



CLOUDBURST

The Newsletter of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.
Published Summer, Fall, and Spring

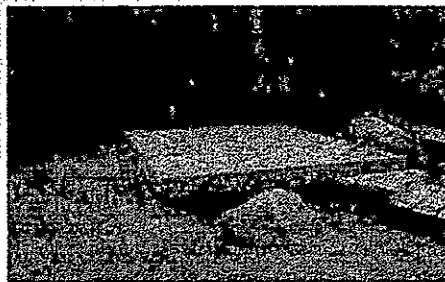
Dec. 2000 Vol. 18 - No. 3 \$2.50

CDMC Completes Millennium Project

FMCBC Presses for Non-Motorized Zones in Sea to Sky

National Trail Takes Shape

Watch for Mike Nash's Northern Perspective in the Spring Issue



New tent platform in
Strathcona Park through
Millenium Project of
CDMC (page 18).

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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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Deadline for submissions for next Cloudburst:
28 February 2001

Printed and published three times per year. This issue published by DCM Services, Vancouver, BC. Canadian Mail Sales Agreement # 102202

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). Membership is \$12 per annum per person when a member of a FMCBC Club.

Individual Membership:

Call the FMCBC office at 604 878 7007.

Membership for individuals is \$15 per year.

The FMCBC accepts VISA and MasterCard for payment.

You may also send \$15 along with your name and address to the FMCBC at the above address.

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STAFF REPORTS

E.D.'S REPORT

by Pat Harrison, Executive Director

The Federation continues to be active in advocacy. In June we met (as a member of the Help MELP Campaign) with the Economical Sustainability Committee of the NDP in an effort to get a meager \$15 million restored to Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Parks (MELP). As mentioned before, MELP was cut from \$518 million in 1996 to \$198 million in 2000. This severely impacts the Habitat, Fisheries, Wildlife, and Parks programmes. At this committee, it was suggested we take our campaign to the highest member of BC Government. That indeed is what occurred. Members of the Federation of BC Naturalists, B.C. Open Spaces, Parkwatch, BC Wildlife Federation, and the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC met with Premier Dosanjh on 20 September. At that meeting, Mr. Dosanjh stated that he realized that MELP was underfunded and there would be a mid-course correction in the near future, but nowhere near the \$15 million we were requesting.

On 14 November, the members of Help MELP were invited to a breakfast with the Premier at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Vancouver. At that breakfast, Premier Dosanjh kept his commitment by allocating \$4.9 million to the MELP Budget. We thank the Premier for keeping his promise. However, in light that this year's budget may produce close to a \$615 million surplus, our Help MELP campaign will continue.

I thank Anne Murray of the Federation of BC

Naturalists (FBCN) for initiating the Help MELP Campaign in the spring of 1999 and for allowing the FMCBC to participate in the process. Other major contributors to the effort are Tom Burgess (FBCN), Doug Walker of the BC Wildlife Federation, Gil Arnold of BC Open Spaces, Mike Eso of BCGEU, Bob Peart of CPAWS, Eva Riccius of Park Watch, and Ray Desmarchi of Cowichian Conservation Society.

The Recreation and Conservation Committee has spent considerable time meeting with representatives of Powder Mountain Snowcats (PMS). In the spring, the R&C Committee submitted zoning proposals for the Sea to Sky Corridor to various governmental agencies including BC Assets and Land Corporation (BCAL), BC Forest Service, BC Parks, Land Use Coordination Office (LUCO), and Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Parks (MELP). It was recommended by Doug Leavers, hired to make recommendations to government on zoning to BCAL, that the Tricouni and Cloudburst Mountain Areas be left as non-motorized.

When we received the Powder Mountain Snowcats application for the Tricouni area last spring, we opposed its application because the Tricouni area is one of the few areas left for the non-motorized recreationalists within a day's distance from the Lower Mainland. In October, we were asked to revisit the Powder Mountain Snowcats application once again. We met with Elisabeth Eldridge of BCAL and with the guides of PMS. We also met with the guides two days later so that our club delegates could ask questions. The Board of Directors also gave input on this topic. At the R&C meeting on 24 October, we once again rejected the PMS application since we have no idea what the BC Forest Service planning pro-

cess is recommending for this area. (See article under Recreation and Conservation Committee)

The R&C Committee also expressed its displeasure to Terje Vold of LUCO over the land planning process at the R&C meeting on 24 October. We also stated that the planning process with the Snowmobilers' Federation (BC Federation of Snowmobiles) was not an open and public process. We stated we wanted the same amount of time with LUCO. (See article under Recreation and Conservation).

Many thanks to the members of the Recreation and Conservation for their hours of service: Roger Freeman, Jay MacArthur, Mike Feller, Monika Bittel, Mike Peel, Lesley Bohm, Brian Wood, Laurent Mingo, John Stewart, and John Grant. For the first time, at the 24 October meeting, people representing the north, Josette Wier and Chris Evanoff, were on the telephone. We hope to continue to have input from around the province. Many, many thanks to Jay MacArthur for co-chairing the committee for so many years. We hope Jay gets a chance to relax a bit more now. Brian Wood will be assuming the role of Co-Chair along with Roger Freeman (a 26 year veteran of the committee). The silent partner of the R&C Committee is Ethel Freeman. Ethel has prepared cake and tea for the committee for 26 years. We thank her for her dedication to the committee. We surely have been spoiled by her hospitality.

I met with the National Trail Committee in Prince George on 8 November. We finalized the route for the most part and hope to determine the final route from Quesnel to the Historic 1861 Gold Pack Trail by next summer. On 31 August, we held the first official opening at Crescent Spur, BC. The Fraser Headwaters Alliance organized the event. Fin Don-

nely, the Fraser River swimmer, stopped for the dedication and to plant a tree. Members at the meeting were from the Caledonia Ramblers, Fraser Headwaters Alliance, Friends of Barkerville, Prince George Backcountry Headwaters Society, the Alexander Mackenzie Historic Trail Society, and the University of Northern British Columbia Outdoor Club. The National Trail President, Jeff Hemming, fully endorses our efforts. There will be a National Hiking Trail board meeting next summer for the first time in many years.

The Vancouver Island Delegates held their semi-annual meeting on 4 November. Comox District Mountaineering Club completed a millennium project in Strathcona Park (see article this issue). Peter Rothermel continues to advocate for the Mt. Arrowsmith Park. The Clayquot-Alberni Regional District, which owns the southern portion of the proposed Mt. Arrowsmith Regional Park, even though it lies within the Nanaimo Regional District, continues to advocate for development. It doesn't appear that development will be forthcoming. The Vancouver Island Trails Information Society has just released a new volume in their hiking book series (see article this issue). Finally, the clubs endorsed the concept of the National Trail running from Port Hardy to Victoria.

As stated by one government employee "We are not hearing very much from the non-motorized community". In light of this statement, we held our first ever Christmas pizza writing party. This occurred at the Fed office on 15 December from 5-9 pm. All those who chose to write a letter received pizza and eggnog for their effort. Let's remember, there are approximately 300,000-400,000 hikers and climbers in the province of BC and only 40,000 snowmobilers. Right now, they are pushing for access to the provincial parks. In their management strategy for the province, they

state they want access to all Crown lands. If you don't believe this is the way you want your province, phone or fax a letter to the following people:

*DREW CARMICHAEL, Chair
I.A.M.C. (604) 298-4171*

Ujjal Dosanjh, Premier	Tel: 250-387-1715 Fax: 250-387-0087
Joy MacPhail, Deputy Premier	Tel: 250-356-6348 Fax: 250-356-6595
Paul Ramsey, Finance	Tel: 250-387-3751 Fax: 250-387-5594
Ian Waddell, MELP	Tel: 250-387-1187 Fax: 250-387-1356
Corky Evans, Health	Tel: 250-387-1023 Fax: 250-387-1522
Gordon Wilson, Forests	Tel: 250-387-6240 Fax: 250-387-1040
Cathy McGregor, Adv. Ed.	Tel: 250-256-2771 Fax: 250-356-2771
Evelyn Gillespie, Child/Fam	Tel: 250-387-9699 Fax: 250-387-9722
Corky Evans, Health	Tel: 250-387-5394 Fax: 250-387-3696
Sue Hammell, Multiculturalism	Tel: 250-356-9819 Fax: 250-387-2003
Jenny Kwan, Community Dev.	Tel: 250-387-1976 Fax: 250-387-2018
Harry Lali, Transportation	Tel: 250-387-1978 Fax: 250-356-2290
David Zirnhelt, Aboriginal Aff.	Tel: 250-387-0886 Fax: 250-356-1124
Jim Doyle, Municipal Aff.	Tel: 250-387-3602 Fax: 250-387-1334
Glen Robertson Energy/Mines	Tel: 250-387-5896 Fax: 250-356-2965
Andrew Petter, Attorney Gen.	Tel: 250-387-1866 Fax: 250-387-6411
Joy MacPhail, Education	Tel: 250-387-1977 Fax: 250-387-3200
Mike Farnsworth, Soc. Dev.	Tel: 250-387-3180 Fax: 250-387-9830

Evelyn Gillespie, Women's Eq.	Tel: 250-387-1223 Fax: 250-387-4312
Gerard Janssen, Small Bus./Tour.	Tel: 250-387-1683 Fax: 250-387-4348
Gordon Wilson, Employment	Tel: 250-356-7020 Fax: 250-356-5587

Other issues to write your MLA about are BCAL and their commercial licensing, Mt. Arrowsmith protection, Nootka Island protection, Elaho Valley protection, non-motorized use in the Tricouni-Cloudburst area, keeping snowmobiles out of our Provincial Parks, zoning of the backcountry for some non-motorized recreational use, recognition of the National Trail by the Provincial Government, keeping ATV's out of fragile alpine environments, and more funding for MELP. The list is endless. Just a short, concise letter of just a few sentences is all that is needed. Let's not let the motorized enthusiasts outdo us in the letter writing category.

The Executive Director of the BC Snowmobile Federation realizes that legislation and regulation of certain snowmobile activities is needed. In light of that, the BCSF enlisted the help of the RCMP and the Land Use Coordination Office. The BCSF released their Trail Initiatives and Management Study this summer. We have responded to their initiative (see article this issue). I met with Clayton Prince on Salt Spring Island on 10 November to begin dialogue on the backcountry (see article this issue). We will continue our dialogue throughout the year. Clayton and I will make a joint



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trip to Smithers to view the conflicts in the Bulkley Valley area sometime this next spring.

I would like to thank all of the clubs that invited me to one of their meetings this past year. Meeting club members first hand has been very rewarding. Thanks to the BCMC (fall 1999), VOC executive, Comox District Mountaineering Club, Chilliwack Outdoor Club, Klister Outdoor Klub, Valley Outdoor Association, Outsetters executive, ACC-Vancouver, North Shore Hikers, and the Elaho Trail Society. I have also had the opportunity to meet many members of the Caledonia Ramblers as they hosted the AGM. At the dedication of the National Trail at Crescent Spur I met with several members of the Fraser Headwaters Alliance. I look forward to meeting with our other clubs in the coming year. In response to delegates from various clubs about improving communications with our members, I set out to revamp our database. I am just completing the revision. I have reviewed all the entries and eliminated about 300 duplicates (this will save the Federation in the neighbourhood of \$1500 in Cloudburst costs). We now have an accurate count of our membership (4800 members). Even with the elimination of the duplicates, we now have about 1000 more members than we did two years ago. Many thanks to our clubs for their hard work. This count will strengthen our advocacy position when we sit down with government. Number count is one of the premier items that government looks at when listening to advocacy groups. We, also, now have the capability to do email to those who wish to consider that option for receiving Cloudburst.

FYI (For Your Information) [Thanks to Peter Woodsworth for suggesting this title].

I have received some useful feedback saying that I often speak in acronyms. It is true that most titles of government ministries and organizations are long. In light of that, we often fall into the

habit of using acronyms. Below is an interpretation of the more common acronyms used in this issue, which you can cut out and post:

ORC	Outdoor Recreational Council of BC
BCAL	BC Assets and Land Corporation
MELP	Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Parks
LUCO	Land Use Coordination Office
LRMP	Land and Resource Management Planning
LRUP	Local Resource Use Plan
BEBIT	Brackendale Eagles Baynes Island Tantalus (BC Parks)
ACC	Alpine Club of Canada
BCMC	BC Mountaineering Club
VOC	Varsity Outdoor Club
FCPP	Friends of Cypress Provincial Park
NGO	Non Government Organizations
CBR	Cypress Bowl Recreation
SPEC	Society Promoting Environment Conservation
PUP	Park Use Permit
(WC) ²	Western Canada Wilderness Committee
MEC	Mountain Equipment Cooperative
CWMS	Canada West Mountain School
FBCN	Federation of BC Naturalists
FMCEC	Few Mountains Can Be Controlled

Finally, watch the media and you might get the impression that all environmentalists and loggers misbehave. As we know, that certainly is not true for environmentalists. On 15 November, I had planned to hike in the Elaho Valley. At mile 64, a rock flipped up and ruptured my gas tank. Since we had a radio with us, we broadcast this fact hoping to catch the ear of someone. Within minutes, two loggers from the Elaho Logging Company appeared on the scene. Their first concern was to contain the spill and prevent contamination of the environment. They immediately put special soaker clothes under my car to contain the spill. They then managed to plug the gas tank to contain any further spillage. They insisted that they should dispose of the spillage blankets properly as they said they did not belong in the land fill. They also transported us out to Squamish and delivered us to the Greyhound station. Thanks Gord and Brian for your assistance.

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

COMMENTS FROM FED- ERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BC ON SNOWMOBILE TRAIL USE AND MANAGMENT

3 October 2000

Terje Vold
LUCO
Victoria, BC

1. Introduction

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) represents the interests of hikers, mountaineers and ski tourers. All levels of outdoor activities are represented in our member clubs ranging from family outings to advanced outdoor activities. The FMCBC works with our members, the government and other backcountry users to:

- Protect mountain access
- Protect backcountry and wilderness areas from development
- Promote outdoor education and safety
- Build and maintain hiking trails throughout B.C.

The FMCBC currently has 21 member clubs with a total membership of over 4000. Several of our member clubs have a long and proud history of exploring and charting British Columbia's mountains and wilderness and have successfully lobbied for park status for prime wilderness areas.

Our members are concerned about increasing conflicts with snowmobiles in areas that we have traditionally used. The main problems and conflicts with snowmobiles are caused by:

- noise
- air pollution

These two problems destroy the wilderness experience and the peace and quiet that our members are seeking. Undoubtedly, the snowmobile industry is working to improve the technology, however this will never really solve the problem. We see the cooperative zoning of the backcountry as the only way to solve conflicts in the long term.

2. Specific Comments on Recommendations

Listed below are the original report proposals in *italics*, followed by the FMCBC comments in plain text.

2.1 Establishing Trails

It is recommended that:

- *proposed snowmobile trails be reviewed and, if approved, be legally established*
- *cooperative local management agreements for established trails be developed for purpose of trail development, maintenance and management of crown lands including associated dispersed use areas accessed by trails*

FMCBC comments:

- a. Proposed trails in provincial forests should be reviewed by the MOF and be referred to local and provincial recreational groups for comments.
- b. A non-motorized buffer zone of 2 km should exist around all Parks, in order to reduce widespread trespassing. All Parks must remain non-motorized.
- c. While establishing trails does not constitute an exclusive use as other uses of the land can still occur, it must be recognized that some uses will by their very nature exclude others or interfere with other users. For example, there are areas in the Squamish - Whistler corridor which at one time were very popular with non-mechanized backcountry recreation users (i.e. Brohm Ridge, Brandywine Creek, Ipsoot-Rutherford) but which are now largely avoided because of the increased snowmobile traffic and the resultant noise and pollution.

2.2 Trail Pass

It is recommended that:

- in order to provide and pay for grooming, signage, maps and shelters and to allow for commercial trail use to foster economic development, all established trails be governed by both a master agreement and local agreements that recognize a trail pass
- all snowmobile operators (resident and non-resident; public and commercial) on established trails would obtain a clearly visible trail pass available from the BCSF or local organization
- BCSF develop an apportionment formula with local organizations to ensure funds are fairly returned to each organization that is part of the trail pass system

FMCBC comment: We foresee problems where some users will attempt to avoid the trail fee by snowmobiling in areas adjacent to trails. Strict enforcement will be necessary.

2.3 Non-highway Road Use.

It is recommended that:

- forestry and non-status roads integral to a snowmobile trail use system, and suitable for this use, be established as trails to allow for grooming, etc. and use of the trail pass, for example, during winter months when roads are unploughed

FMCBC comment: The historic use of non-status roads by ski-mountaineers must be recognized hence non-motorized users need to be consulted to determine the suitability of an area for motorized recreation. A zoning system needs to be developed to provide a balance between motorized and non-motorized users.

2.4 Liability Insurance

It is recommended that:

- mandatory minimum off-highway liability insurance be carried by the operator of a snowmo-

bile to cover use on Crown land including use on established trails and non-highway roads; this might be linked to the trail pass

FMCBC comment: We agree with this.

2.5 Registration, Licensing and ON-highway Liability Insurance

Existing legislation requires that:

- all owners of a snowmobile must register their vehicle, only once, under the Motor Vehicle (All Terrain) Act.
- in addition, existing legislation requires that a snowmobile to be used on highways, which is restricted to crossing a highway or to a portion of a right of way, must also be registered, licensed and insured under the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA). Operators must also obtain an operating permit from local police or RCMP prior to registering under the MVA.
- currently there is very low compliance and it is recommended that ways to improve compliance be reviewed

FMCBC comment: We strongly support registration and licensing of snowmobiles and improved enforcement

2.6 Highway Use

It is recommended that:

- legal roadway crossing and parallel use within highway right-of-way be recognized in selected areas following MOTH policies for safe use if needed to connect established snowmobile trails

FMCBC comment:

- a. We are concerned that the bounds of these right-of-ways may be trespassed.
- b. We agree that any proposed highway use by snowmobiles within Park boundaries must be reviewed by BC Parks to ensure adherence to protected area values.

2.7 Safety

It is recommended that:

- *all operators of a snowmobile be required to wear a helmet*
- *implications of allowing adults who do not have a driver's license and children 12 to 15 years old who satisfactorily complete an approved snowmobile operator's safety course to use legally recognized highway crossings (as occurs in some jurisdictions) be reviewed existing cooperative efforts between the BCSF, commercial winter recreation operators and other knowledgeable parties to reduce avalanche risk be strengthened*

FMCBC comment: Education is required regarding passing skiers safely i.e. slow speed before and AFTER passing skiers.

2.8 Resource Stewardship

It is recommended that:

- *that BCSF and local clubs, in cooperation with various government agencies, work closely with snowmobilers to provide information on respecting environmental values and other Crown land users*
- *recreation/tourism strategies that identify opportunities and constraints on snowmobile use in keeping with approved land use plans and local agreements be undertaken and, when approved, implemented*
- *trail use planning be undertaken cooperatively with local clubs and resource agencies in consultation with other Crown land users and interests (e.g. First Nations) to help ensure trails are proposed in areas where it is a suitable land use*
- *tools and techniques for resolving conflicts (dispute resolution process) be improved*
- *any area closures due to competing recreational interests or environmental concerns be conducted in consultation with local snowmobile clubs*

FMCBC comment: Zoning needs to be developed to separate non-motorized recreational users from snowmobiles. A balance must be

created through extensive consultation.

2.9 Enforcement

It is recommended that:

- *formal cooperative agreement between the RCMP and provincial enforcement agencies regarding provincial enforcement roles, priorities and resourcing*
- *local enforcement agreements be prepared to respond to local priorities*
- *provincial enforcement agencies recognize a role for BCSF-trained snowmobile patrol officers*

FMCBC comment: Our member clubs are aware of intrusions by snowmobiles into Garibaldi Park and Upper Clendenning Park.

3. Conclusion

- **The FMCBC agrees that current snowmobile legislation needs review.**
- **Motorized and Non-motorized recreational zones need to be established**

Sincerely,

Pat Harrison
Executive Director

POWDER MOUNTAIN SNOWCATS APPLICATION


28 October 2000

Elisabeth Eldridge
Commercial Recreation Coordinator
BC Assets and Land Corporation

Dear Elisabeth,

After extensive consultation with our members, we are unable at this time to support the Powder Mountain Snowcats application for the following reasons:

1. Presently, there is very little area set aside in the Sea to Sky Corridor for non-motorized backcountry recreation by the various governmental agencies. Given its proximity to the heavily populated Lower Mainland, the Sea to Sky Corridor is ideal for non-motorized day trips in the backcountry. Some areas should therefore be set aside for the general public for non-motorized backcountry recreation.
2. The BC Forest Service has not yet made public the results of its planning process for the Squamish Forest District. If BCAL issues a tenure for commercial motorized recreation on the east side of the Tricouni Mountain Divide and for some reason the BC Forest Service zones the west side of the divide multi-use (which would include motorized activities), then essentially, the non-motorized recreational community has lost it all. This is an intolerable outcome, but foreseeable if BCAL grants tenures before all relevant governmental agencies have completed their respective land use planning processes for the region.
3. Motorized recreation is unacceptable in the Brew Hut bowl area, including the ridge area between Brew Hut and Roe Creek. The Varsity Outdoor Club, a member club, has operated a hut in this area since 1982. Traditionally this area has been used for non-motorized backcountry recreation and it should be maintained as such.
4. To date Powder Mountain Snowcats has presented three different boundaries for the pro-

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<p>To order a copy of our huts guidebook or for more information, contact us at: The Alpine Club of Canada Box 8040, Canmore, Alberta T1W 2T8 403-678-3200/403-678-3224(fax) email: alpcub@telusplanet.net www.AlpineClubofCanada.ca</p>	

posed tenure. The largest area was approved by the Board of Directors of PMS. The boundary presented when we met with you was drawn up by PMS guides. At a subsequent meeting with PMS, we were presented with the boundary drawn up by the PMS consultants. This boundary was larger than the boundary drawn by the PMS guides. What boundary do we accept and which boundary will be permanent? Understandably, we have some serious concerns about the long term plans of PMS for the area.

In the unlikely event that BCAL would grant tenure to PMS without the benefit of the BC Forest Service land use plans for the Sea to Sky Corridor, despite our opposition, and the fact this area was recommended by Doug Leavers as a non-motorized area, the following terms and conditions should be imposed on the permit:

1. The permit be issued for no more than one year.

2. A report to stakeholders (including the FMCBC) be required after this one year period.
3. Trip coordination procedures be written into the permit to ensure that member clubs get priority on days scheduled for club trips.
4. The area around the Brew Hut be excluded from the tenure area.
5. No motorized activity be permitted in this area in the summer, particularly ATVs and motorized bikes.
6. A more detailed description of the roads to be used by PMS be brought forth before the permit is issued.
7. No permanent structures be built (Yurts are acceptable).
8. That a section 105 of the Forest Practices Code be secured for the road leading into Chance and Roe Creeks should the area need to be gated to keep out snowmobiles.
9. That PMS only be permitted to operate four cycle mufflered snowmobile for safety purposes.

Lastly, you described this as a give and take process. Should this area be taken from non-motorized recreational users, what areas currently used for motorized recreational activities is BCAL willing to "give" to the non-motorized recreational community?

Sincerely,

Pat Harrison
Executive Director

MEETING WITH CLAYTON PRINCE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BC SNOWMOBILE FEDERATION

By Pat Harrison, ED

On Friday, 10 November 2000, I joined Clayton Prince on Salt Spring Island to open dialogue between the motorized (winter) and non-motorized users of the backcountry of BC.

We had a productive three hour meeting in which we agreed on some key items:

1. To avoid conflict in the backcountry, our Federations must work together to find solutions.
2. Government must get involved in a public process and fund public meetings on backcountry usage and conflicts.
3. Wildlife must be considered in the assessment of recreational usage. With this in mind, we once again call upon the Government to fund the four core programmes (habitat, fisheries, wildlife, and parks) of MELP. Currently, the MELP ranks have been decimated and the remaining employees exhausted and over-worked.
4. We support the Provincial Trail Stewardship Committee under the auspices of the Outdoor Recreational Council.
5. ATV's should be licensed.
6. The mandatory minimum liability insurance be required for operators of off-road snowmobiles and ATVs to cover use on Crown Land.

From the perspective of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC and the Land Gently, Sea Clearly Coalition, the following are currently our

perspective on the Trail Initiative by the BC Snowmobile Federation:

1. The Initiative promotes some very important reforms: registration of snowmobiles and the placing of decals on all snowmobiles.
2. We believe that conflicts can only be avoided by proper zoning in the backcountry. Many hikers, climbers, and mountaineers feel that they have been pushed out of traditional backcountry areas and feel zoning is needed to restore some of the wilderness (perhaps 50% of the backcountry). This is a highly contentious issue within the B.C. snowmobile community. However the B.C. Snowmobile Federation is committed to finding a workable solution.
3. Education on how snowmobilers should pass skiers is much needed. Clayton strongly agreed.
4. We were concerned that the Snowmobilers and LUCO initiative was not a public process. Clayton said he wished the government had funded such a process.. B.C. Snowmobile Federation had applied to government for funding for public consultation but was turned down.
5. We were concerned over the age limit of children driving snowmobiles (recommended 12-15 be allowed). Clayton said his Federation is going along with industry standard.
6. We had real concern over snowmobiles in current non-motorized Provincial Parks. We request that the reference to establishing snowmobile trails in parks should be removed from the Trails Initiative. Again, there is some contention here although the B.C. Snowmobile Federation only supports snowmobile access and then only in areas that have been planned to allow that access. The

lack of a statement in the Snowmobile Trail Initiative which mentions conflicts with other land users (as well as reducing conflicts with land uses and resource values).

8. That there be a requirement to decal all snowmobiles using the Trail Pass on the BCFS trails. Clayton agreed.
9. That the discussion of motorized summer impacts must be addressed as well, since summer impacts can last for decades. Clayton agreed.

Lastly, I thank Clayton for being a good and respectful listener. I look forward to more dialogue with him.

Pat Harrison, Executive Director

TRAILS COMMITTEE

PRESS RELEASE

9 NOVEMBER 2000

The National Trail Committee for British Columbia met on 8 November 2000 at the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George. The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC and member clubs of central BC communities include the Caledonia Ramblers, the Fraser Headwaters Alliance (responsible for the Historic Goat River Trail), the Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail Society (responsible for the designated heritage trail called the Grease Trail), the Friends of Barkerville (responsible for the 1861 Gold Rush Pack Trail), the Prince George Backcountry Recreational Society, and the UNBC outdoor club.

The group agreed on a goal of completing the designated trail route from Bella Coola to Cres-

cent Spur by the end of next summer. We call upon the Government of BC to recognize the National Trail, which has been in development since 1969 without government assistance. The National Trail across Canada will be the longest foot (hiking) trail in Canada. In BC, the National Trail will incorporate the Historic Trails of Alexander Mackenzie, Blackwater, Colins Telegraph, 1861 Gold Rush Pack Trail, and the Goat River. As well, the Vancouver Island clubs have given an enthusiastic approval for the National Trail to continue from Port Hardy to Victoria. They will report back next spring with their proposals for the Island portion.

We strongly believe that this trail has the potential to be as great an attraction and economic generator as the West Coast and Juan de Fuca Trails on Vancouver Island. This trail has the endorsement of the District of Wells and the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation as they realize the economic benefits from such a trail.

LOWER MAINLAND REGIONAL ISSUES

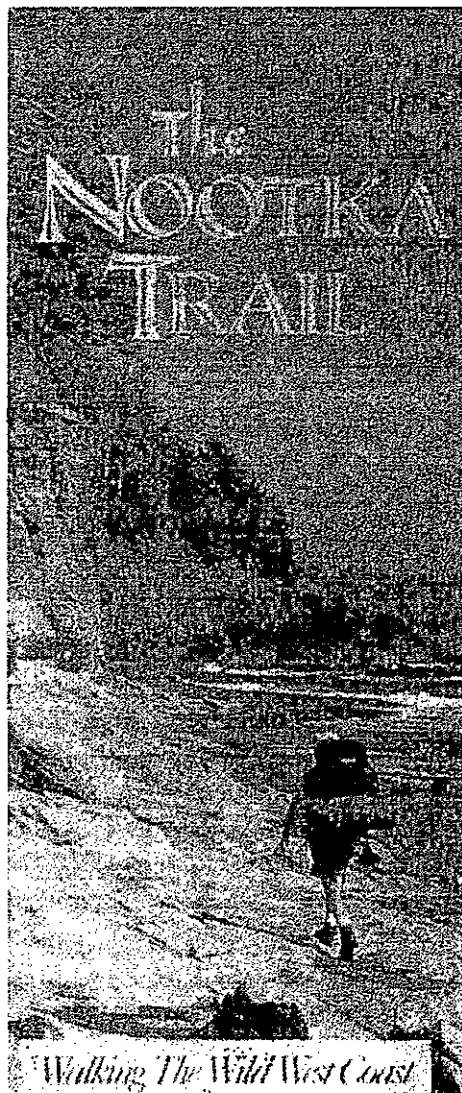
B.E.B.I.T.

by Peter Woodsworth, Director

B.E.B.I.T. stands for Brakendale Eagles (Reserve), Baynes Island (Ecological Reserve), and Tantalus (Park). Several months ago, the Federation was approached by BC Parks to become involved with implementing a new master plan for the above (just west and north of Brakendale). Of concern to backcountry users is the newly expanded Tantalus Provincial Park, which now extends north to include Sigurd Lake.

The issues of note are excess air traffic and increased commercial exploitation. ACC, BCMC,

and VOC are the most frequent club users of this area and therefore also have representatives involved in the process. We have met three times and dealt with relatively minor issues. As your representative, I will keep you informed as details emerge.



FOURTH ANNUAL VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL

February 21st to 25th, 2001

**Centennial Theatre -
2300 Lonsdale Ave.
North Vancouver, BC**

**Festival North American Tour
March to November 2001**

The Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival Society will be hosting its Fourth Annual Festival at The Centennial Theatre, 2300 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver on February 21-25, 2001. It's an event not to be missed!

More than 25 mountain films from around the world will be shown, covering a wide range of topics - mountaineering, rock climbing, mountain biking, skiing, ice climbing and mountain culture. Festival guest speakers will include Will Gadd, a well-known Canadian ice climber, rock climber and paraglider; legendary BC explorer John Clarke, premiering his "Young People and Wild Places" program to elementary and high school students; and others. Further guest speakers will be confirmed and announced very soon and the list of selected films will be finalized in late January 2001.

In addition to the film competition, the Festival will offer a number of special events, such as the "Krankenstien2" rock climbing competition at The Edge Climbing Centre, the Book Festival (book readings by well known outdoor authors), the Mountain Photography Competition and Exhibition, the Youth and Senior Community Programme (environmental and outdoor programs

for students and seniors), an outdoor mini-trade show, and a show shoeing contest at nearby Grouse Mountain.

Following the major event in Vancouver, the Festival will go on tour, sending its winning films to more than 25 communities across Canada and the United States. Watch for it in your community!

The Festival's main goal is to provide the outdoor communities of British Columbia and the US Pacific North West with films and slide presentations dealing with mountain culture and mountain activities such as skiing, mountaineering, climbing, and mountain biking in an environmentally respectful way. The Festival aims to create a platform for the exchange of ideas between film makers, outdoor enthusiasts, athletes and the public, while at the same time encourage the most artistic and effective forms of communicating mountain-related experiences.

Additional info can be found at www.vimff.org. Are you a film-maker or photographer? The Festival is calling for film and photo submissions. The deadline for submissions is January 15, 2001, and entry forms can be downloaded from www.vimff.org.

For more information, check www.vimff.org

CYPRESS PROVINCIAL PARK UPDATE

**by Katharine Steig, Director
Friends of Cypress Provincial Park
Society**

PARK ACT REVISIONS NEEDED! - As reported in the November 1999 *Cloudburst*, in July 1999 Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society (FCPP) filed for a Judicial Review on

the Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Parks' interpretation and application of the Park Act in regard to Cypress Park. FCPP was not successful in its attempt to obtain a declaration from the BC Supreme Court that the dominant purpose and object of the Act is the protection of the natural environment of parks established in the public interest. FCPP's petition for the Review was based in part on the statement in the Act that Class A parks are "dedicated to the preservation of their natural environments for the inspiration, use, and enjoyment of the public." Instead, the Court declared that the current Park Act "provides the framework for the creation and preservation of Parkland for a variety of purposes to serve a broad cross-section of the citizens of British Columbia whose interests are as diverse as its landscape." The 1997 Cypress Park Master Plan allows the felling of 22 hectares (nearly 55 acres) of ancient forest, alteration of wetlands, and mountain-top blasting for expansion of the existing commercial ski facilities.

Clearly, Park Act revisions are necessary if the Act is to reflect the Government-appointed BC Park Legacy Panel's recommendations on BC's provincial parks. The Panel recommended in its February 1999 Final Report that "the maintenance of ecological integrity in our parks be paramount, and that recreation be managed within this context." It is also recommended against resource extraction, privatization, new non-park roads, and large-scale commercial recreation developments within our parks. The Panel's recommendations were based on an 18-month public consultation process.

BC Parks staff are currently working on revisions to the Park Act that reflect the Panel's recommendations. A small committee of NGO (non-government organization) representatives has been brought together by the Parks Minister to work with senior Parks staff on the revisions.

Parks Act revisions may come before Legislature this fall. FCPP wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the assistance of West Coast Environmental Law Association, Save Our Parkland Association, West Vancouver SPEC, and many other friends in its efforts to protect Cypress Park's natural environment.

PARK NEWS - Although some ancient trees were felled for ski expansion in 1997-98, no further tree felling or construction of new ski facilities took place at Cypress this summer. This fall, BC Parks re-paved the Hollyburn Ridge and Cypress Bowl parking lot and adjacent road sections. The new sewer line from the park to the West Vancouver municipal line has been constructed (\$4.28 million funding was approved in 1995 by the BC Treasury Board for implementation of the Cypress Park Special Planning Commission recommendations, including sewer/water service and parking upgrades). At its October 23 public meeting, West Vancouver Council approved the Cypress Provincial Park Sewage Services Agreement to allow BC Parks to connect with the West Vancouver sewer line on an essentially permanent basis, so long as neither BC Parks nor the ski operator breaches conditions established by West Vancouver as part of the agreement. West Vancouver has also expressed interest in petitioning the Province to fulfill its promises re increased BC Parks staffing and a Ranger Station at Cypress, and re restoration of park areas damaged by clear-cutting and Hydro line installation several decades ago.

FCPP's Summer 2000 project included sponsoring eight well-attended public hikes to increase awareness of the park's natural environment and hiking trails, clearing trails from West Lake to Lost Lake, and completing work on the new Sunset trailhead from Cypress Bowl.

A new (as of Summer 1999) one-year-renewable Park Use Permit allows Cypress Bowl Recrea-

tions to conduct summer/winter nature tours on several park trails outside its Controlled Recreation Area, including the Hikers' Access Trail to Hollyburn Peak, and the Black Mountain Plateau and Yew Lake trails. There was apparently no public consultation on this PUP before it was granted. However, the Province has reserved the right to restrict operations should the PUP result in user conflicts. Those experiencing problems are advised to contact Cypress Park Rangers at 929-4818 (See *Cloudburst*, November 1999, for more PUP details).

See www.cypresspark.bc.ca for more information on Cypress and/or contact FCPP Chair Alex Wallace (434-7328).

THE RELUCTANT ADVOCATE

by Pat Harrison

I attended the Vancouver Natural History's meeting on 21 October 2000 to hear Terry Taylor speak on the Elaho Valley. I worked with Terry many years ago on the volunteer plant and trail committees of the Pacific Spirit Regional Park. Terry was a science librarian at Vancouver City Library at the time and he really liked to educate people about the wonders of nature in his spare time. He was not into advocacy. It took great concern on Terry's part, I suspect, to come forth and to promote the Elaho be preserved. Terry is one of BC's premier naturalists. The following is an excerpt from Terry's talk.

It appears that there are approximately 10 to 20 years worth of timber (or fibre as the industry calls it) left in the Elaho. The Douglas Firs currently being logged are 1300 years old (90 loads per day, six days per week). A fully loaded logging truck weighs 70,000 lbs., so if you are tempted to go see the giants of the Elaho, it probably would be best on Sunday when the

trucks are not running. It was just 160 years ago when logging began at Hastings Mill in Vancouver. Currently, in Southwest BC, the Elaho is one of the few remaining valleys with old growth low elevation vegetation remains. All it took was 160 years. The Elaho is the only known place where significant numbers of yellow cedars, a higher elevation species, grow along side of the lower elevation growing Douglas Fir.

The magnificent old growth trees of the Elaho are the home for the Oregon Lungwort Liverwort, *Pleiozanthus orbiculata* (an orchid), *Pepis-sewa*, *Veratrum* (false hellebore), and Candy Stick Coral, which are some of the more interesting plants and fungi. A few of the bird species include Marble Murrets, Sapsuckers, Spotted Owls, Northern Goshawks, Osprey, Eagles, and Piliated Woodpeckers. Moose and grizzly bears are two of the more significant animals in the area.

The Candy Stick Coral (also called Barber Post) is an interesting organism in that it is parasitic upon the fungi that are symbiotic with the conifers. All of the conifers require the fungi for uptake of minerals while the fungi receive carbohydrates for their food source. In fact, 95% of all land plants have to have fungal associations. The Candy Stick Coral receives benefit from both of these organisms and is usually found on the Gulf Islands. The Oregon Lungwort thrives only in old growth Douglas fir Forests. It usually takes three hundred years to come into a mature forest. Three of the world's largest recorded Douglas Firs have been found in the Elaho. Other relics are the Club Mosses (*Lycopodium*). Club mosses dominated in the Coal Age along side of the giant ferns. The recyclers of the forests reside here as well: the mycena fungi, the red belted fungus, and the slime moulds. In particular, the red belt fungus is one of the few organisms to be able to break down the lignin in wood and derives its red belt from the lignin of

the wood. Angel wing fungi also are found here and are capable of lignin degradation as well. How else would nature be able to recycle its nutrients without organisms like these?

The Elaho is a wide, glacial valley whose bottom goes from 300 metres to 1600 metres at Meager Creek, while the sides of the valley reach 2500 metres. Included in the Elaho is the 100 Lakes Plateau. Logging has proceeded up to the Old Growth Loop Trail at about the 600 metre level. There is probably 15 years of logging left in the Elaho, with peak logging activity occurring at the moment. As logging proceeds up the valley, the trees will get smaller and logging will be less significant economically. Should alternative, longer termed employment be considered? For example, ecotourism is a commodity that has a much longer economic outlook than logging. This opportunity will be lost if some of the Elaho is not maintained in its old growth state. In addition, old growth forests need to be maintained as genetic banks just in case the new technology of genetic engineering goes awry. Technology is such today that one tree is harvested every three minutes. Far fewer people are employed today as a result of automation through technology. What is outlook for the Elaho and for the forest industry?

We would like to see some of the Elaho left intact for ecotourism and for future generations. We support the Randy Stoltmann Wilderness designation.

VANCOUVER ISLAND REGIONAL ISSUES

TO THE OMBUDSMAN

October 27, 2000

Howard Kushner
Ombudsman, Province of British Columbia

Dear Mr. Kushner,

I am a representative of the Alpine Club of Canada and serve as a director for the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. I have been involved with access and environment issues on the Arrowsmith Massif for the past several years. In this time I have seen over and over again the cavalier attitude with which the Regional District of Alberni-Clayoquot (RDAC) has treated the Arrowsmith Regional Park (the Park) and the environmental integrity of this alpine area. The Arrowsmith massif is home to many red and blue listed species of flora and fauna. Yet the RDAC is willing to give over total control of altering the terrain to private developers that express any possibility to provide jobs. Further, the Park land was donated by MacMillan Bloedel in 1972 for "public use and enjoyment as a recreational park", yet the RDAC has been supportive towards the developers in attempting to limit public access and has not made any real attempt to include the public on the decision-making policies on the Park.

I maintain that the RDAC has a fiduciary duty to see that the Park is open to the public and kept in an environmentally sound manner. Since the gate to the Park is always locked, except when a developer is collecting monies for lift service, and recently when the Ministry of the Environ-

ment has had to issue a clean-up order to the RDAC for leaking fuel, I charge that the RDAC is derelict in their duties. Further, based on the RDAC's past track record, I believe they are incompetent at running a park of this type and should be forced to give it up, if they will not do so voluntarily.

Enclosed is a copy of my most recent correspondence to the Regional District of Alberni-Clayoquot; the Regional District of Nanaimo; Minister of Municipal Affairs; and the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks; and a map of the area. Also enclosed are their replies. None of these governing bodies show any real responsibility towards this massif, with the exception of the RDN, which has plans to make Block 1380 into a wilderness type regional park, yet they seem to be reluctant to become involved in any confrontation with the RDAC. Please note: I have not received a response from the RDAC in any form, even though they were the regional government to which I specifically addressed my letter and asked for a reply.

I wish to make certain that none of the area in the Park is further altered in any way prior to an environmental assessment and real public input. As it appears none of the powers that be are willing to push this issue, I am seeking the help of your office.

While the RDAC has an excellent opportunity to rewrite the contract for a developer to occupy the park, they appear to be sitting on their hands, still waiting for the pot of gold to materialize at the end of the rainbow. Since most decisions pertaining to the Park have been made behind closed doors, through the freedom of information act, I would like to see your office obtain copies of all the correspondence between the developers (Arrowsmith Ski and Park Ltd.); the investors (Step Financial Group); the Lockwood Villiage developers; and the RDAC and its employees pertaining to the Park and surrounding

areas, and to investigate these for any improprieties.

If you wish to have any of my files regarding the issues on this massif, such as the land sale and covenants for the Park, license for the developer to occupy the Park, etc., I will make copies for you.

My immediate questions that need to be answered are: How can we trigger an environmental assessment on the Park? Is there a procedure for removing control of the Park from the RDAC? How would one go about it?

Therefore, I am asking your office to do the job that I have asked our regional and provincial governments to do, specifically to trigger an environmental assessment of this alpine area and investigate the RDAC and their role in regards to developers and investors in and near the Arrowsmith Regional Park. Further, if there are any wrong dealings, to have your office act on them.

I would appreciate a reply at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Peter Rothermel, Mid-Island Director

COMOX DISTRICT MOUNTAINEERING CLUB'S MILLENNIUM PROJECT

by Ken Rodonets, North Island Director

Members of the Comox District Mountaineering Club (C.D.M.C.) have finished their millennium project in August. The project was to build a

boardwalk and nine tent platform sites in the Lake Helen MacKenzie area of Strathcona Park. Originally this campsite area was not developed. There wasn't a proper camping area, just worn areas where tents camped over the years.

After meeting with the B.C. Parks branch of Strathcona Park, the project got underway. The project was split into two phases. Phase I was to get the boardwalk laid out and down. By August 1st., Phase I was completed. We had 14 members help out over the 5 days for a total of 197 person hours.

Phase II was the building of the tent platforms. This got under way on August 21st. For this phase of the project, we had 12 members come out to help out over the 4 days of building all nine tent platforms. The number of hours to build this phase II was 195 person hours.

This proper development of the campsite area makes it a great place for families going out backpacking for the first time with small children. The C.D.M.C. acknowledges the great help it received from the B.C. Parks, Sierra Club of North America, and the Environment Team (E-Team), for making this millennium project a reality.

TA-DUM!

By Susan Lawrence, President
Vancouver Island Trails Information
Society

Ta-dum! The Vancouver Island Trails Information Society announces its latest volume: Hiking Trails II: South-Central Vancouver Island and

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**MOUNTAIN
EQUIPMENT
CO-OP**

the Gulf Islands, eighth edition, June, 2000.

Our latest book has 192 pages containing 33 maps (8 are topos), black-and-white photos (by the editor, Richard K. Blier), and those charming illustrations by Judy Trousdell. We've added two dozen new destinations, for a total of 64, and updated the advice on hiking, logging road travel, and backcountry trips. You'll also find lists of clubs, helpful maps, information sources, and other books of interest.

The area covered is from the Koksilah River north to Parksville, then west to Port Alberni and the west coast, plus the Gulf Islands, so it includes Duncan, the Cowichan Valley, Ladysmith, Cedar, Yellow Point, Nanaimo and Gabriola Island, Mount Arrowsmith, the Gibson/Klitsa Plateau and Carmanah Walbran.

For a look at our cover (a view from Mount Norman across to Mount Maxwell on Saltspring Island), visit our website at www.hikingtrailbooks.com. The website allows us to post updates for all of our volumes, and it gives hikers the opportunity to provide feedback and suggest updates on-line.

**IN MEMORIAM:
JANE TOMS,
1923 - 2000**

By Susan Lawrence, President
Vancouver Island Trail Information
Society

It is with sadness that we, the Vancouver Island Trails Information Society, inform the FMCBC of the death of one of our founding members.

Jane Toms was one of the original committee who formed the Outdoor Club of Victoria Trails Information Society in 1971. She helped to pro-



"Towards a Foot Trail Across Canada"
(Founded 1971)

duce the first volume, Hiking Trails: Victoria and Southern Vancouver Island, and she has assisted in the production of every edition of every volume since that time. She served for many years on the executive of the Society, but her most valuable contribution to the group was as a knowledgeable and enthusiastic hiker, an intelligent and articulate woman, and as a kind, fair-minded person with a positive attitude and great sense of humour.

Jane suffered a stroke in early August. When it became apparent that she would not recover from the initial paralysis and speech loss, Jane chose to refuse further medical treatment, and she passed away in the early morning of September 2. Our wish for Jane would be the Farewell that concluded her memorial service:

Into the freedom of wind and sunshine
We let you go.

Into the dance of the stars and the planets
We let you go.

Into the wind's breath and the hands of the star-maker,
We let you go.

We love you, we miss you, we want you to be happy.
Go safely, go dancing, go running home.

NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL REPORT

REGIONAL REPORT

By Dave King, Regional Director

Oct 17, 2000

The summer was cool and wet and affected most outdoor activities. Last winter's snow did not

melt until well into July in the alpine and new snow came at the end of August. While it was not the best year for mountain oriented trips, the weather resulted in a magnificent display of flowers.

Five issues dominated the scene in the Central Interior through the past few months:

1) The vast majority of the local outdoor users were very upset with the Prime Minister's initiative to change the name of Mt Logan to honour Pierre Trudeau and that resulted in several letters being written. We are pleased that the government is rescinding and reviewing the planned name change.

2) Parks Branch has initiated planning processes for the many new parks that arose from the LRMP processes in this region. Parks has asked for input as to which of these new parks should be given priority for major master plans with public participation and which can be handled by simple statements of management intent. They are assessing the values and interests of each park and the risks and threats to these values. We expect the Kakwa to be among the first to enter into a full planning process as the pressures on the area are high, there are multitude conflicting interests and the risks to conservation values are high. The master plans should be initiated early in the coming year.

3) Parks Branch has not been given any new staff or resource to manage the new parks and have asked whether user groups may be interest in taking on some responsibilities for looking after facilities and trails in any of the parks. The Caledonia Ramblers has agreed to continue maintaining trails to their current standards until new park plans are in place. The Prince George Backcountry Recreation Society (PGBRS), which is an association of six Prince George outdoor groups including the Ramblers, is negotiating an agreement to look after two cabins in the


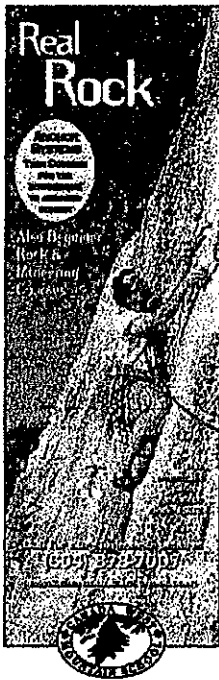
Sugarbowl/Grizzly Park at least for the coming year.

4) There is the ongoing concern with motorized users impacting the activities of hikers and skiers. In this regard the PGBRS has had discussions with both the Ministry of Forests and Parks Branch and the Society is now in the process of developing a plan identifying areas the Society would like designated for non-motorized uses. The Society is hoping to hold a meeting with the local snowmobile club in November to get their input. It will likely be the first of many meetings.

5) In late August the Goat River section of the National Hiking Trail was dedicated through the efforts of the Fraser River Headwaters Alliance. This dedication occurred in conjunction with the swim of the Fraser by Fin Donnelly. After the dedication ceremony at Crescent Spur (a small community along the Fraser between Prince

George and McBride, nine persons set out to hike the 115 km to Barkerville. While the section of the trail through to Bowron Lakes is usable, it is still rough. From Bowron lakes to Barkerville the trail has not been defined yet and it is still necessary to follow actively used roads. Nonetheless, it is a good start for this part of the NHT.

In November a meeting is planned of all non-government folk interested in the development of the NHT with the intent of planning the next steps in its development. At this time government agencies have not endorsed the trail and, in fact, have expressed some concerns regarding its establishment and endorsement. This is primarily, I believe, a result of uncertainty as to the possible effects on their mandates.



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THE WILDERNESS EDUCATION PROGRAM

by Lisa Baile, Program Coordinator

WEP Update

WEP has embarked on another challenging year in the schools. Early in the Fall, intrepid explorer John Clarke returned from two months intensive "R and D" in the Coast Ranges and is as enthusiastic as ever about sharing his amazing adventures with school kids and teachers.

In the last four years WEP has been exceptionally effective in reaching thousands of students and their teachers with a unique opportunity to learn about BC's wilderness and its role in the history and heritage of British Columbians. John Clarke has given over 900 classroom-based lectures and slide shows to some 24,000 youth. Over 1,600 of these students have also been part of one-day to multi-day field trips to local wilderness areas. In addition, John has prepared and presented approximately 18 workshops for teachers at conferences and professional development days.

One of the challenges of this program is trying to find ways to measure its long-term effectiveness. Therefore, we were really encouraged to see that in the past year students have been motivated to initiate their own trips to local wilderness areas, to connect with nature and learn about enjoying and caring for our wild places. One entire school became so inspired that they adopted their local ravine and, with some guidance from John, are initiating a stream-keeping project!

What's New?

Until recently, all of WEP's office equipment was shared. A quantum increase in my use of

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

the home computer almost precipitated a family crisis early in the millennium! Fortunately, a timely application to Telus Employees Community Fund was successful and WEP now has a powerful new computer and is becoming entirely independent with the arrival of a printer and a few other hi tech toys. Thank goodness for those friends of WEP who are always ready to answer my endless questions about computer hardware and software and to rescue me from seemingly impossible situations! Without them I could not survive and this newsletter just wouldn't happen.

Tax deductible donations payable to:
Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia, Wilderness Education.

Please mail your cheque to: Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia,
47 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C., V5Y 1P1

\$50 \$100 \$200 \$400 Other \$

Thank You!

Help keep WEP on the road

Just as one recovers from one crisis another looms. This time it is John's 17-year old Volvo (donated by an enthusiastic supporter), which has gone thousands of km going out to schools and

on wilderness trips (it's recognizable by the 14 foot long blue tube permanently mounted on the roof rack to carry John's custom projection screen – another volunteer project). This old workhorse urgently needs to be replaced before it becomes a terminal case.



So we are raising funds for a WEP-mobile!
And we need your help to keep WEP on the road!

In fact, the coming year is a huge challenge as not only are we raising funds for a WEP-mobile but we are also raising funds to keep the program running. Just \$150 covers the cost of providing a WEP-presentation for a classroom of students. This includes instruction, transportation, audio-visual equipment and administration.

WEP could not succeed without your help and the help of people like you. John Clarke works full-time on WEP (and then some!) and receives a modest sum. Everyone else at WEP is a volunteer; the program coordination alone is at least a half-time commitment. We have a home office and very little overhead, allowing us to dedicate all our resources to wilderness education. Last year, more than 30% of funding for WEP was provided through personal donations from generous folks like you - and that is what keeps us going.

Please help keep WEP on the road!

REFLECTIONS

by John Clarke



When I go into the wilderness I feel like I am coming home to something that we humans have been away from for a long time. For a million years or more people were part of nature living outside under the sun and stars, our lives guided by the seasons, the weather and the tides. Before we all moved indoors the landscape was closely intertwined with our day-to-day living and our spirituality. The Wilderness Education Program reconnects students with that world. When the students at-

tend a presentation or go for a hike in the forest they are coming home to that place from which we all came.

MEETING NOTICES

Annual General Meeting

Date: 23 June 2001

Location: Vancouver Area (BCMC)

Board of Directors

Date: 17 Jan 2001

21 Feb 2001

21 Mar 2001

18 Apr 2001

23 May 2001

Location: 47 West Broadway,
Vancouver, 7:30 pm

Recreation and Conservation

Committee

Date: 22 Jan 2001

26 Feb 2001

26 Mar 2001

23 Apr 2001

4 Jun 2001

Location: Check with office, 7:30 pm

Trails Committee

Date: 16 Jan 2001

5 Mar 2001

16 Apr 2001

4 Jun 2001

Location: 47 West Broadway,
Vancouver, 7:00 pm

FMCBC Lower Mainland Delegates

Date: 17 Jan 2001
21 Mar 2001
23 May 2001

Location: 47 West Broadway,
Vancouver, 7:00 pm

FMCBC Island Delegates

Date: Spring (April) 2000
Location: Nanaimo, 9:30 am

MISCELLANEOUS

I'M A CASH COW - OR WILL BE

by Peter Woodsworth

I've just finished redoing my will. Assuming the longevity of my family carries through in me, my children will be white-haired before I exit and will certainly be self-sufficient and won't need money. And who (or what) do I really love? - The mountains of course! So, I'm leaving a sizable chunk of my estate to the Federation (Don't tell the kids!).

Ed. Note: Thanks Peter!

NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release September 15, 2000 Hikers Re-create History

Last Friday a group of nine hikers from northern B.C. completed an eight day/ 120 km hike between Crescent Spur and Barkerville. The hike was done to draw awareness to the recently cleared historic Goat River Trail, which

dates to at least 1886. A mining survey team, working for John Bowron, Gold Commissioner of the Cariboo, first cleared the trail. "It probably hasn't been hiked all the way to Barkerville since the teens", said Roy Howard, trip organizer and Coordinator for the Fraser Headwaters Alliance.

The hike began at a ceremony dedicating the Goat River section of the National Trail - a hiking trail across Canada. Marathon swimmer Fin Donnelly led the ceremony, one of many community events timed to coincide with Fraser2000, his second historic swim of the length of the Fraser River. Although the hike ended at Barkerville, the hikers then traveled the relatively short distance to Quesnel by car to greet Fin and McEwen, as he and Mayor Steve Wallace swam to that community's celebration.

It rained for much of the hike; with only one day of the eight having significant sunny periods. "The hike was a pretty soggy affair," said Wells Councilor, Judy Campbell. "But I guess that's what you have to expect in the rain forest!"

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. has recognized the Goat River Trail as a major link in the B.C. portion of the National Trail. Other sections include the well-known Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail west of Quesnel, and the equally well-known Bruce Trail on the Niagara Escarpment in Ontario. However, the B.C. government has not yet sanctioned the B.C. route. "This is of major concern because clear-cut logging is planned over the trail, and includes road development, which will obliterate much of it", said Howard. The upper Goat River is one of the only unprotected intact wilderness watersheds of any size remaining in the headwaters of the Fraser River.

"In addition to the trail, the Goat River provides a critical wildlife corridor across the Cariboo Mountains, connecting Bowron Lakes Provincial Park with the Rocky Mountain Trench," says Howard. "Logging the Goat would be like clear-cutting our heritage."

Contact:

Roy Howard, (250) 968-4410 or Judy Campbell, (250) 994-0001, Fraser Headwaters Alliance Wells Gateway Project Coordinator

END WILDLIFE/ RECREATION CONFLICT

Wildlife Guidelines for Commercial Backcountry Recreation

The Ministry of Environment has published draft provincial management guidelines designed to protect wildlife habitat as government considers tenure approvals for commercial backcountry recreation. These guidelines are a critical component of any strategy to keep wild spaces in British Columbia from becoming merely motorized or intensive recreation playgrounds. Write your comments today to ensure government is aware of how important wildlife and wild spaces are to British Columbians. You can get full information by going to the government website on this issue at:

<http://www.elp.gov.bc.ca/wld/pub/wcbrbc/>

East Kootenay Environmental Society has been directly involved in this issue from the outset and we need everyone's help now. The proposed guidelines parallel the interim management guidelines that are now in place for the Kootenays. The guidelines fall short of the type of protection that would insure full protection

from development for threatened species. The guidelines do provide for no fly zones adjacent to known mountain goat, bighorn sheep, and mountain caribou habitat; and limit recreation in key habitat zones. These are a few of the basic guidelines that are supported by research. Guidelines need to be strengthened to provide clear guidance to government in making tenure decisions.

As can be expected, some of the more irresponsible commercial recreation providers (particularly of the helicopter, ATV and snow-machine persuasion) are objecting to even the proposed scientifically based guidelines for protecting wildlife. Your comment is an important key to the future of wildlife and wildlands. Write NOW! Email or write to:

Pia Archibald, MELP Habitat Protection, 2975 Jutland Rd. Victoria, BC, V8T 5J9
Fax: 250 356-5104

The message can be as brief as: Government must act now to ensure that commercial recreation in British Columbia respects BC's wildlife. Wildlife guidelines must be strengthened to make sure that important habitats are not lost to commercial development and inappropriate recreation in the backcountry. I support exclusion of motorized and other invasive recreation from key habitats where these activities cause negative impacts on wildlife. Government must provide clear and enforceable guidelines, based on best available scientific information. Where information is lacking, decisions should be made on the basis of a very precautionary approach that prioritizes protection of wildlife and their habitat.

Kat, Jaq, John at EKES

HIKING HIGH



OWL LAKE

A. Fedosuff

68 YEARS OF HIKING



Skyline Hikers
of the
Canadian Rockies
SUMMER 2000

Who are the Skyline Hikers?

Established in 1933, the Skyline Hikers of the Canadian Rockies is a non-profit organization registered under the Societies Act of the Province of Alberta. It has its own constitution, executive committee, council and various operating committees. Council meetings and election of new officers are held annually.

Each year the organization arranges and sponsors five 6-day camps in the Canadian Rockies. Different locations are visited on an annual rotation basis approved by Parks Canada.

What are the aims of the club?

Principal aims include:

- Encouragement of hiking in the Canadian Rockies.
- Preservation of the National Parks of Canada in their natural state.
- Development of an appreciation for the beauties of mountain places - their flora and fauna.
- Co-operation with other groups having similar aims.

Who can be a member?

Participation in one annual hike qualifies you for REGULAR MEMBERSHIP, renewable annually regardless of future hike attendance. (See fee schedule in this brochure).

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS, without voting privileges, are now available to interested parties unable to attend a camp at this time. (\$20.00 per year)

All current members will receive semi-annual club publications regarding hike activities, news and general information as well as the annual hike brochure.

WE NEED YOUR INTEREST AND COMMITTED MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT TO ACHIEVE FULFILMENT OF OUR AIMS.

For further information or additional brochures write:

Skyline Hikers of the Canadian Rockies
P.O. Box 3814
Spruce Grove, Alberta, Canada T7X 3B1

Telephone: 780-962-5638

Facsimile: 403-289-6272

Email: newt@nucleus.com

MEMBER CLUBS

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	250-564-8887
Chilliwack Outdoor Club	604-858-8510
Club Tread	250-370-0736
Comox District Mountaineering Club	250-336-2101
Elaho Trail Society	604-873-4602
Fraser Headwaters Alliance	250-968-4410
Independent Members	604-878-7007
Island Mountain Ramblers	250-247-8868
Klister Outdoor Klub	604-543-8855
North Shore Hikers	604-988-9525
North Vancouver Recreation Commission Outdoor Club	604-983-6543 ext. 2966
Outdoor Club of Victoria	250-727-0824
Outsetters Club	604-525-2129
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
Vernon Outdoor Club	250-546-0439
Wilderness Education Program	604-732-0509

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Alpine Club of Canada – Prince George Section

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Federation of BC Naturalists
 Environmental Fund of BC
 Friends of Cypress Provincial Park
 Friends of Barkerville
 Heathens
 Kootenay Mountaineering Club
 Land Gently, Sea Clearly Coalition
 Prince George Backcountry Recreational Society

