

BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2001

VOL. 79 NO. 10



EVENING SOCIALS

Evening socials are usually held in the ANZA club, upstairs room (corner of 8th Ave. and Ontario, Vancouver) starting at 7:30 p.m. Please bring your own cups to socials if you wish to drink the free tea or coffee provided.

Tuesday, 11 December - Entertainment will be a slide show by Dave Hughes on this year's summer expedition camp to the Ape Lake area.

Tuesday, 8 January - Entertainment will be a slide show by Chris Cooper on Devon Island - land of the ice bear. **This social will be held at the WISE Club, 1882 Adanac St., Vancouver, not the ANZA club**

Winter in North Creek.



1 Ape Lake area



HONORARY PRESIDENTS - Esther and Martin Kafer			
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS			
PRESIDENT -	DAVE HUGHES	604-980-6484	CABIN / TRAILS - IAN HOPPER 604-929-3720
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CLIMBING -	MARGARET HANSON	604-736-6397	TREVOR LUMLEY 604-990-8258
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The **BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER** is an official publication of the B.C. Mountaineering Club and is published 10 times per year (every month except July and September).

Submissions - of any written, drawn, or photographic material relevant to the B.C. Mountaineering Club are welcome. If possible, submissions should be sent to the editor by email or on a diskette. Deadline for submissions is the first Tuesday of the month preceding the publication month. Send submissions to Michael Feller (email - feller@interchg.ubc.ca, ph. 270-4050).

Editorial policy - All submitted material relevant to the B.C. Mountaineering Club will be published unless the club executive decides otherwise. Submitted material may be edited for clarity or brevity.

Opinions and comments expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the B.C. Mountaineering Club.

SCHEDULED TRIPS

Participation on club trips is open to any person with adequate skills and experience, subject to the approval of the trip organizer. All non-member participants must sign a disclosure and waiver form relieving the club and all other participants on the trip from any liability. A trip organizer is not a certified guide. The function of the organizer is to organize the trip, ensure that it gets underway, know the access to the area, and know a route or routes on the climb. It is expected that each person on a club trip has the necessary skills, experience, fitness, and equipment. The organizer may specify certain equipment mandatory for participation in a trip. Any person who attempts to participate in a club trip without such mandatory equipment, may be requested to withdraw from the trip. The club has avalanche transceivers and snow shovels available for hire. These may be obtained by contacting Trevor Lumley at 604-990-8258 prior to the Thursday before the weekend the transceivers are wanted. Each person on a club trip is responsible for his or her own safety and for checking the equipment used. Please be considerate and call the trip organizer by Thursday evening for weekend trips, and by Friday for Sunday trips.

If you are given a ride, please remember to pay the driver your portion of the car costs.

December - every weekend: Winter day hikes	A-B2	ORGANIZER Rich Sobel	604-734-8170
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December - every Wednesday: Cypress ski area	A1	Dave Morriss	604-732-9896
December 1: Exploratory hike Destination depends on weather. Contact the organizer for further information.	B2	Michelle Martineau	604-873-3606
December 1-2: Mystery trip (ski) Skiing somewhere, depending on snow conditions. Contact the organizer for further information.	B-C2	Todd Ponzini	604-983-2612
December 2: Lawson/MacDonald/Nelson Ck. area Hiking around West Vancouver with a newlywed.	B2	John Clark	604-742-2390
December 2: Cheam Pk. Skiing in the Chilliwack valley area.	B3/2107 m	Ian Hopper	604-929-3720
December 2: Diamond Head Easy skiing in Garibaldi park.	B2/2107 m	Irene Goldstone	604-689-8737
December 9: West Lion (climb) Climbing above Howe Sound.	B4/1646 m	Robert Nugent	604-732-3498
December 9: Zoa Pk. Easy skiing in the Coquihalla area.	A2/1860 m	Monica Bittel	604-983-3097
December 9: Diez Vistas trail (snowshoe) Above Indian Arm.	B2	Jette Helin	604-987-1557
December 15: Rainbow Lake Skiing opposite Whistler in the Cheakamus valley.	B2	Cynthia Neale	604-264-7466
December 15: Diamond Head More easy skiing in Garibaldi park.	B2	Rich Pawlowicz	604-222-3343
December 15-16: Three Brothers Mtn. Skiing in Manning park.	B2/2272 m	Jos van der Burg	604-463-7582
December 16: Coquihalla area Easy skiing beyond Hope.	B2	Greg Hamilton	604-984-6800
December 22: Mt. Harvey Skiing above Howe Sound, approaching via Harvey Pass.	B3(4)/1703 m	Paul Kubik	604-876-0764
December 22 - January 1: Wells Gray Park Christmas ski trip to the interior, north of Kamloops.	B2-3	Robert Nugent	604-732-3498
January: every Wednesday: Cypress ski area	A1	Dave Morriss	604-732-9896
January 5: Hat Pass Skiing above Lions Bay.	B3-4	Paul Kubik	604-876-0764
January 5-6: Golden Ears (snowshoe) Hiking in the Lower Fraser valley area.	C2/1706 m	Mathieu Dorion	604-773-2073
January 6: Diamond Head Yet more easy skiing in Garibaldi park.	B2	Monika Bittel	604-983-3097
January 6: Mt. Strachan or Hollyburn Mtn. (snowshoe) Hiking above North Vancouver.	A1/1454 m	Adam Bros Gall	604-321-2326
January 12-13: Manning park (snowshoe) Easy snowshoeing.	B-C2	Karen Backmann	604-602-9897
January 13: Singing Pass Skiing up the trail then out via the musical bumps.	B2	Nana Zolbrod	604-737-9889
January 13: Mystery trip Skiing somewhere. Contact the organizer for more information.	B2-3	Anders Ourom	604-228-1798

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

Membership fees for 2001/2002 are now due.

Membership fees for 2001/2002 are now due. If you do not pay your dues, **THIS NEWSLETTER WILL BE THE LAST ONE YOU WILL RECEIVE.** You should fill out the yellow renewal form accompanying the

October newsletter, read and sign the waiver on the reverse side, then send the form with the appropriate dues to the club. Membership dues are

Single	\$40	Junior	\$20
Couples	\$60	Life	\$800

WINTER COURSES

Introduction to Ski Touring

A short program will be held early next year catering for members who have limited skiing ability but would like to see what's involved in a day of ski touring. One information evening will be held covering logistics and equipment. A day on a ski slope will follow. Skills to be covered will be basic navigation, safety, use of climbing skins, avalanche beacon use and related information. Dates are February 2-3, 9-10, 23-24, and March 2-3. Contact Kit Griffin for further information E-mail: kitgriffin@telus.net or Tel: 604-736-8462.

Winter Leadership Skills Course (February)

A guide from Canada West Mountain School will be teaching a winter leadership skills course for BCMC members. The course will be limited to 8 active BCMC members, with priority given to members who are willing to organize club trips. The course will be approximately \$130 and include one Thursday evening of instruction and two day trips in the field.

Course instruction will be split between (1) soft skills and (2) hard skills. The soft skills portion of the course will include topics such as leadership techniques involving group management, risk management, communication, decision making and other such skills. The hard skills component will focus on avalanche safety techniques involving terrain evaluation, snowpack structure, weather, safe routefinding and rescue techniques, and recognizing and avoiding avalanche hazards. For registration and more information contact Kit Griffin. E-mail: kitgriffin@telus.net or Tel: 604-736-8462.

Wilderness First Aid Course

St. John's will provide a special instructor for a wilderness first aid course for club members. The course will involve a Wednesday lecture followed by a weekend of practice. Possible dates are 12, 15, 16 December or 9, 12, 13 January, or 16, 19, 20 January.

For further information - contact David Hughes at 604-980-6484.

BCMC CLUB NEWS

Articles wanted for the 2002 BC Mountaineer

It's that time of year again, when you have time to sit down and write that article on a more interesting,

different, exotic, or intrepid trip for next year's B.C. Mountaineer. Articles plus photos or figures are wanted by 31 January.

REPORTS FROM THE 2001 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2001 AGM was held on 14 November. More than 100 people were present, with a quorum of well over 25 voting members. A new executive (see front page) was appointed; members were again entertained by reports from members of the previous executive, as well as by Margaret Hanson, who gave a slide show on trekking in Bhutan. Some reports presented at the AGM follow. Further reports will be in the January newsletter.

PRESIDENTS REPORT - by David Hughes

The BCMC has had a good year. A number of initiatives that were started two years ago have been continued and expanded. A major new project this year was the Club's assistance in getting new guide books published. Your Executive has once again diligently applied themselves to making the Club work better and more effectively.

The last few years have seen the Club's membership reach the 500 plus level which is up considerably from past decades where membership numbers were in the 300 to 350 range. This year, our membership was 529, the same as last year. Just as important is the level of participation. Club activities including weekend trips, longer camps, club courses and attendance at monthly socials has been great, despite a somewhat poor weather year. We are pleased to announce that the Club has elected another honorary member, Glenn Woodsworth. Thank you Glenn for your contribution over the last forty plus years to the BCMC and the mountaineering community

The Executive and members have worked hard to ensure our winter and summer mountaineering trips are as complete as we can make them. To further expand our offerings, we need more volunteers. It is the Executive's objective to offer a wide variety of trips that appeal to all aspects of mountaineering from easy short hikes to the more challenging and technical multi day climbs and ski trips. A new event this year was the Lillooet Ice Climbing festival in January, which the Club actively supported. The members would like to thank the climbing committee and many volunteers who have made our climbing, hiking and skiing trips and events happen..

This past year the Club was again able to offer a wilderness first aid, winter and summer mountaineering courses including: ski mountaineering, beginner rock, rock refresher, intermediate climbing and general mountaineering. I would like to particularly thank Kit Griffin, Colin Wooldridge, Anders Ourom and Miles Quesnel for organizing and leading these courses and the many others for helping out. These courses and the enthusiastic support by members have gone a long way to increasing our membership and helping people to partake safely in the various types of mountaineering.

Our increased Club participation enabled the Club to hold a number of ski and summer camps. Pat

Crean and Peter Woodsworth organized, respectively, their annual spring ski camp and Tantalus climbing camp. Two new camps — a non-technical camp to the Bendor Range and a climbing camp to the Ape Lake area were organized by David Scanlon and myself. Many thanks to the organizers and the participants.

We are pleased to report that several new alpine and rock climbing guides were published this year. It has been more than a decade since guide books have been published for a number of areas of the Province. More work needs to be done, especially in the Coast Range. This year saw the following guides published: the fifth edition of "103 Hikes in Southwestern B.C." by club member Jack Bryceland, a "Selkirks South" guide by David Jones, a second edition of "The Climbers Guide to Squamish" and a new "Alpine Select Climbs in Southwest B.C. & Northern Washington" by Kevin McLane. The BCMC helped finance the latter two volumes by advancing \$16,000 to Elaho Publishing.

Significant progress was made on the Club's web initiatives this year. Through the hard work of Michael McCrae's web committee and with the strong support of Robin Tivy at Bluesoft, the Club launched its own website "bcmc.ca". We are now in the process of making the website's members list an effective working document. Members, and members only, can access the list to ensure that their address and other information is kept up to date.

We have purchased two radios for members to use and these radios along with the Club's emergency position beacon should help our communication capabilities in more remote locations. We have purchased additional avalanche beacons which will also be available for rent to Club members. The Executive has also approved the purchase of two backboards to be installed in the coming year at the North Creek and Waddington (Plummer Hut) cabins.

The Club's social committee has again been one of our most enthusiastic committees. Besides organiz-

ing our great monthly meetings and entertainment, the Social committee is now launching its third T-shirt campaign. Out thanks to Alice Obermajer, Donna Bailie and Darryl Malby.

I am happy to report that the Club's finances are sufficiently in order that we do not need to raise dues despite ever increasing publication and other operating costs. We have been able to keep our operations self-sustaining through our growth in membership, contributions from our courses and our royalty income from guide books. Our total revenue has grown by approximately \$3500 to \$28,716 and we were able to produce a small profit from operations. The small surplus and a new donation we will be receiving from the estate of Hugh Aiken should enable us to continue investing in new initiatives such as the website and archives projects.

The Conservation Committee, lead by Monica Bittel and Brian Wood, has participated actively with the FMCBC in representing our interest on a large number of access and conservation issues. Of particular concern is our present negotiations in the Sea to Sky Corridor backcountry forum. The BCMC and FMCBC have put considerable effort into trying to secure areas in the Corridor for non-motorized recreation. Further news with respect to the FMCBC was our hosting their Annual General Meeting this last June. This was the first time for the BCMC in many years and thanks to Mike Peel for his work in organizing this event.

We must continue to encourage new members and greater member participation. A number of committees including: climbing, web, trails, social, and membership could use your help. Why not get more active and participate on one of these committees? Please encourage your friends to join and help support new and less experienced members.

The Executive and I would like to thank you for your support. I would like to especially acknowledge and thank three Executive members who have now stepped down:

Nancy Henderson – Membership, Greg Hamilton - Cabin and Trails, and Colin Wooldridge - Climbing

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - by Kit

Griffin

Some time ago I spoke of the people joining the BC Mountaineering Club as members or as training program participants and I'd like to continue that thought with you. I'm delighted to say many of the people I met became active trip organizers. Some became assistants on the training programs and some became executive members. Again, this year, I'm impressed with the level of commitment that members have for sharing skills and information. I look forward to working with you all in the future.

Every summer I'm heartened by the volunteers who offer their spare time during the climbing and mountaineering programs, without whom there would be no opportunity for the membership to work with mentors. My sincere thanks to you all!

These programs had excellent attendance from the "Introduction to Climbing" to the "Rock Refresher" activities. These were very enjoyable due to the enthusiasm of all concerned even when the weather didn't cooperate completely!

We are now focusing on the ski season and I know that plans are in process to start the mentor programs for novice skiers who have only considered backcountry skiing, advanced skiers who wish to take their backcountry skills to ski mountaineering and for trip organizers who would like to improve their leadership skills in groups. Some details appear in this newsletter and also on our website.

Speaking of the website, my thanks to Michael McCrae, Robin Tivy and the web-team for all their work. It's a fabulous site and a credit to all concerned.

All in all, this really is a very active and forward thinking club for everyone who wants to enjoy the backcountry.

Thank you again for your support!

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT - by Anders Ourom

The ill-informed may think that the job of past-president of the BCMC is a sinecure. After all, what is there that the past-president could possibly do that needs doing? Charity golf, motivational speeches, talk shows, boring memoirs, appointment to the Senate? Even sitting around being decorative, attending the odd meeting, providing a bit of continuity, and pretending to be some sort of elder statesperson can't be that much of a challenge. There's certainly job security – even if someone else wanted it, there is a necessary prerequisite, and summary deposition isn't mentioned in the bylaws.

Fortunately, there's more to it than that. As our club grows, there are always things that need doing. Depending, of course, on the time and interest of the person who might do them. Over the last few years, the job of past-president has evolved into a relatively active position. It now includes acting at times as the delegate of the president and executive, representing the BCMC in a variety of forums, and acting as an unofficial delegate to groups such as the Climbers' Access Society of B.C., the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival, and Mountain Equipment Co-op. (At least nine club members now work for the latter.)

The club continues to thrive. Some of the major current challenges:

- Service: All club activities are now judged by how much of a service they are to members. Maintaining this focus is key to continued success. Our product is excellent – trips, expeditions, activities, socials, volunteers, friends, publications, instructional programs, etc – and it must remain so.
- Investment: We have received several bequests over the last few years, and may receive more. Most of the club's capital is in relatively low-interest, low-risk investments. Some has been invested in several guidebooks. It would be easy to disperse this money to worthy and less-worthy causes. This would be a mistake – we cannot afford to fritter away this money for purposes that do not

directly benefit the club and its members.

- Membership growth: We are now at 529, a historic high. There is no reason we can't grow further, but this will lead to growing pains. Most programs and services will also need to grow.

- A reappraisal of the BCMC's instructional programs is just beginning. We restarted such programs about ten years ago, largely at the initiative of Brian Gavin and Paul Kubik. They build skills, attract members, and provide another focus for the club.

Looking at the larger picture, challenges include:

- The growing importance of climbers' and mountain access issues. The closure of the lower Malemute at Squamish is a chilling precedent.

- Mountain conservation is of negligible interest to the new government, which seems likely to decimate the Ministries of Parks and of Forests, and to promote commercial and motorized backcountry recreation. New mountain protected areas seem improbable, and management of existing ones is in question. It remains to be seen what strategy, if any, can affect this.

- Garibaldi Park – the BCMC had a key role in creation of this park. The new government, motorized and commercial recreation, and the possibility of the 2010 winter Olympics are putting, and will put, tremendous pressure on the park. We may have to put much if not most of our conservation efforts on this issue.

- Working with other low-impact mountain-oriented recreation and moderate conservation groups, some of which we have historically disregarded.

Looking ahead, the BCMC and its members will no doubt always retain their strong individuality and fierce independence. Sometimes those traits are a little overdone, but there is little doubt the club is full of strong-willed characters. We don't seem to be very good at conforming.

I would like to suggest some goals for the BCMC's centennial in 2007:

1. Membership of at least 1,000, perhaps including subgroups in other centers of B.C.
2. Investments totaling at least \$200,000.

3. A clubhouse. The building would be located somewhere central within the Lower Mainland, and would provide space for socials and meetings, the library and archives, a caretaker, and a good climbing wall. Space and facilities would be rented out when not needed for club purposes, to ensure the building made financial sense.

4. Annual publication of the Mountaineer, with ongoing upgrading of content and format. Continued upgrading of our website, so it is of increasing service to members. Club involvement in all significant guidebooks relating to climbing and mountaineering in B.C.

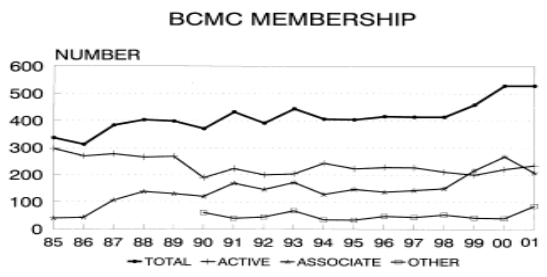
5. If anything, more and a wider variety of volunteer instructional programs.

6. A continuing emphasis on service, skills, and friendship in all club activities.

Plus we should have a really good party in 2007!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - by Mike Peel

We've had another very good year in membership. Total membership is 529 with about 18 of these being outside B.C. Thankfully, we have had a strong membership team of Peter Goy, Nancy Henderson, Tammie Sibbald and Mike Peel, as the work involved is quite extensive, involving monthly mailouts, address changes, mail pickup, and assorted phone calls. As some of you may have noticed, you can now update your address information online at www.bcmc.ca but we do request that you also mail/phone/email (tammiesibbald@hotmail.com) us with your address change since we haven't worked out all of the bugs. Also, don't forget your membership fees are due - it is only \$3.33/month!



CONSERVATION REPORT - by Monika Bittel and Brian Wood

The BCMC Conservation Committee has been busy over the past year with predominantly land use issues. The committee operates primarily through the Recreation & Conservation Committee of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. (FMCBC), which is seen as an advocate for non-mechanized wilderness recreation. If the BCMC does not have standing to represent its members at a particular forum, committee or table, the committee pursues its objectives and concerns through the FMCBC. The BCMC is well represented at the FMCBC Rec & Con Committee and BCMC members frequently attend land use planning committees and forums on behalf of the FMCBC. The following summarizes ongoing issues or issues that were dealt with over the past year by the committee:

1. Sea to Sky Winter Backcountry Recreation Forum:

On September 29, 2001, approximately 40 representatives of various groups interested in winter backcountry recreation in the Squamish Forest District participated at the Sea to Sky Winter Backcountry Recreation Forum ("Forum") in Whistler. The Forum was organized by a steering committee consisting of the FMCBC, snowmobile organizations, some commercial operators, and representatives from Ministry of Forests and BCAL. The objective of the Forum is to "agree on and implement ways for both mechanized and non-mechanized winter users to share the Squamish/Whistler/Pemberton backcountry in a way that gives all users reasonable access to an enjoyable outdoor experience". The Forum is not a discussion on large scale crown land allocation, larger environmental issues or creation of new parks. It is a discussion on how users of crown land currently available for public and commercial recreation can share the backcountry in a way that provides a satisfactory experience for everyone. The public non-mechanized backcountry recreationists are represented at the Forum by Michael Feller for the BCMC, Leslie Bohm for the North Shore Hikers, Mark Grist for the VOC, and Pat Harrison and Monika Bittel for the FMCBC. Unfortunately, the ACC-Vancouver Section and ACC-Whistler Section have not been

able to find a volunteer who is able to attend all meetings. There have been three meetings to date, with further meetings planned for December and the new year. Participants are hopeful that an agreement can be reached by June 2002 and implemented in time for the 2002/2003 winter season. The Forum is focusing on developing an overall winter recreation plan for the Squamish/Whistler/Pemberton (the most contentious issue) which will probably mean some form of zoning, enforcement and regulation, and education/communication. The difficult task of developing an overall winter recreation plan is starting, with all participants being asked to identify areas of interest. If the Forum succeeds in meeting its objective and an agreement is reached acceptable to all winter backcountry recreationists, the agreement will be incorporated into the Sea-to-Sky LRMP. BCMC has contributed \$500 towards the cost of the Forum.

2. BCAL Land Tenure Applications:

The FMCBC regularly receives from BCAL commercial tenure applications for comment. Over 35 applications have been reviewed to date. Credit has to be given to Michael Feller who researches the applications and provides comments for discussion at the FMCBC Rec & Com Committee meetings. Submissions are then prepared and forwarded to BCAL. With the tenure applications approved to date and the several new applications coming forward, there potentially will not be one valley left in the entire Squamish Forest District which does not have some commercial motorized recreation in it. Very little area in the Squamish Forest District has been allocated for non-motorized public recreation by BCAL. Pending the outcome of the Forum, FMCBC is opposing any commercial mechanized tenure application which affects an area of interest to member clubs. If BCAL insists on issuing a tenure despite our objection, FMCBC requests that the tenure be limited to one year and be subject to the outcome of the Forum. If the tenure is incompatible with the outcome of the Forum, the tenure will not be renewed.

3.Lillooet LRMP

The FMCBC represented non-mechanized wilderness recreationists at the Lillooet LRMP. Jay McArthur and Brian Wood were the FMCBC representatives. After five years, the first phase of the LRMP was completed just before the provincial election. The first phase dealt mainly with designation of protected areas, the most important of which was the Southern Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park. Since the LRMP table could not reach consensus on phase one, a process was unanimously agreed upon by all participants, whereby two options were presented to government, with the government making the final selection. The main difference between the two options presented to Government was the size of the Southern Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park. The option selected by the NDP government provided for the larger version of the Park. Unfortunately, some members of the Table broke the agreement and disputed the process, requesting the Liberal government to review the LRMP decision. The outcome of this review will be in our next newsletter.

4.Tantalus Park Management Plan:

The FMCBC is a participant on the Tantalus Park Management Plan committee. Peter Woodsworth and Monika Bittel have been attending the monthly meetings in Squamish. The draft plan will be finalized in November 2001 after open houses in North Vancouver and Squamish. One of the issues of concern is the amount of the Park designated for non-mechanized recreation. Parks has designated the area around Sigurd Lake and the lower elevation areas as "Wilderness Recreation Zone" and the rest of the Park, with the exception of the Niobe basin, as "Natural Environment Zone". The FMCBC advocated the entire Sigurd Lake area, including Mt. Pelion and Mt. Ossa, be zoned "Wilderness Recreation", which would provide a more solitary and remote wilderness experience, limit facility development and restrict access to non-mechanized only. This would protect the Sigurd area for wilderness recreation since Mt. Pelion and Mt. Ossa create a natural wall, blocking the sound of the fixed wing planes and helicopters touring the Rumbling Glacier.

It would also ensure that there are at least two significant peaks in the park which permit a wilderness mountaineering experience. If you were unable to attend an open house but wish to comment on the draft plan, contact Peter Woodsworth or Monika Bittel for details

5. Three Alpine Ski Resort Proposals:

Melvin Creek/Cayoosh Mountain Resort has been approved by the Environmental Assessment Office ("EAO"), but development has been delayed by unresolved conflicts with some of the aboriginal communities. Garibaldi at Squamish/Brohm Ridge Resort appears to have stalled part way through the EAO process. Funding for the project appears to be an issue. The Jumbo resort in the Kootenays has strong public opposition and has been shown to be not viable economically.

Thank you to all members who attend the FMCBC Rec & Con Meetings and provide input, help draft letters and submissions and provide comments. And, thank you to all who provide valuable input outside the meetings. Anyone interested in participating in the Rec & Con Committee or anyone who has any recreation and conservation concerns, contact Brian Wood or Monika Bittel.

Forum on winter backcountry recreation in the Squamish Forest District - the future is now.

comment by M. Feller

With dozens of commercial backcountry recreation operations scrambling all over one another, and a government that was desperate to create jobs and revenue, it was hardly surprising that, in the dying days of B.C.'s NDP government, B.C. Crown Assets and Lands Corp. (BCAL), the government agency established to sell off crown land, offered commercial recreation tenures in the Squamish Forest District to over 3 dozen applicants. Prior to this the FMCBC had provided to BCAL detailed comments on the individual applications. The FMCBC's concerns appear to have been ignored by BCAL, as were even some of the concerns of existing commercial tenure holders.

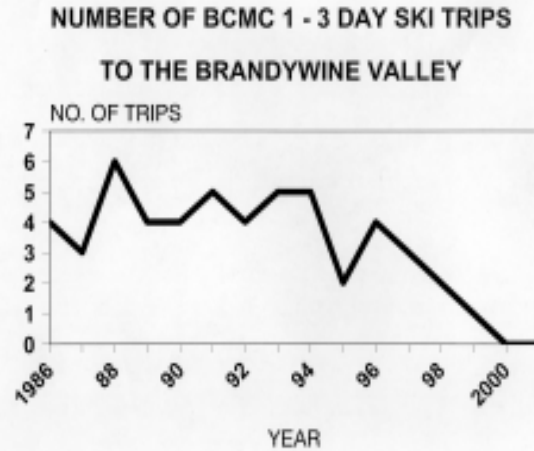
The net result of all the tenure granting is that nearly all valleys in the entire Squamish Forest District, from the Ashlu to the upper Lillooet, will have some form of commercial motorized recreation activity this winter (heliskiing, snowmobiling, snow cat skiing). Those few areas that currently don't have such activities may well in the future, as a new round of commercial recreation tenure applications includes snowmobiling in Meager Ck., and heliskiing from Salal Ck, across the entire Lillooet Icecap to the Manatee Range. On top of all this, public snowmobilers are going everywhere and are demanding routes through Garibaldi Park as well. B.C. Parks, unable or unwilling to change the status quo, has allowed for snowmobiling through Callaghan Park, float plane landings on Callaghan Lake, and air access to almost all possible areas in Tantalus park. Public snowmobilers are unhappy that they are being pushed out of different areas by commercial snowmobilers and snowcat and backcountry ski operators are unhappy that their slopes have been trashed by snowmobilers.

Wilderness in the Squamish Forest District is going the way of Canada's east coast cod - overexploitation is rapidly destroying the resource. Fewer of the traditional users are able to find satisfactory, enjoyable recreation experiences in the region. Non-motorized backcountry skiers, such as BCMC members, appear to be at the bottom of the pecking list. Wilderness recreation opportunities have been essentially ignored in most land management decisions in the Squamish Forest District.

During summer of this year, for reasons that are not entirely clear, BCAL decided to try and get representatives of all the different commercial and public winter recreation groups together, to thrash out ways to share the backcountry in winter. Thus was born the Sea to Sky Backcountry Winter Recreation Forum, whose 40 participants met for the first time at Whistler in late September. The Forum has subsequently met twice, in Squamish, and plans monthly meetings until final recommendations on sharing the backcountry are developed, theoretically by next summer. Any recommendations produced will supposedly provide guidance to BCAL, when they consider commercial backcountry recreation tenure applications, and

also to the Squamish Forest District LRMP, which we have been told will be going ahead. (the format and structure of this LRMP are still undecided but it will not be able to consider more parks or the proposed Whistler winter olympics). The objective of the Forum is "to agree and implement ways for both mechanized and non-mechanized winter users to share the Squamish-Whistler-Pemberton back country in a way that gives all users reasonable access to an enjoyable experience."

The Forum is being guided by a facilitator, which seems essential, given the conflicting interests of the participants and has, to date, considered general planning principles and approaches to sharing the land. The hard work will occur during this winter when the needs of the participants constituencies are to be reconciled and catered for. Non-motorized wilderness recreationists are represented by a representative from each of the FMCBC (club member Monika Bittel), VOC, ACC Vancouver Section, ACC Whistler Section, North Shore Hikers, and the BCMC (Michael Feller). There are as many snowmobile organizations represented, as well as commercial heliski, snowcat, and non- and semi-motorized commercial recreation groups. The Federation of B.C. Naturalists, Whistler Municipality, BCAL, Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, B.C. Parks Squamish Lillooet Regional District, and the Outdoor Recreation Council complete the participants list. To illustrate the dire situation faced by wilderness backcountry skiers, consider the trends in BCMC use of the Brandywine valley shown in the figure above. The BCMC used to run 4-6 ski trips per year into this valley, accessing such desirable objectives as Brew, Cypress, Fee, Brandywine, and Metal Dome. The commercial snowmobilers established themselves there in 1992. Within 3 years the number of club trips to the valley started to decline, reaching zero last winter, staying there for this winter. Thus we have effectively been completely displaced from a valley that used to provide us with a variety of high quality wilderness backcountry skiing opportunities. Is this to be our fate throughout the entire Squamish Forest District?



The Forum appears to be the only thing going which offers us some hope that we will not be displaced from everywhere. BCAL has recently cancelled a license that they had given to Sea to Sky Snowcats, who were building a road to the ridge above Miller Ck. This road would have opened the Ipsoot-Rhododendron area up to massive snowmobile traffic. It appears that this licence cancellation was at least partly in response to pressure from Forum participants, including the FMCBC and Whistler Heliski. At this point, one can be cautiously optimistic, but it is likely that in the future we will never have more opportunities for wilderness backcountry skiing than those provided by the Forum.

If you have any ideas about the Forum or its progress, or for further information, contact Monika Bittel or Michael Feller.

TREASURER'S REPORT – by Marcia Collier

Revenue and Expenses from the General Fund for the year ending 30 September 2001, with comparative figures for previous years.

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>
REVENUE								
Membership dues	16,919	16,168	13,252	11,390	12,390	11,720	8,300	8,135
Interest income	4,195	3,049	3,347	933	1,592	2,955	3,070	1,935
Equipment rental, cabin fees	285	583	705	460	322	1,315	766	907
Smoke Bluffs project/T-shirt sales	111	—	425	1,115	(94)	—	—	—
Instruction courses (net) - ski – summer	1,112 2,313	1,814 2,809	843 3,284	1,576	1,710	1,248	1,458	658
Ski mntg. course revenue used for Pieps purchase	— —	— —	— —	400	—	803	—	—
Centennial fund contributions	—	75	670	80	144	70	157	368
Publication sales/advertising	994	—	474	36	260	42	250	16
Camps (net)	758	409	665	219	0	9	—	—
Other	86	300	—	45	80	—	0	456
C. Ledingham donation	—	—	1933	39,312	—	—	—	—
Total Revenue (after C. Ledingham donation)	26,773	25,207	23,665	16,254	16,404	18,162	14,000	12,475
EXPENSES								
Publications								
Mountaineer	4,574	3,016	3,175	5,344	0	4,876	61	4,454
Brochures, constitution, etc.	—	—	570	—	—	—	—	—
Newsletter	6,396	5,338	4,463	4,585	4,669	4,415	4,364	4,650
Total publications	10,970	8,354	8,208	9,929	4,669	9,291	4,425	9,104
Website	978	1,400	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social activities (net)	1,478	1,240	1,363	1,680	1,658	735	1,240	1,011
Postage and stationary	2,190	2,346	1,970	189	1,498	2,601	1,494	1,682
Amortization of assets	1,081	1,055	508	890	943	1,001	1,197	975
Insurance + tax (cabin)	584	516	516	515	515	500	460	438
FMCBC and other memberships	4,284	4,334	4,944	3,580	3,317	3,516	3,654	2,353
Radio licence	151	219	178	184	146	156	148	104
Cabin	27	50	50	121	65	64	328	—
Equipment repair/replacement	—	82	—	93	34	—	—	—
Conservation	—	—	—	—	550	194	351	—
Voice mail	59	291	198	193	192	179	141	—
Miscellaneous	253	61	25	40	337	531	385	218
Donations	1,946	2,250	464	200	—	—	—	—
Courses	—	—	485	—	—	—	—	—
Archives	2,023	7,123	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total expenses	25,988	29,322	18,909	17,614	13,924	18,769	13,683	15,885
Surplus (deficit) of Revenue over Expenses (after C. Ledingham donation in 1999 and archives expenses in 2000)	785	3,009	4,756	(1,360)	2,480	(607)	318	(3,410)
MEMBER'S EQUITY FOR ALL CLUB FUNDS								
General Fund (excl. Cent.)	66,040	56,794	61,188	57,181	18,582	9,445	7,929	7,863
Literary and Reserve Fund	37,236	35,564	34,687	32,981	39,390	36,493	38,622	34,523
Life Membership Fund	8,650	8,750	8,750	8,650	7,850	7,850	7,850	7,850
Senior and Honorary								
Membership Fund	0	0	0	0	0	9,571	9,571	9,571
Centennial Fund	6,737	4,365	3,994	3,162	2,914	2,626	2,267	2,015
Total	118,663	105,473	108,619	101,974	68,736	63,359	66,238	61,822