



CLOUDBURST

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

May 2001 Vol. 19 - No. 1 \$2.50

AGM set for 23 June 2001 in Vancouver at UBC

Two new LRMP's: Sea to Sky & North Coast

New BCAL tenures forthcoming



Eastern part of the National Hiking Trail in British Columbia. See map on page 31. Map courtesy of Fraser Headwaters Alliance.

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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:
15 October 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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Happy Spring skiing---AGM on June 23. See you there!

BOARD REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Lesley Bohm, President

The Federation has been involved in many issues this year—more than usual, thanks to the untiring efforts of Pat Harrison, the Executive Director, who maintains our contacts with Vancouver Island and the North. We are able to keep in touch with both by having directors participate in monthly meetings by conference calls, and by the list serve. Unfortunately, with improved communication comes a huge workload, which has pushed Pat's hours way above what we pay him for. The success of the Help Melp campaign (joint campaign with the Federation of Naturalists and others to increase funding for Parks) required many trips to Victoria. If we want to maintain lobbying presence and personal contact with regional meetings, which has been so successful this year, we may have to raise our FMCBC contribution by a few dollars; from the current \$11 to \$13 or \$15 would help. This would still pale in comparison to what the snowmobilers put in to support their federation. We are trying to encourage backcountry businesses to support us in our ongoing efforts to maintain, and reclaim, zoned space for non-mechanized recreationists, but past efforts at getting money for administrative costs have been unsuccessful.

The Sea to Sky LRMP is just beginning. We have hopes that our previous work on the Forestry Recreation Plan and the continuing efforts of the Rec and Con Committee will improve the intolerable situation that now exists where all non-park areas are overrun with motorized commercial and private interests, all of which have displaced our traditional use. We support zoning to return some areas to non-motorized use, including access. We hear from Prince George that zoning has been put in place there, so now it's our turn!

STAFF REPORTS

E.D.'S REPORT

by Pat Harrison,
Executive Director

Thank You

In December I decided to have a night devoted to writing to our politicians on a variety of issues. I wanted to add inspiration to our annual Christmas party held at the Fed office. In return for writing one letter to a politician, the author would receive pizza, pop, and Christmas music. At the end of the evening (15 December) over 150 letters had been written. The event prompted many clubs to have their own 'Writing Night' on issues. I am aware of the Klister Outdoor Klub, ACC-Vancouver, the North Shore Hikers, and the BC Mountaineering Club holding such an event. If I missed any club, please let me know so I can acknowledge them in the next issue of Cloudburst. To date, 400-500 letters have been written to politicians by our membership on issues of concern to them. We know that other Federations of dissimilar opinion are doing this as well and we need to have our position heard.

LRMP - Sea to Sky (Land Resource Management Planning)

In January, LUCO announced the beginning of the Lower Mainland/Sea to Sky LRMP (Land Resource and Management Planning) process. Open houses to launch the LRMP process were held at Squamish and North Vancouver. Many members of the Federation attended the North Vancouver open house. At stake is the planning of what uses on the Sea to Sky corridor are to be permitted. We have submitted a letter to LUCO requesting that two representatives of the Federation be at the table to represent the non-motorized recreational community. We have also submitted our proposal for zoning, our replies to the recreational proposal by the Squamish Forest District, and our replies

to the BCAL's tenures to LUCO. Unfortunately, it appears that BCAL is moving ahead with issuing commercial recreation tenures without waiting for the LRMP to conclude (scheduled for two years). We believe this is a mistake and makes for a mish-mash type of land planning process. The most disturbing part is that no new protected areas are to be made in this process thereby negating an important facet of the process. The really critical aspect of the planning will be what type of recreation will be permitted and where.

BCAL - Tenures

We received on 19 March twenty-eight commercial tenures to review. We appreciate BCAL including us in the process, but the timing was very rushed. Our comments back to BCAL were due in by 31 March. On 26 March, the Recreation and Conservation committee met to discuss the comments that Mike Feller had brought forth on these tenures. We owe Mike a tremendous thank you as he had an entire box of tenures to read prior to the RC meeting. We met the deadline and received an acknowledgement from Elisabeth Eldridge of BCAL.

BEBIT (Brackendale Eagles, Bains Island, and Tantalus park) Planning Process

Peter Woodsworth (NSH, ACC, BCMC), Monika Bittel (BCMC), Liz Scremin (ACC-Vancouver), Mark Grist (VOC), and Lesley Bohm have been representing the Federation and their respective clubs at the BEBIT planning process for the past year. At stake is the amount of 'flightseeing' over Tantalus Park, number of aircraft landings, and amount of recreational use of the new Tantalus Park. Our position is to restrict the number of landings to two days per week, thereby offering recreational users a wilderness experience five days per week. However, flightseeing is regulated by the Federal Government. We have recommended that flightseeing be kept 1000 metres above land so as not to be so intrusive on the recreational users below.

Help Melp

The Federation has been an active participant in the Help Melp campaign. Although 86 organizations have signed on, seven organizations have been meeting, planning, and advocating. The Federation of BC Naturalists initiated this effort approximately two years ago in order to regain funding for four areas within MELP: Wildlife Habitat, Fisheries, Parks, and Protections. In

the fall of 1999, we joined the effort actively. In addition to our Federation and the FBCN, the BC Wildlife Federation, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club, BC Open Spaces, the BC Government Employees Union, and the Cowichan Conservation Society have actively participated. It was recently announced that the lift of 4.9 million dollars given last November would remain in the budget along with an additional \$10 million dollars. Also included was \$10 million for park infrastructure improvements. Last fall, \$2 million of the 4.9 million was for Park infrastructure improvements. This amount also equals the \$2.3 million that went into the park improvement of putting in the sewer line from West Vancouver to Cypress Provincial Park.

Fed Policies

Brian Wood, Co-Chair, has instituted a review of our recreational policies including Motorized Access (formerly Mechanized), Trail Uses (formerly Mountain Bikes), Commercial Flightseeing, Wilderness, Huts, and Heli-Licences. He wants to make sure that our policies are consistent with the positions we are advocating at the various sessions we are currently attending. We have just completed our review of our policies on Motorized Backcountry Activity and Trail Uses.

Meetings with Clubs

As of March, I have met with 14 of 21 clubs of the Federation (boards or memberships). For those of you I have not met, I would be happy to come and speak either with your executive, board, or membership to present the activities in which the Federation is involved. I appreciate the opportunity to meet members of member clubs.

CWMS ["cooms"] (Canada West Mountain School)

Canada West Mountain School offers 10% off (up to \$25) to members of the Federation. If you are interested in taking a course, please contact the school at cwms@mountainclubs.bc.ca or check out the school's website for course listings at www.themountainschool.com.

National Trail System

We have received information from Scotland that a mountaineer hopes to arrive in the summer of 2002 to traverse the trail from Crescent Spur to Bella Coola.

The trail has finally arrived on the international scene.

Disappointment

Last November, I approached the Executive Director of the BC Snowmobilers Federation to initiate a process of solving conflicts between snowmobilers and non-motorized recreational users. I journeyed to Salt Spring Island where their Federation's office is located. After our meeting, it appeared we agreed on some issues and other issues should continue to be addressed (see Cloudburst, Fall 2000). It is now May and no meetings have taken place. On four occasions, we have contacted the Executive Director to try to get these meetings started. So far the answer has been consistent: too busy to participate. In the interim, at two open houses, members of the snowmobile community have stated that their Executive Director and I were solving the conflicts. Not so! I am publicly challenging their Executive Director to come visit me at the Fed office so we can get going on what we promised we would do.

Monetary Concerns

As we approach the AGM on 23 June, I want to address the financial picture of the Fed. The Fed is operated slightly in the black, but this is not a viable, sustainable level. The Fed has been a very active participant in many activities that affect non-motorized recreational users including the Help Melp campaign, LRMP's, trails initiatives, BCAL tenures, Park master plan reviews, and more. What the Fed needs most to retain this activity is two full-time positions: a full-time ED and a full-time office manager. At the moment we are operating on a two day per week ED and a one day per week office manager. This will be the number one issue at the AGM as it will determine the sustainability of our Federation and the sustainability of the largest lobby for the non-motorized recreationalists in BC. Without the Fed, surely the motorized lobby groups


will be able to be more effective advocating the use of motorized equipment in the backcountry. Our efforts to date to raise outside money for operations have not been successful. Most organizations, governments, and companies want a tangible item they can point to. We put in two grant applications with MEC and were unfortunately turned down. We were told they were solid proposals and that we should resubmit them for the next deadline. MEC, of course, receives many, many more proposals than they can afford to support. I am also working with Gordon White of the Environmental Fund of BC to institute a game plan for approaching possible industry supporters. I have made up a presentation package and I am currently having a list of industry supporters (and contacts) made up by our temporary worker, Diana Hayden. Gordon has years of experience approaching and gaining access to industry and government. His expertise is most welcome.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

A reminder: Our AGM is 23 June 2001 in Vancouver. This year the host club is the BC Mountaineering Club (soon to be celebrating its 100th anniversary). The event will be held on the UBC campus. I would appreciate it if you would please email (hike@unixg.ubc.ca) or write me soon who your delegate will be at the AGM. If you have someone from your club who would like to serve as a director on our board, please forward that person's name to me as well. There will be a social get together Friday for the delegates and a dinner following the AGM. Usually the host club plans activities for spouses who travel with the delegates and might not wish to sit in a meeting all day. For information, please contact Mike Peel at mpeel@telus.net.

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

I have received some useful feedback saying

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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	Commercial Backcountry 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
FMCBC	Few Mountains Can Be Controlled
CPAWS	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

(Staff Reports continued on page 30)

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Letter to BCAL from FMCBC

In General -

We should oppose granting of licences to any motorized commercial organization proposing to operate in areas we use until the Squamish LRMP process is complete.

If BCAL feels it must give out such a licence, then none

should be issued for periods of more than a year, renewable only yearly until the LRMP process is complete. The licence should state that the continuation of the operation is subject to its being compatible with the land use recommended by the LRMP.

Specifically -

The applications can be placed into 3 categories -

1. Applications over which we have no significant concern

These are -

1. **P V Services Ltd.** - Tacky RV etc. park, but no major conflict as long as it does not impact the old Brew trail. Sewage impacts on Brandywine Creek need to be considered.
2. **Alpine Airsports Ltd.** - no problems with paragliding off Mt. McKenzie near Pemberton.
3. **Captain Holiday's Kayak and Adventure School** - no problems with kayaking the Green River.
4. **Canadian Voyageur Canoe Co.** - no problems with canoeing the Lillooet River.
5. **Canadian Outback Adventures Co. Ltd.** - no problems with rafting the Squamish River.
6. **Whistler River Adventures** - no problems with raft and jet boat on the Green and Birkenhead rivers.
7. **Paintball Games of Squamish** - no problems as long as they keep to the area applied for in the lower Squamish valley near the Ashlu.
8. **Sea to Sky Stables Ltd.** - no problems with horse riding in the Paradise valley area.
9. **Great Wall Underground** - no problems with rock climbing in the Cheakamus canyon area.
10. **Sunwolf Outdoor Centre** - no problems rafting the Elaho and Squamish rivers.
11. **Outdoor Adventures @ Whistler** - no problems with snowshoeing and ATVs in the 16 Mile Creek, and Soo River valleys
12. **C3 Productions** - no problems rafting the Squamish, Cheakamus, Green and Birkenhead rivers.

13. **Wedge rafting** - no problems rafting the Cheakamus, Soo, Green, Birkenhead, Squamish and Elaho rivers.

2. Applications over which we have some concerns -

1. **Whistler X-country Ski and Hike** - opposed to their use of club built or maintained public cabins in Marriot basin, Phelix Creek., Mt. Brew, and Overseer. Otherwise okay.
2. **Compass Adventures Ltd.** - opposed to their use of Lizzie Lake cabin. Otherwise okay.
3. **Sea to Sky Ecotours Ltd.** - opposed to their use of ATVs off of the High Falls Creek. Road. Otherwise okay.
4. **Poole Creek. Station Bed and Bale** - opposed to ATV tours in Tenquille Creek beyond where an ordinary backcountry vehicle can go. We are concerned about the impact on other users' access and upon the Tenquille Lake. Otherwise okay.
5. **Whistler Alpine Guides Bureau Ltd.** - opposed to their use of Lizzie Lake cabin (built by one-time BCMC members and maintained partly by FMCBC members for the guide's information), and cabins in Garibaldi park-Wedgemount, Russet Lake, and Garibaldi Lake. Table 3 of their application states that they use these huts, contrary to what they imply in their memo of March 1, 2001. They should also not build any hut in the Meager - Manatee area. Otherwise okay.
6. **Whistler Backroads Mountain Bike Adventures Ltd.** - The application is very confusing and unclear. However, we oppose any mountain biking on hiking trails, such as the 21 Mile Creek. - Rainbow - Madeley Creek. trail and any trail in Garibaldi park. Otherwise okay.
7. **Western Wildcat tours** - opposed to high levels of use in the very popular Marriot basin and Cerise Creek areas. The social carrying capacity of these areas is already exceeded on many occasions. Otherwise okay.
8. **Vertical Reality Sports Store** - opposed to high levels of snowshoeing and mountain biking use in the High Falls Creek. and Sigurd Creek. areas. Otherwise okay.

9. **Adventures on Horseback** - the application should not be accepted unless all the areas to be used are given. Of the areas given, we are opposed to use of Sockeye Creek. (conservation park) and Salal Creek. These areas do not appear to have been used for some time as the proponent seems unaware of current land use in them - that Sockeye Creek. is a provincial park and that Salal Creek now has a logging road up its lower half and a hiking trail up its upper half.. Of the areas given in the application, we have no concerns with the others, but we would like to see the other areas proposed for use, but not given.

3. Applications over which we have major concerns -

1. **jRYDS Adventure** - This application avoids most substantive issues and is written in such an illiterate and cavalier style that no-one should have any confidence in the responsibility of the people involved. We are strongly opposed to their snowmobile activities and use of Cerise Creek. Plus cabin, 21 Mile Creek. - Rainbow Mountain., Black Tusk, Meager Creek., Birkenhead Lake, Lizzie Lake, McGillivray Pass, and Blowdown Pass areas - all areas of value to backcountry skiers. We are also totally opposed to mountain biking on the 21 Mile Creek. trail and helicopter mountain biking in the S. Chilcotin and Anderson Lake areas.
2. **Fun Spirit Adventure Tours** - Opposed to helihiking in the Sky Pilot area, the areas around Tantalus park, which includes a flight path right through the Sigurd Creek area of the park, upper Culliton Creek at the edge of Garibaldi park, and in the upper Elaho. No problems with their rafting.
3. **Glacier Air** - Doug Banner appears to think he owns the areas he has been using. He doesn't and his company has caused numerous problems with FMCBC parties in the past. We are opposed to his aircraft use of the Sky Pilot, Mt Roderick, Mt. Jimmy Jimmy, and Charlie Charlie (Ashlu Creek.) areas as these are all moderately popular non-mechanized recreation areas. He claims he has never seen any wildlife in 23 years of operation. His aircraft must have frightened them away as FMCBC members report animals such as mountain goats and wolverine near Mt. Jimmy Jimmy, and miners report Grizzly bears near Mt Jimmy Jimmy, for example.
4. **Black Tusk Helicopter** - All areas applied for con-

flict with non-mechanized recreation. We totally oppose helicopter use of Alpen, Sky Pilot, Capilano, Red Tusk, Phantom, Jimmy Jimmy, Cloudburst, Cypress, Ashlu, Sims, and Exodus areas - all of value to FMCBC. The application contains a number of incorrect statements which downgrade the existing use of areas Black Tusk Helicopters want to use. Thus, the statement on p. 18 that the Mountain Lake cabin has fallen into disuse is incorrect. This BCMC cabin has been used and maintained by the Porteau Camp people for some years and BCMC parties visit it regularly. Use of Mt. Jimmy Jimmy is not low, but moderate. Cloudburst is quite popular in summer. Phantom area use is low but not non-existent. Mt Sedgwick gets moderate use both in winter and summer.

5. **Whistler Air** - opposed to all helihiking in Mt. Brew, Mt Currie, and Mt. Callaghan areas, aircraft use of Ipsoot Mountain., and aircraft landing on Phantom and Callaghan lakes (lake landings are not shown on the maps).

Letter to BCAL from CPAWS (Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society)

Commercial Recreation Manager
BC Assets and Land Corporation
Lower Mainland Region
Suite 200 - 10428 153rd St
Surrey, BC
V3R 5E1

5 April 2001

RE: Applications for Commercial Recreation Licenses on
Crown Land in the Sea to Sky Corridor

Dear Sir or Madam

We are responding to the call for public input to the proposed commercial recreation licenses in the Sea to Sky Corridor. Our comments are general in nature and apply to all of the proposed tenures. Please copy this letter to all 32 of the proposed tenures that were advertised in the March 16, 2001 Whistler Pique.

Our understanding is that the Sea to Sky Land Use Planning Process will address recreation opportunities and

provide solutions to backcountry recreation conflicts in the Sea to Sky Corridor. In light that the planning process has only recently commenced, we strongly suggest that tenures in the planning area only be approved for a short period (such as one year) withholding the opportunity for grandfathering these activities into the land use plan. This will allow operators to conduct business without prejudice to the land use planning process. Long term tenures should only be approved once the land use plan is complete and if activities are compatible with the plan.

Based on a review of the applications on your website, we were able to identify a number of proposals that include provincial parks. However, there was insufficient information to gauge clearly which activities affected parks and how much parks could be affected. Unfortunately, although the text mentioned use of a park in some cases, the accompanying map did not include use of parks. We understand that any activity proposed in a provincial park will require a park use permit from BC Parks. We understand that operators are required to apply for a park use permit. As a result we urge you to give careful consideration to the referrals from BC Parks. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide our own detailed comments on the proposals that may affect provincial parks.

We oppose any proposed tenure that is incompatible with existing park management plans or has a negative impact on the ecological values of a provincial park. We are particularly concerned with the applications that are proposing motorized recreational activities (such as ATV tours, heli-skiing, heli-hiking, heli-biking, sightseeing overflights, etc.) with a potential impact on provincial parks. Motorized use has an impact on both wildlife and public using the parks. In particular, we strongly oppose any motorized activity that could have an impact on Garibaldi Provincial Park. Activities that may affect Tantalus Provincial Park and other parks that do not have a park management plan should not be approved at this time. This includes overflights of Provincial Parks.

We urge you to consider the carrying capacity for commercial backcountry recreation in the Sea to Sky Corridor in relation to public use of backcountry areas and ecological values such as wildlife habitat. It is our understanding that the land use planning process for the Sea to Sky Corridor will consider the role of backcountry recreation in a broader context as well as deal with specific issues. We hope that you will integrate these proposed tenures into the land use process by providing short term

tenures at this time.

Sincerely

Eva Riccius
ParkWatch Coordinator

CC: Peter Jones, Coordinator, Sea to Sky LRMP
Drew Carmichael, District Manager, BC Parks

UPDATE ON HELP MELP

By Tom Burgess and Anne Murray

This is an update from the HELP MELP Campaign. Some of you may be unaware of the recent budget figures announced in the House last Thursday. The MELP budget is increased from \$197M to \$211M, an increase of \$14M. To quote the Budget Report, " -- up \$14 million to partially restore services reduced in prior years, to initiate an action plan for protection of drinking water and for costs related to the grizzly bear hunting moratorium. The ministry will ALSO (emphasis mine) be providing \$10 million to upgrade parks capital infrastructure."

We've been told that the grizzly bear funding is \$2M, and that the \$4.9M from last November's increase has been added to the base budget, as well as other funds in addition to the Drinking Water Protection Plan. Don't yet know what the total for Program restoration is, but it could be as much as \$10.5M, (that is, \$4.9M plus up to \$5.6M more). The \$10M for Parks Capital expenditures is apparently not being taken from the \$14M, but from other Ministry funds (???).

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries budget is increased by \$4M, from \$101M to \$105M. This is "... mainly due to increased funding for Fisheries Renewal BC."

Last Monday four of us from HELP MELP met with Murray Coell, Liberal Environment critic. He is supportive of the HELP MELP campaign efforts, but cautions us that next fiscal year's budget will be very tight. We'll have to make sure the new Liberal MLAs all get brought up to date on the issues, and that the Liberals do not make additional cuts later in the fiscal year. Accordingly we are preparing information packages for all candidates in the upcoming election.

Our next efforts will focus on obtaining more detail on the MELP and MAFF budgets, and on making sure that the budget/staff cuts of the past 6 years are an election issue.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUR LOCAL POLITICIANS

By Tom Burgess and Anne Murray

HELP MELP CAMPAIGN - Restoration of funding for Wildlife, Habitat, Fisheries, and Parks programs in the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks

The following questions and background information pertaining to environmental issues have been formulated following a review of Liberal Party Policy Statements and in consideration of current NDP government performance. This material is intended for use during the upcoming election campaign and covers matters believed to be of concern to anyone supporting the HELP MELP Campaign. Questions are designed to reveal whether the candidates are aware of the issues and whether they are committed to supporting resolution of them.

QUESTIONS

1) Loss of Institutional Capability

Over the past six years, government has cut staff and operational budgets in a number of Ministries that are responsible for the management of our natural resources. Some Programs have sustained cuts of nearly 50%. This cutting has seriously degraded the capability of government to properly protect and manage the public's interests in lands and resources including forests, fish, wildlife, habitat and parks. The 2001/02 budget provides a modest increase in MELP funding, hopefully the first of a requested five year Program recovery. Other natural resource Ministries have not fared as well. Are you aware of this problem? If elected, will you commit to recovery of the affected Programs and Ministries over the next five years?

2) Annual Allowable Cut and Stumpage Reviews

There is currently pressure from some quarters to increase the Annual Allowable Cut and to decrease Stumpage fees, both in an effort to create more short-term jobs. Environmentalists and some Foresters are greatly concerned that

the current AAC is set well above the level of long-term sustainability and will lead to irreplaceable losses to remaining Old Growth resources. They further believe that undervaluing our timber resources is short-sighted and a disservice to the public. Are you aware of this problem? If elected, will you commit to a public review designed to rationalize the AAC criteria, process and targets and the current Stumpage levels in order to secure and better manage ALL forest resources?

3) Agricultural Land Reserve and Agricultural Land Commission

The Agricultural Land Commission and Agricultural Land Reserve system has been in place in BC for nearly 30 years. Established with the goal of preserving from alienation agricultural lands and their associated values, the system has worked well, with only a few notable exceptions.

Periodically, governments set about to weaken the ALR system's ability to protect agricultural lands in order to clear the way for various site specific developments which threaten both agricultural and wildlife capability. If you are elected, will you commit to preserving both the ALR and the ALC?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Wildlife, Fisheries and Habitat Protection Programs (in MELP) have lost 50% of their staff and operational budgets over the past 6 years. Ministry-wide losses are 725 positions.

This loss, in combination with projected retirement rates of 40% over the next five years will yield a total loss of 70% of the most experienced staff in one ten year period.

Ministry of Forests has lost 500 positions and 30% of their budget over the past 6 years.

Combined cumulative losses for both Ministries are estimated at over 3000 person/years and \$1.1 Billion.

Parks Program staff have been cut by 10%, while the area of Parks (12.4%) and Park visitor numbers have doubled. We have less than one half a Parks employee per Park and only one field person for every five Parks. There is a backlog of \$60 Million in critical facilities maintenance requirements. The Parks Legacy Panel Report recommendations must be addressed.

The above losses, in combination with balanced budget legislation and stated intentions to protect or increase al-

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The Alpine Club of Canada
Box 8040, Canmore, AB, Canada
(403) 678-3200
email: alpcub@telusplanet.net - www.AlpineClubofCanada.ca



lotments for Health, Education, Children and Families, and Social Development additionally threaten those Ministries responsible for management of natural resources and the environment.

BC's wide diversity of habitats, plants and animals is under increasing pressure from human development and hundreds are now considered to be "at risk". Federal/ Provincial and International agreements to protect them are not being honoured.

Successful implementation of the Forest Practices Code requires adequate staff numbers and funds to support field inspections, inventory and research efforts. It also requires inter-Ministry communication and cooperation. When staff and resources are cut, fact-finding and communication suffers. This is causing us to lose habitats, populations and genetic diversity.

There are other negative effects on the management of forest resources. One major problem has been the accurate determination of revenues owed to the government. Senior forest Ministry staff have estimated that as a result of inadequate inspections, the annual loss of revenue is in the order of 20%, which suggests losses of hundreds of millions of dollars annually. These estimates

of lost revenue have been supported by studies carried out recently by Sierra Legal Defense Fund.

BC Assets and Lands Corporation was established to facilitate the disposition of Crown lands in order to increase government revenues. Many of the lands sold, leased or licensed had high wildlife values. Reduced MELP staff find it increasingly difficult to respond to BCALC referrals, to carry out studies or to respond to work done by others. When they do, their recommendations are frequently discounted in favour of poorly researched economic considerations.

MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE IN APRIL

By Eva Riccius, CPAWS

This major announcement was made on Saturday, 17 April 2001. Let's hope that the owner of Burns Bog will sell at a reasonable price!

Saturday was a remarkable day as the federal and provincial governments announced a \$112 Million dollar conservation package to protect private lands throughout the Lower Mainland and southern Gulf Islands of BC. To my knowledge this is the largest government-led purchase of private property for conservation purposes in Canadian history.

Saturday's announcement has three major parts:

1. Close to \$80M has been made available to purchase Burns Bog. If the negotiations are successful to buy these lands then the Bog will become provincial crown land and will be managed as a Greater Vancouver Regional Park. This is one of the largest domed bogs remaining in the world and is extremely important as a carbon sink and a home for numerous threatened species and ecosystems.

2. The federal and provincial governments have agreed to establish a land and marine based Gulf Islands National Park Reserve in the southern Gulf Islands. Spread out over 12 islands this park will represent Region 2 'the Strait of Georgia Lowlands' and protect the Mediterranean climate ecosystems located here (especially Arbutus and Gary Oak). The formal agreement will be signed in two months. With this announcement the province will transfer nine existing provincial parks, an ecological reserve and \$5M in cash towards the national park.

3. Up to \$20M has been made available to purchase key ecological lands on Saltspring Island, focusing on Gary Oak and Arbutus habitats.

The hope now is that the key landowners will be altruistic and recognize the contribution they can make to society by offering their properties at realistic prices.

It is hard to comprehend the massive implications of this announcement to the ecology and biodiversity of BC and both governments need to be thanked for their remarkable foresight in particular Premier Dosanjh and Minister David Anderson. An announcement like today's illustrates what cooperation/partnership (fed-prov-ngo) can achieve on issues like the environment.

TRAILS COMMITTEE

TRAIL ETHICS APRIL 2001

By Pat Harrison and Alex Wallace

The final route on the National Hiking Trail has been determined. At the Spring meeting of the Island Delegates, a route from Victoria to Port Hardy was agreed upon (see map). Now comes the challenge of implementing and signing the route (see map on page 31). There will be a national meeting of the National Hiking Association in Ontario this summer. Roy Howard and Pat Harrison will be attending on behalf of the Federation.

June Banwell and Louise Irving continue to update the inventory of trails being maintained by FMCBC clubs. If your club is maintaining trails and you have not been contacted, please contact Pat Harrison. We recently had discussions with the Squamish Forest District and the Chilliwack Forest District about renewing our contracts with them through our Adopt-A-Trail Programme. We need to have an up-to-date inventory.

At the Trail Awareness Event meeting on 4 May 2001, the following TRAILS acronym was compiled by Alex Brumec (ORC), Leon Lebrun (Trails BC), John (IMBA), and yours truly. The Trail Awareness Event will be a one day event on 10 June 2001 in Port Moody at Rocky Point Park where different trail user groups will have booths to exhibit their involvement in trails. The FMCBC will be there to promote their view of trails use.

The TRAILS acronym represents the following:

T - Treat other users of a trail with courtesy and inform other users that you are there.

R - Respect signage and private property

A - Avoid environmental damage

I - Inform yourself about the trail uses allowed.

L - Leave wildlife and wildflowers alone

S - Stay on the trail; Wade, don't braid!

1. **Respect other users of the trail.** Treating other users with respect will diminish user conflicts. If you are on a mountain bike, always anticipate a horse or hiker around a blind corner and slow down. Use your bell on your bike to warn other users when approaching. Yield to hikers and horseriders if riding your bike. Get off and move to the lower side of the trail to let horses pass. Sound a friendly greeting to horseriders to calm the horses. As a horserider, steady your horse and give the hiker or cyclist clear instructions on how you would like them to stand clear.

2. **Avoid environmental damage.** Look after the trails you travel on. They are easily damaged and hard to maintain. Use only designated trails for your activity. Alpine meadows are extremely sensitive to horse use, bicycling, and over hiking. Above the treeline, walk on rocks and snow as much as possible. Alpine vegetation is delicate and takes a long time to re-grow at high elevations. Do not widen trails to avoid mud puddles. Stay off trails during wet and muddy conditions. Tires and footprints often lead to erosion of trails.

3. **Respect Private Property.** Do not vandalize anyone's property. Respect 'No Trespassing'

signs. Leave gates as you find them.

4. **Respect Signage on Trails.** Signs are often posted for a good reason. Signs often are posted during critical environmental periods, to reduce user conflicts, or to keep recreational users off private property.

THE HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL HIKING TRAIL

Towards a Foot Trail Across Canada



Piece by piece, the scenic foot trail almost 10,000 kilometres in length is being put together from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The long-held vision of a linear park connecting existing natural-surface pedestrian trail systems, parklands, and wild places is becoming a reality. Already, much of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and British

Columbia are in use. Once established, the trail corridor will help to protect our heritage of natural landscapes and historic places, and provide passage, habitat, and refuge for wildlife.

For over 25 years

For over 25 years, the National Trail Association has been working on this vision. This trail has four goals:

1. To promote general fitness through healthy outdoor activities;
2. To help preserve places of natural, scenic, and historical values;
3. To promote non-motorized tourism and education; and
4. To promote bonding of unifying environmental interests across the nation.

The Bruce Trail of Ontario, forerunner of Canada's modern-day trail system, was the pioneer. Completed in the Centennial Year 1967, its aim is to save the Niagara Escarpment and its unique natural features from the threat of development by establishing 700 kilometres of trail along its length.

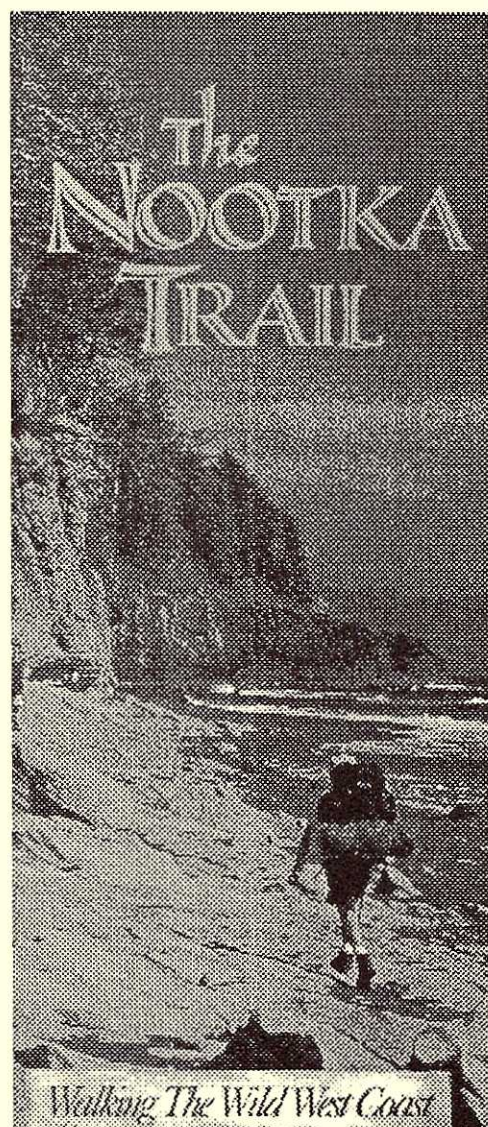
Now there are many hundreds of kilometres of National Trail, some on existing trails systems, others following older routes that await designation on public land. Hiking and backpacking are the most popular sports in the outdoors. Also gaining in popularity are the non-motorized sports of cross-country hikers, snowshoers, photographers, artists, and bird-watchers. Obviously, the pleasure, recreation, and mental relaxation of walking in natural surroundings appeals to many of all ages. Some sections of the National Hiking Trail are more challenging than others, but every kilometre invites exploration.

Where We've Been

- 1971: The National Trail movement was born on 29 April at a meeting of leading national outdoor and youth organizations convened in Toronto to consider a cross-Canada trail.
- 1977: The National Trail Association of Canada was registered as a national society under Letters Patent dated 23 August.
- 1980: National coverage was given to plans in a full feature article appearing in *Outdoor Canada*.
- 1984: First national meeting funded by Fitness Canada was held in Ottawa, resulting in creation of a national executive with regional representation: Atlantic Provinces, Quebec, Ontario, Prairie Provinces, and British Columbia.
- 1986: Premiere of the NTAC's audio visual *Challenge of a Lifetime* was shown at the International Congress on Trails and Waterways Recreation in Vancouver.
- 1987: First National Hiking Trail marker was posted on Parliament Hill at an inaugural ceremony involving international environmentalist Maurice Strong and Speaker of the House John Fraser. A message from Prime Minister Brian Mulroney reads "*On behalf of the Government of Canada, I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings and sincere best wishes to the members of the National Trail Association of Canada on the occasion of the launching of the trans-Canada recreational trail corridor.*"
- 1989: Hike Ontario endorsed the National

Trail route and recommended completion of marker posting on the existing system in Ontario.

- 1990: Sentier national au Quebec (La Federation quebecoise de la marche) inaugurated the first 42 kilometres section of the National Trail in Quebec.
- 1990: An 18 kilometre section of the City of Medicine Hat's trail system was declared part of the National Hiking Trail, the first in Alberta.
- 1991: National Trail marker was posted at Banff's Cave and Basin, heart of the national park system, in a ceremony dedicating the 70 Kilometres "Gateway to the Rockies" section.



1992: The 55 kilometre section of the National Trail in Quebec's Gatineau Park was dedicated and marked, linking at the Ottawa River with Ontario's Rideau Trail.

1992: National television coverage was provided on CBC's Midday programme in a segment devoted to the National Trail.

1993: In the Cypress Hills, a 40 kilometre section spanning the Alberta-Saskatchewan boundary was opened at a ceremony at Fort Walsh, a joint project involving the national and provincial park authorities.

1996: Posting of National Hiking Trail markers was completed on the entire 58 Kilometres of the Dobson Trail in New Brunswick.

1997: Quebec opened three new sections bringing the total to 150 kilometres in that province.

1997: National Trail marker redesigned with hiking motif, distributed and posted where necessary on existing route.

1997: The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC at its AGM in June accepts the challenge to build the BC section of the National Hiking Trail.

1998: Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC at its AGM in June approves a northern route through central BC as the best possible route through BC.

2000: The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC meets in April and gains approval and cooperation from local hiking clubs and organizations to route the trail from Crescent Spur to Bella Coola using five historic trails: the Historic Goat River Trail, the Historic 1861 Gold Pack Trail, the Blackriver Trail, the Telegraph Trail, and the Nuxalk-Carrier Grease Trail (Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail).

2000: Opening ceremony for the Crescent Spur to Bowron Park section of the National Hiking Trail. 30 kilometres of this portion includes the Historic Goat River Trail. Present at the ceremony were representatives of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nations, the Fraser Headwaters Alliance, the Caledonia Ramblers, the Alexander Mackenzie Heri-

tage Trail Society, and the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC.

2000: The National Trail Association designed and set up a display booth at the National Trails Conference at Owen Sound and directors participated in conference sessions.

2000: The National Trail Association's booklet *"A Short History of the National Trail - the First 25 Years"* was published, later becoming available in e-book format.

2000: Multiple trail openings in Quebec finalized 650 kilometres of the province's planned 1000 km.

2001: The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC met in Nanaimo, BC to finish planning the Port Hardy to Victoria route. The seven island clubs of the Federation were able to agree on a route. The process now begins to mark it and to build some linking between trails. Well over half of the trail is now outlined on existing trails.

2001: In the summer, directors from all regions of Canada will meet in Ontario to build momentum to finish this hiking trail.

How to help

If you want to help complete this National Hiking Trail, there are several ways to do so. You can join the National Hiking Association or join your provincial organization. Or you can send a donation to the organizations listed below. We need money to complete the signage on the trail. For more information, contact one of the directors of the National Trail Association:

British Columbia:

Pat Harrison
Executive Director
Federation of Mountain Clubs
604.878.7007 or 604.576.0403

Prairies:

Doug Campbell
Canmore, AB
403.678.5551

Vincent DeJong
Edmonton, AB
780.483.4838

Wally Drew
Calgary, AB
403.277.3067

Ontario:

Jeff Hemming
President, NTAC
Paisley, ON
519.389.4101

Bruce Calvert
Meaford, ON
519.538.3703

Quebec:

Perre Blouin
Montreal, QC
514.276.2539

Real Martel
Carignan, QC
514.658.7434

Atlantic:

Lionel Conrod
Dartmouth, NS
902.466.4420

Edwin Melanson
Moncton, NB
406.855.5089

(see map on page 31)

EDUCATION AND SAFETY

Avalanche Awareness

By Jeff Oh

(Member of BCMC and ACC Vancouver)

I learned to ski in the backcountry. As a result, during my first few years of skiing, avalanches really weren't that much of a threat to me, simply because I refused to venture onto any slopes that were steep enough to release. However, as my confidence has grown, so has my willingness to venture onto steep terrain, to the point

where I have become quite accustomed to skiing in avalanche terrain. The safety boundaries in such cases can be quite fuzzy, and it is often difficult to reliably assess danger and risk. Here is a report of what happened to us, offered up so that others can learn from our mistakes.

Seven of us traveled to Mt. Duke, in the Pemberton – Lillooet area, on the March 17-18th weekend. We knew that the weather report was for clouds and snow, so we opted for a destination where we could get some decent yo-yo skiing in. After much slogging on logging roads (the alder is just on the cusp of becoming vicious), we broke into the forest and traveled up the basin underneath the Duke-Vantage col. There is good skiing here from the ridge connecting Duke & Vantage, plus the option of accessing a whole bunch of terrain on other aspects as well. We dropped our stuff, and went off to ski. Skiing from the ridge requires climbing a west-facing slope of about 25-30 degrees, so we dug a pit and a rutschblock fairly low on the slopes. The pit revealed hoar layers at about 35 and 60 cm, and the rutschblock failed at a five (fairly stable). The deep hoar frost layer is still there, but was non-reactive. Satisfied, we set a track up the slope and skied a fantastic run in foot-deep powder before returning to camp to set up dinner and went to sleep.

The night was fairly warm, with moderate winds and steady snowfall. There was approximately 10-15 cm of new snow overnight. We finished breakfast and set out to ski the same slope we had yesterday. Dave and I were a few minutes ahead of the rest of the group, and had a brief discussion at the base of the slope about digging a pit. I decided against digging a pit, as snowfall accumulations were moderate, and I believed the results would have only be on slightly worse than the previous day, and the previous day's results were pretty good. We were aware, but not too concerned about avalanche danger.

So, I set off up the hill, and as our tracks from yesterday had been completely filled in, I had to break trail the whole way. All routes up to the ridge ascended avalanche terrain, so route finding was largely a task of finding moderately angled slopes and avoiding the worst bits of micro-terrain. The route frequently crossed open slopes, and at one point did a brief traverse of some steepish slopes for want of a better option. We arrived at the top and removed our skins. We skied some moderate (20-30 degree?) terrain and had a fantastic run in great snow. Caroline was trying out her fancy new skis. Like all of the new breed of bright red skis, they seemed truly happy and joyous to be let loose in the powder. I swear –

there is something genuinely uplifting about seeing a pair of bright red skis romping through the snow.

At the base, we put our skins back on, found our up-tracks again, and started back up for another run. As we climbed, we had naturally spread out because of differences in arrival times at the base. Dave was in the lead, followed by myself, Yuka, and Mike. Frank, Mark and Caroline were below. I had just crossed an open slope and got to a kick turn under some trees when I heard the yells from below me. Mike had started an avalanche underneath him, with the initial fracture line being the ski cut created by the up-track. Feeling the slope moving underneath him, he managed to step off the slab and back onto solid snow above, before yelling "Avalanche!" to warn the rest of the party. The slab was about 35 cm deep, perhaps 50 feet wide, and 100 feet or so long. It moved slowly, and I could trace its path as it moved down the open slope below. Dave and I were above the fracture line and thus completely safe while Yuka and Mike had managed to avoid being caught by the slab. Frank and Mark were luckily by the far edge of the track, and were able to get to safety before the avalanche reached them. As things calmed down, we were able to find out from Mark that Caroline was okay although she couldn't move. This statement was the source of some future confusion for myself and others in the party.

As everyone was okay the immediate concern was to get everyone into safe zones, which took a minute or two. Once that was done, people gradually started skiing down to help out below. It turns out that there was a slight communications problem centered around the meaning of the phrase: Caroline is okay. Caroline was indeed unhurt, but had been caught by the avalanche and taken for a ride. She managed to grab a tree on the way down to stop her descent and by doing so managed to keep her head above the snow as the avalanche swept past. However, once the avalanche stopped, she was basically wrapped taco-style around the tree and buried from the neck down. She was somewhat uncomfortable, completely immobile and understandably eager to be out of there. In any case, it is possible we would have come to her aid faster if we had realized the degree to which she was buried.

Digging Caroline out took about two to three minutes, and we managed to locate her dropped ski pole about ten minutes to fifteen minutes later. No one was hurt, and no equipment was lost. Our day of skiing was over, however.

ANALYSIS

The slab failed on a hoar frost layer. The initial fracture line started on an up-track that had already been skied by 10 previous people before fracturing under the weight of the 11th. Having gone up the track before, we were less prepared for it collapsing than on our first run. Perhaps the most important lesson to be learned is that in this case, as in another case earlier in the year for me, is that just because a slope has been crossed by 10 skiers does not mean it will support the weight of the 11th. On an up-track, the repeated weight of the skiers on the same track may gradually cut deeper and deeper until the slope releases. In this case, the skier who released the slab was a big guy, and this may have contributed to the fact that the slab released underneath him.

As far as route finding goes, it is possible that if I had been more cognizant of the danger I might have chosen a slightly different track. The slab that released was on an open slope, and the ski track traversed underneath a convex roll. Just above the release point, I had made several steep S turns to avoid crossing the roll itself. This is a somewhat difficult question, as the slope was too steep to ski straight up-hill, and the treed areas were discontinuous and might have made for difficult route-finding in the micro-terrain.

One major factor was that we did not dig a pit on the morning of the slide in question. Another pit, dug after the avalanche in the same vicinity of our first pit showed got a Rutschblock 4 (failed on the second jump), which borders on questionable. Interestingly, the block failed at about 60 cm, although on the same layer as the avalanche, meaning that there was great variability in the snow depths and the way slopes were loaded. The slope that we dug our pit on, just to the right of the slope that failed, was evidently much more wind-loaded than the avalanche slope. In short, slope variability was an additional factor whose influence was not known.

It is an open question whether increased discussion and more care before we set out to ski would have changed the outcome. There was a warming trend, and moderate amounts of new snow loading a weak layer that we already knew about. Various members of the party were all aware of these factors and concerned to varying degrees. Still, the results of the post-mortem pit we had dug were still fairly good, and the snow so tempting that I suspect that the end result of a discussion would probably have been to ski the slope, but conservatively, which is pretty much what we did.

Once the avalanche occurred, it took several minutes for us before anyone in the party reached Caroline and started to dig her out even though her location was known. Although this was not dangerous, it could have been problematic if her situation was more serious. Communication was awkward, and it is important to remember that what people say and what you interpret may be two different things. While digging Caroline out, two people further up the slope served as spotters for the rest of the party, but later skied down and joined the rest of the party down below during the middle of the operation. Again, bad communication meant that they were unclear as to their role.

We did many things correctly. Mike yelled "Avalanche!" to warn the rest of the party and this cry was quickly taken up by the rest of the party. Whether by accident or design, the group was well spread out when the avalanche slid and this contributed to the fact that only one skier was caught by the avalanche. After being caught, Caroline kept her head together and managed to stay on the surface and grab a tree, then fight to keep her head above the surface of the snow as the avalanche swept past. We quickly established that everyone was OK, and rapidly got everyone in the group into safe zones after the avalanche stopped.

Finally, we were quite lucky in many ways. The slab that we triggered was fairly shallow, the avalanche relatively small, and the one skier in the party who was caught was not completely buried. Had the avalanche triggered in an area of deeper snow, covered a larger area, or caught multiple skiers, the outcome could have been markedly different.

Ski Safely!

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

WILDLIFE TREE INVENTORY

Elaho Valley 2001

By Annette Lehnacker, Chairperson

The Research Committee of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC initiated a wildlife tree inventory in the

Squamish/Elaho valley for spring and summer 2001. The Research Committee is formed to promote and advocate ecological research in natural areas around Vancouver. The inventory will be carried out in cooperation or with the support of other organizations, such as the Elaho Trail Society, Vancouver Natural History Society, Society for Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC), and the Douglas College Environmental Committee. The project is volunteer-based.

The idea for a Wildlife Tree Inventory is inspired by the remarkable ecological features of the upper Squamish and Elaho valleys.

The research area:

The Squamish/Elaho Valley is located in the southwestern part of British Columbia (Lower Mainland), about 100 to 150 km north of Vancouver. The valley lies within the Coast Range between Jervis Inlet and Lillooet River in the Squamish Forest District. It is part of Tree Farm Licence (TFL) 38, currently managed by International Forest Products (Interfor).

The research area will be selected natural forest stands primarily in Sims Creek valley, the west side of the Squamish River and the upper Elaho valley. For comparison, some recent cutblocks with variable retention management are scheduled for a survey, too. The survey will first focus on proposed cutblocks, as they need immediate research attention and as there is information already available in form of silviculture prescriptions and 1:4,800 scale maps with cutblock boundaries and some terrain features.

The Sims Creek valley is a large side valley of the Elaho valley. Sims Creek drains into the Elaho River from the west. The upper Sims valley contains important goat habitat. The lower Sims valley is already fragmented by logging and roadbuilding along Sims Creek but still contains significant mature forest stands and important wildlife habitat values.

The Squamish River north of the entrance of TFL 38 still has significant spawning grounds and supports significant fish run year-round. A large area with steep terrain on the west side of the Squamish River is still in its natural stage and roadless. Helicopter logging started this year.

The upper Elaho valley is one of the last remaining large unfragmented old growth forest areas in the Lower

Mainland. It still harbours species closely associated with old growth forests, several of them classified as threatened or endangered (e.g. Grizzly Bear, Spotted Owl, Northern Goshawk, Nodding Semaphore Grass). Stand replacing disturbances are rare in this valley, the ecosystem has developed over long periods of time and may contain unique genetic and forest structure information. Single trees and stands of over 1,000 years of age are common on the gentle nutrient-rich slopes of the valley and very unusual species compositions can be found here.

The Project:

A wildlife tree is defined as a living or dead standing or fallen tree of different sizes and stages of decay, that provides present or future valuable habitat for the maintenance or enhancement of wildlife. Wildlife trees provide an excellent and easily accessible source of information about existing and potential habitats of many wildlife species and the species themselves. There exists an immediate need for more ecological research in the Squamish/Elaho valleys as intense management operations such as roadbuilding, logging, and high impact recreational use (e.g., commercial helibiking, snowmobiling, ATV's) take place or are planned without sufficient investigation on biodiversity issues. Many endangered forest species are dependent to some extent on wildlife trees. Wildlife tree users play an important role in the health of forest ecosystems. No research has been done to date in the upper Elaho valley concerning the distribution and population of those wildlife tree users and the effects of logging on these users.

The inventory will focus on:

- Identification, location and analysis of old growth habitat features (large trees, snags, down logs, forest structure) at the stand level
- Identification of existing and potential user species
- Qualitative and quantitative comparison of attributes in natural and managed stands

The inventory will identify:

- importance and habitat value of specific structural components for the maintenance of biodiversity in the Elaho valley
- differences between natural and managed areas

The wildlife tree survey will include the collection of data about the abundance and habitat preferences of cavity nesters and other wildlife tree users (e.g. Black Bears) in a qualitative and quantitative way according to RIC classification standards and own parameters.

Measurement parameters are:

GPS position or location of sample plots or single trees, tree species, dbh in cm (dbh = diameter at breast height), tree height and height of the base of the crown, degree of decay, tree and tree top conditions, surrounding vegetative structure (understory volume, density, height), use by wildlife.

Invitation:

The Committee is currently looking for more participants in the project. Volunteers with an interest in ecological research in the Elaho valley are invited to take part in the project. Support is needed specifically in the following areas:

- field work: measurements, bird, mammal and Herpeto fauna identification (weekend or long-term)
- volunteer coordination
- help in preparation of field work training courses
- transportation
- funding

Training:

An introduction in the subject will be given to all participants in form of a seminar prior to field work. It will include introduction to the area and purpose of the project, ecology and natural setting of the Elaho valley, introduction in wildlife tree users, wildlife tree identification, animal tracking and wildlife tree management. Field training will also be provided (incl. use of the manual, tree measurements, animal track identification). A manual with standards and working sheets will be prepared, explained and handed out to every participant. A half day field training will be held in Stanley Park.

The wildlife tree survey provides the opportunity for volunteers to learn about the ecological importance and role of wildlife tree users, wildlife trees, and other forest attributes, to gather field experience, and to participate in analyzing the results and writing a final report.

For more information, please contact:

Annette Lehnacker, Tel.: 270-8172

AnnetteLehnacker@hotmail.com

LOWER MAINLAND REGIONAL ISSUES

Tantalizing Scenery at Tantalus Provincial Park

by Liz Scremin, ACC Vancouver

The pieces of the puzzle were fitting together. Scrambling up the broken rock bands, knitting together a series of ledges, the north rib of Niobe would soon be ours. The blue waters of Lake Lovely Water shimmered between my feet. A vertical drop of 2800 feet! The sun shone above and all around us was the magnificent scenery of the Tantalus Range...

Those are the wonderful memories of a climbing trip to Tantalus Provincial Park. Located a mere 64 km north-west of Vancouver, the Tantalus Range is a compact and rugged subgroup of the Coast Range, dramatic and wild despite its proximity to the city. The major peaks in the range are easily seen from the Squamish Valley, and for that reason, many were first climbed in the 1910s and 20s. Today, the range continues to offer mountain enthusiasts a wide variety of climbing opportunities of varying grades. Classic alpine routes abound on such peaks as Tantalus 2603m (8540'), Dione 2590m (8500'), Pandareus 2072m (6800'), and Serratus 2326m (7632'). (The names derive from Greek mythology.) The east ridge of

Alpha 2305m (7562') is a particularly fine climb.

Access to the area has always been a bit of a challenge. Parking is on First Nation's Land, then one must cross the Squamish River to reach the trailhead. Some people choose to canoe across and stash their boat in the bushes. Others use a private boat service offered at \$20 per head. Whatever you do, do not use the nearby water service cable to tyrolean across. Though it has been done, a number of mishaps have also occurred. Once across, four hours on a rough but reasonable trail brings you to Lake Lovely Water (elevation 3850 feet), a sparkling freshwater lake in a spectacular tight alpine basin. Camping is limited due to the lack of flat ground. The walls of the basin soar dramatically up on all sides!

In 1961, the Vancouver Section of the Alpine Club of Canada constructed the Tantalus Hut as a base for mountaineering here at the outflow end of Lake Lovely Water. The hut is a two-story wooden structure, with a large kitchen/dining room on the main floor and a separate sleeping loft above. It has a full compliment of cooking utensils and foam mattresses for 20 people. The hut is

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**MOUNTAIN
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regularly booked for weekends and week-long camps. Many a song and celebration has occurred here! People often linger at the hut, enjoying the scenery, swimming and boating. A rowboat and canoe are available for ACC hut guests. The lake was stocked with trout in the 1960s and 70s and many people try their hand.

From the hut, it is possible to hike short distances, southwest to the Omega Basin or northwest to Lambda Lake. It is also possible to scramble higher to a basin known as the Russian Army Camp, so named for the bleakness of its rocky slopes. Camping is possible here, adjacent to a lovely tarn. Farther still, a climber's route leads north through the Ionia-Serratus Col to the high snowfields. There you will find the F.J. Green Shelter, more affectionately known as the Red Tit Hut, built by the ACC-Vancouver Section in 1968. The hut is a very basic high-altitude shelter with no cooking, heating or sanitary facilities. With all the stresses it has endured, it is in now in poor but serviceable condition. Nevertheless, it makes a good port in a storm and provides a base for climbs of Mounts Serratus, Dione and Tantalus.

While too rocky and steep for extensive alpine meadows or flowers, the Tantalus Range is unique in its own wild way. It is not uncommon to see goats on the scree slopes to the west of the Lake Lovely Water basin. The Rumbling Glacier on the east slope of the Tantalus massif is famous for its rugged beauty. The views from any high-point are spectacular – north to the Squamish-Ashlu Divide, south to Sedgewick and Howe Sound, east to Garibaldi, west to the inlets of Sechelt. I encourage you to go and see them for yourself.

We set off across the snowfield in the early morning light. The bergschrund at the base of the couloir was our first challenge. Soon we were across, kicking steps and plunging our ice axes up the steep slope, alone in a world of ice and snow. How wonderful to meet the warmth of the sun, as we topped out on the crest of the ridge. It was only a short scramble now on loose rock. The summit of Dione! We were all smiles on top of the world...

If you go:

Climbing in the area is covered in Climbing and Hiking in Southwestern B.C. by Bruce Fairley. The Tantalus Hut is located at 819146 on map 92G/14 (Cheakamus River). The hut is locked, but accommodation can be arranged through the hut custodian, Ron Royston. Ron can be reached at work at (604) 687-2711 (preferred) or at home



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

at (604) 921-8164 to arrange to pick up a key and to pay the overnight fees. The fees for summer 2001 are \$10 per person per night. The hut is open Victoria Day to Thanksgiving Day weekends, however the peak season is July through September. For further information on the area, contact B.C. Parks at (604) 898-3678.

Author's Note: The area was officially designated a class 'A' park in 1995. The FMCBC is currently participating in a series of meetings with B.C. Parks to draft an official management plan. Members are encouraged to provide input. Call Peter Woodworth at 254-7076.

SIMS CREEK and Cutblock 72-4

By John Clarke

Wilderness Education Programme

Sims Creek is a western tributary of the Upper Elaho valley in the Randy Stoltmann Wilderness north of Squamish, B.C.. One of the features that makes it an important component of the Stoltmann Wilderness is that it is a major Grizzly feeding area in the summer months. In a very short time, (3 summers), International Forest Products (Interfor) has cut almost all of the high value forests from the lower part of this valley. Cutblock 72-4, which is due for cutting this spring, is not only the last high value scrap of forest left in the lower Sims valley, but has the trail to Jervis Inlet running right through it. This trail is one of the most sensational routes I have ever hiked!

Usually I start at the Jervis end and hike over to Sims. What makes this trip remarkable is that it has all the experiences and scenery of the long remote traverses further north, but it is compressed into a 5 to 7 days traverse close to Vancouver. The route climbs up from Chatterbox Falls in Princess Louisa Inlet to the open alpine meadows around Loquilts Lake at 4,300 feet. Glacier-polished granite outcrops, heather and stunted Mountain Hemlocks frame views of more distant glacial peaks. The route then climbs to an easy glacier and an ascent of 7,500 foot Sun Peak before crossing an open easy ridge system and dropping to the Sims valley. Views north from these ridges show Mount Albert, Mount Tinniswood and a confusing jumble of snow peaks in the remote heart of the Stoltmann Wilderness. Although the

route is not technical, it is strenuous, as your overnight pack has to go to 7,100 feet. It's also a good idea to take 5 to 7 days food, despite how short the distance looks on the map. This allows you to wait out bad weather if it socks in when you are camped on the glacier. The route down into Sims Creek valley goes past tiny and beautiful "Bug Lake" at 4,100 feet. The final trail from here down to the logging roads in Sims valley goes through the beautiful cool old growth forest known to Interfor as cutblock 72-4. Most people who phone me after they have completed this traverse tell me that this stretch of forest is one of the highlights of the trip. In fact this traverse is rapidly becoming very popular and will continue to do so over the years. It would be a shame to lose this section of it and compromise the quality of this spectacular hike for all time.

Please write letters soon to:

Interfor

Dave Guilbride, Area Engineer

P.O. Box 280, 1500 Highway 99

Squamish, B.C., V0N 3G0

CYPRESS PROVINCIAL PARK REPORT

by Katharine Steig, Director

Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society
(FCPP)

CYPRESS SKI FACILITIES SOLD TO BOYNE USA
On February 28, 2001, the media announced that the privately operated ski facilities in Cypress Provincial Park had been sold to Boyne Resorts, a Michigan-based company, for an undisclosed sum. Many had thought that the last barrier to the Cypress ski expansion had been removed in October 2000 when West Vancouver Municipal Council gave final approval for the Cypress Park Sewage Services Agreement, allowing BC Parks to connect with the West Vancouver sewer lines. But in fact the former ski facility owners, Wayne Booth and Milan Ilich, did not have sufficient capital to do the \$40 million expansion that had been approved by the Parks Ministry in 1997.

The new owners, Boyne Resorts, are among the top five ski area operators in North America, with ski/golf resorts in Michigan, Montana, Florida, Tennessee, Utah and Washington State. Boyne bought the Crystal Mountain ski facilities near Mount Rainier in 1997, and is now planning an \$80 million [US] facilities expansion. (See

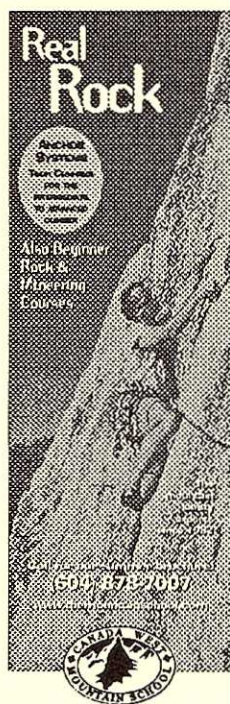
www.skiareacitizens.com for an informative "environmental scorecard" on the Crystal Mountain development and on other western US ski areas.) Cypress is Boyne's first Canadian investment, and will be overseen by John Kircher, president of Boyne's western operations. Wayne Booth will stay on as manager. The Cypress ski facilities were built by BC Parks in the mid-1970s and were sold to Booth and partners in 1984 for \$500,000, along with a 50-year-renewable Park Use Permit.

The BC Parks-approved Cypress Master Plan includes new alpine and nordic base area facilities, new lifts, new ski runs/trails, expanded toboggan runs, new parking, and a gondola-accessed, 100-seat restaurant on Strachan Peak. As of March 30, the specific development schedule had not been made public. 22 hectares of old-growth forest, with trees in the 600-1000 year age-range, may be felled for the expansion.

WATER RESERVOIR CONSTRUCTION - Two large water reservoirs will be constructed this summer by BC Parks for "domestic" use and fire fighting purposes. A 12x12 metre alpine ski area reservoir will be placed on the old logging road next to the Howe Sound Crest trailhead. A 12x10.5 metre nordic area reservoir will be built near the Sitzmark/Popfly trail intersection and will

require some tree felling. The reservoirs will be made of steel plates, painted forest green. BC Parks is responsible for construction of sewer and water system facilities in the alpine and nordic base areas.

RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING PROVINCIAL/ MUNICIPAL ISSUES - FCPP continues to urge the Parks Ministry to fulfill promises made by Cabinet, following the 1995 Williams' Commission recommendations, re Cypress watershed restoration, increased Parks' staffing and a BC Parks Ranger Station at Cypress. West Vancouver has committed to resolve, through a public process, certain other outstanding issues, including the ski operator's use of portions of the Grand National Trail that are on West Vancouver municipal land. For more information, contact FCPP Chair Alex Wallace: (604) 434-7328 or e-mail at happytrails47@hotmail.com



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VANCOUVER ISLAND REGIONAL ISSUES

Nootka Island Trail: Raising the Profile

By Helen Corness, CDMC

We've just put 180 hours of work on a non-existent trail". That was Pal Horvath's wry comment to a group of 10 of us around the campfire one night last July. From July 8th to 12th a work party led by Pal cut back salal on a 3 to 4 mile stretch of the Nootka Trail starting 3 hours north of Friendly Cove.

"How", you may ask, "can a 30 km trail be called non-existent?". The Louie Bay to First Beach section of it is said to have been built by engineers in the 70's. The Nootka Trail was hiked in the 60's, there are ancient villages along it, and Yuquot is 4300 years old. The fact is: The Nootka Trail, that has carried people for decades (and quite probably millennia) does not exist. As the Federation Brochure, The Nootka Trail, featured in the Aug. Cloudburst, states: "...the trail has been hiked regularly for over 20 years yet it is not a recognized feature on maps of the area (for example not indicated on forest service maps ...or other maps ...)

In brushing out the Trail, our hope was that if more people used it, the area would be appreciated for the natural treasure that it is and would be more likely to receive protection. Pal states that : " the ultimate aim would be to give it legal protection; to turn it into a park one half mile wide along the Coast; to protect against speculators and loggers; to protect against being leased to commercial guides because that would keep the public from having access."

We planned to write an article on our trail work for the fall issue of the Cloudburst to let other knowledgeable hikers know of this trail. In order to accurately state the present legal status of the trail and the area, I spoke with the Planning Officer of Land Use and Activities for the Ministry of Forests and the Operations Director of BC Forests in Campbell River. We discussed issues of raising the profile of a pristine wilderness area and issues of liability. The decision was made not to place the article in the Cloudburst at that time.

As a result, the Nootka Trail was put on the agenda of the Island Delegates Meeting of the Fed in Nanaimo in Nov. 2000. The question whether the CDMC violated existing codes in the trail work we completed and whether it was appropriate to publicise that this work was done was discussed and delegated to the appropriate authorities for clarification.

We were advised that our work was not in contravention of the BC Forest Practices Code. Therefore, this article has been included in this current issue of the Cloudburst to let our fellow hikers know that the Nootka Trail Exists.

In conclusion I would like to add: there is no conclusion. Many stake holders are passionate about Nootka; BC Forests; private concerns; guides; air charters; hikers, and the people whose ancestral village is 4300 years old. Many questions remain. What is the ideal zoning for this fragile and beautiful coast? What is the potential effect of raising its profile ? 4300 years from now will the Nootka Trail exist...and... instead of culturally modified trees are we going to see a "culturally modified" landscape?

NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL ISSUES

ACTION ALERT

Speak Up for Conservation in Bowron Lake and Cariboo Mountains Provincial Parks

BC Parks is presently developing park management plans for Bowron Lakes and Cariboo Mountains Provincial Parks. If powerful lobby forces from CMH Heli-skiing and snowmobile interests have their way, the integrity of the Cariboo Mountains, home to red-listed mountain caribou and threatened grizzly bear and wolverine, will be lost. These activities may be approved through the park management plans.

We need your support to make a clear statement to BC Parks that motorized recreation is not appropriate and should not be included in the park management plans for Bowron Lake and Cariboo Mountains Provincial Parks. Please stress that the Cariboo Mountains is a benchmark area for mountain

caribou, grizzly and salmon and that the conservation of large predator/prey systems is paramount.

BC Parks has a mandate to manage recreational activities to ensure ecological integrity of parks. That means that wildlife habitat must not be compromised, especially for species at risk. The Mountain Caribou Strategy (Cariboo Chilcotin Land Use Plan 2000) made recommendations to restrict recreational uses of snowmobiles, ATVs and helicopters in highly sensitive habitat including Bowron Lake and Cariboo Mountains Parks. Motorized use displaces wildlife from preferred habitat, and increases energy expended by wildlife from direct harassment. In addition, snowmobiling creates trails for improved access of predators. Numerous studies have shown impacts to wildlife from low-flying aircraft, including helicopters. Mountain goats and wolverines are especially sensitive.

Please write a letter to Denis O'Gorman at BC Parks to voice your support to maintain high quality wildlife habitat by excluding motorized use in Bowron Lake and Cariboo Mountains Provincial Parks. Feel free to use the following points in your letter:

1. Motorized use has been shown to have negative impacts on wildlife species (such as mountain goats, mountain caribou, wolverine) including: displacement, predation, increased energy expenditure, decreased reproduction. Motorized use also negatively impacts on the wilderness experience.
2. The Mountain Caribou Strategy recommends restricting motorized use to avoid high sensitivity caribou areas including Bowron Lake and Cariboo Mountains Provincial Parks.
3. No motorized use (heliskiing, snowmobiles, etc.) in Bowron Lake and Cariboo Mountains Park to ensure ecological integrity of habitat and use of the precautionary principle* for managing species at risk.
4. These parks are benchmark areas for mountain caribou, grizzly and salmon and that the conservation of large predator/prey systems is paramount.
5. Ensure integrity of wildlife habitat so that populations inside parks are maintained. Studies of these populations could provide valuable baseline information so that activities affecting wildlife outside of the parks can be assessed.
6. The parks act as refuge areas for wildlife and provide opportunities for dispersal to areas outside of the parks.

* refers to erring on the side of caution when scientific certainty does not exist.

Please write your letter today! Critical wildlife and habitat must be maintained!

Denis O'Gorman Email: Denis.Ogorman@gems8.gov.bc.ca

ADM, Parks Division Fax: (250) 387-5669
Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks
PO Box 9339 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9M1

Please copy your letter to:

Chris Hamilton, District Planner, BC Parks

Phone: (250) 398-4414

Fax: (250) 398-4686

BC Parks Email: Chris.Hamilton@gems6.gov.bc.ca

281 First Ave N
Williams Lake, BC
V2G 1Y7

Steve Mazur Phone: (250) 398-4414

District Manager Fax: (250) 398-4686

BC Parks Email: Steve.Mazur@gems5.gov.bc.ca

281 First Ave N
Williams Lake, BC
V2G 1Y7

Herb Langin, Regional Director Phone: (250) 398-4700

Ministry of Environment Lands and Parks Fax:

(250) 398-4214

640 Borland St. Suite 400

Williams Lake, BC
V2G 4T1

Sharon Whitely, Manager, Cariboo Region Phone: (250) 398-4579

BC Assets and Lands Corporation Fax: (250) 398-4836

400-640 Borland St.

Williams Lake BC
V2G 4T1

Derek Thompson, Deputy Minister Phone: (250) 387-5429

Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks Fax:

(250) 387-6003

P.O. Box 9339

Stn. Prov. Govt.

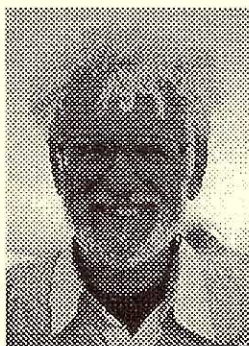
Victoria, BC
V8W 9M1

THE WILDERNESS EDUCATION PROGRAM

SPRING TIME FOR WEP

By Lisa Baile, Program Coordinator

Spring is a busy time for the Wilderness Education Program (WEP). Explorer, mountaineer and wilderness educator John Clarke is out there in the schools providing students of all ages with inspirational, entertaining, and often hilarious, talks and slide presentations. Just imagine this – a real live explorer in the 21st Century who is willing to share his lifetime of adventures and experiences with school kids of all ages, to inspire them and reveal to



them the wonders of our wild places. For many urban kids John's presentations are the closest they have come to wild nature.

With the advent of spring many students also have the opportunity to join John on hikes to local wilderness areas and to have that irreplaceable first hand experience of nature. Trips vary in length from half to one day, or to longer overnight camping trips of up to a week. It is a wonderful experience, and for some one

that they will never forget. At the age of 13 Colin and five other teens joined John for a weeklong traverse from Princess Louisa Inlet to Sims Creek in the Stoltmann Wilderness. Today, Colin reflects on this pivotal experience: "Ever since I embarked on a week-long expedition in the magnificent Stoltmann Wilderness with BC's pre-eminent mountaineer, John Clarke, my life has become greatly enriched. I acquired an appreciation for the natural world and all its radiance that I personally did not know existed".

HOW TO FIND US

If you are a teacher, student or parent and want to book a class, hike or workshop - or would just like to know more about WEP you can reach us at 604 732 0509 – or send an email to Lisa, Program Coordinator: lbaille@mrl.ubc.ca

WEP Also produces a newsletter twice a year. If you'd like to receive the upcoming spring-summer issue please contact Lisa (see above) and give us your mailing address.

HOW TO HELP US

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

WHO SUPPORTS WEP

Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Section, The BC Mountaineering Club, Telus Employee's Community Fund, Toronto Dominion: Friends of the Environment Foundation, Van City, and all your generous personal donations. Thank You!

MEETING NOTICES

Annual General Meeting

June 23-24 2001.

Although we haven't finalized all the details, the BCMC has been working diligently to prepare the events and venues for the upcoming AGM so remember to mark this date on your calendar. Preliminary plans include a wine and cheese social on Friday June 22 followed on Saturday with the AGM at the Univer-

sity of British Columbia. On Sunday we will have easy hikes in areas around Bowen Island and Squamish. To confirm our earlier discussions, following Sat's AGM itself, weather permitting, on Sunday, Kit Griffin will organise roped climbing in the vicinity of the Squamish Chief (Smoke Bluffs?) for our more intrepid participants, while Brian Wood will organise a less demanding hike up the backside trail on the Chief. . People should bring their own gear for whichever activity they wish to participate in.

Billeting will also be available but if you must stay at the University then the cost will be about \$35.00 per night. Please email mpeel@telus.net if you have further questions.

Board of Directors

Date: 23 May 2001
19 Sep 2001
17 Oct 2001
21 Nov 2001

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

Recreation and Conservation Committee

Date: 28 May 2001
24 Sep 2001
15 Oct 2001
19 Nov 2001
17 Dec 2001

Location: Check with office, 7:30 pm

Trails Committee

Date 4 Jun 2001
9 Jul 2001
10 Sep 2001
15 Oct 2001

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

FMCBC Lower Mainland Delegates

Date: 19 Sep 2001
21 Nov 2001

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

FMCBC Island Delegates

Date: Nov 2001
Location: Bowron Park,
Nanaimo, 9:30 am

MISCELLANEOUS

Found: Down vest on the Mt.Rohr/Marriot Basin trail, weekend of March
3/4. Phone Ian Brown, 250-727-2480.

I would be willing to pay a small charge in the hope the owner will reimburse me.

Thanks
Ian Brown, Van Isl ACC

Cerise Creek By Chris Ludwig, BCMC

I punch through snow
between the firs
only tufts of branches and greenery
stand aloft

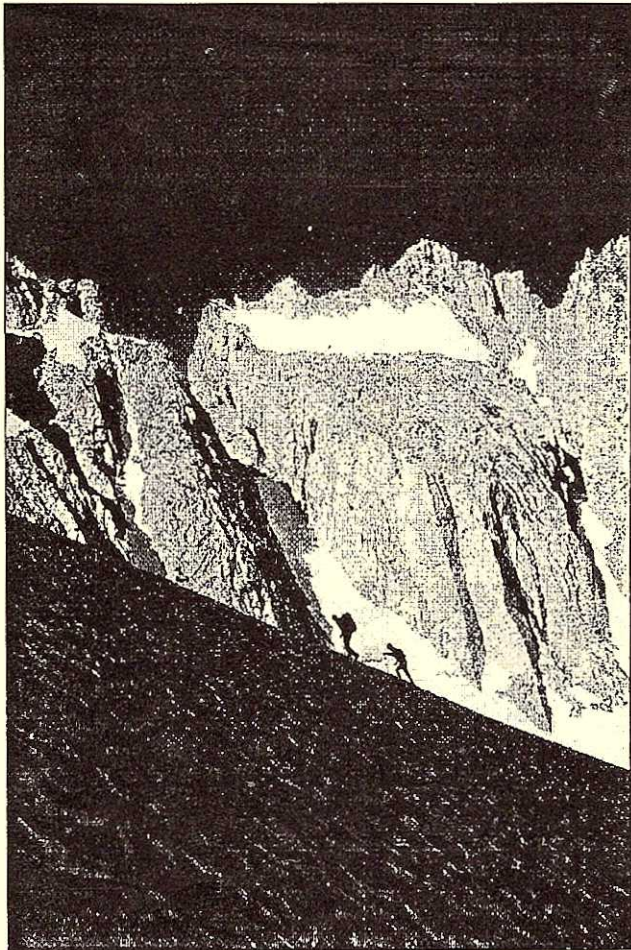
red algae dots the spring snow
whose colonies flourish
in meltouts and indents

the wind rubs my ear
competing with the noisy creek
for attention
they argue for a little while

the creek hisses and spits
while the wind roars and rumbles
together they form a symphony
that accompanies my footsteps
(continued on page 28)

Cloudburst Publication

In an effort to keep our costs under control, the Cloudburst will be published twice a year. The amount of content being contributed by our members will continue to be the same (between 64 – 70 pages), but the cost of postage will be reduced by \$1,722. We regret very much having to do this. As we are short of staff, this will allow us to reduce the workload on our current staff. It takes considerable time to produce a Cloudburst issue. In addition, we have a commitment to our members to stay within our budgeted amount of money. We hope this situation will improve in the future.



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P.O. Box 3814
Spruce Grove, Alberta
T7X 3B1

Telephone: 403.389.6272
Fax: 780.962.5638
Email: skyhiker@telusplanet.net

A
G
M
23 JUNE
2001
ubc,
Vancouver, BC

then gradually
the creek fades away
with the passing rock outcroppings
and gullies
leaving only the wind

the algae grows the thickest in the sun
and as the trees thin
the red grows deeper
and more dense
appearing in streaks
and blotted patches

the cabin is at the treeline
its glass windows face the
mist-drenched anniversary glacier
dotted with ascending climbers

the crumbs in the cabin
feed the rats
despite the sign saying not to
and the lake nearby is poisoned
we call it "lake giardia"

these are only minor problems
nothing a tent and water filter can't solve
on the way back down
while mindlessly traversing a steep slope

I lose my footing
and accelerate like a stone over a cliff
only to come to an immediate halt
by crashing into a tree

I am stuck
deep inside a tree well
my face cringes and
mimics the broken and uneven
southeast ridge of Mount Joffre

blood trickles from my hands
and falls down into the snow
melding with the algae
sticks and branches
becoming indistinguishable
in a complex weave of parts

the forest looks on, says
nothing

The Ridge
By Chris Ludwig, BCMC

three solitary hikers
on a ridge of blueberry and fireweed
ripe with color and dust
a sea of red leaves
angled sharply
relentlessly
straddled with old fallen timber
and freshly planted cedar

they switchback down
towards the old logging road below them
choked
with slide alder
and ripped
apart by innumerable creeks

and at the base of the ridge
a small black ball of fuzz
moving slowly
in curiosity
towards them
flowing over the branches and logs
as effortlessly
as a light breeze
passes through dense underbrush

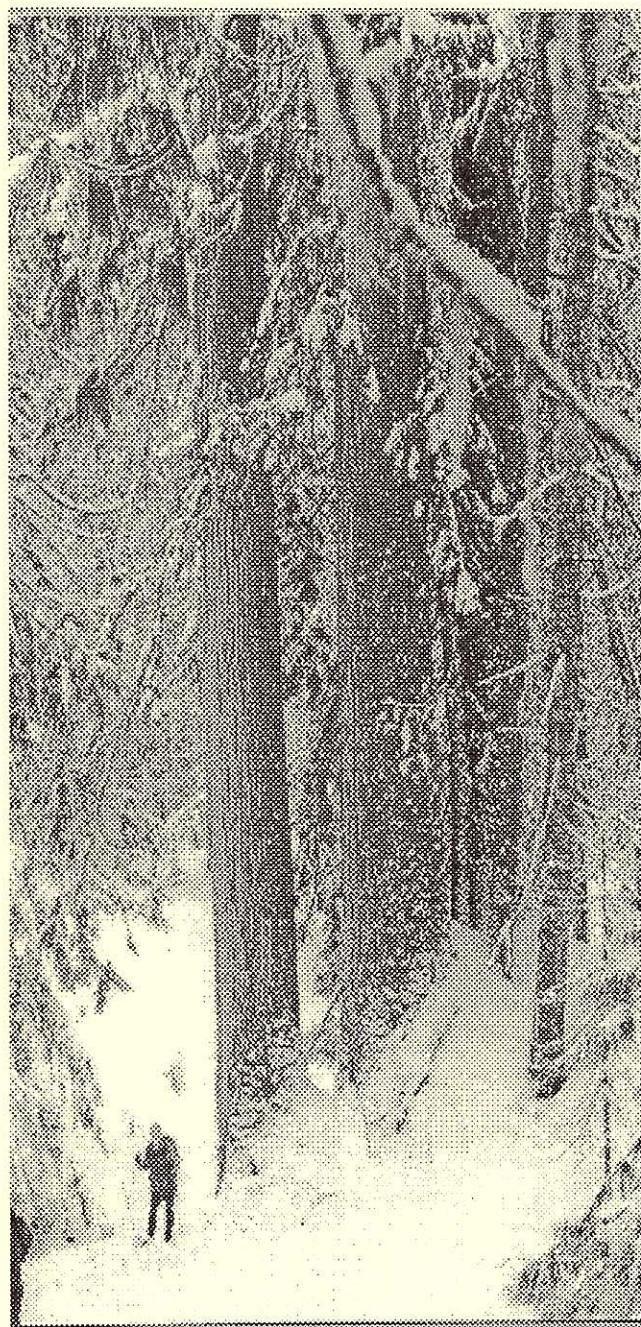
but by yelling and hurling stones
the baby is dissuaded
returning to its mother
who, enraged
follows the three
stalking their footsteps
below the logging road

until finally vanishing
as quietly as she came
into the impenetrable alder
of the clear-cut

IN PASSING:

Margaret Ellen McDonald, VOA

Margaret Ellen McDonald (nee Norris) died on Wednesday, 25 April 2001 at the age of 75. She was born 18 May 1926, in Victoria to her parents, George and Christine Norris. She had three siblings, Jean (predeceased), Flora (Stokes), and George. After graduating with distinction in 1942 from Lord Byng Secondary in Vancouver, she became a member of the Canadian Women's Army Corp. In 1949, she graduated from UBC Faculty of Agriculture at the head of her class with a BSA (Honours), winning numerous scholastic awards including the Wilfred Sadler Memorial Gold Medal. She married Ken McDonald in 1954. Margaret was very proud of her children, Ellen, Gordon, Duncan, Ian, and Donald, her 21 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. Margaret was member of the Lower Mainland farming community, farming on Sea Island and in Surrey. She valued education and volunteered for many years in the Surrey School District. In 1976, she resumed her studies and undertook the Professional Development Programme in Education at SFU. She was appointed as a member of the BC Marketing Board, serving both as an Adjudicator and with the Select Committee for Agriculture. Thereafter, she worked as an Educational Consultant and as the Registrar of the BC Institute of Agrologists. She loved gardening, hiking, and music. She was active in many organizations such as the Victorian Order of Nurses, the Varsity Outdoor Club (one of the first female members as was her sister), and the Valley Outdoor Club. She lived surrounded by her photographs of Alpine sites visited on her many hikes and climbs in BC and Alberta. Her last hike was on Seymour Mountain. Margaret will be remembered for her inspirational energy, robust constitution, kind nature, and infectious smile. For most of her life she was a walking encyclopedia. In her later years, she retained a loving and cheerful disposition and an appreciation for the great outdoors.



DOES YOUR CLUB HAVE A DELEGATE GOING TO THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING?
PLEASE CONTACT PAT HARRISON AND LET HIM KNOW WHO
WILL REPRESENT YOUR CLUB ON
23 JUNE 2001 IN VANCOUVER AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (HENRY ANGUS BLDG)

Canada West Mountain School Report

By Brian Jones, Manager

As we enter into the 20th year of operations as BC's largest mountain school, I find myself reflecting on the influence that the instructional programs division of the FMCBC has had on mountaineering in BC. I think of the skills and values taught to the 15,000 students that have learned, explored and grown with us on our programs since 1982. Memories abound of the more than 100 individual instructors and guides, some no longer with us, who over those years have greatly influenced our programs through their passions for both the mountains and teaching. I consider that 20 years ago, mountaineering and climbing was a "fringe" sport and the FMCBC was at the cutting edge, developing the first organized instructional program on the Coast - now, the sport is as mainstream as cycling and skiing, and dozens of individuals and companies are competing for the market in guiding and outdoor courses. I give quiet thanks that in our 20 years of year 'round operations we have never had a serious accident.

Looking at the recent surge of interest in mountain sports I see the influence of CWMS and the FMCBC in many ways. When the FMC started running courses, there were little or no guidelines or references from which to work. Instructors and guides basically developed their own standards as they went.

As the outdoor education industry and the professional guiding community started to merge over the years, standards were agreed upon, curriculum was developed, and teaching progressions emerged.

As the single largest mountain-skills training school and employer in BC though, the FMCBC and CWMS have played an instrumental role in this development. Through our involvement and our focus on teaching rather than guiding, the coast region still has a strong reputation of providing high quality instructional based mountain experiences.

All of our students and instructors alike have been steeped

in the philosophy that a self sufficient climber is a safe climber. *"Educating people in the mountain-safety skills required to become self-sufficient"* has always been the goal of CWMS programs, with teaching self-sufficiency second only to teaching safety. Our instructors don't just "lead adventures", they strive to prepare students to embark on their own future adventures in the mountains.

How does this impact on the hiking, climbing and mountaineering community of BC? The essence of the mountains for many is



the true sense of self reliance that comes with the territory. Step out onto the glaciers, pull off the ground on the first move of a multi-pitch rock route, peel the skins at the top of a 1,000 meter run of un-

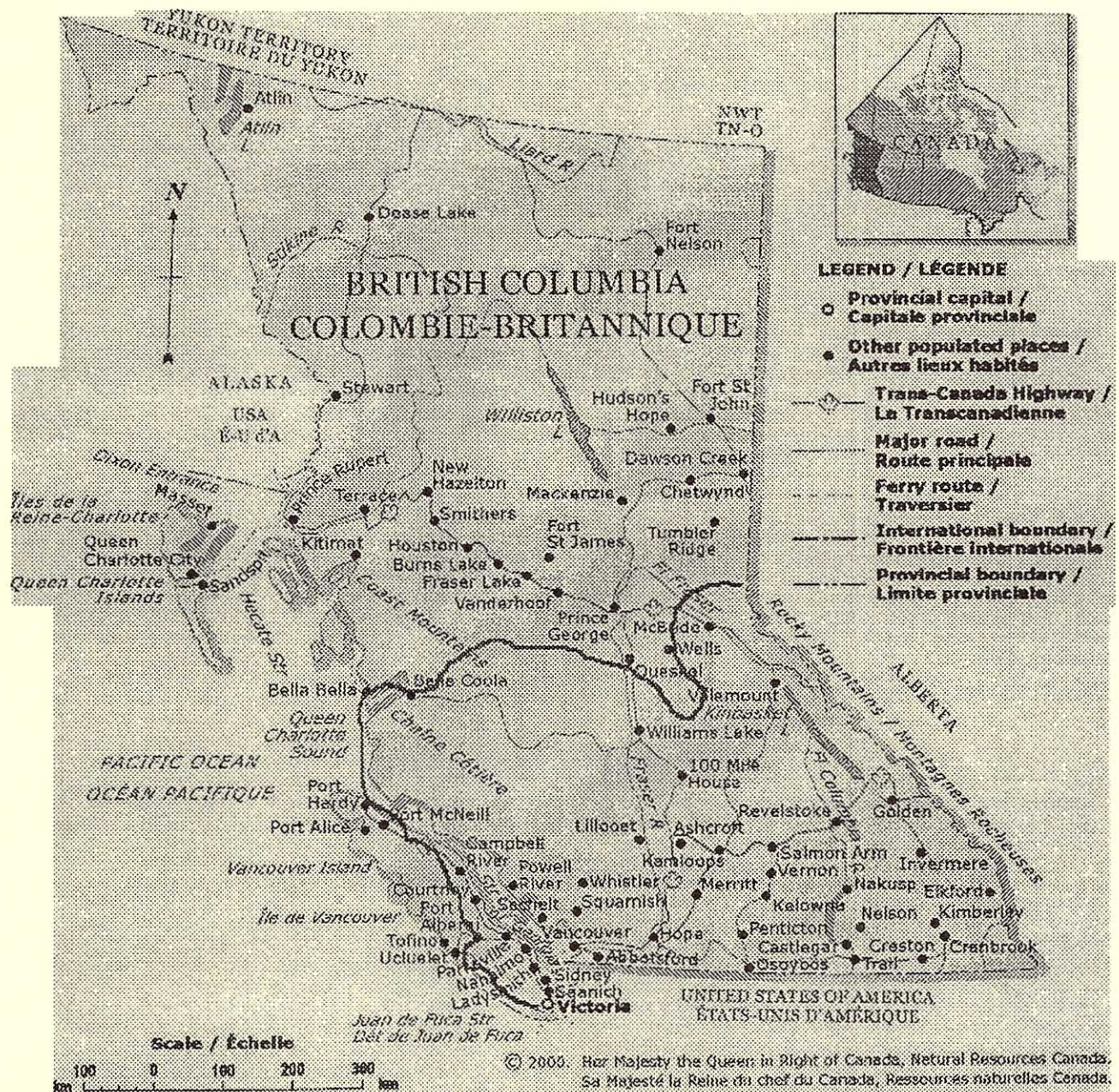
touched powder or gaze around for kilometers over pristine forest and you will immediately appreciate the value of getting yourself there through your own hard work, decisions, skills, and perseverance. Where else in today's world can you claim that sensation? As much as we value that personal achievement though, we must also value the chance to guide others towards the same goal. Clubs provide invaluable opportunities for mentorship, as do guides, schools and individuals. Maintaining the focus on encouraging novice backcountry enthusiasts to develop a solid set of skills to see them through their own pursuits should be the mandate of those that are more experienced in mountain skills.



CWMS has instilled a strong sense of self reliance in all who have had contact with this school over the years. As people tend to pass on what they have been taught, those values and attitudes have undoubtedly been passed on to others who may have never heard of the FMCBC or CWMS, and so the ripple expands. With our history deep in the roots of

the FMCBC member clubs, CWMS continues to build on this ongoing and ever expanding ripple of influence through our mountain skills training programs. I think that the influence and value of 20 years of offering a consistent message on behalf of the clubs is evident in the enthusiasm and safe practices that I observe when out in the hills and on the crags these days.

THE PROPOSED BC SECTION OF THE NATIONAL HIKING TRAIL



The following organizations are involved:

- Caledonia Ramblers
- Comox District Mountaineering Club
- Island Mountain Ramblers
- Club Tread
- Friends of Barkerville
- Prince George Backcountry Society
- University of Northern BC

- The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
- Fraser Headwaters Alliance
- Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Island
- Outdoor Club of Victoria
- Alberni Valley Outdoor Club
- Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail Society
- Alpine Club of Canada – Prince George

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
Wilderness Education Programme	604-732-0509

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Alpine Club of Canada – Prince George Section	250-964-9853
Vernon Outdoor Club	250-546-0439

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

xx81 (F) 60/4
 MIKE STEWART
 7717 117A ST
 DELTA BC V4C 7T7

