



CLOUDBURST

The Newsletter of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.
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Fed Opposes Melvin Creek/Cayoosh Resort Project

Mt. Arrowsmith Trail Worked on by Fed Clubs

Commercial Backcountry Recreation Planning is Underway



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CLOUDBURST

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

Word Limit: 500 words

Advertising: The FMCBC invites advertising or classified advertising that would be useful to our members. Please contact the Editor or Fed office for a rate sheet.

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MEMBERSHIP

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) is a non-profit organization representing the interests of non-mechanized hikers and climbers, and outdoor clubs throughout British Columbia. The FMCBC

1) Addresses mountain access, recreation, and conservation issues; 2) promotes outdoor education and safety through courses of instruction and Cloudburst articles; and 3) builds and maintains hiking trails throughout B.C. by its member clubs. Membership in the FMCBC is open to any individual or group interested in non-mechanized outdoor activities, and access, recreational, and conservation concerns. Those interested in joining the FMCBC have two options:

Club Membership:

Please contact the FMCBC office to receive a list of clubs that belong to the FMCBC (See back cover)

Individual Membership:

Call the FMCBC office at 604 878 7007.

Membership for individuals is \$25 per year.

The FMCBC accepts VISA and Mastercard for payment.

You may also send \$25 along with your name and address to the FMCBC at the above address.

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BOARD REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Lesley Bohm

Hard as it is to come back down to reality after sitting at 7000' in the Upper Stein looking down on Caltha Lake and Cherry Pit Pass clothed in early snow, I'll try.

At our last directors' meeting we discussed the current applications for logging access roads in Parks—Carp Lake near Prince George to which our local representative Mike Nash gave approval as the alternative road would have been more damaging, and the Manning Park panhandle which we fear might set a precedent.

We reviewed the well attended (15 people!) September Rec and Con meeting that was attended by Al Raine who is proposing a ski development in Melvyn Creek, and Ray Crook from the Ministry of the Environment who is responsible for the permit application. The Duffy Lake corridor is now subject to the same development pressures as the Sea to Sky corridor since the road has been paved resulting in considerable use by tourists. The region is in need of a Land Use Plan, with possible inclusion of new parks to protect some of it from over-development. We have seen at Whistler how commercial snowmobile, heliski, helihike, helibike, and all terrain vehicle companies can suddenly overrun our traditional use areas on Crown Land.

We are currently participating in the commercial British Columbia Assets and Land Corporation (BCAL) recreation approval process for Sea to Sky by providing our use patterns and requirements in the corridor to ORC (Outdoor Recreation Council). Darlene Anderson, a former FMCBC director, is coordinating information (once again). Letters have been sent to Ray Crook stating our positions against both Melvyn Creek development and the Brohm Ridge proposal (Garibaldi at Squamish)—the first because it would interfere with our non-mechanized use of the area and goat habitat, and the second because of almost certain encroachment on Garibaldi Park, interruption of our access to Garibaldi Peak, and poor feasibility owing to unsuitable terrain, elevation, and fog, which fac-

tors made development fail the last time. Brohm seems less of a threat right now because of a shortage of funds.

From Vancouver Island the news is that vociferous opposition at meetings with government resulted in an end to the idea of land trades to forest companies for deleted parkland—cash will be traded instead thus saving Vancouver Island land from privatization, which would result in loss of public access, and exclusion from the Forest Practices Code.

The Chilliwack Lake area is undergoing a Draft Management Plan—Director Judy Leykauf will monitor it.

The Brew Hut was destroyed by snow and requires an estimated \$3000 worth of material for repairs. This VOC hut is close to all of our lower mainland members and we are trying creative ways to find funds that we do not ourselves have: pass the hat to our clubs?

Jim Firstbrook, now vice-president, has come up with some proposals for broadening our membership base to include the general hiking-mountaineering public and approaching sports equipment providers for help. The strengthening of appeal to the general public would strengthen the FMCBC and hopefully appeal to younger

people. Mechanisms are as yet unclear, but I support the idea, the alternative being slow death of the Federation owing to lack of funding.

REINVENTING THE FMCBC

by Jim Firstbrook, Vice President

For those who have been involved with the Fed for any length of time you no doubt groaned inwardly when you read the title of this article. Perhaps you even said out loud "oh no, not this again." Let me begin by providing two motivations why we should be "reinventing" the FMCBC.

"Destroy Your Business" has become the slogan of the late 90's in the business world. It means to stay successful an organization has to be continually questioning what it's doing and how. We have to be willing to discard the current practices and assumptions in order to prosper in today's fast changing world.

Of more immediate relevance to the Fed consider the following:

- * The Fed's annual revenue has dropped from \$250K (1988) to \$56K (2000)
- * Government grants or payments have dropped from \$200K (1988) to 0 (2000)
- * Fulltime paid staff have dropped from 2.5 to 0.5 – we can no longer afford a fulltime executive director

Membership in clubs is at best static – most clubs in their reports at the AGM mentioned their average age is steadily increasing while overall membership remains constant or is decreasing. The number of clubs associated with the Fed is holding roughly constant (*ed: three new clubs in the last couple of years*).

“What does the Fed do for us” is still heard fairly often. Club ambivalence about Fed membership is better than it was some years ago but still exists. With a declining budget it's likely that the Fed will do less for its members rather than more.

There is a clearly a problem here. The current model of the Fed relying solely on club membership, now that the government will no longer support us, is not sustainable. It's impossible to predict exactly where this will take us but I think it will result in either the eventual end of the organization or at best retrenchment to a purely volunteer organization without a permanent office or paid staff.

On the positive side:

- * CWMS is the leading mountain skills school in BC and is budgeted to contribute several thousand dollars to the Fed 2000 revenue.
- * The Recreation and Conservation committee has a core of dedicated volunteers with many years of experience dealing with government and corporations
- * The Wilderness Education Fund has been very successful with school based programs put on by John Clarke
- * We have experience, infrastructure and status that have been built up over the years of the Fed's existence

Consider also:

MEC has 375,000 members in BC – it seems safe to assume that over half are active “self propelled”, “non-mechanized” mountain recreationalists at least some of the time

Hike the Grouse Grind or take the trail to the Squamish Chief's first summit or ski at Diamond Head on a sunny spring weekend and you see that mountain recreation is a growing activity in BC

At the last Fed AGM there was a discussion of whether the Fed should become more inclusive (i.e. should represent the interests of all “self propelled”, “non

mechanized” mountain recreationalists) or if it should remain exclusive (i.e. focussed only on the interests of the clubs). Many at the meeting felt the Fed should be moving in the direction to become inclusive.

This leads me to believe that if the Fed “reinvented” itself and became the organization that actively represented the interests of all “self propelled”, “non mechanized” mountain recreationalists then it could have considerably more members and revenue. This would allow us to provide more services to our members and allow us to have more impact on land use decisions, trail building and mountain safety.

I think in 5 years we could have a Fed that has: 50 to 100 thousand members a million dollars in annual revenue or more increased involvement in Recreation and Conservation issues with a greater ability to influence decisions active trail crews building new trails and maintaining existing ones expanded school based wilderness education program.

Looking beyond these immediate benefits, I can imagine the Fed involved in things like:

- * publishing books, maps, magazines
- * funding of research related to mountain recreation
- * construction & maintenance of a backcountry hut system

The first step is to agree that the Fed should change to actively represent the interests of all BC “self propelled”, “non mechanized” mountain recreationalists (*ed: we are still the de facto group representing all hikers and climbers*). We would like to hear feedback from anyone, but especially from club members. Based on the feedback we hear, and if there is general agreement that the Fed should change in this way, the Board of Directors will then consider in the new year how to build consensus around the next steps.

Feedback in all forms is welcome: verbally with a board member, via fax, via email, via snail mail – see the masthead for these coordinates.

Jim Firstbrook is the Vice President of the FMCBC. He is new to the board but has been involved with the Fed since becoming an instructor for CWMS 10 years ago.

STAFF REPORTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Pat Harrison

I was directed by the Board at the 26 June 1999 BOD meeting to come up with a set of goals for the September Board of Directors meeting. I have outlined my ideas below. From my experience from the first three weeks in the office, I believe a full-time ED is a necessity (I'm not a candidate). The amount of paperwork to run an organization well is overwhelming. In a well run organization, each inquiry must be responded to quickly, membership and website kept current, and constant communication with our clubs and the public a must. A two-day per week ED can only accomplish some of this.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is the most import aspect for the survival of the Fed. Without improved fundraising, the Fed will never obtain its potential. As I look at the history of fundraising by our organization and other organizations (both charity and non-charity), this will be formidable. Our commitment with EFBC will continue to improve, I believe. I have submitted the Casino application for this fiscal year. Obviously, we need improved membership in our clubs and the Fed. Continued recruiting of new clubs is a must in order for the Fed to bring in new members and to broaden the representation of the Fed in B.C. Corporate fundraising remains the mystery. Charity organizations appear to have uncertain results when trying to get corporate sponsorship.

CLUB LIAISON

We need to improve our involvement and communication with our member clubs so they feel we are an important aspect of their club's activities. This will include one or two visits per year to their meetings by directors and myself. We must make sure

clubs are attending their local delegates meetings with the Fed (e.g. Lower Mainland Delegates Meetings). I also want to encourage more involvement by our members in the Cloudburst. Improved volunteerism by club members would be a positive way of interacting with clubs (e.g. Trail Days).

OFFICE FILES

I have begun the process of becoming familiar with

the office computer and hard files. I have begun organizing the top drawer of the filing cabinet for projects being carried out by Fed. Each folder will have the person responsible for the project marked it. This system then will allow the Board of Directors and the ED an available resource for ongoing projects.

NATIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM FOR B.C.

I believe this to be an extremely important programme to promote the Fed as a "hiking" trail organization, promotion of ecotourism, and promotion of a non-mechanized trail system. I believe we need to get a major corporation to sponsor this trail to get it kick started.

TRAIL DATABASE

In conjunction with the above item and the following item, I believe we need to get our trail database up and running on the website. This would be a definite draw to our site.

WEBSITE IMPROVEMENT

Our website is good, but it does not grab our viewers' attention the way it should. We need to promote issues right from the start on the homepage. I have a couple of people reviewing the page at the moment.

LIAISON WITH OTHER CONSERVATION GROUPS

We need to improve our communication with other conservation groups. In this way we can improve our standing in the conservation community.

VOLUNTEERISM

I have begun a list of volunteers and what they wish to work on. Volunteerism needs to be a well coordinated process so that people don't get dropped through the cracks. In the past, the Fed has often asked for volunteers and then not had any project for them to work on. An on-

going list of volunteer projects and volunteers need to be maintained.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES LOST

One role I see the Fed playing is pressuring the government to reinstate recreation in the planning process. I have taken an excerpt from ORC's newsletter "The Outdoor Re-

"Access to public recreation opportunities is declining and under threat! The protected areas that have been designated through the land use planning processes have been primarily based on conservation."

port" (with permission). In the Executive Director's column, Norma Wilson comments on the situation in the recreational planning process. She states "Access to public recreation opportunities is declining, and under threat! The protected areas that have been designated through the land use planning processes have been primarily based on conservation. While we favour conservation, the result is that too few important recreation areas have been pro-

tected. This means that they have been left in the special and general management categories, and when the crunch arrives (resource extraction), we are finding that outdoor recreation opportunities are being compromised. Add to this the demise of the Recreation Branch of the Ministry of Forests, charging for Forest Service Recreation Sites, uncertainty about the Rec Site brochure program, removal of the word 'recreation' from nearly every branch and department of government except the Commercial Recreation Policy - I could go on, but surely it is clear that there is no one in government charged with defending the public's interest in access to outdoor recreation opportunities. There are some committed people who soldier on, but they are finding it increasingly difficult."

CANADA WEST MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

by Brian Jones, Manager

Canada West Mountain School is stepping into a different realm for the year 2000. Carrying on in the tradition of offering high quality mountain safety services, we will be expanding our offerings to include a variety of international destinations. Some people may ask, "Why?". Over the years we have received a fairly consistent level of feedback from participants on our programs suggesting more variety, different locales and programs with a destination focus. Most participants on CWMS programs continue to come back looking for further training, and many of these are looking for an experience that we are fully capable of offering, but haven't. Now we do. As of February 2000, the following exciting new mountain destinations can be reached with CWMS.

Traveling through mountain passes and remote Berber villages while *ski touring in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco* will be a once in a lifetime experience. You will spend one week touring from village to village with a guide from CWMS and a local Moroccan Adventure Guide. Even though you will be skiing at elevations of up to 3,500 metres within sight of the Sahara desert, the cultural experience alone is worth the trip!

If Morocco doesn't appeal to you, then a *spring trip to India's Manali Valley* might be for you. This ski tour will take you over 5,000 metre high passes, onto the Bara Shigri Glacier, the 2nd largest glacier in the Himalayas, and through the Malana Valley, home of the unique caste of the Untouchables. Your trip will be run by CWMS Mountain Guide Norman Winter, who has many seasons of experience ski guiding in this region of the Himalayas.

Closer to home for the non-skiers we are conducting *week long climbing camps in Red Rocks, Nevada*. These camps will allow climbers from beginner to advanced experience to explore what is arguably one of the best locations in North America for moderate, multi pitch climbing.

Routes of all levels abound, all situated on the edge of the Nevada desert giving an ideal climate, excellent access and remarkable scenery.

In the mountaineering scene we are offering more programs that will take advantage of our proximity to the Canadian Rockies, with classic ascent of peaks such as *Athabasca, Edith Cavell, Mount Robson* and others. The *East Ridge of Logan* is also a year 2000 CWMS objective, a moderately technical (though spectacular!) ascent up Canada's highest peak.

CWMS even has a sea kayaking component coming up! Our long time instructor Bruce Wilson also operates Sage Wilderness, a local sea kayaking company, and we are partnering to offer a *multi-sport expedition into Mt Waddington*. Starting from Vancouver Island, you will paddle through the islands of Johnstone Strait and up into Knight Inlet. From there you will trade your paddle for an ice axe and embark on a climb of Waddington, as the early explorers did, via the Franklin Glacier. A true coastal adventure!

As you can see, CWMS has an exciting season planned to usher in the 21st century. After all, in this day and age, what excuse do we have for *not* exploring the world?

WEBSITE UPDATE

Shane Koscielniak, Mark Markiotti (a volunteer), and Pat Harrison have been working on improving our website. Shane has been the one doing the html manipulation. Thank you for your efforts.

THANKS TO JANET STEINBACHS

Janet Steinbachs has volunteered her time to finish imputing the updated membership lists submitted by our various clubs. Thank you, Janet.

THANKS TO CLOUDBURST CONTRIBUTORS

Many thanks to our members and others who contributed to this issue of Cloudburst. We received many more contributed articles for this issue than our last issue.

COMMITTEE AND PROGRAMME REPORTS

EDUCATION AND SAFETY

by Brian Jones, CWMS Manager

Imagine this:

You have just completed an enjoyable summer day-hike to the top of Brandywine Mt. near Whistler, and are taking in the view when one of your party slips on a loose boulder and breaks their leg. Immediately your casual Sunday hike becomes a far more serious undertaking. What do you do?

Many residents of BC are unaware of the extent to which the BC Ambulance service operates within our province. Most larger urban centers, and many smaller communities are part of the 911 network. Simply dial 911, give your particulars to the dispatcher, and help will arrive soon. Outside of the areas covered by 911, the only difference is that you need to know the local ambulance dispatch number. So, you ask, what relevance does this have to you and your friend with the broken leg up on the top of Brandywine? The same process applies anywhere in the province - **including backcountry areas only accessible by helicopter!** Just use a cell phone to call 911. Of course, if you do not have a cell phone, or are outside of cell coverage, you will have to send someone out to call the Ambulance service.

The provincial Air Ambulance Service will respond to requests placed directly to the Air Ambulance service at 1-800-561-8011, through 911, or through a local ambulance dispatch. If the following criteria are met, your buddy with a broken leg can be picked up by an ambulance as simple as if he were in downtown Vancouver.

The dispatcher will want to know specific details about the nature of the injury; exact location, including map references, elevation and latitude/longitude coordinates;

condition of the patient (are they conscious? mobile? sitting or lying down? deteriorating/improving?); current weather conditions (wind speed and direction, visibility, cloud cover, etc.); nature of the terrain and landing site (on snow? ridge top or valley? level ground?); and, method of contacting you (cell #, radio frequency, etc.).

"The same process applies anywhere in the province - including backcountry areas only accessible by helicopter! Just use a cell phone to call 911."

- * an Air Ambulance will only fly between dawn and dusk, and good visibility is required;
- * a clear and safe landing space must be available for the helicopter to land;
- * no precarious landings, hovering landings, slinging or long-lining will be done;
- * and, the patient must be within 30 metres (non-technical terrain) from the landing site.

Remember, this is an *ambulance* that you are calling, not Search and Rescue. Expect only what you would if you called an ambulance in an urban environment - a paramedic (who most likely knows nothing about the mountain environment) and a vehicle to transport a patient. Nothing else.

Lastly, if you are in doubt about your ability to assess whether a helicopter can safely land and take off from your location, *let the dispatcher know!* They will alert a Search and Rescue crew if they feel it is needed, and have personnel trained in Mountain Rescue sent to your site to coordinate the evacuation.

Be aware that the cost of any ambulance for BC residents is \$54.00 for the 1st 40km, plus .50 cents/km after that, to a maximum of \$274.00. For non-residents of BC, a ground ambulance is a flat fee of \$386.00, and an air ambulance is \$1,900.00/hour. To receive more information about services provided by the BC Air Ambulance service anywhere in BC, contact the number listed above.

UPDATE ON THE WILDERNESS EDUCATION PROGRAM

by Lisa Baile

The Wilderness Education Program (WEP) owes much of its success to the generous and continued support of many members of the mountaineering community. We'd like to share with all of you what WEP has been up to in the past year, some of our achievements, and what our plans are for this school year.

It is hard to believe that in the three years since WEP began over 20,000 students and teachers in BC have attended John Clarke's informative and entertaining talks and slide shows! Over 1200 students have taken part in field trips to local wilderness areas. John brings wilderness live to the classroom. He has an unending capacity to share his knowledge and enthusiasm with students, distilling his decades of wilderness exploration and thousands of beautiful photographs into a captivating, inspiring and often hi-

larious presentation. In addition to the in-school presentations and field trips John has provided over 15 workshops at teachers' professional development days. For the last three years John has been a popular speaker at the BC Science Teachers annual conference, *Catalyst* - and has already been invited to present at *Catalyst-2000* to be held in Whistler next April. John has put thousands of kilometres on his 16 year old Volvo (which was donated by an enthusiastic supporter!) going out to schools and leading wilderness trips. John's car even has a 14 foot long blue tube (the "scud") permanently mounted on the roof rack (another volunteer project) to carry John's custom projection screen. So if you see him go by, be sure to wave!

WEP has been a huge amount of work but well worth the effort to reach so many young people with a message about wilderness conservation. The most rewarding thing about WEP is the support and enthusiasm we receive from students and teachers. For example: *"He (John) was so enthusiastic with the way he talked that he made me want to be at that certain place right at that time"* Pei, Grade 9. And . . . *"John creates a sense of wonder about our own province. Through his slides, narrative and accompanying music, John is able to capture the imagination of his audience and take them on a journey that few will ever experience first hand"*. Steve Cardwell, Director of Education, Delta Programs Division.

Besides the terrific feedback from students and teachers, WEP has also been formally recognized for excellence in environmental education. WEP received the *BC Environmental Education Award* in 1998 from the Environmental Education Provincial Specialists Association for outstanding contribution to environmental education in BC schools. And this year, WEP received the prestigious *BC Minister's Environmental Award* from the BC Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks.

WEP and John Clarke, have also been getting a fair amount of attention from the media. In the last year there have been articles in the Vancouver Sun and local papers. John has been profiled in national and local radio and TV, and this summer John and an entire class of students were shown in action on a field trip in the Seymour valley in the program "Greater Vancouver" (Roger's Cable TV). The students had a ball but the film crew were exhausted after the hike!

This year we plan to reach an even greater number of students and teachers, especially in those school districts where WEP has been under represented. We send out a ton of information to the schools in the Lower Mainland, but if "your" school has been left out be sure to give WEP a call at the number below. Any moment now one of our skilled volunteers will be updating our web site (www.bivouac.com/jcwild) to provide more information and make it more

interactive and dynamic - so come and visit us again soon. There are also plans afoot to organize a day of workshops (our second annual) to facilitate networking between NGO environmental educators and teachers. This was an extremely popular and informative event for teachers last year. And, as always, we will strive for excellence and continue to make WEP a fun and inspirational experience for students and teachers alike.

Obtaining funding to run the program is always a challenge. WEP operates on a very modest budget. John works full-time on WEP (and then some!) and receives a modest sum. Everyone else at WEP is a volunteer. We have no office and very little overhead, which allows us to dedicate all our resources to wilderness education. Last year, more than 40% of funding for WEP was provided through personal donations from generous folks like you - and that is what keeps us going. We really appreciate all the support we get!

WEP would like to thank all of those who have helped support the program. Sponsors are: Private donations, Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation, Vancouver Section of the Alpine Club of Canada, BC Mountaineering Club, and Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC.

If you would like to support *Wilderness Education* please send a [tax deductible] donation to: *FMCBC, Wilderness Education*. Please mail your cheque to: Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia, 47 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C., V5Y 1P1

If you would like more information about this program or would like to book a class and/or a field trip, please phone: 604 732 0509.

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION

The Recreation and Conservation Committee has concentrated its efforts this fall on the Squamish/Whistler/Pemberton/Lillooet Corridor. In September, the R&C Committee met with Al Raine and Ray Crook of EAO to discuss the various aspects of Melvin Creek/Cayoosh Resort Project (see page 9). At the November meeting, the committee spent a great deal of time discussing the Fed's position on the proposed commercial backcountry recreation. Lesley Bohm and Brian Wood attended the meeting in Whistler organized by Doug Leavers. A full report to the committee will be made at the 29 November meeting.

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LOWER MAINLAND

PRESS RELEASE

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC Opposes the Melvin Creek/Cayoosh Resort Proposal

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC has carefully considered the prepared reports and takes the position that the proposed Melvin Creek/Cayoosh Resort not proceed for the following reasons:

1. It will have a negative impact upon the Federation members' traditional backcountry recreational activities in the Melvin Creek valley. The Federation's members have used the area for many years as a base for weeklong ski-touring trips. In recent years, they have been using the area for weekend trips as well.
2. The Federation believes that, based upon previous resort history, there will be inevitable cumulative effects on the Duffey Lake-Cayoosh Range area, one of the few areas remaining for their increasingly threatened activities.
3. The Federation believes the report does not offer a clear impact assessment on mountain goats. This project, the Federation believes, may be the first of many impacts, which will extirpate mountain goats from the Cayoosh Range.
4. The Federation cannot emphasize too strongly that piecemeal land use planning forces them into a negative position on this proposal. The enthusiasm for job creation by the neighbouring communities and the Provincial Government, while understandable at the moment, is resulting in a constantly shrinking resource for non-mechanized recreational users. The Federation sees nothing in place that would protect the important surrounding areas from creeping development from this project.

If this proposal proceeds, the Federation believes the following should be done:

- * The surrounding pristine areas should be protected

from creeping development by the establishment of a provincial park in the area; and

* A multi-party oversight committee (including users, university programs, governments) should be formed to follow and study the impacts of the resort both within and outside of the its own borders. This will not be the last project proposal where there will be arguments about the best use of an area and development impacts. It will become increasingly important to have valid and relevant information for the assessment of future proposals.

PROPOSED CAYOOSH RESORT AT MELVIN CREEK

by ACC-Vancouver Section

(This is an edited version of ACC's submission)

The proposed Cayoosh Resort is going through the last stages of review at the province's Environmental Assessment Office. The ACC (Vancouver Section) commented on this proposal in the first round of responses (around this time last year, in response to the Project Report Specifications), as did the FMCBC and the BCMC. The deadline for the second round of input (in response to the revised Project Report) was Oct. 12th. If you have any thoughts you'd like to send to the Environmental Assessment Office on this proposed development, especially from the non-mechanized, backcountry recreationists' perspective, please forward to Raymond Crook at the address below. The deadline for official responses is over, but every letter helps.

Alpine Club of Canada
Vancouver Section
C/O Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia
47 W. Broadway
Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1P1

Oct. 12, 1999
To: Raymond Crook
Cayoosh Creek Project Committee
Chair
Environmental Assessment Office
2nd Floor, 836 Yates St.
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
Fax: 250-356-7440

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Melvin Creek/Cayoosh Mountain Project Report. We submit the following comments in response to the Project Report, as well as in response to the proposed project as a

whole.

Impacts on Backcountry Recreation

The drainages of the Duffey Lake Road area offer outstanding wilderness recreation opportunities in a beautiful setting that is relatively close to the population centre of the Lower Mainland. Our members and many other recreationists use this area for a variety of backcountry non-mechanized activities, such as hiking, mountaineering and ski touring. The development of a ski resort on the Duffey Lake road (i.e. Cayoosh Resort in the Melvin Creek drainage) will severely compromise these existing recreational opportunities. The development of this ski resort will bring associated activities such as heli-skiing (through this or other proponents) and snowmobiling (in addition to the snowmobiling that already occurs) in surrounding drainages. The increased number of visitors (the capacity of the resort is set at 11,550 skiers/day), traffic and activities to the Duffey Lake Road area that the proposed Cayoosh Resort will bring will negatively and irrevocably impact the values that backcountry recreationists find in this area.

We find that the inevitable associated effects of this type of development render the following statement from the Project Report (Section E.2, Recreation and Tourism Impact) inaccurate:

Activities in the adjacent areas [of Melvin Creek] are not highly dependent on the Melvin Creek valley and would not be significantly affected by development of a ski resort in the Melvin Creek valley. Further, the development of a ski resort in the Melvin Creek valley would broaden and diversify recreational opportunities in the area without significantly affecting existing patterns of use.

Non-mechanized backcountry recreation activities in adjacent areas of Melvin Creek would be significantly impacted by the development of a ski resort in the Melvin Creek valley, and would significantly affect existing patterns of use (i.e. backcountry and wilderness values would be lost due to the increased activities and people in the area).

Please note that the Project Report states that two lifts (5 & 9), a snowmaking system, a communications tower and a construction road are located outside the Melvin Creek drainage area. The snowmaking system will draw water from Upper Twin Lake—we object to any kind of development or exploitation of the resources of this beautiful backcountry destination. The Twin Lakes and the glacier above them (on which Lift 9 would be built) are a unique, special geological feature on this side of the Cayoosh Range. Also, if Lift 9 is built in this area, it will provide ski access to adjacent drainages.

Summary

The cumulative and associative impacts of this type of development are a matter of serious concern for our members. These kinds of impacts cannot be mitigated. Based on our interests, values, and concerns, we reject the development of the proposed ski resort.

Impacts on Wildlife

Our club's mandate also addresses conservation issues. Our members enjoy viewing wildlife, and believe that there is an intrinsic value to wildlife populations in their natural state. The Cayoosh Range is home to some of the densest concentrations of mountain goats in the world. Recent reports produced by provincial biologists, as well as anecdotal evidence from our members, suggest that Melvin Creek provides important summer and winter habitat for goats. The proposed development will also impact travel of goats from and to adjacent drainages. We are aware that there two reports have been written on the impact of the development on goat populations, and that the report differ in their conclusions—one finding that impacts can be mitigated, the other finding that they cannot. This question must be resolved at the Environmental Assessment Office and with the Ministry of Environment before the proposed development is approved. It is self-evident that this development will cause irreversible impacts on goat populations in the area, and that these impacts cannot be mitigated for this important goat habitat.

A development of the size of the Cayoosh Resort also poses a threat to migration corridors for other animals, such as black bears and deer. No matter what kind of mitigation the proponent undertakes, the wildlife in the area will be negatively impacted and their habitat irreversibly damaged.

Lack of Protected/Designated Recreation Areas in the Duffey Lake Road/Cayoosh Area

The Melvin Creek drainage is one of the last unlogged drainages, as well as Lost Creek, in the Cayoosh Range. A desirable situation, given the increasing rate of development along corridors radiating from the Lower Mainland, would be that the provincial government enter into planning processes to protect such increasingly rare remaining unlogged areas for their intrinsic wildlife values, as well as for their value to non-mechanized, backcountry (low impact) recreation.

The Project Report mentions under Regional Recreation that there are gaps that need to be addressed in the area, such as additional provisions for Joffre Lakes Provincial Park and the Stein Valley. However, no mention is made of areas that backcountry recreationists make increasing use of, such as the Marriott Basin/Mt. Rohr/Cayoosh Mtn. Area. Ideally, government would recognize the value of these areas, and attempt to apply some type of park/recreational use status to them to ensure long term protec-

tion of these areas for the enjoyment of the citizens of British Columbia. Another example is the Cerise Creek area, accessed from the Duffy Lake Road, which is currently heavily impacted by people travelling in summer and winter to the Flavell cabin. If the Cayoosh Resort proposal goes ahead, this area will undoubtedly see even heavier use, due to traffic in general increasing in the area. We recommend that should the provincial government see fit to approve the Cayoosh Resort proposal, that at the same time, it endeavours to create designations in drainages on the Duffey Lake road/Cayoosh Range that recognize the values of non-mechanized backcountry recreationists.

Further comments

Question of viability due to snowpack

Please note that for the provincial government commissioned report:

Cayoosh Resort Feasibility Assessment, the consultants visited the site on July 2nd. Based on this visit, the following statement is made: "The site is extremely scenic and has the potential to offer advanced, above tree line, powder skiing that is not

available to the same extent at other resorts in B.C." We question that this conclusion can be made when the consultant did not view the area in the winter; several visits over the course of the winter months are necessary to determine whether this area will prove a viable ski resort with enough natural snow for this kind of exceptional "powder skiing". As we have noted in previous letters on this matter, having visited the area over a number of seasons, over a number of years (on skis, on foot, and on mountain bikes), we question whether indeed there is enough snow on a regular basis on this (drier) side of the Cayoosh Range to make this development a viable venture.

The proponent proposes summer skiing from Lift 9 on the glacier; the provincial contractor noted on their July 2nd visit that it would not be possible to ski in that area during summer due to insufficient snow.

Road Development

We are concerned about the cost of the road. We note that the Cayoosh Resort Feasibility Assessment finds that there will be a cost of \$21.2 million to build a 10 kilometre access road off the Duffey Lake Road into the proposed resort, with totals possibly reaching \$30 - 40 million depending on the standards to which the road must be

built. This report also notes that the projected costs do not make adequate allowance for the avalanche protection that will be required, entailing additional costs. There will also be costs to upgrade the Duffey Lake Road for increased traffic and avalanche protection. We also are concerned about the pressure that the increased number of cars this development will put on the road, from both safety and environmental perspectives.

Several Recommendations

Should the provincial government, notwithstanding our concerns, endorse the development of Cayoosh Resort, we would like to see the proponent commit to the following:

1) an evaluation of the impact of large resorts, particularly on backcountry recreation use (apparently these kinds of impact studies have generally not been done when wilderness areas have been developed for resorts);

2) develop a partnership with an educational institution, such as the Resource Management Program at Simon Fraser University or UBC, for the development of knowledge of impacts of development in high elevation sub-alpine and alpine areas (on wildlife, air and water qual-

ity, etc.), as well as for further knowledge of snow science (e.g. avalanche terrain) and geological processes (e.g. debris flows).

3) We request that the proponent's mission statement be adhered to in every part of the development of the resort: "To create an environmentally sensitive and economically sustainable" development. We request that the Environmental Assessment Office and the provincial government do its utmost to ensure that this promise is met—the residents of British Columbia deserve no less.

4) We request that the proponent endeavour on an ongoing basis to address the inevitable cumulative and associative impacts of this development on the Duffey Lake corridor and Cayoosh Range—this includes impacts on non-mechanized backcountry recreationists, on wildlife in the region, and the region's wilderness values.

5) Should the resort be approved, we would like to express our desire to work with the proponent on an ongoing basis to protect and support the values and activities of non-mechanized backcountry recreationists in the Duffey Lake Road/Cayoosh Range area.

6) To the provincial government—we request that a review of the need for recreation/protected areas for the Cayoosh Range be done, and that several areas are desig-

"The Melvin Creek drainage is one of the last unlogged drainages, as well as Lost Creek, in the Cayoosh Range. A desirable situation, given the increasing rate of development along corridors radiating from the Lower Mainland..."

nated for these purposes for non-mechanized, backcountry recreationists. A land use plan for the area, including recreation/protected areas needs to be developed before this resort is considered. Protecting both Melvin Creek and Lost Creek (unlogged watersheds), for example, provides a continuous area between the Duffey Lake Road and Seton Lake that is ideal for backcountry pursuits. At the same time, this corridor would ensure the continued existence of important wildlife corridors.

CYPRESS PROVINCIAL PARK UPDATE

by Lesley Bohm

The Friends of Cypress Provincial Park have filed a petition for a judicial review, asking the BC Supreme Court to declare that the dominant purpose and object of the Park Act is the protection of the natural environment of parks established in the public interest. The Friends are also seeking the Court's ruling on the legality or otherwise of the terms of various agreements entered into by the Environment Minister in relation to Cypress Provincial Park and the legal status of the Master Plan document for the park. West Coast Environmental Law Association is assisting with legal costs through its Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund. The matter is expected to be heard in Court in late November.

Plans to increase the BC Parks' presence (e.g., a Ranger Station) at Cypress are on hold due to lack of funds. An additional Park Use Permit has been issued, for one year, to Cypress Bowl Recreations Ltd. to conduct commercial nature tours in summer in the Yew Lake area, Cabin Lake Loop (Black Mountain), Baden-Powell, Howe Sound Crest and Strachan, and interpretive snowshoe tours to Black Mountain Plateau, Baden-Powell, Yew Lake, Hikers' Access Trail and Hollyburn Mountain Trail, all areas previously outside the Park Use Permit area. This new Permit is non-exclusive to use by the general public and must not interfere with that use.

Please report any problems to FMCBC, especially to ski access of the Hikers' Access Trail on Hollyburn. BC Parks flags an excellent, free-of-charge, backcountry ski trail on Black Mountain in winter, from the Black Mountain backcountry access corridor (Baden-Powell Trail).

MOUNTAIN BIKES RIDE GOAT RIDGE

by R.G. Foxall, North Shore Hikers

Is heli-biking about to follow heli-skiing? Perhaps some of you are aware that this development has been ongoing for some time, but for five of us hiking up Goat Ridge (Petgill)

on Sept.26 it was a revelation, albeit not one greeted with enthusiasm. As we worked our way up the trail under a canopy of trees we speculated at the overhead clatter of helicopter activity. Surely North Shore rescue were not looking for us so early in the day! On nearing the top the helicopters' mission became apparent. Some twenty youthful mountain bikers had been disgorged at the top of the ridge and were exuberantly blasting their way downhill. Hikers and bikers are not necessarily incompatible, but with numerous paths on the ridge and limited visibility, pedestrian and machine could meet with the former bearing the brunt of a collision. This however, is not the prime concern; it is the significant damage to the terrain. Admittedly, hikers have an impact, but at Goat Ridge they are few and generally don't wander far from the established trails. On the other hand, the bikers, braking hard on the wet ground were carving deep ruts which soon develop into erosive water courses. It is a concern that continuing use of the Ridge for biking activity will have a detrimental effect on a very fragile environment.

LETTER TO MOF RE: MOUNTAIN BIKING

6 October 1999

Paul Kuster
District Manager
Ministry of Forests
Loggers Lane
Squamish, BC

Dear Paul Kuster:

It has been brought to our attention that heli-mountain biking has now been introduced into a traditional hiking area on Goat Ridge above Petgill Lake. We have several concerns regarding this activity.

1. Our club members were asked to discontinue their hike from Petgill Lake toward the ridge by the mountain bikers on the weekend of 26 September. The mountain bikers claimed it was for the safety of the hikers as the mountain bikers zoomed down the hill. It takes great effort to organize hikes and to have to abort their hike seems unreasonable.

2. The effects of mountain biking have been devastating to the trails from Petgill Lake toward Goat Ridge. Tremendous erosion has and is occurring. Continued activity of this nature will destroy the trail and create streams where none existed previously.

3. We see a trend of increased user conflicts: those who are seeking solitude versus those who are seeking adventure. To our members, it seems absolutely essential for all land use agencies to start doing recreational planning. The lack of resources for Forest Service Recreation Officers

indicates that, if anything, recreational planning is being downplayed and is deemed unimportant to land use agencies. We see this as shortsighted and will ultimately lead to more serious conflicts in the outdoor recreation arena.

There may be some areas where heli-biking is appropriate, but not on trails built by hikers and traditionally used by hikers. Is there a Forest Service policy that would apply to heli-biking? If not, we want to work with the Forest Service, BC Lands, and the BC Assets and Land Corp. to develop land use zoning to reduce conflicts between users.

Sincerely,

Pat Harrison
Executive Director
Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

REPORT ON SEA TO SKY CORRIDOR PLANNING FORM 4 NOVEMBER 1999

by Lesley Bohm

FMCBC attend a recent Planning Forum held by ORC for BC Assets and Lands Corp (BCAL) to advise on zoning for commercial recreation (CR) (which is often mechanized) in the Sea to Sky corridor.

Areas of conflict and carrying capacity were discussed by parks, Forests, Municipality of Whistler, BCAL, snowmobilers, and us. Brandywine, Callaghan, and Soo were concentration areas for CR. Squamish side, Cloudburst to Cayley, was discussed for non-mechanized access including Brew, Metaldome Alpine, Rainbow Trail (21 mile creek), plus Ashlu and the North end of the Pemberton Icecap - Overseer, Miller Creek, Railroad pass, Salal Creek, and Manatee.

The maps at the Planning Forum reflect input from the FMCBC. Let's hope the recommendations filter through the system when the licences are issued - we have requested notification and a chance for input - something neither snowmobilers nor FMCBC were given on current licences. **This was a very important chance for us to lobby for non-mechanized zonings, although our LRMP for Squamish is not yet forthcoming and decisions are being made for CR.**

SQUAMISH LRMP

by Jay MacArthur

Peter Jones, from LUCO, is preparing a revised proposal for a LRMP process for the Squamish district. The process would last about one year with a target completion in December 2000. He's leaning towards a process controlled by the government with the public having a consultative role.

I stressed that our members' primary interests are in resolving issues regarding the increasing impact of commercial recreation and motorized recreation on our members' activities. I stated that we would definitely be interested in participating in the process.

I'm not opposed to just having a consultative role, I don't think consensus will work around Whistler. What do you think?

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FRASER VALLEY

MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR CHILLIWACK LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK AND CHILLIWACK RIVER ECOLOGICAL RESERVE MEETINGS

By Jack Bryceland

Neil Grainger (Chilliwack Outdoor Club) and I (BC Mountaineering Club) have been touting ourselves as the Chilliwack Branch of the FMCBC Trails Committee. This has occurred with Forest Service, Provincial Parks, logging licensees, and consultants planning de-activation of roads.

The reason for this communication is the upcoming finalisation of the Management Plan for Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park and Chilliwack River Ecological Reserve. Public meetings were held in Chilliwack October 13; and Vancouver October 14. Neil and I have had fairly continuous communication with the planner, Mel Turner. We intend to send one final letter to Mel, since their plans impact the following trails/access: Lindeman/Greendrop Lakes, Flora Lake, Radium Lake, Paleface Creek to Rahm/Custer, Depot Creek to Redoubt/Spickard, Little Chilliwack River to Bear/Copper Ridge/Hanging Lake. We also plan to send letters to the Chilliwack Forest District regarding restricted access to the road down the east side of Chilliwack Lake (excluded from the park, yet inextricably tied to it); and to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans regarding restrictions on boating on Chilliwack Lake (in the middle of the park, yet not part of the park).

"The MELP has strongly stated to the Regional District of Alberni-Clayquot (RDAC) that they must allow "unfettered public access to and through" the ski park "with camping in the traditional areas" and recommend that the RDAC have an advisory committee and to advise them on park policy and decisions to include some of the groups that lobbied for unrestricted public access."

VANCOUVER ISLAND

TRAIL DAY, VANCOUVER ISLAND STYLE

On behalf of the Comox District Mountaineering Club, I would like to thank all those who participated in the July 24 work party to improve and upgrade the Mount Arrowsmith "Judges' Route" Trail. I led a hike up the trail in August and all of us appreciated the new switchbacks. The new route was so much easier as we could avoid the worst of the eroded "scree" areas.

Thanks again, everyone!

Yours truly,

Marianne Muir
C.D.M.C.

THE ARROWSMITH MASSIF ADVISORY by Peter Rothermals

The Arrowsmith Massif Advisory Committee (AMAC) has been formed to advise the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) on the formation of a new park encompassing the peaks of Arrowsmith, South summit and Cokely as well as the pristine lakes Hidden, Fishtail and Jewel/Emerald.

We have a very solid committee devoted to keeping this massif in its natural state and are represented by the Alpine Club of Canada, Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C., Arrowsmith Naturalists, Federation of B.C. Naturalists, Island Mountain Ramblers, Tuesday Walkers of Port Alberni, Alberni Valley Outdoors Club, Adventures Anonymous Youth Group, Nanaimo Thursday Hikers, Sierra Club, District 69 Trails Society and District 69 Parks.

To date AMAC has drawn up a rough draft application to the Crown Lands Corp. to obtain this area for a regional park. When finalized it will include appendixes on the history of the mountain, common and rare species of flora and fauna, maps and descriptions of trails and routes, geology and hydrology of the area, trail restoration goals and submissions of support.

In addition AMAC is setting up meetings with MacBlo and Timber West to lease a corridor of land from Cameron Lake up to the ski park that the Old Arrowsmith (CPR) trail runs through to also be included in the new regional park. This would create a string of regional and provincial parks from the summit of Arrowsmith to the Little Qualicum falls.

Other news on the Old Arrowsmith trail: Timber West heli-logged a portion of this trail last fall. In early summer they came back, as promised and cleared the debris off the trail and regraded some of the damaged trail bed. It

still looks like hell but at least its passable excepting that the bridge over the gorge is still out and requires wading McBey creek.

Our ACC section hosted a trail maintenance day on July 24th for the Judges route. I figured if we had four or five turn up it would be a success. We had 17 able body's that day! Also in attendance were members from the Alberni Valley Outdoor Club, the Tuesday walkers of Port Alberni and District 69 parks. We rerouted part of the lower trail to avoid a heavily eroded area, switched backed the middle section where it had been a straight up gully, cut all the deadfall off the trail and reflagged it in green/orange combination. The highlight for me was at about two thirds the way up we encountered some fallen trees too big for hand saws, so Rudy Bruger ran down to the trucks and hauled up a not small chainsaw. Super human springs to mind. Lastly thanks to Leslie Gordon for coordinating the whole affair. The next day most of us went up to the summit through the clouds and into full sun looking down on a sea of cotton candy. There must have been at least 25 people up there that day.

News from the ski park on Cokley's North slopes: Because of this winters record snowfall the ski operation shut down mid-January and never reopened for the season. I was up with a Ministry of Environment Lands and Parks (MELP) snow survey on April 1st and we found the snow to be 235% above normal and 65% above the all time high record taken four times a year since 1951.

The MELP has strongly stated to the Regional District of Alberni-Clayoquot (RDAC) that they must allow "unfettered public access to and through" the ski park "with camping in the traditional areas" and recommend that the RDAC have an advisory committee and to advise them on park policy and decisions to include some of the groups that lobbied for unrestricted public access. Two members of Public Access Resolution Committee (PARC) have been asked to sit on this advisory committee, yet a meeting has never been called. Decisions are still being made behind closed doors and the RDAC is just playing lip service to MELPs requests. This coming fall things are going to heat up!

Lastly Lockwood Village Alpine Resort: This past spring a harebrained scheme was hatched to build an "alpine" village on Cokely's NE slopes at about 500 metres elevation on privately owned (Timber West) forest land reserve, capable of housing up to 5000 people and put in a gondola capable of whisking 3000 people a day up to the ski area. All the local governing bodies are drooling over this proposal with dollar signs in their eyes yet hopefully this will die a quick death!

Arrowsmith and its surrounding area will continue to be embroiled in controversy and I just may have my life's

work cut out for me.

TRAIL WORK ON MT. ARROWSMITH

By Peter Rothermals

On Aug. 29th four members of The Alberni Valley Outdoor Club and myself from A.C.C. worked on trails in the Arrowsmith Regional Ski Park. Our purpose was mainly to establish public access and make our presence felt. We were met at the locked gate by Ken Bilton, the ski developer and let in (to a public park!). After listening to his usual bluster we finally got on our way to do the work we came to do. Judy and Harold Carlson and Rick Avis went off to connect the upper parts of the "Lookout" trail and the old "CPR" trail, in order to make it a loop trail. They flagged and cleared the connector trail while discovering two hornets nests! Bill Perry and I went on a bushwhack to flag a new route up to Mt. Cokely through the first growth forest so future hikers won't have to go through the blight of ski development and also mark "unfettered (undeveloped) public access". We were in a bluff section to the East of the ski runs and found many potential ledges, which we flagged, maybe half the route. Bill is an unassuming man that was a joy to be with. During a break I realized he was of "Perry and Walsh- first traverse of Colonel Foster" fame. What an honor to be bushwhacking with one of the masters! We talked about different routes on Arrowsmith the whole time and when he mentioned his first route to the peak of Arrowsmith, up from Englishman River to Jewel Lake and on to the peak, I said "Blackies Route"! Bill said "Yes I named that route after my old dog that climbed up there with me. For me this was one of my best days on "my mountain" in the drizzle, learning its history, meeting new friends and having a wonderful time! Cheers, PR

COMOX GLACIER TRAIL

by David Sheldon

Tried to get to the glacier in early August. Comox Main was closed Monday-Friday for logging. Cruickshank Main and South Main were passable with a few shallow washouts on the South Main.

The creeks were very deep and fast with the late melt and heavy winter. We could ford at Kwassun Lake Creek, but had to use the single log traverse at Datsio Creek. The old logging bridge at Comox Creek was still there.

Lots of fresh bear sign up and down the trail but no bears. Trail is not maintained. A few blow-downs and washouts up beyond Comox Creek. One washout was over 8 feet deep.

The trail is not marked - couldn't even find the Cen-

tury Sam cut-off. Made it into the park - blow-downs there too. Couldn't get to Frog Pond. We turned back after the trail disappeared under the snow - no sense in taking chances. Spent the night on the mountain.

Once you've crossed the 3 lower creeks, water is very scarce until you get into the park. Filled up at Datsio Creek, it's too difficult to get down to the water at Comox Creek.

Had a good time though. Beats the hell out of using a helicopter. We hope to try again next year, nearer the end of August. Hopefully the winter will be kinder and there'll be an earlier start to spring.

Ketchyalaterdude

SUMMIT REGISTERS

By Peter Rothermals

I got interested in the replacement and care of summit registers the first time I replaced the one on Mt. Arrowsmith. What to do with the old full one? After calls to several local museums -not interested- I decided to send it to Judy Holm, Alpine Club of Canada section secretary and there it found a good "Holm". Since then I have plucked more than a few full or damaged registers off peaks and sent them to Judy's archives. I have also started replacing damaged or inadequate summit tubes.

After reading the last ACC Gazette with the article on summit registers by Alan Kane (from Alberta) I decided to write him. In his article he implied that any peak under 9000 ft. should not have a register, which means all of Vancouver Island as our highest peak, the Golden Hind is only 7200 ft. In my letter to Alan I said (tongue in cheek) "maybe it's because we start our climbs nearer to sea level or maybe we're just wimps, but they sure seem like mountains to me!" I then asked him for advice on tube standards and such. The upshot is that there are no standards- only that plastic has less a chance of a lightning strike than metal.

So here is what I've come up with by the "seat of my pants" approach. I always carry a waterproof, spiral bound, 4 5/8 X 7 inch, weather.

After summiting Victoria Peak only to realize the end cap was missing from the tube, I replaced the soggy notes with a waterproof book which is OK but a new tube needs to be brought up along with the cremation certificate and memorial notes to Stephen Andrew Haigh, since dried out and laminated in plastic.

On my next summit trip to Mt. Septimus I decided to bring a waterproof note book and a new summit tube. A good thing too since all that was up there was a plastic bag and a couple of film canisters. Now I always carry a summit tube as well as a notebook.

I make my summit tubes out of three inch inside diameter white pvc plastic pipe (white is easier to spot and re-

flects the sun's heat). Glue one cap on and mark the other end "open". This next step is important! Make three or so grooves on the length of the tube body from the opening down with a hand saw to allow for air transfer while opening and closing the end cap. If this step confuses you, I'd be glad to make tubes for any summit party, especially if you take me along! If you use waterproof paper inside there's no need to double tube the register, just place it opening end up in a cairn.

For very popular mountains such as Mt. Arrowsmith you need a bigger book and in turn a bigger tube. On Arrowsmith a forty page 8 1/2 X 11 inch book can nearly fill up in six months. So when the first book is almost full I tie a second new book to it. When book #2 is almost full I retrieve the first book and add a third new book and ad infinitum. That way there's always six months or more of register for summiters to read, lots of room to write and the older third goes to Judy's archives. This bulky register needs a big tube, so I've put up a 6 inch inside diameter tube.

Last thoughts: I mark ACC and the name of the mountain on the side of the tube and again in the register with dates, names and phone numbers for replacement when it's full or damaged. Dry out damaged wet papers and plastic laminate them. In addition to preserving paper, the plastic laminate makes fuzzy writing clearer to read. Bring them back up to the summit or send them off to Judy's.

I think every summit party should carry a waterproof notebook and summit tube. It weighs almost nothing and takes up very little room in a pack. The end result is, we're taking care of the history of our beloved mountains and what better way to stake your claim to a peak than record it in fine style?

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Come February, watch for the posters or call 984-4484 for tickets and information.

NORTH CENTRAL BC

Director, National Hiking Association
Canmore, AB

UPDATE ON NATIONAL HIKING TRAIL

Both our Northern Clubs, Caledonia Ramblers and the Fraser Headwaters Alliance, are mobilizing for a spring meeting with many of the northern clubs in order to finalize the trail route from Quesnel to Banff. It is hoped that existing trails can be used for most of the route.

6 October 1999
Hon. Joan Sawicki
Minister of Environment, Lands, and Parks
Parliament Building
Victoria, BC

Dear Ms. Sawicki:

I see that you will be attending a meeting with the Environmental Youth Teams in West Vancouver in conjunction with the Trans Canada Trail on the 8th of October. I want to make you aware that there is another, older trail across Canada: the National Hiking Trail of Canada. This trail concept was founded in 1969. Many portions of the National Hiking Trail exist in eastern Canada in the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia.

In 1997, The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC, a provincial organization promoting hiking and climbing in the province of B.C. (founded in the late 1960s as the Mountain Access Committee) assumed the responsibility of promoting the National Hiking Trail across BC from Banff to Bella Coola. The Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail has become the western portion of the trail. We are currently working with Parks Canada and the BC Ministry of Forests to extend the trail in the central portion of the Province from Quesnel to the Jasper/Robson area.

Two of our Clubs, the Caledonia Ramblers of Prince George and the Fraser Headwaters Alliance of McBride are spearheading the effort. We feel this trail will greatly promote the ecotourism sector in the central BC zone. We hope that the BC Government will become a partner in this effort.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Pat Harrison
Executive Director, FMCBC

MUSWA-KECHIKA STAKEHOLDER LETTER OF AUGUST 13, 1999

Ron Rutledge,
Muswa-Kechika Program Manager,
Suite 150, 10003-110th Avenue, Fort St. John, BC, V1J
14th September 1999.

Dear Ron,

I have represented the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMCBC) on a number of issues in the north, as well as BC Lands' CBR policy process provincially. I was recently asked by FMCBC Northern Regional Director, Dave King, to review your Muswa-Kechika Stakeholder letter of August 13, 1999.

I have been a member of the Prince George LRMP et al for the past 8 years or so, and am very familiar with your process. I also write locally on northern outdoor recreation and have presented number of public slide shows on backpacking in northern BC. I have hiked all over northern BC, but the area that I am most familiar with in your planning area is the Wokkpash. I completed an 8-day backpack there in 1995, and an 11-day trek this year. In 1995, I helped edit new Wokkpash brochure that BC Parks had commissioned.

So, in regard to your request for input:

1. What recreation management issues, concerns or management priorities should be addressed? From my perspective and that of the FMCBC, public access and motorized use of the backcountry are two issues.

2. You may certainly contact me re special knowledge about the Wokkpash if you have any questions.

3. I would like to receive regular planning updates (address below).

4. Since the Muswa-Kechika is provincially significant, I think it's important to hold some stakeholder meetings outside the immediate planning area.

Sincerely,

Mike Nash,
Prince George, BC

BC ISSUES

FOREST POLICY REVIEW

by Mike Nash

Your opportunity to provide input to the Forest Policy Review (complete with online submission form) at:
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/pab/review/>

"The overall Ministry budget has fallen to below one percent of the total provincial budget and this is the problem that we want addressed. We want a higher priority given to protecting the health of our air, water, wildlife, and habitats."

CONCERNED CONSERVATIONISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Media Release
For Immediate Release
October 6, 1999

Conservationists React Cautiously to Replaced Environment Funding

Surrey, B.C. - The recent announcement by Minister of Environment Lands and Parks Joan Sawicki, that \$5 million has been restored to the seriously debilitated Environment budget, has produced a mixed reaction in the Conservation Community. There is, on the one hand, approval that government is finally showing serious signs of listening to the concerns of a coalition of more than 50 of the province's conservationist and environmental organizations. On the other hand, the \$5 million represents only a third of the funds requested by the coalition to begin restoring the budget- and staff-ravaged ministry.

Independent government audits, a government employees union survey of environment staff and public opinion polls have all shown recently that the cuts to the Environment Ministry's budget have rendered it ineffective in carrying out its mandate.

Anne Murray, President of the Federation of BC Naturalists and a spokesperson for the coalition said, "Five

million dollars may sound like a lot of money but it only represents 2.5% of the Ministry's current budget.

The overall Ministry budget has fallen to below one percent of the total provincial budget-and this is the problem that we want addressed. We want a higher priority given to protecting the health of our air, water, wildlife and habitats. A 50 % increase in the Ministry of Environment's budget would adjust the Ministry's share of the provincial budget to only 1.5%. This is not too much to ask to protect the health of ecosystems and wildlife in our province, for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

Doug Walker, Executive Director of the BC Wildlife Federation, said, "The government has confirmed for the first time, that the Environment Ministry has endured cuts over the last four years of \$50 million annually and a loss of an equivalent of 400 full time positions. We are aware that cuts to Ministry staff and budgets have been occurring for more than six years. The government's figures indicate reductions of 20% for the Ministry as a whole, but the cuts to separate programs like Wildlife, Fisheries, Habitat Protection, and Parks, have reached as high as 50%."

Walker stated, "The added financial support is only a one time commitment from the government's Contingency Fund. This could be a modest beginning to what is hoped to be a steady recovery of the Ministry's capabilities to effectively manage our precious fish, wildlife, parks and environmental resources. We are hopeful that the minister and premier understand the need to rebuild the ministry's capabilities and that this is only a small fraction of the funding, which must be restored. In the meantime, we are hopeful that the \$5 million in new funding will go towards replacement of lost personnel and field operations which will support fish and wildlife management, habitat protection and parks stewardship."

Murray concluded, "It will be necessary to add 15 to 20 million dollars per year over the next five or six years in order to restore the effectiveness of this vital ministry. We will continue to press government to commit to a firm plan to replace all the financial and staff resources lost over the past six years, to provide funding for Parks management equivalent to what is provided in other provinces, to establish realistic minimum base budgets for the Ministry's programs, and to explore a wide range of options to secure new funding. A meeting with the Minister, to discuss these issues, is being sought at an early date. We also urge the public to let their political representatives know that value a healthy environment, and that the protection of air, water, wildlife and habitat should be a major provincial priority".

The coalition of Concerned Conservationists of British Columbia, whose members are listed below, is united in expressing its dismay over the destruction of the BC government's ability to safeguard our natural heritage.

HUNTING IN PARKS FEARED

by R.A. Demarchi

Somebody better start talking to our provincial and federal court judges about the principles of conservation and fish and wildlife management. Their urban ignorance is threatening to undo more than 100 years of history and development in wildlife management and law enforcement. If enough people get angry and lose respect for the fish and game laws of the country, the system will break down with dire consequences for vulnerable fish and wildlife populations. All interests are going to suffer-native and non-native alike.

The Alberta Judge's comment about not intending to include golf courses as open to Native hunting but only closed areas along highways within the parks is laughable-where else would one have better hunting than a golf course in a provincial or national park?

Radium golf course roast wild mutton, anyone? Kanaskis golf course venison stew?

ESSAY ON WILDERNESS

by Aldo Leopold (via Maggie Paquet)

Wilderness is the raw material out of which man has hammered the artifact called civilisation. Wilderness was never

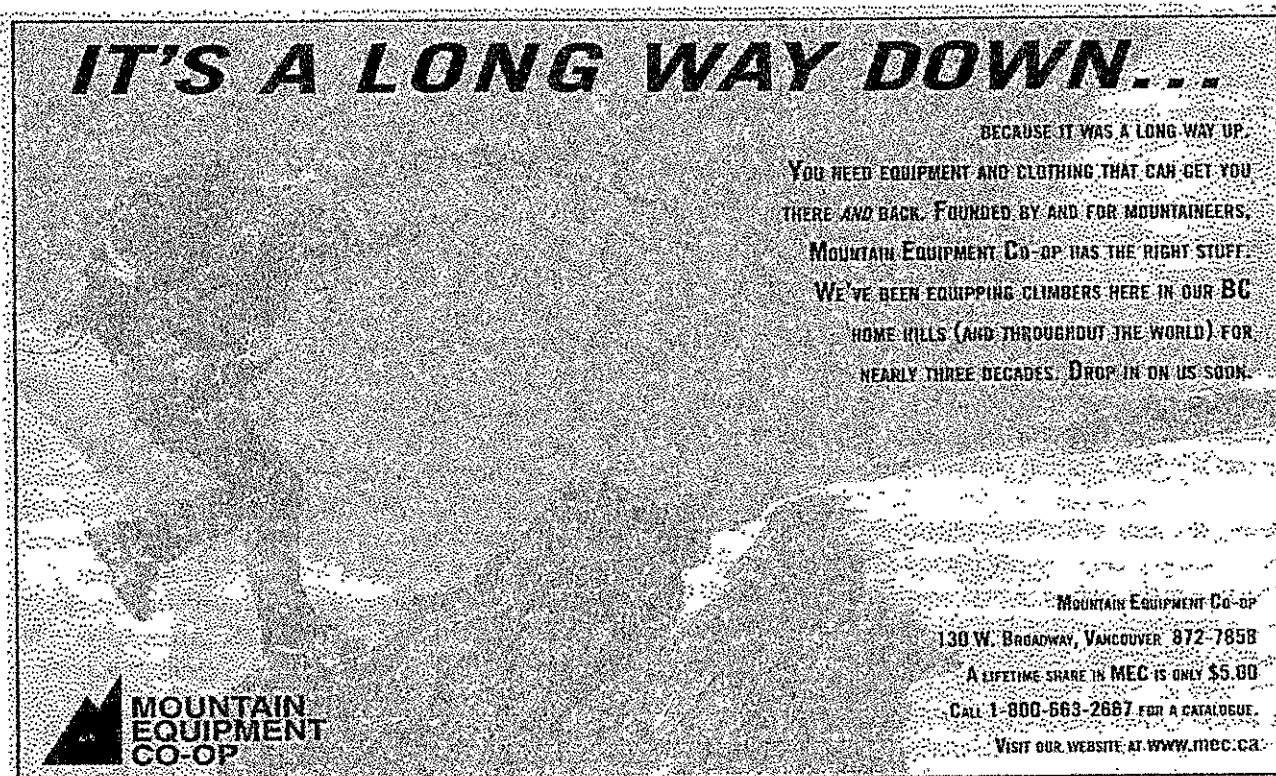
a homogeneous raw material. It was very diverse, and the resulting artifacts are very diverse. These differences in the end product are known as cultures. The rich diversity of the world's cultures reflects a corresponding diversity in the wilds that gave them birth.

TRAIL BUILDING AND THE FOREST PRACTICES CODE OF BC

by Michael Conway-Brown

Everybody's been there -- overly hopeful about the weather the night before, up and packed and psyched to go at 5:00 am -- but it's raining; the mountain trip is off. A suggestion is offered to save the day: "Let's grab day packs, rain gear, a few tools, and push an access trail into that new crag we found." Beware: Section 102 of the Forest Practices Code of the BC Act has turned the once-honoured volunteer activity of wilderness access trail building into a criminal prosecution. \$5,000 fine. Six months jail.

Permission is required from the Ministry of Forests (MOF) District Manager, with written application and up to a 3-month wait, for some trail building and maintenance activities. The MOF publication, Trails and Recreation Facilities Guidebook, describes, albeit sometimes ambiguously, what you can and can not do. Although the Guidebook is prefaced with several caveats (e.g., "not intended to



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provide a legal interpretation of the Act"), it stands as the only guidelines available from MOF.

There are seven activities listed in the Guidebook that "DO NOT require consent of the district manager before the activity may begin." Those exceptions are logical, obvious, and essential; without them you would need the District Manager's permission to step off a logging road. Permitted activities are: 1) basic access or travel through," 2) "route finding or marking," 3) "minor (or) piecemeal or incidental clearing of brush or downed tree either on or off established trails," 4) emergency repair... to prevent imminent damage to the environment," 5) emergency construction or maintenance... to minimize risk to personal safety," 6) "basic recreational use" (i.e., camping), and 7) "construction of small, rustic structures of a temporary nature."

Activities that "DO" require consent (as specifically relates to trail building) include three: 1) "ground disturbances: significant (and) continuous grubbing of the soil or rocks along a linear route to establish a visible (and) long-lasting treadway," 2) "clearing or cutting of vegetation: significant (and) continuous uprooting of shrub or undertorey plants along a linear route or over an extended area; cutting of standing trees," and 3) construction of structures: water bars, stairs, bridges, signs...: other significant structures of a long-term or permanent nature."

The term "significant" occurs often in the proffered activities, without clear definition. Is raking the slippery leaf-fall from existing treadway considered "significant grubbing"? Does "continuous" mean end-to-end? 1/4 mile or more? Less? How much? How much clearing of brush is "minor"? How much is too much? It's not a moot point when there are potential legal recriminations. There is evident need to clarify and define terms and bounds.

If you are entertaining a large trail building project, by all means solicit Section 102 permission from the MOF; it's the law.

A clear interpretation and application of the Guidebook exceptions, particularly by the enforcing MOF personnel, will allow climbers, mountaineers, and hikers to spontaneously develop simple wilderness access routes when and as required without reference to MOF permission or notification. Access routes (I won't call these trails) can legally be located, bushwhacked, marked with reflectors, and worn-in with use. They can gradually be cleaned-up of brush and deadfall, and you can add a latrine to help stop "camp flowers". You may not cut trees, build long-term structures, or grub continuously and significantly, whatever that means.

Michael Conway-Brown is from Powell River and has been active in conservation issues in that area for some time.

MEMO TO PARKS AND WILDERNESS CAUCUS RE: PARK PLAN INITIATIVE

Dear Caucus members.

The P&W Caucus Steering Committee (PWCSC) was informed late on Wednesday that government would be announcing its intentions regarding the Parks Legacy Panel Recommendations. In essence, the announcement states that government will:

- * develop a five year business plan, which is intended to ensure the ecological integrity of our parks
- * establish a legacy transition committee
- * provide opportunity for public input on the draft legislation.

The PWCSC held a conference call on Thursday morning to frame our response.

Although this announcement is moving on the right direction, we remain concerned about the lack of sufficient funding for parks.

As we move forward on this, we will be pressing to ensure that P & W Caucus has adequate representation on the legacy transition committee, and we will be working hard to ensure that your concerns are being met.

Below is the Parks and Wilderness Caucus press release that was sent to the major papers; as well we made phone calls. There was a marked lack of interest in the story, which was not helped by the fact that government did not distribute their release until after 5 pm Thursday.

We don't have an e-mailable copy of the gov't press release, but it should soon be available on their web site

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/>
Ric Careless,
Caucus Chair

BCEN PARKS AND WILDERNESS CAUCUS PRESS RELEASE

July 15, 1999

Media Press Release

Park Plan Initiative Supported by

BCEN Parks and Wilderness Caucus

VANCOUVER: "Government's announcement today to strengthen British Columbia's parks system by developing a multi-year plan is welcomed by the Parks and Wilderness Caucus of the British Columbia Environmental Network," said Ric Careless, Caucus Chair.

"We especially support Minister McGregor's statement that this multi-year plan will strengthen the ecological stewardship of our parks. The Parks and Wilderness Caucus

intends to work closely with the Minister to ensure that this new plan will indeed place paramount importance on protecting nature," added Careless.

"This province has been blessed with a rich natural endowment, which is becoming ever more rare in an increasingly developed world. As British Columbians and global citizens, we have a responsibility to conserve this natural bounty for the generations to come," Careless said.

Careless added, "The Parks Caucus will continue to work closely with Government to ensure that there is adequate budgeting and staff in place to support the stewardship promised by today's announcement."

The British Columbia Parks and Wilderness Caucus links together over 60 environmental organizations throughout BC concerned with parks protection.

For more information contact:
Ric Careless at 604-886-8605

RARE FLOWERS AFFECTED BY ROAD CLOSURES by Dr. Fred Ganders, UBC

Common butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*) is a small plant with showy violet-purple flowers and a flat basal rosette of sickly yellowish-green, greasy-looking leaves. The leaves are sticky like flypaper and catch small insects and digest them. Despite its name, the plant is not that common in southwestern B. C. The UBC herbarium has recent collections from only two localities in the Lower Mainland. I found the largest population only two years ago along the old blocked off logging road to Mt. Cheam, only about 100 metres from the parking lot. The old road cut had become a seepy, mossy slope perfect for the butterworts. Last year I found that most of the plants had been buried by a Forest Renewal B. C. road decommissioning project, which covered the whole bank and all of the old road with dirt and rock, except for a path, or future erosion channel, down the center. The point of this project was not obvious to me, and it wiped out more than half of the known population of butterworts. Some remain in the wet meadow above the road, but it is unlikely they can recolonize the ugly dirt piles our tax dollars have created.

VISIT THE FMCBC WEBSITE AT:

www.mountainclubs.bc.ca

CLUB REPORTS

REPORT FROM THE BREW DECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

by Roland Burton, VOC

Well, we were keen and the weather was wonderful. When we got to the hut we had a serious Brew Hut Meeting and decided the hut was too big and too beautiful and we were too small and too frail, and maybe if we reinforced it using good engineering principles we could make it last another winter, and even if we didn't succeed in making it still useable next summer, the wood might be better preserved in the "still standing, sort of", configuration than in the "stacked on the ground configuration". So we didn't take it apart. Instead we took apart the furniture (benches) and built some pretty neat internal bracing. We also built a third floor sleeping loft "honeymoon suite" inside so there's even more room now. In the evening we built a small bonfire with some of the scrap wood, and drank the red wine and toasted the marshmallows. Most of us slept out under the stars and it frosted pretty hard. Sunday we had all this extra time, not having to wreck the hut, so we explored the ridge that separates Roe Creek valley from Brew Lake valley, and we looked longingly at the Alcoholic Traverse. Finally we dropped back into the serious shrubberies and down to the cars.

When I got home my eight year old son said "Dad, I'm glad you didn't wreck the hut because when I got up there last year my feet were really cold, and the hut was nice and warm." I think he's right, sort of.

I still think that this is a good place to have a hut, but not at this site, and I hope that VOC will eventually commit to building a replacement for the present Brew Hut,

MISCELLANEOUS

HIKERS COMMENTS

(Via Jim Firstbrook, Vice President)

I'm surprised that these people survived the hike: These are actual comments left last year on Forest Service registration sheets and comment cards by backpackers completing wilderness camping trips:

"A small deer came into my camp and stole my bag of pickles. Is there a way I can get reimbursed? Please call."

"Escalators would help on steep uphill sections."

"Instead of a permit system or regulations, the Forest Serv-

ice needs to reduce worldwide population growth to limit the number of visitors to wilderness."

"Trails need to be wider so people can walk while holding hands."

"Ban walking sticks in wilderness. Hikers that use walking sticks are more likely to chase animals."

"All the mile markers are missing this year."

"Found a smoldering cigarette left by a horse."

"Trails need to be reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill."

"Too many bugs and leeches and spiders and spider webs. Please spray the wilderness to rid the area of these pests."

"Please pave the trails so they can be plowed of snow in the winter."

"Chair lifts need to be in some places so that we can get to wonderful views without having to hike to them."

"The coyotes made too much noise last night and kept me awake. Please eradicate these annoying animals."

"Reflectors need to be placed on trees every 50 feet so people can hike at night with flashlights."

"Need more signs to keep area pristine."

"A McDonald's would be nice at the trail head."

"The places where trails do not exist are not well marked."

"Too many rocks in the mountains."

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO SERVE ON EFBC
BOARD TO REPRESENT FMCBC**
by Tony Webb

The Federation of Mountain Clubs is looking for a volunteer to represent it on the Board of Directors of the Environmental Fund of B.C. (EFBC). The EFBC, which includes the FMCBC and 11 other member organizations operates campaigns in several workplaces including MEC, West Coast Energy, and Telus (formerly BC Tel). These workplaces should allow the EFBC to begin generating stable funding for its member groups via preauthorized automatic deductions from donors' paycheques. Each member organization is going to be required to maintain good standing. For more information, please call Tony Webb at 604-939-1139.

Editor: We thank Tony for his five years of service on the EFBC Board on behalf of the FMCBC.

FMCBC MEETING NOTICES

Board of Directors

Date: 19 Jan 2000

23 Feb 2000

22 Mar 2000

19 Apr 2000

Location: 47 West Broadway, Vancouver

Recreation and Conservation Committee

Date: 29 Nov 2000

Jan 2000 TBA

Feb 2000 TBA

Mar 2000 TBA

Apr 2000 TBA

Location: TBA

Trails Committee

Date: 6 Dec 2000

17 Jan 2000

Feb 2000 TBA

Mar 2000 TBA

Apr 2000 TBA

Location: 47 West Broadway, Vancouver

FMCBC Lower Mainland Delegates

Date: TBA (Contact FMCBC Office)

Location: 47 West Broadway, Vancouver

FMCBC Island Delegates

Date: 17 Nov 1999

Spring 2000

Location: Bowen Park, Nanaimo

ADDENDUM

AN ESSAY ON THE PERILS OF DOING AN INTERVIEW OVER THE PHONE

By Pat Harrison, Executive Director

On Friday, 6 November 1999, the Vancouver Sun ran a front page story on the proposed Brohm Ridge Ski Resort proposal at Squamish. Approximately three weeks ago I was approached by the Vancouver Sun for input on the Brohm Ridge Ski Resort Development. As usual, the reporter needed the information right away. I thought it was important that the Federation of Mountain Club's point of view be heard.

Currently, there are two ski resort proposals on the table in the Squamish/Whistler/Lillooet corridor: Brohm ridge and Melvin Creek. Brohm Ridge has been disturbed by logging and development activities in the past. It also bumps up against the boundary of Garibaldi Park. It has long has been the

recreational area for both snowmobilers as well as cross-country skiers.

Melvin Creek, on the other hand, has long been used by Fed members for non-motorized, backcountry recreation. It is still pristine. Of the two proposals, the Melvin

Creek proposal has jumped more of the permit hurdles.

At the Recreation and Conservation Committee meetings there has been disagreement as to whether to oppose both proposals or to actively oppose only the Melvin Creek proposal because of the pristine nature of that area. One thing we all agree on: we want a guarantee that if the Brohm Ridge project goes ahead, the motorized activities that surely will follow a ski development, will not invade Garibaldi Park. We have not received this assurance yet.

When I was interviewed by the Vancouver Sun, I tried to represent the comments I have heard at our Recreational and Conservation Committee meeting. The reporter kept asking whether the Fed was opposed to or in favour of the development plan. I kept stating that our most serious concern was the integrity of Garibaldi Park. The Fed does not want to see in the future a portion of the Park removed because the Brohm Ridge development needs more land, something that has happened frequently in other B.C. Pro-

vincial Parks. The reporter mentioned that the B.C. Snowmobile Federation had adamantly opposed the development plan. Were we in the Fed going to oppose economic development in Squamish? Not per se, I responded. Many members in the Fed realize that Squamish's economic base is eroding. The snowmobilers' main activity area will be withdrawn from them if this project goes ahead. This will put pressure on other areas of the corridor that our members currently use. Snowmobilers are not going to give up their sport if they are pushed out of Brohm Ridge.

It is difficult to get the Fed's message out. It is also important to continue to get our opinion into the news media. I thank the Vancouver Sun for coming to us to seek our opinion. All I ask is that when you read my quote in the Vancouver Sun *"We're not opposed [Garibaldi at Squamish]...but more planning is needed. We're worried that the activities there won't be controlled and will be expanded into the park. Where would we hike and get some solitude"* is really a paraphrasing of my thoughts. Behind those few sentences is twenty minutes of interview.

The issue is not simple. If both proposals proceed,

will there be enough customers to sustain both of these developments, as well as the expanding ski resort at Fernie, and the ski resort proposal at Jumbo Creek? EAO has not demanded that these proposals be linked in the ap-

proval process. Their attitude seems to be "May the best person win". We may well wind up with two resorts that can not be sustained. Some of our members want to allow the Brohm Ridge to save Melvin Creek. They are not necessarily in favour of the Brohm Ridge development, but they would prefer it to a Melvin Creek development. Life is never simple. Unfortunately, the Fed has not been able to solidify it's position on Brohm ridge as we have with Melvin Creek (see news release on page ?).

Development proposals will continue to surface.

One never knows when their favourite hiking and climbing area will be next. More difficult decisions will have to be made. The Fed always welcomes our members' opinions so that we can determine our policies.

"One thing we all agree on: we want a guarantee that if the Brohm Ridge project goes ahead, the motorized activities that surely will follow a ski development, will not invade Garibaldi Park. We have not received this assurance yet."

WHO WE ARE!

Alberni Valley Outdoor Club	250-723-9930
Alpine Club of Canada-Vancouver Section	604-878-5272
Alpine Club of Canada-Vancouver Island Section	250-477-8596
British Columbia Mountaineering Club	604-268-9502
Caledonia Ramblers	250-967-4804
Chilliwack Outdoor Club	604-858-8510
Club Tread	
Comox District Mountaineering Club	250-336-2130
Fraser Headwaters Alliance	250-968-4410
Island Mountain Ramblers	250-247-8868
Klister Outdoor Klub	604-543-8855
North Vancouver Recreation Commission	604-983-6543
Outdoor Club	ext. 2966
Outdoor Club of Victoria	250-727-0824
Outsetters Club	
Richmond Outdoor Club	604-273-6968
Valley Outdoor Association	250-463-2904
Vancouver Island Trails Information Society	250-474-3445
Varsity Outdoor Club	250-822-2228

VIP NIGHT FOR FED MEMBERS AT COAST MOUNTAIN SPORTS. VIP Night is the Coast Mountain Sports way of offering members of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC to experience the friendly, relaxed environment of our store, at a time we are not open to the public. Enjoy special one-night-only savings, informative demonstrations, a draw for great prizes, and superb wine and cheeses from around the world. **DATE: Monday, 29 November. TIME: 6:30 – 10:00 pm.** Please RSVP no later than 23 November to John Ballantyne, 731-6181 or leave a message with Pat Harrison, 576-0403. If possible, please canvas your club and leave one RSVP for your club. Thank you.

