



# CLOUDBURST

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

Mar. 2000 Vol. 18 - No. 1 \$2.50

---

## AGM Set for Prince George 17 June 2000

---

---

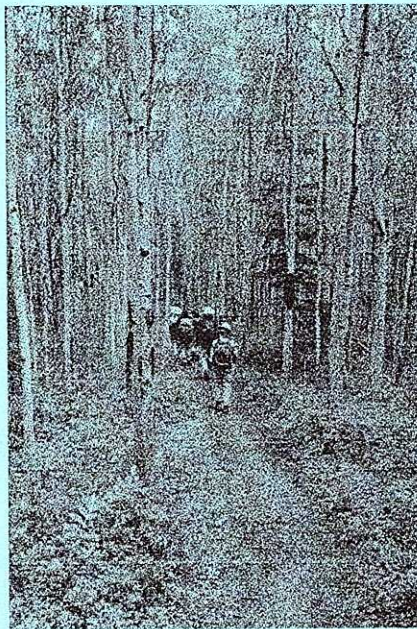
## Concern over Sea to Sky Corridor Use Grows

---

---

## Strathcona and Arrowsmith Headline Issues on Island

---



Trail near Prince George

Photo by Pat Harrison

### In this issue....

Board/Staff Reports .....	4	Historical Perspectives .....	20
Committee Reports .....	7	Miscellaneous .....	21
Regional Reports .....	10	Meeting Notices .....	22
BC Issues .....	19	CWMS Schedule of Events .....	23

# 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.

**Editors:** Pat Harrison and Lesley Bohm

**Design and Layout:** Pat Harrison

**Address:**

47 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC, V5Y 1P1

Tel: 604 878 7007, Fax: 604 876 7047

Toll Free: 888 892 2266

Email: [fmcbbc@mountainclubs.bc.ca](mailto:fmcbbc@mountainclubs.bc.ca)

Visit our website at:  
[www.mountainclubs.bc.ca](http://www.mountainclubs.bc.ca)

**Deadline for submissions for next Cloudburst:**  
**15 June 2000**

*Printed and published three time 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)

### **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.

## **Board of Directors and Committees**

### **President**

Lesley Bohm  
(NSH)

### **Vice President**

Jim Firstbrook  
(ACC-Van)

### **Treasurer**

Ken Legg  
(ACC-Van)

### **Secretary**

Chris Ludwig  
(BCMC)

### **Director**

Judy Leykauf  
(COC)

### **Director**

Shane Koscielniak  
(KOK)

### **Director**

Peter Woodsworth  
(ACC, BCMC, NSH)

### **Director**

Chuck Dick  
(Independent)

### **Regional Director**

Richard Keltie  
(ACC-VI, OCV)

### **Regional Director**

Dave King  
(CR)

### **Recreation and Conservation Committee**

Roger Freeman  
(Independent)  
Jay MacArthur  
(BCMC)

### **Trails Committee**

John Otava  
(Independent)  
Alex Wallace  
(Independent)

### **Education and Safety Committee**

Chris Ludwig  
(BCMC)  
Peter Woodsworth  
(ACC, BCMC, NSH)

### **STAFF**

Pat Harrison, Executive Director  
Brian Jones, Manager of CWMS  
Emma Russell, Office

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Hosted by the Caledonia Ramblers, Prince George, 16 - 18 June 2000

### *Schedule of Events*

#### 16 June 2000 (Friday Evening)

- Meet at Dave King's place for a get-together social at 7:00 p.m. (RSVP impt.\*\*)

#### 17 June 2000 (Saturday)

- 9 am - 4 pm FMCBC Annual General Meeting at the University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, BC
- 7 am - 5 pm Hike to ??? (Location to be arranged; depending on weather)
- 4 pm - 5 pm FMCBC Directors' Meeting
- 6 pm - 10 pm BBQ (Either at Wilkin's Park or member's home)

#### 18 June 2000 (Sunday)

- 7 am - 5 pm Hike to ??? (TBA)

#### Additional Information:

- Dave King's telephone number is 250-564-8887; Email: kingjudi@bcgroup.net
- Maps to the locations will be provided to participants when they register.
- Anyone wishing to arrive earlier to hike prior to the AGM, contact Dave King
- Lots of billeting space available; contact Judith if info. needed re alternate accommodation (eg. UNBC = \$25.00 per person per night), CNC, etc.

Please send form and cheque (payable to Caledonia Ramblers) by 21 May to:

Dave King/Judith Robertson, Caledonia Ramblers  
132 Watson Crescent  
Prince George BC V2L 4P3

---

### REGISTRATION FORM

Names (s): \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a voting delegate? Y\_\_ N\_\_

Billeting needed? Y\_\_ N\_\_ Number of beds: \_\_\_\_\_

Attend BBQ Saturday Night? Y\_\_ N\_\_ \$15.00 per person X \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## BOARD/STAFF REPORTS

### President's Report

*by Lesley Bohm*

As we contend with problems of too little money and too little time, like everyone else, it is heartening to see the work of the Rec and Con committee come along so well. This year we have been involved in the information gathering program contracted by BC Assets and Lands (BCAL) to help them regulate commercial licences in the backcountry of the Whistler Squamish corridor. The Sea to Sky area has mushroomed lately into a high recreation use area—leading to conflicts among the traditional and new users. The immediate concern of the government in setting up the crown corporation was to address the huge growth in unauthorized, mainly motorized, commercial ventures cashing in on the destination resort users at Whistler. I find two things encouraging. Charles Littledale said, at the January 29 meeting of the Rec and Con Committee, that BCAL is concerned about potential damage to the environment—this was something we were surprised and pleased to learn—the cynics amongst us having assumed BCAL was only interested in maximizing profit from crown land. He said that revenue pays for hiring staff who will be used for enforcement—something sadly lacking up till now—and that their only concern was in covering the costs of the program, whose money is separate from general revenue because of its crown corporation status.

The second encouraging thing was the willingness of Doug Leavers, who did the study for BCAL, to deal with the question of vision for the future—how much commercial recreation do we want, and where, and how much noisy and polluting mechanical interference can Beautiful BC tolerate and still be the kind of place tourists want to visit. This is a big question and we hope it doesn't get lost in the heat of the moment deciding between clamouring commercial operators. There is a group of current commercial users banding together for discussion of future licences—we intend to participate in their meetings. Nic Slater

of Mad River Nordic is a natural ally in one way because he is basically non-mechanized. We hope to ensure that the mechanized sector does not acquire too much influence in BCAL decisions.

The maps prepared from input from wildlife, recreation and other groups were interesting to read. We will not, of course, be able to reclaim Brandywine and Callaghan Valleys from the snowmobilers and ATVs, but we were able to discourage tenures in the Cloudburst to Cayley region, including Brew and Tri-couni, and somewhat in the Ashlu and Overseer area.

This progress means nothing in the question of non-commercial recreation, but the Ministry of Forests is starting a similar project using the data from BCAL and we will have input to that as well. Since they have responsibility for public recreational use in Forestry lands, this may address the land use problem without the endless wrangling of an LRMP.

It is disappointing that the maps indicate no areas to be reserved free of commercial recreation, except parks, although different areas are mechanized-free in summer and winter. This just emphasizes the importance of parks and wilderness areas in the growing recreation sector and the necessity of making sure that there are no mechanized intrusions into them now or in the future. Many at the December meeting were also in agreement that mechanization is not desirable in the alpine—most of the present incursions above treeline are private snowmobilers; the commercial ones are actually fairly well-behaved novices.

Whistler Municipality officials seemed very sensitive to over commercialization at the December meeting—another hopeful sign. They know that modern travellers expect "wilderness" for their tourist dollars, not just a yahoo playground.

This effort should benefit all the backcountry non-mechanized users in the area whether they are Federation members or not—and hopefully encourage independent members to join and support us.

### Executive Director's Report

*by Pat Harrison*

**Conundrum:** Our newsletter *Cloudburst* began in the spring of 1983. Volume one, therefore, started in 1983. Starting in 1987, for some reason, no

volume was assigned. This practice continued through 1995. In 1996, volume five was assigned. We have proceeded since then to assign volume numbers. It wasn't until the Vancouver City Library, the B.C. Provincial Library, and the Federal library all called in December 1999 asking for clarification on volume number (it must be an end of century thing to do) that I was aware of the problem. Each one them had a different volume number assigned to our newsletter. After reviewing *Cloudburst* back to 1983, I discovered the discrepancy. So, what to do? I think the volume number should reflect the number of years a publication has been in production. Therefore, starting with this issue, the *Cloudburst* will reflect the true volume number: 18.

**List Server:** I am happy to report that the Federation's List Server (our email mail service) has taken off. We have had great input from our members on the topic of mechanized vs. non-mechanized, BCAL's planning process, and mountain bike and snowmobile impacts on the environment. We currently have 75 people on the list server from 15 different clubs. If anyone

wishes to join the list server and participate in these lively discussions, please email me your name, club, and email address (hike@unixg.ubc.ca).

**Thank yous:**

Many thanks to Shane Koscielniak, Lesley Bohm, Peter Woodsworth, and


Chuck Dick for staffing the Fed table at the third annual Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival. This required many hours of their time. Thanks also to Liz Scremin and the ACC Vancouver Club, the organizers of the event, for allowing the Fed to participate at this event. At this event, the Fed presented its new poster display. We hope to be able to be at many more events this year and be able to present to the visitors of these events who the Fed is, what are its accomplishments, and which clubs are the backbone of the Fed.

**Club Visits:** One of my goals as Executive Di-

rector is to visit as many clubs as possible. So far I have had very fruitful meetings with the Varsity Outdoor Club executive, the Valley Outdoor Association members, the Outsetters executive, and the Comox District Mountaineering Club members. This direct contact is beneficial for both the clubs and the board of directors of the Federation. The Board of Directors and I met with the Lower Mainland delegates in February in order to get direct input. I will be at the Vancouver Island delegates meeting at the end of March and I will be attending the Chilliwack Outdoor Club general meeting in April. In April as well, I will be attending a meeting in Prince George on the National Hiking Trail with our two clubs from northern BC, the Caledonia Ramblers and the Fraser Headwaters Alliance.

**AGM:** This year's AGM is being held in Prince George (see page 3 for registration details). It would most helpful if you could plan on sending a delegate to this meeting. I am sure we can carpool and therefore reduce the cost of travel. Judith Robert-

son of the Caledonia Ramblers (the host of the AGM) has informed me that barebones accommodations can be had at UNBC for \$25 per night: a room with a shared toilet and you bring your sleeping bag and towels. If you really can't send someone, please email me your

 <b>NORDIC WHEELS SKI CLUB</b>	
c/o Gill Richardson 3005 Fleet Street Port Coquitlam B.C. V3C 3S1	<b>CROSS COUNTRY SKIING</b> If you like Cross Country skiing, this is the Club for you. Organized Day and Weekend trips on chartered buses and accommodation for weekend trips. Contact Gill or Alan for further details.
Gill: 604-461-4873 Alan: 604-436-2773	

proxy so that you can be represented at the meeting.

**Budget:** The Fed budget continues to be on target for the fiscal year 1999-2000. One of the discussion items at the AGM will be the effectiveness of the *Cloudburst*. Would the Fed members get a better return on their investment by hiring a full-time Executive Director? Would a synoptical newsletter sent out four times per year be a better way to keep our membership informed? Currently, the *Cloudburst* consumes an enormous amount of the E.D.'s time and consumes almost \$15,000 per year. Of course, some of the Casino money we receive goes into producing

the *Cloudburst*.

**Smoke Bluffs:** I toured the smoke bluffs area with Bev Goodwin, Parks Supervisor of the District of Squamish. It became evident that the additional building of houses on Hospital Hill is creating some difficulty with climbers. The area will be signed asking for climbers to please be courteous to the residents in the climbing area. Please don't make excessive noise around the bluffs and please don't litter.

**Subwebpages:** We have now switched Internet Service Providers so that we can provide our clubs with a subwebpage that they can manage. This was done at the request of two of our clubs. We now have three clubs who wish to manage a page on the Fed website. If any of our other clubs wish this service, please contact me and I can help set up the required passwords.

**National Hiking Trail Meeting:** On 6 April, the Federation of Mountain Clubs is holding a meeting in Prince George with its two northern clubs (Caledonia Ramblers and Fraser Headwaters Alliance), government agencies, and invited guest organizations. We hope to map out the remainder of the trail from Quesnel to Banff.

**Associate Memberships:** We are now actively exchanging newsletters with organizations that we are cooperatively working with on similar issues. We want to send a strong message to government and private industry that many of the conservation groups in BC are now in communication on a regular basis and are working together on common issues.

### **Canada West Mountain School** *by Brian Jones, Manager*

While we are still in the midst of a great winter, already the summer is looming closer and closer. At CWMS, it is sometimes hard to concentrate on the season we are in while at the same time preparing for one coming up!

As I write this looking back on the winter, one of the biggest reasons we can call the season of 99/00 a

success is due to the lack of avalanche involvements and fatalities in our province. Is this a positive trend reflecting the years of education and awareness by organizations such as the CAA, the FMCBC, and gear retailers and manufacturers? Buying an avalanche beacon and taking an avalanche awareness course prior to pursuing backcountry skiing are now accepted as common practices, unlike 10-15 years ago when only the "hard-core" were expected to have avalanche safety knowledge. I can only hope that this trend continues. What-

ever the reasons, let's all continue our perseverance in ensuring that every winter backcountry user in BC is going into the mountains with knowledge, training and the correct equipment.

Looking on to the warmer months, our Summer 2000 schedule is out, and we are anticipating a great season!

CWMS has expanded on our base of programs to offer a wider variety of courses and trips. We have many new trips to the interior mountains of BC, the Rockies, more local peak objectives, an expanded Squamish Rock program, and a few new destinations in the Coast Mountains, including a new backpacking trip into a truly wild location of amazing terrain and scenery, the *Niut Range tour*

Of particular interest to many club members will be our *Pre-season Refresher Clinics*. These free sessions will be hosted by CWMS with the support of local sponsors, and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. We will run a series of 4-hour *Rock Climbing Clinics* covering new techniques and equipment, and anchor building techniques during the first two weekends of April, in Squamish. Over the first two weekends in May, we will host one-day sessions on the North Shore mountains geared toward alpine skills. These *Mountain Skills Refreshers* will cover topics such as self-arrests, glacier travel, crevasse rescue and other alpine techniques. Pre-registration is required for all clinics, though they are free. Contact the CWMS office for more details.

More destination style trips are included in this year's schedule. We will be conducting Mountaineering courses in the *Rogers Pass* area; a cabin based mountaineering trip out of *Sorcerer Lake Lodge* in the Sel-

**Congratulations to Hali Lane of Surrey, BC. Hali is the winner of this year's Canada West Mountain School's 2-day Rocking Climbing course in the Outdoor Show Raffle.**

kirks; one week will be spent touring the Rockies, climbing notable peaks such as *Athabasca, Edith Cavell and Mt. Victoria*; and, Coast Mountain classics such as *Mt. Slesse, Mt. Waddington and Tantalus* are all included in this years list of objectives.

In a more traditional style, the *Ocean to Alpine Classic* is a new venture for Canada West Mountain School. We are partnering with Sage Wilderness Adventures to kayak up Knight Inlet, at which point we will embark on a 10 day journey to climb the NW Summit of Mt. Waddington. This 16-day trip, following in the paths of the early explorers, promises to be a true expedition in the Coast Mountain style.

All members of the FMCBC and FMCBC Member clubs are eligible for discounts with Canada West Mountain School. If anyone would like to find out more about Canada West Mountain School, I am available on a regular basis at the FMCBC Office, and would be pleased to answer any questions, or come out to any club meetings.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### TRAILS COMMITTEE

#### The Adopt-A-Trail Project *by Louise Irwin*

The Adopt-A-Trail programme needs help! What is the Adopt-A-Trail programme? This idea was started by Chilliwack Outdoors Club hiker Neil Grainger in 1987, after the Parks and Forest Service budgets for trail maintenance were severely reduced. The concept was taken up by the Trails Committee, where Charles Chapham developed a computer database listing the trails and their maintenance. After Charles retired from the committee, John Otava transferred the data into his computer system. At the present time the Trails committee is experiencing great difficulty in continuing these records and adding new ones, as there is no coordinator to obtain and update trails information (Pat Harrison is currently maintaining).

The Adopt-A-Trail programme divides the Province into areas of responsibility for trails, princi-

pally in the Lower Mainland, with some input from Vancouver Island, Bulkley Valley, and Prince George regions (see map).

Due to the past few years of deep snow depths with late melting, strong winds, and heavy trail usage, many traditional trails have fallen into serious disrepair or have disappeared entirely. Consequently this appeal for volunteers goes out to all hikers who wish to contribute to our trail maintenance programme. If volunteer coordinators are not forthcoming soon, this very useful Adopt-A-Trail programme may have to be discontinued.

Urgently needed are:

1. Volunteer coordinator for the Adopt-A-Trail plan, preferably computer literate, to update the database and perhaps assist in creating a website for current trail conditions. This job requires contacting and encouraging new and present trail adopters but hiking the trails is not particularly necessarily.

2. Four Zone Coordinators for Zones A, C, N, V. Again, it is not necessary to hike each trail but to keep in touch with Adoptees and be the trails contact for Parks, Forestry, and other personnel as required, reporting to meetings of the Trails Committee. These are held every six weeks during winter months.

The Trails Committee has all the information regarding tools, signs, trails markers, etc.

For further information, please contact the FMCBC office, John Otava, Chair of the Trails Committee, or Pat Harrison, Executive Director.

#### ZONES:

- A. Mosquito Creek to Mamquam River (including Bowen Island). Coordinator: Position Vacant.
- C. Mosquito Creek to Pitt River. Coordinator: Position Vacant.
- E. Pitt River to Fraser River at Spuzzum (north of Fraser River). Coordinator: John Otava (469-9430).
- J. Chilliwack Valley and Fraser Valley (South) to Wahleach Creek (including Cheam/Lucky Four Group). Coordinator Neil Grainger (795 1785).
- M. Manning Park Coquihalla + Skagit and Cascade Recreation Areas. Coordinator: John Otava (469-9430).
- N. Mamquam River to Lillooet River (from head-

- waters to Harrison Lake). Coordinator: Position Vacant.
- P. Lillooet River north to Bridge River south along Fraser River to Spuzzum. Coordinator: Bill Meyer (944-3059).
- T. Other parts of the Lower Mainland. Coordinator: Bill Greer (594-1870).
- V. Vancouver Island. Coordinator: Position Vacant.

## EDUCATION AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

### Surviving an Unexpected Bivouac *by Chris Ludwig*

Unexpected overnight stays are one of the more unpleasant aspects of hiking and mountaineering. They can also be potentially dangerous for the under-equipped and under-prepared.

There are certain preventative measures that can be taken to prevent being caught by nightfall. Researching your route ahead of time, and knowing when sunset takes place is one such measure. If you know that your trip will take ten hours, start early in the morning so that there will be extra time available at the end of the day in case there are delays. If there is a chance that you will have to travel at night, ensure that you and your partners have headlamps, and that you are travelling on an established trail. Established trails are much easier to follow than unmarked routes or bushwhacks.

If you are caught overnight in the summer or fall on a clear day, an overnight stay may simply consist of waiting out the night. On a cool, rainy, or windy day, rain gear and an insulating layer will be required. A thermal blanket or tarp can be useful to create cover from the rain and wind. Purchasing a tarp with eyelets and carrying sufficient rope to tie the tarp to trees or rocks is a good idea. Remember that severe hypothermia can take place in temperatures as high as nine degrees if you become wet or are exposed to the wind. If you are caught overnight without rain gear and an insulating layer, it is still possible to survive the night so long as your body can generate enough heat to keep warm. Use the larger muscles in your body such as the

legs. You may have to find a tree and walk around in circles all night to keep warm enough (this also prevents you from getting lost in the night as well). If you are lost, avoid travelling any further so searchers can find you more easily.

In winter, an unexpected overnight stay can be much more serious. On one such bivi at -15 degrees, I was wearing long underwear, fleece, and a Gore-Tex suit, and a thermal blanket, but was still freezing cold. At low temperatures, I find that emergency blankets and tarps are practically useless and without physical activity, it is easy to become deeply chilled. Wind proof balaclavas and down jackets are useful items in the winter, but are somewhat expensive. The ideal winter setup is to carry a bivi sac and a sleeping bag (yes, even on day trips). Those wishing to travel more lightly may consider snow shelters as protection from the wind and snow. Of course, you will need a light weight aluminum shovel for such an endeavour. Digging a snow cave into an appropriate slope can provide exercise to warm you up, and will create a shelter to protect you from the elements. Once in the cave, curl up in the fetal position to preserve warmth. Sometimes in hard packed snow, a snow saw may be necessary to build a shelter. Few backcountry users, unfortunately, are familiar with igloo building techniques. It is definitely worth taking a winter survival course, or a ski mountaineering course to develop those skills.

In conclusion, there is always a chance that you will be stuck overnight when hiking/climbing in the backcountry. Make sure that you are properly equipped, and that a responsible person knows where you are. From experience, I know that surviving an unexpected overnight stay can increase your confidence, and helps to make you more aware of the nature and power of the backcountry. It also helps you to establish what you need to carry in terms of survival equipment, and what skills you need to master.

### Leadership Requirements for the Comox District Mountaineering Club

*By Ken Rodonets, President*

1. A member of the CDMC for at least two years.
2. Map and Compass ability.
3. A current or valid First-aid Ticket (e.g. Stan-

4. dard Occupation First-aid (SOFA); St. John's First-aid Level 1, 2, or 3; Wilderness First-aid). Recommendation or approval from two of the existing leaders or executive.

Editor's note: what are the requirements of other clubs? Please email me at [hike@unixg.ubc.ca](mailto:hike@unixg.ubc.ca) or fax me at 604 576 0424.

## RECREATION AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Recreation and Conservation Committee meetings have been dealing with the Sea to Sky Corridor and Duffy Lake areas from the point of view of Commercial Backcountry Recreation and non-mechanized vs. mechanized uses. The Fed has made several submissions in the past few months to BCAL and to the MOF. The Fed List Server has had furious discussions over the above the issues

in the past few weeks. As a result of the several meetings of the Rec and Con Committee and List Server input, the following press release was made on 14 March:

### **Press Release: Sea To Sky Corridor 14 March 2000**

Here is a list of backcountry ski areas that we used to use for day trips:

**Mt. Brew:** Overrun by snowmobiles and roads deactivated

**Squamish side of Tricouni Mtn.:** Slid out, or returned to slope

**Singing Pass:** Slid out, or returned to slope

**Swift Creek to Brohm Ridge:** Slid out, or returned to slope

**Brohm Ridge:** Overrun by snowmobiles

**Brandywine:** Overrun by snowmobiles

**Metaldome:** Overrun by snowmobiles

**Callaghan:** Overrun by snowmobiles

**Spoatt:** Overrun by snowmobiles

This is only a list of areas between Squamish and Whistler—the story is fast repeating itself in the Duffy Lake corridor. All of these areas have been so heavily affected by snowmobiles lately that we no longer enjoy trips there and many skiers refuse to go there at all! The new BCAL plan leaves none of these areas for non-motorized use except Singing Pass in the park, and Brew, which Forestry ruined by removing the road, leaving the access impossible across a steep, icy, avalanche-prone slope. We can no longer access the Singing Pass parking lot in spring because of the road slump out, adding 1 1/4 hours to the one-way trip, and snowmobile tours have illegally taken over the road.

Newer, more powerful snowmobiles have now ac-

### PURCELL LODGE

The world's best wilderness hiking and skiing. Terrain for every outdoor enthusiast. Remote and private. [www.purcell.com](http://www.purcell.com)  
(250)344-2639.

cessed all of our traditional forest land alpine areas, Metaldome, Brandywine, and Sproatt in particular. We used to have at least the alpine area track free and free of noise—that is gone.

Nobody seems to want to reclaim any of the valleys we have lost because of the powerful snowmobile lobby. It is time to take a stand—there is no fairness in leaving nothing at all but

Diamond Head Park for the

peace and quiet loving outdoor recreationist. We should team up with present and future “cross-country” operators such as Mad River and demand that not all of our treasured outdoors become motorized hell. Doug Leavers, consultant for BCAL said some thought needs to be given to carrying capacity, pollution by hydrocarbons and noise, and wilderness values.” BCAL and Forestry are not giving adequate consideration to non-mechanized users!

Brandywine - Metaldome is better skiing, but if Callaghan Valley is the best we can get (off the road), we will at least have Sproatt alpine for non-mechanized winter use. Metaldome alpine is still relatively unused by snowmobiles. We could reserve it for non-mechanized use and try to find another way up there other than the current snowmobile road past their cabin. There is a way from Callaghan but it's a long and brutal bushwhack.

All non-mechanized backcountry users need to support an initiative to reclaim some non-mechanized

terrain.

## REGIONAL ISSUES

### LOWER MAINLAND REGION

#### Point Counter-Point on Melvin Creek/Cayoosh Resort

from the Coast Mountain Magazine, February 2000  
Issue (with permission)

#### FMCBC Position

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. takes the position that the proposed Cayoosh/Melvin Creek resort should not proceed for the following reasons:

1) It will have a negative impact upon the Federation members' traditional backcountry recreation activities in the Melvin Creek valley. For many years, Fed Federation members have used the area as a base for week-long ski-touring trips. In recent years, members have also been using the area for weekend trips.

2) The Federation believes there will be inevitable cumulative effects on the Duffey Lake-Cayoosh Range area, one of the best areas for winter wilderness recreation.

3) The Federation believes there has not been a clear assessment of impacts on the local mountain goat and grizzly bear population. This project, the Federation believes, may be the first of many impacts which will extirpate mountain goat and grizzly bear from the Cayoosh Range.

4) The Federation cannot emphasize strongly enough that piecemeal land-use planning forces us 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. Little of southwestern B.C.'s pristine wilderness remains. These pockets of wilderness are our 'genetic banks' for wildlife and reforestation. It is essential that we maintain these pockets. If this proposal proceeds, the Federation believes the following should be done:

5) The surrounding pristine areas should be protected from creeping development by the establishment of a system of provincial parks in the area.

6) A multi-party oversight committee (including users, university programs and government) should be formed to follow and study the impacts of the resort on the surrounding ecosystem. 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.

#### Al Raine's and NGR Resort Consultants Position

Al Raine, spokesperson for the proponent of the Cayoosh/

Melvin Creek resort, NGR Resort Consultants Inc., responds to the FMCBC's concerns about the proposed development:

1) Over the past ten years, NGR knows of only two week-long trips to Melvin Creek by individual FMCBC members. FMCBC-organized ski-touring trips to Melvin Creek are rare events and weekend trips are not as common as this statement implies.

2) There is increased backcountry recreation currently happening around Whistler Resort. Popula-

## Get out of the cold!



Stay in one of our  
mountain huts in the  
Rockies & Selkirks  
or at the  
Canmore  
Clubhouse  
Only \$9-\$24  
anight\*

\*excluding Heavy Meadows High Season

Located in the heart of world-class hiking, rock and ice climbing, mountaineering and skiing.  
Hut access ranges from easy to difficult.  
Large & small group accommodation in the Clubhouse.

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



tion growth in Vancouver and Seattle may have more to do with the cumulative effects than resort development does. We support recreational zoning so that the values shared by different backcountry users can be maintained.

3) We are not biologists. However, we have hired the best experts and they have concluded that there is no risk of extirpation to mountain goats or grizzly bears. We have recently summarized reports from the national park ski areas where it is clear that both goats and bears have habituated to mountain resort developments. FMCBC members know that goats are seen along highways in our national parks and behind the mill in Lillooet. Recent studies from Lake Louise indicate that even though grizzlies are not often seen, they are quite numerous in and around the Whitehorn ski trails.

4) The Federation is participating in land-use planning in the Lillooet area and, with a balanced and reasonable approach, could likely secure backcountry zoning around the Duffey Lake area. However, the recent 'all or nothing' approach may lead to an opportunity lost. There is considerable support for our project in Lillooet and going against this trend is short sighted. Squamish Lillooet Regional District land-use plans outline no commercial development along the corridor outside of Melvin Creek and we are urging the SLRD to maintain this type of zoning. It is not in NGR's best interest to see development along the corridor as such development could negatively impact the proposed resort's financial viability.

5) We agree that backcountry recreation and the tourism industry should have a higher priority. However, there may be better options. Melvin Creek is often described as a pristine valley but logging scheduled for 1992 was deferred because of our proposal.

6) We have agreed to continued monitoring and to assess any possible impacts. We have proposed to the FMCBC that a 'Cayoosh Alpine Institute' be considered as an opportunity for those interested in learning about the environment surrounding Melvin Creek. Most experts agree that there will be no new mountain resorts due to the regulatory processes. Hopefully, there will be one more. There are not too many proponents who will endure a 10- to 12-year approval process.

## **Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve Management Public Input**

*by Gabriel Mazoret*

The Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) is initiating a new planning process for the recently created Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve (LSCR, previously known as the Seymour Demonstration Forest). The planning process "...seeks to create a Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve that will maintain the capacity of the area as a water reserve, continue wildlife and forest management research and demonstration activities, and increase the recreational and interpretive education potential to serve an increasing number of recreational users in the area; the planning process is to provide for involvement of the public and all stakeholders in the development of the new concept."

The planning process includes a series of public forums and workshops. The first forum will be held on Saturday, April 1, 2000, starting at 9:00 am, finishing at 1:00 pm in the Multi-purpose room in the Sportplex, at Capilano College. The public is invited to attend any or all forums and to be involved in the process in greater depth through participation in workshops.

To register, phone the GVRD at 432-6320 or at the door at 8:30 that day.

If you would like some access routes or trails up the sides of the valley through some old growth and up to wonderful ridges such as Elsay or Lynn Peak Ridges and onto some more demanding peaks like The Needles or Elsay, let the GVRD know. Come to the Forums.

---

## **VANCOUVER ISLAND REGION**

### **Arrowsmith Regional Park and Lockwood Village Development proposals**

*by Peter Rothermel*

I have been on the Public Access Resolution Committee (PARC) since its inception three years ago, to deal with access and environmental issues in Arrowsmith Regional Park (the Park). As well, I sit on the Arrowsmith Massif Advisory Committee (AMAC), representing the Alpine Club of Canada and the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C., to advise the Regional Dis-

trict of Nanaimo towards turning Block 1380 into a wilderness type regional park.

Recent news finds the "snow gods" may be smiling on Island ski destinations such as Mt. Washington and Mt. Cain, yet they are frowning on the slopes of the Arrowsmith massif.

Once more the general manager for Arrowsmith Ski and Park Ltd. (ASPL), Ken Bilton, is spouting forth his usual hyperbole. The developer has claimed the operation is shut down from too much snow, similar to last year.

Having been on many winter mountaineering trips to the Arrowsmith massif this past fall and winter, I've seen the snow conditions first hand. The weeks leading up to Christmas I found very little snow, about calf deep of hard crust and much less than I've previously ever seen at that time of year. In the Park, the lower ski slopes (defunct chair lift) were bare of snow on Boxing Day. The weeks after Christmas saw some snow accumulation, but nothing even close to the record breaking snow pack of over five metres last year. Indeed, as of January 15, 2000, I found the snow pack to less than a metre.

ASPL's consultants, S.E. of Canada from Whistler, have based their findings for a viable ski operation in the park on having an average annual 500 to 600 cm of winter snow base. Where did S.E. Canada get these figures? I have to question whether the developers, their consultants, the investors, or the regional districts have ever accessed the Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Parks snow surveys.

For twenty years the Ministry of Environment has been taking snow surveys on the slopes of Cokely, adjacent to the top of the t-bar in the Park and for over thirty years at Snow Bird Lake (at about the same elevation and latitude). One year in five has approximately a metre or less of snow pack, and also showing that never in recorded history has Cokely ever had 600 cm. Last year was the first year recorded to have more than 500 cm (524 cm, April 1, 1999) and that was too much for the developers to cope with.

Any ski-hill operator on the slopes of Cokely will have to be prepared for the possibility of being shut down one out of every five years from too little or too poor snow base. Not necessarily once every five years, it could be fifteen years of good snow and three years of bad and maybe another year of too much snow on top of it all. Can a large commercial operation cope with

this scenario?

There are many similarities between the Mt. Arrowsmith and Mt. Cain ski areas. These are: off the beaten track on gravel road, limited runs using t-bars and about the same rate of descent. It would be prudent for the RDAC to study the nineteen years of success Mt. Cain has had as a small, low key operation, run by a non-profit society. The major difference between these two ski areas is in the amount and quality of snow pack. Mt. Cain receives more precipitation and has colder temperatures, hence much more snow. If Mt. Cain can cope with a long gravel back road and snow removal, why can't ASPL?

However, in a letter sent to Bob Harper, Administrator for Alberni-Clayoquot (Jan 17th), from ASPL investor, John K. Pennington, of Step Financial Holdings, it was stated, "We are putting the operation into mothballs." and goes on to say, "It has been our plan that the primary access to the ski hill would be provided by a gondola." and further, "Since we became involved in 1997, we have known that the development of Lockwood Village (LV) and Mt. Arrowsmith are mutually dependent."

This is diametrically opposite to the statements put forth by Ken Bilton concerning ASPL's involvement in LV. First Bilton claimed they only needed the park by-laws to get investors' support, then they only needed an extension up towards the summit of Cokely to continue and now a gondola is needed to continue with investors' support? When do the demands end? What is the truthful and open plan proposed by these developers and why is it not available for public scrutiny or even available to the RDAC's Arrowsmith Park Advisory Committee?

Bilton said in an interview that the ski hill would re-open for spring break, yet he has pulled his house trailer off the hill along with much of the relative operational equipment and it appears the snow groomer cat made a one way trip down the mountain on January 15th. This means in over a year's period, the gate (to a public park) has been unlocked and the slopes open for only three days.

Where is this "world-class ski resort" and where are the "three hundred jobs" Bilton spoke about at public meetings? Another piece of misinformation is ASPL's original promotional brochure stating the line of descent on the Park's slopes was equal to the lowest elevation of the Park to an elevation that equates to the

main summit of Arrowsmith, which is almost two and a half kilometres in a horizontal line and over four hundred metres outside of the park. Who wrote up this bit of fantasy? Mr. Bilton touts himself as the "Snowman". Is this a "snow job"?

I would hope the Directors for the Regional District of Alberni-Clayoquot (RDAC) finally recognize Bilton's penchant for embellishing his data and stop giving their unequivocal support to a foolish project. Further,, these Directors should start paying close attention to the questions and be heedful of the counsel from their advisory committee, as requested by the Minister of Environment (and stop unequivocally supporting a foolish project).

If both of the RDAC and the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) formed a coalition, together with the volunteer support already in place, a small lift assisted ski area similar to the one at Mr. Cain might work, but it would take monetary commitment from our regional governments.

While the Park is owned by the RDAC, it is in Area C, within the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), and therefore falls under their Official Community Plan (OCP). According to this OCP, the Park can have lodge units and camping sites restricted to fifty total or fifty of each open in their separate season. Further, the proposed residential community, Lockwood Village and gondola link to the Park, located northeast of Cokely is in Area F. The RDN's Regional Growth Management Plan (RGMP) stipulates no permanent residential development for the area Lockwood is proposing for its developments.

It's no wonder the investors have pulled their support. It seems no one involved in the proposed developments on this massif has done their homework, including the developers, investors, or most importantly, the governing bodies. These developments have been doomed from the start by incompetence, misinformation, and backroom dealings kept from the public scrutiny.

A Whistler or a Washington, Arrowsmith will never be. Whistler and Washington use a relatively small area compared to the immense alpine areas they back onto, yet they are large complicated projects. The Arrowsmith massif, on the other hand is a more finite area and requires much more careful planning as this rare alpine area could easily be compromised by over

development.

The developers in the Regional Park are stating \$60,000 was spent on snow removal during the winter of 1998-1999. What did Mt. Cain spend for their road maintenance for the same period? Further, the investors (Pennington) are claiming "To date, our total spending [is] of \$1,470,000 on Mt. Arrowsmith." Should not the Regional Districts obtain an audit of these allegations to find out exactly where these proclaimed monies were spent? Can these statements be substantiated in public?

The simplest of questions have never been asked by our governing bodies, regarding these proposed developments on the Arrowsmith massif. For instance, where would these developers get their water from and where would the waste go?

**Now Available:**

**A subwebpage for any**

**Fed Club**

**which can be managed**

**by the club members.**

**Please contact**

**Pat Harrison**

**at 878 7007 or**

**email at [hike@unixg.ubc.ca](mailto:hike@unixg.ubc.ca)**

At the estimate fifty gallons per person per day, fifty filled lodge units could be one hundred people which equates to five thousand gallons per day. Lockwood's proposed five thousand would require two hundred and fifty thousand gallons per day. With the projected three thousand daily visitors using the proposed gondola into the Park, at one wash-room visit each, would require fifteen hundred gallons of water and waste per day alone. What about water and waste from a "mountain top restaurant"?

When I asked about water used in the Park (May 1998), Bilton said he was planning on using half of McBey Creek's (pipeline) volume to the tune of three hundred thousand gallons per minute, for snow making alone. When I asked Lyle Price of LV, at a public meetings in Parksville, about water consumption, his vague reply was "Maybe Lockwood Creek, maybe wells." My call to the Ministry of Environment's Water Licensing Branch showed no water licences had been applied for. When I called the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) for their opinion, they were concerned as McBey and Lockwood Creeks are tributaries of the Little Qualicum River, a major spawning area for salmon, steelhead, and trout. When I asked DFO about forcing an environmental assessment on this area, they suggested, "the concept of Development Permit Area (DPA) designation as a means to trigger an assessment of proposed developments." as an "area of special significance or environmental sensitivity" and went on to state, "DPA designations have been proposed elsewhere within the RDN." I put this concept by Elaine Hamilton, the director for Area C, this past fall, yet I have not received any response.

In order for the developers (ASPL) to retain their control in the Regional Park, they only have to be open for ten days per year. If they fulfill this minimum requirement each year, their licence to occupy will be renewable in five-year increments for six more terms past the present term (starting June 30, 1998). If there is no breach of contract, the RDAC will not be able to renegotiate the licence to occupy for another thirty-three years (2033). Who is responsible for drafting this contract?

Our regional governments are not asking the many pertinent questions needed about these proposed developments before they give their tentative or unequivocal approvals. What may seem simple for developments near sea level are much more complicated in

alpine areas. I would suggest anyone involved with commercial ski developments to read "Down A Slippery Slope" by Stephen Legault of U.T.S.B. research from Banff Alberta. This paper studies several commercial ski developments in B.C., Alberta, and the northwest U.S. States and their negative impacts on the environment and the local economies.

My primary point is that none of these developers, investors, or most importantly, our governing bodies have researched the viability of or what impact these proposed developments will have on this rare alpine environment or on the infrastructure of our local economies, nor do they or their planners appear to have any real expertise in alpine developments.

We are in great need of having a study done, independent of the developers propaganda, on the viability of these proposed developments. More importantly, an environmental impact assessment must be done before any more of this alpine area is altered in anyway.

The Arrowmith massif is considered by many as the mid-island "Crown Jewel" as it is the only alpine area of any significance south of Strathcona Provincial Park. It is home to many red and blue listed species of flora and fauna. Therefore, the Arrowsmith massif is very much deserving of protected status. Yet the Regional Park is becoming known as the highest garbage dump on the island. Who will be responsible for the clean up?

If the RDAC or the RDN will not do a feasibility study and an environmental impact study on this rare alpine region, then I suggest the Park be given over to a more reasonable agency. Further, I will be contacting the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and asking them to step in and conduct an inquiry on how this public park and surrounding area have been abused for capital gain with no thought to the area's environmental sensitivity.

---

**[www.mountainclubs.bc.ca](http://www.mountainclubs.bc.ca)**

**[www.themountainschool.com](http://www.themountainschool.com)**

## Concerns over TimberWest's Logging

by Ken Rodonets

Comox District Mountaineering Club

6 February 2000

Steve Lackey

TimberWest Forest Products

PO Box 2800

Campbell River, BC, V9W 5C5

Dear Steve:

At the BC Parks meeting last Thursday (27 January 2000) our member, Ruth Masters, discussed with you some of our concerns relative to TimberWest logging in the Comox Lake watershed. We are particularly interested in the following areas receiving as much consideration as possible:

**FORBUSH LAKE:** As you enter the lake from the channel there is a gravel bar on the immediate right, then about 100 yards west on the northerly shore of the lake there is a peninsula/island which the loggers of sixty years ago left untouched and which, while not particularly valuable, provides a nice viewscape.

**TRAIL LEADING TO TALL TIMBER IN STRATHCONA PARK:** Years ago, our Club re-opened the old cat road leading from the head of Forbush Lake into the Park timber. This trail is used regularly each year by recreationists, and we keep it open with an annual brushing out.

**PORTAGE TRAIL:** Similarly, we made our canoe portage trail using the old cat road along the south side of the channel between Willemar and Forbush Lakes. There doesn't seem to be much timber value here, mostly alder and red osier dogwood.

**COMOX CREEK TRAIL HEAD FOR COMOX GLACIER AND CENTURY SAM LAKE:** The trail head for the Comox Glacier is the end of the old logging road on the north side of Comox Creek adjacent to the Park boundary. The trail crosses Comox Creek and goes up to the ridge leading to Black Cat Mountain and Comox Glacier. About half way up to the ridge, there is a tiny lake which appears to be outside the Park boundary. It is a little beauty spot and our hope is that it will not be spoiled with debris.

**PUNTLEDGE RIVER FROM WILLEMAR LAKE TO COMOX LAKE:** The river here was seri-

ously clogged by former logging and is still impassible. Years ago, we checked on having it cleared out but the word we got from Fisheries, however, was that it would be more disruptive to clean it out than to leave it alone. Hopefully, logging around Willemar and Forbush Lakes will not result in further clogging.

**COMOX LAKE:** Logging between the road and lake shore will be in an ecologically sensitive area, unique because of the combination of Douglas Fir, Arbutus, salal, and other native plants, in what is known as the 'Gulf Islands Biotic Zone'. Sedimentation, turbidity, and coliform contamination are all serious concerns, as well as rising temperatures in the Puntledge River with its multi-million fish hatchery, installed in our attempt to rescue the Puntledge River to its former teeming natural abundance.

**CRUICKSHANK RIVER:** The Cruickshank originally support huge runs of Chinook, Coho, and Steelhead, which were virtually wiped out by the hydro dams of 1913, the impoundment dam at Comox Lake and the Diversion Dam a mile or two downstream. Restorative measures around the dams have improve the situation partially. Past logging was very destructive to the Cruickshank; we hop that cutting will be far enough back this time, including the tributaries, in order that debris is minimized.

**ALONE MOUNTAIN TRAIL:** Our trail comes off the Comox Lake Road at the tope of the hill which leads down to the big Cruickshank Bridge and proceeds from the TimberWest heli-landing, across the valley, and directly up the face of Alone Mountain through several timbered areas.

**ALDERMAN LAKES:** Pleasant sub-alpine lakes with timbered approach. The trail goes in from the end of the logging road west of Mount Indianhead.

**CAPES AND IDIENS LAKES:** Both lakes are virtually sub-alpine, but there is considerable timber on the approaches where we will attempt to re-establish our trails. We acknowledge your help and cooperation last year.

**CAREY LAKES:** We use the logging road for access, and there is timber on the way up. The lakes are beautiful sub-alpine; with view. We will attempt to restore a route up there in due course.

**SUMMARY:** You will realise from the foregoing that our members are anxious that every mitigation will be implemented, in order that recreation, fish, wild-

life, and watershed values will be impacted as little as possible. Every area mentioned is vitally important to our Comox Valley water supply, as well as to our recovering fish resource. Hence, we are providing a copy to the Regional District, to Doug Smith of DFO, to the City of Courtenay, and to the Town of Comox for their information.

As formerly, our members will be pleased to meet with you at any time with respect to our concerns.

**West Coast Nootka Island Trail**  
*by Pal Horvath*  
*Comox District Mountaineering Club*

9 January 2000

Mr. C. Cornfield  
Recreational Specialist  
Ministry of Forests  
Campbell River

Dear Mr. Cornfield:

I am writing on behalf of the Comox District Mountaineering Club (CDMC) regarding the hiking trail on the West Coast of Nootka Island.

A brief description of CDMC: The club was formed in 1928 and has been active ever since. The purpose of the club is to promote all types of non-motorized travel in the outdoors all year round (mountain bikes excluded) and to maintain trails, and be actively involved in the preservation of wilderness recreational areas. At this time, we have 97 members, many of whom represent families, and it is fair to say that we represent 300 active hikers from all over Vancouver Island.

We often hike the Nootka Trail, and noticed a large increase in the number of hikers and kayakers in the past six years, the numbers will increase exponentially from now on as the word gets around, as you know the West Coast Trail is overloaded making the Nootka Trail a very attractive place to hike.

We also noticed that the Nootka Trail is not on the forestry planning maps, nor is it on any map. The Nootka Trail from Louie Bay to Friendly Cove existed since the 60's for sure, and very likely before that.

The West Coast of Nootka Island was made Spe-

cial Management Zone because of its potential as a world class wilderness recreational area and this trail is very much part of it. We feel that it is important that the Nootka Trail appears on maps to make it "known" feature so planners, consultants, and government departments can consider it when making decisions about this beautiful area.

Our question is: How can the trail between Louie Bay and Friendly Cove be put on the maps? Please let us know what is the procedure.

Looking forward to your answer.

Regards,  
Pal Horvath

cc: Mr. D.R. Slugget, District Manager BCFS; Madelena Di-Iorio-Don, BCFS Planner; Federation of Mountain Clubs; and Sierra Club, Victoria, BC.

---

## **NORTH CENTRAL REGION**

### **Central Interior Report** *by David King*

For the two Central Interior clubs that are members of the Federation, winter is a quiet time of the year in terms of outdoor activities. Large numbers of people are ski touring or tele-skiing in the backcountry, however, much of these activities are largely unorganized. Nonetheless there are clubs or groups in most communities which maintain ski trails or organize some trips. Almost everywhere there are conflicts or concerns with other users groups, especially snowmobiles. In time it is hoped that some of these groups will join the Federation as an avenue for helping in resolving some of these conflicts. These groups are being invited to attend the Federation AGM to be held in Prince George June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Conflicts primarily with motorized types of recreationists lead to the formation of the Prince George Recreation Society more than a year ago. The society currently has five member clubs in the Prince George including the Caledonia Ramblers although overtures have been made to others both in Prince George and neighbouring communities that advocate self-propelled

activities. Unlike the Federation, the Society includes groups that are not mountain-oriented groups although the society has somewhat similar goals/objectives to the FMCBC. The society is in the process of developing an inventory of all trails and huts in the Central Interior and eventually will likely enter them into the data base used by the FMCBC. Besides investigating opportunities for new trails and huts, it has organized meetings with the local snowmobile club to discuss common concerns, met with

Parks Branch with regard to management plans for newly established protected areas, and has provided input to MOF and BCAL on proposed snowmobile trails and CBR plans. If anyone wishes more information on the society then they

should contact Adrian Walton at 250 962-8075.

We have continued to pursue a potential location for the National Hiking Trail through the Central Interior. Existing trails in Banff and Jasper National Parks lead into Robson Provincial Park and on into the Robson Valley. The crux in the route will be from the Robson Valley to Quesnel where there is no obvious route for the trail. From Quesnel, the trail will hook into the Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail and follow it to Bella Coola. In early April there will be a meeting of all interested persons and groups to discuss the options for the Robson Valley to Quesnel section and hopefully come up with a plan. It probably is not possible to find a route that totally avoids roads but the goal is to have a route that will not be used by vehicles, ATVs, mountain bikes, etc.

### Northern Perspective

By Mike Nash

With this issue of Cloudburst, it has been ten years since I started writing *Northern Perspective*. It began with a letter published in the December 1989 is-

sue under the provocative title: *The Ethics of Indiscriminate Cairn Building*. Just imagine, if only a quarter of the readers of the day took that story to heart and refrained from building stone monuments, how many more people have experienced that untouched-by-man feeling on a mountaintop in the ensuing decade!

Receiving good feedback from that first letter, I submitted a longer piece that appeared in the March 1990 Cloudburst headed *A Northern Perspective*. I

followed that with more stories later in the year and the *Northern Perspective* by-line was born. At first I only had enough material for two or three articles, and I thought that the ideas would soon dry up. But as anybody probably knows who writes regularly, that didn't happen. It was never hard to find something new, especially with only a quarterly publica-

tion frequency. Sometimes, finding the time to write against a looming deadline was challenging, and mailing diskettes back and forth was always a nuisance. But I learned early in the game that electronic submission—even by diskette—was essential to cut down on copying errors and duplication of work. In recent years, the nearly universal availability of email has made submission very easy, and I expect that we will see many more Federation members submitting material.

During the 10-years, I have enjoyed a good relationship with a succession of editors. There was only one unhappy occasion involving a story that I co-authored with a local historian and past-President of the Alexander Mackenzie Trail Association. The article was timed for the Bicentennial celebration of the first crossing of the Continent, and it traced the famous explorer's route through our northern mountains. Unfortunately it was so heavily edited on the grounds that Cloudburst was a *mountaineering* not a *historical* newsletter, that it lost all meaning. Still, even that was a good lesson for a novice writer—know what your editor wants, even if you don't agree!

Looking back at my first *Northern Perspective*

## THE 3RD ANNUAL VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The best from the 3rd Annual Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival will be shown 17-20 April (4 Shows!) at 7:30 pm at the Pacific Space Centre Auditorium (formerly the Planetarium). For ticket information, please call the festival hotline 87V-IMFF (878-4633).

piece in March 1990, I was surprised to find that it could stand today. It had statements like: "The country no longer seems quite as large and untouched as it did ten years ago," and "the rate of change in the north is giving us pause to reflect." Yet in the intervening decade, there have been unprecedented opportunities for public involvement in land use planning and protected area selection. In that first article I described an experience where a caribou followed me onto a mountain top and stood there for ten minutes until its curiosity was satisfied. That peak is now part of the Sugarbowl/Grizzly protected area, designated by the Prince George Land and Resource Management Plan. Last weekend I ski climbed onto another peak in the same protected area and watched not one, but eleven caribou climb onto the adjacent summit and graze on the wind swept grasses. Some things are still right with the world!

With experience gained from writing this column, I have written feature articles for *BC Naturalist*, and for the past five years an outdoors column for a local newspaper, *Prince George This Week*. So, if anyone has a yearning to write about the mountains in this beautiful Province in which we live, writing for Cloudburst is a great way to get started and a good way to contribute to the FMCBC.

This summer, for the second time, the Federation AGM will be held in Prince George. And, for the first time in many years, there is a new interior club participating. I hope that many of you will undertake the pleasant drive north to experience the sensational hospitality, outstanding walks, unsurpassed wildlife viewing, and some of BC's best new protected areas. Perhaps someone will offer to write a guest *Northern Perspective* following the event!

### **ATV's Making an "Impressionk" on Alpine Wilderness** *by Mike Nash (via two email messages)*

It's good to see the interest raised by the issue of motorized recreation on the Fed List Server. During the Prince George LRMP a large group of snowmobilers picketed the District Office of the MOF, which produced an amazingly strong and lasting impression on MOF staff and their willingness to discuss conflicts and zoning at the table. Unfortunately it would take a like demonstration of non-motorized users to level the field. Even then Volkswagens and Subarus are not as intimi-

dating as dual wheeled trucks sporting double flat bed snowmobile carriers, as skiers can often attest from the drive out to the mountains.

The real issue that the FMCBC had better be prepared for is ATVs accessing the alpine via logging, fire, and mining exploration roads. It's not too much of a problem yet, but it is likely not too far away and the effects will be a lot more permanent as can be seen on Lucille Mountain at McBride. I heard this weekend that there is an ATV issue brewing on Red Mountain at Penny--home of the largest concentration of grizzly bears in the interior. (I wonder how many people who contributed their metre of the Trans Canada Trail knew that large stretches of it back east would be opened to ATV's?

At least one pundit up here has called it the National Disgrace. What's to stop this from happening on the National Hiking Trail when it's built? Perhaps a well-researched pro-active campaign might help ward off this problem if government can see the prospective long-term damage to the alpine and therefore to the Province's future image as a wilderness tourist destination. Or, perhaps some of that future is in ATV tours ripping around in the meadows--I'm starting to see more ATV tours being offered.

Snowmobiles have a lot more latitude for compromise; ATVs are pretty much forever and will demand much more serious zoning.

---

The ATV problem that I discussed in my earlier email today is much more imminent and serious than I thought. Groups of up to 40 quads are reported pushing their way towards and into alpine meadows locally last summer, leaving wheel marks that can be seen several kilometres away. I don't think it's an overstatement to say that we are at risk of losing much of our alpine wilderness virtually overnight; and not just to user conflicts, but to physical damage that may take hundreds of years to repair. All other FMCBC issues must surely pale beside this one.

---

**[www.mountainclubs.bc.ca](http://www.mountainclubs.bc.ca)**

## BC ISSUES

### Report on Meeting with Joan Sawicki *by Lesley Bohm, President*

Pat Harrison and I met with the Minister of the Environment, Joan Sawicki, in December as part of a coalition that included Sierra Club, Federation of BC Naturalists, and Save our Parkland Association.

Discussion began on funding for the Parks Legacy program. The minister said that she intended to make a millennium project out of funding for care of the new parks. She wants the support of the community, especially the business community, on this in order to short circuit any negative lobbying. Dennis O'Gorman (ADM) said that parks personnel is stretched so thin that the only way they can deal with the new park plans is by working unpaid overtime. Day-use fees are a distinct possibility. Bert Brink of the Save our Parkland Association pointed out that historically British Columbia Assets and Lands has funded the Habitat Conservation Fund for acquisition of new land from Crown Land sales, which is something the new crown

corporation may not be aware of.

The ministry was surprised at the outcry against trading crown land on Vancouver Island—we stressed that this was because of the terrible access record of private forestry owners there.

There are going to be changes to the Park Act—probably precipitated by the court case brought against the government by the Friends of Cypress Park. Park use permits are the Achilles Heel of the Park Act. The changes have not been made public yet and we need to keep in touch through the BC environmental network, Bill Wareham, and Mark Angelo of Park Legacy, as response will have to be swift. Minister Sawicki wants fast implementation as there has already been a lot of consultation on Parks Legacy and LRMPs. The Lower Mainland Protected Area Strategy is done, the Marine Protected areas program has been slow because of the need for Federal involvement, there is good support for parks in the southern Gulf Islands and consultation with Islands Trust. Efforts are being made for Burns Bog, and for endangered species (David Anderson).

It is important that everyone write letters to all levels of government in support of funding for parks

## IT'S A LONG WAY DOWN...

BECAUSE IT WAS A LONG WAY UP.

YOU NEED EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING THAT CAN GET YOU THERE AND BACK. FOUNDED BY AND FOR MOUNTAINEERS, MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT CO-OP HAS THE RIGHT STUFF. WE'VE BEEN EQUIPPING CLIMBERS HERE IN OUR BC HOME HILLS (AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD) FOR NEARLY THREE DECADES. DROP IN ON US SOON.



MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT CO-OP  
130 W. BROADWAY, VANCOUVER 872-7858  
A LIFETIME SHARE IN MEC IS ONLY \$5.00  
CALL 1-800-663-2667 FOR A CATALOGUE.  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.MEC.CA](http://www.mec.ca)

---

VISIT THE FMCBC WEBSITE AT:

[www.mountainclubs.bc.ca](http://www.mountainclubs.bc.ca)

---

## **HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES**

### **Historic 1861 Goldrush Pack Trail Re-opened** *from the Friends of Barkerville Newsletter, Quesnel, BC*

Efforts by Lana and Gary Fox of Quesnel over the past six years to recover and open up original gold seekers' trail into the Barkerville country from Keithley at the south to Richfield at the north has paid off.

This trail first came into use in the mid-1800's before the Cariboo Road and the paddle wheelers made access a great deal easier -- both of which put the trail into disuse. The trail climbs very quickly at either end, bringing the hiker quickly into magnificent alpine country. Its historic value is closely paralleled by its scenic, physically challenging, and alpine flora values. All these features attracted the attention of the Friends of Barkerville Society whose mandate is the "preservation, protection, and promotion of historic sites of Barkerville and the Goldfields." Consequently, the Trails Committee, headed by Robin Grady, directed its efforts to help the Fox's complete their huge undertaking of re-establishing this route as a linear historic site. Financial and other assistance came through Forest Renewal B.C., B.C. Forest Service, West Fraser Mills, as well as Friends of Barkerville.

This past Labour Day weekend -- the mountain passes finally being free of snow -- saw 37 hikers leave from the southern trailhead near Keithley, B.C. in the mist of early morning, September 4 to cover the first 15 km of the 45 km trail. The next 15 km on the second day took the hikers through high valleys and over mountain slopes with vistas on all sides. The final day -- a tough one, up from Racetrack Flats over Bald Mountain with a descent to Richfield and Barkerville --

was amply rewarded by the bells of the Theatre Royal in Barkerville ringing a loud welcome while the hikers poured down the one main street as the gold seekers may have done one hundred thirty-eight year before.

A great advantage the hikers had over the early miners were three 4X4 pickups -- support vehicles that toted tents, propane burners, overnight packs, and tarp canopies into the two overnight campsites, leaving the hikers free to carry nothing but day packs on the trail.

While primary importance of this hike lies in its historical value, secondary in importance is the expanding network of shorter trails that spin off from this main route. These trails developed as the early gold seekers branched off to check gold-bearing possibilities of gulches along the way. At some points, centres of that transient population became known as "cities", such as Grouse City, Antler City, and as discoveries of gold lured them on, the trail took them over, finally, to Barkerville.

Today, the 1861 Goldrush Pack Trail stands to be one of the main routes that will intersect with other important trails in what will become a tremendous network of trails in the interior of B.C. At the present time, the Goat River Trail (Fraser Headwater Alliance) is nearing completion, unless it was fortunate enough to do so in this short summer. These two trails could merge into the Alexander MacKenzie Trail, and the number of day hikes, along with those already existing in the Wells-Barkerville country, are hard to imagine!

### **Subject: Mountain Access Committee** *by R.C. Harris, February 26; 1964*

Notes on the Meeting held Wednesday, 26 February 1964, at the home of Don Ouram, Vancouver, BC.

Those present were largely as listed in the record of the meeting held 15 January 1964, with the North Shore Hikers represented by Peggy Symmons and Bob Harris instead of Hank Stirland.

The delegates from the 5-Member Clubs reported on the extent their Clubs were going to participate in trail marking. Some Clubs would produce the full \$60.00 required, if the other would do the same. The North Shore Hikers only plan on marking two trails per year, and do not intend to invest more than \$20.00. The Alpine Club of Canada asked for the help of the

B.C.M.C. and further suggested that perhaps the Mountain Access Committee could raise money by obtaining donations from interested organizations and individuals.

A member of the committee who wished to remain anonymous, offered 10,000 aluminum markers, 4"x4" and 4"x6", for the use of the Member Clubs.. This would give 2,000 markers per Club, or 2,500 if the YHA did not participate in trail marking.

The material is .035" mill sheet, 4" strip, temper rolled foil, for which the order is a minimum of 250 pounds at \$150.00. The markers would be fastened to trees with 1-3/4" aluminum roofing nails. These are the same price as galvanised roofing nails, but are lighter to carry.

In marking a trail it is first outlined with tape, and then permanent markers are applied on both sides of trees at about 30 ft. centres.

Ruth Greene Bailey of West Vancouver offered to assist in publicity for the Mountain Access Committee, in phrasing the necessary letters, and in raising the funds for trail marking by providing a list of interested individuals and Service Clubs.

Norman Purssell was elected Chairman of the Letter Writing Committee. Contributions for inclusion in the letter were to be in his hands by Wednesday, 4 March 1964, e.g. safety, recreation, fire access.

Don Ouram offered stenographic help for preparing the letters.

Ruth Bailey started the fund with a \$5.00 cheque, and Mary Wells was appointed acting Secretary-Treasurer.

A number of the allocated trails were switched between the Clubs present in view of their previous experience on certain of the trails.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, 11 March 1964, at the home of Bert Port, Vancouver, B.C. One representative from each Club is to attend to pick up 2,000 or 2,500 aluminum markers. The North Shore Hikers will be able to finance the necessary nails for applying the markers.

Lawrence McEwan acted as Chairman of the above meeting, and he will pick up the 10,000 markers from the anonymous donor.

The meeting was conducted somewhat informally, there being no formal motions passed.

cc: WH, DF, RD, HS, EG, PS

Editor's note: The above are the minutes from the second meeting of the Mountain Access Committee, the predecessor of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B. C. The Mountain Access Committee was incorporated into the FMCBC in 1972. The FMCBC has been advocating for mountain access for over 36 years.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Volunteer Needed to Serve on EFBC Board to represent the 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.*

### Volunteer Needed for Office

Anyone with office experience, please contact Pat Harrison (hike@unixg.ubc.ca, 576 0403, or 878 7007). He is in need of help to file the onslaught of paper that has piled up in the past six months.

**[www.themountainschool.com](http://www.themountainschool.com)**

## NEW BOOKS

### **Walk the Burrard Loop** *by Charles Clapham*

My new book Walk the Burrard Loop has now been published and is available in bookstores (\$15.95). It describes how to walk around Burrard Inlet without retracing your steps. It passes many rivers and lakes and explores some unusual parts of Vancouver. It takes you to the fast-flowing North Shore creeks, the wide expanses of the Pitt River, the ravines around Port Moody and the wetlands of Burnaby and Deer Lakes. It explores the history of Vancouver's Italian community and historic Chinatown. The route is described as eleven one-day hikes, including a side trip to Burnaby Mountain. Maps are provided and instructions are given for getting to each hike by transit, or for leaving your vehicle at the end of each day's walk and catching a bus to the start.

### **Newly Revised Hiking Book Coming** by Vancouver Island Trails Information Society

Watch for the newly revised Hiking Trails II: South-Central Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. This eighth edition is revised and expanded, with many more trail descriptions and topographical maps. The book is produced by the Vancouver Island Trails Information Society, compiled and edited by Richard K. Blier. It should be off the press at the end of June. See our web site for further Vancouver Island hiking information [www.vanisle.net/bctrails/](http://www.vanisle.net/bctrails/).

## FMCBC MEETING NOTICES

### Annual General Meeting

Date: 17 June 2000

Location: Prince George

### Board of Directors

Date: 22 Mar 2000

19 Apr 2000

17 May 2000

Location: 47 West Broadway, Vancouver

### Recreation and Conservation Committee

Date: 3 Apr 2000

1 May 2000

Location: Check with FMCBC Office

### Trails Committee

Date: 17 Apr 2000 TBA

Location: 47 West Broadway, Vancouver

### FMCBC Lower Mainland Delegates

Date: 19 April 2000

Location: 47 West Broadway, Vancouver

### FMCBC Island Delegates

Date: Spring 2000 (8 April?)

Location: Bowen Park, Nanaimo

### **Want to get involved in FMCBC Issues? Want to have direct input to the BOD?**

At the request of several of its clubs, the Fed reactivated its List Server in December. The list has grown from 30 participants to 75. We have had great discussions about mechanized use of the backcountry, commercial backcountry recreational permits, and many other topics. The List Server is a way of keeping informed on advocacy issues and giving your input if you desire. All you have to do to join is email your name, email address, and club to Pat Harrison at [hike@unixg.ubc.ca](mailto:hike@unixg.ubc.ca).

## Canada West Mountain School (CWMS) Schedule of Events

Canada West Mountain School thanks the following FMCBC Clubs for working with CWMS this winter in training their club members in Avalanche Safety skills.

Alpine Club of Canada (*Vancouver Island Section*)

North Shore Hikers

Varsity Outdoor Club

### Canada West Mountain School slide show series

Join CWMS Instructors and guest speakers for a free evening of slides and discussion of a variety of trips. Please contact the CWMS office for details on each show.

#### April 27 – The best of Coast Mountain Trekking

These images and stories collected from the mountain ranges of BC by Dave Sarkany, CWMS Instructor and photographer, will inspire everyone to leave the pavement behind and explore BC's remaining wilderness areas.

#### May 17 – The apex of BC: "Mt. Waddington"

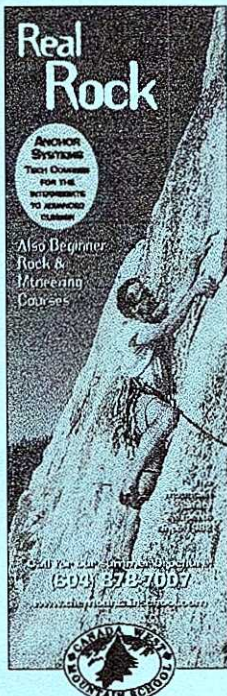
Join CWMS Manager and Lead Instructor Brian Jones, a veteran of over 15 trips into the Waddington Ranges, as he tours you around this majestic peak.

#### June 7 – BC's Rock Road Trip

Richard Wheater, local photographer and rock climber takes us on a trip to visit the hottest northwest crags..

#### July - BC Coastal Sea Kayaking (contact office for date)

Bruce Wilson of Sage Wilderness Adventures shares over a decades worth of images and stories collected up and down the Coast during his adventures.



## CANADA WEST MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

### OFFERS

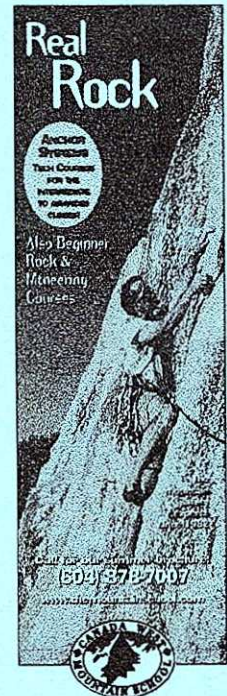
### DISCOUNTS

### TO CLUBS AND FED MEMBERS

### ON

### ALL COURSES AND TRIPS

[www.themountainschool.com](http://www.themountainschool.com)



## 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 Shore Hikers	604-988-9525
North Vancouver Recreation Commission	604-983-6543
Outdoor Club	ext. 2966
Outdoor Club of Victoria	250-727-0824
Outsetters Club	604-946-9446
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

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Federation of BC Naturalists  
Environmental Fund of BC  
Friends of Cypress Provincial Park

BRIAN WOOD 26/4  
1844 ACADIA RD  
VANCOUVER, BC V6T 1R3 XX45(R)

Mail Sales Agreement No. 102202

