



CLOUDBURST

The Newsletter of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.

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Pantheons Powder at its best! Brian Jones, Canada West Mountain School

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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

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MEMBERSHIP

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) is a non-profit organization representing the interests of non-mechanized hikers and climbers, and outdoor clubs throughout British Columbia. The FMCBC 1) addresses mountain access, recreation, and conservation issues; 2) promotes outdoor education and safety through courses of instruction and Cloudburst articles; and 3) builds and maintains hiking trails throughout B.C. by its member clubs. Membership in the FMCBC is open to any individual or group interested in non-mechanized outdoor activities, and access, recreational, and conservation concerns. Those interested in joining the FMCBC have two options:

Club Membership:

Please contact the FMCBC office to receive a list of clubs that belong to the FMCBC (See back cover). Membership is \$15 per annum per membership when a member of a FMCBC Club.

Individual Membership:

Call the FMCBC office at 604 878 7007.

Membership for individuals is \$20 per year.

The FMCBC accepts VISA and MasterCard for payment.

You may also send \$20 along with your name and address to the FMCBC at the above address.

Members of More Than One FMCBC Clubs

People who have memberships to more than one FMCBC member club are entitled to a \$15 refund for each "extra" membership on request. If you don't request a refund you are entitled to a tax receipt for the extra membership fees. To request either a refund or a tax receipt please send the request, in writing, to the FMCBC (address above).

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CWMS Committee

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Reception

Brian Jones, Manager of CWMS

President's Message The Fed is Us

Manrico Scremin

As the not so new President of the FMCBC, I am constantly asking myself what's going well and how can we do better. One of the things I think we can do better is to convey the concept that we, all of us, are the FMCBC. Yes, it's true that very few of us joined the FMCBC directly; we're all members of clubs like the Alberni Valley Outdoor Club or the Alpine Club of Canada (just to cover the "A"s). Even though our clubs are diverse in what they do, how they do it, and where they are located, they all recognize that there are benefits to joining together in this federation of clubs. Basically, by working together on some things we can be more effective than working separately. There is a lot of truth to the notion that there is strength in numbers.

The two most important roles for the FMCBC are:

- To act as coordinating body to help the member clubs achieve their common objectives;
- To act as a single, strong voice in the local, provincial, and federal governments.

We accomplish these, primarily, by bringing together volunteers from our various member clubs. We also have paid staff and a storefront office location to assist in our activities.

It is perfectly natural for people to ask: "*What is the FMCBC doing for me or my club?*" I suggest that the question be re-stated to ask: "*How can my club and I work with other FMCBC members and use FMCBC resources to help us achieve our objectives?*" Asking the question in this way might lead to a different way of thinking about the FMCBC. Yes, it is true: the Fed is us.

FMCBC Happenings

Manrico Scremin

Here is a quick summary of events and activities from the Annual General Meeting in June and since. First off, a big thank you to the Comox District Mountaineering Club for organizing the AGM in Courtenay. The meeting went well and everyone had a good time at the social events. Key points from the AGM are summarized below:

- The FMCBC broke even for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2002 and is budgeted to break even this year. (The financial situation for the first half of the current fiscal year is not particularly good although we are still expecting/hoping to break even.)
- We discussed the new business strategy for Canada West Mountain School (CWMS).
- Several Recreation and Conservation Committee and Trails Committee related items were discussed.
- We agreed that the time has come to assess the FMCBC's organizational structure. What, if any, changes would be appropriate for helping us meet our objectives and would make us a truly effective, provincial organization?
- We agreed to increase fees to \$15 per membership from \$12.

We've had several events since the AGM including those listed here:

- The Ozalanka Alpine Club based in McBride was admitted into the FMCBC. They are described in a separate article.
- Our Executive Director, Pat Harrison, resigned in September. We are holding off on hiring a replacement until our financial situation improves.

- We are participating in the hearings for the Recreation Stewardship Panel headed by Bruce Strachan. As you probably know, this is a controversial panel, and we are one of the organizations invited to participate as a stakeholder.
- On December 2, Shane Koscielniak arranged for and led a group of people in a meeting with members of the Editorial Board of the *Vancouver Sun*. The purpose of the meeting was to emphasize the importance of our mutual concern about the process being followed by the Recreation Stewardship Panel. Representatives from CPAWS, Valhalla Wilderness, BC Naturalists, Western Canada Wilderness Committee, Sierra Club, and FMCBC attended. As a result of the meeting a "Special to the Sun" article written by Shane was published in the December 30 edition of the *Vancouver Sun*.
- We are participating in the Sea-to-Sky Forum. Monica Bittel, Lesley Bohm, Mike Feller, Mark Grist, Pat Harrison, and Mary Henderson have each devoted many, many hours to this process over the last year.
- We are actively participating in the planning processes for two provincial parks in the Squamish-Whistler area. A short planning process for the new Clendenning Park in the Elaho Valley started in mid-December and is expected to be complete by March 2003. The plan for Tantalus Park near Squamish is described in the report of the Recreation and Conservation Committee.
- The Ministry of Forests (MoF) has issued Requests for Proposals for interested groups to take over maintenance responsibilities for designated MOF trails. See the report of the Trails Committee for details.
- The Wilderness Education Program (WEP) which had been associated with the FMCBC will be formally associated with the BC Spaces For Nature starting on April 1, 2003.

They are more closely aligned with WEP's goals and are in a better position to fund raise for WEP.

Comings and Goings

Manrico Scremin

Since the AGM we've had several people take on new roles with the FMCBC. To start we have four new Directors:

Karen Asp brings excellent experience as an Executive Director and Board of Directors member in other non-profit societies. She has offered to be part of our governance review committee.

Don Morton is a long time ACC Vancouver Island member and climber with experience in the major mountain ranges of the world. Don will act as Director for Southern Vancouver Island.

Peter Rankin is one of the founders of MDSI, a successful Vancouver high tech company and was a Canada West Mountain School (CWMS) client on trips to Aconcagua and Elbrus. Pete has excellent business experience and will focus on helping CWMS to grow and become more profitable.

Jay Straith is a long time volunteer worker for both the provincial and federal Liberal parties. He will help us craft our messages for maximum effectiveness in Victoria and will also help get us in to see the right people in government. He will also assess our situation regarding liability insurance.

In addition, the following have taken on other new roles with the FMCBC:

Ron Ford is the new CWMS Registrar. He will also answer the phone for the FMCBC.

Shane Koscielniak and **Mike Peel** are the new Co-Chairs for the Recreation and Conservation Committee.

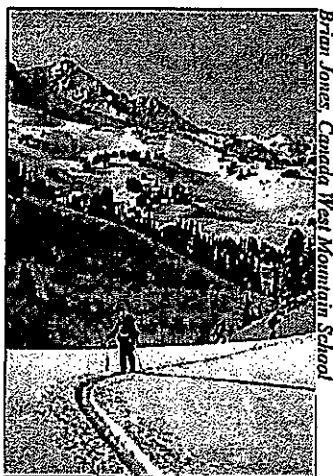
Manrico Scremin was acclaimed FMCBC President at the AGM.

Helen Warn will form and chair a new FMCBC Awards Committee.

The following have stepped down from their positions:

Lesley Bohm stepped down as President at the AGM and continues to serve as a Director. She is also a key member of the Recreation and Conservation Committee and the Sea to Sky Forum.

Roger Freeman stepped down as Co-Chair of the Recreation and Conservation Committee in August. Roger has been involved with this committee and its precursor committees for about 27 years.



Touring in the Pantheons

Pat Harrison resigned as Executive Director in September. Pat is also a Past President of the FMCBC. He continues to volunteer as a Co-Chair of the Trails Committee, the Sea to Sky Forum, and the upcoming Squamish-Pemberton LRMP.

Shane Koscielniak stepped down as Director at the AGM. He continues to be the Delegate for the Klister Outdoor Klub and is actively involved with the Recreation Stewardship Panel hearings.

Louise Wheeler resigned as CWMS Registrar and FMCBC Office Manager in November. She filled that important role for the past year.

Brian Wood is stepping down as Co-Chair of the Recreation and Conservation Committee. He will

continue to be a member of the committee.

I would like to thank all of the above for their hard work with the FMCBC. I want to make particular note of Lesley and Pat. Both worked tirelessly for the FMCBC in the last few years during a period when the organization was in trouble. They took on key roles when no one else wanted them. It's fair to say that the FMCBC is alive today largely because of Lesley's and Pat's efforts.



John Clarke

John Clark Awarded the Order of Canada

Manrico Scremin

On August 31, 2002, John Clarke received the Order of Canada, our country's highest honour for lifetime achievement. John is an honorary member of both the Alpine Club of Canada and the BC Mountaineering Club. On a personal level, John was married in 2001 (something he vowed never to do) and his wife had a child early in 2002. John is suffering from brain cancer and is in the Palliative Care Unit at Vancouver General Hospital.

There are three excellent reasons why John received this prestigious award: his mountaineering and exploration accomplishments, his conservation advocacy work, and his wilderness education work. John is best known for his extensive exploration of the Coast Range of BC. He is the first person to have stood on hundreds of peaks and is the first person to walk or ski on many of our glaciers. This is a remarkable achievement which is unlikely to ever be surpassed.

John was one of the key people involved in the preservation efforts for the "Stoltmann Wilderness" area. Among other things, he and others created the *Wilderness Project* which is a major factor in raising public awareness for this important wilderness area. In recognition of John's efforts, he was inducted into the Squamish Nation in a traditional *Naming Ceremony*. His Squamish name, Xwexwsélken, means Mountain Goat.

John is at the hub of the Wilderness Education Program (WEP). In just a few years, John has reached about 30,000 youth with his unique presentations on the natural history and heritage of British Columbia. Many of these students have also participated in his field trips to experience the wilderness first hand. John has also conducted many workshops for teachers at their conferences and professional development days.

Please join me in congratulating John on his wonderful achievement!

Canada West Mountain School

Brian Jones, Manager

As I write this there is finally a bit of winter weather in the mountains, so we may even get out and ski soon! Even though it has been a very lean early season in terms of snow, this winter coming up looks to be an exciting one for Canada West Mountain School, with many new initiatives offered this year!

Other international trips are beginning to take shape at this point, with a planned return to Russia in June of 2003 to climb Mt. Elbrus, the 5,645 meter highest point in Europe. After our two successful trips there in the spring of 2002, we realized that the ski touring potential was as great as the climbing! In June of 2003, we will be returning with skis waxed and ready to take full advantage of the amazing ski descents that await us in the Elbrus region, as well as climbing Elbrus. We will also be returning to Argentina this winter as part of the **no guts — Know Glory** campaign. (see article).

We will also be leading a group to Western Europe in April for the classic Haute Route ski traverse. Unlike our home grown ski traverses, the Haute Route is set up with a fantastic array of "huts" (actually full-on

mountain lodges) that allow skiers to tour for days through high alpine terrain with little more than a day pack!

Closer to home we will be running a few trips into the Logan Region in May. Our classic Kings Trench ski ascent of Logan will be running in mid-May; as well we have 2 separate teams going up King Peak and up the East Ridge of Logan.

Our winter program of avalanche safety courses continues to keep us all busy here at CWMS, and I want to thank all of the clubs that have taken advantage of our special club rates to have us run training courses for their members. The FMCBC member clubs receive a discount of almost 50% on our basic Avalanche Safety Weekend courses, and all club members receive discounts on our scheduled programs.

Make sure that you contact Canada West Mountain School for information about mountain adventures or training this season, whether they are local or far away. Our programs are getting more and more varied each year, and chances are we'll have something going on that is of interest to you! Check out our website for updated info and a complete listing at www.themountainschool.com or call us at 604 878-7007.

The Summits Campaign

"no guts — KNOW GLORY"

Brian Jones, Manager, CWMS

In January of 2003, Canada West Mountain School is off to Argentina to lead our 3rd expedition to climb Aconcagua, the highest peak in the Americas. This climb will be a continuation of our partnership with Rob Hill and the **no guts — KNOW GLORY** campaign. Rob Hill lost his colon as a result of severe Crohns disease in 1996, and has embarked on a mission to climb the highest summits on all seven continents, the "7-Summits" in order to raise awareness for digestive diseases. Rob and Brian Jones, Manager of Canada West Mountain School, gained the summit of Russia's Mt. Elbrus in June of this year, the highest summit in Europe. Canada West Mountain School will be accompanying Rob and his team on all his

climbs, and is looking for people that are interested in being involved in this campaign. The **no guts – KNOW GLORY** team will be heading to Kilimanjaro in August 2003. Please contact Brian Jones at the Canada West Mountain School office for more details.

Welcome Ozalenka Alpine Club

At the September Directors meeting, the Ozalenka Alpine Club was admitted to the FMCBC. They are based out of McBride, BC, in the Robson Valley of east-central BC. The club was started in 1988, and currently has about a dozen active members.

The Club has built four hiking trails and two back country cabins, all in the Dore River drainage near McBride, and currently maintains these facilities. As well, the Club conducts occasional group hikes and ski trips on routes throughout the Robson Valley. The members have been involved in the construction of the Goat River section of the National Hiking Trail.

Recreation and Conservation Committee Report 2002

Mike Peel and Brian Wood

The Recreation and Conservation Committee has gone through some "management" changes, but with the enthusiasm and hard work of its volunteers it continues to persevere. The following campaigns have been occupying the Committee's time.

1. Sea-to-Sky Local Resource Management Plan (LRMP)

FMCBC Participants: Pat Harrison

Only two meetings have occurred so far. There are 17 seats on the table, with Pat representing the non-motorized segment. Because of the tight deadline to complete this LRMP (1 year), and the possible final amendments that the First Nations may have, the usefulness of this LRMP is in question. Also, the terms of reference do not permit any new Protected Areas.

2. Lillooet LRMP

FMCBC Participants: Jay MacArthur and Brian Wood

The 72,000 hectare South Chilcotin Mountains Park was protected by the former provincial government on April 17, 2001 after an exhaustive Land Use planning process that spanned more than five years. The Liberal government is still reviewing this designation of the South Chilcotin Mountains (SCM) or Spruce Lake Area as a park. The FMCBC and affiliated organizations continue to write letters and draw international attention to the value of this area.

3. Garibaldi Provincial Park

The trespassing into the park by the snowmobilers (especially via the Black Tusk and Brohm Ridge areas) continues since BC Parks has little money (and staff) for enforcement. The Park is also under threat from Whistler/Blackcomb Ski Resort (Intrawest) which wants to expand its ski operations into the Flute / Piccolo area of the Park. The proposed ski expansion will include two new ski lifts and runs and will have a significant detrimental impact on the Musical Bumps and Singing Pass areas. We recently had an Intrawest representative at a Rec and Con meeting, and hopefully this contact will prove valuable in the future.

4. Tantalus Provincial Park (BEBIT)

FMCBC Participants: Monica Bittel, Peter Woodsworth, and Liz Scremin

After two well-attended open houses for public input, the management plan for the new Tantalus Provincial Park has been finalized. The FMCBC successfully expanded the non-motorized wilderness recreation area around Sigurd Lake to include Mt. Pelion and Mt. Ossa, and limited the aircraft landing sites and flight routes in the Lake Lovely Water basin and the Tantalus Range.

5. Sims Creek Trail (Elaho Valley to Princess Louisa Inlet)

FMCBC Participants: Pat Harrison, Annetta Clark

This trail has been receiving regular visits from John Clarke's Wilderness Education Program activities, and also from a commercial hiking tour operator. After originally planning to log the area, Interfor has

been meeting regularly with the FMCBC and others to discuss **voluntary protection** of the unique wilderness values of this area. Perhaps all those protests and arrests in the Elaho valley will result in something tangible.

Committee members have also been active in the Sea-to-Sky Forum, the Recreation Stewardship Panel, and in discussions with BC Provincial Parks and the Forest Service regarding changes to management and operation. These activities are reported on separately in this issue of *Cloudburst*.

Trails Committee Report

Alex Wallace

The Trails Committee has eleven meetings a year at which we coordinate trail work, receive reports from trail work crews and clubs, collect information on the state of trails, and possible threats to access and the actual trails themselves. If people have questions or information on Trails they can contact us via the e-mail address on the FMCBC website, and these issues will be dealt with at the next Trails meeting, if not sooner.

Over the past several years, Pat Harrison has been actively promoting the National Hiking Trail, now renamed the Canadian Hiking Trail, and their recent National Trail AGM on September 7th was a successful and amicable event. A recent letter from Pierre Berton supports the Canadian Hiking Trail enthusiastically.

On the North Shore, we have new trail projects started on Mt Seymour and the Elsay Lake trail. However, our attempts to clarify the Grouse Grind situation have not met with much success and neither ourselves nor Don McPherson have received permission to do trail work (GVRD crews are reported to be doing some maintenance). A local geologist has given us his opinion that there is a significant potential hazard on the Grind due to it traversing an unstable debris fan.

I will now abbreviate my report to try and provide a cogent update on:

Ministry of Forests Trails/ Parks Recreation Stewardship Panel.

There has been considerable debate in response to the plans laid out by Victoria for Ministry of Forests (MoF) recreation sites and trails. When we attended the first MoF meeting in March, Land and Water BC (the company that succeeded BC Assets and Land Corporation) planned to have clubs or trail adopters pay a \$500 fee to lease the trail, and then charge a fee, of which \$1 would be forwarded to Victoria. We, and other groups, did not agree with this proposal, and later in the year, after much discussion and debate, we attempted to set up a process to have the current clubs and adopters continue to do trail maintenance. FMCBC would set up a template and coordinate the applications for member clubs and individuals. The government's position is that any trails not covered by these agreements would be "deleted." Unfortunately, it has recently become apparent that the second set of MoF Trail Maintenance proposals are just as unworkable as the first. We would be expected to maintain road access, bridges, signs, do daily inspections and provide \$2 million of liability insurance to indemnify the government. This issue has unfortunately taken up a great deal of time and energy, and the consensus from Trails Committee at this time is that we cannot proceed under these conditions: our interest is in doing trail work, not functioning as unpaid contractors and assuming the total cost of trail maintenance that is now borne by MoF. The total cost of the MoF Recreation Sites and Trails program has been around \$7 million annually.

Under the latest proposal, it will not be possible to charge fees on trails unless they are "Enhanced Trails" but apparently some form of "windshield sticker" fee is still a possibility. Who is going to enforce any "Recreation Fee" is still unclear, as is the impact on tourism if these fees go into effect. There is no indication that the government has calculated whether the negative economic impact of these moves will cancel any "savings" that they hope to make.

There are, however, some indications that the new "Recreation Authority" that is set out in the Provincial Recreation Stewardship Panel recommendations could provide a better solution to this problem than clubs or FMCBC could in accepting the costs and responsibilities currently borne by MoF.

In relation to the MoF proposals, several clubs throughout the province have expressed concern on the liability issue alone. In contrast to the chaotic MoF situation, BC Parks continues to provide support in terms of liability coverage, trail clearing, signage and otherwise, under our co-management agreement.

Recreation Stewardship Panel

Shane Koscielniak

"You walk in park, you pay" so ran a headline in the *Province* on the 16th of September reporting on the Recreation Stewardship Panel. But this headline did not go far enough. The Panel's draft recommendations included the following: "Non-consumptive users of the province's fish, wildlife and park resources should contribute to the provision of those opportunities" and "The panel supports the implementation of a recreation pass for the non-consumptive personal use of Crown Land for recreational purposes...If a Park Access Pass is implemented, it should be blended with this broader outdoor recreation pass." (Consumptive means fishing and hunting.) So that *Province* headline could have read "You walk on Crown Lands, you pay!"

The six-member panel, headed by ex-Socred minister of environment Bruce Strachan, was charged with the development of "a new management model for park and wildlife recreation that connects fees with services and opportunities and allows greater public involvement in decision making." The Panel held its "by invitation only" public consultations in Richmond over 4 days in July and August. Because of its member clubs in most of the regions in B.C., the Federation got an invitation and was the sole advocate of non-commercial recreation in our parks and on Crown Lands. Thanks to all our member clubs for their continued support – without it none of us would have had a voice. The Panel asked for detailed written response to their "Principles" and their "Recommendations" within very short time-

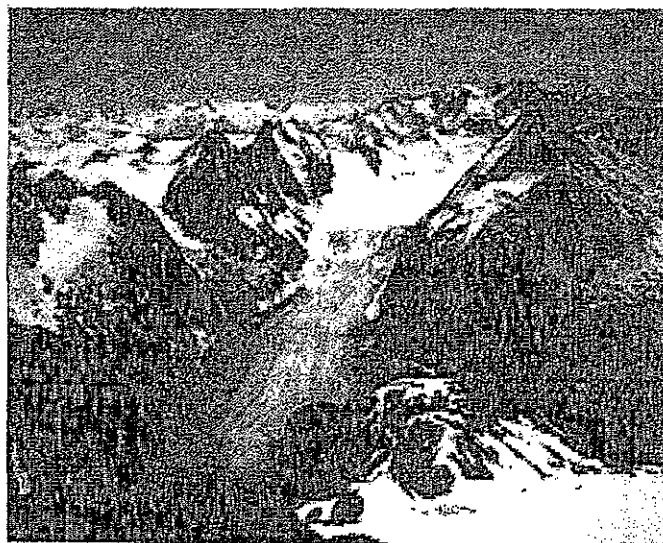
frames, typically within 2 weeks of a meeting. The Fed replied clearly and articulately that our parks are not for commercialization and that access to basic services such as trails should continue to be free. The Panel released its final report and recommendation to the Minister of Water, Air, Land Protection on 29th November. The Fed was there to respond for its member clubs and the outdoor community at large.

South Chilcotin Parks Update

Bill Wareham, Co Chair, BC Environmental Network
Parks and Wilderness Caucus

Years ago, mining interests in BC, under the umbrella of the Mining Association of BC, pulled out of provincial land use processes because they weren't getting their way. Others rolled up their sleeves and debated the tough issues to craft a compromise. As a result, a land use plan was ratified in April 2001 which included formal designation of the South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park through an Order in Council under the Park Act.

When Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals took control of government they rolled into office on a campaign slogan "BC is open for business". The miners, having made contributions to the Liberal political campaign, are now holding government's feet to the fire to deliver on the slogan by scrapping the land use plan, deleting park designations and giving



From the peak of Mt. Good Hope. Robin Shier, 2001.

miners what they want at the expense of tourism operators, recreationists and wildlife.

So what's the problem? There's still a lot of land out there to which the miners have relatively free access. The bottom line is that the mining industry is working to take down a provincial park and a progressive land use plan established through years of consensus based discussions.

Nationally significant parks like the South Chilcotin Mountains should not be sacrificed for the ideologies of the mining industry. We need to maintain BC's unique and valuable natural assets and the economic alternatives they support.

If the Campbell Liberals cave to the miners' lobby, we will lose yet another one of Canada's unique wild landscapes. It will be a sad day. And for what? A political slogan about being "open for business"? How silly can this get?

Gordon Campbell should take the high road and maintain the South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park. Failing to do this will only spark a new environmental battle that will increase uncertainty in the eyes of would-be investors. And, I would suggest that taking apart a park won't do BC any favours in its effort to win the 2010 Olympic bid. Let's hope Mr. Campbell is smart enough to see that fair play is the best route through this issue.

Community Report Sea-to-Sky Backcountry Winter Sharing Forum

Communications Committee, Sea-to-Sky Forum

What is the forum?

The Sea-to-Sky backcountry winter sharing forum is a group of 30 community members looking for ways to share the winter backcountry and prevent conflicts from developing between motorized and non-motorized recreational users in the Squamish Forest District.

Forum participants represent a cross-section of outdoor clubs, snowmobile clubs, backcountry commercial recreation tourism operators, and several govern-

ment agencies. Participants were concerned about increased crowding and the potential for conflicts in the Squamish Forest District. If the community didn't develop its own accord for sharing Crown land, it risked having government impose one – as it has elsewhere.

Governments other places in North America have stepped in when confrontations between motorized and non-motorized users got ugly. The Sea-to-Sky corridor has not yet seen this kind of conflict, and the goal of the Forum is to prevent it from happening.

At its first meeting, the Forum set itself the goal of creating a proposed "sharing accord," and bringing this draft accord back to the community for discussion.

This Forum has met monthly in Whistler, Squamish or Pemberton for 14 months – since September 2001. It now has a draft sharing accord in place, and is seeking feedback from clubs, the public, industry, local government and First Nations.

The BC Government has made it clear it prefers the community to develop its own solutions. After the Forum has gathered feedback, it will present a second draft of the proposed sharing accord to the Provincial government.

What is the "sharing accord"?

"Sharing accord" is a phrase coined by forum participants to describe their proposal for sharing the winter backcountry between motorized and non-motorized commercial and public users, both motorized and non-motorized.

The proposed sharing accord applies to Crown land currently available for recreation in the Squamish Forest District. The forum made no attempt to deal with broader land-use decisions that balance forestry, agriculture, mining or residential use with the needs of recreational users. Those decisions are made by other processes, such as the LRMP now underway in the Sea-to-Sky corridor. Similarly, Forum recommendations do not attempt to resolve Aboriginal title. The accord proposed by the Forum will have no impact on title or on resource ex-traction, and would be subject to any treaties in the region.

At the beginning of the Forum, participants set themselves a goal:

To share the winter backcountry amongst recreational users in a way that all types of users have reasonable access to an enjoyable experience.

In practical terms this means a backcountry skier looking for a quiet day trip in the corridor would be able to find accessible locations where this experience is available. At the same time, a snowmobiler seeking a day trip free of conflicts with skiers would also have places in the corridor where *this* experience is available. The same availability would apply for overnight trips, shorter excursions, and other variations.

During the 14 months of Forum discussions, participants pored over detailed maps of the Sea-to-Sky corridor as they developed their recommendations for sharing the Crown land available for recreation. They began by identifying areas where there was no major potential for conflict: areas where terrain or location was attractive to either snowmobilers or skiers, but not both; or areas where an unspoken sharing arrangement was already in place. This exercise produced a surprising result: much Crown land in the corridor had very little potential for conflict. The group then mapped the areas that *did* have competing demands.

Each of these areas was examined one-by-one by mixed groups of skiers, snowmobilers and commercial operators – and one-by-one the Forum workshop developed recommendations for sharing in a way that avoids conflict. Many of these recommendations required trade-offs, and the trade-offs were fine tuned and balanced until all Forum participants agreed the total package was ready to present to the community.

Forum members are now organizing a series of community meetings and open houses to provide a progress report on the sharing accord, and to seek feedback. Open houses are planned for Pemberton, Squamish, Whistler and Vancouver. Meetings are being requested with outdoor clubs, local governments, tourism operators and First Nations. The Forum will use feedback from these meetings to develop a final revised accord. The revised accord will

then be presented to the provincial government at the LRMP table sometime this winter.

The Vancouver public open house will be held at MEC on 27th of February at 7:00 pm.

Shane Koscielniak runs for MEC's Board of Directors

An Interview by Helen Warn

Long-time FMCBC volunteer and Board member, Shane Koscielniak is throwing his hat into the ring by standing as a candidate in next year's election for MEC Board members. Since I have known Shane through his various roles with the Fed, I asked him to share his vision with us.

HW. What is your involvement in the outdoors?

SK. Mainly hiking. I especially like to hike in the Fraser Valley, Sea-to-Sky corridor & the Baker area.

HW. What's your favourite hike?

SK. It has to be Wedgemount Lake. There's a glacier at the end of it.

HW. What's your favourite backpack?

SK. #1 – S. Chilcotins – the Spruce Lake area, & #2, the Rainbow Ranges in Tweedsmuir. I have been to each of them three times and still want to go back – a good test!

HW. How long have you been doing outdoor activities?

SK. My mother sent my twin sister and me to an Outward Bound course when we were 15 years old. Ever since then I've had itchy feet to explore the outdoors.

HW. Was the outdoor recreation potential one of the reasons you came to Vancouver?

SK. Yes. It's very different from what you have in Europe. There, in comparison to Canada, it feels small and confined – we have real wilderness here. I'm overwhelmed by the almost agoraphobic scale of wilderness here. I recall backpacking in Kluane where you could walk all day, and because of the scale of the landscape, the perspective barely changed. It was overwhelming.

HW. What involvement have you had with the Fed?

SK. My first contact was twofold. First, I got involved in Trail Building & Maintenance. I have also been a delegate for the Klister Outdoor Klub (KOK) for the last 8 years. I have been a member of the



Brian Jones, Canada West Mountain School

Lunch break high above Nirvana Pass in the Pantheons.

Board of Directors for 3 years, but have recently resigned in order to run for the Board of Directors of MEC.

HW. Why did you decide to run for the Board of Directors of the MEC?

SK. MEC has a "Sustainability" initiative that emphasizes social and environmental responsibility in business and the marketplace. I wish to see this responsibility extended to "where we recreate," not just to the equipment we use. At a time when governments are withdrawing from the conservation frontier, I believe that we need to support, at a national level, the local volunteer groups protecting the backcountry and access to it. I also have some ideas for future directions for the MEC. MEC has gone through a period of rapid growth, with four new stores opened in the last five years; the 8th store opens in spring 2003 in Montreal, Quebec. I believe it is time to consolidate and to focus on the best price value and consistent stock control. This may mean a slight reduction in the range of goods sold in favour of achieving further economies of scale. I also think that MEC should pursue the possibility of increasing market share by acting as a supplier to retailers in smaller communities. While honouring MEC's policy of not competing directly with "mom & pop" operations, this would strengthen MEC's

presence across Canada and allow wider access to MEC products without costly capitalization.

HW. What's the first thing you'd do as an MEC Director?

SK. My business suggestions – e.g. the MEC acting as a supplier to retailers in small communities – I would champion that initiative. Since this is a new idea, it would require active efforts to make it a reality, so I would make it my highest priority.

HW. Where do your environmental concerns come in?

SK. The environmental issues are an extension of the Co-op's existing sustainability policy, which I would also work to further. Less of a culture change is required to get those ideas accepted.

HW. If you did become an MEC Board member, what would your involvement with the Fed be?

SK. I would continue working in Rec & Con. I will also continue as a delegate for KOK.

Note: Voting in the MEC Board of Directors election starts Feb 14th and closes April 4th 2003. Call member services at 604-709-6241 (Vancouver area) or 1-888-847-0770 (toll free) for information on how to vote. Members do not automatically receive a ballot. The elections are hotly contested.

Meeting Notices

The Annual General Meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 3 July 2003 in McBride, BC. The Fraser River Headwaters Alliance will host the AGM.

FMCBC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Date: 16 Jan 2003
20 Mar 2003
15 May 2003
Location: 47 West Broadway,
Vancouver, 7:30 pm

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Come late January, tickets will be on sale at MEC and other select outdoor stores, The Cliffhanger, The Edge Climbing Centre, plus the Centennial Theatre Box Office (VISA & M/C, 604-984-4484)
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The Vancouver Island Trails Information Society has been publishing hiking guidebooks since 1972. *Hiking Trails III - Northern Vancouver Island including Strathcona Park*, 9th edition, 2002, joins *Hiking Trails I - Victoria and Vicinity* (12th edition, 1997) and *Hiking Trails II - South-Central Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands* (8th edition, 2000) on bookshelves up and down the Island.

ISBN: 0-9697667-4-2

editor: Richard K. Blier

19 topographical maps 28 other maps 20 photographs numerous sketches

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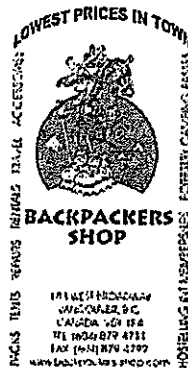
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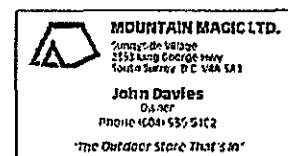
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