

CLOUDBURST



Celebrating Club Histories:
Outdoor Club of Victoria and
British Columbia
Mountaineering Club

Chilliwack's Jewel
: The Elk Mountain Trail

Heli-Skiing on
Mount Waddington?

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF B.C.
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CLOUSBURST

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Articles: We welcome articles which inform our readers about mountain access, recreation, and conservation issues or activities in B.C. Don't limit yourself to prose: photographs and poems also accepted. Pieces should not exceed 1,000 words.

Submission Deadlines:

Fall/Winter - Oct 15
Spring/Summer - April 15

Advertising: The FMC invites advertising or classified advertising that would be useful to our members.

Rates:

\$400 back page	\$300 full page
\$160 ½ page	\$80 ¼ page
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FMC

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMC) is a nonprofit organization representing the interests of nonmechanized hikers and climbers, and outdoor clubs throughout British Columbia. The FMC 1) addresses mountain access, recreation, and conservation issues; 2) coordinates, builds, and maintains hiking and mountain access trails throughout B.C. through its member clubs; and 3) promotes outdoor education and safety.

Membership

Membership in the FMC is open to any individual or club interested in nonmechanized outdoor activities, and access, recreational, and conservation concerns.

Club Membership

Please contact the FMC office to receive a list of clubs that belong to the FMC (see inside back cover). Membership is \$15 per annum per membership when a member of a FMC Club and \$25 per annum for individual members.

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Cover Photograph

Hikers ready to leave the Outdoor Club of Victoria summer camp at Della Falls, 20 August 1950, City of Victoria Archives, M07767. Image has been cropped.

President's Message

Pat Harrison

The Federation of Mountain Clubs is in its 35th year. It has grown as the many challenges to the non-motorized outdoor recreation have increased; more people and a greater variety of backcountry recreation opportunities. Although British Columbia's outdoors is vast, the increase in use of motorized recreation quickly reduces this vastness as the sounds from 'their' recreation travel far. Indeed, it is fast becoming rare to find an area in the backcountry that is free from some type of motorized activity (considering the number of commercial tenures being issued). Now, more than ever, we need a strong and effective organization lobbying on behalf of the nonmotorized sector.

Communications has improved in the last ten years within the Federation of Mountain Clubs with the advent of the internet and our list servers. But much remains to be done. For the past six months, we have had a committee looking at the Federation structure. This committee has reported out to the Board, to the Provincial Recreation and Conservation, and Trails Committees. In essence, the committee recommends that every club have the opportunity to have a say on these committees and the board. The committee is proposing that every club have a director. As it stands now, only 16 directors are allowed. That means eight clubs do not have any voting privileges during the year. The committee believes that this needs to be changed. The recommendations have gone to every club via their delegate or director.

The second recommendation is that there be regional recreation and conservation and/or trails committees be established. The chairs of these committees would then form the Provincial Committees. This puts the driving force for issues at the club or grassroots level; a bottom up rather than a top down approach. Much of this framework exists, but it needs to be formalized.

The reorganization committee hopes that clubs will look at the proposal and bring to the AGM their suggestions for finalizing the reorganization.

The other aspect of the Federation of Mountain Clubs is financial security. There has been a committee looking into this. Our reserve needs to be protected and earning money, but it also must not get in the way of the FMC

accessing the gaming funds which it has in the past. The FMC is looking into putting some of the reserve money into a foundation or endowment, and essentially 'removing' it from the books to facilitate access to grant funds. The committee also has been exploring other fundraising options.

I encourage all club members to come to the AGM on June 23 in Nelson and discuss these important issues. After all, this is your organization. The Federation is not an external organization, but rather you are the FMC. The Kootenay Mountaineering Club is hosting the event. I am looking forward to visiting one the FMC's clubs and getting a chance to get to know their members better.



Skiing on Mt. Cokely, Vancouver Island. Peter Rothermel.

Recreation and Conservation Committee Report

Antje Wahl, Committee Co-chair, ACC Vancouver Section, for the Recreation and Conservation Committee

Parks and Wilderness Areas

BC Parks Fixed Roof Accommodation Policy

The FMC responded to fixed roof accommodation policy released in summer 2006 by BC Parks with a letter criticizing the lack of public process involved in developing the policy and the size and scale of developments the policy allows in parks. Since then the FMC has been keeping track of responses to BC Parks request for proposals (RFP) for accommodation facilities in twelve parks. Proposals for new accommodation developments have been submitted, or are being prepared, for three parks: Mount Robson, Maxhamish Lake (north of Fort Nelson) and Cape Scott (on Vancouver Island). At Mount Robson, the Alpine Club of Canada has amended its previous proposal for a new hut to utilize and upgrade an existing facility (the ranger cabin) instead.

Mount Robson Provincial Park Management Plan Update

The park management plan for Mount Robson is being updated to recognize changes in the environment, land use and protected areas planning, and the evolution of BC Parks management (BC Parks). The public comment period for the new management plan ended April 22, 2007. The FMC drafted a response to the new plan regarding the issues of the Alpine Club of Canada proposed hut, the Fixed Roof Accommodation Policy, and helicopter access. The FMC supports upgrading an existing facility such as the ranger cabin for use as a public-oriented hut, but this should not endorse the Government Fixed Roof Accommodation Policy. The FMC opposes helicopter day hiking (dropping of hikers at Berg Lake for a day hike) and also asks for reducing helicopter use for overnight access, which would be allowed by permit for any location in Mount Robson Park except Moose Lake.

Transmission Line through Pinecone Burke Provincial Park?

A transmission line could be built through Pinecone Burke Provincial Park to feed electricity from several proposed small hydro projects on the upper Pitt River. Two transmission line options exist: one would bisect the northern part of Pinecone Burke Park while the second option would run down Pitt Lake. A transmission line through the Pinecone Burke would give access to motorized off-road vehicles (snowmobiles, ATVs) not only into the park but also into neighbouring Garibaldi Provincial Park. The FMC sent a

letter opposing the transmission line option through Pinecone Burke, also noting that any development in the park should not be considered before a park management plan is in place.

Backcountry Commercial Recreation Tenures

The FMC Recreation and Conservation Committee continues to respond to the many tenure and resort proposals in popular backcountry recreation areas across the Province. In many areas these tenures have the potential to pose significant threats to recreational access and impact backcountry experiences due to motorized activity. The FMC is being vigilant in defending such areas and self-propelled activities.

Heli-Ski Tenure Application for Waddington Area

An application for a commercial heli-skiing tenure in the Waddington Range, Whitemantle Range and at Silverthrone Glacier (Ha-iltzuk Icefield) is with the BC Government. The FMC, clubs and many individuals have sent letters and emails to the Ministry opposing heli-skiing in these remote ranges that are unique and important for skiers and climbers. Please see the Waddington article by Evan Loveless for more information.

Heli-Lodge on Monarch Icefield Approved

Bella Coola Heli Sports tenure application for a four-season lodge on the Monarch Icefield at Ape Lake has been approved according to information from the Integrated Land Management Bureau. However, Bella Coola Heli Sports may not build the lodge if they buy another lodge (Tweedsmuir Lodge).

Motorized Use Conflicts

Off Road Vehicles Legislation

Off-road vehicles (ORV) in the backcountry can have significant negative impacts on ecosystems and other non-motorized recreational users. The FMC and the Outdoor Recreation Council approved the final recommendations by the ORV Coalition to the BC Government for licensing and registration of ORVs in 2006. However little has been done on this file because various interest groups are in disagreement about how licensing and registration should take place. Government has told us that nothing will be done regarding ORV legislation until all parties are in agreement.

The FMC will endeavour to work with the Coalition and other interest groups to reach a consensus on this important issue. Meanwhile Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman recently announced an amendment to the Forest and Range Practices Act to allow fines up to \$100,000 to be levied against ORVs (ATVs, dirt bikes, etc.) in areas that are designated sensitive ecosystems.

No Snowmobile Road through Phelix Creek Valley, Pemberton

A group of snowmobile riders (including the Sea-to-Sky Trail Grooming Society) supported an initiative to put in a snowmobile road that would go through the Cadwalader and Phelix Creek drainages. The intent was to build a through road to use as a circuit tour for snowmobiles. This would obviously have very negative impacts for the backcountry users of this area. The good news is that Stan Hagen, Minister of Tourism, Sports and the Arts, and ministry staff rejected the road application and supported the nonmotorized designation recommended by the Sea-to-Sky Winter Backcountry Sharing Accord.

Nonmotorized Designation: Forest & Range Practices Act Section 58

The FMC will be working to have areas zoned nonmotorized in landuse planning processes (for example by the Sea-to-Sky Backcountry Sharing Accord) legally designated as non-motorized under Section 58 of the BC Forest & Range Practices Act. Violators of Section 58 designations can be prosecuted.

Resort Developments

Legislative Assembly Approves Bill that Could Permit Jumbo Glacier Resort

Section 15 of the Community Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2007, passed in late March 2007, allows Cabinet to unilaterally decide on mega-resorts such as the proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort. The FMC sent a letter to the BC government opposing the changes to decision making on mega-resorts and suggested that the new regulations should not be used in situations where a nearby community does not want a resort, such as in the case of Jumbo Glacier.

Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Plan Update

Mount Sproatt (Whistler) Could Be Lost to Commercial Snowmobiling

Great Canadian Snowmobiling, owned by Intrawest, appears to be getting tenure on Mount Sproatt in exchange for an area in the Callaghan lost to VANOC for the 2010 Olympics. Mount Sproatt had been recommended for non-motorized recreation in the Sea-to-Sky Winter Backcountry Forum Sharing Accord. For skiers Mount Sproatt is one of very few day trip destinations in a non-motorized area. The FMC objects to unilaterally changing the designation of Mount Sproatt to motorized and continues to work with other Backcountry Forum members and the BC Government on this issue.

Backcountry Forum Signs Ready, Sign Bases Yet to Be Decided

The signs indicating backcountry use in the Sea-to-Sky corridor are ready, but the design of the sign bases has not been decided yet (concrete or excavation). In any case, the signs will be in place for next winter. Volunteers will be needed to help with this work this summer, so if you are interested contact Pat Harrison.

Road Access to Trailheads

Cayoosh Creek Access Management Plan

The FMC has provided feedback on which Forest Service roads should be maintained for accessing trailheads in summer and winter along Duffey Lake Road (Hwy 99) between Lytton and D'Arcy.

Write Letters

We encourage members to write letters to government to keep the pressure on these and other issues. Following are e-mail addresses for key Ministers: Premier Gordon Campbell: Premier@gov.bc.ca, Pat Bell (Minister of Agriculture and Lands): Pat.Bell@gov.bc.ca, Stan Hagen (Minister of Tourism, Sport and the Arts): Stan.Hagen@gov.bc.ca, Barry Penner (Minister of the Environment): Barry.Penner@gov.bc.ca, and Rich Coleman (Minister of Forests): Rich.Coleman@gov.bc.ca. You can also cc your email to your MLA. Faxes are also recommended.

Trails Committee Report

Alex Wallace

Howe Sound Crest Trail Upgrade

The Federation of Mountain Clubs has successfully applied for a \$300,000 grant from VANOC as a Cypress 2010 Legacy to upgrade the Howe Sound Crest Trail, one of the busiest trails in Southwest BC, and perhaps the trail most in need of repair and signage. This is the result of a series of Legacy meetings over the last two years. The project will be done in coordination with BC Parks. It will start begin with the development of a scope of work in 2007 followed by construction beginning in 2008. It is anticipated that further funding will be secured by BC Parks to replace the decrepit emergency shelters on the trail at Magnesia Meadows and Brunswick Lake, and also to repair the muddy section of the Baden-Powell trail on the Black Mountain plateau. The rationale for this funding is that Cypress is BC's busiest day-use park, and also the only provincial park that will have 2010 venues built in it by VANOC, so hikers will have to put up with several more years of frantic construction in the Cypress Bowl area. The trailhead will have an interpretive gateway adjacent to the 2010 snowboarding venue and a new ski hill day lodge. The FMC and BC Parks successfully upgraded the Yew Lake trail in this area twelve years ago: our last big trail project.



BP Trail closure sign at Whyte Lake. Alex Wallace.

Lions Bay Parking

The solution that FMC came up with, using the gravel parking lot and street parking at the elementary school on weekends and holidays (50 cars), as well as the parking for ten cars at the Sunset Drive trailhead, seems to have resolved the issue. Unfortunately the loop trail that the Trails Committee created to take hikers completely around the village is now being encroached on by Ministry of Transportation (MoT) highway construction, so this will have to be reviewed when the Sea-to-Sky upgrade is completed.

Baden-Powell Trail

The destruction of the Baden-Powell Trail section above Horseshoe Bay still has not been generally understood, perhaps because the cheerful government graphics showed the Sea-to-Sky Upgrade starting at Horseshoe Bay. So people are still hoping to hike this trail section, and some are walking though the construction site. A replacement route via Nelson Canyon and Whyte Lake Trail is to be upgraded, with a new bridge across Nelson Creek built by West Vancouver; however the funding from Peter Kiewit and Sons (the Sea-to-Sky Contractor) is currently 'under negotiation.' Nelson Creek is also some way from Horse-

shoe Bay, and while it is a nice hike via Whyte Lake, it can't be recommended at this time to the general public as this trail currently lacks any signage, is not built for high numbers of hikers, and has many blowdowns on it from the recent storms. The "upgraded" Eagleridge Parking lot and trailhead for the Baden-Powell trail that we were consulted on has quietly been dropped, although we were never contacted as a stakeholder group to inform us of this abrupt change of plan. Similarly, because the promised parking at the Sunset Trail has not materialized, no-one is using this trail. So it's going to take a bit more work before these trail access issues are resolved. We will post a link to the current set of hiking trail plans on the FMC website and get an update out to clubs.

Save the Elk Mountain Trail!

Gerry Hannah, Chilliwack Outdoor Club

There is a beautiful and very popular hiking trail out here in Chilliwack called the Elk Mountain/Mt. Thurston Trail. It starts out in the hills at the foot of the mountains just south of town on the ridge above the area known as Ryder Lake. This ridge separates the Fraser and Chilliwack river valleys from one another. The trail initially climbs through an enchanting old forest

Eventually, the trail emerges in a south facing, subalpine meadow that stretches along the top of the ridge for many, many kilometres eastward. From this meadow, you can see the Fraser Valley, the Chilliwack River Valley, the mountain peaks in the Harrison Lake area, the mountain peaks in the north Cascades (including Baker) and all the local peaks (including Mt. Cheam and Mt. McGuire), which are up close and personal!

This is the summit of Elk Mountain, a great destination for a day hike. But the trail doesn't stop here; it continues on for another 11 kilometres, bobbing up and down along the ridge past Mt. Thurston, eventually reaching Mt. Mercer. The possibilities for subalpine exploration and for viewing beautiful alpine scenery along this upper section of the trail are practically endless—and all within a just a few hours of downtown Chilliwack.

The trail provides perhaps the quickest, easiest access to the subalpine in the whole upper Fraser Valley—and a vast area of subalpine at that. It also

provides a breathtaking semiwilderness experience and is very popular, both with local hikers and hikers from afar. As well, because the trailhead is mostly snow free throughout the winter and the trail is relatively safe from avalanche hazard, the Elk Mountain Trail gets a fair amount of year round use—it's an excellent snowshoe destination when conditions are right! The trail is also apparently becoming a popular destination for school field trips due to its accessibility, rich biological diversity and beautiful vistas.

Believe it or not, this incredible trail is in danger of being logged this August!! That's right. A local logging outfit has submitted a proposal to the Chilliwack Forest District office and is planning on beginning a series of logging operations in the immediate vicinity of the trail this summer.



View from first ridge, Elk Mountain. Ray Daws.

where the sounds of civilization are beautifully muted; within a few minutes of hiking one is treated to a near silence interrupted only occasionally by the call of a bird high in the treetops. The forest consists of various types of large conifers, very tall, very stately and there is surprisingly little underbrush. Although the sunlight that filters down through the high canopy is diffuse, casting a strange golden-green light, you can actually see quite a long way into the forest in most directions—a unique situation in a Chilliwack area rainforest! The trail itself is one of the best in the area, being very wide, easy to follow and for the most part, well-graded.

The first two clear cuts planned are right next to the trail (one within several metres) and the access road will actually run right over top of a portion of the existing trail! The trail will be closed to the public while logging operations are underway. This is only the beginning; there are clear cuts planned in the area for the future.

The lower half of the trail, as it turns out, is within the boundaries of Woodlot #84 and the woodlot was recently awarded to the Ch-ihl-kway-uhk Forestry Limited Partnership (CFLP) for timber harvesting over the next ten years. The CFLP is a business partnership involving eight bands from the Sto:lo First Nation. The CFLP posted a 'Notice for Public Viewing' in March in a local newspaper, as they were required, to give the public a chance to comment on their logging proposal. They failed, however, to mention in the notice that a large part of the Elk Mountain Trail was

to treat it in any special way. As it turns out, according to the Chilliwack Forest District office, the trail indeed, does not currently have designated legal status. This is puzzling given that the trail is undeniably one of the most popular hikes in the area; it has appeared on numerous Ministry of Forests' recreational maps and brochures over the years up until quite recently and they've spent money on it for maintenance in the past. Yet we are now told that the trail has apparently 'gone missing' from official documentation due to an 'oversight'!

So far, opposition to this logging proposal has been met with a polite stonewalling from the various agencies and individuals that have control over the process. Despite the creation of a very well designed and informative website, a rally at the trailhead attended by close to 200 protesters and the local media in April, and numerous letters, emails and



inside the woodlot and would be directly impacted by their proposed operations. In fact, there was no mention of the trail at all! As a result, many people who would have been opposed to this proposal had they known about its impact on the trail, were left in the dark as to the situation. As well, a plan showing the proposed logging operations was put on public display at the CFLP office in Chilliwack. Interestingly enough though, the CFLP has been adamant that no copies of the plan will be made available to the public; one is instead expected to actually go to the office in person, view the plan and somehow be able to remember it in accurate detail later. It's easy to get the feeling that this so called "public process" has not been undertaken in the spirit of openness and transparency.

The CFLP claim that the Elk Mountain Trail has no designated legal status and that they are therefore not required

phone calls to the powers that be, no one appears to have yet looked carefully and honestly at this absurd proposal and taken action to stop it.

Kerry Grozier, the Chilliwack Forest District area manager, has stated that although the trail does not have legal designation, that doesn't mean its value will be ignored. Many of us feel that its value is already being ignored in the current logging proposal—I mean really, is building a logging road over top of a back country trail acknowledging its value? He has also stated that the forests in the district are meant to be "working forests" and not for any exclusive use, but no one is arguing that the forest in the Chilliwack Forest District should be preserved for the exclusive use of hikers. Most people understand and accept that logging operations will take place throughout the district and that in terms of access this can often be a positive thing. But not when a

road runs over top of a popular, well established trail or when clear cuts are created within a few metres of it. Nor when it is intermittently closed during the summer due to logging operations for the next ten years. This isn't integrated use; this is exclusive use, for logging. Under such conditions the whole point of hiking the trail becomes negated. The trail becomes an industrial site rather than a semiwilderness experience.

He also suggests that if the logging operations go forward, the woodlot licensee will be able to provide surveillance of the area thereby cutting down on damaging and littering of the trail by irresponsible individuals. This seems unlikely when most partying and ATV riding occurs on weekends when logging operations are shut down. Many of us believe it's more likely that with the creation of an access road leading to the area two thirds of the way up



L-R: Mt. Slesse and Border Peaks from Elk Mountain; View of Cheam from Elk Mountain; Ridge Trail on Elk Mountain. Ray Daws.

the trail, ATVs (and the damage and litter they bring in their wake) may reach the subalpine meadows. Clearly, that would be a disaster. Mr. Grozier also suggests that they are open to compromise and that we contact Matt Wealick, the forester overseeing the CFLP's proposal and make our concerns known to him. But those of us who have been lucky enough to get any response at all from Mr. Wealick, have been told by him that ideas like leaving a one hundred metre buffer between the clear cuts and the trail, and moving the access road so that it doesn't run over top of the trail, "won't work". Considering that even these modest proposals were quickly rejected out of hand, it's hard to see even a seed of the willingness to compromise that Mr. Grozier has spoken of.

By the time you read this article, the deadline for receiving public comments on this logging proposal (May 8/07) will have come and gone, and the online petition against the proposal will have been sent off to the various authorities (also on May 8th). But opposition to the logging of the Elk Mountain Trail need not end at that point. In fact, it's crucial that the opposition continues if we are to stand a chance of maintaining the integrity of the trail. And it may not be just this trail's fate that is at stake here. As it turns out, very few of the trails that we know and love in the Chilliwack Forest District have designated status. That means that if those pushing this proposal through are successful in their efforts and meet with little resistance, we could be fighting the same battle over and over again, trail after trail. The outcome of this situation will likely set the precedent for years to come.

That's why it's important that everyone opposed to the logging of the Elk Mountain Trail contact people like Kerry Grozier, Matt Wealick, Barry Penner, Rich Coleman (Minister of Forests and Range) and even Premier Gordon Cambell, and make your feelings known to them. Both their email addresses and mailing addresses are given at the website, www.elkmtntail.com (as well as a lot of other important information). They need to be told that not only should the current logging proposal put forward by the CFLP be deferred, but also that the trail should be legally designated ASAP and the boundaries of Woodlot #84 should be redrawn to exclude the trail so that it receives adequate protection in the future. Or, if you don't have time to write your own letter, there are two sample letters already written available for your use at the website. The time for action is now! Please help us save the Elk Mountain Trail.

Heli-Ski Tenure Application for the Mt. Waddington Wilderness: Making the Last Stand?

Evan Loveless, Executive Director, FMC

The Federation of Mountain Clubs learned about a heli-ski tenure application in the Mt Waddington area in February. The application by Knight Inlet Helisports Ltd. would include heli-skiing and other heli-assisted activities over a massive area including the Waddington Range, the Whitemantle Range and the whole Klinaklini-Silverthrone watershed. This area, in particular the Waddington Range, which includes the highest mountain entirely within BC—Mt. Waddington, is recognized as an extremely important world-class mountaineering, climbing and ski touring area. It has gained international notoriety due to the abundance and variety of climbing and skiing objectives. Equally as important are the rugged approaches, bad weather, poor and often dangerous climbing conditions, and complete isolation and remoteness, which have all become the hallmarks of the “Waddington” wilderness experience. The Waddington Range was first ‘discovered’ in the early 1920s by Don and Phyllis Munday. The famous tales of incredible hardships endured by these mountain and wilderness explorers are chronicled in numerous books and articles.

Since the mid-70s, helicopters have provided climbing and skiing groups easier access to the Waddington and surrounding ranges, but for the most part the prevailing activity in these areas is clearly nonmotorized—skiing, climbing, hiking etc. In the words of Don Serl, prominent coast range climber and explorer, “once the helicopter leaves, groups are completely on their own, immersed in a ‘big mountain’ wilderness setting.” Most parties fly in to basecamps, then spend a week or two climbing or skiing to nearby summits and on adjacent slopes. Some parties still access the area on foot or on ski and from time to time, long-distance touring parties pass through the Ranges, on ski or hiking traverses. For instance, parties may traverse from Middle Lake in the Mosley Creek valley south through the Pantheon, Waddington, and Whitemantle Ranges to exit at the coast, or take the Ha-Iltzuk traverse from Bella Coola or Ape Lake across the Monarch Icefields and onward into and across the Silverthrone and Klinaklini glacial systems to exit at Knight Inlet. These traverses can be up to four weeks in length and require a tremendous amount of physical exertion and personal commitment.

For these parties the last thing they want to encounter is a helicopter buzzing around them constantly servicing heli-ski groups.

As mentioned, Mt. Waddington and the surrounding ranges are internationally popular. This being said, the amount of use might appear to be relatively low with an estimated 80-100 recreationists every year, many of these groups being small parties (two-three) with the occasional larger group (20-30). However, the FMC would argue that the relatively low usage is part of the area’s wilderness appeal. The desirable qualities of mountain or backcountry wilderness areas like Mt Waddington are dependent on their low population density and low-use factor, difficulty of travel, and freedom from pollution of all kinds (physical, chemical, visual,



Mount Waddington, December 2006. John Scurlock.

acoustic). The Waddington Range is a remote, rugged region distant from even the most rudimentary roads. As such, access is challenging, somewhat logistically complicated, time-consuming, and expensive. This limits recreation in the area but at the same time motivates committed wilderness enthusiasts to explore the area. Most mountaineering and climbing etc. in the Waddington Ranges occurs in the summer, while the prime ski season is March to May. Some parties do attempt ski trips and climbing ascents in the winter but this is not the norm. Some of this use is documented in publications like the Alpine Journal (published by the Alpine Club of Canada).

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The introduction of a heli-ski tenure into this area will have damaging and irreversible impacts on the traditional, nonmotorized, self-propelled recreational users of the Waddington Range and surrounding area. As our members know all too well, heli-skiing and ski touring activity are not compatible. The government even acknowledges this in their overlapping activity matrices. This tenure will certainly have an impact on the traditional user groups that date back to when the Mundays explored the area, and this is especially the case for the Mt Waddington Range.

Waddington offers a sense of wildness, which can be valuable to people whether or not they actually visit wilderness. Just knowing that wilderness exists can produce a sense of curiosity, inspiration, renewal, imagination, hope and potential. For the nonmotorized recreationist Waddington offers extraordinary and challenging recreational opportunities, allowing present and future generations the opportunity to experience risk, reward, self-reliance and personal growth. As Bob Marshall, famous American forester and conservationist stated: 'We not only value the wilderness because of its own superlative values but because our experience in the wilderness meets fundamental human needs. These needs are not only recreational and

spiritual, but also educational and scientific, not only personal but cultural. They are profound. For the wilderness is essential to us, as human beings, for a true understanding of ourselves, our culture, our own natures, our place in all nature.' For these reasons the FMC feels compelled to protect it, from this and any future applications for motorized activity except for restricted motorized access (heli-access) for self-propelled groups.

Several individuals and organizations have submitted responses to this proposal citing the "special place" the Waddington area holds for our nonmotorized, self-propelled community and wilderness enthusiasts alike. The FMC responded to government and the proponent with several comments and recommendations including: rejecting the present tenure application (at least the inclusion of the Waddington Range) and to create a permanent nonmotorized area here. Generally speaking, we feel that the area included in the tenure application is too large especially for the size of operation the proponent is contemplating, and any one of the zones (i.e. the ones adjacent to Knight Inlet) would suffice. The FMC also submitted recommendations for an appropriate communication and avoidance strategy in the areas they could operate.

Government is still deliberating over the application and we are asking members to review the tenure application and associated tenure map and write letters addressed to the Ministry of Tourism Sport and the Arts, Suite 142-2080A Labieux Rd., Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6J9, Attn. Diane Tetarenko, Manager, Adventure Tourism. Fax (250) 751-7224, or email Diane.Tetarenko@gov.bc.ca. You can also view the FMC responses on our website in the media section.

Horses, Mountain Bikes and Private Facilities in Strathcona Park?

Diana Fright, Comox District Mountaineering Club

Clayoquot Wilderness Resort (CWR) has made an application to BC Parks for a 20 year Parks Use Permit (PUP) to guide parties on horseback and mountain bikes up the Bedwell Trail from tidewater to You Creek. CWR proposes to do trail work, build several bridges sturdy enough to carry horses, construct eight tent platforms, a composting toilet, and a corral for twelve horses at You Creek. Of the eight tent platforms, three will always be available for the public, while the other five will be reserved for the exclusive use of CWR clients on certain days.

The CWR proposal is in contravention of the Strathcona Park Master Plan (SPMP) which does not allow mountain bike use anywhere within the Park, and restricts horse use to old roadbeds to the west of Gold, Kunlin and Donner Lakes. But instead of holding public meetings facilitated by BC Parks staff in several communities to provide information and elicit feedback, as was recommended by Strathcona Park Public Advisory Committee, public consultation was limited to two open houses hosted by CWR. Moreover, public response to the proposal will be summarized by a consultant hired by CWR, who will submit a report on the open houses to BC Parks! At the very least, a much broader and open consultation process is needed, one without the appearance of bias.

Background information on the CWR application is available at www.cwrapplication.com. However, be advised that quotes from the Strathcona Park Master Plan are only those sections that appear to support the CWR application, and reference to the complete SPMP document is necessary for

accurate interpretation. This is available at http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/mgmtplns/strathcona/strath_mp.html. There are many aspects of this proposal for which CWR has not provided adequate information, such as exactly how they plan to manage manure, deal with wildlife encounters, deal with mountain bikers who are not CWR clients to mention a few, but there are many other concerns.

If you are troubled by this proposal, please send your comments directly to the people (listed below) who will be making the decision on whether to approve the application or not.

The Hon. Barry Penner
Minister of the Environment
PO Box 9047
Rm. 112, Parliament Buildings
Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
env.minister@gov.bc.ca

And please send copies of your letters to:

Andy Smith
Strathcona Park Supervisor
1812 Miracle Beach Drive
Black Creek, BC V9J 1K1
Andy.Smith@gov.bc.ca

Shane Simpson, MLA
NDP Environment Critic
Room 201, Parliament Buildings
501 Belleville Street
Victoria, BC V8V 1X9
shane.simpson.mla@leg.bc.ca

Ramblings

The Outdoor Club of Victoria: A History of 65 Years

Bob Spearing, Outdoor Club of Victoria

The Outdoor Club of Victoria was formed in 1942 by a group of hikers from the Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Island Section, who had been participating informally in local area hikes for some time. Feeling that an organization was needed to promote and arrange local hikes - which the local Alpine Club had not been doing - the group, led by Tom Goodlake, held the first meeting of the Outdoor Club of Victoria on March 7, 1942.

was run by a secretary-treasurer and five committees. Thus the club was kept alive over these difficult years. After World War II, nearly every member returned to the club, along with spouses and friends, and in 1946 there were 57 members recorded.

Regular monthly meetings were held in members' homes, at which speakers and pictures were presented to provide programs related to the club's fields of activity. As well,



Group of Outdoor Club of Victoria hikers on Mt. Work, March 1954. City of Victoria Archives, MO 7752.

The statement to outline the purpose of the club said: 'The Club is for people interested in the outdoors for hiking and for other side interests, such as nature studies and biking parties.'

On a weekend outing to Saltspring Island on June 6 and 7th 1942, the club's first summer program was planned, which was then published in the club's newsletter, *The Ground Sheet*. As this was during World War II, and as over twenty-five members joined the armed forces, the club was run at first without an executive and without bylaws. Instead, it

annual banquets were held at which pine cone awards were presented to recognize people who had made special contributions to club activities. Transportation to and from hike areas, every second weekend, was by bus, boat or train, or by Tom Goodlake's yellow 1931 De Soto convertible, which at times carried ten or more passengers.

The Outdoor Club of Victoria maintained good relations with the Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Island Section, and at times the two clubs held joint meetings.



“Yellow Banana:” Tom Goodlake’s car used to transport OCV hikers, c. 1945. City of Victoria Archives, MO7766.

In 1948 the club discovered a good skiing area on Mount Brenton, west of Chemainus, and in 1950, under the leadership of the president, Gordon Bowes, started a campaign to have the area set aside as a park. At the same time, with the property owner’s permission, they organized skiing trips to the area. The skiing proved so popular that the Victoria Ski Club was formed in 1951 to organize ski trips to Mount Brenton and to carry on the campaign to lobby the provincial government to establish a park on the mountain. By 1952 the Victoria Ski Club had been renamed the Sno-Birds Ski Club, and had built a cabin on the shore of Silver Lake at the foot of Mount Brenton, and had installed a 600 foot ski tow. Failing to convince the government to establish the park, the Sno-Birds moved their operations to Green Mountain about ten years later.

The Outdoor Club of Victoria over the years supported various movements to open areas of Vancouver Island for outdoor activities. In 1953 the club supported a campaign to establish a road along the coast between Jordan River and Port Renfrew. In 1956 moves to turn over Goldstream

Park, then owned by the City of Victoria, to the provincial government, and to have Thetis Lake Park, also owned by the City, maintained as a natural playground, were supported by the club. In 1957 the Outdoor Club of Victoria was a key supporter of the establishment of a hiking trail from Great Central Lake via Della Falls to Buttle Lake.

In 1965 the Club decided to take on a project to establish a series of hiking trails to commemorate the following centennials:

1866-1966 - Union of the Crown Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia.

July 1, 1867 - The Dominion of Canada proclaimed.

July 20, 1871- British Columbia joined the Confederation of Canada.

Goldstream Park was chosen as the site and, with permission of the Provincial Parks Branch, the Arbutus Ridge and Gold Mine trails were built in 1966 and 1967. In 1970-71 the Prospector’s Trail was built. Well known naturalist,

Freeman King, used the first two trails for his nature walks in the park. The club voluntarily maintained this trail system until 2004.

In 1969 The Outdoor Club of Victoria was one of the principal backers of an acquisition program, drawn up by parks planner Tony Roberts, for the core of what was to become the Capital Regional District Parks system. The largest component was East Sooke Park, where the Club had hiked for a number of years.

In 1970 a Conservation Committee was formed within the club, the main concern being protection and development of outdoor recreational areas suitable for hiking and camping, particularly on Vancouver Island.

In 1970-71 the club was one of the supporters of a campaign to establish the West Coast Trail section of Pacific Rim National Park, having had practical experience of hiking along various sections of the West Coast Lifesaving Trail.

Also in 1970, a group from the Outdoor Club of Victoria built a new, much shorter trail from the West Coast Road to Sombrio Beach, utilizing an old logging road for an approach.

In 1971 the club backed a proposal to preserve the Nitinat Triangle and to add it to the West Coast Trail section of Pacific Rim National Park. This same year the club joined in the successful opposition to a proposed subdivision that threatened to pollute Thetis Lake. Five hundred acres of this land was purchased in 1974 by the provincial government, and in 1980 it was transferred to the City of Victoria to be added to Thetis Lake Park.

In 1972 The Outdoor Club of Victoria supported the acquisition of the Aylard Farm, to be added to East Sooke Park. It was purchased by the Capital Regional District, making the park the most versatile in the system.

In 1979 the club supported a campaign to prevent establishment of a tourist information office in Goldstream Park, just off the highway, which would have been a potential source of pollution of Goldstream River. Also in 1979, the Club went further afield in supporting the Valhalla Wilderness Society's campaign to establish a provincial park in the Valhalla Mountains.

In 1985 an annual outing exchange was initiated with the Klahhane Hiking Club of Port Angeles, and the exchange continued through the 1990s.

In November 1986 the Outdoor Club of Victoria became a registered Society.

In 2000 the club established the Millennium Project to build up a capital fund with the Victoria Foundation. The fund provides interest money for the support of future outdoor-related projects.

Throughout its sixty-five years, while carrying out the above activities, the Outdoor Club of Victoria has maintained outdoor programs which have included hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking, skiing, snowshoeing, outdoor skating, backpacking, spring and summer three- or four-day outings, and one or two week summer camp-outs. The numbers of hikes has escalated from one every second weekend to three to five per weekend, mainly on the southern portion of Vancouver Island, so the club carries on the activities mentioned in its 1942 statement of purpose.

The Explorers: A Short History of the British Columbia Mountaineering Club

Dave Scanlon, British Columbia Mountaineering Club

They were explorers. Adventurers if you will. For several years a number of enthusiasts had individually been making forays into the local mountains. As their numbers increased and they started to make contact with each other they realized the importance of forming a club to formalize their efforts. In early October 1907 Mr. George Jarrett arranged an informal meeting. A public meeting was called for October 28th in the rooms of the tourist association. The Vancouver Mountaineering club was born. An artistic design for a crest was designed and presented and has been in use ever since. It represents the most climbed mountains by the club: Grouse, Dam, The Lions, Goat, and Crown. The second annual meeting was held March 29th 1909 and the club name was changed to the present one: British Columbia Mountaineering Club.

Events were now roaring along with many club trips, events, occurring. Five acres were secured by the club on Grouse Mountain in January 1910 for the construction of a cabin, the beginning of many to be built by the club over

the years. Two new sections of the club were formed in 1911; a botanical and geological section. A Mr Heaney is credited with the contribution to the topography of the local area that the early club members were venturing into. Conservation and land issues have also been a large part of the club since it's beginning. As a newer member and having read some of the history, one of the things that stands out is the club's involvement in the establishment of Garibaldi Provincial Park. Early camps held there brought to the fore the naturally stunning beauty and uniqueness of the area. The BCMC petitioned the BC government to protect the area as early as 1917, and in 1927 the Garibaldi Park Act was passed.

The British Columbia Mountain Club was formed by a like-minded group of individuals joining together to pursue their goals. Many of the local mountains, glaciers, creeks have been named after club members: Dalton, Bishop, Warren, Trorey in Garibaldi Park in the old days, Chapman, Fowler, Mills, Henderson, Binkert, and others, more recently; many were named after first ascents by BCMC members.

At times the botanical and geological sections were larger than the rest of the club and those meetings were very well attended. The social events list was long and very well attended, with dances, Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners, bowling evenings, as well as the annual general banquet being some of the favourites.

The BCMC has always been seen as the club for the average 'Joe.' It has always had courses taught by club members, for club members. From summer and winter camps for the average club hiker, to expedition-type camps to faraway places. The BCMC has been noted as the club that opened up the Coast Range Mountains with

something for all.

The club has always made available articles for members and the general public pertaining to mountain access, huts, club events, trip reports. During the more recent past it has helped and aided in the publishing of guide books, climbing books, and mountaineering books, thus expanding the club's exposure and giving the public information and access to the many outdoor trails we have here in this part of British Columbia.

Not being part of a national or group of other clubs has given the BCMC a unique place in the mountaineering world. Everything is done locally by locals, for locals. It does belong to the Federation of Mountain Clubs as a representative to government offices and officials as I think it should.

The 100 years of volunteering by club members has kept the BCMC a vibrant and ongoing organization. What impresses me the most is that the BCMC is a volunteer group of people working and playing together. And we have to understand that there is some work involved as any past executive member will attest.

The British Columbia Mountaineering Club. For and by the members.

For a list of BCMC centennial events see pages 17-18.

Below, L-R: BCMC Emblem, 1907; BC Mountain Club Members on Mt. Garibaldi in 1923; BCMC Celebrates 100 years. Images provided by BCMC.



Updates from Around the Province

National Hiking Trail

Pat Harrison, President, Federation of Mountain Clubs

In 1998, the Federation of Mountain Clubs renewed its affiliation with the National Hiking Trail project which began in the 1980s. Since the renewal in 1998, the FMC and some of its affiliate clubs have continued to work on the world's longest nonmotorized trail when completed. Right now, more than 3000 kilometres of the proposed 10 000 km trail have been completed across Canada. When the trail reaches 5 000, it will surpass the longest nonmotorized trail, the Pacific Crest Trail in the United States.

Trail activities continue on Vancouver Island. The Alberni Valley Outdoor Club continues to make strides south of Port Alberni. They are reopening the Canadian Pacific Railway Grade. The National Hiking Trail signs have been put up on the trail. North of Port Alberni, the Friends of Log Train Trail continue to face severe challenges from motorized activity on the Log Train Trail. Private land issues remain on the part of the trail that crosses the backbone of the Beaufort Mountains. The Island Delegates of the Federation of Mountain Clubs are working extremely hard to try to break this deadlock with TimberWest. Last year, the city of Courtenay endorsed the National Hiking Trail and promised to work with Hike BC and the Comox District Mountaineering Club members on planning for the trail crossing in the urban areas of Courtenay.

On the Sunshine Coast, the Powell River Parks and Wilderness Association has signed the Sunshine Coast Trail from Powell River to Saltry

Bay. From Earl's Cove to Langdale, the trail has yet to be determined. However, at the Community Forum of Mayors for Howe Sound held at Furry Creek last month, much support was expressed for the National Hiking Trail. As the FMC is rebuilding the Howe Sound Crest trail, the National Hiking Trail will be greatly improved. The Sea-to-Sky Trail Association reiterated its support for the NHT on its trail at the Community Forum of Mayors.

In the North, the fundamental route from Bella Coola to Alberta is in place. However, with much damage from windstorms, the maintenance of the trail remains an issue. At the Hike BC AGM, interest in the project was expressed by a representative of the Ministry of Sports, Tourism, and the Arts. That is an encouraging sign that the word about the National Hiking Trail is getting out to governments at many levels. Members of the Quesnel City Council are becoming aware of the trail coming through their community. The route east of Quesnel is gradually falling in place with another portion of the trail being flagged and brushed last summer. The route between Likely and Keithley Creek remains an enigma. The 1861 Gold Rush Trail seems to be in good shape to Barkerville, but has not been walked this season yet.

North of Barkerville, 20 kilometres of trail remains to be brushed out, but little-used logging roads provide access to the Goat River Trail at the Northwest corner of Bowron Provincial Park. The portion of the trail along the area north of Bowron needs brushing out. From McCloud Creek to the Yellowhead Highway has been

brushed out. East of the Fraser River, a few private land issues remain. The Fraser Headwaters Alliance is planning another crew on the East Twin Chako portion of the trail.

Many thanks to Jean Speare of Bouchie Lake for hosting the Hike BC AGM for the second year in a row. She did an outstanding job on providing a home, and feeding the attendees with chili, rolls, and peanut butter cookies. Next year, Hike BC is joining with the Friends of Barkerville to celebrate the 150th Birthday of the founding of Barkerville in mid-May as well as the 150th anniversary of Simon Fraser's arrival in the area. Hike BC will hold its AGM in conjunction with the celebrations for Barkerville.

Finally, thanks to all the people who do trail maintenance throughout the year.

Access and Environment: Prince George ACC

Sheldon Clare, Access and Environment Representative and Past Chair, Prince George Section ACC

Access and environment issues in Prince George generally relate to conflict between motorized and non-motorized recreational groups, road access related to changing logging practices, and the needs of the mountain caribou population.

Conflict between motorized and nonmotorized groups arises out of issues in areas commonly used by nonmotorized users, where motorized users tend to want unfettered access.

The issue tends to be a concern when dealing with heli-skiing operations and snowmobile groups. ATV users are also a concern particularly when their activities take them off roads and trails and into alpine areas.

Heli-skiing operations have tended to be relatively easier to negotiate with as they are identifiable entities. While many recreational snowmobile and

ATV enthusiasts are represented by organized clubs, there are significant numbers of that sort of user that are not represented by a group. A basic problem is that even though an arrangement may be made with a club, there can still be rogue users who may not know or care about such arrangements.

Road access issues remain a concern. These issues are at the heart of conflict between access and environmental issues. The reason for this is that active logging roads in our region give tremendous access to wild areas that might otherwise be very difficult to get into. This access means that nonmotorized users can drive or even snowmobile to formerly remote areas to engage in hiking, mountaineering, skiing or hunting activities. The problem is that increased access puts tremendous pressure on wildlife populations. The discussions in the Prince George region regarding the mountain caribou population are classic examples of this problem. The habitat for these animals tends to be in areas that are likewise attractive to recreational users, whether motorized or not.

In addition to recreational users, there are also large numbers of commercial users including trappers, guides and outfitters, heli-ski operations, and logging companies. The companies are required by legislation to produce a Sustainable Forest Management Plan,

which is put out for public comment. To achieve Canadian Standards Association (CSA) certification forest companies operating in the Prince George Forest District have established a Public Advisory Group (PAG). The Public Advisory Group consists of approximately 20 persons representing a range of interests. These interests include forest and logging companies, trappers, motorized and nonmotorized recreation users, commercial recreation users, guide outfitters, community representatives, and interested members of the general public.

One of the representatives on this Public Advisory Group who is a member of the Prince George Section of Alpine Club provided the following information regarding the process and issues.



Mike Nash

View north across the Rocky Mountain Trench from Driscoll Ridge.

First, companies are required to have a plan with objectives and indicators that can be measured for results. Their plans are required to be audited by independent bodies, such as KPMG, for compliance with regulations and achievement of objectives. There is some enforcement power, but it is largely through publicity and consumer response. The opportunity for the Public Advisory Group is that it can demand higher standards in some areas, particularly where issues raise access and environment concerns.

Second, a problem for general enforcement is that in the past five years,

the forest service has had fewer teeth. Companies are told to meet standards for roads and bridges and regarding riparian zones. Erosion and safety issues must also be considered. However, there is little requirement to take into consideration other users, even those with licenses. The BC Forest and Range Practices Act doesn't require it. Most companies do try to communicate with other users. Unfortunately recreational users, motorized or not, tend to fall through the cracks. The issue is most apparent around road construction, operation and deactivation.

Locally, we have rapport with Canfor regarding repairs and access, but the problem remains that if they do not have equipment in the area to fix a road problem they aren't about to bring it in for that specific purpose.

The old system that made forest development plans available to the public no longer exists, thus it is harder for members of the public and user groups to find out what is going on.

East of Prince George where logging operations have slowed or stopped many back-country roads are deteriorating, but not much is being done unless there is a clear safety or environmental issue.

Another aspect to the problem is that companies used to receive government support for supporting recreational sites and activities. Unfortunately this is no longer the case. Yet another problem is that the Forest Service budget that used to support recreation work was transferred to the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts, but not the accompanying Forest Service access to heavy equipment and crews that might do the actual work. Some sites were sponsored by forest companies. Now many of these places that

have not proven commercially viable have even had the outhouses pulled out. Again there is no longer a need to consider the needs of recreational users. Now that forest recreation is in the Ministry of Tourism, contractors have been hired, but the budget has been cut in a significant way, reported to be 25% or more.

In short, the flexibility around co-operation with forest companies has operational, policy and strategic considerations. In most cases, operational matters, such as getting a locally employed machine to fix a road problem can be dealt with by communication with the company. Policy matters, such as deactivation, can be modified by communication and lobbying. Strategic matters such as overall logging plans tend to be much more difficult to resolve.

With regards to mountain caribou and nonmotorized recreation there have been some successes such as the volunteer built, and the UNBC and Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Arts supported, Driscoll Ridge and Ancient Forest trail construction east of Prince George. Other areas have had problems, largely related to the changes caused by the pine beetle disaster. For example, the District Access Management Plan for Vanderhoof fell apart. The problem is related to overaccess due to the pine beetle crisis. Highway 16 West has been the main area suffering from the pine beetle problem.

Mountain caribou habitat is also an important part of the access issue. Work to protect the caribou populations started in the 1970s with habitat areas identified by the 1990s. The areas conflict and overlap with all user groups and commercial interests. Regarding recreation and mountain caribou, there are no short-term restrictions. Some good news is that the

indications are that the caribou populations outside of Prince George from the Bowron Lake area north, is stable or increasing. South of that area, however many mountain caribou populations are decreasing. There are clear restrictions on use being planned for a large part of the mountain caribou habitat.

There are three heli-skiing operations in the region. Crescent Spur Heli-Ski is operating in areas where there are low caribou populations. CMH Heli-ski has a lodge up the Canoe River and operate on the edge of the Premiers, the North Thompson and around Bowron Lake. Both of these operating areas are considered to have lower caribou values. The section also worked to make an arrangement with a proposed operation in the Cambrai Icefields. The key to most successful accommodations has been communication with the operator.

The third operator is Bear Paw Heli-ski which has a license to operate in the MacGregor Plateau and adjacent Hart Ranges. This company is in an area with very high mountain caribou habitat values. It also has some potential to conflict with areas used by nonmotorized and motorized groups. The McGregor-Torpy Winter Recreation Agreement was developed between the various user groups and that agreement covers a piece of the heli-ski tenure. The agreement included backcountry skiers (ACC), PG Snowmobile Club, McGregor Wilderness Soc, North Rockies Ski tours and had Forest Service endorsement.

Issues related to parks have not been the focus of this report, but we have lobbied parks for changes regarding flight-seeing in Mt. Robson Provincial Park for several years. The Robson Hut project is supported by the section, but there are some members who are concerned about this development in a park.

BCMC Centennial Events

David Scanlon, BCMC

The centennial committee had its first meeting on May 28th 2003, with the intention of leaving a lasting legacy for the club members for the clubs centenary. All suggestions were put forward to the committee with no idea being too small or outlandish for discussion. As a result the club has:

- Published two calendars. The 2006 calendar was a test run with 2007 being the centennial edition. There is also a possibility of a third calendar depicting this years' centennial events.
- Created a video. This idea came about quite a few years ago. The video committee at that time didn't have any idea of just what they were getting into. The workload has been immense and ongoing, but, they have carried on and the end is in sight, as it has been for all of the centennial ideas, events. The BCMC archival documentary video is being made by award winning Bill Noble and even he has been blown away by the amount of material the BCMC has in the archives.
- Had flags made to be taken on all major club trips. One has already been taken to the summit of Broad Peak. Another is being taken to Mt Fairweather for the BCM's second trip there since 1957. Ravel Chamgoulov will take a third flag to other continental summits taken on his seven summits solo attempt.
- Held a contest for a centennial club emblem. It is now on all club letterheads, newsletters, website, Canada post stamps (that the club had made) and the club's centennial banquet invitations. The BCMC was a part of the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival this February having a slide show presentation and recep-

tion in the lobby on the Canada BC evening.

- A special edition centennial journal is being published and hopefully will be done by years' end. A club history will also be written but will not come to fruition until next year due to other centennial commitments of the writers'.

Other events and activities being planned include:

- The City of North Vancouver is going to be 100 years old this year also, and the BCMC is going to have an exhibit in their museum beginning in September running through to years' end. In cooperation with the city the BCMC is going to have heritage hikes going up Grouse Mountain called 'bug light' hikes, using what the old-timers used to use before batteries came into being.

- Many of the local papers are going to be covering the clubs reenactment of the climbing of Mt. Garibaldi this upcoming July 1st weekend. It will be done in clothing of the period and be an integral part of the club's video.

- A BCMC centennial cabin will be built when the club can find a suitable location.

- Club members are trying to get a mountain and mountain range named after prominent club member John Clarke.

- As the BCMC was instrumental in getting Garibaldi Park formed, the club is going to have a large summer camp there this summer.

- Another major club expedition is going to Mount Fairweather, 50 years after the club was there last.

- A Vancouver Island member is having a commemorative hike up Mt. Arrowsmith on the day of the year that BCMC club members Don and Phylis Munday first saw Mt. Waddington, which was the beginning of their many trips there to explore the area around BC's highest mountain.

- A club member is writing an article on the BCMC's involvement in the beginning of the modern day search and rescue we enjoy today. It started as "The Mountain Rescue Group" a.k.a. MRG and was made up of mainly BCMC members and lower mainland climbers. MRG evolved into the local search and rescue groups of today.

- The Mountain Equipment Co-op stores in the Vancouver area are having displays showing the BCMC's history, with the Broadway Vancouver store letting the club have a large window display for a month.

- The BCMC is also going to get new club trail markers made for the Grouse Mtn. "BCMC" trail and hopefully placed this year.

Finally:

- The highlight of the year will be the October 28th banquet at Grouse Mountain 100 years to the day the club was formed.

The Reading List

The Mountain Project: A Memorial

Neil Grainger
Self-published, 1999

Reviewed by Ron Dart

Those who turn to the mountains are confronted with two obstinate facts: the mountains and the names of the mountains. The names of mountains often tell us much about the history and traditions of an area.

Self-published by Neil Grainger, *The Mountain Project: A Memorial* was dedicated 'to second World War casualties from Chilliwack, Agassiz and Hope.' Those who have taken to the mountains and summits of the Upper Fraser Valley, if curious, might wonder why peaks have the names they do. This was the sort of question that interested and dogged Neil Grainger, and *The Mountain Project* furnished the answers.

Most of the mountains in the Upper Fraser Valley are named after men that were killed in World War II, and the original purpose of the mountain project was to climb each peak and leave some sort of memento to honour the dead. *The Mountain Project* tells the tale of the many climbs done by different people to remember those who climbed peaks of great sacrifice. The book is replete with photographs of the fallen, maps of the mountainous area, newspaper clippings and many a fine and evocative picture of those who have climbed to the summits to honour those who are now dead and gone.

The Mountain Project is divided into seven chapters: 1) Indeed, George, People have Not Forgotten, 2) The Initial Climbs, 3) Family And Other Climbs, 4) Ski Mountaineering, 5) Group Climbs, 6) The Final Climbs, and 7) Conclusion. Each chapter, in a compelling, readable and visual manner, unpacks and unravels at a variety of levels the reasons why different men and women took the time to make it to different peaks and summits in the Upper Fraser Valley.

The Mountain Project: A Memorial is a book well worth a read and reread for many reasons. History is recounted, family connections are made, mountains are made meaningful and the alluring summits of the Upper Fraser Valley and beyond walk us into much that is worth pondering and hearing.

Chinook Days

Tom MacInnes

**Drawings by J. Howard Smith
and John Innes**

**Vancouver, B.C. : Sun Pub. Co.,
1926.**

Reviewed by Ron Dart

The origins of mountaineering on the West Coast have been recounted well by Susan Leslie in her primer, *In The Western Mountains: Early Mountaineering In British Columbia* (1980), and the recent biography of Don/Phyllis Munday, *A Passion for Mountains: The Lives of Don and Phyllis Munday* (2006), by Kathryn Bridge. Needless to say, there are other books on the topic, but rare is the historic overview of the turn to the mountains in BC that mentions Chinook Days.

The tales well told by Tom MacInnes do much to walk us into attitudes taken towards the mountains by some

in the 1920s. 'Grouse Mountain Plateau' is an exquisite little piece on MacInnes' ramble up Grouse in the days when few were in the area. The meetings MacInnes has with a few legendary locals (and the way he recounts the conversations) makes for a worthy read. The drawings in 'Grouse Mountain Plateau' are well done, also. 'Legend of Ko and Klan' is another charming chapter on the background history and mythic meaning of the Lions. The detailed and intricate journey into First Nations' symbols and much else reveals much about how the Lions' bodies took shape and why it is Lions that are seen as sitting on the rock ridges. The sketch of the Lions that completes the chapter is worthy of many a meditative pondering.

There are many other tantalizing chapters in *Chinook Days* such as 'Legend of Wa Wa Rock', 'Yahda of Capilano', 'Early Days on the Inlet' and 'Mike King and the Bear', but 'Grouse Mountain Plateau' and 'Legend of Ko and Klan' are winners for me.

There were 1 000 copies of *Chinook Days* published by *The Vancouver Sun* to celebrate 'The Sun's Grouse Mountain Resort.' The main office of the *Vancouver Sun* burned to the ground in the mid-1930s, and much was lost. It seems that the few copies that *The Sun* had were taken in the fire. A read of *Chinook Days* is worth the ramble, and the journey taken into the North Shore area speaks much about an early interest in BC legend, lore and mountains in the 1920s.

Recently Published

Mike Nash's *Exploring Prince George - A Guide to North Central B.C.*

Outdoors has just been reprinted by Rocky Mountain Books (Heritage House) with a new cover depicting Mount Fitzwilliam in the Rockies east of Prince George. Nash has recently published a second book, *Outdoor Safety and Survival in British Columbia's Backcountry*.

For more information go to <http://www3.telus.net/pgoutdoors>

Rickard K. Blier has edited/compiled the 13th edition of *Hiking Trails I Victoria & Vicinity* which covers the Capital Regional District, including Portland and Sidney Islands; the Saanich Peninsula; core municipalities; Western Communities; Sooke west to Port Renfrew including the Juan de Fuca Trail.

This edition has over 100 destinations ranging from neighbourhood walks on pavement to week-long backpacking trips; includes the Gowlland Tod and Juan de Fuca Provincial Parks, and the popular Galloping Goose Trail.

Trail Ventures BC published a trail map last May of the southern Chilcoons. Trail Ventures have also built a considerable website on the Southern Chilcotin Mountains. This website is a free source of varied and accurate information for the area. This info is a result of years of field surveys and research. It is designed to be informative about all aspects of the natural beauty of the area, as well as to assist with access and is meant to interest people to visit the area. The web address is: <http://www.trailventuresbc.com>.

The Federation of Mountain Clubs

Working on your behalf

The Federation of Mountain Clubs (FMC) is a democratic, grassroots organization dedicated to the conservation of and access to British Columbia's wilderness and mountain areas. As our name indicates, we are a federation of outdoor clubs and our membership is about 3500 from clubs around the province. Our membership is comprised of a diverse group of nonmechanized mountain recreation users including hikers, climbers, mountaineers skiers, snowshoers, kayakers, canoeists and mountain bikers who all share an interest in the protection and preservation of the mountain/wilderness environment. The FMC also has several individual members who are not affiliated with any club but share our mission and accomplishments. Membership is open to any club or individual that supports our mission. In addition to the work that FMC does on their behalf, membership benefits include a subscription to the FMC newsletter *Cloudburst* and access to an inexpensive Third-Party Liability insurance program.

The FMC mandate is to foster and promote the nonmotorized activities of the membership and the general public through leadership, advocacy and education". The FMC recognizes hikers, mountaineers and ski-tourers etc. to be a traditional user group and represents their rights province-wide to freely access and enjoy a quality experience in the mountains and forests of British Columbia. Our members believe that the enjoyment of these pursuits in an unspoiled environment is a vital component to the quality of life in British Columbia.

The FMC fulfills its mandate with a comprehensive approach to mountain recreation and conservation by:

- o Participating in provincial land use decision processes.
- o Working to positively change (and in some cases enhance) government agency policies so that non-mechanized outdoor recreation opportunities are recognized and protected.
- o Representing wilderness as a legitimate land use and a resource of identifiable value to society.
- o Advocating new parks and wilderness resources, and working to maintain the integrity of existing parks and wilderness resources.
- o Advocating for continued access to existing recreational resources.
- o Building, maintaining and protecting hiking and mountain access trails.
- o Promoting hiking, rock climbing, mountaineering, ski touring and other nonmechanized mountain activities.
- o Educating the public on conservation issues, related to outdoor recreation.
- o Educating its members and the public on mountain and backcountry safety and working with member clubs to address risk management issues.
- o Encouraging new membership in our member clubs.

Acting under the policy of 'talk, understand and persuade,' rather than 'confront and force,' the FMC advocates for the interests of its member groups. Much of this work is done through our two main committees: Trails Committee, and the Recreation and Conservation Committee. With the exception of the Executive Director who helps coordinate Committee work and advocates on their behalf, the work on these programs is done by volunteers.

The FMC was founded in 1971, based on a predecessor organization called the Mountain Access Committee. Since this time the FMC has had many success stories working on behalf of our members and the public at large. If you visit our website www.mountainclubs.bc.ca you can view a list of some of our successes and accomplishments we have had through the years categorized by geographical area. Some highlights include the popular Adopt a Trail program and the resolution of several land use issues through participation in various planning processes.

We continue to work towards success on new issues and projects. Much of our work these days tends to be access related where we are competing with other users of the land base or in some cases a lack of investment in existing infrastructure. At the core of these projects, issues and successes (and often the grinding work that goes unnoticed) is the countless hours of time from dedicated volunteers from across the province. Without these volunteers the FMC would not exist. Through our committees, club advocates and general membership we have much to hope for on the trail ahead.

Member Clubs

Alberni Valley Outdoor Club	www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/AVOC
Alpine Club of Canada-Vancouver Section	www.aebc.com/acc/newsite
Alpine Club of Canada-Vancouver Island Section	www.horizon.bc.ca/~acc
Alpine Club of Canada – Prince George Section	www.vts.bc.ca/ACC-PG
Backroads Outdoor Club	www.backroadsoutdoor.ca
British Columbia Mountaineering Club	www.bcmc.ca
Caledonia Ramblers	http://web.unbc.ca/~ramblers
Chilliwack Outdoor Club	www.chilliwack.com/leisure/outdoor/outdoor.html
Comox District Mountaineering Club	www.comoxhiking.com
Fraser Headwaters Alliance	www.fraserheadwaters.org
Island Mountain Ramblers	www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/IMR/pages/slow/ramblers.htm
Kootenay Mountaineering Club	www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca
Mt. Remo Backcountry Society	
North Shore Hikers	www.northshorehikers.org
North Vancouver Outdoors Club	www.northvanoutdoorsclub.ca
Outdoor Club of Victoria	www.ocv.ca
Outsetters Club	http://www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/OUTSET/pages/fast/Outset_Home_1.aspx
Ozalenka Alpine Club	
Richmond Outdoor Club	www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/ROC
Valley Outdoor Association	www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/VOA
Vancouver Island Trails Information Society	www.hikingtrailsbooks.com
Varsity Outdoor Club	www.ubc-voc.com

More Club information available at:
www.mountainclubs.bc.ca



Clockwise from top right: Antje Wahl/Peter Rothemmel/Isabel Budke/Mike Nash/ Anita Leonhardt/Lorrie Lech/Mary Henderson/Ken Rodonets.

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