

# The B.C. Mountaineer

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Official organ of  
**THE BRITISH COLUMBIA  
MOUNTAINEERING CLUB**

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## THE OBJECTS OF THE CLUB

No, the B.C.M.C. is not a service club in the accepted sense of the term, but its members are in a position to render to the people of Canada an invaluable service, a service that its earlier members morally pledged themselves to render when they formulated the "Objects of the Club."

(a) The exploration of the mountains, valleys and icefields of British Columbia, and the study of their natural features.

(b) The preservation of the beauties of its mountains through protective legislation.

(c) The promotion of such scientific, artistic, and recreative pursuits as will secure these Objects.

The first and last can be passed over right now as being undiluted pleasure or duties, bound, not by stern necessity or the demands of common sense, but by our individual ambition and physical or mental capabilities. The second has no bounds.

Disregarding the "by protective legislation" clause, which is rather a means of placing any work we may do in some definite form, and dealing with "The preservation of the beauties of its mountains" what a never ending but worthy task we find before us.

The fire season is now at hand. It has been customary in previous years for certain of the members to be awarded volunteer fire wardens' badges. Why should just a few of our one hundred and thirty-eight members shoulder all the responsibility? If we are all lovers of the outdoors, we all spend every moment of the summer months we can in living up to the first

objective, then every member should consider himself or herself as a volunteer fire warden. No one will begrudge us any honour there is to the title if we stay on the job.

There is absolutely no need for me to show you the picture under which this paragraph appeared; just think it might be Garibaldi Park.

"There had been high temperatures and low humidity. At such times the balsam trees with the parasitical beard moss (a lichen), get so dry as to become almost explosive on the introduction of even a spark.

"The scene of this fire was at an altitude of six thousand feet, in a district which during August is particularly beautiful. At this altitude the forest is park-like and interspersed with charming little glades, strewn with colorful wild flowers, the chief of these being the showy blue Alpine Lupin, Indian Paint Brush—one of the most brilliant scarlet flowers—and large purple asters. These Alpine glades are veritable flower gardens, and it seemed tragic to see fire in its worst form burst out to devour such grandeur.

"The wreathing, struggling column of smoke soon reached thousands of feet into the air, and appeared like some possessed, living thing utilizing every ounce of its strength to escape from the earth and lose itself in the quiet sky."

Imagining this as Garibaldi Park is to appeal to the selfish side of us only. What if the fire had been in merchantable timber or among homesteads, or even if in a comparatively inaccessible district, think of the misery and privations the wild folk that call it their home must undergo.

Remember, from now on the woods will be dry, very dry; get the habit of breaking your match, and when selecting a

camp-site don't look for a comfortable sleeping place and then build your fire near it; find a safe campfire site and if there are no comfortable sleeping places handy and you must have one close then sleep in an uncomfortable place.

I mentioned the wild folk. Doesn't their protection come under the heading "preservation of the beauties of its mountains" also? Someone at the annual meeting made a statement that he had never known a mountaineer to carry a gun; those at the meeting almost cheered, I think.

In a magazine article a quite prominent hunter admitted that he had never received any thrill from seeing his prey in the throes of death, and the only thrill was in matching his wits and the action of his fumbling body against the fine senses of the game in question. Then why not substitute the camera for the gun and preserve that moment of triumph. It may look quite heroic to walk around with a rifle under one arm, but I would like to see the gentlest of deer in a hand to horn conflict with the mightiest of fire-stick hunters. Just think of the thrill you get from even someone else's animal photograph.

This is where the protective legislation comes in handy. Any propaganda we can spread, we should, and this does not mean that we are sentimentalists. We will be doing our little bit towards keeping Canada as it is now for posterity.

There are a hundred other ways we can live up to our objects. Do your share this summer and preserve the ideals of the club as a club with an aim.

Lake O'Hara looks a good aim to me.

### SUMMER CAMP

As we all know Summer Camp this year is to be held at Lake O'Hara. Our genial Chairman of the Camp Committee, Mr. Frank Johnson is leaving no stone unturned in his plans to make this camp a thoroughly successful and enjoyable one, and every effort will be made to insure smooth organization.

Lake O'Hara is, and anyone knows who has been there, an ideal place for a summer vacation, and offers real climbing as well as many lesser trips of great beauty and interest. This camp is sure to be a rip-roaring success and we are confident that we shall receive the whole-hearted co-operation of club members. Our prospects of obtaining Swiss guides are very hopeful. We want to say that the beauty and grandeur, and the ideal camping facilities of Lake O'Hara more than repay the few extra dollars required for transportation. In addition will be gained a wealth of happy memories which will linger for many years.

Are we going to Lake O'Hara this year? Well, I should say so.

Les. G. G.

### THE EXECUTIVE MEETING

April 16th

The locker question was settled finally by turning the whole thing over to Mr. Tait, with a recommendation that he employ Mr. O'Connor to help him.

Mr. Bill Taylor to whom the original contract was given, was called out of town and Alan Lambert resigned from the Locker Committee having no more time to spend on the matter.

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Don't forget to take Snow Scenes.

## A. C. PHILLIPS

Seymour 4916

315 Cambie Street

There was some discussion regarding noise at the cabin after 11 o'clock when members who intend to rise early are sleeping. Many of us have been a little inconsiderate in this way lately. Let's all co-operate and respect the ruling and save the Executive Committee from doing anything drastic.

**THE TWIN SISTERS**

This trip was postponed as we were unable to get transportation to Deming. It will be run when a car is available.

**CATHEDRAL MOUNTAIN**

April 25th

The Cathedral Mountain trip this year proved to be one of the most enjoyable ascents made. Although the visibility was somewhat poor owing to haze the temperature was just right for a brisk climb.

The trip started from Seymour Intake and the party halted at Burwell Lake Cabin for a rest and some tea, which put us in trim for the thousand-foot gully leading up from the lake. From the top of this a short climb and traverse brought us to the ridge of the main peak. This proved to be a good climb, some steep snow being encountered, which always lends a thrill to the climb. We reached the peak at about 2 p.m. After a repast of cold sandwiches we descended in a series of good slides to the lake, taking in all about one hour. We had more tea and a good rest before going to meet the ferryman at the appointed time.

Among those noticed on this occasion were Miss Lillian Johnston, gowned in a red Russian leather jacket, Miss Janet Burns in a mackinaw à la leetle Bateese,

leaving a trail of Irish coloured snow in her wake, F. Brownsword had his famous kepler suit on hand but the weather kept him from donning it. Apparently Miss Katie Andrews and G. Smith had a ripping time.

An early start was made from the intake for home, and so to bed.

H. O'CONNOR.

**Only three months away—Let's Go!**

**SEYMOUR TRIP**

February 22nd, 1931

Those who prefer their winter trips with the good old-fashioned conditions existing, missed a rare treat when they decided to stay at home, or "warm" the rustic furniture at the Cabin, while their comrades were emulating "the youth who bore 'mid snow and ice" in an effort to "find" the peak of Seymour. Visibility was excellent—to within the few yards it extended, and had it not been for the rain, the snow and the trail-breaking, it would have been a glorious trip. However—Pump Peak was reached in due season and the new route—from Dollarton, was taken advantage of by Harold O'Connor (leader), D. O. Dighton, L. C. Ford, C. R. Fripp, Alex Simpkins and George Wallis (end-man).

**SPECIAL NOTICE**

The Club will give an illustrated talk on Lake O'Hara at 620 Seymour Street (plus four golf club) on Tuesday, May 19th. Everyone welcome and bring friends. You will enjoy this talk even if you are not contemplating coming to Summer Camp.

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## BLACK MOUNTAIN

April 19th

Fourteen members and four guests started up Black Mountain on April 19th under the leadership of Mr. Dodds and Mr. Tom Carrol. It is possible that the beauty of the view up Howe Sound, the lateness of the start, and the angle of the gully each detracted from the speed of the party, as they did not reach the top of the gully until 4 o'clock. Here, those who had private transportation back to town, went on to the summit under the leadership of Mr. Saunders and Mr. McKenzie. The remainder rushed back to catch the bus finishing with just fifteen minutes to spare.

\* \* \*

The members and friends will be very sorry to hear of the serious accident which befell Roddy Gaudet which occurred during his work of assisting in the survey of a power line in connection with the opening up of the Lorne Mine, where he had just been engaged. It appears that in the contemplation of negotiating a canyon, Roddy had grasped a rock for support, when suddenly the rock gave away with the resultant headlong plunge of some 40 feet to the canyon below causing a badly fractured skull, injured ribs and the spine. He was taken to the Kamloops hospital in an unconscious condition, which prevailed for some days, and the latest report we have is that he is progressing very favourably and there is every hope of his complete recovery. It is our earnest wish and prayer that Roddy soon gets well and we wish him every success for an early recovery.

G. WALLIS

\* \* \*

The editor has made arrangements with Mr. Chapman to have the Bulletin printed in time so that it can be mailed to you by the 10th of each month. This arrangement was made because many members were calling for a definite and early publishing date. In order to do this it is necessary for all contributors to have their copy to me at least two days before the end of the month preceding the Bulletin date. This only leaves me one evening to arrange the Bulletin, so please get it in earlier if you can. If you run across anything you consider to be of interest to club members and have no time to review it yourself, please either send it along or let me know where I can find it.

By the way, you're coming to Lake O'Hara, aren't you?—of course you are.

## SNOW CLIMBING

When you are traversing or climbing down a snow slope keep your body erect, that is keep as wide an angle as possible between your body and the snow slope

consistent with maintaining balance. The reason is this, the main trouble with walking on snow is not that your feet may slip out of their steps, but that the steps may break away. When on flat snow there is a firm foundation but when traversing slopes from 45° to 60° the sun-softened crust has to take most of the strain. If you lean in you exaggerate this condition. Think it over, the best way is the balanced way in all climbing.

## MOUNTAIN EARS

The Club wit who termed us the B.C. Matrimonial Club, may now stand up and say his little piece again. Two of our potential June brides rushed the season during Easter week. Phoebe Chambers was married to Rory Todd and Winnie Chambers to Mr. Gifford. Congratulations; may all trails they tread in future run downhill—or to Lake O'Hara.

\* \* \*

Members of the local section of the A.C.C. had a rather too realistic object lesson on the dangers of walking too near a cornice recently. On their Cathedral trip April 18th and 19th three members were suddenly sent for a seventy-five foot plunge down to a steep snowslope, when one broke under their weight. Fortunately all they lost was a camera and a little dignity.

\* \* \*

This valuable advice regarding beginners' conduct on rock was culled from the bulletin of a sister club:

"He is largely precluded, both by anatomical considerations and by reason of his technique, from employing springing, jerking, grasping or wrenching movements.

"These would be painful to himself and his technique forbids him to place unpredictable strains upon the rigidity of a material of the structural flaws in which he cannot be fully cognizant. This question of symmetry requires to be stressed, for the beginner is only too prone to feel that a notably assymmetrical disposition of rock dispences him from handling his own body with any regards to the operations of gravity, if only he has a sufficiency of holds."

(Perfectly priceless, what?)

Try this out at O'Hara.

\* \* \*

Will all those interested in the Club procuring quarters in which to keep their skiing equipment on Grouse Mountain Plateau next winter, please send their names to Mr. Roy Howard, so that we may ascertain just how much support the scheme will get. It is necessary to find out soon so as to get an early bid in.