



# THE B.C. MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2001

VOL. 79 NO. 1



The summit of Mt. Steele in winter.

**ADDRESS:** P.O. Box 2674 Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3W8  
**INTERNET SITE:** <http://www.bivouac.com/bcmc/>

**HONORARY PRESIDENTS** – Esther and Martin Kafar

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<b>PRESIDENT</b> – DAVE HUGHES	980-6484
<b>PAST-PRESIDENT</b> – ANDERS OUROM	228-1798
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b> – KIT GRIFFIN	736-8462
<b>SECRETARY</b> – MIRELLA LIOCE	736-5079
<b>TREASURER</b> – MARCIA COLLIER	987-5245
<b>MEMBERSHIP/MAILING</b> -	268-9502

NANCY HENDERSON

MIKE PEEL

TAMMIE SIBBALD

<b>SOCIALS</b> - DARRYL MALBY	709-0051
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DONNA BAILIE 572-5051

<b>CLIMBING</b> – COLIN WOOLDRIDGE	512-6390
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<b>CABIN &amp; TRAILS</b> - GREG HAMILTON	739-7555
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<b>CONSERVATION</b> - BRIAN WOOD	222-1541
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MONICA BITTEL 983-3097

<b>SUMMER CAMP</b> – DAVID SCANLON	464-3730
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<b>WEBMASTER</b> – MICHAEL McCRAE	326-0156
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<b>EDITOR</b> - MICHAEL FELLER	270-4050
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(newsletter submissions email – [feller@unixg.ubc.ca](mailto:feller@unixg.ubc.ca))

<b>EQUIPMENT</b> - PAUL KUBIK	876-0764
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**LIBRARY CUSTODIAN** -

GEORGE HAMILTON 988-1888

## 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, 9 January** – Entertainment will be a slide show by Pat Crean featuring recent club ski camps in the Bridge and Elaho glacier areas.

**Tuesday, 13 February** – Entertainment will be a slide show by Chris Cooper on skiing, hiking, and kayaking on and near Ellesmere Island in Canada's arctic.

## 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 Greg Hamilton at 739-7555 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.

**All trips are ski trips unless indicated otherwise.**

		<b>ORGANIZER</b>	
<b>January 6-7:</b> Lillooet area (ice) Ice climbing near Lillooet.	A5	Colin Wooldridge	512-6390
<b>January 7:</b> Needle Pk. Skiing and scrambling in the Coquihalla area again.	B2-3(4)/2075 m	Monika Bittel	983-3097
<b>January 13:</b> Rainbow Lake Skiing in the Cheakamus valley area near Whistler.	B2	Cynthia Neale	264-7466
<b>January 13-14:</b> Little Diamond Head Easy skiing in Garibaldi park, near Squamish.	B2	Grant Oughton	942-1176
<b>January 13-14:</b> Phelix Ck. Skiing NE of Pemberton, off the D'Arcy road.	B3	Randy Enomoto	224-6184
<b>January 14:</b> Hollyburn Mtn. (snowshoe) Snowshoeing in Cypress Park in the North Shore mountains.	A	Douglas Brown	435-9269
<b>January 14:</b> Coquihalla area Easy skiing in the Coquihalla area.	B2	Anders Ourom	228-1798
<b>January 20-21:</b> Snass Mtn. Skiing near the western end of Manning Park.	B-C2/2310 m	Jos van der Burg	463-7582
<b>January 20-21:</b> Van Horlick Ck. area Skiing south of the Duffey Lake road.	B2	David Scanlon	464-3730
<b>January 21:</b> Slollicum Pk. Easy skiing near Harrison Lake in the Lower Fraser valley area.	A2/1575 m	Peter Gumplinger	733-8264
<b>January 27:</b> Decker Glacier Skiing in the Spearhead Range of Garibaldi park.	B2	Margaret Hanson	736-6397
<b>January 27:</b> Coliseum Mtn. (snowshoe) Hiking/snowshoeing in the Lynn valley area of Vancouver's North Shore mountains.	C2/1437 m	Mirella Lioce	736-5079
<b>January 27-28:</b> Steep Ck. Skiing off the Duffey Lake road.	B3	Mike Thompson	534-8863
<b>January 27-28:</b> Prospector Pks. Extended skiing off the D'arcy road.	C3/2500 m	Paul Kubik	876-0764
<b>January 28:</b> Mt. Seymour Skiing in Vancouver's North Shore mountains - while we can.	A2/1450 m	Pat Crean	986-0764
<b>January 28:</b> Mt. Price	C3/2049 m	Brian Vezina	731-7699

Extended skiing above Garibaldi Lake in Garibaldi park.			
<b>January 28:</b> Lake Ann	B2	Carol MacMillan	879-2947
Skiing in the Mt. Baker area of northern Washington. Joint trip with the ACC.			
<b>January 28:</b> Tricouni Pk.	C3 (4)/2130 m	Mike Peel	444-4068
Extended skiing on the Squamish-Cheakamus Divide.			
<b>February 3:</b> Cloudburst Mtn.	C3/1870 m	Ian McGillivray	988-3618
More extended skiing on the Squamish-Cheakamus Divide.			
<b>February 3-4:</b> Mt. Duke	B3/2380 m	Monika Bittel	983-3097
Skiing south of the Duffey Lake road.			
<b>February 3-4:</b> Lillooet ice climbing	A5	Colin Wooldridge	512-6930
Ice climbing east of the Coast Mountains.			
<b>February 4:</b> Mt. Seymour	A2/1450 m	Julian Lash	687-0350
Skiing in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.			

## INTRODUCTION TO WINTER SKI TRAVEL COURSE

**Objectives:** To develop skills, knowledge, and confidence to safely participate in overnight ski trips.

**For whom:** Strong novice or newly proficient backcountry skiers.

**Prerequisites:** Open to all BCMC members in good physical health and fitness who are able to ski with an overnight (15kg) pack.

**Course topics:** Clothing and equipment, trip planning, snow camping and snow shelters, route and snowpack evaluation, avalanche awareness, transceiver use and self-rescue, winter mountain travel and weather. Course does not include glacier travel or first aid.

**Dates:** The course will be offered over 4 weekends in February and March by 4 different instructors (noted below in square brackets). Ski trips on the weekends of Feb. 3-4 [Trevor Lumley], Feb. 24-25 [Marcus Dell], March 3-4 [Brian Wood], and March 10-11 [Darren Quist] will be preceded by Thursday evening discussions on Feb. 1, 22, March 1, and 8.

**Registration:** The course is limited to 15 participants and costs \$200. To register – contact Colin Wooldridge at 512-6930.

## RESTRICTIONS ON BACKCOUNTRY ACCESS IN MT. SEYMOUR PARK?

Is Mt. Seymour going to turn into another Cypress Bowl? Will we lose access rights there during the ski season?

Pat Crean will be organizing backcountry day ski trips to Mt. Seymour each month this ski season, beginning on 28 January. On one of these trips, probably in April or May, he would like to get the FMCBC and representatives from other clubs involved, possibly setting up an information display to inform the public of the valuable contribution by Vancouver's mountain clubs to the recreational use of the North Shore Mountains. Do you have any ideas about this, or would you like to assist? If so, contact Pat at 986-0764.

## TO AVOID HELISKIERS ON TRIPS TO THE SQUAMISH-PEMBERTON AREA

Many of our best backcountry skiing destinations have been given to the heliskiers. These areas include Rainbow Mtn, the Spearheads, Mt. Callaghan, Ipsoot Mtn. etc. The heliskiers have offered to minimize conflicts by avoiding an area to be used on a club trip, if they are given advance notice. If you want to avoid heliskiers and are organizing a club trip to a heliski area, contact Doug O'Mara of Whistler Heliskiing several days beforehand to try

and minimize conflicts. He can be contacted by – phone – 604-932-4105, fax – 604-938-1225, or email heliski@direct.ca.

## MEMBERSHIP

### **In memoriam – Len Chatwin**

Len loved mountains and saw an article in a newspaper about the club. The article suggested anyone interested in mountaineering should contact the club. This he did, joining the club in 1933 at the age of 20. He remained a member for 67 years until his death in December.

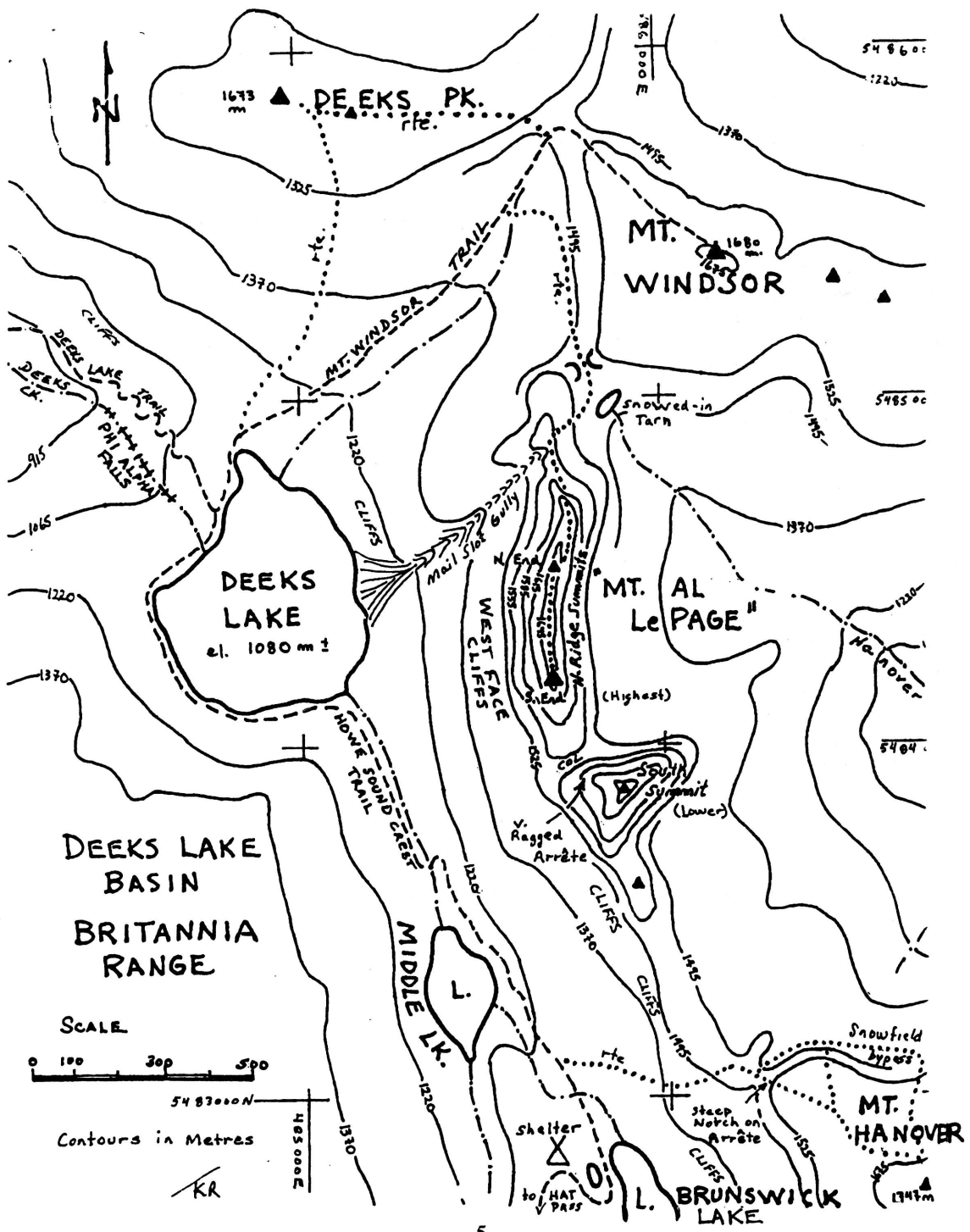
He was an avid photographer and spent most of his working life with the National Film Board. His photographs won many awards in the photographic competitions the club used to have. He claimed that the club offered him unique experiences. While giving a talk to the Vancouver Natural History Society, he described his ascent with a club party of Mt. Judge Howay (its second ascent). The party got close to thunderstorms and descended with humming ice axes. Len had had warts on his hands and had been trying to remove them for some time. One week after the thunderstorm they all disappeared. This anecdote made front page news the next day as a way to remove warts.

The club offers condolences to his wife, Norma, daughter, Ann, brother, Ralph, and family.

M. Feller

## BCMC NEWS

1. **Expenditures** – The executive, at their December meeting, decided to donate \$1500 to John Clarke's Wilderness Education Program and also to purchase first aid kits, back boards and Sam collars to place into both the North Ck. and Plummer huts.
2. **Problems with the BC Mountaineer 2000** – Two problems with the BC Mountaineer have come to light. Firstly, several photos were scanned in back to front so your editor has again rearranged the mountains, for which he apologizes. Secondly, a map which was to have accompanied Karl Ricker's article on Mt. Al Le Page, was misplaced and did not appear. It is reprinted on P. 5 of this newsletter. This map should appear around P. 64 of the B.C. Mountaineer.
3. **Club to assist funding of the new SW B.C. Alpine Select Guide** – The December social/Special General Meeting unanimously passed the motion to spend up to \$16,000 to assist publication of Kevin Mclane's new Alpine Select Guide.
4. **Club T-shirt and old B.C. Mountaineer sales** – The Club's new T-shirt went on sale at the December social and proved to be very popular. It will be on sale again at future social evenings. The year 2000 B.C. Mountaineer was also distributed and extra copies were sold (\$15 to non-club members, \$12 to club members) as were copies of older B.C. Mountaineers. Additional older B.C. Mountaineers, dating back to 1986, will also be on sale for \$12 - \$10 each at future social evenings, until supplies are exhausted. The B.C. Mountaineers also proved to be very popular, too popular unfortunately, as the superb, very well attended (120+) December social with its excellent slide show by John Grant was marred by several B.C. Mountaineers finding their way into the hands of those to whom they did not belong and who should have paid for them. Surely this has no place in our club.



## MT. LOGAN – THE NAME AND THE BCMC

The BCMC, and many club members, were involved in opposing the recent proposed renaming of Mt. Logan. It seems worth recording what happened, from our perspective. As many geographical features were named by or for BCMC members, and first explored by them, and as the BCMC is currently proposing that a mountain in the Lillooet Icefields be named for Paul Binkert, it seems topical.

We first heard of the government's proposal late on Wednesday 4th October, from Glenn Woodsworth. Glenn is a long-time active member of the club (and past president), guidebook writer, distinguished geologist, and former member of the committee which looks after B.C. geographical names. So we had a bit of advance warning. Glenn, Dave Hughes, and I quickly developed a position which, although not "official", would do for the time being. We

- were opposed to renaming Mt. Logan
- were in favour of honouring Pierre Trudeau (and indeed all Canadian prime ministers), likely by naming a suitable geographic feature for him
- recognized Trudeau as a great man and a great Canadian, and a skier, hiker, mountaineer, and canoeist
- strongly objected to bypassing of the usual process for naming, and renaming, geographic features
- believed that the name Mt. Logan was well-established nationally and internationally, and that the change was no more likely to be recognized than the renaming of St. Petersburg (Leningrad), Cape Canaveral (Cape Kennedy) or Castle Mountain (Eisenhower)
- believed that Sir William Logan was a great Canadian and deserved, as much as anyone, to have Mt. Logan named in his honour
- noted that the peaks of the Premier Range in east central B.C. were named for dead prime ministers who were not otherwise honoured.

We started spreading the word, via e-mail especially, on Thursday the 5th. An informal but determined network quickly developed. Dave Hughes, Glenn Woodsworth, Don Serl, Martin Kafer, Karl Ricker, and others were involved. It also seemed like something useful for a past-president to do. It was clear that, although the prime minister may have had personal motivations, his decision was primarily political, to capitalize on public sentiment for Trudeau, given a pending election. It seemed very unlikely he would back down. Unfortunately, it appeared that the only sure way to reverse the decision was to so embarrass Trudeau's family that they asked the prime minister to back down; this would allow him to save face.

A letter-writing campaign ensued. We asked everyone we could to write letters to the editor, to their MP, and to the prime minister's office. E-mail helped a lot, especially once we got Chretien's address! This was quite effective. Within two days, mountaineers, and members of the BCMC, were being quoted in the papers.

There was some attempt by the media, and the prime minister, to portray this as a western, special-interest, anti-Trudeau issue. We encouraged climbers and others in Ontario and the east to also get involved, and told the Trudeau haters to take a hike.

On Tuesday the 10th the BCMC had its monthly social, and members, virtually unanimously, decided that the club opposed the renaming. Dave Hughes then wrote to the prime minister's office, and the media, with the club's position. Esther & Martin Kafer had already done so, on their own volition. The next morning (11th) I got a call from CBC Newsworld, asking if I knew anyone in the mountaineering community who could speak on the issue. I tried to pass this on to Dave Hughes, or Don Serl, but without success. So the next morning I appeared at the CBC studio in downtown Vancouver, at 4 AM, to be interviewed. I was all ready; they weren't. Someone forgot to call

and tell me it was postponed until 6 AM, then when the time came I got bumped by the Middle East or something. I'm all in favour of public broadcasting (well, radio, anyway), but the disorganization was amazing. The letter writing and networking continued. We heard of teachers using this as a lesson in Canadian geography, history, and current affairs. So we started to promote that idea, and even made a few presentations to classes. We thought it would be good for the prime minister to get a few thousand letters from school children, and it would keep the issue before the media. Then the House of Commons came back into session (briefly), the opposition turned on the heat, and the government (well, Sheila Copps) said it was reconsidering. We're keeping an eagle eye on them, to ensure that they don't try to sneak one by us.

Some other interesting aspects of what happened

- A lot of Canadians learned a lot about Sir William Logan, and the naming of geographic features
- The prime minister only tried what he did because Mt. Logan is in the Yukon, and in Kluane National Park. If it was in a province, it would have required the consent of the province
- The Kluane first peoples claimed they had an interest if Mt. Logan was renamed; under a co-management agreement for the Park, they do. However, first peoples probably didn't know Mt. Logan was there, let alone its significance, before explorers showed up
- The Alpine Club of Canada was early urged to take a position on the issue, and indeed contacted by the media. It responded that it needed several weeks to do so. And it claims to be Canada's national alpine club!
- An interesting but irrelevant tidbit: for several years in the 1970s, Jean Chretien was Honorary Vice-President of the ACC, as noted in the frontispiece of various Canadian Alpine Journals. I believe the ACC then received a grant from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, of which Chretien was minister.
- There are a lot of Canadian geographical features named for the undeserving; in fact, I have a very long list. However, if we once start on such a course, it won't soon end. As it happens, a lake in Saskatchewan is named for my father's brother, who died in World War II. So, like Dave Morriss, whose great-great-uncle was Donald Smith (Mt. Sir Donald, that is), I take monkeying with names a bit seriously.

Mountaineers take this issue quite seriously. It shows, if nothing else, the level of unity and shared values within the mountaineering community when the chips are down.

Anders Ourom

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### **Groups in the mountains need to respect the privacy of other groups**

"I was a member of the "irked group" referred to in the trip report "Mt Duke, 9-10 February, 2000" [BCMC Newsletter, November, 2000]. We do not have a problem sharing the mountains with everyone; they are big enough to accommodate all of us. What irked us was that we had dropped off our bags where we intended to set up camp and gone for a ski. Upon returning we found that the BCMC trip had arrived and set up camp right next to our site.

Since the mountains are large enough for all of us, they could have at least moved further than 10 m away from where we had chosen to camp. We were, therefore, forced to move our camp to accommodate the large BCMC group.

Just to set the facts straight."

Julien Henley, BCMC Member

## **Mt. Robson park closure article claimed to be factually incorrect, biased, offensive, and poorly thought out.**

"The November 2000 issue of the BCMC newsletter contained a factually incorrect, opinion piece that was published inappropriately as a News item.

The article is entitled "Mt. Robson provincial park closed to the public to allow Indians to hunt within it". I found the article to be biased, offensive, and poorly thought out.

My primary concern, however, is that other people besides BCMC members have access to our newsletter. It's entirely possible that they may form a bad opinion about our club based on articles like this one, and that these opinions may have ramifications for the general membership. I wonder, for example, how First Nations people who hold hereditary title to some of the lands we use for recreation would feel upon reading this article.

The executive may be well-advised to consider whether or not BCMC should be mindful when expressing opinions, using inflammatory language, and making inaccurate statements in the newsletter.

If it is deemed appropriate that opinion pieces can be included in our newsletter, these should be clearly defined as Editorial Comment, in a stand-alone section with a notation that the opinions expressed are those of the editor, and not necessarily those of the general membership. (Yes, it is true that there was a line under the title "comment by M. Feller", however, the piece appeared under News.)

I'd like to express my perspective on what I consider to be some of the inaccuracies and improprieties contained in the article.

1. The article makes the leap from a news item about park closures due to hunting, to "giveaways of land". This is not logical writing.
2. The article makes it appear that the entire Stein Valley has been given to First Nations. This is not true.
3. It is a matter of opinion that the government has "given away" parkland to First Nations peoples in a "spineless, dishonest" fashion. This type of language can be considered inflammatory and could place BCMC in an awkward position.
4. The statement that the government "has been completely dishonest in its dealings with the public over the rights it has given to Indians" is, again, one man's opinion. Historically our government has been extremely dishonest in its dealings with Canada's First Nation peoples, and over a very long period of time.
5. The use throughout of the word "giveaway" implies that First Nations people are receiving something to which they are not entitled. This again, is a matter of opinion.

My hope in writing is to try to ensure that an article of this nature (or worse) does not appear again in the BCMC newsletter. I can tell you that the article offended a number of people. Therefore, I encourage the executive to try to find a fair, ethical solution."

Michele Davidson

### **Editor's response –**

Michele has two main concerns – firstly with the tone of the article and its place in the newsletter, and secondly, with its factual content.

With regard to the first concern – the article was prompted by a news item that appeared in the Vancouver Sun, which I considered to be highly significant to the BCMC and to have potentially enormous ramifications. I agree that the article in the BCMC Newsletter had an inappropriate title since the real news, and the point I was trying to

make, was not just that part of Robson park had been closed to the public, but rather that successive B.C. governments' lack of honesty towards the public over their dealings with native people has lead us to the point where we are being denied our basic democratic rights. Non-native British Columbians are having their access to wilderness and mountains curtailed without being listened to or even consulted beforehand. Rational and socially and ecologically appropriate land management is being thrown away. Stated differently, the implications of the Robson park closure are –

1. There is nowhere in B.C. where animals can escape hunters.
2. We can be denied access to any provincial park at any time without any prior warning.
3. B.C. provincial park management plans are subservient to the perceived "rights" of Indians. The desires of the majority of people are subordinate to these "rights" (a strong majority of people who provided input to B.C. Parks during the development of the current Robson park master plan wanted no hunting within the park).

The article appeared under the the heading "News" as I considered it to be news. It would be rather cumbersome to place all articles in which someone expressed personal opinions in a stand-alone editorial comment section. We often have trip reports in which the writer comments on some government policies, land use issue, or land use in an area. it would be cumbersome to place trip reports in 2 different sections – those with personal opinions expressed and those with none expressed. However, I do concede that I should have given the article a more appropriate title and placed it in a stand-alone section, as this would have more clearly identified it as editorial comment, although it was identified as one individual's comment with the phrase "comment by M. Feller" beneath the heading.

In terms of the tone of my comments, I must say that I have nothing but contempt for governments and government agencies that abuse democratic processes and even more contempt when they try to cover up that abuse. I believe that if we are to defend our interests, which are currently under siege on many fronts (e.g. from helicopter and snowmobile recreation, commercial recreation, etc.) we should not meekly turn the other cheek or quietly mumble polite platitudes. This has gained us nothing in the past as we continue to lose opportunities for our forms of recreation and governments continue to quietly meet and make commitments with those whose interests conflict with our own. We should state our opinions strongly and forcefully.

There is no question that governments have historically treated native people very poorly. However, I do not believe that the way to solve the injustices of the past is to perpetrate more injustices on a different group of people today, particularly when most members of the latter group, and their ancestors, had nothing to do with the injustices of the past.

Secondly, with regard to the factual content of the article – I believe it contains nothing that is factually incorrect. 1 + 5. Park closure vs giveaway of land – the link here was not explicitly explained, but there is a logical link. In recent years many people have devoted considerable time and effort to getting areas protected as parks. They have become stakeholders in these areas, to use current political jargon. To completely ignore these stakeholders and give the park to another group of people to use is, to me, a giveaway, as the land "belongs" to all of us, and not just one group. See my comments below about the Stein for further amplification.

2. The Stein valley – A bit of history is appropriate here. The first person in recent times to put forward the idea of protecting the valley as a park, was Roy Mason of this club. Roy approached the BCMC Conservation Committee, which I chaired at the time, in the early 1970's, with a proposal to make the valley a park. The Conservation Committee felt it was a bigger project than we could tackle, so the proposal was forwarded to the FMCBC, which took it on as an issue and started lobbying. Eventually, during the late 1970's the Stein Public Advisory Committee, consisting of representatives from various interest groups, was formed to advise on the use of the valley. At no time during the 70's was any Indian voice heard at all about the Stein. Once, during the early 80's a miner began

building a road into the Stein, logging as he went. The FMCBC, through the Advisory Committee, was able to stop him. Still no Indian voice was heard. Eventually, the Lytton Band's claim to the Stein appeared. In the mid 80's the government set up a Wilderness Advisory Committee to advise on the fate of several controversial areas, including the Stein. The 1986 report of this committee recommended that the Stein should be logged only if the Lytton Band gave permission for a road to be built into it. Shortly after this, the then chief of the Lytton Band indicated that they were not necessarily opposed to logging and the chief forester of the company that had the rights to log the Stein, the then B.C. Forest Products, stated at a meeting of foresters, at which I was present, that the Lytton Band's negotiating stance was that they would give permission for the road to be built if the band got 50% of all the jobs involved in the logging. The FMCBC and, by now, many other groups, continued to lobby for a park.

The logging negotiations appeared to get nowhere, the band's attitude towards the Stein shifted somewhat and eventually the Harcourt government declared it a park. The FMCBC was pleased that all the effort they had put into the Stein had apparently succeeded. It is probably true to say that without the FMCBC's efforts and the Stein Public Advisory Committee, the Stein valley would have been roaded and logged in the late 70's - early 80's period.

In 1998, B.C. Parks solicited public comment on their proposed master plan for the Stein. Their proposed plan revealed, for the first time to the FMCBC and the public, that in 1995 the Harcourt government had quietly negotiated a series of agreements with the Lytton Band, essentially allowing them to do as they pleased in the Stein. See the April, 1998, BCMC Newsletter for a more detailed description of these agreements but, in essence, commitments were made to the Lytton Band to allow them to cut trees, manage fish and wildlife according to their "management" (i.e. hunting for wildlife), run commercial operations in the park, possibly even using vehicles to transport equipment up the valley, build a hut to hut system in the valley, and build a variety of buildings at the mouth of the Stein. These agreements appear to have been negotiated without any public consultation or input. The FMCBC knew nothing about them until they appeared in the park plan documents. When I contacted the appropriate B.C. Parks planner to argue against all these activities being allowed to occur in the valley, I was told that my arguments would not be considered because the government had made these prior commitments to the Lytton band.

In light of the agreements made quietly with the Lytton Band in 1995, and the refusal/inability of B.C. Parks to consider management approaches which conflicted with these agreements, the entire Stein valley has, in my opinion, been given to the Lytton band.

3. + 4. Government has acted in a "spineless" and "dishonest" way in the rights it has given to Indians. This is, indeed, my opinion, but it is an opinion shared by many others, including the supreme court of B.C. It is much more than just "one man's opinion" and the language I used is similar to others' descriptions of the situation. For example, in the Vancouver Sun article describing the closure in Robson park, a local resident was quoted as saying about B.C. Parks -

"It was a backroom deal and they don't even have the courage to tell you why it's closed" (the closure sign B.C. Parks put up stated that the area was closed "for public safety reasons")

Another pertinent example comes from a court case in which Carrier Lumber Ltd. sued the B.C. government for breach of contract. The B.C. government wanted large areas of insect-damaged trees in the Cariboo to be logged. They committed the trees to Carrier Lumber Ltd. who invested considerable amounts of money in special moveable sawmills, etc. However, the local Indian band also wanted to log the trees. They made things difficult for Carrier. The government quietly met with the local band making a commitment to them giving them the rights to log. Carrier was not informed about this commitment. Eventually the government cancelled their commitment with Carrier, who then sued. Carrier won their case last year.

The judge commented that "...much of the detail was kept from them [Carrier] both before and even during this trial, and what information they were given was not often marred by truthfulness, accuracy, and candour". He further stated – "The conduct of the defendant's [government's] servants in the present case has been found to be both deceptive and the result of bad faith. The bad faith in question is illustrated by attempts and conduct calculated to conceal their real actions and motivations".

Thus, the judge concluded that the government had been dishonest in its dealings with Carrier over the rights it had given to the local Indian band. Unfortunately we do not appear to have any legal grounds (no loss of money like Carrier, for example) to sue the government over its lack of openness with the public and not informing the public, particularly the interested public, about the agreements it made with the Lytton Band. The Stein example is otherwise identical to the Carrier situation – government acting in a dishonest fashion, making quiet "backroom" deals with Indians and not having the courage to fully inform the public about what is going on.

5. "Giveaway" – See point 1 above. Also, given the complete absence of any Indian voice to protect the Stein in the 70's and early 80's, the desire of the Lytton Band to log the Stein in the mid-late 80's, and the intense effort the FMCBC put into lobbying for the Stein's protection, I consider that to completely ignore the FMCBC, and its interest in the valley, and to draw up agreements allowing the Lytton Band to almost do as they please in the Stein, is simply a "giveaway" of the valley.

## CONSERVATION NEWS

**Commercial snowmobile operation in the Callaghan valley causes major problems** – Nic Slater, who runs a commercial ski touring operation near Callaghan Lake (Mad River Nordic) has been trying to make ski tourers aware of the commercial snowmobile onslaught in the area.

He writes –

"As of 2 weeks ago (late November) the unlicensed and untenured CSA (Canadian Snowmobile Adventures) began cutting trees and brush, and rebuilding a logging bridge at our traditional base area which we have had to share with the public since 1982. All this work was done without consultation with us or any other stakeholders on the assumption that there would be more area for the public to park and less conflict between the public and commercial users. It was condoned by Forestry who claimed BCAL told them to work with CSA. We informed Forestry that trees were being cut in a fish bearing creek and bridge work was being done in contravention of the Forestry Practices Code and other water related legislation. The local Ministry of Environment representative viewed the altercation and opened a file on this subject. In September we met with CSA and BCAL who told CSA to remove from their application any areas that overlapped with our tenured area and areas that overlapped with the Whistler LRUP (Local Resource Use Plan). The Madley Valley is that area and had been identified by MOF, in their draft management plans, as not suitable for any public motorized uses, and was identified by BCAL's own study as not suitable for commercial motorized uses. One must keep in mind that this area is also part of our cross-country ski tenure area. Two weeks ago we were told that CSA was going to be given a temporary one year permit to operate in the Madley Creek Valley.

Part of CSA's original application was for the use of Sproat Mountain, which is part of Whistlers' main watershed area. We assume they have been turned down on that front? There currently is a trail started by the old Mine that public snowmobilers presently use to access Sproat Mt. In December a new trail was discovered being made, that will facilitate access to the Sproat area. CSA said as recently as last week that they use this area for film production work and would like to use it for their snowmobile tours. The question is, what can be done about the overrunning of the backcountry by users that seem to have little respect for the process, let alone the pristine nature of these wilderness areas and their uses by the community".

He writes further –

"From our perspective we really did not and still do not have a huge problem with CSA getting permission to operate in the lower valley, as this area will eventually have golf courses, homes and hotels and commercial snowmobiling will be precluded by a somewhat urban environment. There are already applications for such ventures. The big issues are that we might have to share trails with a commercial motorized operation in the upper Callaghan and that the crown does not understand what the issues are. There should be very definite zoning which is coming and regulations about the motorized public's use of the mainline up to the icecap. Speed, trail and noise limitations are a must, snowmobiles (2 stroke engines) pollute between 100 & 300 times what an equivalent sized 4 stroke engine does. With increases in grooming by the commercial entities, the public snowmobilers traditionally take full advantage of these improvements at the expense of both the commercial snowmobile and ski operators.

As a Director of a non-motorized commercial recreation venture in Whistler since 1982, I have seen many changes in the types of users in Parks & on Crown Lands. Technology has been the largest contributor to these changes. Mountain biking is now more the norm in small towns in BC than 4 x 4's & dirt biking. However, during the winter months, snowmobiling has now taken over the backcountry in BC. New technology has transformed snowmobiles into machines now able to travel in deep snow. Prior to 1985, snowmobiles were only useful in 6 inches or less of powder snow. Unfortunately the zoning of crown lands, the government agencies and bodies that regulate the public use of these lands and parks has not been able to keep up with the onslaught of snowmobiles and their lobbying efforts. This is largely because the 'issues' have taken this long to define. Now that they are defined, the powers that be, must take stock of who the users are, their numbers, and how the majority want their lands regulated and zoned.

The issues revolve around the users, of which there are 4 overlapping groups. The motorized, the non-motorized, the commercial and the public. Currently the only group that does not want to compromise around zoning of lands seem to be the snowmobilers. They have taken over many areas where they previously did not exist prior to 1985, where skiers were the only winter users because snowmobiles could not even follow in their tracks. So in less than 15 years the majority users of snow covered lands in the British Columbia mountains and valleys have been almost completely displaced by a minority group due solely to the advances in technology.....

As of the last 3 months, MOF in Squamish has paved the highway entrance and made a 500 metre snowmobile trail at the entrance to the Brandywine Valley to facilitate both commercial and public snowmobiling. They have also rebuilt a bridge at the Callaghan highway entrance again for both the public and commercial snowmobilers. The non-motorized users have gained nothing in this flurry of activity. MOF claims their main concerns are for an orderly trailhead that does not interfere with the highway operation and the commercial snowmobile operations and that there must be somewhere for the public to park. So once again the motorized contingent has won hands down because MOF does not feel any separation in parking and trails between the motorized and non-motorized users is necessary. It appears that the thinking is to separate the public from the motorized commercial users, instead of separating the motorized from the non-motorized users. Currently in the Callaghan the commercial motorized contingent are completely separated from the other 3 users.

We need equal treatment for all users and until that time we must lobby the powers that be to level the playing field".

So - unless you write, email, or phone in your concerns, ski tourers will not be able to escape snowmobiles ANYWHERE in the Squamish-Pemberton region.

Make your concerns known, email the following land managers (Ministry of Forests, LUCO, B.C. Parks, Whistler municipal planners) -

Peter.jones@gems1.gov.bc.ca, beresford\_h@rmow.whistler.bc.ca, bennett\_k@rmow.whistler.bc.ca,  
jansen\_j@rmow.whistler.bc.ca, barratt\_b@rmow.whistler.bc.ca, drew.carmichael@gems1.gov.bc.ca,  
elisabeth.eldridge@gems7.gov.bc.ca, doug.herchmer@gems3.gov.bc.ca, john.crooks@gems3.gov.bc.ca

You won't get another chance.

## AROMATHERAPY MASSAGE

Club member, John Kho, provides an aromatherapy massage service. The Aromatherapy Massage he does is essentially a relaxation massage. It consists of Swedish, Shiatsu, Reflexology, and Trager body works combined with essential oils. As a healing therapy, the massage works to improve the circulation into and out of the muscles and eliminates the buildup of waste products such as lactic acid from overworked or chronically tense muscles. It's combined with essential oils which penetrate deep into the layers of the skin. The oils nourish, cleanse and detoxify while tightening the skin, increasing blood circulation, calming the nervous system and supporting the skin's functions. The service is given in a relaxed atmosphere of quiet meditative music, using heated towels and hot compress with personalized aromatic oils.

After a good workout from climbing, skiing, mountaineering, hiking or other outdoor pursuits, I believe BCMC members would enjoy receiving a relaxation massage. The cost of the massage is \$65 per session, which is around one and a half hours at my office (set up in my home). It's a full treatment from head to toe. Out of office service is also available for \$15 more.

John can be contacted at 733-7897 or by email at [jkho62@yahoo.com](mailto:jkho62@yahoo.com)

## MEETINGS/EVENTS OF INTEREST

**Fourth Annual Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival** - The Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival Society will be hosting its Fourth Annual Festival at The Centennial Theatre, 2300 Lonsdale Avenue in North Vancouver, 21 to 25 February, 2001. It's an event not to be missed!

More than 25 mountain films from around the world will be shown, covering a wide range of topics, including mountaineering, rock climbing, mountain biking, skiing, ice climbing and mountain culture. This year's festival guest speakers will include:

**Greg Child**, a world-class Australian climber and alpinist;

**Will Gadd**, a superlative Canadian ice climber, rock climber and paraglider;

**John Clarke**, BC's legendary mountaineer and explorer, premiering his "Young People and Wild Places" program to elementary and high school students; and others...

Further guest speakers will be confirmed and announced shortly. The list of selected films will be finalized in late January 2001.

In addition to the film competition, the Festival will offer a number of special events, such as:

the "**Krankenstein2**" rock climbing competition at The Edge Climbing Centre;

the **Mountain Book Festival** (with book readings by well known outdoor authors);

the **Mountain Photography Competition and Exhibition**;

the **Youth and Senior Community Programme** (environmental and outdoor programs for students and seniors);

an **Outdoor Mini-Trade Show**;

a **Snow- shoeing Contest** at nearby Grouse Mountain.

Following the major event in Vancouver, the Festival will go on tour, sending its winning films to more than 25 communities across Canada and the United States. Watch for it in your community!

The Festival's main goal is to provide the outdoor communities of British Columbia and the US Pacific Northwest with films and slide presentations dealing with mountain culture and mountain activities in an environmentally respectful way. The Festival aims to create a platform for the exchange of ideas between film makers, outdoor

enthusiasts, athletes and the public, while at the same time encourage the most artistic and effective forms of communicating mountain-related experiences.

Come February 2001, tickets will be available at Mountain Equipment Co-op, Coast Mountain Sports, and at the Centennial Theatre Box Office (Visa and M/C, tel 984-4484).

Additional information can be found at [www.vimff.org](http://www.vimff.org). Are you a film-maker or photographer? The Festival is calling for film and photo submissions. The deadline for entries is January 15, 2001, and entry forms can be downloaded from [www.vimff.org](http://www.vimff.org).

## TRIP REPORTS

### Silverdaisy Mountain, 9 July, 2000

I awoke at 5:30am and thought, "I'm going climbing today,... no time to sleep in now!" I looked outside my window and saw the overcast skies and my heart sank. Well, I will get ready and meet the others anyway, I thought. I got dressed and gathered my gear and met the others at Wendy's on Boundary. We discussed our options and decided to head up the valley, but to keep an eye on the weather. We regrouped at Tim Hortons in Chilliwack for hot drinks and a light snack and agreed to go for it.

We arrived at the Sumallo Grove picnic area, crossed the iron footbridge above the Skagit River and continued to the trailhead. This bridge is quite interesting because a sense of vertigo kicks in as you watch the river flow underneath your feet through the iron grating. Fifteen minutes down the muddy trail, we turned left and upwards past seven switchbacks high above Silverdaisy Creek.

After the series of switchbacks we pushed on up a steeper section to the first of two rockslides where we stopped to have a water break, adjust equipment and take pictures. The overcast skies remained and fog rolled in from time to time. Though it didn't rain, we still got wet from the moist vegetation lining the trail. We changed into rain gear at the old mining road, emerged onto the logging road, and then rejoined at the col.

We turned left to head up a beautiful meadow leading to the ridge and the double summit. Though the view was obscured by cloud and fog, the meadow held many beautiful wild flowers, the pleasant smell of juniper and periodic fields of snow. On one of the snowfields we noticed a ptarmigan with her young. She flew towards us, allowing her young offspring to run away unharmed.

We arrived at the second summit marked by a cairn, threw warm clothing on, had lunch and took some pictures. After 3/4 hour, we headed down. The heavy cloud cover lifted for a few brief minutes allowing more pictures. A couple of us adjusted some foot problems and shortly we were at the col. Cameras away and rehydrated, we headed down the mining road. We stopped to explore the old mining operation. Gaye and I took off a little ahead of the others as we knew they would catch up shortly. From here it seemed like a very long way down. The trail was a bit steep in some sections but the only problem it caused was that we had a lot of terrain to cover.

We met for supper in Hope at the Home Restaurant. The food was fantastic. I think we were all a little tired with either sore feet or tired legs, but happy with the climb and that we didn't let the weather hold us back. The view might not have been so great, but we didn't get rained on and we all enjoyed the day and each other's company.

Participants: Gaye Alcock, Murray Lashmar (organizer), Lynn Erickson, Zif, Dave, and Nikki Ducharme (reporter),

### Skaha, 7-9 October, 2000

The annual autumn pilgrimage to Skaha was a great success. We had lovely weather on Saturday and Sunday – some were climbing in shorts! Monday there were some showers. Sunday morning some attended the Climbers' Access Society AGM, at the parking lot. All admired the lovely new solar composting toilet. In a change from 1998, no bears were seen – flying or otherwise. Several members reportedly climbed "Logan's Run", wanting to tick it before it was renamed "Pierre Elliot Trudeau's Run". The trip was minimally organized, for which the overwhelmed organizer takes full responsibility. Most everyone seemed to have fun anyway.

Participants: Dave Morriss, Wendy Holmes, Mirella Lioce, Karen Backmann & friend Jay, Erik Frebald, Christina Addario & two friends, Debbie Hill & friend Steve, Tammie Sibbald, Trevor Lumley, Caroline Cheung, Deborah Carlson, Ed Spat, Andrew Spat, Bob Price, Gord Esplin, Cynthia Neale, Kevin Wallis, Russell March, Anders Ourom (Organizer and reporter), and about eight others.

### **Cathedral Lakes, 7-9 October, 2000**

A lucky group of fifteen Vancouverites enjoyed three spectacular days in the Cathedrals with the trip organizer. Clear skies and warm weather held for the duration of the trip. The days were spent with small, flexible groups making their way up on the rim and marvelling at the magnificent vistas, long hikes through the golden larches towards Goat Lake, the Boxcar and up on to Lakeview Mountain (which contrary to popular opinion, is not being renamed Mt. Trudeau). The weekend also included a small group that made the summit of Grimface. A chance to gather around the various campfires was a warm way of forging new friendships, telling old stories and ending another good day in the mountains of this truly beautiful part of our great province.

The list of fine folk includes: Eva Boehringer, Will Neustaedter, Michael Feller, Evelyn Feller, Liz Scremin, Manrico Scremin, Irene Goldstone, Andrzej Jarzabek, Ron Caves, Ziff House, Anne Lavergne, Lesley Cowar, Rhys Gibb, Carol MacMillan, Alan Isemonger, and Ellen Woodd (Organizer of car pools, jeep rides and campfire gatherings, and reporter).

### **The "Big" Liddle – Mt Liddle (Gambier Island), 22 October, 2000**

This B2 hike gave the participants a chance for a dual ferry ride and an opportunity to check out real estate prices on Gambier ( too high!). A hearty group of 7 hikers caught the 7:20 am Langdale ferry and then immediately exited to the Dogwood Princess to catch this small passenger ferry to Gambier. We were not deterred by the overall transportation costs of \$15 return as we all felt that a small cash infusion to BC Ferries would convince them to keep those Fast Ferries.

We wandered through the back roads for about 45 minutes, paying attention to the directions provided in 103 Hikes, and sure enough, we came to the trailhead. We passed some big stumps along the way as once again the loggers had beat us to this once pristine area.

After ascending the rocky route that was further overgrown above with small cedars – BCMC Trail clearers take note(!) – we soon wound our way up to the top amid threatening skies. Nevertheless, it was 12:30 and lunchtime – just about 4 hours to the top – surely a record! We could see Richmond smog to the southwest and the Port Mellon smog to the north but also some lightly snow-covered peaks in the Tetrahedron area.

After a quick lunch, we knee-bended to the bottom keeping at eye on the time as the next ferry was leaving at 4 pm and we had left the summit at 1:15. A few anxious members couldn't stand missing the dinner on the 4:20 Langdale ferry so they were given permission to run to try and catch the 4 pm Gambier to Langdale ferry which they apparently only made by 30 secs!

The remaining 4 members plodded on and eventually reached the dock at 5:15. We quietly ate our remaining food supplies while waiting for the 6 pm ferry and eventually the 6:20 Langdale ferry.

A good hike but it will soon require some brushing/cutting.

Participants: Carl Friesen, Tara Ramsey, Andrea Weiss, Julian Douglas, Vince Mantle, Marissa Mantle, and Mike Peel (Organizer and reporter).

### **Williams Peak, 20 October, 2000**

Saturday, the rain comes down berserk and the weather forecast is bleak, but Peter decides the trip is on. Tanya, Brad, Peter and I leave Wendy's at 6:45. Tim Horton's in Chilliwack lures us with its promise of a sugar and caffeine fix. After that we ride out to the Chilliwack river to gather our other friends Jos, Mia and Mark. Due to the possible snow and the short day, we decide Flora Peak might be a better destination. It is not the worst we could do.

On the way the weather clears considerably, and we can see Williams Peak does not have a lot snow. Peter loads the variables. We are back to the best that we could do. We set out from the cars shortly after nine. It is an overcast day, but there are many sunny breaks. We have a short rest at the end of the ridge, and then head up a gully that puts us right at the summit. We do not have too much time for getting down as it is 3 pm and darkness lurks.

We arrive back at the cars at 6 pm. It seems like the middle of the night. An enjoyable fall day with a wonderful group of people, but we missed you Hans. Apparently, your call was the deciding factor for the trip going ahead. Participants: Jos van der Burg, Tanya Scharbach, Brad Braun, Mark Burgoyne, Mia, Peter Gumplinger (Organizer) and Cynthia Neale (reporter).

#### **North Ck. trail and cabin maintenance, 4-5 November, 2000**

Driving through heavy rain between Squamish and Whistler, and feeling somewhat sick, I was thinking of joining the others who had cancelled on this trip. By Pemberton, however, the rain had given way to cloudy skies with even a touch of blue. By the end of the logging road the sky was almost completely blue and the sun was out. This year the logging road contained no water bars until the last km, as logging activity was occurring high up, but not within North Ck valley itself, fortunately.

After the previous year's chainsaw massacre on the trail, this year was a piece of cake – only a dozen trees or so across the first section of trail through the forest, and even fewer across the trail in the forest below the cabin. We actually got to the cabin in daylight. The steps up to the front verandah were relatively rotten, the top one disappearing completely when your editor stepped on it. Some supports for the verandah were also rotting and someone had cracked a window pane (a lantern was placed too close to it, we hear). Otherwise, the cabin was in good shape. Its warm stove soon had people removing clothes as we settled down for a warm and pleasant evening, some reading, some playing cards, some talking about Old Jamaica.

Sunday brought cloud and snow flurries, of which the latter were needed to cover up the extremely icy patches of snow around the cabin. The morning was spent cutting up firewood for the cabin, cutting down a few trees around the "helipad", and measuring up parts of the verandah that had to be replaced. An uneventful trip back to the cars, cutting as we went, brought another productive North Ck. work party to an end.

Participants: Mike Peel, Patrick O'Hagan, Nick Ranicar, Kerry Brundige, Evelyn Feller, and Michael Feller (Organizer and reporter).

#### **Pokosha Ck. trail maintenance, 5 November, 2000**

We cleared A-610 off the Ashlu Main using a chainsaw and loppers. This spur road goes up Pokosha Creek from which Sigurd Lake and Mount Jimmy Jimmy can be reached. I was hoping to clear to the end of the road but we ran out of time and energy. I estimate we still had about 1 km to go. We cleared the road with ski trips in mind – about 3 m wide.

The start of the road was always the worst to ski. Generally, the higher up you get, the snow depth is usually sufficient to cover the slide alder completely. If I put it on the schedule for next year, I'd like to clear to the end of the road and continue up to the small lake enroute to Mount Jimmy Jimmy.

Participants: Andrew Wong, Peter Norris, Todd Ponzini, Michel Martineau, Steve (friend of Michel's), Blake Drummond, and Paul Kubik (organizer and reporter)

#### **Brohm Ridge, 3 December, 2000**

It was a nice sunny day with good snow higher up and not too many snowmobiles to worry about.

Participants: Pete Steiner, Rhys Gibb, Alwyn Smith, Brian Vezina, Lesli Cowan, and Robert Gordon (Organizer and reporter).