



November 18, 2020

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Jim Standen, Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Parks and Conservation Office Service Division
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Garibaldi Provincial Park: Plowing of Rubble Creek Access Road and Parking Lot at Trailhead

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) is a province-wide 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 more than five thousand non-motorized backcountry recreation users, including hikers, rock climbers, mountaineers, mountain bikers, trail runners, kayakers, backcountry skiers and snowshoers. Many of our clubs build and maintain trails used by the public. We are committed proponents of the "Leave No Trace" and "Right to Roam" principles.

We are writing about the lack of winter access to the Rubble Creek trailhead in Garibaldi Provincial Park due to the "no parking / tow away" signs installed earlier this year. As a result, there are now only two winter access points to the Park, namely Elfin Lake / Diamond Head and Singing Pass, both of which have their own access limitations.

In January 2018, the FMCBC identified several areas in the Sea-to-Sky corridor which are difficult for non-motorized backcountry users to access. This included the Rubble Creek access road and parking lot for Garibaldi Lake because only a very small area was plowed, providing minimal parking off Highway 99. At that time, we recommended plowing the access road and parking area to facilitate winter access to Garibaldi Lake and the surrounding terrain. In April 2018, BC Parks advised they would undertake further investigation into the cost of winter maintenance of the roads and facilities at Rubble Creek. There was no change in the following winter seasons.

In mid-February 2020, "no parking / tow away" signs were installed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure along various sections of Highway 99, including the lower Rubble Creek access road, with the result that the public lost winter access to Garibaldi Lake and the surrounding terrain. After the no-parking signs were installed, BC Parks offered refunds to anyone who had made camping reservations because without parking this part of the park was effectively closed. This is a tremendous loss to the non-motorized winter backcountry recreation community. The Rubble Creek road and trail have been used to access Garibaldi Lake for more than 50 years. Besides the traditional and popular Garibaldi Neve Traverse, other exceptional winter terrain accessed by the Rubble Creek trail are:

- Black Tusk
- Garibaldi Lake
- Mt Price
- Sphinx Bay, Burton Hut (constructed in 1969 by the Varsity Outdoor Club) and surrounding peaks - Guard Mountain, Deception Peak, The Sphinx, The Bookworms, Mt. Carr and Castle Towers

(See attached excerpts from John Baldwin's guidebook, 3rd edition, 2009)

