum content, but also in the professionalism which is demonstrated through the quality of delivery and sound teaching pedagogy incorporated into the learning process. To remain up-to-date, the curriculum is revised every year and our dedicated core of professional Instructors are required to upgrade annually.

Over the years, we have appreciated input from students, employers and the outdoor recreation industry at large; many ideas generated have become the seeds for growth within our curriculum.

In particular, we had known for years that skills proficiency drops drastically over the second and third year after certification. A viable alternative was created by offering annual skills upgrading seminars which are now in popular demand and are even required for staff qualification within some agencies. The feedback from participants has been outstanding. In addition to maintaining skills proficiency, another benefit is that a much shorter recertification process is required during the third year.

Recently, we have developed other safety related educational programs such as:

- Emergency radio communication which also offers students an opportunity to receive their radio operator's license.
- Safe food handling for back-country traveller's which focuses on food packaging, handling and general camp hygiene.
- Field suturing technique for wound closure in remote settings.
- Overnight simulation field trip which includes patient evacuation techniques over varied terrain challenges.

For future growth, we are actively soliciting input from anyone who feels that they have an idea or concern worthy of further exploration. Our administrative merging with the FMCBC will enable us to be more accessible to a larger number of our recreational community; and, more specifically, those who are not residing within the Vancouver Lower Mainland. With sufficient demand, courses can be arranged within your community, and/or customized to meet the needs of your club.

In 1997 we will be training more Instructors. If you are a dedicated professional, you may want to consider this as an opportunity for career expansion.

I look forward to the upcoming season and all the excitement that comes along with our synergistic relationship.

IN MEMORY: JANET NOAKES and JOHN PEARSON

In Memorium - by Susan Hollenberg

Janet Noakes 1954-1996 and John Pearson 1954-1996

I knew how much they loved being in the mountains. They lived for their trips into the wilderness and worked to fill the gaps between them. Recently the challenge had been to do longer, self-supported exploration on ski, foot and by canoe into the untravelled parts of our country. Minimal impact on the environment was the goal. They did it for the sheer exhilaration of being where few have been, not to push the edges of risk-taking behavior. The two of them were amongst the most knowledgeable, safety conscious, and careful mountaineers I knew. They shared their experience with others with patience and enthusiasm, and regularly taught backcountry education courses and led trips for the local mountaineering clubs.

"Every spring you don't do a trip will never come around again" quoted John often as he emerged from teaching the school term in a sleep-deprived state, looking to adventure. They made an art of the science of preparation. Meticulous hours were put into pouring over maps, drying gourmet and exotic foods, sewing self-designed garments, adapting and creating equipment. They could shave off more ounces than I could ever imagine, from calculating dinners down to the last dried pea, to designing a lightweight, durable and non-microscopic Scrabble game.

Some of the best conversations happened during training time! We spent hours walking the trails of the Endowment Lands with far too much weight in our packs. (Theory - if you trained with more than you hoped to carry, the real thing would seem easy). On other days we would blindly Grind up Grouse, especially in the rain, under the delusion that the real fools were brunching in Vancouver at the current moment.

John was a Physics instructor and chair of the department at Kwantlen College. He inspired a love of physics in more than his students. A typical conversation on a hike involved calculating the calories burned going up the Grouse Grind. When the Total we'd arrived at exceeded the average adult male daily intake, we figured in numerous plausible coefficients until it seemed right. At least it distracted us from the steepness of the trail for a while! He characteristically applied the same fastidious logic to route-finding, equipment repairs and naming familiar peaks without ever making you feel intimidated by his wealth of knowledge.

Janet was a respected physician who had practiced in Steveston for the last fifteen years. She brought hundreds of new lives into the world, and just as caringly helped her patients through the ills and wells of their lives, and supported them gently through the experience of their deaths. We would discuss upcoming trips at medical conferences, and the latest medical breakthroughs on trips! We would often joke about the weight-bearing activity required to stave off osteoporosis - was half of one's body weight too much?

Janet and John had known each other since elementary school and had been married for the last 17 years. Since coming to Vancouver from Ontario in the early eighties, they had been avid members of the Jericho Sailing Club, hiked most of the 103 hikes, canoed mighty rivers up North, and skied the backcountry most winters. They were clear, thorough and skilled about their lives and how they did their activities. They were a solid, loving couple.

Janet Noakes and John Pearson died in an avalanche off Mt. Cerberus on the Monarch Icefield on May 17, 1996. They were doing what they loved. They will be missed by many.

Thanks for the pleasure of the trips we'd done and regrets for the trips we had yet to do.

May they continue to walk softly in the wilderness.

IN MEMORY - BRIAN WADDINGTON

By Denise Hart

I have known Brian Waddington, or "The Wad" as he was occasionally and affectionately known, since my VOC days in the early 1980s. Students often worry that too much play time affects one's marks: we were part of a group who believed too much school would affect our skiing. Many Friday afternoons were spent discussing weather forecasts, looking at maps, and hashing out ideas for weekend trips. Brian, in particular, was full of contagious enthusiasm and ideas for interesting trips. He also had 4 wheels, his Landcruiser, a valuable asset when trip planning in the car-poor VOC. Brian met Betsy in the VOC during this time, in 1983, the same place and year I met my own future husband Peter.

My memories of Brian begin in these years, and are closely linked to my own early explorations of B.C. wilderness. The VOC ties remained strong over the years, even as we all (eventually) graduated, followed jobs, traveled, joined other clubs, and then returned to UBC as grad students or employees. Brian became quite active in the BCMC and his campaign against Boring Day Trips began in earnest. He developed a reputation for leading challenging, interesting and well-organized trips. And although BCMCers tend to be well-wheeled, Brian's red Bronco, his vehicle of choice after the Landcruiser, regularly got the furthest up local logging roads.

Trips, trips, trips. Brian was on them nearly every weekend he was in town, at least for one day, and was on extended trips as much as possible. Each season brought a new opportunity: skiing, kayaking, cycling, climbing and hiking. Brian was always among the first to search for powder at the Microwave Towers at Black Tusk; he instituted the famous "Gales of November" kayaking trips to the Broken Group; lead the best-organized BCMC Christmas trips in recent memory; careened down logging roads on his mountain bike on Steve Grant's annual Port Renfrew cycling trip; drank champagne on the top of the Frost Fiend on the weekend after his thesis defense; and enjoyed the summer wildflowers with many friends at Tenquille Lake. This is only a small sampling of the trips Brian loved, and we all hold our own memories of other trips we were fortunate enough to share with him.

If we can console ourselves at all about Brian's death, and I cannot believe I will never see his twinkling brown eyes and bushy beard again, at least we know he died engaged in an activity he passionately loved. I cannot imagine Brian, nor John and Janet, living their lives without mountaineering as a central part of it. And while we console ourselves, we must remember to reach out to Brian's family, and especially to Betsy, whose loss is so very great.

IN MEMORY - BRIAN WADDINGTON

By Dave Williams

Leaving the surrounds of our month of mountain environment we walked along the airstrip to the mine, coffee and cookies, a phone call home. Disbelief, horror, tears ...

The news of Brian's death shattered our feelings of accomplishment and ended the trip on a note of shocked reality. Years of friendship and of roaming through West Coast wilderness filled my mind with memories of Brian. Fourteen years ago freshly arrived from England I signed up for a trip to Brew hut. Arriving at the end of the logging road just after daybreak Mr. Keen Waddington, bubbling with beard and enthusiasm, turned a short day hike into a visit to every, brook, bump, peaklet, rainbow and gully as we roamed the October ridge tops to Brew. I was hooked. My friend and mentor taught a bungling Englishman everything that I now take for granted while traveling in the outdoors and I hope his good judgment, sense of responsibility, honesty and integrity have rubbed off and stuck to me.

Since that October damp cool morning, we've climbed, hiked, skied, paddled and explored intensely together. Whether on a weekend ski tour cranking turns chasing after him, laughing at our state of utter exhaustion, just one more run, breaking trail, the smell of conifer wafting up a glacier after weeks of ice, hiking in the fall colors. Or holding kayak to kayak in a vicious squall off Culvert Island, teetered together carrying loads on Mt. Loga, belaying a friendly sunny rock pitch, eating his burnt and over-salted morning porridge, bailing out a sinking kayak off nootkas island, the thrash in West Coast bush on the lower slopes of Mt. Denman, the purgatory of nothing but oysters in Deslotion Sound, my idea not his. The joy, the love and the enthusiasm for just being there.

I thank you Brian for sharing all this with me.

The first of the season skiing up at Black Tusk will never be the same again. Brian inspired my mountain enthusiasm. Our energies bounced off one another and I will miss him so, so dearly.

With all my love Brian, rest in peace with your enthusiasm. I will be thinking of you as I take in the view to a new valley,

TRAIL NEWS

By Louise Irwin

B.C. Parks is looking for volunteers to work on a number of projects:

Garibaldi Park:

Wedge Trail: Weekend type project involving brushing, drainage and trail bed improvements.

Singing Pass Trail: (July 20-21st Weekend) Re-routing of the last 300-400 meters of the Musical Bumps trail into Singing Pass to avoid the fragile meadows. This will involve grubbing, drainage work and revegetation.

Upper Helm Creek Trail: (August 19 - 23) Rebuilding of approx. 4 km of trail between Helm Lake and the Helm Creek campsite to repair and stop the significant environmental damage. B.C. Parks is interested in a crew of 6-8 people for a 4 or 5 day stay. Helicopter and Ranger support and some camp equipment would be supplied.

Red Heather Trail: the historical trail between the parking lot and the meadows, which bypasses the road is closed due to extensive windfalls. It will not be reopened until it can be reconstructed. This would involve rerouting and rebuilding the last 1 1/2 km and portions of the rest of the trail, then removing the windfall. This major project would require a dedicated trail crew over several months.

To register phone the FMCBC office at 737-3053 or Tom Bell, Garibaldi District Supervisor at 1-604-898-4171

Manning Park and the Cascade Recreation Area: Volunteers to go out with Parks backcountry rangers to patrol trails and help with maintenance jobs, under the guidance of the Park Ranger. Some overnight trips may be involved. Groups or individuals may volunteer, and are required to be in good physical condition, with suitable clothing. Free camping can be provided for volunteers and groups (up to 40 people) at the Little Muddy Camp facility.

For more information contact: John Roase at the Manning Park Visitor Centre or phone 1-604-840-8836. B.C. Parks will supply tools and safety equipment for all these projects.

ADOPT-A-TRAIL

By Louise Irwin

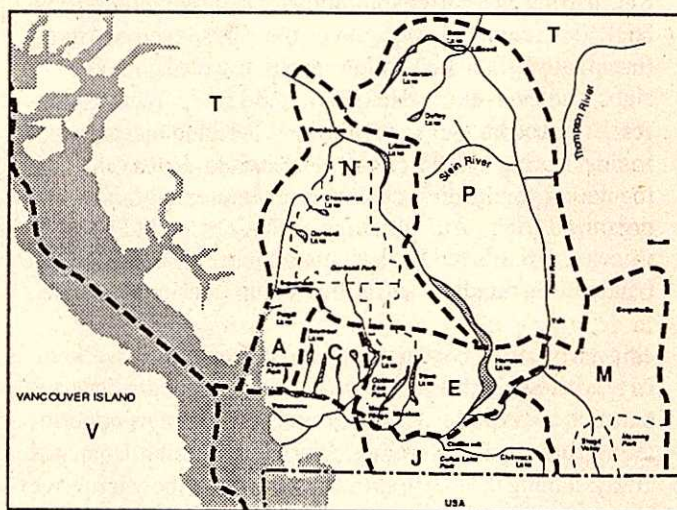
Adopt-A-Trail zone coordinators are required by the Trails Committee for several areas of the Lower Mainland. The map has been divided into nine sections, which include the majority of the hiking trails in Forest and Park lands. Zone coordinators report to the Trails Committee of the FMCBC on matters concerning their areas. An outline of some of the responsibilities of the section coordinators includes:

- 1) Keep informed of trail conditions through phone calls or reports from Land agencies or club and individual trip reports.
- 2) Monitor activities related to land and trail use, which could include meetings organized by Land agencies or recreation groups. Controversial or urgent issues, user conflicts, etc., are discussed with the Trails Committee for action.
- 3) Promote trails and their maintenance as well as ideas for new trails.
- 4) Promote the Adopt-A-Trail program and assist in trail adoption and the maintenance schedule.

Interested volunteers should contact the FMCBC office at 737-3053



Zones of the FMCBC Trails Co. and their Coordinators



ZONES	DEFINITION	COORDINATORS	TELEPHONE
A	Mosquito Creek to Mamquam River (inc. Bowen Island)	Gabriel Mazoret	984-8401
C	Mosquito Creek to Pitt River	Don McPherson	873-4901
E	Pitt R. to Fraser R. at Spuzzum (north of Fraser River)	John Otava	469-9430
J	Chilliwack Valley & Fraser Valley (South) to Wahleach Creek (Inc. Cheam/Lucky Four Group)	Neil Grainger	795-3785
M	Manning Park/Coquihalla + Skagit & Cascade Recreation areas	John Otava	469-9430
N	Mamquam River to Lillooet River (from headwaters to Harrison Lake)	POSITION VACANT	-
P	Lillooet River north to Bridge R., south along Fraser R. to Spuzzum	Bill Meyer	944-3059
T	Other parts of Mainland B.C.	Bill Greer	594-1870
V	Vancouver Island	POSITION VACANT	-

Adopt-A-Trail Program Coordinators:
The Zones Coordinators

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT: THE ISLAND

By Thom Ward

Last Fall I submitted a statement outlining the need to digitally inventory and map trails and routes on Vancouver Island to the BC Forest Service. The concept was enthusiastically received but ranked low on their list of priorities. I was therefore encouraged to submit the idea to Forest Renewal BC (FRBC) for funding, which I did in January.

While there was much support for the project from Forest District staff, BC Parks, Regional Districts, and outdoor recreational organizations, the Forest Service's Regional and Branch offices declined to endorse it. The Forest Service raised objections relating to the finer points of the project's implementation. I feel the Forest Service wanted us to submit the proposal their way as defined by a policy and a set of standards that had yet to be determined. We were willing to try to comply but to their standards but it seems the Forest Service found it easier to criticize the project for its short comings than to endorse it for its overall value or collaborate in revising it.

It is unfortunate that the Forest Service responded in this manner, but not surprising. They have identified the need to inventory trails, but not at this time. They understand the need to collaborate with various user groups, but only when they want to do so. They will manage our forests for us in the best way that they see fit but only if they have the time to do it properly, otherwise they just carry on making educated guesses based on inaccurate or non-existent data. In other words, they know what is best and we should just butt out, unless of course they ask us for our assistance. (FRBC has since declined funding without explanation.)

Vancouver Island clubs have had difficulty accessing some of their favorite hiking areas on private forest lands. I have met with the Forest Company's official several times and have been promised a memo outlining their policy for accessing these areas. I have yet to receive it. Three clubs have had to cancel club trips because of this problem which seems to stem from liability concerns. However speculations are that the forest company just doesn't want people on their land.

Another Vancouver Island access concern, again a liability driven situation, is threatened closure of the climbing/bouldering bluffs at Flemming Beach in Esquimalt. This is popular spot, to both practice ones skills and to train new people to the sport. This is not a new problem, it stems from a risk assessment report done in 1987. Recently pressure has been put on the municipality to solve the issue. The main concern has nothing to do with climbers but rather non-climbers climbing, some of whom have fallen and injured themselves. The Council is concerned with the possibility

of a law suit, resulting from a non-climber falling. The second concern is the walkway below the rock face being too narrow for pedestrians to go around the climbers.

While the Mayor of Esquimalt, most of Council and the Municipal Administrator say they are agreeable to working out a satisfactory solution, it was proposed a By-Law be introduced to ban all climbing. At the time of writing it seems some resolution is being made to widen the walkway and put the By-Law on hold. Stay tune for further developments.

On a more positive note outside of Victoria, a new park as yet unnamed, was created as part of the Commonwealth Nature Legacy. This new park encompasses both the Tod Inlet area and the Gowlland Range, those rocky hills you see across Finlayson Arm as you drive the Malahat. Three of the island clubs have been represented on the Master Plan planning committee.

The Juan de Fuca trail has been completed. This trail can be considered as an eastern extension of the West Coast Trail, running from Port Renfrew east to China Beach Provincial Park, near Jordan River. Work on the North Coast Trail, between Port Hardy and Cape Scott Provincial Park, is scheduled to begin this year as is work on the Klitsa-Gibson Plateau Trail, just west of Port Alberni.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor;

There is a nut among the hiking fraternity who has been vandalizing trails built by those who ride bikes. These are not hiking trails. I am told that the following acts have been perpetrated:

- a) a plank nailed to a log by the maker of the trail has been removed so that the rider drops off the end of the log. At the drop off, sharp stakes have been placed.
- b) large rocks placed by the trail makers have been removed and in the hole where the rock or rocks were embedded, stakes have been placed.
- c) brush and trees have been thrown onto the trails.

Whoever thinks that these acts will preserve the world for hikers should consider how he/she/they would feel if a young person, perhaps the son of a friend, were to be thrown onto a sharp stake. The mountain bike is here to stay. The sport will outlast the vandals. One may as well seek an accommodation with them and I do not have a mountain bike.

Jim Craig, FMCBC Director

Dear FMCBC;

Linda (your Executive Director) called me this morning: it's always a pleasure. As conversation drifted around to the FMCBC, she lamented that the 'Feds' were still somewhat geocentric to the 'Lower Mainland'. "How could it be any other way?", I responded, "every provincial organization I can think of has the same problem." But I've been thinking about it all day, and I believe it has a lot to do with how we perceive things. Is the centre of the mountain community in B.C. where the climbers live, or is it where they climb?

During the annual general meeting this June, the centre of that community may be in Prince George (Perhaps it always has been and the rest of us are just finding out!), where the ultra-enthusiastic 'Caledonians' have amassed a varied and entertaining agenda spanning five days. On that same weekend at Skaha hundreds of climbers will be clinging to the colorful rock walls - as they do every weekend. Perhaps Skaha, then, is the centre of B.C.'s mountain community...or Squamish. Or indeed, it may even have been at the Heathen's alpine camp, where over a hundred worked and played hard over ten beautiful island days. The centre of the mountain community in B.C. is wherever groups of people are getting a lot done in the mountains.

The FMCBC is an organization of people that do things, or are supposed to do things, in the mountains. Membership drives are great, but there are already so many among us who need to do more. It's a case of "the more you do, the more you are", not, "the more you are, the more you do", and the mountain community in B.C. is where you test it, not where you rest it!

ACMG:

I am bound to draw some heat for this one.

The ACMG is interested in having a regulating effect on mountain skills by determining what they conclude to be the most effective methods, and teaching those methods directly to guides/instructors, and thence to students. I don't know if I like that approach.

Continued on page 17

RECIPE

By Winn Glassford, Caledonia Ramblers

Coconut Squares

2 cup	graham wafer crumbs
1/2 cup	margarine or butter
1/2 cup	white sugar
1	egg
1 tsp	vanilla
1 cup	milk
1 cup	coconut
1 tsp	baking powder
	salt

Mix all together and bake at 350 F.
Ice with a tart lemon juice icing.

LETTER TO FMCBC continued from page 16

I sure hope the folks that determine what systems the ACMG adopts stay open-minded to fresh ideas in technical climbing. After all, what we know now is just a piece of what we'll know later. The process of developing ever better climbing systems is an evolution: a series of experiments and elimination, it would be foolish to regulate and to the point of stagnation. So, once you've got the ACMG system wired, my advice is to continue learning others, and to ensure that you continue to learn for as long as you climb. You might even find a better way.

Volunteers:

There are not 4000 miles of trails, bridges and rock climbs in B.C..... but there are at least 4000 climbers. IF every climber adopted one mile of trail....but the reality is that a very few climbers do the vast majority of work while the rest of us reap the benefits. Do you know one of these very few? If you do, find them and look them straight in the eye. Tell them how much you appreciate and admire what they do for you. See that twinkle? That's how good they feel. Spend a day at work with them and find out why. So much can be done in a day. Don't just experience the mountains - interact. Dive in. With just a little hard work you could inherit that very twinkle.

Chris Barner, The Heathens, Campbell River

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SEARCH & RESCUE

By Chris Mills, Chair, Safety & Education Committee

REVIEW OF "LAND AND INLAND WATER SEARCH AND RESCUE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA"

I have recently had the opportunity to review the Second Draft of "Land and Inland Water Search and Rescue Strategic Plan for British Columbia" on behalf of the Federation. The recommendations of this substantial and comprehensive document should be of direct interest to our Members, and a summary is therefore appropriate. The document is basically a recommended plan for the future enactment and funding of Search & Rescue (SAR) in the Province. As recreational mountainous terrain users, SAR is our ultimate fall back should things go terribly wrong. It is currently funded by a combination of tax dollars and private donations, but money for equipment and training is falling seriously short of needs. Almost all of the persons who undertake SAR operations volunteer their time, and frequently their money and equipment. They also often put themselves at considerable personal risk for the benefit of others in distress. The use of mountainous terrain for recreation is consistently increasing in B.C., as is the need for SAR, with associated costs.

The Plan examines various means of meeting these projected costs, and recommends (in order of preference) -

- (a) Revenue generation (possibly a one half of one percent surcharge on outdoor clothing and equipment)
- (b) User fees (surcharge on ski passes, hunting licenses, campground fees, etc.)
- (c) Taxation increases (obvious)
- (d) A combination of (a), (b) and (c).

One reason that gave favour to option (a) was that it would spread the costs over the whole spectrum of outdoor activity participants. It should be noted that the Plan recommends that all funds derived from such a surcharge should be placed in a SAR account, separate from other government accounts, and be used solely for SAR activities. The concept of cost recovery (those using SAR services pay for them) was rejected by the Plan for a number of reasons, despite its initial attractiveness. I realize that there are many among both the public and the mountaineering community who believe that those needing SAR services should pay for them. This is understandable because of the high profile given by the media to some North Shore Mountains helicopter rescues involving out-of-bounds skiers at commercial downhill ski operations. However, such an attitude assumes perfection on the part of both recreationists and Mother Nature. Even the most experienced and capable mountaineers have bad luck at some point in the lifetime of their activities, no matter how well prepared they are, and perfection equals staying at home. If we participate in mountain recreation in British Columbia, then we all need a properly financed SAR program.

Continued on page 24



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BULLETIN

Yew Lake Trail Official Opening

FMCBC, in cooperation with BC Parks, is hosting the official opening of the Yew Lake Trail in Cypress Provincial Park. It is a two day affair with the ribbon cutting ceremony taking place on Tuesday July 16th, and hikes for the public being held on Parks Day, Saturday July 20th. Join us for a Saturday morning hike or the "safety and education" display happening Saturday afternoon. FMCBC, with the generous support of many sponsors, has upgraded the Yew Lake Trail to wheel-chair accessible standards.

Twenty Fifth Anniversary of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.

1996 marks the twenty fifth anniversary of the Federation of Mountain Clubs. To commemorate the occasion, the September issue of *Cloudburst* will be dedicated to The Federation: 25 years...the people...the places...the achievements.

It is YOU the members and volunteers of the Federation that have formed its history and have accomplished the many achievements of the Federation. Share your stories and your photos of early club trips with us. Contact Alana Cloudburst editor at 737-3053.

FMCBC T-Shirts

FMCBC's 25th Anniversary T-Shirts are now available. Twenty dollars gets you a 100% cotton t-shirt with a commemorative logo. Limited numbers are available so phone today, 737-3053.

Guidelines for Trip Coordinators

A copy of the publication "Guidelines for Trip Coordinators" is available by contacting the FMCBC. Thanks to BCMC for making it available to us.

Mountain Web Wizards?

Are you learning how to use the Internet? Have you found the FMCBC's web site at <http://mindlink.bc.ca/fmcbbc>. E-mail us at fmcbbc@sport.bc.ca.

I would like to thank our office manager Alana Prociuk for learning how to use HotMetal and David Mitchell for providing a lot of help getting the site working and training Alana.

Trail Information System Proposed

The FMCBC and the Outdoor Recreation Council have been talking about trail inventory systems for a long time. A prototype was even developed 10 years ago. I would like to see a trail information system be incorporated into our web site. A hike.bc discussion group could be used for trail condition reports. Is anyone out in "Cyber" BC interested in this project?

Action Alert e-mail List

Are you interested in being informed of important issues via e-mail? Send a note to Alana at fmcbbc@sport.bc.ca.

Volunteer Leaders Training Program

This fall the FMCBC is conducting an 18 Hour course in leadership skills. Designed specifically for volunteer leaders of club based trips, this program will address many of the issues trip organizers commonly face. Topics covered include pre-trip planning, participant assesment/screening, leaders liability, group management skills, leadership styles, and risk management.

Call FMCBC for dates and cost at 737-3053.

Annual Fundraising Casino

FMCBC's Annual Fund-Raising Casino will be held Friday August 16th at the New Royal Towers Hotel in New Westminster. Volunteers are needed to run the casino. Experience is not necessary as training is available.

If you are interested contact Alana at 737-3053.

NAHTLATCH RIVER ADVENTURE

By Jerry C. Lies

Passage over the water affects a person in a deep primordial ways. It soothes, relaxes, and excites all depending on how much water there is and how fast the water is feeding ducks in a pond. Many outdoor enthusiasts walk or sit along the banks of rivers as a way of recharging their inner batteries. The very same river may double as adrenaline rush for those of us that chance a canoe trip. I have rafted, canoed, and swam down enough rivers that it seems correct and natural to go downstream, with the flow of the current.

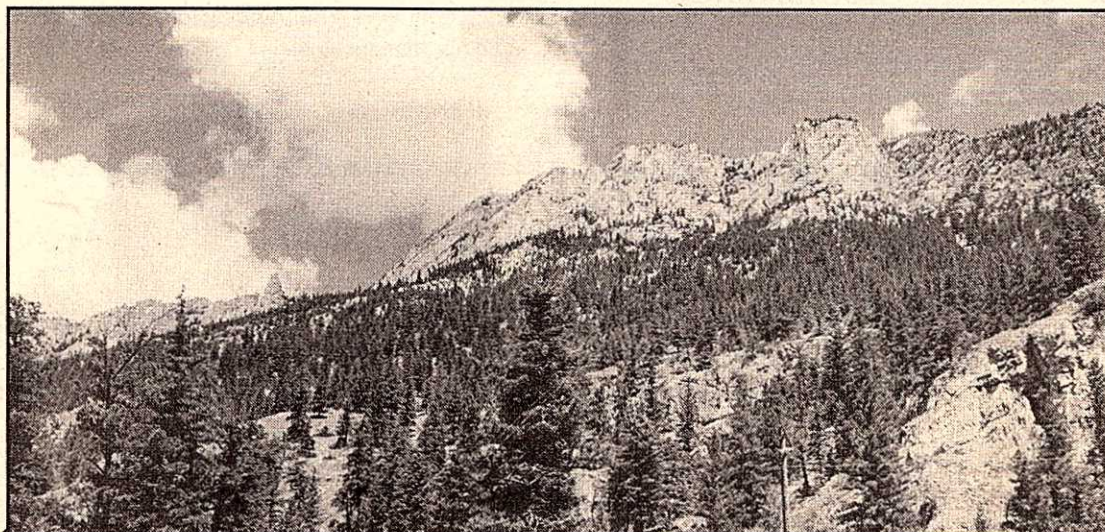
The other weekend I was boating on Nahatlatch lake near Boston Bar. My friend Luc took his boat about a mile up the large river at the west end of Nahatlatch lake. He maneuvered us upstream as in against the current. I cannot explain the odd feeling I got doing this. I mean going upstream, how terrible peculiar, how rudely unnatural, and how wonderfully easy with the twenty-five horsepower Mercury outboard. I spent days after the trip saturated in guilt for breaking the unwritten rule of the river, however I would not trade this experience for anything, not even for new hiking boots.

The water was cold, clear, and flowing deep and convertible wide to start. By cold I really mean frigid, bone chilling, body numbing...well, you get the idea. Keeping both eyes out for snags and low spots, we negotiated a route through the deepest of the water. The sometimes twisting, other times wandering path of a river is a magical thing to say the least. This river had tight turns and tall trees on each side of the river making it impossible to see around the next corner, which is a bad and dangerous situation if you are heading downstream. In our case it merely acted as a magnet drawing us yet further around the next bend. All the while the river got narrower and the current gradually stronger. Before long, the river banks began to show heavy erosion with many trees leaning in that telltale way. (I wonder if this picture I've painted has ringed an alarm bell for anyone?)

Well call me chicken, but right about then I started thinking about how we will turn around. It's fine going upstream when the motor balances out the force of current, subsequently slowing our relative motion to a cautious creep up current. Turn around and suddenly the current rules. At that realization a weird thing happens: my traitorous feelings do an about turn and I start to think that going downstream isn't so natural after all. I am imagining myself crouched over the bow, paddle in hand, trying desperately to steer this wide, flat bottomed, keeled, square backed aluminum tub. Panic sets in and I start to practice my swimming stroke, then cup a handful of water and splash it against the back of my neck, both to get ready to swim and to dull the panic.

The effect it has is to open my eyes very wide and to get me to start thinking about a safe turn around. I do not wish to swim. Not without a wet suit or at least my warmest fleece underwear. We found an outside curve, slow-water backwash to beach and easy turn around.

The voyage back was safely done, Luc deftly maneuvering the boat by periodic bursts of the outboard. This area has a unique beauty to it, with its three lakes all fed, connected and drained by different characters of rivers. Boston Bar is the gateway to this area where you then go north over the Fraser river to North Bend. Follow Nahatlatch River Forest Service Road thirty or so dirty kilometers. I guarantee an adventure.



Prince George AGM, photo by Pat Harrison

HUT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

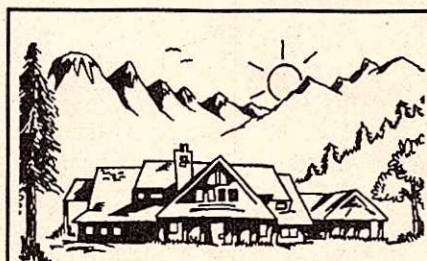
*By Brian E. Gawley, Industrial Workshop Coordinator,
Leslie R. Peterson Rehabilitation Centre*

The Varsity Club of UBC will be the proud recipient of a traditionally crafted timber frame back country shelter, care of the injured workers of British Columbia. The community spirited project was conceptualized and brought in to being by the Industrial Workshops, part of the WCB's Rehab clinic in Richmond. The shops construct and fabricate projects to challenge and motivate injured workers. Such work helps bridge the gap experienced by many injured workers as the progress from being "injured" workers to being "productive" workers in the community.

The shelter will house 20 happy destination skiers and hikers at a site yet to be confirmed. Blair Hamond, the club's past president, has had a number of his club members searching out possible sites. It will be constructed using traditional methods; hand-crafted beams and joinery assembled using wooden pegs drawn into position. A gable roof line intersecting the main roof line will allow natural light to access the loft area. It will be crafted over the next few months at the WCB facility and then carefully coded, disassembled, trucked to the chosen site's nearest road access, then finally helicoptered to its final destination. A crew of club members will erect the frame on site under the direction and supervision of a number of dedicated and skilled shop instructors.

The shelter will be built using donated materials. Special thanks go to Fred Gazeley of Canfor Mainland Logging Division and Jack Mathews of Howe Sound Pulp and Paper for donating approximately 35 cubic meters of raw logs to the project. The transportation costs will be handled by the club and other materials needed to complete the shelter will be requested from the community. Thanks to Kelly Janz of The CADD Consortium and Harbinson Development Engineering Services and Seal, who provided their architectural and engineering services respectively, for a nominal fee.

We see the project as a win all around. The injured workers are rehabilitated using their skills while developing new skills that benefit the community at large, the Varsity Outdoor Club gets a beautiful shelter at a reasonable cost, and I get the pleasure of meeting coordinating with some very community minded outdoors people. I look forward to the opening day of this shelter, somewhere in the back country of B.C.



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VOLUNTEER PROFILE

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But the story is also one of the Caledonia Ramblers and of mountaineering in Prince George, and it is appropriate to share it on the occasion of the first Northern AGM of the FMCBC.

Bob is the first to stress the roles that others have played: Blake Dickens, who with members of the Prince George Naturalists Club and help from Northwood Pulp and Timber and the Forest Service pioneered and built our first mountain trails. Brian Looker and Dave Elliott as the first presidents of the Caledonia Ramblers. Dorothea Meyer, Doreen Itkonen, Dave Balcaen, Bjorn Norheim, Lorne and Win Glassford, and many others. Above all, Bob acknowledges Dave King who succeeded him as President in 1979 and who provided outstanding leadership for the next 15 years as the club matured and developed its strong ties to the FMCBC.

Bob describes himself as a plodder, not a star. He has the ability to stick with something, not always in a timely fashion, but getting it done in the end. He has lots of staying power, and doesn't like to leave things undone. He attributes much of his success to the support of his wife, Lois. He says it has been enormously satisfying to have done these things, to have left his mark in the mountains of Prince George.

Where does he go from here? He would like to see the Observatory and the PGAS mature and grow into both a community and a teaching facility, doing more professional work in Astronomy. And, of course, with the Prince George Section of the Alpine Club still in its formative stages, he wants to see that become fully self-sustaining.

To end on a personal note, one of the finest days I have ever spent in the mountains was in June a few years ago, with Bob on Erg Mountain. We were alone, and the snow had left the alpine meadows four weeks earlier than usual. It is a place not particularly known for flowers. But on this occasion the meadows everywhere were carpeted with the best display I have ever seen; so alive and so fresh that we moved with exaggerated slowness to avoid treading on a single plant. As we climbed the ridge overlooking the spectacular Cariboo Range to the south and Mount Sir Alexander to the north, a usually shy hoary marmot allowed us to approach to within touching distance. The animal had sensed our oneness with the world that day and perceived no threat from us. Neither Bob nor I were in the slightest hurry, or wanted the day to end. Without the usual push to get up and back down again, we didn't summit until late afternoon, and it was 11 pm when we ate supper back in Prince George. Relishing a peak experience on my favorite trail, I mentally thanked Bob for having pioneered it.

ENVIRONMENT YOUTH TEAM (E-TEAM)

The B.C. Youth Employment Initiative - Jobs and Training is back for 1996/97. Funding is available for employers to hire youths 16-24 years of age who are not in attendance at an educational institute. Work crews consist of six-person teams working on environmental and outdoor recreation projects, including hiking trails. Projects must be a minimum of 15 weeks in duration and applications will be processed up to mid-November. Information sheets and application forms are available from Robin Boyd, Dept of Environment, Lands & Parks 1(604)387-2233 or Brenda Stewart, 1(604)356-7211 (both numbers may be accessed toll-free by phoning Enquiry B.C. 660-2421 or 1-800-663-7867 outside Greater Vancouver.

The FMCBC has had their application approved for the E-Team to upgrade the Howe Sound Crest trail.



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SUMMER TRIP TIPS

Limitations and Cautions

It is imperative that you notify your designated contact person if you change your route or destination; otherwise, rescue personnel will be misdirected! This will significantly compromise the effectiveness of using a trip plan.

It is important to remember that appropriate rescue personnel are only notified once you are overdue: should you become injured or incapacitated and require assistance part way into the trip, you will benefit from having alternative contingencies, such as:

- Being trained in wilderness first aid which may enable you to be self-sufficient with respect to patient care and evacuation.
- Having an emergency communication device (PLB, radio, etc.).

Some national and provincial parks require that you register with the park. The park may have its own registration form for you to use.

Be responsible!

Since you never know when the unexpected will happen, be disciplined with respect to using trip plans:

- Get into the habit of filing a trip plan for every outing you do.
- Stick to your original trip plan, or remember to notify the designated individual of any changes.
- Remember to notify the designated individual when you have returned!

Remember that the Provincial Emergency Program search and rescue personnel are dedicated volunteers who often raise the funds necessary to purchase their equipment. Consider donating either your time or money to help their endeavours.

**Safety is no accident,
be prepared!**

Copyright © 1996 - Anna Christensen,
International Wilderness First Aid

More FMCBC AGM



Thanks to Lesley Bohm and Pat Harrison for taking
photos at FMCBC AGM in Prince George.

*Search & Rescue**Continued from page 18*

The Safety & Education Committee would like to comment on the Plan on behalf of the Federation, so that I urge our Members to advise us of their opinions on the options for meeting SAR costs offered in the Plan. The SAR situation in B.C. is currently paralleled in Great Britain (particularly in Scotland, where compulsory insurance has been proposed), and the S&E Committee has been closely following the responses of the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) - the umbrella organization for British climbing and mountaineering clubs. Although SAR services are currently free in Great Britain (and SAR groups want it to stay that way), the BMC does offer low cost insurance programs to its members for other areas of the world. The following quotations are from the 1996 BMC Insurance Guide:

"The BMC recognizes that climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement." "The BMC stresses the need for personal responsibility and self reliance in all climbing and mountaineering activities and it is sensible to think what action you might need to take in the event of an emergency. Carrying first aid and emergency equipment is always good practice and some first aid training is sensible. In the UK, Mountain Rescue Teams, which are voluntary, should only be summoned in the event of an emergency."

These statements are as true for British Columbia as they are for Great Britain. Self reliance, responsibility and preparation are hallmarks of sound mountaineering practice, and SAR should be a last, not first resort. Before planning a trip, imagine the worst case scenario (not the best!). Are you, or your group, equipped with the skills and equipment to effect a safe return? If not, then modify your plans until you have acquired the necessary skills and equipment. If you wish to pursue the sport of mountaineering you have an obligation to conduct your activities in a responsible manner. Remember too, that a SAR team has little chance of finding you if they have no knowledge of where you are - leave your trip plans with a responsible person. Canada West Mountain School offers courses in all aspects of safe mountaineering practice, and wilderness first aid courses are offered by Wilderness First Aid International. Much can be learned from outdoor recreation books (some of which have been noted in previous S&E Columns), journals and magazines, and from regular skills practice. Suggested reading on SAR - *Wilderness Search and Rescue*, Setnicka, *Mountain Search and Rescue Techniques*, May, and *Accidents in North American Mountaineering*, (Annual), American Alpine Club. However, even the most well-planned trips by experienced mountaineers can go wrong, and we all need the best SAR system that we can afford in B.C. Perhaps a one half of one percent surcharge on outdoor gear is a modest price to pay. Please let us know your opinions.

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