# **CLOUDBURST**

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC Quarterly Newsletter

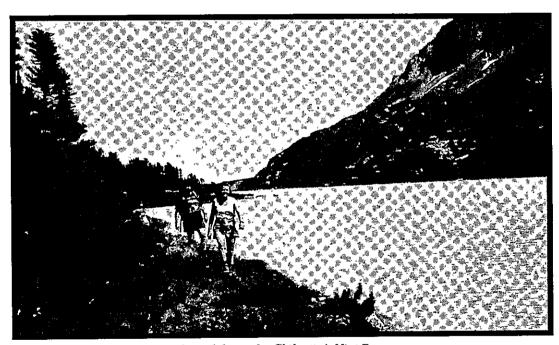
March, 1999

Volume 9 - Number 1

# The FMCBC enters a new era

A success story for the Prince George LRMP process

Get ready for the 1999 AGM in Vancouver



Hiking along the shore of an alpine lake in the Chilcotin's Niut Range

#### In this issue....

Presidents report	3	Snowmobile/skier issues	8	National Hiking Trail	17
Mt. Arrowsmith update	4	BC Parks & protected areas	10	Canada West Mountain School	17
Strathcona Park update	5	More snowmobile issues	11	Book reviews	18
Lower Mainland LRMP	6	Prince George LRMP	12	Meeting dates	19
Cypress Park	7	Leadership tips	14	Summer gear	20
Mt. Seymour access	7	Classifieds	15	Education and Safety	21
Lions Bay parking	8	Mt. Slesse trail	16	1999 AGM Information	22
David Macaree remembered	8	Chris Mills remembered	16		

# **CLOUBURST**

Articles: We welcome articles which inform our readers about mountain conservation, recreation and access issues or activities in BC.

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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### <u>MEMBERSHIP</u>

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) is a provincial non-profit organization representing the interests of non-mechanized mountain recreationists and hiking, climbing and outdoor clubs throughout the province. The FMCBC address's mountain conservation and access issues, promotes safety and education through courses of instruction, and builds and maintains 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 the two following 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 (604) 878.7007 with your VISA or MASTERCARD number, or send \$25 with your name and address to the FMCBC at the above address

## FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BC

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#### Cover Photo:

Lena and Gordon Rose enjoying the alpine lakes of the Niut Range, western Chilcotins. *Photo by B. Jones* 

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Pat Harrison

In Memory: Chris Mills

Chris Mills died early in February. Chris embodied the spirit of volunteerism that has made the Federation what it is today. I met Chris through the Federation. I don't really remember when Chris appeared on the Board of Directors. Like me, Chris came on the board somewhere in the early 1990's, but remained fairly quiet as we listened to the experienced directors. After several years on the board, I became president. All presidents need vice presidents. Chris stepped forward to take up this challenge. It was at this moment that I began to appreciate Chris's talents. He eagerly took on the challenge of helping to rewrite a majority of the Federation's out-of-date policies. His writing was always clear and concise. He then tackled one of the problems that the Federation had been unable to solve for ten years. The Federation clubs had demanded liability insurance for trip leaders. In one year, Chris successfully negotiated liability insurance. His proudest Federation achievements

were yet to come. At the 1997 AGM, it was decided that the Federation needed a website. Chris jumped at the chance to take on this task on as he already had an excellent website on acid rock drainage. As the website evolved, people began to take notice. From a meager rate of 45 hits per week

in the fall of 1997, the website was attracting up to 1000 hits per week by the fall of 1998. The Federation's website is indeed a professional website thanks entirely to Chris. The newsletter of the Federation "Cloudburst" had been criticized for sloppy looks and grammar in recent years. Again, Chris charged in to reform this newsletter. He and I volunteered to assemble this newsletter. Accolades poured in after the 1998 fall issue of Cloudburst reached the Federation's members. Once again, Chris's precise writing played a major role in revitalizing the Federation.

We in the Federation will miss Chris's talents greatly. As President of the Federation of Mountain Clubs, I came to depend more and more on Chris to bounce ideas off of and to review my articles and letters. He and I schemed about taking a hike on the proposed BC segment of the National Hiking Trail and talked about hikes and climbs of yesteryear. While looking backward, he also looked forward. He was very much looking forward to ascending to the Presidency of the Fed. What a pity he and members of the Fed won't be able to follow his dreams.

Shane Koscielniak will assume the role of webmaster for the Federation. Chris Ludwig will become temporary Vice-President until the AGM as well as coordinate the Trails Days Event for the Lower Mainland. I will continue helping on the Cloudburst through the summer issue. We will need someone to continue on as Education and Safety person.

#### The Tasks Facing the Federation of Mountain Clubs

#### In the beginning:

The FMCBC was formed in 1972 after 10 years operating as the Mountain Access Committee. The purpose of the MAC was advocacy on behalf of it's members about access issues throughout the Province of BC, a function that the FMCBC is still very involved in (See access issues on Strathcona, Lion's Bay, Grouse Mountain, Seymour Provincial Park, Jumbo Ski Area).

#### Financial History:

"One of the

ongoing personality quirks

of the Federation is that we.

the members, have failed to

define who we serve"

As the Fed moved into the 1980's, government (Provincial and Federal) began giving large grants to such organizations as ours. We benefited tremendously. In addition to the \$50,000 annual operating grant, we also received over \$100,000 per year for environmental and trail building projects. In terms of 1999's dollars, if we were still receiving these monies,

the Fed would be receiving roughly \$300,000 annually. The Fed was able to do so much in the 1980's because the taxpayer was footing our bills. Because of these grants, we were able to keep member contributions down.

#### We have never faced this situation before:

By the early 1990's, most of these grants had disappeared. We made several attempts in the mid-1990's to try to recoup this loss of revenue by liaising with various businesses. The problem was (and is), companies are downsizing and not offering donations to non-profits as they once did. We are at our lowest level of revenue generation in over two decades.

Past Conflicts within the organization: One of the ongoing personality quirks of the Federation is that we, the members, have failed to define who we serve: ourselves only or the people of B. C. This has been an issue for a long time and has pitted past Executive Directors against the Board of Directors. It is an issue that must be solved in order to determine what type of financing we want for the future.

# (Presidents report - cont. from page 3) Four Possible Scenarios for the FMCBC's future:

- An inclusive provincial organization representing a all hikers and climbers interested in nonmechanized recreational access and conservation. This would require an Executive Director with fund-raising skills.
- An exclusive provincial organization representing only the hikers and climbers of the FMCBC. This would require an Operating Manager and would be funded by membership fees only.
- A volunteer organization with a public office
  presence working for mountain access,
  conservation, and recreation. This would require a
  paid person in the office.
- 4. A volunteer organization run out of a volunteer's house. All advocacy would be done by volunteers.

Regarding the above, I have been told by a professional fund raiser that if organizations fund raise exclusively for the benefit of their own members, their fund raising efforts usually will fail.

Several people have also expressed their desire to see the Federation once again be more in the public eye. This takes money (much more than we receive at the moment) in order to hire a professional who can be on top of all the activity in recreation and conservation and to be on top of all the activity within the Federation. This person would also need to be a leader in organizing volunteers in order to obtain this goal. We have many activities for volunteers and many volunteers, but it requires someone with good organizational skills to merge these two groups.

#### How to resolve:

It was recently suggested by one of our clubs that the FMCBC needs reform. I couldn't agree more. The place for this reform is at this year's AGM, to be held in Vancouver on June 12. Participation by our member clubs will ensure that the FMCBC is the type of organization that the members want. The Board of Directors need this mandate so they can carry out the wishes of its members.

#### Returning Directors for next year

I am happy to announce that most of our directors have decided to return next year for the Board again.

Have you visited our website yet?
You'll be surprised at the amount of information and the number of useful links

www.mountainclubs .bc.ca

## **VANCOUVER ISLAND**

Update on Mt. Arrowsmith

by Clair Ebendinger, President - ACC, Vancouver Island

The Mt Arrowsmith Saga, good news and more....
Peter Rothermel, who has recently joined our "informal" access and environment committee, keeps me informed of every move, decision, and follow- up on that issue. I receive faxes and phone calls ongoing and really appreciate the time and energy he and the Public Access Resolution Committee have put into this issue.

The good news: at their February meeting the Regional District of Nanaimo Parks committee and Board of Directors have voted unanimously in favor of creating a new park ... to include the Mt. Arrowsmith massif, Cokeley summit, Fishtail lake, Hidden lake and Jewel lake as well as the historic trail from Cameron lake leading up to the alpine. The RDN staff report is very positive about the plan, and contact has already been made with the forest companies, the Ministry of Forests, and BC Parks regarding acquisition of land.

Peter has joined the RDN's Park planning committee, as rep. for PARC, ACC, and FMCBC. As the old trail was logged over and left in a mess, Timberwest has committed to cleaning it up and building a bridge part way up. The staff of the Regional District of Alberni-Clayoquot has indicated their support for any initiative regarding the old trail, which crosses the existing Arrowsmith Regional Park, and public access (!) through the existing park to the massif site.

Peter received letters of support from 32 groups, which he had requested, and presented them to the RDN, with the proposal from PARC in November. He also presented copies of over 800 signatures entered in the summit registers over the last 3 years. As well, Peter's lobbying with the Ministry of Environment and Parks paid off, the RDAC was advised by the Minister to review their bylaws and ensure "unfettered" public access through the existing Mt Arrowsmith Regional Park, as well as establish an Advisory Committee to include representatives from those groups who expressed their concerns. Matters such as environmental assessment, water licensing and waste management are to be dealt with also through the developmental process. Peter is following up on that.

The RDAC had applied for an extension towards Mt. Cokely as a commercial use lease. This was approved but doesn't reach the peak nor the ridge that leads up to it, hence any lifts would be below the skyline when looking from Mt. Arrowsmith. There is also presently an

(Mt. Arrowsmith - cont. from page 4) application for the development of a ski village in that area. Peter is, again, informing all concerned groups and asking for letters of support to lobby against any development that could create environment and access problems. Needless to say, the Section is extremely grateful to Peter for taking on such an enormous task, and for involving every group concerned about the impact of the decisions, that could easily be made behind closed doors. He suggests putting a trail maintenance weekend on the next schedule. Let's be visible and make our presence on the mountain a positive one. If we want to be part of the decision making we have to do it in active and supportive way. A brief note of information about the conditions up there as of February 21st. The road was driveable part way up the hill, beyond the bridge crossing on Cameron Main. It had been plowed clear the day before (!). The snow accumulation was unusually high, so was the avalanche hazard. The manager of the ski hill was his usual self as he spoke in a rather unfriendly manner about the dangers on the mountain, and the cars being in the way when he goes to plow the road. It didn't look like his machine would be able to make it through the snowdrifts and the continuous snow fall. It was wild up there, a beautiful winter landscape, and we had FUN skiing down in knee deep fresh snow (face plants, screams of joy, and birthday celebration).

#### Strathcona Park Update By Richard Keltie

When Strathcona Park was created in 1911, the boundary was not located along ridge lines. A map of Vancouver Island clearly shows that the boundary was drawn with pencil and ruler - straight lines on a paper map between two points. One of these lines, unfortunately cut right through Buttle Lake and left the east side exposed to private land development. Last year a land swap between BC Parks and Timberwest occurred across this pencil line.

BC Parks gave access to about 6 ha of park land on a ridge on the east side of Buttle Lake in exchange for road access to the Buttle Lake campground across Timberwest land.

The camp ground access has been across private land for 20 years and BC Parks has wanted to purchase this access area but was unable because of lack of funds.

Timberwest owns land east of Buttle Lake for timber cutting and was planing on an access road on their land which would have been visible from the lake. The swap put this access road out of sight of the lake and preserved the pristine hill side.

Timberwest and BC Parks have been reasonable in negotiating the land swap to protect a pristine hill side outside the park while gaining some important land for Strathcona Park at no cost.

# Update on SPPAC and SIRAC , By Thom Ward

SPPAC (the Strathcona Park Public Advisory Committee) has been asked to advise staff how to proceed with the update of the Master Plan. Staff wants to use visioning workshops to get public input and direction on how and what to update. They are planning these public workshops in the following six communities:

- Victoria May 18th 7 pm to 10 pm at TBA (probably UVic)
- Port Alberni May 19th 7 pm to 10 pm at Community Centre
- Tofino May 20th 7 pm to 10 pm at Weigh West
- Gold River May 25th 7 pm to 10 pm at Community Centre
- Campbell River May 26th 7 pm to 10 pm at TBA
- Courtney May 27th 7 pm to 10 pm at TBA

<u>Note:</u> While these dates are fairly firm, the facilities have yet to be booked and may change. Contact BC Parks, 954-4600 for confirmation of time and location.

SPPAC went through such a workshop and generally felt that while there is value in doing these workshops, that staff had to ensure that they adequately notify the communities both when the workshops will be held and what the objective of the workshop is. After having defined what the vision of the park should be, the workshop then deals with the "issues", and how those issues fit into the vision. This exercise will be repeated for each community and the results from each community will be summarized and included in a forthcoming newsletter.

At the last SPPAC meeting, Feb 26th, the two main issues of contention were:

- Backcountry user fees
- Land swap with TimberWest

While the SPPAC members were generally opposed to the concept of user fees, most conceded to the inevitable. Parks plan to implement a \$3.00/person/ night fee for the three high use areas that already have (Strathcona - cont. from page 5)
designated camping sites, with the balance of the park free.
They have posted an RFP and are waiting to see what the proposals are. They will only proceed with such a fee if a contractor can be found to collect the fee and manage the

contractor can be found to collect the fee and manage the sites at no cost to Parks, as is the usual case with other facility operators.

The objective of the land swap, with TimberWest, is to minimize the visual aspect of an across road to TimberWest's private land (which they plan to log) in exchange for TimberWest's holdings adjacent to the Buttle Lake Campsite. While all SPPAC members were reluctant to see TimberWest log its private lands, that are within the park's viewscapes, they felt that this option was the least offensive of those offered and that the in-holdings at Buttle Narrows could finally be resolved, in favour of the park.

On a different subject, the treaty process has been pretty much quiet for the last several years, aside from the Nisga'a Agreement. While I've attended many South Island Regional Advisory Committee (SIRAC) meetings.

these last several years, there hasn't been an opportunity, nor need, to expand upon ORC's initial position paper. That is finally changing and the process is finally getting to the point where the First Nations are finally making statements that we can respond to, or will be in the near future. The Nanaimo First Nation is the furthest ahead, in the process, and we will be spending a fair bit of time, in the near future, on this treaty. If any of the members have an interest in this treaty,

they should contact either myself (Thom Ward) at 250.743.4417, or the treaty office at 1.800.880.1022.

# International Wilderness First Aid (IWFA)

In July of 1996 the FMCBC and IWFA entered into a partnership whereby the FMCBC contracted to carry out the administrative duties related to running IWFA courses.

After two years of trying to merge our operations, it appears that we are not as compatible as we initially thought. The Federation and IWFA have mutually decided to disassocitate as of April, 1 1999. After this date the IWFA will no longer be administered by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC.

## **LOWER MAINLAND**

LRMP update for the Lower Mainland

Received from Cathy McGregor, Minister of Environment, Lands, and Parks dated Oct. 28, 1998

Thank you for your letter seeking information about future planning processes for the Lower Mainland region. I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on the land use planning situation in this region.

You are correct in pointing out that in 1996, the province outlined an intention to undertake a Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) type of process in the Squamish forest district. It was noted that similar plans in the Chilliwack and Sunshine Coast forest districts would follow.

Since that time, there has been a significant gap in staffing the position with the Inter-Agency Management Committee for the Lower Mainland. When the position was finally staffed in the spring of this year, work began to

define what type of planning process was needed and how it might be delivered. As you know, the Protected Areas Strategy has been completed in this region and many special resource management zones have already been established. This

Jim McCracken, Chair, Lower Mainland Inter-Agency Management Committee Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Parks 10470-152<sup>nd</sup> St., Surrey, BC, V3R 0Y3

Telephone: (604) 582-5265

For information regarding land use planning

in the Lower Mainland region, contact:

basically rules out a traditional LRMP process in this area. However, it is acknowledged that some additional steps need to be taken with regard to resolving land use conflicts in this region. An initial assessment is nearing completions and we will likely be in a position to have broader based discussions regarding the next steps for a land use planning process in this region in the new year.

However, I must point out that the resources required to initiate any kind of process are increasingly difficult to access. There are currently 18 planning processes underway in the province and the priority is to complete them before starting new plans.

I appreciate the time you have taken to inform me of your concerns.

Yours sincerely.

Cathy McGregor, Minister - Environment, Lands, & Parks

#### Cypress Provincial Park (development?) update By Alex Wallace

Implementation Documents show that the current Commercial Ski Area expansion will result in the following impact on hiking trails in areas of the park: The first forested section of the Howe Sound Crest Trail which leads up from the Yew Lake/Cypress Creek area to the upper gravel road will be logged out for a 150 ft wide ski run. Hikers will be redirected along the (baking) gravel road to the west and to a trail straggling up through the old clearcut to the overgrown Bowen Island "lookout" where the HSC Trail will start.

The Hollyburn Peak Trail will be "groomed" by machinery, removing the blueberry bushes and any inconvenient bumps. The area around Sixth Lake (and many other areas) will see drainage projects and the

If any of this offends you,

please write to your MLA,

Minister of Parks, or

Opposition Party, expressing

your outrage about a

Provincial Park being treated

in such a manner. Remember,

what happens in these Parks today might well happen in

cutting of new ski trails through wetland areas. The east end of Fourth Lake will have a 40 ft wide ramp built over it (to improve winter ski use). Obviously, these 'developments' will change the summer and fall experience of hiking this popular trail considerably, both during and after the construction phase.

The Cypress Bowl end of the BadenPowell Trail's Hollyburn section will be obliterated by the new snowcat (groomer) garage and maintenance facility. Hikers will have to find their way past this building and the parking lots to a new trailhead on the rope tow run somewhere uphill – at least 200 yards of trail will be re-routed, thus eliminating the most easily graded and accessible trail section for seniors and others.

The nearby trailhead of the Black Mountain section of the Baden-Powell Trail will be obliterated by a 100 yard long parking lot blasted out of the side of Black Mountain, starting at the current rental shop and excavated westward. This semi-subterranean feature will have to be navigated around at the start of a hike by a wander northwest through the skier plaza (that'll be just by the two storey retail building!).

The Strachan Trail has already been overshadowed by a 30 ft high berm of excavated rock at the junction with the trail to the back of Hollyburn Mtn. The construction road passing this point on its way to the top of Mt. Strachan was completed in the fall of 1998 after two seasons of blasting and bulldozing: the planned multipurpose restaurant/ "beverage facility"/base/gondola terminal/ viewing platform building to be constructed on the south summit will be roughly the size of a small elementary

school (the plans show it to be roughly 200 ft long X 100 ft X 40 ft high) and be clearly visible from the Howe Sound Crest Trail and Black Mountain. Incidentally, during the "Williams Commission" reviewing the proposed expansion in 1995 Mr. Bryan Williams (now Chief Justice of B.C.), maintained explicitly to us that this would be a small, inconspicuous building that would in no way resemble the "Grouse Nest" across the Capilano. It is worth noting that the implementation plans now indicate that these new facilities in the Park will be rented out for conventions, etc.

The sounds of construction, blasting, and logging were clearly heard by hikers on both Hollyburn and Black Mountains all summer and fall of 1997 and 1998: CBR has recently stated that the construction schedule may mean that this racket will continue for as long as another eight years. In other words, just about every hiking trail in

the park will be affected. In addition, Parks has no funds to build their proposed ranger station, so park visitors will be greeted by CBR's massively 'expanded' buildings and parking lots in the nordic and downhill areas.

Mt. Seymour Provincial Park Access
By Lesley Bohm, Director

Dear Bob Dalziel,

Yesterday a group of us were backcountry skiing on Mt. Seymour and at noon we came back down the run instead of the trail, partly because of extremely thick fog. We have been skiing both up and down the ski runs unmolested until quite recently. Two of our party are original cabin owners dating from before the <u>road</u> was built and as a director of the Federation of Mountain Clubs, I am seriously concerned about the ongoing erosion of the rights of public access in our Parks. This is an example of what we do not want when we tell the Legacy committee to rein in the private control in park ski areas.

Manning Park is another of our backcountry access concerns, for Poland Lake and Memaloose Creek, not to mention Cypress. Yesterday two <u>Parks</u> personnel attempted to evict us from the downhill run (Seymour). I am appalled that scarce Park funds are being used to police a private development, which is infringing on our traditional rights in parks, while we have no support ourselves.

Thus the creeping cancer of Cypress infects the whole park system.

Sincerely, Lesley Bohm (Mrs.)

#### Lions Bay Parking Update By Pat Harrison

As reported in the last issue of Cloudburst, the Mayor of Lions Bay has reccommended that we submit a proposal to the Village Council to use the nearby school grounds for parking for hikers on Unnecessary Mountain trail. We did so in the hope of helping to solve an old problem of too little parking space at the trailhead and thus too much noise in the adjacent neighbourhood. We even stated that the FMCBC would help sign the trailhead indicating where the alternative parking was. Unfortunately (for hikers and residents), Village Council has decided to turn the school grounds into a daycare facility (good for working persons). In the following article Doug Ash indicates several solutions that have been proposed but rejected. We are still looking for a solution that will help all those involved. Surely we, the citizens of the hiking community and of Lions Bay, can solve this problem.

# Lions Bay Trail Access By Doug Ash

I am a member of the Alpine Club of Canada, a founding member of the Lions Bay Search & Rescue and an avid hiker, skier and kayaker. The issue of trail access at Lions Bay is not as easy as it seems. The health issue is largely just ignorance now that a chlorination plant has been installed at Lions Bay. I think some of this is just past hysteria or xenophobia.

The issue of parking is the real problem. There can be over a hundred cars competing for space during September and October. It never ceases to amaze me that someone who is about to embark on an all day hike has to park within 10 metres of the gate - even if it means parking illegally. I'm surprised if there are no signs about the overflow parking - there used to be lots of signs. As an aside, signs don't last too long. I'm not sure where they go - maybe onto people's walls?

I have been part of the trail debate for 20 years and it will never go away. Very few residents want to deny access to the trailhead. What is needed is more sensitivity on the part of the public about parking; noise (especially in the early morning); and, respect of village property and signs. Based on 20 years of observation, I am extremely pessimistic about the ability of the general public to be educated. I guess that anywhere that a trail starts in a residential area there are the same problems. Maybe a no nonsense sign about parking and noise would make a difference (but I doubt it).

#### IN MEMORIAM: DAVID MACAREE 1919 - 1998

By Louise Irwin, Trails Committee

David Macaree made a substantial contribution to the coastal mainland hiking community, which will continue even after his death on December 9, 1998.

He was born, educated, and grew up in Scotland. He ioined the Royal Marines and served with them from 1940 to 1946, eventually in the Commando unit. After the war he and Mary were married, emigrating to Canada in 1955. After teaching school in northern British Columbia, they moved south to Vancouver and UBC. David became a member of the English faculty from 1963 until his retirement as Associate Professor in 1985, David's lifelong love of the mountains, which began with hiking trips in Scotland and the European Alps, was to continue here in British Columbia. Becoming a member of the North Shore Hikers in 1962 and the BCMC in 1964, he was active in leading hikes, trail-clearing parties, and executive duties. Following retirement in 1985, David began to experience the health problems, which were to curtail some of his outdoor activities and continue until his death. Despite this, he and Mary travelled the world extensively.

They moved to the North Shore during the 1980's and joined the West Vancouver Seniors Centre. There David was instrumental in organizing the Ramblers hiking group which introduced many seniors to the enjoyment of the outdoors. He led popular hiking trips for the Ramblers every Monday up to a few years ago when ill health finally stopped his participation.

A quiet, unassuming person, David was most widely known as the author with Mary of the "bible" of the Mainland hiking community - the "103 HIKES IN SOUTHWESTERN BRITISH COLUMBIA", now in its 4th edition. The idea for the guide was first proposed to the BCMC by the Seattle Mountaineers, resulting in the formation of a committee for the purpose in 1966. With contributions from many other hikers, the first edition was finally published in 1973. Mary had drawn the trail maps when David offered to write the introduction and the text. The clarity, accurate descriptions, and detail of this guide made it an immediate success, and David and Mary took over the writing and publishing of the subsequent editions. They have always hiked each of the trails included in their books to ensure the information was correct.

The need for a hiking guide describing shorter, easier trips resulted in the production of the popular

(David Macaree cont. from page 8)
"109 WALKS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA'S LOWER
MAINLAND", published first in 1976, and now also in its
4th edition with a similar format to "103 Hikes".

David Macaree will be remembered for his encouragement and education of the outdoor hiking society. We are all in his debt.

# **Recreation and Conservation**

# Snowmobile Conflicts in the Squamish Forest District By Jay MacArthur,

Co-Chairperson Recreation and Conservation Committee

Mike Feller (BCMC) and I met with three snowmobilers from Pemberton and three Forest Service staff members to discuss conflicts in the upper Lillooet River valley. We presented our members concerns about the increasing numbers of snowmobilers, and how our members are usually looking for a wilderness experience. We mapped areas of historical use for backcountry skiing and snowmobiling. There are few conflicts with the current levels of use.

#### Areas of agreement:

- 1. That our members could contact the Pemberton Snowmobile Club (via: Roger Stacey, 932-5538) if they were planning a trip in the upper Lillooet valley. Roger should be able to tell you if the snowmobilers also have a trip to that area. He can also post a card in the local snowmobile shop requesting that saying snowmobilers avoid an area on a paticular weekend.
- 2. That future expansion of commercial recreation may affect both our groups use of the existing wilderness west of Pemberton.
- 3. That a strategic land-use plan might be the best way to work out conflicts

#### **Remaining Concerns:**

We are concerned that with increasing use by both skitourers and snowmobilers, conflicts will increase. We want to protect opportunities for wilderness recreation just as the snowmobilers don't want to lose their access to these areas. As conflicts increase, we have to work together with the snowmobilers and the government to zone areas for different types of use.

#### **Action Items:**

The FMCBC will continue to lobby the Ministry of Forests and the Inter-agency Management Committee for a Land and Resource Management Plan to be started soon.

Take a look at www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/FMCBC/ whistler.htm for more information on conflicts between heli-skiers, snowmobilers and skiers. The FMCBC has developed a web page where you can report conflicts: www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/FMCBC/conflict.htm

#### Five-year forest development plans reviewed for the Chilliwack Forest District

As we go to press, the BC Ministry of Forests is holding a public meeting at Rosedale. The purpose of this meeting is for forestry companies to display their five-year forest development plans (almost entirely road alterations [i.e. building, improving, or deactivating] and tree harvesting operations) for the Chilliwack Forest District and offer these plans for public scrutiny and input. If the public, or public groups, have conflicting interests regarding a particular area, a compromise can be sought with the forest company themselves. If a compromise is not reached, then a process exists to include the Ministry of Forests as a mediating or legislating body. As the announcement of this meeting appears only briefly in local newspapers, Todd Kabaluk of Harrison Hot Springs notified various recreational groups about this meeting. Judy Leykoff of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club will be representing the FMCBC at this meeting.

At stake are areas that members of the FMC might want preserved for a variety of reasons. These might include biologically rich areas, special sceneries, hiking trails, or road access to desirable locations. For example, plans exist to log over many trails in the Cheam Range; several sections of the historic Williamson Lake trail leading to the alpine below Welch Peak were logged last year; and, the road leading to a popular paragliding launch was recently deactivated. If you have an interest in the use of forested public lands and you didn't have a chance to attend this meeting, write the B.C. Ministry of Forests.

The recreation community has been under-represented at these meetings, leading the Ministry of Forests to conclude that they have no interest in participating in forest planning

The meeting for 1999 took place on March 27 between in Chilliwack. Normally, advertisements for this meeting are posted in local newspapers (but not the Agassiz "Observer" or 'Advance') during the first week of February. However, to find out the date, time, and location of future meetings, you can contact Mr. Jack Sweeten, Ministry of Forests at 794-2100.

#### From the "Rumour Mill"

It is rumoured that significant pressure is building to log in the Entiako Protected Area and future designated park. It is rumoured that the logging interests are working hard within the local community, emphasizing the employment and community economics, as well as a devastating beetle attack that is occurring to the trees, as a reason to log this area.

It is our understanding that Cathy McGregor is opposed to logging this area as this would be reneging on a promise by her government and would demonstrate bad faith on the part of her government. It also would jeopardize ongoing LRMP's. Furthermore, if at the moment wood is not selling well, does it make any sense to promote logging in a proposed park area? Apparently the Park Legacy Panel has done its job well and their report supports Ms. McGregor's point of view. We also have heard a rumour that Ms. McGregor's government may not have the same point of view as the Minister of the Environment.

We have also heard that the issues with the Entiako situation have nothing to do with controlling bark beetles (even though that is what the forest industry claims and is supported by some within the Ministry of Forests) but a concerted effort by the forest industry to harvest timber in protected areas and parks. The industry is running out of easy-to-log timber in many areas and they see some low cost easy-to-log land in Parks and Protected Areas, which they want access to. In some areas of BC the industry is apparently overcutting but this does not appear to be the situation in the Lakes and the Vanderhoof forest districts where the Entiako area is. Should the government ever agree to logging, we wonder if this might cause an international incident and boycotting of BC forest products on a scale they have never seen? We wonder if the risk of this is really beneficial to the forest industry in the long run? Once an industry gains a bad reputation, it is hard to persuade the buyers otherwise.

If these rumours are true, it is important to MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN AS FREQUENTLY AS POSSIBLE TO THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND TO THE MEDIA so that the recreationists' point of view is heard. We do not believe in logging in our Protected Areas (would this not become an oxymoron if logging proceeds?) and in our Parks.

(Ed. note - if any readers have verified the accuracy of these rumours, please contact the FMCBC with updated details)

# Leaked B.C. Government Poll shows strong support for more Parks and Wilderness Protection

Reprinted from the BCMC Newsletter with permission

This fall, the B.C. Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Parks commissioned Viewpoints Research to conduct a poll to gauge public attitudes towards environmentalal initiatives. The government has not released the results of the poll but a copy was leaked to environmental groups. A Western Canada press release on the leaked poll stated "I was happy to read that 55% want more than 12% park protection-even when half of them were asked a very loaded question that implied that this would cost jobs and investment. As I continue to read the results it became clear that the great majority of B.C. citizens want more conservation and protection for the environment! Why hasn't the government released this poll?" asked Paul George, Director of Western Canada Wilderness Committee. "No wonder Premier Clark is so unpopular. He is out of touch with the public. While he is out wining and dining industry and caving in to their demands to weaken environmental protection, gut the Forest Practices Code and stop creating new parks, the public is light-years ahead in recognizing that significant amounts of B.C. forest lands need to be protected for present and future generations!" said Collen McCrory, Director of the Valhalla Wilderness Society. McCrory went on to note that 66% of the people thought that creating new parks and protecting wilderness areas should be a government priority.

#### In addition -

- a) 56% of the public support restricting access to wilderness areas while 42.2% favour no
- b) 49.8% of the public strongly support and 11.7% support a province-wide ban on the hunting of grizzly bears.
- c) In terms of creating new parks and protecting wilderness, the government was given a mean rating of 6.4 on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 10 (excellent).

#### Environmentalists demand snowmobile ban

Reprinted from the Internet

Sixty environmental organizations recently petitioned the U.S. National Park Service to prohibit snowmobiles in the National Park System.

The groups believe snowmobiles are causing damage to

Snowmobile ban cont. from page 10 the environment and are a danger to public health and safety and endangered species.

"The snowmobile industry is making a killing in our most treasured parks, literally. They're killing our wildlife, ruining our air and water quality, poisoning the health of rangers exposed to snowmobiles' staggering carbon monoxide exhaust and destroying the solitude and peace cherished by other winter visitors," said Sean Smith, conservation director of Bluewater Network, one of the petitioning groups.

San Francisco-based Bluewater Network, a project of Earth Island Institute, contends that the operation of snowmobiles in the national parks is in conflict with the mission of the National Park Service, which is to "conserve the scenery and wildlife ... and leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

"Snowmobiles dump millions of gallons of raw fuel into national parks every year," said Sean Smith. "According to the California Air Resources Board, one hour on a snowmobile's two-stroke engine produces more smogforming pollution than a modern car creates in one year." Two-stroke engines dump 25-30 percent of their fuel, unburned, out the tailpipe. Emissions include hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, MTBE, particulate matter, and carbon monoxide. These compounds have been found to cause cancer and other health problems.

Approximately 2.5 million snowmobiles are in use today, and sales have doubled in the last five years, to 165,000 units, according to Bluewater. More than 30 park units permit snowmobiles, including Yellowstone (Wyoming), Denali (Alaska), Grand Teton (Wyoming), Voyagers (Minnesota) and Rocky Mountain (Colorado). Approximately 250,000 snowmobiles enter the park system each year in the lower 48 states. Alaskan parks also allow large numbers of snowmobiles.

According to Sean Smith, "Snowmobiles are a tremendous danger to wildlife. Studies show that bald eagles and grey wolves, both of which are endangered species, are threatened by these vehicles. Other species such as bison, white tailed deer, elk, birds and small mammals are also vulnerable."

In 1997, the highest carbon monoxide levels in the nation were recorded at Yellowstone's West Entrance as a result of the winter snowmobile season, according to Bluewater. Carbon monoxide causes dizziness, headaches, throat irritation and nausea. Park rangers at entrance stations complained that they were feeling ill, and the Park Service now pumps fresh air into its offices. "It's ironic that in

Yellowstone National Park, an area set aside for its aweinspiring grandeur, people are getting sick because of air quality," commented Brooke Coleman. "We're concerned about the health of rangers exposed to this exhaust, but we're also extremely worried that snowmobile accidents are being caused because of the high carbon monoxide levels to which drivers are unknowingly exposed." CO levels in snowmobiles are more than 500-1,000 times higher than modern cars.

Accidents are also a major concern to Bluewater.

According to a study in Public Health Reports, Dr.

Michael Landen of New Mexico State concludes that
snowmobile operators are nine times more likely to die or
be injured in accidents than automobile drivers, on a mileper-mile comparison.

In a wide-ranging attack on snowmobiles, Bluewater Network is petitioning five other agencies to study or regulate snowmobiles. Bluewater Network is filing a petition with the EPA to regulate snowmobile emissions to air and water, to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to regulate excessive carbon monoxide emissions to park staff and rangers working in areas with high snowmobile exhaust concentrations, and to the National Transportation and Safety Board and the Consumer Product Safety Commission to investigate excessive accidents and safety problems from snowmobiles.

Bluewater Network has also sent a notice under California's Proposition 65 (Safe Drinking Water Act) to snowmobile manufacturers Bombardier, Artic Cat, Polaris, and Yamaha for pollution of drinking water, and for failure to warn customers of dangerous carbon monoxide exposure.

# FMCBC 1st Annual "TRAILS PAYS!!"

Q: - If we all hike on the trails, then who works on them?

A: - We all do!

Mark July 11th & 12th on your calander to come and join other FMCBC members for a fun weekend of camaraderie, trail building and education!

Please contact the FMCBC office at 878-7007 or 1.888.892.2266 for more info on how to help out

## NORTHERN PERSPECTIVE

#### Prince George LRMP Approved by Government

By Mike Nash

On January 25th a ceremony was held at the University of Northern British Columbia to announce government's acceptance of the Prince George Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). Members of the table in attendance each received a plaque and a T-shirt from Environment Minister Cathy McGregor, acknowledging their contributions during 5-years of meetings and field trips. The real reward was in seeing our efforts come to fruition. During the long process, three members of the table had died, including ex-FMCBC Director George Evanoff, whose recognition was received by his wife Lillian, and son Craig.

The Prince George LRMP is a 10-year high level plan and one-time protected area plan for 34,000 square kilometers around the city of Prince George. The area includes the Rocky Mountains, McGregor Mountains, Cariboo Mountains, and the

Interior Plateau. In size

it is nearly as large as Switzerland, and its eastern terrain is similar to the Swiss Alps. Under the approved plan, 2,750 sq km (8% of the total area) will be protected, a tenfold increase over the existing parks. Although all ecosystems are represented in the plan, protection leans towards the mountains, where forestry values are lower than the Sub-Boreal Interior Plateau; and where recreation, scenic, wildlife and old growth forest values take on more significance. Partly because of its geography, the Prince George LRMP has been one of the most successful in the Province.

In total, 24 new protected areas have been created. The centerpiece is the 1,390 sq km Kakwa, encompassing the most northerly mountains over 10,000 feet in the Canadian Rockies. This will become a world class park that continues the chain of protection in the Rocky Mountains that includes Banff and Jasper National Parks, Mount Robson and Monkman Provincial Parks, Alberta's Willmore Wilderness Recreation Area, and the recently announced Muskwa-Kechika (Northern Rockies.)

In the Rocky Mountain Trench, and highway accessible: 230 sq km Sugarbowl/Grizzly Creek is a popular mountain recreation area encompassing many trails and cabins close to Prince George. It extends down to the Fraser River where it connects with the historic Grand Canyon of the Fraser. Further east, 46 sq km Ptarmigan Creek and 12 sq km Erg Mountain include two of our most challenging and scenic mountain trails. Fang

Mountain with the second largest underground room in Canada, and Close-to-the-Edge with the deepest pothole in North America, are world-class caving areas.

The earlier Herrick Local Resource Use Plan (LRUP) became part of the Prince George LRMP. In the Herrick valley, there is a 220 sq km southern extension to Monkman Provincial Park, and 140 sq km of the historic route of Alexander MacKenzie is protected through Arctic and Pacific Lakes. This was the most difficult stretch of the first crossing of the North American Continent.

Bowron Lakes Provincial Park is increased by 52 sq km at Wolverine River

Additions to existing lower elevation provincial parks include 180 sq km added to Carp Lake north of Prince George; 28 sq km added to Eskers northwest of Prince George, and 22 sq km added to Purden Lake east of Prince George. Eskers Provincial Park is a pocket-wilderness on the doorstep of Prince George that is well endowed with

"In size it is nearly as large as Switzerland..." year-round scenic trails.

Through our direct involvement in the process, George Evanoff and I had an unbelievable opportunity to propose PAs that might otherwise not have happened. As well as his unwavering support for the Kakwa, George pushed hard for and was successful in protecting the Fang Mountain area. Some highlights for me were extending the proposed northern boundary of Sugarbowl/Grizzly Creek from the alpine down to Highway 16 (later extended to the Fraser River); and making successful proposals for the Grand Canyon of the Fraser, Ptarmigan Creek and Erg Mountain. FMCBC Northern Director, Dave King, participated in the LRMP in his official capacity with the Ministry of the Environment and provided us with lots of encouragement. Credit for the Grizzly Creek protected area must also go to local outdoorsman, Bjorn Norheim, who inspired its designation as an alpine recreation area and the construction of three huts nearly three decades ago.

The LRMP is, of course, much more than protected areas. 11% is zoned Settlement and Agriculture, and includes the City of Prince George. 19% is zoned Special Resource Management with an emphasis on natural habitat. 2% is zoned Special Resource Management with an emphasis on scenery and recreation (including a variety of recreational and historic trails) for Tabor Mountain and the Nechako and Lower Blackwater River corridors. 23% is zoned General Resource Management to integrate a wide range of resource values. And 36% is zoned Enhanced Resource Management for the development of timber and mineral

resources while recognizing other resource values. As well, there were a number of general gains of interest to the backcountry hiking, skiing and mountaineering community:

• A 4,500 foot elevational limit to logging in the Herrick Valley. A disappointment was that we were unable to extend this to the larger LRMP, although much of the higher elevations are currently protected by "Caribou High' zones that pre-date the LRMP. Caribou High lands are excluded from the timber harvesting land based for the protection of mountain caribou habitat and population. Caribou High is an area that we will need to watch to ensure that temporary timber shortfalls projected in the 20-30 year horizon are not filled by 'mining' trees from this zone. The best that we were able to achieve in this regard were the research provisions discussed below.

- · Protection of the integrity of alpine and subalpine ecosystems and habitats with respect to resource development and access issues.
- · Protection of higher elevation indicator species, in particular mountain caribou and grizzly bear.
- · Limits to timber harvesting and silvicultural activities in sub-aloine habitats until at least 20vears of research has demonstrated successful rehabilitation and reforestation of such sites. This is a double-edged sword, but at least it buys some time for those who will carry the torch on the next round. Research initiatives are already underway, typically as partnership agreements with UNBC, FRBC, government and industry.
- · Visual impacts on dominant views must be minimized by avoiding rectangular cutblocks and linear boundaries. This was another area of disappointment in that we were not successful in achieving formal Visual Quality Objectives in the mountain backcountry; but the intent behind rectangle!" these general words will give us some leverage during plan implementation. And we were able to make the point that viewscapes are important from the vantage of mountaineers as well as from the more traditional valley bottoms.
- · Mining exploration must be done with sensitivity to other resource values.

So what happens next? As with the Herrick LRUP, members of the table will monitor high-level plan implementation through one or two meetings and field trips per year. If significant deviations are requested to the plan, the table will be consulted. This ongoing

> community involvement has worked in the Herrick Valley, where harvesting seems to be at an above average standard for the terrain type. It also gives licensees flexibility with respect to changing circumstances (ie. bark beetle outbreaks). Last year, the Herrick table asked for and got an audit of the licensee's work to date before discussing proposed plan changes.

The Prince George LRMP and the Herrick LRUP are examples of the opportunities open to individuals and organizations like FMCBC member clubs to participate in public land use planning. The Prince George model was nonsectoral. That is to say, any individual or organization could participate. So, although I represented the FMCBC in the Herrick LRUP, I elected to sit at the LRMP table as an individual member free to speak on any aspect relating to the local community. A number of others did the same, and I think this community element added an important ingredient for success instead of just having the sectors battle it out.

Key ingredients were the field trips designed to acquaint people with each other's interests. Positions fell away quickly when competing table members stood in the rain or snow on the logging show, trap line, horse trail, or alpine meadow instead of posturing across a table. It was a lesson in relative human values to stand in an alpine flower meadow, sun streaming through rain clouds across a beautiful emerald colored lake, talking with someone who still maintained that he could see nothing wrong with shaping a cut block on the opposite mountainside like a rectangle!

At times the interminable meetings seemed to be going nowhere and we found it hard to keep sight of why we were there. Some wondered aloud "Is there life after the LRMP?" and "What

am I going to do with my Thursday evenings when it's over?" For many of us, it became a way of life; and I think that a cornerstone for our eventual success was the ownership that each participant developed from the years invested in the process-in the end, nobody wanted to see it fail.

"It was a lesson in relative human values to stand in an alpine flower meadow, sun streaming through rain clouds across a beautiful emerald colored lake, talking with someone who still maintained that he could see nothing wrong with shaping a cut block on the opposite mountainside

like a

#### Tips for Club Leaders

The following has been provided by the BCMC as a good example of "Trip-Organizer Guidlines".

#### Pre-trip Planning

- Obtain road maps, guidebook notes, and topographic area maps. Check parking, weather, avalanche forecasts, and the needs for permits, area limits, and access issues. Preferably, reconnoiter the route a week or so prior to your trip. Put up trail tape if you feel it's needed and REMOVE it on the way out.
- Familiarize yourself with any hazards and check the strenuousness of the route. Reconfirm that the rating is according to the clubs criteria.
- Plan for what to do if the group becomes separated driving up and on the trail. Consider a rendezvous at key places.
- Have emergency plan including:
  - A suitable First-Aid kit that is freshly stocked.
  - An emergency "bivouac sack" (if someone is injured and can't be moved).
  - ♦ Two 5 metre prusick slings.
  - Know the quickest route to a telephone, and who has a cell phone with them and if it works in that area).
  - A list of emergency numbers.
  - Awareness of whom will take the injured out (or get help) and who stays with the group.
- Make sure everyone knows the departure time from the meeting place - as opposed to the meeting time.
- Tell a responsible person where you're going, when you'll be back, and what to do if you don't return in the planned timeframe. Give the participants the name and number of the emergency contact.

#### As the participants phone in

- Tell non-members that members have priority and that non-member participation on trips (where the number of participants is limited) will not be confirmed until the evening two days prior to departure; i.e. Thursday evening for Saturday and weekend trips, Friday for Sunday trips. Advise participants of the required information for the *Trip* Participants Form; their contact person/phone number, etc. and a waiver will have to be signed to join a BCMC trip.
- Use a Trip Participants Form as a checklist for those who phone in.
- Ensure participants have suitable skills, fitness, and equipment for the trip.
- Have a mental note of the maximum and minimum number of participants for the trip.
- · Ask the participants if they are taking medication, or

- have a medical condition.
- Sort out transportation needs and car-pooling.
- Discuss the process of costs sharing such as fuel, permits, or group equipment.
- If someone seems unsure or intimidated, suggest an alternative trip.

#### At the meeting place

- Have non-members fill out a waiver. All participants must add the relevant information to the Trip Participants Form. Bring several pens.
- Make sure everyone has time to read the waiver.
- Give the group a short overview of the trip, and its objectives and safety requirements. Remind participants that this is a club trip and participants should travel with the group.
- Double check that everyone has suitable equipment (Page 41 from Freedom of the Hills, Vol. 6 has a sample).
- Ask who has First-Aid Equipment and ask their level of expertise.
- Arrange transportation.
- Plan a few 'regrouping' points on the way.
- Warn participants about likely trip hazards.

#### At the trailhead

- Briefly run through the objectives. Review map/ guidebook with participants.
- Check safety gear (e.g. transceivers).
- Ask around about equipment, tents, stoves, and food.
   Ensure nothing is forgotten.
- Leave the Trip Participants Form and the Waivers where they can be located easily by Police, Highway Crew, or rescue/emergency personnel in the event of an emergency.
- Remind everyone of relevant safety issues such as avalanche, rock fall, weather, and environmental waste disposal.
- Remember to stop once or twice in the first hour to adjust clothing or treat hot spots before blisters occur.

#### Management of groups and individuals

- Make policies known.
- Keep instructions simple.
- Use positive feed back and focus on results. Tell people what to do, as opposed to, what not to do.
- The priorities are a safe, happy, and successful trip in that order.
- Be sensitive to the needs and condition of all participants at all times.

#### Know your leader

By Peter Woodsworth

So you want to play in the woods? Before venturing out, ask your leader some hard questions, such as:

- Have they reconnoitered the route recently, or at all?
- Have they ever been to the destination?
- Are they well equipped in gear, outdoor experience, and leadership skills?
- Do they seem to be able to communicate with you?
- Do they appear to have an interest in your well-being?
- Do you think they have a realistic estimate of the duration of the outing?
- Do they appear to have a realistic expectation about the difficulty of the trip?
- How do they set the pace for the trip?
- Have they screened all the participants for adequate gear, skills or fitness?
- Are they trained in avalanche awareness and rescue?

- Do they have formal training in wilderness first aid?
- How reliable is your leader? Check with others who have ventured out with them.

Be careful in the backcountry! Learn outdoor skills and look after yourself - oh, and have a nice hike!

#### **CLASSIFIED ADS**

KONNI LAKE RESORT IN BEAUTIFUL NEMIAH

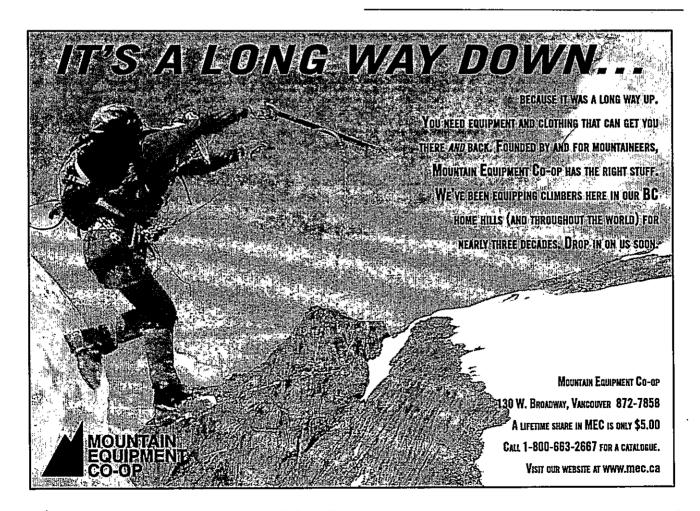
(CHILCOTINS, BC). Hiking paradise on the dry side of the Coast Mountains. Lakeshore log cabins \$60.00 or \$350.00/week. 25% discount for club members! Free brochures & trail maps. Phone 250.468.9948

1987 GMC VAN FOR SALE - 8 passenger van in good running order, no rust - \$1.200 obo

Please contact the FMCBC office at 604.878.7007

Misc. ski and mountaineering equipment for sale - ski's, boots, packs, rock shoes, etc.

Leave a message for Brian at 604.878.7007 ext. #2



#### Did you know that ...?

By John S. Vandermeer, V.O.A.

(Ed. note: I made several typos on this article in the Fall 1998 Cloudburst and I have reprinted it with my apologies to John - Pat Harrison)

Members of the Valley Outdoor Association have been working for five years on a trail east of Mt. Slesse along the Nechankwatch Creek. The trail is called the "Mount Slesse Memorial Trail". It starts on an old logging road that has been cleared by members of the V.O.A. Subsequently, the Chilliwack Forest Department had two bridges built across two creeks, and the "Friends and Relatives of the Crash Victims" built a monument facing a bowl underneath Mt. Slesse. The hike to the monument is one hour and twenty minutes.

From the trail one has views of the spectacular mountains all around. To the west the spires of Mt. Slesse, to the east Mt. Rexford and the Illusion Peaks, and to the north a panoramic view of the Cheam Range.

There are signs before one reaches the monument to respect the memorial site and not to pick up any debris of the plane crash. We expect all hikers and climbers to follow these suggestions.

The trail continues past the monument until one comes to a fork in the road. Take the turn to the right and follow it to an old log-loading platform. Turn left uphill through the blueberry bushes to a ridge. Here turn left and follow the trail and ribbons to the old glacier bed. There you will find a propeller on a cairn indicating the end of the hike. Our trail provides easy access for climbers who will continue from this point. Altitude gain from the beginning of the trail to the monument is about 300 feet (100 metres). From the beginning of the trail to the cairn is 3000 feet (1000 metres) The trail has been officially sponsored by the V.O.A.



ACCESS: From Vedder Crossing, follow the Chilliwack River Road for 30.5 kilometres, past a small Forestry Campsite; then turn right across the bridge spanning the Chilliwack River. After the crossing, take the turn to the right and follow the logging road for five kilometres. You will find the trail on the right hand side of the road.

<u>APROPOS</u>: We also flagged the beginning of the trail to Mount Rexford, which had been obliterated by logging.

#### INMEMORIAM - CHRISMILLS

By Bruce Downing

Chris Mills, M.Sc., PEng, passed away unexpectedly on February 10, 1999 at the age of 50 in Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Chris was born in Stratford Upon Avon, England and completed a B.Sc. degree in 1969 in mining engineering and mineral technology from the Royal School of Mines in London England. He then went to the Colorado School of Mines for a M.Sc. degree in metallurgical engineering/surface chemistry graduating in 1974. He attended Capilano College in 1991 taking courses in environmental management. Chris has been involved in the mining industry for over 30 years and enjoyed all aspects of it. His contribution to others came in the form of written and verbal technical papers as well as co-writing a book with Richard Burt in 1984 titled Gravity Concentration Technology.

Chris began his career with Associated Minerals
Consolidated Ltd. in Australia, then moved onto
ASARCO Inc in New Jersey; Behre Dolbear, New York;
Tantalum Mining Corp and Highwood Resources Ltd.
where he spent considerable time working on the Thor
Lake beryllium deposits. In 1986 he became an
environmental and mineral process engineer consultant.
Chris also worked with a number of mining-related multistakeholder agencies and chaired the western section of
Aquamin. His latest work was involved with acid rock
drainage, whereupon he created an excellent acid rock
drainage website essentially for teaching others about this
subject.

Chris's leisure time was spent planning and cooking gourmet meals, as well as on outdoor pursuits. In his teenage years, he spent a lot of time rock climbing and camping in England. He later spent a great deal of time bicycle touring in Manitoba and in the Princeton, New York area. He later began hiking and backpacking with his wife

(Chris Mills continued from page 16)
Shelley. His interests in the outdoors led him to become vice-president of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC and also to creating the Federation's website.

Chris helped wherever possible at the B.C. Mining Museum at Britannia Beach. Britannia became his mission and learning centre. It was here that he, with colleagues, took numerous teachers and students and introduced them to the world of geology, mining and acid rock drainage. This became Chris' mission to teach and educate others in the field of mining.

Chris was not afraid to challenge the status quo, to risk an idea or challenge the authorities. His energy; his time always available to discuss ideas; his ingenious way of looking at things, his attention to detail and professionalism; his love of education and teaching and his sense of humour are qualities that we admired in Chris.

A friend and colleague, that was Chris.

Bruce Downing, P.Geo. March 8, 1999

#### NATIONAL HIKING TRAIL UPDATE

By Pat Harrison, President

I have received encouraging news from Dave King regarding our proposal for the BC segment of the National Hiking Trail (NHT). Dave has met with several government agencies in recent months and the FMCBC's idea of a northern route has been well received. In recent weeks, the Alexander Mackenzie Trail Society has given its blessing to having the AMT being the western portion of the NTA. Many thanks to Dave for pursuing this matter on behalf of the FMCBC!



Help with mailouts and office work
Trailbuild in the summer
Attend rallies, booths and much more!
Western Canada Wilderness Committee

#### Canada West Mountain School

By Brian Jones, Manager

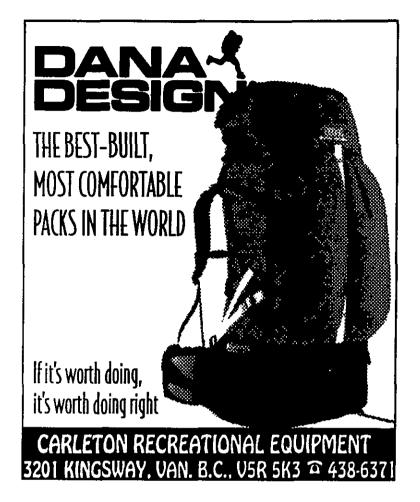
Another winter has almost come to close. I say "almost" as there is still a huge amount of snow in the hills, and probably will be for a couple of months to come!

CWMS had an excellent 98/99 winter season from all perspectives. A record number of students came out to learn about avalanche safety, ski touring, ice climbing and winter travel in general; we again had an incident free season; and, our first full program-season in our new location has gone very smooth.

I would like to take the time and space here to give credit to those who make our school what it is - our instructors. Every one of the instructors who works on CWMS courses commits an enormous amount of time to ensure that our programs are the best. They are all professional, highly skilled, and, most of all, love what they are doing. This winter I was fortumnate to have on the CWMS team the following people:

Simon Austen Paul Bernsten Thierry Cote Geoff Creighton James Dunnagen Christoph Dietzfelbinger Joe Fillapone Line Gillespie Jon Hockin Bruce Kay Alastair King Chris Lawrence Dana Lindahl Greg McAuley Joan Patterson Helen Row **Toran Saviord** Robin Slieker Dave Smith John Stamp Graeme Taylor Rob Usher Kirby Villeneuve Graham Underhill Niko Weis Bruce Wilson

Next time you are out with a trip leader, instructor or guide make sure to thank them for the hard work and energy they put into making your trips successful!



# **BOOK REVIEWS**

Crazy Man's Creek By Jack Boudreau Reviewed by Mike Nash

Jack Boudreau has been documenting tales of the mountain men of the Prince George area for most of his life. Growing up in Penny, he was in a unique situation to capture the stories first or second hand. Now retired from the Forest Service, he has compiled these accounts into a best selling book, 'Crazy Man's Creek.'

The book caught my interest near the beginning as I read about Ray Mueller, pictured on page 20 taking his riverboat through the Grand Canyon of the Fraser in 1953. Shortly before his death, I had the privilege of going through the same canyon with Ray, who at 87 years old, steered his specially designed craft through the lower and upper canyons with the care born of nearly 70 years in those treacherous waters. During a shore break above the upper rapids, he related tales going back to 1925. Back in Sinclair Mills he invited us into his house, that amazingly

he had rafted intact through the canyon many years before. Over tea and cookies he showed us his collection of artifacts from the canyon, including a 5-pound mastodon tooth. I thought that somebody should write this man's story down; and Jack Boudreau has done that for Ray and many others like him.

There are a few surprises in the book. One that hit me as a backcountry skier is that boar grizzly bears (who are not true hibernators) can be active through much of the winter. This used to be more common when there were greater numbers of moose to feed on. Jack also told me that in his view, grizzly bear populations are increasing in our local mountains. This has also been my own experience and that of my hiking friends.

One error I noticed is that the picture of Mount Ida taken from Jarvis Lakes is incorrectly identified as Alexander Mountain. Canadian Pacific Railway surveyor, E. W. Jarvis came through here in February 1875, and wrote: "The entrance to the pass is very grand, being guarded on either side by high pyramidal peaks... to the most prominent of these points we gave the name Mount Ida."

Other stories illustrate the hazards that nature can visit upon any of us who becomes complacent or just run out of luck in the mountains. A well

experienced trapper, Martin Dayton, took advantage of a hard frozen snow pack to do a quick reconnaissance of a few miles from his cabin, making the nearly fatal mistake of not taking his snowshoes. Before he got back, the weather changed and he found himself floundering in waist deep snow, nearly dying of exhaustion and exposure only a short distance from his cabin. Another experienced man, Jack Evans, left his pack leaning against a tree to collect water. With a storm and darkness coming on, he almost failed to locate his life-saving gear. Anyone who has spent enough time in the mountains can probably relate to one of these stories and the need for constant vigilance.

From my own knowledge of these mountains, this book has a solid ring to it. It caught local publisher, publisher, Caitlin Press by surprise and quickly sold out its first printing before Christmas. Since then, it has been at the top of the Association of Book Publishers of BC book list for many weeks. It is packed full of amazing local stories, and is well written by a man who was positioned to know and who had the foresight to write it all down. 'Crazy Man's Creek' is a must read for anyone interested in BC's

mountain history; and for those of us who hike, ski, snowshoe and bushwhack through the McGregor, Rocky and Cariboo mountains, it's a gold mine!

#### WALKHORSESHOE BAY TO THE U.S.A.

Charles Clapham of the Valley Outdoor Association and former member of the Trails Committee have written a book called: "Walk Horseshoe Bay to the U.S.A." It describes how to walk from Horseshoe Bay in West Vancouver to the Peace Arch on the Canada-US border, using trails, parks, dikes, and quiet streets. Each day's travel is guided by detailed maps and is walked one-way without the retracing of steps. The book describes how to use transit to get from the end of one day's walk to the start. This unique approach has resulted in the book being recognized in BC Transit's The Buzzer in its December 24 issue. Alison Appelbe wrote a full-page article about it in the Vancouver Courier of January 31, 1999. Charles was interviewed by Rick Clough of CBC Radio on the February 2 Early Edition.

Depending on the distance you wish to travel each day, the total walk can be accomplished in ten or more days. It passes many points of historical interest, such as Lighthouse Park, Siwash Rock, Granville Island, UBC, Steveston, Ladner, Semiahmoo Trail, White Rock Pier, and the Peach Arch. It goes through areas of varied natural history such as arbutus slopes, old growth trees, second growth forests, stony and sandy beaches, the marshes of Boundary Bay, and the wetlands of Serpentine Fen. The walks are both entertaining and educational.

The book is available from Lower Mainland bookstores and sports stores for \$14.95 plus GST, or Charles will mail you one on receipt of a cheque for \$15.

Further information contact Charles Clapham at:

4374 Locarno Crescent, Vancouver, BC, V6R1G3 (604) 224-0329, or Charles\_Clapham@bc.sympatico.ca

## FMCBC Meeting dates and locations

**Annual General Meeting** 

Date:

June 12th, 1999 (9am - 4pm)

Location:

Sunrise Community Association,

1931 Windermere, Vancouver, BC

**Board of Directors** 

Dates:

April 21, 1999

May 19, 1999 June 16, 1999

July 21, 1999

Aug 18, 1999

Location:

47 W. Broadway, Van. - FMCBC office

**Recreation and Conservation** 

Date:

March 29th, 1999

Location:

Jay McArthur's house

Date:

April 26th, 1999

Location:

Roger Freeman's house

Date:

June 7th, 1999

Location:

TBA

(Note: No R&C meetings will be held over the summer months)

Trails

Dates:

April 19th, 1999

June 7th, 1999

Location:

47 W. Broadway, Van. - FMCBC office

**FMCBC Lower Mainland Delegates** 

Date:

April 18, 1999

location:

47 W. Broadway, Van. - FMCBC office

**FMCBC Vancouver Island Delegates** 

Dates and locations to be announced

Please contact the FMCBC Office

The Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society would like every one to know of the newly completed "Sunshine Coast Trail". 180 km long, this trail runs from Saltry Bay north to finish at Sara Point on the Malaspina Peninnsula. For more information contact Eagle Walz at 604.483.9565, or Scott Glaspy 604.485.9463. Visit their website at www.sunshinecoast-trail.com

#### Gearing up for summer By Brian Jones

It's time to put the skis away and start thinking about the summer season. That means time to start pulling out the summer "gear" and checking it over, deciding what to repair, what to replace and what to keep on using. Having your gear in order well before the first trip saves last minute running around to fix or replace expensive items, and reduces the risk of equipment failure during a trip.

For hiking trips, the primary piece of equipment will be your *boots*. Make sure that you get them out well before your first trip, and give them a thorough check over. Look closely at the soles to ensure that the glue has not dried out causing them to separate from the uppers. While you are at it, check out the tread. Any reputable shoe repair shop will be able to help extend the life of your boots by resoling them. Last, but not least, take the time to give them a few coats of waterproofing, especially for those early season hikes on wet snow!

Next off make sure your *pack* is serviceable for another season. The usual points to be concerned about are anywhere a load strap is stitched to the pack fabric - examine these spots closely, pulling hard on the straps to make sure the stitching is still holding well. Also try all your buckles to see that none are lost or broken.

Got a milk crate full of rock-climbing gear collecting dust from last season? First and foremost, get your rope out and do an end-to-end, thorough inspection of this essential piece of safety equipment. Was it stored away from chemicals, gas and oil all winter? Was it used for any ice climbing? If so, are you positive there is no damage from crampons or ice tools? When checking your rope, run it through your hands end to end looking and feeling for any irregularities. I usually will do this at least twice to make sure I haven't missed any spots. Feel for "mushy" spots, damaged sheath, stiff sections and excessive abrasion or "fuzzy sections". Look for nicks and tears in the sheath, exposed core material and chemical stains. If you are unsure of anything you find, bring your rope into your local climbing shop and ask them. Remember, your rope is one of the most important (and vulnerable!) pieces of safety equipment you will own - don't try and extend the value of your rope at a risk to yours and others safety!

All other soft materials (webbing, harness's, slings, etc) should be checked in a similar fashion. Any rope or webbing showing significant fading from UV damage should be cut up and used as a dog leash, or some such purpose. Generally, 2-3 years maximum is a good life

expectancy for slings and webbing, less if they are used a lot. *Harness's* should be inspected for visual wear on the belay loops and tie-in points. Also, look over the stitching and watch out for UV damage.

Rock protection and carabiners should all be inspected for function. Do the 'biner gates open and close smoothly? Are the camming devices operating as they should? Wash them in warm water, dry them completely and use a light lubricant (Tri-flow, silicon, etc. - avoid excessive lubrication as this will attract dirt and potentially damage sling material). If they still are stiff or lack a full range of motion, toss 'em! Check over all wire cable connections. Some camming device wires can be replaced, but any structural wires (i.e. wired "nuts', etc) with visible damage should be discarded, or the wires replaced, if possible, at a qualified shop.

Belay and rappel devices need to be checked for any damage to the attachment cable/cord. Also, look closely for any fractures, and make sure there are no burrs that may abrade your rope.

The rest of your general *camping equipment* should be checked out also. *Tents* should be set up before any trips and inspected for mildew, tears, or broken poles. Fire up your *stove* to make sure it still works (toss out last seasons gas, and start off with fresh).

All in all, going through your gear can be an enjoyable day in itself, especially early in the season when the weather is not so co-operative! Remember, even with the good quality equipment out there these days, nothing lasts forever. A bit of time and a few dollars spent now will help to ensure that you have a summer full of hassle-free trips!



#### Water quality in Backcountry Recreation By Chris Mills, Chairperson of Education and Safety Committee

In previous Safety & Education Committee columns the subject of hydration, or adequate water intake, during mountain recreation has been discussed. While it is usual to start a hike or a ski trip with a full water bottle (usually 1 litre) from the tap at home, most of us find that this often barely lasts for the first long steep climb - particularly in summer's heat. To refill the water bottle from an ice-cold mountain stream is certainly one of the pleasures of our sport. Are we taking any risks to our health by doing this? Mostly probably not.

Natural water contains many things, including dissolved chemicals and assorted disease-causing agents such as bacteria, parasitic protozoa, and viruses, and suspended fine solid particles (particularly in the case of glacial runoff). In most cases these are natural products, but any water downstream of human activity must be treated with suspicion. This would include water downstream of ski resorts, mining and logging camps and, of course, any permanent community.

The most frequent cause of concern for backcountry users seems to be the parasitic protozoan Giardia lamblia, also known as "beaver fever" and many other names. These parasites, a photomicrograph of which are shown, are 7 to 10 micrometres (a micrometre is one millionth of a metre) in their smallest dimension - i.e. rather larger than bacteria. They attach to the upper intestine and cause various stomach and digestive disorders, depending upon the individual, although many people are completely immune to their presence. Giardia is widespread in both nature and community water supplies at low levels of concentration, and are frequently unnoticed. Clearly the remnants of Giardia (cysts) are spread when eliminated from the human body, which gives yet another reminder to observe sound sanitary practices in the outdoors.

The outdoor recreationist now has many commercial options for water treatment, including a variety of filter devices and iodine treatment methods, while the old standby of boiling water before consumption is still valid (although remember that as you climb higher, water boils at a lower temperature, and adjust boiling times accordingly).

Filtres on the market with a pore (hole) size of 0.1 to 0.2 micrometres will remove parasites such as Giardia, and most bacteria, in addition to cryptosporidia. They will not, under normal circumstances remove viruses. The claim that viruses are associated with solid particles of sediment, and

will therefore be removed by filters, is not wholly true.

Iodine treatment methods commercially available will, if instructions are followed completely, kill protozoan parasites, bacteria and viruses. Your water will taste of iodine if the treatment dosage is correct, and you may need to adjust your treatment procedure to correct for water temperature and sediment level (cloudiness).

In backcountry areas of British Columbia the decision as to treating drinking water, or not, is very much a judgement call, and will be very much dependent upon the experience of individual mountain users.

From a personal viewpoint, my wife Shelley and I rarely treat our water (a major exception being on the West Coast Trail, where we used iodine treatment or boiling for all of our personal water consumption). In over 3000 km of hiking and backpacking in southwestern BC we have never experienced any problems, but we carry iodine tablets in case we need them.

The above comments are offered to outdoor users in British Columbia, and most certainly should not be taken in a global sense. Travelers overseas, especially to areas with endemic diseases and poor sanitation, must observe more stringent guidelines in their water treatment. It is also desirable that leaders of groups in British Columbia become more familiar with the health aspects of water treatment/ usage in the backcountry. The following, readily available, texts are suggested as important reading:

Medicine for Mountaineering, 4th Edn., Wilkerson, 1992, Wilderness Medicine, 3rd Edn., Forgey, 1987, Lightweight Expeditions, Collister, 1989, The Expedition Cookbook, Gunn, 1988.

Ed. note - This is the article that Chris had selected for this issue of Cloudburst, before he passed away. He was vitally concerned about safety issues in the outdoors.

#### THANK YOU!!

The FMCBC would like to thank Markus Kellerhals and Darlene Anderson for their many years of hard work and dedication as past Directors for the FMCBC!

They have each moved away from the Lower Mainland and do not serve on the Board any more, though they still continue to provide valuable input and assistance.

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

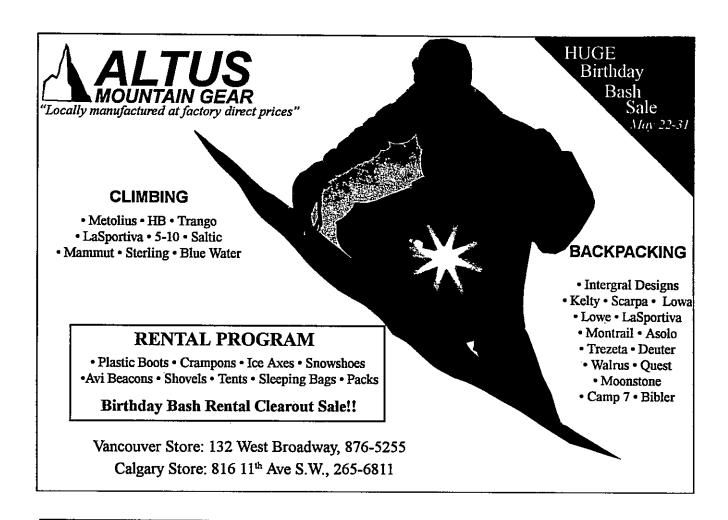
## Hosted by the North Shore Hikers June 11-13, 1999

# Schedule of Events

# June 11, 1999 (Friday evening)

· Meet at	Lesley Boh	m's place for get together social. Bring your own snacks and drinks.				
<u>June 12, (S</u>	aturday)					
• 9 am - 4	_	FMCBC Annual General Meeting at Sunrise Community Association, 1931 Windermere, Vancouver, BC				
· 7 am - 5		Hike to Wedgemount Lake and Ridge, Whistler area				
• 4 pm - 5		FMCBC Directors' Meeting				
· 6 pm - 8	_	Banquet at Baci's Italian Restaurant				
<u>June 13, (S</u>	unday)					
· 7 am - 5	5 pm: ]	Hike to Mt Wittenberg, Chilliwack area, plus others to be announced.				
<u>Additional</u>	Information	<u>1</u> :				
	A	l Cone's number is 261-4032				
	M	Iap's to the locations will be sent to participants when they register.				
Please send	l form and c	heque by May 21 to:				
	A	I Cone				
	28	846 W 38th Ave				
	<u>_</u>	ancouver, BC, V6N 2W9				
 		REGISTRATION FORM				
Name(s) _		Tel:				
   Address _	<del>,_</del> -	Postal Code:				
Club Affi	liation					

Name(s)	Tel:
Address	Postal Code:
Club Affiliation	<del></del>
Billeting needed?	Number of people
   Attend dinner Saturday night (\$24) 	
Need lunch on Saturday (\$7)	
L	



# <u>Canada West Mountain School</u>

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