

CLOUDBURST

— SPRING/SUMMER 2022 —



**BC TrailTracker Database | Flashback to FMCBC Inaugural Newsletter
Nootka Sound Adventures | Member Grant Work Trip | Blogs & Pods**

Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia

Accessing the backcountry one step at a time



CLOUDBURST

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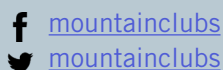
The Federation of Mountain
Clubs of British Columbia



236 Superior Street
Victoria, BC
V8V 1T3

mountainclubs.org

info@mountainclubs.org



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Photo by Bengül Kurtar,
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See page [30](#) for details.

FMCBC is a member of the Outdoor
Recreation Council of BC, Canadian
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Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British
Columbia (FMCBC) is a province-wide umbrella
organization dedicated to protecting and maintaining
access to BC's backcountry.

Since 1972, we have represented the interests of
outdoor clubs from every corner of the province and
have provided a united voice on issues related to
non-motorized backcountry recreation.

Our membership is comprised of a diverse group of
thousands of non-motorized backcountry recreationists
including hikers, rock climbers, mountaineers,
mountain bikers, trail runners, kayakers, backcountry
skiers and snowshoers.

As an organization, we believe the enjoyment of these
pursuits in an unspoiled environment is a vital
component of the quality of life for British Columbians,
and by acting under the policy of “talk, understand and
persuade” we advocate for these interests.

President's Message Spring/Summer 2022

Liz Bicknell, President



Despite it being the coldest Spring on record in BC, it is nice to see the longer evenings and to welcome the new growth of Spring. With it comes the promise of more non-motorized outdoor activities on our wonderful trails and in the backcountry.

During a time when it feels like everything is changing on a regular basis with the ground literally shifting under our feet, our unwavering commitment to protecting and enhancing non-motorized use of our trails and in the backcountry is more vital than ever.

I'm delighted to report that our request for volunteers with communications expertise was successful. We are pleased to welcome two communications professionals to our volunteer team.

Skilled in media relations and social media content, they will work directly under our Communications Manager, Tori Escallier. We look forward to increasing our social media presence and promoting the work that the FMCBC does to protect and maintain access to non-motorized outdoor recreation and BC's backcountry.

Diversity and inclusivity is a vital part of BC's rich cultural heritage. I invite all clubs to consider expanding diversity and inclusivity in the ranks of your membership. I am working on an event with multicultural organizations in Victoria to plan an outing on BC Trails Day, Saturday, June 4. You might like to consider something similar in your own clubs. We'd love to see your photos of any BC Trails Day activities.

It's a busy time for your FMCBC Executive, with Insurance renewals and membership counts happening. Do please make our life easier by responding promptly to e-mail requests for information from Tori Escallier, our wonderfully efficient Admin and Communications Manager. I thank you in advance for prompt payment when you receive your invoices.

FMCBC is developing a new Trail Tracker under the leadership of Jay MacArthur. Further details are available in this issue of Cloudburst.

After reaching out to our members for input, the FMCBC Board has decided to have an online Annual General Meeting this year via Zoom. I look forward to seeing you all virtually at our upcoming AGM, Saturday June 25, 2022. If you have any items that you would like to see on the Agenda, please send those directly to Tori as the planning for the AGM is well underway.

Thank you for being part of FMCBC – stay safe out there.

Liz Bicknell.

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 25th, 2022

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

via Zoom



Member Grant Update

Door handles for Brew and Harrison Huts

By Adam Steele

UBC Varsity Outdoor Club

Over the years I poured over maps of BC and wondered about visiting the Meager Creek area. The massive landslide and subsequent closure gave the area a certain allure. I wasn't sure I'd ever get to visit so I made sure to nab a spot on this trip!

On a dark Friday night I was picked up and we hit the road for Pemberton. My mom, being a mom, had baked many, many cookies for the weekend and sharing was in order. We arrived at the first gate on the Lillooet FSR around midnight, but we were still the first ones there. Stretching from the car ride up as we set our tents up, we wondered where the others could be. Eventually everyone made it, and we tried scaring them by jumping out from behind the car, but they were more confused than spooked by the spectacle of four VOCers crouching behind a car. We spent some time standing around chatting and getting to know people before hitting the ground for some rest.

Waking up the next morning, we were greeted with the beautiful view which we had missed the night before: the Lillooet River. Rimmed with deciduous trees at the peak of their fall colours, and clouds swirling around the edges



Base camp at the 23km gate. (Photo: Isaac Borrego)

of the valley, obscuring the higher parts of the mountains. It smelled like fall - damp and rotting leaves. It was a much longer than expected drive up-up-up and back-back-back following the Lillooet River and then Meager Creek. We marvelled at the devastation of the landslide which still marks this area and the precarious placement of the road daintily winding its way through it all. We found ourselves at the end of a road in the centre of a large cut block which spanned the landscape - snow dusted the mountainside.

Setting out with some tools, we got to roughing in the bottom section of the Harrison Hut trail. After a couple of

hours of trail work, we returned to the cars with our tools and set out to the hut. Soon after hitting snow, we went from slipping and sliding here and there, to post-holing and sinking to our calves to the point of exhaustion. I had debated leaving snowshoes behind for this trip; I'm glad I decided not to. The few of us who had brought snowshoes were elevated to near-celebrity status (or, at least, it felt that way) as we broke trail. I must admit, this was kind of cool, maybe for the first hour or so, to be among the trail-breaking snowshoe-having heroes, but it got old pretty quickly after that. By the end, the going got to be rather miserable and a lot of time was spent wishing for the whole ordeal to be over and for the hut to appear.

After getting into the hut and getting the stove burning, twenty or so soaked and exhausted VOCers got to the important business of sharing cheese and bread and cookies and

tea and whiskey and beer whilst playing guitar and singing and talking with people who were becoming less and less like strangers by the minute.

Stepping outside to collect water or go to the outhouse, I marvelled at the wintry stillness of where we were - a shocking difference from the orange leaves swirling around our cars as we drove up along the Lillooet.

The hut was packed with people. I and a few others had to sleep on the main floor, under the table, on the table, beside the stove—all over. Those of us on the main floor ended up staying awake longer chatting for a while. When we did get to bed, I was out like a light, and despite our rather cramped quarters I didn't wake up until the next morning. From what I heard, it was very warm in the loft and many had trouble sleeping. I counted myself lucky to be down below.

The plan was to head down to the bridge where we would try our best to be pack mules and haul out the bridge in pieces on our backs. Before we left, though, we made sure to see how many VOCers it could take to install a doorknob. This



Close quarters in the hut. (Photo: UBC VOC member)



Wintry Stillness at Harrison Hut (Photo: Adam Steele)

particular knob, of the fancy, high-quality industrial-grade variety, should last some time out there. I understand from older VOCers that doorknobs are a bit of a perennial issue at the huts, with the various budget knobs falling apart not long after being installed. An FMCBC grant which allowed us to get extra bougie with the hardware was much appreciated!

Making our way back down was a little better than the way up—a soaking and miserable ordeal. Hanging out loading our packs, it felt like we were close and would be at the cars in no time. Unfortunately, the trail seemed longer on the way back, and I found

myself wishing to be anywhere but there - now getting soaked while my extra loaded pack tugged on my back. I felt myself wishing it was over, but relishing the simplicity of my troubles; wet feet, wet clothes, fogged up glasses, burdened pack. The company of others who were equally soaked and fatigued, the swapping of stories, the rush from having an extra what felt like seventy pounds on our backs and the satisfaction of having gone through this with a group of kind friendly souls made it feel all the sweeter to eventually arrive at the cars.

Looking for a Home - FMCBC Archival Project

By Mike Stewart, Images page 7-8 from FMCBC archives

At the 2017 AGM in Penticton Brian Wood stood up and said that the FMCBC had a large number of old paper files and documents that were in danger of being lost. There were dozens of boxes of old files stored at the MEC head office on Broadway which was to be closed when MEC moved to their new headquarters. These boxes had been like nomads - travelling from place to place looking for a home. They started life at the old Fed office on Broadway. When that office was closed, they were moved to the MEC office just down the street. From there they were moved to a storage unit on Vancouver Island, then to a blueberry barn in Surrey and then back to the MEC office.

The files included an assortment of documents ranging from old copies of Cloudburst, to meeting minutes, to comments on Rec and Con issues of the day (some of which are still active); as well as photographs and maps.

Examples of how this information could be useful would be to provide historical context on issues or comparing differences over time brought about by climate change.



A plan was put together to first organize and clean up the files and then find a place to store them on a more permanent basis. An initial round of cleanup was conducted and then the files were on the road again (cue Willie Nelson) to Taiga's head office on Bridgewater Street arranged for by Andrew Drouin.

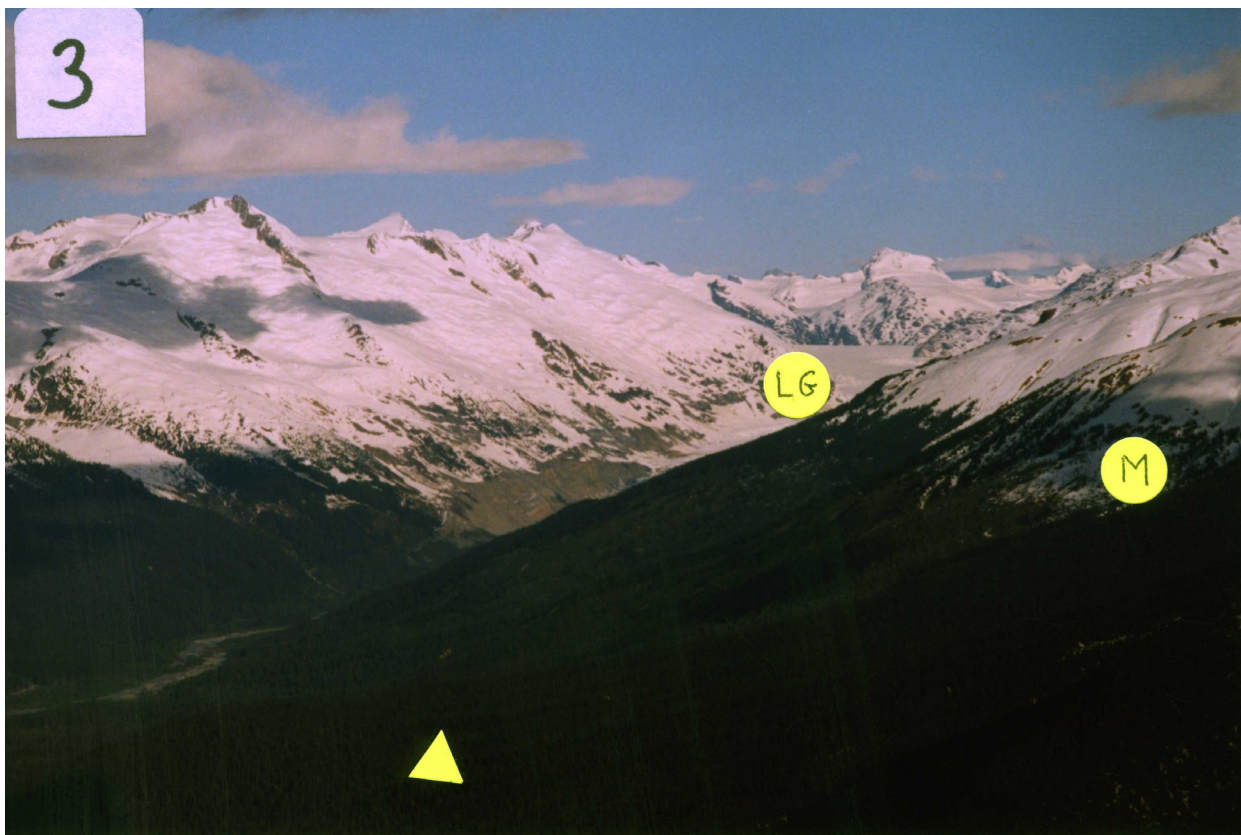
It was decided that the best permanent solution would be to donate the files to an institution that had an interest in historical records and the facilities to maintain them for the long term. UBC Archives was contacted and agreed to take all the files. So, once again the files were packed up and sent down the road to UBC Archives. All the files are now housed at their facility at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, 1961 East Mall. When we first started to look into the problem of long-term retention of records it was suggested that all the documents should be scanned and stored electronically so that they would be easily available. Unfortunately, the cost and effort to do so would be prohibitive. What UBC Archives has done is create a Finding Aid which lists the title of every record in the collection.

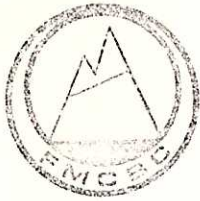
This Finding Aid is available on-line so that anyone can conduct a search for relevant records, then go to the Archives office to access them.

<https://rbscarchives.library.ubc.ca/federation-of-mountain-clubs-of-british-columbia-fonds>

UBC Archives is open to receiving any additional records that individual members may have stashed away in their basements that they think should be kept for the long term. Now that we have solved the problem of paper files there is the question of electronic documents. While the FMCBC has a system for managing electronic files that it creates or comes into its possession, there was a time between the old days of paper files and today where people tended to retain their own documents. These could well be lost over time. If you have documents you wish to donate (either paper or electronic), or questions about any of this, contact Mike Stewart at mnd.stewart@telus.net.

The following pages show the first FMCBC Newsletter from 1974 - a peek at FMCBC history!





NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 33788 • STATION D • VANCOUVER, B.C. • V6J 4L6

FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Volume 1, Number 1

September-November 1974

EDITOR: Roger D. Freeman, 3507 West 47th Ave., Vancouver V6N 3N9 263-9101 (H)

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Federation of Mountain Clubs is a mechanism for coordinating the actions of its member organizations, which include: Alpine Club of Canada (Vancouver and Vancouver Island Sections), BCIT Outdoor Club, B.C. Mountaineering Club, Island Mountain Ramblers, Mountain Rescue Group, Kootenay Mountaineering Club, North Shore Hikers, Outward Bound (B.C.), Simon Fraser Outdoor Club, Vancouver Natural History Society, Varsity Outdoor Club, Canadian Youth Hostel Assn., Sierra Club of B.C., and Univ. of Victoria Outdoor Club. Without sharing of knowledge, activities, and points of view, this mechanism will fail. The NEWSLETTER, it is hoped, will add a dimension to the present system of Delegates' Meetings; each individual club member may get a better view of the Federation and other clubs.

Most of us enjoy hiking and climbing, but few take responsibility for the trails which make access possible. Although some paths are government-maintained, most have no legal status and may be disrupted by logging, mining, or development. In the belief that preservation of trails is essential, this and subsequent issues of the NEWSLETTER will bring you information on trail conditions. But we need input from interested individuals, both on trails and other relevant issues. If you find errors or have suggestions for improvement, please write me. The present format is preliminary only. Trail information, for example, may not seem very useful at this season; some readers may not receive their copy for more than a month because of differing patterns of distribution for each club. Some areas of the Province are over-represented. But it is a start, and as its usefulness becomes manifest, it should continually improve.

FEDERATION NEWS

Planning is under way for a second outdoor recreation conference; the first was held on February 23. If you are interested in the Proceedings, see your club's Federation Delegate. It seems clear that non-member clubs representing different (and perhaps incompatible) usage of the mountains must be included: canoeists, snowmobilers, skiers, horseback riders, recreational vehicle owners, etc. There will probably be a trail task force at the conference, and a full-scale Trails Symposium may follow, possibly along the lines of those held in Ontario.

TRAIL COMMITTEE

The Federation's Trail Committee has had two excellent meetings with staff of the Parks Branch and Forest Service present. This is an innovation which will continue. It has already saved effort, as it was discovered that the Parks Branch has prepared a Trail Map Ledger showing trails and road access both inside and outside parks (unpublished). The Committee has worked out an arrangement whereby a similar

ledger will be prepared for Federation and Forest Service use. We will indicate corrections and route of trails not already plotted. It may then be easier to work out a method of prior notification of trail disruption because of logging, etc.

THE TRAIL CLEARINGHOUSE: A NEW CONCEPT

Arrangements for trail maintenance are often loose or non-existent. Trails built with Federal funds may have no provision for maintenance or consultation with local experts on appropriate standards. Descriptions of trails in guide-books and on maps may be unreliable or out-of-date. Road access may be confusing. There is also considerable controversy over philosophy of trail-building: is it good to tell people about trails? Won't that increase usage by the "wrong kind" of people? On the other hand, without government knowledge of extensive public use, valuable recreational areas may not be preserved. Without settling any of these issues, the Trail Committee, chaired by Paul Binkert of the BCMC, decided to establish a Clearinghouse to receive and disseminate information about trail building, conditions, and responsibility. We hope it will be used extensively, and that it will eventually provide us with accurate information about most trails in the Province. If we can consolidate this information, then Government is more likely to take notice of Federation requests for legal status of trails. The following section represents current information. No legal or moral responsibility for maintenance is implied by the listing of a club next to a trail. We do hope that clear lines of responsibility will be worked out in the near future, and that no new trails will be built until we can handle the ones already in existence.

FOR COMMENTS OR INFORMATION, WRITE: The Coordinator, Elizabeth Walker, Suite #108, 4875 Valley Drive, Vancouver V6J 4B8, or CALL 261-5383 (H).

Trail Information: [MTG=Mountain Trail Guide page;
103=103 Hikes; topo map; main-
taining organization if known.]

ALOUETTE MT. [MTG 45; 103-138; 92G/8W]. New trail changes description in MTG. Change sentence "follow this road to the R for over 2 miles" to read: "follow this road to the R for 10 min. to a point where new trail, clearly signposted, begins. This trail is easy to follow. After a little more than an hour it joins the ridge trail to the summit. Allow 2 hours for return trip from Mike Lake." Comments: needs more markers on higher levels; horses using trail illegally at times. [Naylor, ACC, Sept.]

CRICKMER, MT. [MTG 62; 92G/8W; NSH]. Route marked with yellow tapes has been obliterated by logging, but it is not difficult to get onto the ridge through slash and open woods. [Naylor, ACC, Sept.]

DEEKS LAKE [MTG 18; 103-56; 92G/11E; NSH]. Trail cleared in Sept., further work party scheduled Nov. 24. Slightly re-routed above logging camp where washout occurred. A group of 11 packed out 250 pounds of garbage--tin cans, bottles, plastic, from near the Lake! (Hughes, NSH, Sept.)

ELK-THURSTON TRAIL [103-158; 92H/4W; VNHS]. A few new blowdowns on ascent require Swede or light power saw; ridge trail needs trimming of evergreens crowding trail [Ricker, ACC, July].

JOFFRE, MT. [1974 Culbert Alpine Guide pp. 169, 178; Alpine Crafts? Forest Service?]. Aluminum markers required; lacks blazes, confused because of timber cruiser ribbons. Power saw needed to clear out logs; bridges need improvement; hard to follow with snow cover. Relocation of trail on E side of lowest lake appears desirable (trail swampy & longer on W). [Ricker, ACC, mid-July]

LAKE LOVELY WATER [MTG 23; 92G/14E/W; ACC]. ACC work party cleared most of it in September, but a few large blow-downs remain [Walker, ACC, Sept.]

OUTRAM, MT. [MTG 63; 103-192; 92H/5W,3E,6E; BCMC]. A few blow-downs. Aluminum markers needed high on timbered ridge. Route above timberline obscure in early spring snow. Description in 103 Hikes misleading. Cairns on ridge would help. Highway turnoff passable. Cross-roof beam down in cabin at start of trail. [Ricker, ACC, July].

RAINBOW LAKE [103-114; 92J/2,3]. Log bridges washed out; very wet and receives heavy use [Seligman, NSH; Brown, NSH, Oct.].

REXFORD, MT. [MTG 50; 92H/4E; BCMC]. Road approach rough. Trail beginning off road recognizable only by beaten track on old worn skid trail. Sign would be helpful. Trail good, most blow-downs cleared except at upper end. Brushing needed lower down. Switchbacks needed at first steep hill beyond valley portion. More markers needed at about 5000' near cliff base. Rumours have it that lower part will be destroyed by logging next year [Ricker, ACC, July 27].

SCHKAM LOOKOUT [103-208; 92H/6W]. The "perimeter road" referred to in Guide is not very evident; angles off to L perhaps a mile up logging road. Bushy in places. Logging road itself climbs up paralleling American Creek offering no reward except logging desolation. Perimeter road "westward" is very overgrown and may be impassable [Naylor, ACC, June].

SINGING PASS VIA FITZSIMMONS CREEK [MTG 38; 103-122; 92J/2; Western Garibaldi Park PS/G3; Parks Branch]. Clearing needed to remove snow-damaged trees. Markers needed beyond Oboe Creek for early season travel. One creek bridge totally demolished. Part of Oboe Creek bridge damaged. Approach road terrible, washout imminent; Parks Branch action needed. Russet Lake Shelter in good shape, needs: minor insulation replacement, paint on gable ends, incinerator barrel emptied, restriction on size of groups using it. Relocation needed to save Singing Pass meadows. [Ricker, ACC, July 16]

STAWAMUS CHIEF [MTG 21; 103-62; 92G/11E; BCMC]. Steep section below summit of S (first) peak relocated: continue along trail towards Centre (2nd) Peak and switch back. 2 new aluminum signs & fresh red paint marks applied. Windswept section between Centre & North Peaks near upper end of N gully cleared of windfall. Red paint used for marking [Binkert, BCMC, April].

TENQUILLE LAKE [MTG 41; 103-126; 92J/7,10]. Blowdowns cleared Aug. 17. The key turn onto Wilson Rd. is not signed--the "No Through Road" sign is misleading as it suggests Wilson Rd. does not cross river. Once across river, trail beginning can be missed--sign is gone, tape obscure; other roads can be mistaken for Wilson Rd. Trail itself relatively good, but lake campsites need major garbage cleanup. Avalanche has cut across trail just S of pass at 5400'; power saw needed. Brushing needed around 4000'. Cabin at lake needs new roof, floor, window repaired, cleanup. (Used in winter for ski-touring & as refuge from storms in summer) [Ricker, ACC, Aug. 19]

WEDGEMOUNT [103-125; 92J/2; BCMC]. Trail cleared by crew on June 23 to snowline at about 4000' [Binkert, BCMC, June 27].

WORK TRIPS SCHEDULED: Chadsey Lake garbage (Oct. 19, NSH); 1858 Pack Trail, First Brigade Trail (Oct. 20, NSH); Stawamus Squaw (Oct. 27, NSH). [Other info not available]

OTHER ACTION: Cypress Bowl Trail from Sunset Beach may be relocated since present trailhead has been blocked by private property development; action is being taken to re-open parking at base of Black Mountain Trail which has been cut off from new Upper Levels Highway...A trail system is being developed from Cypress Park to Cypress Bowl. The bridge, to be located near Cypress Falls, is not yet built. Route skirts S and E sides of BC Hydro substation, then follows power line NE, crossing Cypress Creek again, on trail shown on map issued by West Van Forestry Dept.

MAKE NOTES ON YOUR TRIPS AND CONTACT THE TRAIL CLEARINGHOUSE. SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT.

KOKANEE GLACIER PARK - NOTICE FROM PARKS BRANCH

Letter from R.A. Russell, Regional Supervisor (June 19) states: "Please notify any persons in your organization of the enclosed changes. Groups of 10 or more are requested to contact our office at Kokanee Creek Park..." "Accommodation at the Slocan Chief Cabin...will be limited to 20 people per night on a first come, first served basis beginning June 27, 1974. Also beginning on this date will be a 3 day limit on consecutive overnight stays. These restrictions will be in effect until October 15 or later depending on weather. A hut-keeper will be in attendance at the Slocan Chief Cabin area during the period June 27 - October 15, 1974. Park Rangers will be patrolling the Park and will enforce the above regulation. The use of other areas will be encouraged including the Silver Spray Cabin in Clover Basin in the headwaters of Woodberry Creek. A 7 day limit will be enforced here by the Ranger Staff. Hikers should come to the Park equipped with tent and primus. Hikers requesting more information should contact our office at Kokanee Creek Park - 12 miles E of Nelson or phone 825-4660." [Information for next season requested - ED.]

NEW SOURCE OF FUNDS

The Fish & Wildlife Branch of the Dept. of Recreation & Conservation has established a "Public Conservation Assistance Fund," which could be used to support access trail development by non-profit organizations. Write for "Guidelines" to Victoria.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ALPINE GUIDE TO SOUTHWESTERN BRITISH COLUMBIA, by Dick Culbert, 1974. 441 pp., maps, illus., \$9.75. Order from Alpine Guide, Box 91402, West Van V7V 3P1.
BRITISH COLUMBIA CANOE ROUTES, by Canoe Sport B.C., 1974. 112 pp., maps, illus., \$ 3.95. Order from Nunaga Pub. Co., P.O. Box 157, New Westminster V3L 4Y4.
GOLDEN EARS TRAIL HANDBOOK, by R.H. Pottie, 1974. 30 pp., map, \$3.00. Order from author, 3054 Charles St., Vancouver (Phone 253-4896).
HIGH TRAILS: GUIDE TO THE PACIFIC CREST TRAIL IN WASHINGTON, by Louise B. Marshall, 4th ed., 1973. 112 pp., 36 maps., \$3.95. Order from Signpost, 16812 36th Ave. West, Lynnwood, Washington 98036.
HIKING IN STRATHCONA PARK, First ed., Karl Stevenson, editor, 1974. 64 pp., maps, illus., \$2.75. Order from Karl Stevenson, RR#2, Courtenay, B.C.
HIKING THE HIGH POINTS: A GUIDE TO HIKES IN THE INTERIOR OF B.C., 4th ed., 1974. 108 pp., maps, illus., \$3.95. Order from Nunaga Pub. Co., address above.
HIKING TRAILS - SOUTHEASTERN VANCOUVER ISLAND, by The Outdoor Club of Victoria, 1973. 48 pp., maps, illus., \$1.25. Order from the Club, P.O. Box 1875, Victoria, B.C.
HIKING TRAILS - VICTORIA AND SOUTHERN VANCOUVER ISLAND, by the Outdoor Club of Victoria, address as above, price not known (not seen).
THE PURCELL RANGE STUDY: INTEGRATED RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA'S PURCELL MOUNTAINS. Victoria, B.C. Environment and Land Use Committee, 1974. 70 pp., map. Price not known.
WELLS GRAY PARK: A VISITOR'S GUIDE TO THE PARK AND ITS ENVIRONS, by Roland Neave, 1974. 192 pp., maps, illus., price not known. Order from Miocene Press, 634 Tunstall Crescent, Kamloops V2C 3J1.
WILDERNESS TRAILS NORTHWEST, by Ira Spring and Harvey Manning, 1974. \$5.95. Order from Touchstone Press, Beaverton, Oregon 97005.

Interested in trips (possibly by charter flight) to Nepal? Contact Mrs. R. Elliot, 1827 Allison Rd., Vancouver 8 or call 228-9664.

SWBC Recreation & Conservation Committee Report

By Monika Bittel, Chair

The SWBC Recreation and Conservation Committee, FMCBC clubs and members have worked on a range of issues over the past six months. The following highlights some of the advocacy work in the Sea to Sky Corridor.

Sea to Sky Land Resource Management Plan - Non-Commercial Winter Recreation Zones

Almost 13 years ago the Non-Commercial Winter Recreation Zones under the Sea to Sky Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) came into effect. During that time, it has become evident that both the non-motorized and the motorized users could benefit from some changes to the Winter Recreation Zones. Based on the potential for mutually beneficial changes to the LRMP zones, Committee members have had several discussions with representatives from various snowmobile clubs and provincial government staff about where amendments could be made to benefit both user groups. The underlying premise is that neither user group would benefit more than the other from the collective changes. Specific areas currently being considered are the Miller Ridge area, also known as the “Pemberton Ski Hill”, near

Pemberton, BC; and, Mount Brew and surrounding terrain near Whistler, BC.

- *Miller Ridge*, also known as the “Pemberton Ski Hill”: The snowmobilers have proposed changing the zoning from non-motorized to motorized as the area was historically used by snowmobilers and continues to be heavily used by them, despite its current non-motorized designation. After reviewing the proposal in detail, in January 2022, the FMCBC submitted a letter of support to change the non-motorized zoning to motorized for the winter season from November 1st to March 31st for a trial period of one year. After March 31st, Miller Ridge would revert back to non-motorized use to accommodate self-propelled users (ski tourers, snowshoers and hikers) embarking on spring trips.

- *Mt Brew and surrounding terrain*: In February 2022, the FMCBC proposed that Mt Brew and surrounding terrain be designated for non-motorized use. The Mt Brew area has been a backcountry skiing destination since the 1970s and remains a popular with beginners to advanced ski tourers for day and multi-day trips. Its popularity is due to its accessibility and the

variety of terrain accessible from the VOC hut. The presence of the VOC hut (first hut built in 1982; current hut built in 2005) demonstrates the long-term connection the non-motorized community has had with the area. The Mt Brew area is also an important start or end point for people doing the Squamish-Cheakamus Divide Traverse, which connects the Mt Brew area with the upper Callaghan valley via the west side of Mt. Fee and the Solitude Glacier. The proposed non-motorized area would extend uphill/east of the Roe Creek mainline, including Branch 200, and cover the terrain accessible from the VOC hut, such as Keg Peak.

First Nations will be provided the opportunity to comment on the proposals. If approved, we are hopeful a decision on the proposals will be made in time for the designations to be implemented for the 2022/2023 winter season.

Improving Winter Public Access to Provincial Parks in the Sea to Sky Corridor

Over the past several years, the Committee has been working to improve winter access to popular non-motorized destinations in the Sea to Sky Corridor. Two current projects include the Callaghan



Want to know more about Member Club Grants?

In 2012, the FMCBC began a grant program to support projects initiated by our member clubs.

Your donation provides a direct way for organizations and individuals to give back to our trails and the outdoor recreation community.

The FMCBC grants funds to upgrade trails, install bridges, improve huts, purchase tools and run community events. Join us today!

MOUNTAINCLUBS.ORG/DONATE

Valley and Brandywine Falls Provincial Park.

Callaghan Lake Provincial Park

Winter access to Callaghan Lake Provincial Park has been a challenge in part because of limited parking outside the gates of both Callaghan Country and the Whistler Olympic Park. While there is parking during operating hours of both facilities, there is no overnight parking permitted and vehicles left after the operations close result in an “overdue” report to the RCMP, which may trigger a search. The only parking for overnight or extended day trips is at the Alexander Falls Recreation Site. Unfortunately, winter parking is limited to 4-5 cars because parking is confined to the entrance of the road leading to the Alexander Falls summer parking lot - the road being too steep to navi-

gate safely in winter. The east side of the Callaghan Valley road would provide more parking for winter recreation users wishing to access Callaghan Lake and the upper Callaghan Valley.

Two recent developments may improve winter access to Callaghan Lake and upper Callaghan Valley. First, BC Parks anticipates initiating the long-awaited park management planning process for Callaghan Lake Provincial Park (established in 1997) and the Conservancies (created in 2009). Improving public access to Callaghan Lake Provincial Park in winter and summer will be raised as an issue for resolution during the planning process. Second, there is a new owner and management team at Callaghan Country. In October 2021, outdoor retailer, evo, acquired Callaghan Country

Wilderness Adventures.

While there were no changes this winter season, the evo management team appears willing to discuss public parking and access options. We are optimistic that these two developments may result in improved public winter access to Callaghan Lake Provincial Park and the upper Callaghan Valley in the upcoming winter seasons. Improved access will help relieve capacity pressures at other popular non-motorized recreation destinations in the Sea-to-Sky Corridor.

Brandywine Falls Provincial Park

In December 2021, the Committee learnt of winter access issues at Brandywine Provincial Park, which is located 47 km north of Squamish, BC, off Highway 99. Recently installed no-parking signs

along the highway were being enforced with illegally parked cars towed at owners' expense. Stranded visitors had to walk or hitch-hike back to Function Junction near Whistler, BC.

Brandywine Falls Provincial Park is a popular summer destination, with easy terrain and trails. These same features make the park particularly suitable for winter recreation for families, winter walking and beginner snowshoeing. Although the current park management plan identifies the park as appropriate for beginner snowshoeing, the access road is gated in winter and there is no plowed parking outside the gate. With the park located just off Highway 99, it would be relatively easy to plow the access road and parking lot to accommodate 30-40 vehicles.

In January 2022, the Committee wrote to Jim Standen, Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Parks and Conservation Office Service Division, requesting the access road and parking lot at Brandywine Falls Provincial Park be plowed. Opening the park for winter recreation would expand winter recreation opportunities in the South Coast / Sea to Sky Corridor, help relieve pressure on Cypress Provincial Park, Mount Seymour Provincial Park and Diamond Head, all of which have winter parking capacity issues. Providing winter access to Brandywine Falls Provincial Park would go some way towards BC Parks meeting its mandate to



Illegally parked vehicles at Brandywine Falls Provincial Park off Highway 99 (Photo by Taryn Eaton).

provide accessible outdoor recreation opportunities to British Columbians in the South Coast region.

BC Parks – revamping website and seeking public input

BC parks is revamping their website (<https://beta.bcparks.ca/>) and is seeking feedback. The beta website is currently limited to the following 6 provincial parks: Alice Lake Park, Birkenhead Lake Park, E.C. Manning Park, Garibaldi Park, Golden Ears Park and Rath Trevor Beach Park. BC Parks is interested in receiving stakeholder feedback, particularly from groups with volunteer agreements with BC Parks. A preliminary review of the new website shows

that the text on the new site is literally the same as on the old site, with no substantive changes to the information available about the parks, their facilities, trails, etc.

Members are strongly encouraged to visit the beta site and submit feedback to BC Parks about the kind of information and features you would like to see on the site more user friendly and to make trip planning easier and more efficient. Members are also encouraged to share their feedback with Monika Bittel via email (mbittel9@gmail.com), as the Committee intends to make submissions to BC Parks on how to improve the website.

Trails Update

By Jay MacArthur
FMCBC Trails Committee Chair
ACC Vancouver Section



BC Trail Tracker

Most of my efforts for the Federation have been put into developing the [BC Trail Tracker](#) over the past three months. The vision is to have a location where hikers can get up-to-date information on trails and where our trail champions can find out what work needs to be done. Thanks to Mike Stewart from the Valley Outdoor Association and Manrico Scremin from the ACC Vancouver Section for their input and help.

2021 was particularly hard on some trails and access roads. The flooding that closed the Berg Lake trail last summer and then the heavy rainstorms in November are just two events worth mentioning. Hiking last weekend on the Baden-Powell trail in North Vancouver I saw a couple



Nesakwatch creek washes out access road. (Photo: Jay MacArthur)

of large trees that had broken in high winds or under snow loads and damaged stairways and a bridge.

In the past, hikers have had no location to report problems with trails. BC Parks does have one email address where they take comments but neither BC Parks or Recreation Sites and Trails BC have much of a budget for working on trails.

BC Trail Tracker will provide a single location where hikers can report problems and check for

updates on when work might be done.

I'm also hoping that our members can write fantastic trail descriptions for the BC Trail Tracker. Some clubs and member organizations have great websites with information about trails in their area. The Caledonia Ramblers and the Vancouver Island Trail Association are two highlighted in the Tracker.

We also want the Trail Tracker to be used to encourage more people to give back to our com-

munity. We need trail champions to review the reports in their area and find volunteers to fix the issues.

So please check out the BC Trail Tracker! Add your favourite trail. Add a trail condition report after your hike.

We are in a beta mode working to fix issues and make the tool better. If you are interested in helping, please [send us a comment or sign-up to become a trail champion or volunteer](#)

Trail Updates from Chilliwack

The Chilliwack Outdoor Club has told us about access issues caused by a forest service road that was washed out on Nesakwatch creek. That

road leads to the popular Slesse Memorial trail and popular climbing routes on Slesse and Mount Rexford. We are waiting for an assessment to see if the road can be re-routed but that will be very expensive and the provincial government doesn't have any budget for repairing roads that are mostly used for recreation.

In March, 10 club members took a chainsaw safety course sponsored by Recreation Sites and Trails BC.

The club has been busy fixing small sections of the Trans Canada Trail along the Chilliwack River where flooding

washed away short sections of the trail. The Club also reported issues in Manning Park where flooding washed out some bridges and moved the Skagit River in one place to prevent access to the bridge.



Chilliwack Outdoor Club (COC) repairs the Trans-Canada Trail near Chilliwack River. (Photo: COC)

Backcountry Campgrounds

One issue we were discussing at a Recreation and Conservation Committee meeting a couple of years ago was the impacts of backcountry camping. Some of the issues discussed were:

- Human waste management
- Fire-rings in alpine areas
- Vegetation damage from tents and trampling
- Food storage
- Location of campsites

We didn't decide on any actions then, but last year we heard that Tourism Pemberton got funding to build pit-toilets in a few backcountry locations near Pemberton.

This year, Monika Bittel suggested that we look at a tracking system that the BC Marine Trail Association had developed. Backcountry campgrounds and the BC Trail Tracker seemed to be a good fit. I suggested that we could create a form to get feedback on campground conditions in various locations. To fix a problem, you need to document and inventory the issues.

The result is a [Backcountry Campground Reporting page in BC Trail Tracker](#). We haven't decided yet on the best way to compile the information or report it, but we see this as a first step.

Taryn Eyton, the President of [Friends of Garibaldi Park](#) is a member of our Recreation and Conservation committee. She is passionate about backpacking and has written a book - [BACKPACKING IN SOUTH-WESTERN BRITISH COLUMBIA](#) where she stresses the importance of good camping practices.

Taryn is also a director with [Leave No Trace Canada](#). Check out their [seven principles for leaving no trace](#).

Please [contact the Trails Committee](#) if you are interested in helping compile the information collected and work with us on action plans. Please tell your friends about the work the FMCBC is doing and get them to contribute too!

[A true North Vancouver outdoorsman wins Tim Jones Award](#)

Congratulations to FMCBC Director and longtime supporter, Jay MacArthur, on winning the Tim Jones Award.
Thank you for your tireless efforts and dedication, Jay!



Crystal Falls Trail Access Issue

Jay MacArthur

FMCBC Director, ACC - Vancouver Section

The Crystal Falls trail in the City of Coquitlam follows the east side of the Coquitlam River to a small waterfall just inside the boundary of Pinecone Burke Provincial Park. It's just less than 4 km one-way to the falls from Burke Mountain Pioneer Park.

There are some access issues that one of our members has reviewed with the City. Coquitlam planners say they haven't come up with a detailed plan for long term access. Currently there is not much parking space and the residents on Karley Crescent just north of David Avenue don't appreciate that many public users come to their street to park. There are no parking signs in some locations.

I found another City of Coquitlam park: Burke Mountain Pioneer that usually has more parking available since there is a soccer field and other facilities. There are hiking trails that connect this park to the Coquitlam River trail to Crystal Falls but the trails cross some private land that hasn't been developed. I'm wondering if this park would be a better location for hikers to park.

A more [detailed report is saved here](#).

Are there some Federation members that live in the City of Coquitlam that want to get involved in this access issue? Contact Jay MacArthur if you are interested in this issue.

Triple grizzly bear encounter in Jasper National Park

Mike Nash

Caledonia Ramblers

Looking ahead to this year's mountain hiking season, I am reminded of a remarkable bear encounter that I had while hiking solo early one morning in late August 2019 in the Poboktan Valley, below Jonas Shoulder in south Jasper National Park. No one else had stirred in the Jonas Cut-off campsite when I began hiking at 7 a.m., climbing into a brilliantly clear sunrise after a night of rain. Soon after emerging from treeline into the morning sunlight, I encountered three grizzly bears, a female and what I soon realized were her two three-year old cubs, all about the same size. I was at one corner of a triangle, the cubs were at another, and the female was at the third, bellowing to them to come to her. My general practice in previous bear encounters had been to focus on the bear(s) and on my actions, not on taking pictures. However, on this occasion, having done all that I could to mitigate the situation, the opportunity was there to shoot some admittedly shaky pictures and video.

I recently produced a [new cut of this](#). Details of the encounter are in the accompanying YouTube notes, and also appeared in the [Fall 2019 Cloudburst](#).

Welcome to new FMCBC Member Club Pacific Northwest Outdoor Association



PNWOA is based in Surrey, BC and their goal is to raise the awareness of outdoor safety and ethics by providing their members with outdoor skill training and guided trips.



Mount Colonel Foster in distance, view from Elkhorn Mountain - see following page.

Trip Report - Elkhorn Mountain

Words and images by Claire Gordon
Alpine Club of Canada

Summit fever in July's heatwave
cross Elk River on the fallen cedar
climb over balsam blowdown
to gain the ridge
and when the forest becomes sparse
the giants appear

sharp pinnacle sits
and strategically spits rocks
down at the flat land
eyes widen
follow their tumble
and listen for the crash far below
a primal fright prickles up my bones
no fall zone

the sun burns fierce at the summit
we are quick to fly
descend west gully's chimney
damp and cold
four rappels until darkness falls
coos out the moon
she's cool light on sunburnt ridges
snowfield on Mt. Colonel Foster.



Elkhorn Mountain



A beautiful view of Mt. Colonel Foster from Elkhorn Mountain.



Hike in Brother Creek.
(Photo: Patricia Morris, North
Shore Hikers)

Diversity and Inclusivity in Hiking - VITA & Ciranda Project Partner for Trails Day Vancouver Island Trail Association (VITA)

FMCBC and Vancouver Island Trail Association (VITA) President, Liz Bicknell, promotes diversity and inclusivity in everything she does. She is leading a hike with the Ciranda Project - a community-led initiative created during the pandemic to support Brazilian newcomers' mental health and well-being. [Join them](#) to contribute to Brazilians' successful adaptation to Canada.

Location: John Dean Park via Haldon, Victoria, BC

Date: Saturday, June 4, 9 AM

Distance: 10 kms

Elevation gain: 552 Time: 4-5 hours

Event Cost: \$80.00

The Nootka Experience

By Alexander Cunningham, photos by North Vancouver Outdoors Club

North Vancouver Outdoors Club

In September 2021 a small group of four from the [North Vancouver Outdoors Club](#) (NVOC) backpacked from Friendly Cove to Louie Bay, on the traditional and unceded territory of Nuuchah-nulth First Nation on Vancouver Island, taking eight days for the adventure. Here is the story of the trip from NVOC Member Alexander with images from the group.

8th - 15th September 2021

Day 1: - Yuquot (Friendly Cove)

We got an early start to get the 6:30 am ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo. Just as well we had a reservation as there were many more vehicles than I would have expected at that time of the morning. We had breakfast on board and a smooth sailing to Nanaimo, drove from Nanaimo to Gold River (approx. 3hours) and had a quick lunch at the Float Plane dock as Air Nootka said that they could take us out earlier than our scheduled time.



Weather was not great and tides were working against us, so we decided to hike from South to North. The float Plane took us to Friendly Cove, on the territory of Mowachaht/Muchakaht First Nation (my first float plane ride) and landed us at the Lighthouse dock. Lighthouse keepers came down to meet us – they were very friendly and let us fill up our fresh water. Light rain eased off, but as tide was against us for the first creek-crossing, we decided to camp for the day next to the church and took advantage of shelters that Indigenous carvers had set up.

We had an early evening meal – not even 5:30 pm – and an early to bed night. Is this what the future holds for us as seniors?

Day 2: - Friendly Cove to Beach Camp (un-named)

It was still raining when we got up, reasonably early, to make the first creek-crossing at low tide. Got packed up after breakfast and were thankful for the shelters that kept most of the rain off the tents. It started raining very heavily so we had to wait until it eased off. We made good time along the ATV track through the forest and to the creek in time to wade across without any trouble. Rain eased off and on again as we made our way along the beach but then we had to use the inland trail to get past headlands. To say that the trail is not well maintained is a bit of an understatement! Because of the rain, which did get heavier at times, the trail was almost completely under water. Boots and feet got completely soaked. We didn't bother with the side trail to Maquinna Point or other viewpoint – there probably wouldn't have been a view anyway! The trail was not well marked at all through the worst swampy part, but we did manage to get through. Took 9 hours to cover an estimated 7.5 km of what was one of – if not the – toughest day's hiking that I have done!



Day 3: Un-named to Beano Creek

An easy start to the day getting up about 8:30 am. Looked like a nice day – no rain. Saw 3 hikers coming from the North and heading to Friendly Cove to catch the plane out. As it was about 10:00 am when we saw them and as the plane pickup was for 3:30 pm, I doubt that they made it in time – despite their youth!

Seems that there were about 25 people who had been stuck at Beano Creek because of flash floods due to the storm. Some had been held up for a day, hence the rush to get out. Wished them luck and warned about the swampy trail ahead of them. As we made our way along, we encountered others from Beano who were on their way out. Some scary stories about crossing Beano Creek.

Much of the day's hike was on inland trails again to get around the headlands as the tides were against us once more. It seems that the inland trail is just a continual series of climbing over or crawling under fallen trees. There are also lots of 'Brenda steps' which makes a steady pace not the easiest to achieve. Getting up from and down to the beach often entails a steep rope-assisted climb\descent. We did make it to some sea caves but mostly in the trees again. All was going OK until we got to one creek that should have been nothing at all but, because of the rain, was running more than it should.

I slipped on the log step and fell backwards into the creek - banged my head on an old tree that was across the creek too! I got everything soaked as my backpack went in first. Had to wriggle out of it to get back up again. Well, it's only water! Once I regained my composure, we started off again – lovely feeling with boots squelching and all my clothing sticking to me. Eventually reached the descent down to Beano Creek - an awesome rope descent next to a waterfall. Thankfully the tide was just out far enough that we didn't have to land into the waves.

Before we could get to the campsite though, we had to wade across Beano Creek. It wasn't anywhere as bad as it had been but that still didn't prevent my right foot sinking into the soft sand\gravel just as I reached the other side. Leg collapsed and I got yet another dunking. Unfortunately, this time the camera got dunked too and potentially ruined.

Adding insult to injury, it started raining as we were setting up camp. Got a tarp up for the cooking area



again but as I had only a dry T-Shirt and fleece, had to borrow a pair of pants from Sheila. I then discovered that my tent was wet and sleeping bag was more than just a bit damp, so Sheila lent me hers. Martina bunked in with Rob and Sheila and I used Martina's one-person tent.

We had some chicken noodle soup and retired for the night. This was not my best day!

Day 4: Rest Day

The day started off a bit misty and I was up first because that one-person tent was so cramped. I wandered into the kitchen area and then noticed something about 10 yards to my left. It was a wolf looking straight at me. Went for my camera and discovered that it did get wet and was not going to work. Everyone else got up and we found that there were six wolves on the beach. Rob and Martina did get some photos though. One wolf started howling and kept on until a seventh came back from further up the beach past our camp. Really cool to see them and they posed no threat at all.

Day 5: Beano Creek to Calvin Falls

Another easy start to the day and a leisurely breakfast watching whales blow out at sea. A bit too far off to see clearly but still good to see, nonetheless. As we headed out along the beach, we encountered 4 more hikers heading South. They had camped at Calvin Falls the previous night. Beach walking was easier than the inland trails, but the stench of rotting seaweed got a bit much in places. On solid rock or sand, walking was relatively easy, but the soft sand and pebbles started to tell on my right hip. I had to stop several times just to rest for a few minutes.

The highlight of the day was our encounter with bears on the beach. Saw the first one digging in the seaweed about 50 yards or so ahead of us and we were upwind from it so I guess it didn't smell us. We stopped and got together to make ourselves look bigger and waved and banged poles. The bear did kind of look at us but carried on digging. Whilst we were deciding the best move, another bear just wandered out of the bushes about 20 yards – if that – in front of us. At first it started walking towards us although not aggressively. Much banging of poles and shouting persuaded it to amble off into the bushes again. We moved closer to the other bear and did the same, so it also ambled off into the bushes. Both looked like very big, healthy bears but they did not seem to be too interested in us.

Day 6: Calvin Falls to Skuna Bay

Day 6 was to be another rest day because of the time of low tide (11:30 am) we decided to have a late start and rather than just move camp across the creek, hike a short day to Skuna Bay. This would leave another short day to Sandy (First) Beach.



Can't believe how much I slept. Must have been exhaustion from yesterday. Anyway, after another leisurely breakfast, we set off at 11:15 am and crossed Calvin Creek without issue. Made good progress along the beach and came across another 3 hikers heading South. Three women – mother, daughter and friend – who were a bit scared by bear and wolf encounters and had used a sat phone to get an early pick up – from Bajo Point apparently. We didn't run into any more bears or wolves on our way to the next camp. The hike to Skuna Bay only took us about 2 ½ hours (including lunch and chatting to the hikers). We had been warned of rain for the evening so set up the tarps for the kitchen area just in case.

Day 7: Skuna Bay to Sandy (First) Beach

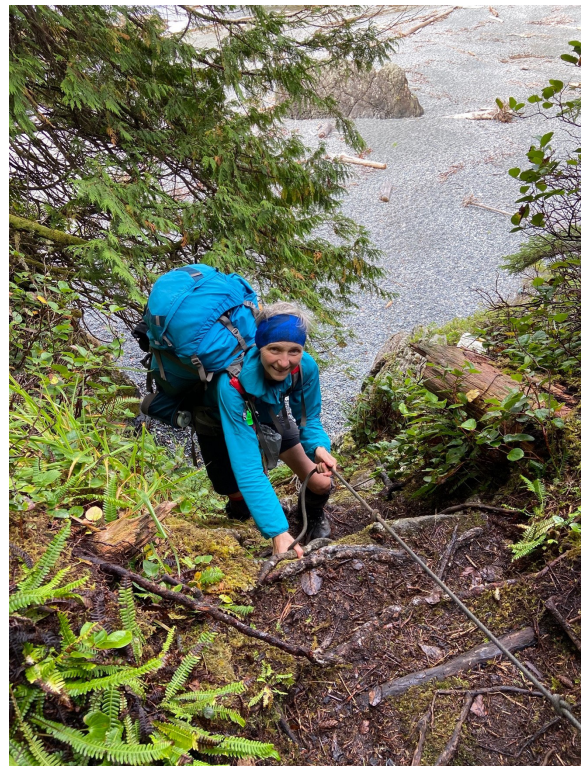
It rained quite heavily overnight, so we were glad that we had put up the tarps. Light rain eventually eased and then stopped long enough for us to get packed up. A momma bear and two cubs showed up down the beach

from us but had already left before we headed that way. Light rain continued to fall again so it was a full water-proofs day for me, which made for a bit of a sweaty hike! We made good time along the beach and only had four big creeks to cross – all of which I managed without falling into, or even getting wet, for a change!

Day 8: Sandy (First) Beach to Louie Bay

We got up early (6:00 am) so that we could have breakfast and strike camp in plenty of time to get to our pick-up point at Louie Bay. It had been a bit cooler overnight so there was much condensation on everything and although it was looking like being a nice day, tents and tarps were still very wet as we packed up. Got going by 9:00 am (pickup was at 11:00 am) so should have been plenty of time for the short hike to Louie Bay.

Headed off up the beach to the trailhead that we found yesterday. There was no signage or marking to indicate where the trail went\came from and as it turns out, this was the wrong trail and was going to Tongue Point (water taxi drop-off).



Despite the fact that we seemed to be following the coast, we did not question whether or not it was the correct trail until we had been going for 1 ½ hours! As this was now 10:30 am, we had to use the sat. phone to call Air Nootka and let them know we would not be able to meet at 11:00 am. Air Nootka explained that they were busy, and we would need to call again when we did get to Louie Bay to see when we could get picked up. We backtracked to Sandy (First) Beach and managed to only take an hour to do that, but it then took at least 30 minutes to find the correct trail. Thank goodness it was a nice day because the trail was in a very poor state and would have been absolutely miserable if it was raining. Again, there were no markings to indicate where the trail was going.

Eventually got to Louie Bay and called Air Nootka again but we were told to call back in about 20 minutes whilst they sorted out a new pick-up time. Found out that they could not pick us up until 5:30 pm, which meant we had a 3 ½ hour wait! Not much room at Louie Bay so we just had to sit and wait it out. Although it was a nice sunny day, there was a stiff breeze blowing that made it a bit uncomfortable just sitting around. Still, we were up to it and found various ways to pass the time. Watched a sea otter in the bay, which was a pleasant distraction for a short while. It is amazing how slowly time passes when you are waiting!

Just about 5:00 pm we heard, then saw, a plane fly over but it did not seem to be coming our way. As it turned out of sight, we were surprised when it suddenly appeared over the trees above us and landed in the bay. We quickly got ourselves ready and the plane came right up to the beach. We had to hold the plane against the wind, not an easy task, whilst our gear was loaded. We were able to get on the plane without having to wade out into the bay, as we had thought would be required. As the last person on, I had to hold the plane and then push it off the beach. That was a real struggle against the wind. Hopped up onto the float but had to take off my water shoes, dry my feet and shoes before getting in – pilot said that they can't have saltwater get inside the plane. The plane took off without issue and the pilot took us over the route of the trail that we had hiked. Saw the remains of the wreck out by Tongue Point and, as we flew down the coast, saw a whale below us. The pilot did a very quick banking – which caught Martina by surprise – to see if we could get a better look, but the whale had dived so it was only a fleeting glance that we got.

This was a challenging, but epic, adventure!

Playing it Safe

By Paula Burgerjon

North Vancouver Outdoors Club

As I type this, seven weeks and two days after I broke my wrist, it still hurts. It hurts when I move it, which is unfortunate, since I am supposed to keep it moving as much as possible. Nerves and muscles, rendered lazy by six weeks in a cast, protest with the least encouragement.

To recap; on the day in question, I was hiking up to First Pump on Mt. Seymour. I borrowed a pair of snowshoes, since I refuse to own the beastly contraptions myself. Have I mentioned I hate snowshoes? They remind me that I seem to be too old to back country ski anymore. I love micro spiking: fast and quiet. However, on the day in question, there was enough new snow to require snowshoes, a rarity on the north shore.

I stopped short of the top. I was playing it safe. I didn't want to get caught in an avalanche. Been there, done that. I wanted to come home and be able to hike again, which it turned out I was able to do, after a few weeks.

Snowshoes on my feet were driving me crazy. It wasn't slippery, so I tied them to my backpack and skipped happily down the trail, spirits soaring with the blue birds (it was a Blue Bird day...on my day off even!). Then I slipped and fell with my weight on my outstretched arm, and the metal edge of a snowshoe under my wrist. Did I mention I hate snowshoes?

Now I do exercises for my wrist and forearm. They hurt. The past seven weeks and two days have been painful. I look forward to the day when I can painlessly move my wrist.

I played it safe, for that I am grateful (good work, self!). I have already been back in the mountains, pain notwithstanding. I am back up and running too, after not running for seven weeks. Soon I will go back to work.

There will be more Blue Bird days, on my days off, so I will keep smiling!

Blogs and Pods

Earlier this year, the Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology presented a series of lectures by prominent scientists on Climate Disruption in the Upper Columbia Basin. The presenters later took part in a revealing online discussion, Knocking on Doors: Reflections on Hope and Action in response to the question: "How or where do you find hope? What inspires you to take action, to keep going?" For overviews of, and links to recordings of the eight talks, go to [Columbia Region Ecological Discussions 2022](#).

Listen to Taryn Eaton of Friends of Garibaldi Park and Happiest Outdoors [chat on podcast Trails Worth Hiking](#) about the West Coast Trail and her new book, Backpacking in Southwestern British Columbia.

Experience the power and beauty of Camelfoot Mountain Fire Lookout, Lillooet, BC in this [outdoor exploration video](#).

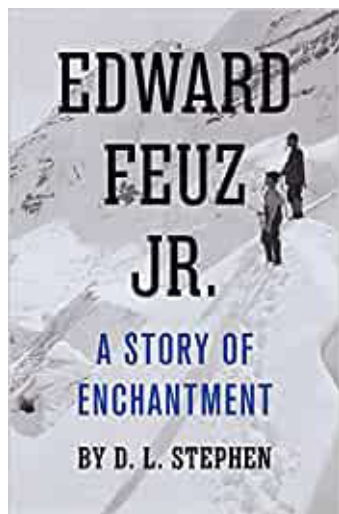
Some Good Reads

Edward Feuz Jr: A Story of Enchantment By D.L. Stephen

Published by Rocky Mountain Books, 2021

Reviewed by Ron Dart

Chilliwack Outdoor Club, Alpine Club of Canada



Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.

John Muir (p. 277)

The Canadian mountaineering tradition has its layered origins in the role of the CPR and Swiss Guides, and Edward Feuz Jr. (1884-1981) was, without much doubt, one of the most significant Swiss Guides of 1st generation Canadian mountaineering. The beauty and joy of Donna Stephen's biography of Feuz Jr. is the way she intricately threads together both Feuz Jr.'s compelling mountaineering life and her journey of sorts with Feuz and his wife. This means Edward Feuz Jr. is both a biography of Feuz but also an autobiography of sorts of Stephen's.

Edward Feuz Jr. is both a companion book and yet takes

deeper dives into the Swiss Guide ethos than the earlier, *The Guiding Spirit* (1986) by Andrew Kauffman and William Putnam. The focus, of course, of Stephen's biography of Feuz Jr. means such a biographical and focused approach is inevitable. Many of the 1st generation guides are aptly mentioned, some more legends than others in Canadian mountaineering culture. But the evocative

beauty of this biography is the way Stephen's not only highlights Feuz Jr.'s multiple 1st ascents, significant guiding skills and legendary status but also his personal, private, family and unique personality. Stephen's had access to this side of Feuz Jr. given the fact her family for decades had a maturing and ripe relationship with the Swiss Guides but mostly with Edward and his wife, Martha.



Ron Dart, Ruthie Oltmann (an important mountain chronicler) and Sepp Renner from a trip Ron led in Assiniboine, 2013. Sepp was central in carrying on Edward's line and lineage and led Donna and her sister to the peak of Mt. Tupper in 2005 to honour Edward's many climbs. (Photo: Ron Dart).

The history of the Swiss Edelweiss Village (a heritage site but threatened by developers) in Golden is told in tender detail and the tensions between many of the Swiss Guides and the CPR is equally recounted in a candid manner. The ample collection of photographs in the book of Feuz Jr. and friends (including many with Donna Stephen's, friends and family) make for a generous and inviting approach to balance the engaging textual approach.

I quite enjoyed the bounty of a book for many reasons. I lived in Switzerland from 1972-1974 in the Alps and spent much of my time near Interlaken (where the Feuz family is from)

and have trekked most of the trails and done many of the peaks Stephen's mentions and Feuz Jr. led trips to. Many of the mountaineering legends in the Canadian Rockies such as Bruno Engler, Lizzie Rummel, Georgia Engelhard, Conrad Kain and Sepp Renner/Ruthie Oltmann (see photo with Sepp/Ruthie on a trip I led to Assiniboine in 2013) etc have whispered much mountain lore and wisdom to my soul. I have also spent time at the Swiss Edelweiss Village in Golden and chatted with Jean Feuz Vaughan when she was alive (she kindly invited my wife, Karin and I, to spend an evening in the standard and much decorated Feuz mountaineering home).

There is an obvious sense, as the book inches towards its inevitable end, Edwards's wife has died and Edward, increasingly so, is alone and lonely that Donna and her sister become not only Edward's daughters but "Edward's Girls"—a touching and telling tale of lives knit together through the enchantment of the mountains.

There are many reasons for a pleasurable read or browse of Edward Feuz Jr., but there can be no doubt it is very much a story about enchantment and the enchanting world of mountaineering culture and mountains, Edward Feuz Jr. a true guide into such a reality.

COVER PHOTO



"Lunch above the clouds at Mount Elsay (1,419 m), Seymour Provincial Park."

Photo: Bengül Kurtar, North Shore Hikers

Taken from the Mount Elsay Loop hike.

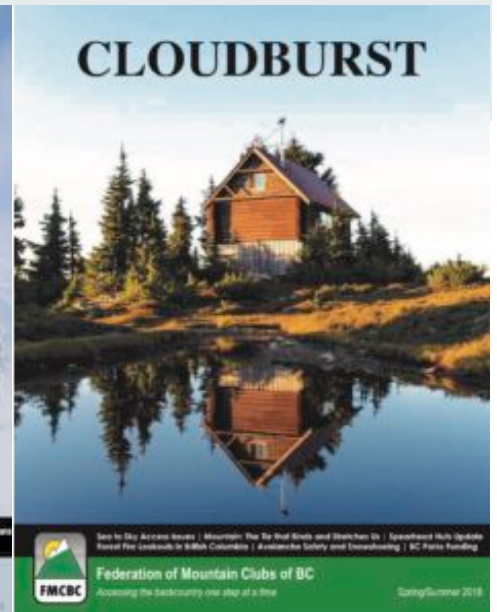
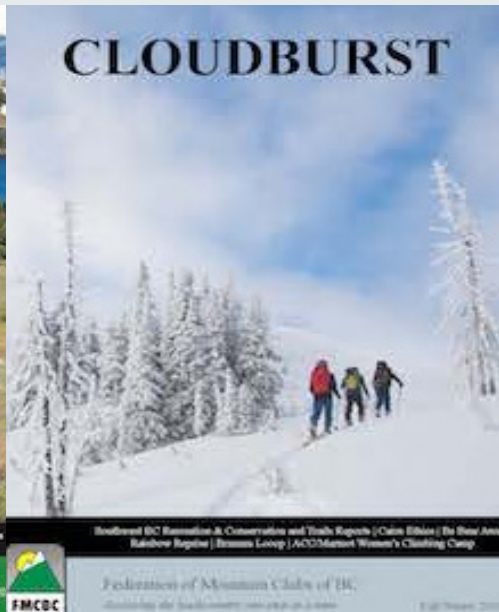
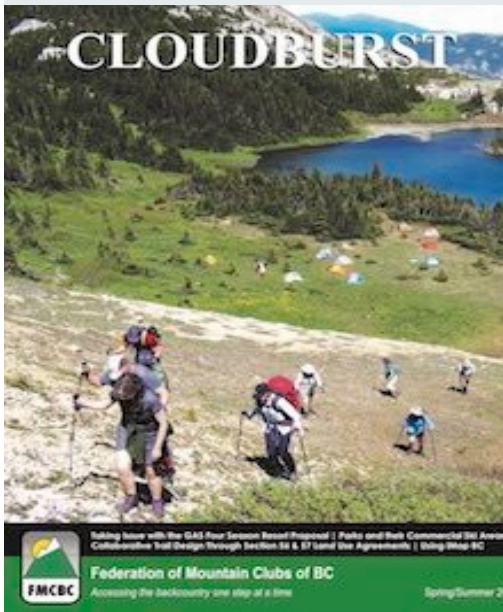
[Read the full trip report](#)

[Photos from the trip](#)

Cloudburst Cover Photo Contest

We're looking for Fall/Winter action
shots for our next cover of
Cloudburst!

Email your entries to
cloudburst@mountainclubs.org
by September 30th, 2022



Get involved. Take action.

By working with outdoor recreation organizations and industry and government agencies, the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC protects and maintains access for quality non-motorized backcountry recreation in British Columbia's mountains and wilderness areas.

There are many ways to show your support and make a difference:

- *Join a member club or talk to your current club about becoming a member*
- *Make a donation to the FMCBC*
- *Volunteer your time by joining a regional committee*
- *Show your support by becoming an Individual or Associate Member*
- *Visit our website to learn about the latest issues affecting BC's backcountry and find out how to help*

Learn more at: mountainclubs.org