
C L O U D B U R S T

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC Newsletter

September 1996

SPECIAL FEATURES:

-FMCBC 25th Anniversary

 Your new Board of Directors

-Your letters are needed see:

 Snowmobiles page 8

 Lower Mainland Protected Strategy page 10

-Volunteer Profile

 Cliff Parker

 Valley Outdoor Association

HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY



1971-1996

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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Safety and Education: Chris Mills

Volume 6 Number 4

Membership

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

Membership in the FMCBC is open to any individual or group interested in non-mechanized outdoor activities and conservation concerns. Those interested in joining this non-profit organization have two options:

Club membership: Please contact the office to receive a free list of clubs that belong to the FMCBC.

Individual Membership: Call the office at 737-3053 (Vancouver) with your VISA or MASTERCARD number or send \$25 with your name and address to: FMCBC #336 - 1367 W. Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9.

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FMCBC Meetings

For all meeting locations please contact FMCBC office at 737-3053.

Recreation and Conservation Committee:

October 7, November 4, December 2.

Safety and Education Committee:

Call FMCBC office for next meeting

Trails Committee:

October 28

Board of Directors:

October 16, November 20, December 18

Lower Mainland Delegates' Meeting:

November 21

Island Delegates' Meeting:

Contact office for information

FMCBC 25th ANNIVERSARY!

Introduction by Linda Coss, Executive Director of FMCBC

1996 marks the Twenty fifth Anniversary of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. Founded in 1971, FMCBC was based on a predecessor organization, the Mountain Access Committee. (*For a list of our founders see Then and Now page 6).

Today and for the past 25 years, much of the work of the FMCBC has been accomplished through its volunteer committees. The achievements of the Recreation and Conservation, Trails, Safety and Education and many other sub committees often goes unrecognized. This Anniversary edition of Cloudburst will highlight some of the history of the FMCBC through stories of the accomplishments of FMCBC's dedicated volunteer committee members.

The following three stories were researched and written by students in Langara's journalism program and Capilano College's communication program. Many thanks to Sally Smith (Adopt A Trail), Sonya Trampus (Chilko Lake) and Tate Lillies (Protecting our own Back Yards) for their talent and work in putting these stories together for Cloudburst. It was a delight to work with these budding young professional journalists.

ADOPT-A-TRAIL

By Sally Smith

High up Mt. Harich near Squamish, the sun glints through the tall trees on a warm day in May. A winding trail leads the way back down. The coolness of the shade is a relief after five hours of hiking. Here the beauty of the forest is a stark contrast to the grey desolation of the old clear cut we hiked through half an hour earlier.

Suddenly the silence is broken by the roaring of a motor. The smell of gasoline fills the mountain air. Two trees are suspended across the trail, one on top of the other. Halvor Lunden makes two precise cuts in the top one with his chain saw, gingerly pushing the broken trunk to the ground. Then he cuts through the second one, nimbly jumping away as it crashes down. Finally he tosses them both off the trail.

Lunden is doing his annual maintenance of the hiking trail. Watching Lunden makes it clear that with him using a chain saw there is no danger the rest of the tree could come crashing down. With Lunden's careful scrutiny this just never happens. "You're a surgeon with the chain saw," says his friend, Art Alexander.

Though B.C.ers take it for granted that they can hike on manicured trails among the mountains and forests of their

magnificent province, do they ever wonder who looks after the trails and how it's done?

Trails aren't maintained through our tax dollars; the back-breaking work is done by volunteers--long-time hikers who wish to put something back into the trails they have enjoyed for many years.



photo credit: Sally Smith

"I do it for fun," Lunden says, grinning. At 81, the retired electrical engineer takes care of 11 trails single-handedly. He has been an avid hiker here for decades, since he moved from Norway in 1951. Recently a trail by Buntzen Lake was named after him for his work creating and maintaining trails in the area.

In 1987 the idea of adopting trails came to a hiker named Neil Grainger, who was a member of the Chilliwack Outdoors Club at the time. Although BC Parks and BC Forest Service were building the trails, they didn't have the budget for on-going upkeep. Either dedicated people were doing it anonymously or it wasn't getting done at all.

Grainger wrote to newspapers and phoned a local radio station asking for support for his idea. He was overwhelmed by the response. The station gave him \$2,500 and advertised a meeting for interested parties.

Continued on page 22

TS'YL-OS PARK

By Sonya Trampus

Bursting upwards above neighboring mountains in the Chilcotin Range, Ts'yl-os, also known as Mount Tatlow, shows off its jagged, weather-beaten terrain descending into softer, alpine meadows. It makes up part of Ts'yl-os Park, a Class A Park in British Columbia. Located 160 km south west of Williams Lake in the Nemiah Valley, the park features the snow-cone blue hues of the glacier-cooled Chilko Lake.

Ts'yl-os faced a long and arduous road to becoming a provincial park. Along the way, however, the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) had a hand in protecting the important stretch of natural landscape in the Chilko Lake area.

Although the Chilko Lake area was not designated as a provincial park until January of 1994, proposals to protect this area surfaced in the early 1970s. A few years later decision-making was stalled by declaring the area a Deferred Planning Area and thus excluding it from the Provincial Forest. Through the 1980s the government conducted studies for mineral potential, finally deciding in 1990 to make it a high-priority study in the Parks Plan. So in 1991 a Chilko Lake Study Team formed to deal with the area. In all, the team included 37 people representing diverse groups such as miners, foresters, tourists, locals, guide outfitters, and First Nations people.

Jay MacArthur, current co-chairman of the Recreation and Conservation Committee of the FMCBC has been involved in the Chilko Lake area for several years. So when the Study Team formed, he was involved as a representative of the FMCBC and the Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C. During an intense two years, MacArthur said the team met once a month in Williams Lake. He describes the meetings as "a consensus based process" with everyone expressing their group's interests.

Though MacArthur says it worked out well in the end because the final consensus was to protect the area, he does admit there was some difficulty in coming up with the final boundaries. The study team made compromises, such as recommending 45,000 hectares in the east of the study area be used for forestry and mining.

MacArthur explains that people of the Nemiah Valley Native Band were concerned that the park would become overdeveloped and attract too many visitors. However, the study team recommended a Memorandum of Understanding that would guarantee the involvement of the Nemiah People in the establishment and the management of the park. Mike Harcourt, premier at the time of the designation of the park, cited it as an example of "how a community can come together and resolve a long-standing land-use conflict".

The unique features of the Chilko Lake area made it an obvious site worth saving, indicated MacArthur.

"I think it was a general consensus to start with that the area was special, and because it was such a special place it made it a lot easier to convince everyone that it should be protected," said MacArthur.

"Special" is putting it mildly. This 233,240 hectare park is the sixth largest in B.C. with its towering, icily-carved mountain ranges, lakes, freshwater lagoons, volcanic dyke formations, rivers and glaciers the park's views are overwhelming. You can make your way through six biogeoclimatic zones from Interior Douglas-fir and Coastal Western Hemlock, through to Alpine Tundra and Sub-Boreal Pin Spruce. Dry grasses, heathers, lichens and feathermosses dot the land.

B.C.'s third largest sockeye salmon run is found in Chilko River and Lake with an average near two million sockeye a year. Other wildlife finding refuge in Ts'yl-os Park are bald eagles, grizzly bears, and California bighorn sheep.

Visitors to the park can participate in a wide array of activities such as hiking, horseback riding, outdoor adventure trips, kayaking, windsurfing and fishing.

From the first proposals to the eventual serious study of a potential park area, the process would not have worked without the dedication of the people who saw the natural value of the land around Chilko Lake. According to MacArthur, it's these people who are the hope of the future.

"We need people who are willing to adopt areas that they want to get protected..." said MacArthur. "...Champions."

Note from Editor: Ts'yl-os Park is one of the many processes to protect parks that FMCBC has been involved with over the past 25 years. Want to know more? Visit our home page at <http://mindlink.bc.ca/fmcbc>. More recently FMCBC has been involved in the Lower Mainland Protected Area strategy. See article by Mike Feller on page 10.

FMCBC is looking for volunteers to sit on park planning processes for more information phone FMCBC at 737-3053.



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FMCBC - PROTECTING OUR OWN BACK YARDS

By Tate Lillies

The year was 1971, and a group of people had already brought together what would become the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. Now, twenty-five years later, the FMCBC is still alive and strong. Although many achievements have been realized through the Federation in its current form since 1971, I will not focus this short article on any of these. My curiosity about the FMCBC has lied in its changes, and this article will concentrate on the main goals of the Federation over the 25 years.

Since pretty much everybody in the province who has interests in outdoor activities has been affected wither directly or indirectly by the workings of the Federation, I thought it would be interesting to see what direction the FMCBC has taken since 1971. Has its mandate changed over time, or has it stayed the same? What do the people in the Federation view its role as today, and how is this different from the original members' visions of what the FMCBC was to become?

The year 1971 was not truly the beginning of the Federation, as its predeceasing committee, the Mountain Access Committee (MAC), had been around since the early 1960's. The FMCBC effectively took over where the MAC left off, only under the more formal attire of the Federation rather than an ad-hoc, local committee as the MAC had been.

The access to mountain trails, and the maintenance of these trails, as well as the coordination of outdoor training was the main concern of the early FMCBC. According to Martin Kafer, and original member, the Federation was born with the goal of giving a stronger voice to people concerned with access and outdoor recreational issues. In order for the provincial government to listen, it was necessary to set up a provincial organization as an "umbrella" to coordinate all mountain clubs in the province. Many voices together are a lot stronger than on regional voice, and as Don McLaurin, another original member, put it. The provincial government had money to put into an organized provincial Federation ...the switch therefore happened naturally through necessity.

Although twenty-five years have passed since the FMCBC became incorporated, it becomes apparent that the same issues remain important to the Federation, and that the same ethical standards are present. The more I read about the FMCBC, and the more I spoke to its former members, current members and staff, it became clear that a person's involvement in the Federation comes from their love of the outdoors. This love has brought with it emotion and an unfaltering quest for accessibility to our back country. We need a greater voice in a world of the might corporation; without it we might lose a lot of what we currently take for granted.

When beginning my examination of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. I hoped to uncover some interesting "dirt" from its past; perhaps throw in some political squabbles for good measure. I expected the history of the federation not only to show some dramatic change, but also for some of such change to be questionable. What I found though was a Federation that is working for a common goal. I'm not saying that there aren't, or haven't been any problems and/or disagreements, all I'm saying is that I have found the important issues; those of a love of the outdoors and the quest for effective management of this ever-more endangered "playground" we all enjoy so much, have been and still are the foundation of the Federation. After all, the important thing to remember is that we all love the trees and mountains of our "Beautiful British Columbia", and that by supporting the Federation we are supporting what we love.

Note from Editor: Tate Lillies undertook a major report on the FMCBC for his communication program at Capilano College. This article is a synthesis of his findings and impression of the FMCBC after interviewing several past and present directors.



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THEN AND NOW

THEN

On May 9th, 1971 at 8:00pm the Mountain Access Committee met at the Pacific Press Building. Present were F. Foster-Chair, M. Wells-Secretary, F. Bauman-VOC, BCMC, W. Taylor-VOC, R. Naylor-ACC, S. Macek-VOC, B. Moss-BCMC, R. Beaty-VOC, A. Carter-SFU.

At that meeting it was moved "that the constitution and by-laws being drafted should be for a society to be named 'Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.'".

NOW-MEET THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By Markus Kellerhals, Vice-president of FMCBC

The Board can best represent your interest if we know what your interest are. So please don't hesitate to contact any of the board members or the executive director with suggestions, ideas or constructive criticisms. To facilitate feedback to the Board here is a brief biography of the new Board of Directors.

This spring at the AGM in Prince George there were several new faces and a number of old stalwarts elected or re-elected to the Board. The board now has a total of 13 members:

Pat Harrison is the new President of the FMCBC. He has served on the board for three years, two of them as Vice President. Pat has been active representing the board on a number of fundraising and partnership type activities. Pat owns a blueberry farm in the Fraser Valley and is also a graduate student in the Department of Botany at UBC.

Andrea Agnoloni is a new addition to the board. He is an accountant by trade and has agreed to act as treasurer for the FMCBC. He is active in the North Van Rec Commission Outdoor Club and also the North Shore Search and Rescue.

Thom Ward is the Past President of the FMC. He is continuing as the Regional Director for Vancouver Island. Thom is a member of the Island Mountain Ramblers and works as a consultant as well as volunteering for several organizations.

Marilyn Noort has served on the board for one year, assisting in the production of Cloudburst. Marilyn is an active member of the ACC - Vancouver Section and is also on the executive of that club.

Leslie Bohm has been on the Board for four years. Leslie represents the FMC at meeting of the Outdoor Recreation Council. Leslie is also active with the Friends of Cypress. She is a member of the ACC - Vancouver Section and the North Shore Hikers.

Chris Rolfe has been on the Board for one year. He has agreed to act as Secretary in the upcoming year. Chris also looking into liability insurance for FMC members. Chris works as a lawyer for the West Coast Environmental Law Association.

Darlene Anderson has served on the Board for one year. She has been active with the Rec and Con Committee, particularly

with regard to skier/snowmobile conflicts. Darlene has a background in resource management and land use issues. Darlene is an active member of the BCMC and the ACC - Island Section.

Jim Craig is a long time member of the Board. He is a retired lawyer and a member of the BCMC.

Dave Mitchell has been on the Board for two years as the Regional Director from the Kootenays. Dave has also represented the FMC on the provincial committee on skier-snowmobile conflicts. Dave is a member of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club and works for the Workers Compensation Board.

Dave King has been on the board for one year as Regional Director for the Northeast Region. Dave is a member (as well as past president) of the Caledonia Ramblers. He works for the Ministry of Environment, Lands & Parks.

James Rutter is a new addition to the board. He worked for several years as Executive Director for the FMC. Currently he lives on Vancouver Island and works as a consultant specializing in outdoor recreation issues.

Chris Mills has been a director for two years. He is also a long time volunteer for the Safety and Education Committee and currently chairs that committee. Chris works as a mineral industry consultant.

Markus Kellerhals has been on the board for one year volunteering with the Rec and Con Committee and also as Lower Mainland Regional Director. Markus is an active member of the ACC - Vancouver Section as well as the Varsity Outdoor Club.

ALL the directors share a love of the outdoors and the desire to represent the interests of the mountaineering and hiking community in B.C. To do so effectively we need the feedback, ideas, enthusiasm and support of all our members.

PRESIDENTS' REPORT

By Pat Harrison

Thanks to all the wonderful people of the Caledonia Ramblers who made the 1996 AGM such a terrific success. Some 70 people participated in organizing this event which ran from 17 - 22 June. This event demonstrated the strength of the Federation of Mountain Clubs and what can be achieved through this organization.

As brought forward at the Special General Meeting in February 1995 and reemphasized at the AGM, access and conservation are the issues where the club members want the federation to put its time and energy. To this the current Board of Directors is committed.

It was clear at the AGM that the issue on the mind of club members was the arising conflict between recreational users, in particular, conflict between mechanized and non-mechanized users. I was also clear that club members want the Federation to play a leadership role in this issue rather than a passive role. By the end of the meeting, the members representing the clubs had determined an Action Plan to follow (see article in this issue) and what role the Federation was to play. This is as it should be. We on the Board of Directors want your views on issues and how to proceed with them. We also have a balancing act as there are diverse opinions on issues both with the clubs themselves as well as between clubs. We try our best to represent the consensus of club members.

Communication with clubs is to be made a priority this year. We hope to have an email address or fax number from at least one member of each club's executive in place by the end of

the year. Anyone wanting to add their email address or fax number to this list, please contact the Federation office. This listing will be disseminated as quickly as possible to each club. Since communication is a two way street, it is essential that we keep each other informed; from the Board to the clubs, the clubs to the Board, and club to club. Please feel free to send your trip schedules and local issues to the Federation office so that they can be incorporated in to Cloudburst.

Many thanks to Thom Ward for his service as President of FMCBC these past two years. He has a keen interest in the CORE process, Protected Areas Strategies, and the Forest Renewal program which has greatly enriched the Board of Directors meetings. Fortunately he is to continue on the board as the Vancouver Island delegate as well as Past President.

Jay MacArthur is leaving the board after years. As co-chair of the Rec and Con committee, he has kept us fully informed about Recreation and Conservation issues. We thank him for his time give to the Federation. He will continue to serve the Federation as co-chair of the Rec and Con Committee.

Many thanks to Linda Coss for organizing the specifics of the AGM business meeting. Many people mentioned to me that they felt this was the best run business meeting ever. The effect of this was that it allowed time to have full discussion on critical issues.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming year and trying to serve you as best as I can.



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SNOWMOBILES - BANE OF WINTER WILDERNESS

By Markus Kellerhals, Vice-president of FMCBC

You are skiing up a logging road and a succession of noisy machines roars by you leaving the smell of two stroke exhaust hanging in the winter air, or perhaps solitude on your favourite remote icefield is now shattered by the sound and sight of snowmobiles zooming around, or maybe your favourite run through subalpine glades is often a frozen nightmare of snowmobile tracks. All of these scenarios are becoming more frequent in the mountains and backcountry of BC.

Both snowmobiling and backcountry skiing have undergone explosive growth in the last decade. The numbers of people participating in both sports has increased tenfold or more. At the same time forest roads have been pushed closer to the alpine in many places allowing snowmobile access to many more areas. Snowmobile manufacturers are designing ever more powerful machines, capable of accessing more difficult and distant locations.

As a result of the above factors, snowmobile use is increasingly conflicting with skier use and enjoyment of the backcountry. Most backcountry skiers have little desire to ski within sight or sound of snowmobilers and even the sight of tracks reduces the wilderness experience for many people. Unfortunately it takes surprisingly few snowmobiles to "track up" an area or to fill a valley with noise. If one regards wilderness as a commodity, it is fair to say that one snowmobiler "consumes" far more wilderness than one backcountry skier.

As snowmobilers have accessed more and more remote areas, skiers have been displaced from their traditional "turf" and have had to seek out other areas not yet spoiled by snowmobiles. One example of the displacement of skiers has occurred in the valley of Brandywine Creek near Whistler. This valley was once one of the most popular ski destinations for Lower Mainland mountain clubs. The valley provides easy access for day or multi-day trips to ski terrain of all degrees of difficulty, several mountain peaks and the Varsity Outdoor Club's Brew Mountain Hut. Skier use in this valley always co-existed with a certain amount of snowmobile traffic. However in 1992 a commercial snowmobile operation began guiding large numbers of people in this valley. The area is now so overrun by snowmobiles, particularly along the logging roads that skiing there has become unpleasant if not downright dangerous. As a result skier visits have declined dramatically in the last few years.

Unfortunately, in many parts of the province, skiers are running out of snowmobile-free areas to retreat to. In the Squamish-Whistler-Pemberton corridor, for instance, there are few areas, except in Garibaldi Park, that a ski tourer can visit without expecting to see or hear snowmobilers. Even in Garibaldi Park, where snowmobiling is prohibited, snowmobilers are sometimes encountered. In fact, the BC Snowmobiling Federation is lobbying Parks to allow snowmobiling in the Garibaldi Park, so Lower Mainland ski tourers are at risk of losing one of their last snowmobile-free retreats.

The Forest Service, the agency that manages most Crown Land in BC, has the authority (under Section 105 of the Forest Practices Code) to prohibit specific uses (such as snowmobiling) in designated areas. However, to date, the Forest Service seems to have interpreted its "multiple-use" doctrine to mean "all uses, everywhere" and has been reluctant to regulate various forms of backcountry recreation.

Recently, the government has shown signs of recognizing that all is not well in the backcountry. In May 1995 BC Lands formed the Provincial Backcountry Skiing - Snowmobiling Committee (PBSSC) to examine the issue of skier-snowmobile conflicts. Much of the impetus to form the committee stemmed from complaints of commercial backcountry ski operators who were increasingly losing their traditional terrain to snowmobiles. The committee consisted of representatives from FMCBC, BC Snowmobile Federation, BC Heli- and Snow-cat Skiing Operators Association, and Backcountry Hut and Lodge Operators Association as well as representatives from the relevant government agencies; Forest Service, BC Lands, BC Parks, and the Ministry of Small Business and Tourism. Dave Mitchell from the Kootenay Mountaineering Club represented the FMCBC on this committee.

The report produced by the committee is potentially important to backcountry skiers. First of all, it is a recognition by government that a problem does exist. The committee, while subscribing to the principle that "much of the backcountry" should be open to all users, accepted the principle that snowmobiles and other motorized users do not belong in some areas. The committee also detailed various legislative means by which backcountry access can be controlled. These include the Forest Practices Code (Section 105), the Wildlife Act (Section 111), and the Land Act (Section 61). The report also recommends solving conflicts on a local cooperative basis involving government agencies, skiers and snowmobilers. In some sense then, we are back to having to lobby Forest Service District Offices with our concerns. However, now we at least have an official piece of paper legitimizing our concerns.

In some parts of the province these local committees have already been formed and have designated snowmobile-free areas. In most cases this has happened because of strong lobbying by commercial backcountry outfits. It may be that government agencies

are more likely to take seriously complaints from commercial operators, or it may be that non-commercial backcountry users have not yet complained loud enough, consistently enough and in great enough numbers to be taken seriously by land managers.

At the last AGM this issue of skier/snowmobile conflicts was given highest priority by club delegates and the general membership. On a provincial level the Federation (in co-operation with other like-minded groups such as conservation and naturalist groups) must lobby senior bureaucrats on this issue. At the district level the Federation and local clubs should lobby the Forest Service and BC Lands to establish local committees to deal with skier/snowmobile conflicts. Also when park master plans come up for discussion we must make sure our views are included. Yet another place where we can make our views felt is at land planning processes such as LRMPs and LRUPs.

At the member club and individual member level we must try to raise the profile of this issue by making it known to the Forest Service, BC Lands and Parks. If we don't agitate on this issue it will never rise above the bureaucratic horizon and nothing will be done about it. When you write please send the FMCBC a copy of your letter. Some points to include in your letter: your club's history of use of that area, present use of the area, the nature of the conflict, a comment or two on eroding wilderness values, and most importantly of all, suggested solutions to the problem. A suggested solution could include setting up a local skier/snowmobile committee, zoning a specific area for no snowmobile use, dividing an area between skiers and snowmobilers on a seasonal basis or some other idea. Send your letters to the local Forest Service District Manager, Forest Service Recreation Officer, IAMC (Interagency Management Committee) and to your MLA.

As well as copies of your letters the Federation would like to hear your comments on this issue. Please call, fax, write or e-mail us with your views or suggestions.

IT IS NOT UNREASONABLE TO DEMAND SOME QUIET WINTER WILDERNESS IN "SUPERNATURAL BC"!!

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LOWER MAINLAND PROTECTED AREA STRATEGY

By Mike Feller, ACC-Vancouver Section and B.C. Mountaineering Club

On the 14th of August, the report of the Lower Mainland Region Public Advisory Committee (RPAC) on proposal protected areas was delivered to the B.C. government. The content of the report can be summarized as follows:

1) A total of 24 new areas are recommended for protection. Of these, 12 are relatively small (approx. 1000 ha or less), and include Mt. Richardson (1070 ha) and Brackendale (550 ha). The remaining 12 areas are Bishop River (20,000 ha), Callaghan (2600 ha), Caren Range (2800 ha), Chilliwack - Greendrop (9500 ha), Clendenning (30,500 ha), Confederation Lake (2600 ha), Liumchen (2100 ha), Mehall (24,300 ha), Nahatlatch Lakes (1900 ha), Sockeye Creek (6100 ha), Tantalus (10,200 ha), and Upper Lillooet (19,800 ha).

The total area recommended for protection is 138,000 ha which if protected, would result in a total area protected of just under 14% for the Lower Mainland. This exceeded the governments' edict of 13%, but lumber industry representatives were willing to accept a slightly higher percentage since this would decrease the amount of land to be protected to the north in the mid-coast region.

If protected, these areas would represent significant gains for the FMCBC in the Chilliwack and Sechelt forest districts. However, the gains are notably less in the Squamish Forestry District where not one single established trail or cabin outside would be protected, the Randy Stoltmann wilderness area would be cut up with only bits of it protected and the recreationally and ecologically most important parts of the Tantalus area - Sigurd Creek and the lower slopes above the Squamish would not be protected. The BCMC would lose their Sigurd and North Creek trails, logging would occur to within a few hundred meters of their North Creek cabin, no protection at all would be given to the Pemberton Icecap and Lizzie Lake areas, and the highest use parks of the Randy Stoltmann Wilderness - North, Boulder, and Salal Creek valleys would all be logged. In the entire upper Lillooet drainage, snowmobiles can be avoided in only three valleys Miller, North, and Salal Creeks. Roving in North and Salal Creeks would let snowmobiles into these destroying wilderness ski touring values. The upper Elaho and Meager Creek would be logged allowing snowmobiles to access that portion of the Randy Stoltman Wilderness. A recommendation in the RPAC report that no special resource management zone be allowed immediately adjacent to the proposed Clendenning area would appear to prevent this area from being zoned for non-motorized recreation only, further encouraging snowmobiles into the Randy Stoltmann Wilderness.

2) The total area recommended for protection in the Squamish district is much less than that of Garibaldi park and is mostly high elevation or unavailable (for logging) forest. A social economic increase in protected areas would cause only a 2.4% decrease in the regions annual allowable cut (AAC). The Squamish district (Soo Timber Supply Area) has recently had 2 cuts in its AAC. As of January, 1996, when the Soo AAC was reduced, the amount of wood being cut was much greater than that required following 1992 reduction. These reductions amount to in excess of 20 - 25% and are due primarily to overcutting. Designation of new protected areas would provide a convenient explanation for large cuts in the AAC which skill have to happen.

3) The RPAC report commits those organizations that signed the report to not seek any further additions or alterations to the areas. These organizations agree that the proposed protected areas complete the Protected Areas Strategy within the Lower Mainland. In view of the valuable areas not proposed for protection in the Squamish district, it would have been difficult for the FMCBC to have signed the report. Fortunately, as observers, we did not have to sign.

4) The RPAC report also calls for local land and resource management plan (LRMP) processes to be conducted in each of the 3 forest districts, beginning with the Squamish and Chilliwack districts. These LRMP's will consider zoning within the region and will develop broad management plans for the areas, but will not be able to consider the creation of additional protected areas.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

-write a letter quickly, emphasizing the following:

1) There is not scientific justification or social justification for setting aside only 12-14% of the region. The ecological and recreational values of the most populated part of the province and the intensity of use require a much higher percentage of land be protected.

2) The RPAC recommendations represent only first step in the right direction. All the areas recommend for protection should be protected.

3) There is a major problem in the Squamish forest district where wilderness recreation values have not been adequately considered. No protection has been given to any long-used hiking trail or cabin outside provincial parks. In particular Sigurd Creek and North Creek valleys should be protected, as should be Salal and Boulder Creek valleys and the upper Elaho. This would then protect the

Randy Stoltman Wilderness in its entirety and would more properly protect the Tantalus area.

4) The LRMP's must be established quickly and must be allowed to consider additional protected areas, as well as zoning for non motorized recreation use only in areas immediately adjacent to any protected areas.

Letter should be sent to:

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PUBLIC EDUCATION ABOUT WILDERNESS PROTECTION: A NEW PROJECT OF THE FMCBC.

By Brian Wood

Your Fed is embarking on a new project and is looking for help from many sources. The project relates to education about the urgent need to protect B.C.'s vulnerable and rapidly disappearing wilderness. The project is directed both at youth and at the general public. Some schoolboards and teachers are already committed to helping, and the Fed will need help from member clubs and individuals.

The main educator is John Clarke, the well known mountaineer and explorer who was recently featured in the award-winning video documentary from the Banff International Film Festival, *Child of the Wind*. As many of you know, John is an honorary member of the BCMC, and in the last 14 months has worked full-time (without pay) presenting over 50 slide shows (attended by over 3000 people in total), and guiding weekend hikes into the old forests of the proposed Stoltman Wilderness (attended by over 700 people). John's slide shows and walks have been very successful in educating the public, who have responded by writing letters to the government, and requesting more shows and walks.

So far, so good, but here's the crunch. This project costs money as well as time, and our Fed is collecting charitable donations to support this cause. The Fed will issue a tax-deductible receipt for any donation over \$10 specifically donated for this worthwhile cause. The Fed is also applying for funding from various organizations to assist in this cause. If one of these organizations accepts the application, it will match dollar-for-dollar an agreed amount of donations from other sources. What a deal!

Some of you may feel there is no need to worry about protecting wilderness anymore because of the Protected Area Strategy (PAS) and the Forest Practices Code (FPC). The latest on the PAS is that the government must first review the recommendations of the Public Advisory Committee to see how these affect jobs, and will also call for public input. So do not hold your breath on that one! Bear in mind that the most vulnerable forest, the low elevation old growth, represents a very small fraction of the area of proposed new parks in the lower mainland. Some critics feel that the FPC will result in an increase in the rate of loss of wilderness because smaller clear-cuts will result in more roads up more valleys to maintain the present annual allowable cut (AAC)

Protecting the remaining pockets of wilderness is up to us, and we cannot rely on any legislation to do it for us. The industrial sector is getting more aggressive in its persuasive campaign directed at the public. The recreation and conservation sector will have a tough battle to win public support against a well-funded partnership of forest companies and trade unions, even though several recent studies show that the public wants more parks.

So, for those of you who do not have the money for donations, contact the Fed to see how you can help John by donating your time. Those who have large income tax payments (and no time to help) can clear their consciences with a cash donation, and also reduce their income tax. What a deal!

Please send your cheque to the Fed, made payable to "The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia", and identified as "Wilderness in Need". Your donation will be appreciated.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE OF:
CLIFF PARKER, FOUNDER OF VALLEY OUTDOOR ASSOCIATION

By Carol Monaghan, Valley Outdoor Association

Cliff Parker has a "get it done" attitude with everything he tackles, and B.C.'s outdoor community has been the winner. He's had a lifelong interest in the outdoors, and along the way he's provided that unique spark to get others involved.

In 1973, Cliff founded the Valley Outdoor Association. At the time, he considered it a small pebble to pitch into the pond of outdoor recreation, but twenty three years later, the ripples still widen. The V.O.A. continues to grow and its 300 members carry on his vision. Cliff prefers to deflect any acknowledgment of his contributions. He maintains he isn't as active as he used to be, but his 84-year-old continues to promote outdoor activities ...now he does it on the senior level.

His early years in the beautiful Q'Appelle Valley in Saskatchewan were the beginning of his love of sports and the outdoors. Living in the small community of Tantallon provided many opportunities for recreation. He enjoyed skating, skiing, and tennis, and it was here he developed his love of curling. He grins when he speaks of curling "from the time he could move a rock".

After a stint in the R.C.A.F. and a brief return to Saskatchewan, Cliff moved to B.C. in the early fifties. He found B.C.'s rivers and mountains the perfect place for outdoor adventures. He made another good move at this time when he married Doris Masters, his former skating partner from Saskatchewan. Doris brought her own adventurous spirit to the partnership. During her teaching days in Vancouver in the mid-forties, she and a friend traveled by boat to Prince Rupert, and returned to Vancouver on their bicycles, a trip which still inspires admiration.

Throughout the years, Doris has played an important part in their partnership, working alongside Cliff to promote outdoor recreation. She provides an important clue to his achievements: "he's a good sport ... but he doesn't like to lose." Cliff is a determined man, whether he's climbing a mountain or making a point. Cliff became an avid canoeist, covering most of the accessible flat water routes. He wasn't interested in white water canoeing and began looking for another challenge. He found it on the mountain trails. He joined the North Shore Hikers in the late sixties, a membership he continued for many years.

He always enjoyed the opportunities these hikes provide, but "the novelty of starting many outings from Park Royal and regularly going still further away began to wear off". As he drove each week from his Delta home to the North Shore, he became determined to form a club to serve those living south of Fraser River.

He made several attempts to have the local newspapers plug his idea, but much to his disgust, they showed no interest. In the spring of 1973, Cliff found the opening he needed when he joined a backpacking program offered by Surrey Parks and Recreation. The participants were enthusiastic about Cliff's idea of local outdoor club, and he accepted the challenge to organize it. He'd been thinking about this for a long time and knew he wanted a club that would offer a variety of outdoor activities. This was a concept new at the time in the Lower Mainland. Cliff is proud that the V.O.A. has continued the successful program of hiking, biking, canoeing, cross country skiing, and natural history trips.

During the first season of activities, the Club had 45 members, several of whom are still active in the V.O.A. Cliff headed the executive, and Doris became secretary and whatever else was required to assist in running an efficient organization. Membership in the V.O.A. grew steadily as its members explored areas near and far on foot, ski, snowshoe, canoe, and



Photo credit: Carol Monaghan

bicycle. Cliff started off the hiking program with a series of hikes covering the Centennial Trail from S.F.U. to Manning Park.

Members enjoyed all the activities, but they learned under Cliff's leadership that there were responsibilities to accept as well as the fun. Cliff was an active proponent of trail building and maintenance, and encouraged members to participate. The first trail clearing began at Pierce Lake and Post Creek, and throughout the years Cliff continued to be an enthusiastic participant in trail work.

Cliff has always been interested in trail development, and he worked on trails in the Maple Ridge, Buntzen Lake and the Chilliwack Valley regions. But there is never any hesitation when Cliff is asked about his favorite places to hike. Mt. St. Benedict and Salisbury Lake areas top the list. He made many exploratory trips before creating a circular trail around the mountain.

He began his long association with the Federation of Mountain Clubs in 1973 when he became V.O.A.'s first representative on the Recreation & Conservation Committee, a position he held for many years.

Cliff considers it a privilege to hike or ski to a mountain top, or

to paddle or cycle to a quiet destination. He recognizes that privileges carry responsibilities, and he's been a keen worker in his efforts to maintain and conserve recreational and wilderness areas. He's a tireless letter writer and activist on behalf of the environment.

Eleven years ago, Cliff decided it was time to drop another pebble into the pond, and introduced a hiking program at the Sunrise Pavilion Seniors' Centre in Whalley, and he still hikes with this group. Cliff has retired from the curling scene, but he still believes in keeping active in his senior years, and he sets a high standard. On his 80th birthday a contingent of the V.O.A. accompanied him on an overnight trip to the 7,000 ft. level of the mighty Mt. Outram. When he had a hip replacement two years ago, Cliff was back on the trail within six months. He now jokes about establishing a slow-poke contingent in the Club.

Cliff and Doris are held in great esteem by the V.O.A. members, as witnessed by a standing ovation at a recent meeting. The Club has held true and steady to the direction set by Cliff.

Cliff downplays his contributions, but many lives have been enriched by his advocacy of outdoor recreation. He has indeed shared his love of the outdoors with many people. Thanks, Cliff, for pitching those pebbles.

NORTHERN PERSPECTIVE

A BOOK REVIEW

by Mike Nash, Calidonia Ramblers

Two of the best outdoor adventure books I have read in a long time are: "North to the Arctic" by Don Starkell, and "Kabloona in the Yellow Kayak" by Victoria Jason. While neither of these books relates directly to the mountains, they do have a northern theme and touch on many of the wilderness and people issues encountered on long trips in the BC backcountry. Don Starkell first gained fame with his book "Paddle to the Amazon", and followed this in 1991 with an unsuccessful solo attempt to sea kayak from Churchill to Tuktoyaktuk through the Northwest Passage. He only made a short distance along the treacherous Hudson's Bay coast before capsizing and enduring a frightening survival experience.

Victoria Jason, a Winnipeg grandmother, heard about Don's exploits and persuaded him to try again in 1992, taking her with him. They travelled in the north for two seasons: Victoria reached Gjoa Haven in 1993, and Don proceeded on alone almost to Tuk where he suffered an even more severe survival episode late in the season. He was eventually rescued by helicopter and lost most of his fingers and toes to frostbite. In 1994 and 1995, Victoria returned and completed the entire length of the MacKenzie River and the remainder of the Northwest Passage alone. The books are stark in their contrast, yet at the same time complementary. Don broadly hints that all was not well during their shared journey, but leaves Victoria to lay it all out in exquisite detail. They are best read in sequence, Don's followed by Victoria's.

Don comes across as a man at war with the land and himself, driven relentlessly towards his objective and pushing forward at all cost. His achievements and will to survive and succeed are a remarkable testament to the human spirit. And yet his outcome is predictable, ending as he began in an extreme survival situation. At one point in her book, Victoria quotes a conversation they had while approaching Gjoa Haven: "Don't you enjoy any of this trip?" I asked. "No," he said, "the only part I enjoy is when I am safe in my sleeping bag".

In contrast, Victoria appears to be at peace with the land; unafraid of the daily journey, and caught by the magic of its many different moods. Always lost in the moment, she makes the Arctic come alive like no other book I have read, both through her own eyes and those of its people. They each had great pressures to bear during the common part of their journeys: Don, the daily stress of leadership and his fight with the elements; and Victoria, the tensions of their partnership.

The contrast between these two people and their impressive achievements seems to epitomize the traditional "male/female" approach to life and adventure, and the difference between focussing on the journey rather than the destination. There were moments of both comfortable and uncomfortable familiarity for me in these books; a great opportunity for the reader to reflect before the next wilderness trip in the mountains!

VANCOUVER ISLAND PERSPECTIVES

THE NEW INTRUDERS

By Chris Barner, Heathen Club

There are some magical places on Vancouver Island. Amongst them are some of the Island Range's alpine ridges, where turquoise tarns nestle between multi coloured rock buttresses, and gnarled juniper and cypress endure winters of excessive snowfall. The water is as clear as a simple idea. We need only lie prone beside a brook like the animal we are to suck the revitalizing liquid right off the ground. For years this transparent nectar and the ground over which it flowed was known to a mere few, and we rambled the alpine ridges without concern that excessive impact was imminent.

In the very centre of this wilderness wonderland is a peak called Mt. Moyeha, a granite beauty marbled with snowfields and glacier. It is protected by a moat of low elevation and fierce vegetation, and though I'd slept at Moyeha's feet I'd never climbed her. To the east Mt. Thelwood - Moyeha's sister peak - presents an array of dazzling rock steps much more compelling than Moyeha's gentle, snowclad northern aspect, and it was to these that my companions always seemed to want to wander. In over twenty years it just never came to pass that I was able to make my way to Moyeha's summit.

My climbing partner and I planned a trip to the Bugaboos this August. An ambitious itinerary demanded that we be in good condition for the outing. It seemed a trip to Moyeha with its Bugaboo-like rock, a two and a half day approach over on of those beautiful but rugged alpine ridges, and the extra arm and shoulder workout associated with swatting several hundred thousand mosquitoes would be the ideal training opportunity. Four of us left in the waning day of July, experienced Island bushwhackers all, for the distant peak.

It had been five years since I last went this way, and as I sweated through a sultry approach I wondered at the change. Well worn footpaths where there were none before, and unnecessary cairns, littered the ridges. I cursed the thoughtlessness of the "new intruders" as I volleyed the cairns, one by one, off the rock they occupied.

I have never experienced such a hot approach. We could move in the morning and evening, but the afternoons were for swimming in ice-cold tarns and lying about where the tarp we brought cast its welcome shadow. Progress was difficult. At the end of almost two full days we camped where it was still a long, hard, hot day return to Mt. Moyeha.

An early start was the best we could do to beat the heat on summit day. Lots of up and down... and one huge down through ugly bush - slippery boulders and box canyons, slide alder, bugs, poisonous plants, bushels of needles down your shirt and under your pack straps, bears... the full catastrophe.

A litre of water every twenty minutes was woefully inadequate. Headaches. Just a few short miles from the earth's largest ocean, on Moyeha's 5800' summit, it was 42c... and there would be no relief from the heat as we retraced our steps across the upper Thelwood Valley that afternoon.

By the time we had regained the more user-friendly Thelwood ridge it was after 4:00, and we were all wasted. We found some shade beside a creek and lay there for an hour and a half, drinking frequently and mustering energy for the long ridge-walk back to camp. It was still brutally hot at six but we had to push on, so we peeled ourselves off the rocks and staggered into the sun.

I did some things during those next couple of hours that have been bothering me ever since. There were places where I could have walked on the resilient snow instead of a more direct, cooler line over more sensitive terrain. Times when I could have detoured around other sensitive areas on rock. But I didn't. I didn't because I was too hot and too tired. It would finish as a fourteen hour day covering ten miles return, with a total elevation gain/loss of 3200m, much of it through dense bush or on scorching snowfields, all in thirty to 40c heat. But I was disappointed in myself because I had given into my fatigue and my desire to climb Mt. Moyeha enough to compromise my environmental ethic.

I shouldn't have gone there unless I was willing to do everything possible to ensure that my impact was at an absolute minimum.

Later in August, Paul and I spent three days and two nights on the Grand Wall at Squamish in an effort to streamline our big wall camping methods. Amongst the 200 lbs of food, water and equipment we dragged up the wall between us was a 30" tube of 5" PVC pipe rigged as a vertical outhouse, completed with plastic garbage bag/splash guard, and threaded clean out end. It is not easy defecating into a 5" pipe while hanging off a cliff. It is also not easy to carry your half of a 180lb load of food, equipment and waste off the chief by headlamp. Our PVC "toxic waste" container is a useful way of disposing of excrement on a big wall, as well as a handy place for the goup from our smoked oyster tins. Stumbling down the trail with the haulbag in the dark, the toxic waste hanging against my shoulder with every second step, my regrets from our trip to Moyeha served as a fine motivator. I refuse to become a 'new intruder'.

Don't just believe your environmental ethics, practice them... religiously. Newcomers to the mountains will follow your example as well as your footsteps. Do anything you can to ensure that your example is a good one.

Canada West Mountain School

By Brian Jones, Manager Canada West Mountain School

Minimum environmental impact. A term that we are all familiar with, and one that most likely we all agree with. Phrases such as "pack it in - pack it out" and, "leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but pictures" are well ingrained in the vocabularies of most backcountry travelers. Clubs, individuals, adventure tour groups and commercial operators are increasingly reminded of the impact that hikers, climbers and ski tourers have on our environment. Anyone that has frequented BC's common backcountry destinations over the years can attest to the degradation of heather meadows from tent pads and braided trails; contaminated water sources; depleted dead wood from unnecessary fires; and trash scattered throughout the mountains.

This past summer a number of observations were made that caused concern amongst club members and instructors for CWMS. Key among these was the concern over quality of water. We in BC have for many years assumed that alpine drinking water is clean. To keep our water sources this way requires that all users adhere to a few basic "rules" regarding waste disposal in the backcountry. Quite simply, whatever we put into the water, or allow to get put into it, we eventually end up drinking!

What observations have raised our concern? Human waste scattered around Kieths Hut in Cerise Creek within meters of two proper pit outhouses. The tarn at Kieths hut is already known to be contaminated with Giardia. This spring, thaw uncovered winter latrines from numerous large groups near Rohr Lake and Marriot Basin, one of which was directly over a creek! Ski touring groups located latrines within a few meters of a number of lake shores in the alpine. A short hike around Cerise Creek, Lizzie Creek and Joffre Lakes all yield a disgusting

amount of unburied human feces and toilet paper, much of it close to water sources.

Here are some guidelines to help keep our water from getting contaminated.

- * Where possible, no feces (including dogs'!) should be left near water sources.
- * If a fly in camp is established, a toilet should be flown in and out.
- * On glaciers, all feces should be packed out if feasible, or deposited in a crevasse.
- * All toilets should be located at least 30 meters from water sources.
- * Every attempt should be made to bury waste in the top 10 - 15 cms of soil.
- * Burn or pack out toilet paper.
- * During winter trips, locate toilets in tree thickets well away from low lying areas to ensure that waste ends up in vegetated areas away from water sources. If the snow is shallow, dig to the ground as you would in the summer.

During trips, leaders should encourage use of trailhead toilets prior to hiking into the alpine, and educate trip participants about proper waste disposal once in the backcountry. Education of all backcountry users, and strict adherence to these few basic guidelines will go a long way towards ensuring healthy drinking water in the future. This winter, remember that everything you leave buried in the mountains will come back to haunt us next summer!

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STIKINE RIVER UPDATE

By Markus Kellerhals, Vice-president of FMCBC

The Cassiar Forest District is a huge chunk of land in northwestern BC that includes all the Coast Mountains from Stewart northward along the Alaska Panhandle (known as the Boundary Ranges), as well as a great deal of mountain and plateau country east of the Coast Mountains. In this region is one area particularly near and dear to the hearts of many mountaineers and other backcountry enthusiasts - the Stikine.

In November 1995, the Chief Forester of BC announced an increase in the Annual Allowable Cut for the Cassiar Forest District that nearly quadruples the planned harvest in this region, with much of the proposed increase projected to come from the Stikine-Iskut region. In response to strong concerns expressed by the public, particularly people living in the area, many of whom depend on wilderness related activities for their livelihood, the government recently announced there would be an LRMP (Land and Resource Management Plan) process to decide land use issues in the Stikine-Iskut region.

For those not familiar with the Stikine, the region takes its name from the Stikine River, which rises in the highlands of the Spatsizi Plateau, runs nearly 100 km through its own "Grand Canyon", then cuts through the Coast Mountains to reach the sea near Wrangell, Alaska. The Stikine is the fifth largest river in B.C. The Stikine watershed is the largest watershed in BC that is still largely undeveloped. Only a few roads pierce the area, and there is only one community, Telegraph Creek, along the entire length of the Stikine River.

The Stikine has just about everything: challenging mountain peaks like the Devil's Thumb and Kates Needle, huge icefields ideal for skiing, sinuous glaciers descending almost to sea level, remote alpine lakes, waterfalls, death-defying whitewater canyons, and placid tributary streams. Because the river cuts from coast to interior and spans many different climatic zones there is a huge diversity of environments ranging from coastal rainforest to alpine tundra to pine-aspen forest and steppe-grasslands in the rainshadow of the mountains. After having visited a great deal of BC for both work and recreation, my personal opinion is that the Stikine area is not only the most beautiful in BC, it also offers some of the greatest wilderness recreation opportunities of any area in the province. Whether you enjoy climbing, hiking, paddling or skiing, the Stikine area has something to offer.

Unfortunately a recent PAS (Protected Areas Strategy) report by the Prince Rupert RPAT (Regional Protected Areas Team) removed PAS Study Area status from all of the areas around the Stikine River. Indeed there are now no significant proposed protected areas in the entire Boundary Ranges Ecoregion and adjacent Tahltan Highlands ecoregion (taken together, roughly a three million hectare region). Two significant chunks of the Stikine watershed are already protected in Spatsizi and Mount Edziza Provincial Parks, however these

parks protect a more interior and generally higher elevation environment than the coastal and transitional environments along the Lower Stikine.

The PAS report recognizes the "high to very high" recreational, scenic and conservation values along the Lower Stikine but nonetheless recommends removal of all the "Study Area" status, citing "mineral access concerns". While it is reasonable to avoid conflicts between protected areas and areas of known high mineral potential, it is NOT reasonable to deny protected area status to a region as important as the Lower Stikine based on hypothetical access requirements of as-yet-unproven mineral deposits. I propose that outdoor recreationalists in general, and the mountain clubs in particular, should lobby for the preservation of land along the Lower Stikine valley and in the adjacent valleys of the Chutine and Whiting Rivers. These three areas very well represent the recreational, biological and scenic diversity of the area.

Designating the Stikine as a Canadian Heritage River would be a significant step towards protecting the incredible recreational, biological, and historical values of this area. Indeed when the Canadian Heritage River System was first proposed the Stikine was regarded as the prototype river for the system. Now that BC has finally joined the CHRS we should lobby for immediate designation of the Stikine. "Friends of the Stikine", a grassroots environmental organization concerned with the Stikine River regard designation of the Stikine as a Canadian Heritage River to be their most immediate priority.

Many British Columbians might imagine that this remote corner of the province is not too threatened. This is not the case; development is taking place in the Stikine, as in every other corner of our province. Your voice is desperately needed if some of the most important areas are to be protected. Please write if you are concerned about this area. Send your comments on the RPAT to: Jim Snetsinger, Chair of the Prince Rupert Interagency Management Committee (IAMC) at Bag 5000, Smithers, BC, V0J 2N0; Kevin Kriese, Chair of the Prince Rupert RPAT at the same address; Premier Glen Clark; Paul Ramsey, Minister of Environment, Lands, and Parks; and to your local MLA. Also write a letter to your local newspaper about this area. To express support for the designation of the Stikine as a Canadian Heritage River write Colin Campbell, Director of Park & Ecological Reserves Planning Branch, 2nd floor 500 Johnson St., Victoria, B.C., V8V 1X4 also write Mark Angelo, Chair, BC Heritage River Ba. same address as above. Others to write: Paul Ramsey and the Premier.

If you want more information on the Stikine contact Markus Kellerhals (734-0010) or Maggie Paquet of Friends of the Stikine (301-1238)

GROUSE GRIND HISTORY PROJECT

By Don McPherson, Trails Committee

For over 100 years there have been numerous trails on Grouse Mountain. Long before the skyride existed, cabin owners and ski enthusiasts as well as mountaineers such as the Mundys hiked there.

In 1981 and '82, Don McPherson and Phil Severy, linked up and opened a route to the top skyride station now known as Grouse Grind. In the early years, there was little traffic. It was used by a small group of mountaineers and hikers as a fitness trail. The advantage of using the skyride to go down made it quite attractive. Over the years it has become increasingly popular and there are now uphill foot races on it.

Grouse Mountain Resorts (GMR) has estimated 40,000 trips on it last year and the numbers are increasing on the weekends. There is a continuous stream of people of all ages and experience occasionally accompanied by babies in back carriers and dogs. A smaller percentage of people go both ways (dogs are not allowed at the Chalet on the skyride). The overall result of this massive traffic has been significant erosion, cross cutting, trail breakdown, and tree root exposure.

In the fall of 1995, the original builders began a reconstruction of the grind to widen it and to rebuild it more solidly out of cedar and whenever possible, granite. GVRD was contacted, and has given a go-ahead to the project. GMR has also approved the project and have provide some tools, rebar and technical support. There are however, some limit to the financial support available.

Approximately 40% of the trail has had some redevelopment. The work teams, all volunteers, have had to learn by trial and error techniques of construction in steep grades, with on site materials. We observe the effect of heavy traffic on our trail, constantly revising our techniques. Because of the steepness, novel placement of rock and cedar often quite labor intensive, have been utilized. It is in this area particularly, that we feel our work constitutes research. We are attempting to construct a high use trail which will last longer without major requirement or maintenance. We do not know if this is possible.


Recently we initiated a project with the Elizabeth Fry Society using volunteers who have had assigned compulsory community service hours as condition of probation, so far, our limited experience with this project has been excellent and quite rewarding for us and for our volunteers.

The FMCBC has recently put in a proposal for funding of a E-Team for this project and are waiting for a response.

We would like to give thanks to GVRD and GMR for there contributions to date in this project.

If you are intersted in volunteering on the Grouse Grind Trail upgrade phone the FMCBC office at 737-3053.

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BULLETIN

FMCBC 25th Anniversary T-Shirts

The FMCBC is selling t-shirts commemorating the 25th anniversary. The shirts have attractive design on the front and are available in a variety of colours and sizes while stock lasts. Cost is \$20.00 and profits will support the activities of the Federation. Call FMCBC at 737-3053 to purchase your t-shirt.

Snowmobile conflict

Volunteers from the FMCBC have been working on strategies to counter the proliferation of snowmobiles in our most popular ski areas. Darlene Anderson produced a report summarizing some of the areas of conflict in the Lower Mainland area. The report is available from the FMCBC office or from your club's FMCBC delegate. We are looking for more info on conflict areas, as well as ideas for solutions so if you have ideas or reports on this subject please phone 737-3053, fax 738-7175 or e-mail fmcbc@sport.bc.ca.

Action Alert E-mail

The FMCBC is setting up an "Action Alert" e-mail list. If you want to be added to this list please send an e-mail to fmcbc@sport.bc.ca.

Black Tusk Gate set-up

BC Parks is setting up a gate (probably already there by the time you read this) on the Black Tusk microwave road about 2 kms from the end of the road. The reason for the gate is that a number of people have been driving on the alpine meadows above the point. The gate will be located at a wide area where vehicles may be left.

FMCBC needs volunteers

Why not get involved? The FMCBC always needs volunteers for such things as park planning processes, letter writing, coordinating the Adopt-A-Trail program, helping out with our Web page etc. Contact your club delegate, any FMCBC director or the FMCBC office for more details.

Correction from June Cloudburst

Opps we goofed! Photos on the cover of the June Cloudburst were taken by Judith Robertson of the Calidonia Ramblers. Sorry Judith! Again many thanks for the photos.

Trails Committee gives thanks to Binkert Family

The Trails Committee expresses sincere thanks to the Binkert Family for the donation of the letter punches used by the late Paul Binkert for traisignage. We are grateful for the opportunity to keep on using these tools to continue this style of trail signage established by Paul on many lower mainland trails.

Annual Fundraising Casino

Our sincere "thanks" to John Otava, Brent Ehrl, Marilyn Noort and Chris Mills for volunteering their time at the FMCBC annual casino. The casino contributes substantially to the FMCBC budget requirements and many of worthwhile projects are funded through this annual event



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NVRCOC - HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY

By P. Kulak, NVRCOC

The formation of the Club took place in the Spring of 1986. The impetus for its formation actually took place in 1984. At that time Brian Prentice approached the Recreation Commission with a proposal to lead Sunday hikes. The Recreation Commission agreed to provide advertising and serve as the parent body and Brian agreed to lead the hikes.

Between 1984 and 1986 the popularity of the hikes increased and participants that came on a regular basis began to want more say in the organization of the hikes. As a result, a special meeting was called in the Spring of 1986 to discuss the formation of a Club and from that meeting, the Club has grown to become what it is today.

What is it today you ask? Membership has consistently remained at approximately 100. It has expanded to include activities other than hiking such as backpacking, backcountry and cross country skiing and cycling. Occasionally other outdoor activities are tried if leaders can be found. When it comes to social activities however, there isn't much the Club has not tried. Every bit as popular as the outdoor pursuits, these social activities give members a chance to know each other on a basis other than their outdoor skills. As a matter

of fact, even though it is not one of the Club's objectives, the Club can probably lay claim to achieving more permanent matches (both marriage and otherwise) on a per member basis, than the most successful dating service on the Lower Mainland. The majority of the members are between 25 and 50 years of age and for the most part, wish to participate at a moderate level of intensity.

Leadership and skill training has always been an important part of the Club's program. At various times, free courses are provided to the leaders and the potential new leaders in co-operation with the Recreation Commission to ensure the highest standard possible for the leadership of the activities.

Meetings are held on the last Monday of every month at the Lonsdale Recreation Centre (23rd and Lonsdale, North Van). At these meetings the schedule is set for the upcoming month, issues discussed and usually at the end of the meeting someone has a slide show or video to present. New members are always welcome. Membership fees are \$25 per year. For more information about the Club or for Membership Registration Forms, please call 983-6543 and punch 2966 when you get the recorded answer.

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MOUNTAIN NAVIGATION

by Chris Mills, Chair, Safety & Education Committee

In *Mountaineering, The Freedom of the Hills*, the first two of the "Ten Essentials" of mountain travel are a map and a compass. As with all essential equipment, a solid working knowledge of operation and use is necessary if the equipment is to contribute to safety. For many group hikers, the presence of a leader (who presumably understands mountain navigation) is often taken for granted. As a result, there are many in our mountains with neither the equipment, nor the ability to effectively use such equipment in an emergency. The large number of hikers in the North Shore Mountains and elsewhere requiring Search & Rescue, because they have become disoriented or lost, clearly illustrates this fact. Maps are graphical images of sections of the earth's surface, drawn to a scale appropriate to use (e.g. mountaineering). Regardless of their appearance, there are only two kinds of map suitable for mountaineering use.

Topographic maps show the location of natural geographical features, and many man-made features, and use contour lines (lines connecting points of equal elevation above sea level) to show altitude. In Canada such maps are produced in the National Topographic System. The 1:50,000 scale (1 cm on the map corresponds to 500 m on the ground) maps are appropriate for hiking and mountaineering. Planimetric maps are most frequently drawn to show man-made features and some natural features, and are produced by many agencies and groups, with a large variety of scales. These maps do not have contour lines. Those most familiar to outdoor users in B.C. are the logging road maps produced by the Forestry Service and individual logging companies, and the trail maps produced by BC Parks. Planimetric maps are usually revised more frequently than topographic maps, and are most useful in determining access routes to trail heads. Topographic maps have lines on them that indicate *true* north (the right and left hand edges of the map) and *grid* north (the vertical lines of the blue grid on the map). The map also shows the difference between *true* north, *grid* north, and *magnetic* north (the direction of your compass needle). The difference between *true* and *grid* north is usually very small, and is generally ignored. The difference between *true* and *magnetic* north, called Magnetic Declination, varies from place to place on the globe, and usually is significant. In western Canada *magnetic* north is always east of (to the right on your map) of *true* north. For the NTS 1:50,000 map 92G/6 North Vancouver, the current Magnetic Declination is 21.5 degrees east of north. You can save yourself a lot of frustration (and possibly danger) by purchasing a compass with adjustable declination, which you can then set for your topographic map prior to a trip.

To orientate your map, place it on a flat surface; align the compass baseplate line (s) with the vertical grid lines on

the map; rotate the compass dial so that 0/360 degrees aligns with the baseplate line; rotate the map and compass together until the needle aligns with the declination arrow.

That's it! Your map is now oriented so that features on the map are on the same bearing (are in the same direction) as those in the world around you. If you know where you are, you can now determine where to go, and if you don't know where you are, you can use the map and compass to determine your exact location. For descriptions of map and compass techniques, *Chapter 4: Routefinding and Navigation in Mountaineering - The Freedom of the Hills, 5th Edition* is excellent. For a more detailed treatment, try *Land Navigation Handbook* by Kals. Before a trip, gather all of your information and plot your proposed route on the map. This will allow you to determine travel time (from distance and elevation gain), suitable camp sites, sources of water, and give you an overall "feel" for the route. All of this information can be combined in a Route Card. For example, you can easily see which slopes are south and west facing, and avoid crossing them in the afternoon if they are snow covered; see where there might be difficult creek crossings; look for emergency exit routes; and generally enhance your confidence. While you are travelling, check your position on the map frequently, and look back on your exertions to see how your return trip will look. Note important landmarks, turning points, and other details. Most serious outdoor users and agencies (including SAR) use Grid References to specify a position on the map.

These are (for 1:50,000 maps) a six digit number taken from the map grid (on which all lines are numbered). References are given West-East, South-North ("along the hall and up the stairs"), with the third and sixth digits estimated to the nearest tenth of a kilometre (100 m). On 92G/6 North Vancouver, the location of Hollyburn Mountain summit is 867717; on 92H/4 Chilliwack, the summit of Cheam Peak is at 961488. A Grid Reference gives your position within about 100 m in each direction, and may be a life-saver in an emergency.

Many mountaineers use an altimeter in conjunction with a map and compass for precise navigation. Using an altimeter requires additional expertise, and its value is directly related to user knowledge and proficiency. Generally the precision of an altimeter increases with price. The key to confident and safe mountain navigation is practice, and more practice, until the procedures become second nature. Even if you never need the skills for an emergency, you can always impress your group by naming (accurately) every peak in sight.

Canada West Mountain School offers excellent courses in mountain navigation - for information call (604) 737-3053.

Continued from page 3

Thirty people showed up. "The idea really got away from me," he said, in a telephone interview. But the initial excitement was "just a flash in the pan," according to Grainger: not one of the people who attended was skilled enough to do the work.

Then Grainger took his idea to the FMCBC where it was immediately welcomed. He was invited to sit on the Trails Committee together with Gabriel Mazoret and Charles Clapham, who co-chaired the committee.

The idea was just what Mazoret and Clapham were looking for. They already knew some of the work was getting done unofficially, but no one knew who was doing it. The A-A-T program had to document all the trails (two or three hundred of them) and keep track of who adopted them -- no small feat. This is where Clapham, who retired last year, made a big contribution. He created a computer database for this purpose and managed it for years.

"Charles did a monumental amount of work getting trails onto a computer," Grainger says. Mazoret said it was hard to attract volunteers so they learned to get more direct about asking for help. "We would say to people; You like this trail? Would you like to adopt it?" Mazoret, a desktop publisher in Richmond, recalls in his delightful Parisian accent.

The work itself, though hard, requires only about one or two days a year, explains Mazoret, 48, who is still involved with the program. Clubs organize trail-clearing days where they gather between five and 12 people and assorted tools: clippers, a shovel, mattock (a heavy duty hoe), hand saw, ax and/or chain saw. The program intended mountain clubs to do the adopting but other joined in. One trail was maintained by the Vancouver Litigation Society for awhile. A fellow named Dan Leavens ("Cougar Dan") has maintained two trails for years, using only an ax.

Lunden and Alexander are working on the Shannon Creek trail. It begins at the bottom of Shannon Falls, where the hike to the Chief starts. Then it branches off to the right, rising up above the falls: along a logging road, across a clear cut, then back into the trees and on to Petgill Lake. Originally the trail, which was built by the FMCBC, ended at the top of the falls but Lunden recently cleared and marked a new trail which extends up to the lake, doubling its length.

At five feet five (165cm), Lunden is a small man. He sports a jaunty black beret and a well-groomed mustache. His external-frame day pack probably weighs well over 25 pounds with the heavy tools inside. During the hike to the top, he clips back growth along the way, never slowing the pace. (If he were simply hiking the trail, he would have left us far behind.) After a break for lunch, the serious work

begins. The two men haul out the chain saw and stop every few minutes to cut windfall off the trail. Every year the wind rips full-sized trees out of the shallow ground. Many of them fall across the trails. These are removed, either by ax or chain saw. The trees are dead or dying -- living trees are never cut.

In between cutting the windfall, we survey the trail for other problems. Fireweed shoots are pulled up by the root before they grow too big. Berry bushes need to be cut back to their roots. Stray branches protruding into the path are removed. Trail markers are checked and new neon tape is tied where necessary.

The clear cut presents the biggest challenge. The hot sun blazes down with no shade in sight. Abandoned trees and upturned roots litter the ground in haphazard chaos making us scramble up and down their surfaces. Special attention is given to trail makers because it is difficult to see them. Sometimes, the trail runs along the length of a huge tree lying on the ground. It is marked with crossed cuts by the ax to keep it from being slippery. Lunden cuts a step into a great fallen log because it is too high to step up to. A muddy rivulet requires several logs to be dragged across it so trail users won't get soaked.

Mary Macaree, the program's current coordinator, explains that trails can only be adopted if the owner of the land agrees. This could be one of several government agencies: BC Parks, BC Forests, the Greater Vancouver Regional District or a local municipality. Sometimes fear of liability prevents them from agreeing to adoption. In these cases, trails are simply "maintained" instead of "adopted" -- the work is no different, just the terminology.

Grainger, 68, says that running into the red tape was a deterrent in the early years and at one point, "people basically quit asking. They just went out and did it." He thinks this actually helped make the agencies trust them because the trails were well maintained and no one was getting hurt. "I think it's given more pressure to actually get something done," he says. "Now more trails are being maintained."

Still, the program is not as successful as he'd hoped, though solid. Grainger says only about 20 per cent of B.C.'s trails are adopted. Others are maintained and there are many which are still cared for anonymously. At the moment, 48 trails are officially adopted and 25 maintained, all by just 19 groups or individuals.

Returning home after 12 hours of trail maintaining with Lunden and Alexander, the predominant feeling was of self-satisfaction. Like little elves, we had quietly left a gift for thousands who would use the trail this summer.

Note from Editor: For more information on the AAT program or to adopt a trail phone FMCBC office at 737-3053.

FIRST AID KIT

By Alexander Ratson, age 10

What are the contents of a good first aid kit?

The answer to this quesitn is not as simple as it first seems. After going through our first aid kit and checking first aid catalogues I discovered there are a lot of different ideas on the contents of a kit. Some items are included as a personal preference and some are specific for the nature of the trip. For example, there are ready-made kits for individuals or for large groups, and there are kits for day trips and for extended expeditions. The most important thing though is knowing what you have, how to use it and how to improvise for the things you do not have.

My dad and I put together our own kit. We duct taped together and labelled 9 zip lock bags, each 8"x5". The labels allow us to more quickly find what we are looking for in an emergency. Each bag contains a number of similar items within groups such as non-stick pads, antiseptics, foot care etc. We spent quite a few hours at the drug store and over \$100, which makes a store bought kit look pretty attractive. So, what do we have?

Antiseptics: to clean the skin around a wound we have antiseptic towels, for wound cleaning we have buro-sol powder and for burns and abrasions we have aloe vera gel. We plan to add a irrigation syringe for wound cleaning.

A stop bleeding: we have different sizes of non-stick pads and absobant pads including a pressure bandage that combines theses 2 types of pads with an elastisized wrap. We also have a 2 meter length of cotton wrap 2" wide.

Wound closure: we have a variety of sizes of butterfly closures and micropore tape.

Foot care: we use this group the most. It includes bensoine to help tape stick to skin, barrier cream to help feet from getting rub-rash, friction-free tape to prevent blisters, 2nd skin pads for blisters (and burns) and adhesive foam for 'hot spots'.

Bandages: band-aids, traingular bandage, knee-sock and safety pins.

Book: first aid booklet, foot care leaflet, antiseptic leaflet and first aid report form & pencil.

Miscellaneous: silver tweezers, disinfected needles and scalpel, multipurpose heavy duty scissors.

Medications: Tylenol, antihistamine, asthmatics inhaler and Tums.

Winter only: we have hypothermia thermometer, 2-7 hour hand warmer, a candle and a plastic poncho.

Summer only: we have After Bite, wasp and tick extractor and iodine pad.

The whole kit weighs 2 pounds, including the zippered bag, and is 15"x5 1/2"x4". It serves 2 people for up to a week long trip when we are up to 24 hours from our car.

We also carry a number of items that could help, such as duct tape, knife, cord etc., with improvization. A good first-aid kit catalogue is Adventure Medical Kits call, 1-800-324-3517, Outdoor Research's catalogue also lists and describes some good kits, call 1-800-421-2421.

Finally, Wilderness Alert Safety Products in Vancouver supply kits and hard to find first aid items, call 1-604-263-1432.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

In reading the June 1996 issue of *Cloudburst*, I came across the article *Regional Director's Report: The Island* by Thom Ward. In the article, Mr. Ward criticizes the Forest Service for not supporting his proposal to Forest Renewal B.C. for funding trail inventory. Thom's article is inaccurate. Please accept the following response which I hope will clarify Thom's proposal and the government's evaluation of it.

Thom prepared and marketed three interlocking proposals. The proposals requested, in total, \$2,337,740 over 3 years to:

- develop decision-support systems;
- design and build inventory data bases;
- develop and test inventory technologies;
- produce a digital data base and map all of Vancouver Island recreation trails; and
- prepare scientific publications.

The proposals themselves were concept documents. Specifics were to follow, at a cost of \$20,000, after approval-in-principle of the concept.

As Thom says in his article, there was "much support" initially for the concept. At all times for the need. But at no time for the proposals. The proposals were not rejected because of "finer points of the project's implementation". It was conveyed to Thom that his proposals were considered to be a duplication of government functions, unworkable and unlikely to deliver the products that everyone agrees are needed.

Regarding being "willing to try to comply... [and] collaborate in revising it [the proposals]", Thom declined to pursue a number of alternatives that government staff said they would support. After hundreds of hours of discussion and suggestions over a year period, Thom's proposals remained unchanged.

Yes, "the Forest Service's Regional and Branch offices declined to endorse it [the proposals]". These offices did so, after talking with the many persons and offices that would be affected by the proposals, and on behalf of the Forest Service and B.C. Parks. An integral part of carrying out a recreational inventory is getting information from the outdoor recreation community about the features and settings which they value. The Federation can play a key role in providing the locations and descriptions of trails and routes that are important to it. Any member club or individual who is interested in working with the Forest Service on a cooperative trail inventory project should contact the Federation's office or the appropriate Forest District office for information on how best to proceed.

Sincerely,

Tom Hall
Manager
Recreation Section
Ministry of Forests

Dear Editor

With respects to Mr. Chris Barner, whom I have never met, I would like to comment on the statement that "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".

Firstly, the ACMG is a certification association that has a great responsibility to qualify person to guide clients in the outdoors, specifically the mountainous terrain. The need to maintain standards that are kept at a particular level is important should there ever become any legal inquiry about a particular individual guides actions. This does not mean that the ACMG handcuffs an individual. The guidelines allows some interpretation of the techniques. Guides may use different techniques at different times because of the variety of environments that Mother Nature presents. The guides in training are presented with a variety of potential solutions to a situation because a certain problem needs a unique solution. "So, once you've got the ACMG system wired" you will become a very poor guide. There is no guide I know that stops learning even after she/he becomes a Mountain Guide. As for having an open mind to change. The ACMG has just completed a second edition to the Guides Manual. This is a very good document on guiding procedures. It is also open to any changes and will be upgraded should there ever be a need.

The Executive of the ACMG has been very active in promoting as open minded as possible the look at the future in guiding, mountain travel, permits, access to areas, government regulations and restrictions. There are many issues that are being levied towards the outdoor enthusiast that many people are not even aware of. The issue of maintaining standards for training guides is but one small part of the executives concerns.

In all fairness Chris, I thank you for the opportunity to attempt to answer the concerns you presented in June. Should you be interested in reviewing the ACMG Guides Manual, please send a cheque for \$60.00 to cover the manual, postage, and handling. Make that Attention: Manual, ACMG, Box 1537, Banff, Alberta, T0L 0C0.

See for yourself what the ACMG has been up to. Then should you have any concerns, suggestions, or ideas, we would only be too happy to hear from you. Thank you again. May you have had a good summer and look forward to a great Autumn.

Yours truly,

George Field, Secretary/Treasurer ACMG
Alpine Specialist, Kananaskies Country
Winter Examiner, ACMG
Examiner, Canadian Avalanche Association
Past Examiner, Level 4, Canadian Ski Instructors