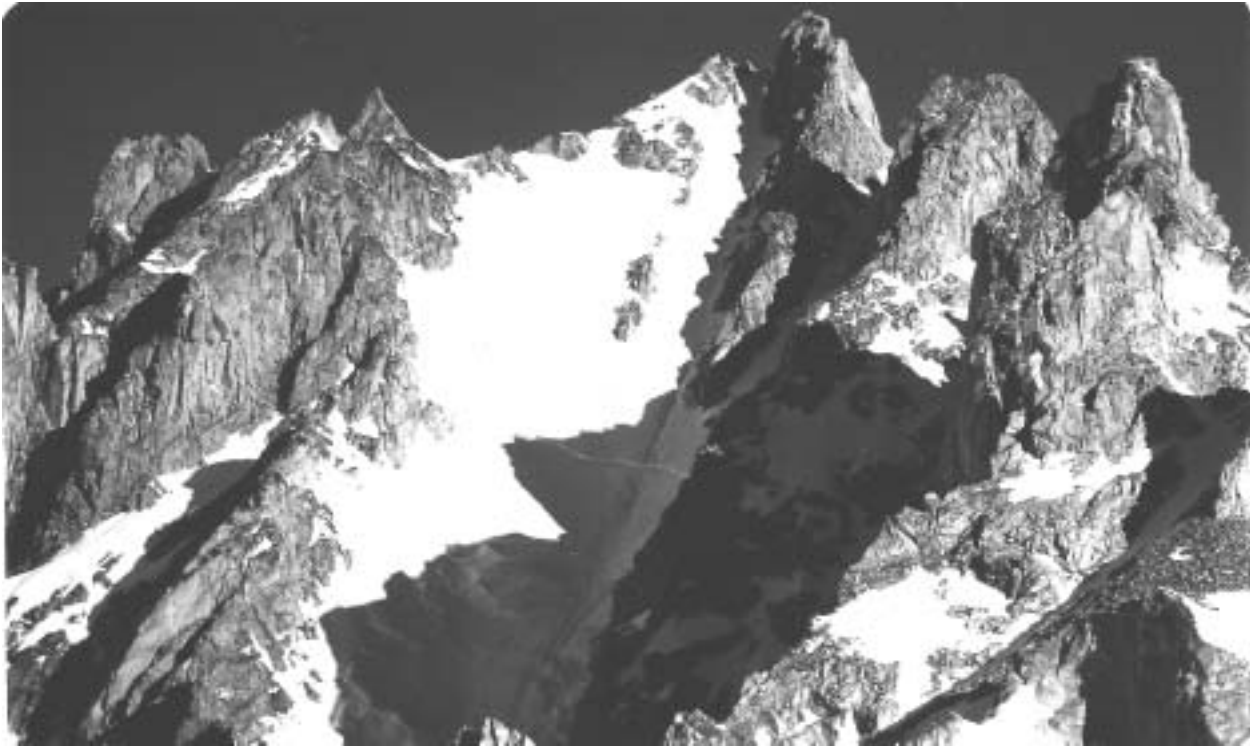


BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

JUNE-JULY 2002

VOL. 80 NO. 6



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.

Tuesday, 11 June - Entertainment will be a slide show by Monika Bittel on an expedition to Shishapangma in Tibet.

Tuesday, 9 July - **Dinner on the beach.** Meet on the beach at the foot of Trimble at 6:30 pm.

Tellot Glacier peaks, Waddington Range.



Penitentes on the Shishapangma Glacier. Photo - M. Bittel.



HONORARY PRESIDENTS - Esther and Martin Kafer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT -	DAVE HUGHES	604-980-6484	CABIN / TRAILS -	IAN HOPPER	604-929-3720
PAST-PRESIDENT -	ANDERS OUROM	604-228-1798	CONSERVATION -	BRIAN WOOD	604-222-1541
VICE-PRESIDENT -	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462		MONIKA BITTEL	604-983-3097
SECRETARY -	MIRELLA LIOCE	604-736-5079	SUMMER CAMP -	DAVID SCANLON	604-464-3730
TREASURER -	MARCIA COLLIER	604-987-5245	WEBMASTER -	MICHAEL McCRAE	604-326-0156
MEMBERSHIP/MAILING -	MIKE PEEL	604-268-9502	EDITOR -	MICHAEL FELLER	604-270-4050
	TAMMIE SIBBALD	604-877-0344			
SOCIALS -	DARRYL MALBY	604-709-0051	EQUIPMENT -	PAUL KUBIK	604-876-0764
	DONNA BAILIE	604-572-5051	SAFETY EQUIPMENT -		
CLIMBING -	DAVE MORRISS	604-732-9896		KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462
	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462	LIBRARY -	GEORGE HAMILTON	604-988-1888

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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, or for consistency with club policies.

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. 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. If you decide not to go on a trip for which you have previously registered, please be courteous and inform the trip organizer.

		ORGANIZER	
June 2: Mt. Gardner (hike)	B2/719 m	Pam Krannitz	604-946-9942
Hiking on Bowen Island. Joint trip with the ACC.			
June 2: Blanshard Pk.	C4/1560 m	Reinhard Fabische	604-462-9638
More skiing and rock climbing in Golden Ears park.			
June 8: Mt. Bishop	C2/1508 m	Peter Gumplinger	604-733-8264
Extended hiking in Vancouver's North Shore Mountains.			
June 8: Anvil Island (hike)	B2	Mike Peel	604-444-4068
Hiking on another island, with access by water taxi.			
June 8-9: Mt. Baker	C5/3286 m	Anders Ourom	604-228-1798
Ice/steep snow ascent by the N Ridge. Contact the organizer by phone no later than the preceding Wednesday night.			
June 8-9: Silvertip Mtn.	C3/2610 m	Emanuele Porra	604-533-7723
Scrambling south of Hope.			
June 9: Cypress park (hike)	A1	Peter Oostlander	604-451-4585
Easy family hike (children age 3+) above West Vancouver.			
June 14-16: Spearhead traverse (ski)	C3	Tammie Sibald	604-877-0344
Yet another attempt by the club on this classic ski traverse near Whistler. Good for gossip.			
June 15: Welch Pk.	B3/2440 m	Irek Jasiak	604-930-8541
Mountaineering in the Chilliwack valley area.			
June 15-16: Meager Ck. area	C2	Greg Hamilton	604-984-6800
Scrambling in the upper Lillooet valley area.			
June 16: Coliseum Mtn.	C2/1437 m	Monika Bittel	604-983-3097
Extended hiking in the Lynn Ck. area of Vancouver's North Shore mountains.			
June 19-23: Juan de Fuca trail	B2	Mirella Lioce	604-736-5079
Hiking on the west coast.			
June 22: Black Tusk area	B2	Marsha Ablowitz	604-261-8953
Hiking in Garibaldi park.			
June 22: North Twin Sister	C3-4/2024 m	Peter Gumplinger	604-733-8264
Mountaineering in northern Washington, ascending via the W Ridge.			
June 29: Organizer's Choice	B2-3	Albert Souza	604-253-4832
Scrambling somewhere. Contact the organizer for further details.			
June 29-July 1: Mt. Rexford-Nesakwatch Spires	B-C4-5/2320 m	David Scanlon	604-464-3730
Rock climbing in the Chilliwack valley area.			
June 29-July 1: Skihist Mtn.	C3-4/2970 m	Emanuele Porra	604-533-7723
Climbing on the highest mountain in SW B.C. in the Kwoiek Ck. area.			
June 30: Seymour Park area	A1	George Malburg	604-877-1784
Easy hiking in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.			
July 6-7: Whirlwind Pk.	B3/2440 m	Marco Iucolino	604-552-9404
Mountaineering in the Singing Pass area of Garibaldi park.			
July 6-7: Sky Pilot Mtn.	C3/2025 m	Brian Steeves	604-408-4889
Mountaineering above Howe Sound.			
July 6-7: Mt. Sloan	C3/2723 m	Robert Nugent	604-732-3498
Rock climbing near Bralorne			
July 8-9: Knight Pk.	B3/2237 m	Greg Hamilton	604-984-6800
Scrambling in the Lucky Four Group in the Chilliwack valley area.			

July 13-14: Grainger Pk. Extended rock climbing in the Chehalis Range, ascending via the S Ridge.	D5/2197 m	Nicholas Ranicar	604-899-8818
July 13-14: Sigurd Lake Hiking in the Ashlu valley area.	C2	Monika Bittel	604-983-3097
July 13+: B.C. to Yellowstone Very extended hiking through the U.S. Rocky Mountains, being entertained en route.	C2	Brian Wood	604-222-1541
July 19-21: Mt. Albert Mountaineering near Princess Louisa Inlet.	C3/2532 m	Paul Kubik	604-876-0764
July 20-21: Manning Park Hiking east of Hope.	B2	Brian Steeves	604-408-4889
July 20-21: Mt. Lindeman and MacDonald Pk. Scrambling in the Chilliwack valley.	B3-4/2310 m	Theo Mosterman	604-823-4713
July 26-28: Dash Hill - S. Chilcotin Extended hiking in the Southern Chilcotin.	D2	Rick Raynsford	604-922-1897
July 27: Dennett Lake Hiking and scrambling (?) on Burke Ridge, above Coquitlam.	B2-3	Jack Pals	604-463-7552
July 27-28: Lost Valley Ck. area Extended rambling in the Cayoosh Range area, north of the Duffey Lake road.	C2	Greg Stoltmann	604-926-6496
July 29-August 1: Grainger Pk. Rock climbing in the Chehalis Range.	C3/2197 m	Russ March	604-433-8868
July 29 - August 1: Wedge Mtn. Mountaineering in Garibaldi park, ascending via the NE arête.	C3	Will Neustaedter	604-324-1344
August 2-5: Southern Chilcotins More in the Southern Chilcotin, scrambling this time.	B3	Rick Raynsford	604-922-1897
August 3-5: Liberty Bell Rock climbing in the Washington Pass area of north central Washington.	A5/2353 m	Dave and Wendy Morriss	604-732-9896
August 10-11: Mt. Weart Mountaineering in Garibaldi park, ascending via the N Face.	C4-5/2870 m	Paul Morton	604-874-7372
August 10-11: Skihist Mtn. Another trip to the highest mountain in SW B.C.	C3/2970 m	Murray Lashmar	604-221-4183
August 10-13: Seton Ridge area Hiking and scrambling NE of Pemberton. Joint trip with the ACC.	A2-B3	Pam Krannitz	604-946-9942

BCMC SUMMER CAMPS, 2002

1. 5th Annual Lake Lovely Water Summer Camp: 13-21 July.

In the glorious Tantalus Range. This camp is currently full, but for information and registration call Peter Woodsworth at 604-254-7076.

2. Bendor Range-Mt. Truax area, 10-18 August

Following last year's highly successful camp in the Bendor Range, Dave is offering a repeat - This is a minimal cost, hike in and out camp offering a variety of hiking and climbing possibilities, with lots for everyone. Participants must be club members at the time of application and must be physi-

cally fit. For information and registration, contact David Scanlon at 464-3730.

3. Climbing Camp to northern end of the Monarch Icecap, 27 July - 3 August

If you missed last year's climbing camp to Ape Lake you have a second chance. David Hughes is planning a trip to climb Mt. Talchako which is east of Ape Lake. The trip could be combined with a climbing camp to the Ape Lake area which has lots of moderate to difficult climbing available. For further information contact David Hughes at 604-980-6484.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

The club welcomes the following new members:

Junior: Jim Genge

Associate: Ravil Chamgoulov, Caroline Hart, Robert Livingstone, Dan Lord, Raymond Robb, Hollis Schray, Sid Scull, Ryan Paul Wiskar, and Kelly Zibrik.

What Club members are doing

What club members are doing

Honorary club member **John Clarke** will be awarded the Order of Canada, our country's highest honour for lifetime achievement. The award

process started a year and a half ago when about 25 people, including other BCMC members, wrote letters of support. Normally it takes two years for the nomination to be considered but the process was accelerated a bit when John became ill. The public announcement will be made by the Governor General's office in early July. John is getting the award for his mountain exploration achievements, conservation work, and work with the Wilderness Education Program. He is a most worthy recipient of the award and the club offers its enthusiastic congratulations. The club now has 2 members honoured with the Order of Canada - **Joan Ford** is the other.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reason for the previous club policy not allowing dogs on club trips

Perhaps a voice from the past can clarify what appears to be a debatable policy of prohibiting dogs on club trips.

In the latter part of the '60's and the early '70's when I was a member of the executive, the subject arose, principally due to an antisocial couple insisting on bringing their dog on club ski trips. By punching holes in the up track and transforming the ski down into an obstacle race, the enjoyment of the rest of the group was ruined. Consequently, a decision was made to ban dogs from trips, thereby supporting the policy of the club to preserve the wilderness.

Anyone who adheres to the original articles of the club realizes how the damage and diseases even a well-behaved domestic animal will leave en route can affect wilderness, and there is good evidence that the spread of giardia throughout the region has been assisted by non-native fauna.

As a leader, I have turned back a person who decided I would be overjoyed to have his big dog accompany the group and ride in my car. So I am disgusted to learn that the generation of "my rights" would gain ascendancy over "our responsibility" with respect to domestic animals in the wilderness. This makes me ashamed to tell anyone I am a life member of the B.C.M.C.

Joyce Davies



THREATS TO MOUNTAINS AND WILDERNESS 2002 - TECHNOLOGY AND COMMERCIALIZATION

Impacts of Technology on the Meaning of Wilderness

The next article in the series discussing some of the threats our mountains and wilderness face was written by William Borrie, an Assistant Professor in the School of Forestry, University of Montana. It

was published in 2000, in "Personal, societal, and ecological values of wilderness: Sixth World Wilderness congress proceedings on research, management, and allocation, Volume II. U.S. Forest Service Proc. RMRS-P-14" p. 87-88, and is reprinted with the permission of the author.

Abstract - *Of the many societal threats to wilderness, the impact of technology is one of the most troublesome. Certainly, technological innovation has enabled many people to enjoy the values of wilderness. There is, however, a hidden cost associated with those technologies. Technology not only changes the wilderness experience, but it has the potential to change the very meaning of wilderness. Technology can manipulate our wants, needs, and expectations. It raises a particular view of wilderness to greater prevalence, and it may mask our ability to distinguish and determine what is lost in so doing. The adoption and endorsement of technology is largely irreversible. There is a need to carefully shape policies that can keep pace with technological advancements. Once crafted, those policies and the technological intrusions they endorse will continue to mold wilderness as we know it.*

Technology has the potential to act both within and outside of wilderness. It has the ability to not only shape what wilderness is experienced to be, but also our expectations of what wilderness can and should be. Technology changes not just the wilderness experience, but it also changes us. As Mander (1995, p. 103) suggests, “the important point about a technology is not what it delivers in its apparent content (for example, the TV program), but what the technology causes to change in society: how it alters knowledge, thought, experience, participation, power.” Any wilderness policy that deals with technological issues, such as the prohibition on mechanized transport, needs to examine the impact on the content of the wilderness experience as well as the impact on the knowledge, meaning, and participation in wilderness. Without such balanced consideration, it could be difficult to counter any such demands for safer, more universally accessible, and more comfortable wilderness experiences.

Change of Expectations

Technology manipulates our wants and needs of wilderness. Just as Rothenburg (1993, p. xiv) explains, “technology never simply does what we tell it to, but modifies our notions of what is possible and desirable.” For example, as light-weight clothing and equipment enable greater mobility, there is greater expectation to travel

further, to see more “highlights”, and to experience a greater portion of the wilderness area. Technological advances, such as waterproof jackets, have provided greater ability to cope with severe environmental conditions and, therefore, more people are expecting to visit locations previously perceived as too dangerous.

Technology can serve as a buffer between the visitor and the realities of the wilderness environment. We may be too insulated and protected from nature to identify the severity of a situation before it is too late. Wilderness visitors may become less dependent on their own ability and awareness as they become more dependent on technology. For example, as reliance on fuel stoves increases, the ability to build campfires declines. Or as another example, as reliance on Global Positioning System units rises, confidence in the ability to go anywhere is likely to increase, and the willingness to turn back declines. Similarly, the predominance of cellular or mobile telephones raises the expectation that emergency assistance is only a phone call away. Technology can provide a false sense of security and ability to cope. Technology may help people feel that wilderness is smaller, safer, and easier, but is that perception worthwhile? As a result, are wilderness visitors losing the desire and ability to deal with the uncertainties of wilderness on its own terms? Is technology waving in a loss of humility among wilderness visitors? Certainly it is changing our expectations of what we can and perhaps should be able to experience in wilderness.

Loss of the Unknown

One distinct effect of technology is an increase in the knowability of wilderness. Database and memory technology, combined with greater levels of public access, have taken away much of the sense of wilderness as a blank space on the map. It will not be long before characteristics of a wilderness campsite such as predominant wind direction, amount of bare ground, and numbers of fish become available for every campsite in wilderness. Although aiding trip-planning, selection, and reservation of designated campsites, this comes at the cost of a loss of the unknown. The sense of discovery and mystery that can be so much a part of wilderness is lost. Instead of

developing local knowledge from direct interaction with the wilderness environment, more decisions and expectations are being based on a mediated or controlled image of wilderness.

The impact of technology in determining which image of wilderness predominates is largely hidden. Technology covers its tracks as Mitcham (1994) suggests: "Modern technology not only covers over or obscures the thinghood in things, it also covers over or obscures the Being of beings, and ultimately itself." People influenced by technologically mediated views of wilderness not only receive a skewed image but also have limited ability to distinguish the real from the imaginary. As technology improves, the more influential the image becomes. Wilderness managers and policymakers should be explicit about the images they endorse or allow. Mumford (1950, p. 2) puts this well when he says: "what we know of the world comes to us mainly by interpretation, not by direct experience, and the very vehicle of interpretation itself is a product of that which must be explained."

Regarding wilderness, there could be a call to elevate the role of direct experience, a call for a close examination or deconstruction of the manipulated image of wilderness that technology increasingly allows. Viewing wilderness through technology changes the view of wilderness we receive. In addition, the motivation for providing that image may not be consistent with the intents of wilderness and wilderness legislation. As Katz (197, p. 176) describes, "any organism that is modified through human technology has been subjected to the process of design. It may appear to be natural, it may still be an organism - yet the meaning of its existence, its essence, has changed. It is now an artifact for the fulfillment of human satisfaction."

The loss of direct experience is concerning. Wilderness used to be its own certifier, but now more and more information is available out of context. There is, therefore, a loss of the original referrer, and it is much easier for human views of wilderness to dominate at the expense of learning the truths of wilderness through a humble process of discovery. Strong (1995, p. 162) points out that technological "devices prevent us from crossing the threshold

into the wilderness of things. They diminish the extent to which a sense of wilderness reality is established in us".

Technology also has the potential to change our perceptual system. We get attuned to a faster rate of input and, perhaps, a more precise, defined style of presentation. We become less able to understand wilderness in an unmediated mode and more willing to demand that wilderness conform with standards set by the mediated image. In effect, the image is so powerfully attractive that the reality may not fairly compete. Technology is seductive, and as Rothenburg (1993, p. 86) warns, "if we surrender ourselves to blind faith in the transformative power of new technology, we will forget what nature might mean beyond ourselves."

The Upshot

Technology threatens to fundamentally change the way we view wilderness. The question that must follow is an evaluation of to what extent these changes are beneficial, and at what costs are those benefits achieved. It appears that technology is both an enabler and a filter - by making wilderness easier, more comfortable, and more convenient. But what is lost in the process, what wilderness values have been downgraded? We must ask to whom the benefits accrue, since as Postman (1992, p. 9) suggests: "those who cultivate competence in the use of a new technology become an elite group that are granted undeserved authority and prestige by those who have no such competence...another way of saying this is that the benefits and deficits of a new technology are not distributed equally." Technology is not benign. We must ask what is motivating our adoption of technology for wilderness, and whether it is consistent and facilitative of the values of wilderness. There are those who would argue that technology runs counter to the ideas of wilderness, as Katz (1997, p. 174) argues, "the raison d'etre of technology is to increase human power, control and comfort...Technology ignores the natural world, except as an object to be manipulated, controlled, processed or otherwise used." Wilderness preservation runs counter to this level of human domination and provides a haven from which to critically examine the exigencies of

the postmodern, technological world (Birch 1990). There needs to be caution that technology is not simply the irreversible wedge that unduly reintroduces society into wilderness. Once adopted and endorsed, it is unlikely that the influence of technology could be contained.

In developing policies to protect wilderness from the impacts of technology, two questions present themselves: how does technology irrevocably change us and our views of wilderness, and how do we weigh the advantages and disadvantages of technology? That is, how do we determine whether technology is good or bad for wilderness? Whatever policy is developed to tackle these issues will

A PLEA FOR INCREASED FUNDING TO ENSURE THE FUTURE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BC

The FMCBC is an umbrella organisation of 24 hiking/backcountry skiing/mountaineering clubs and at least 10 Affiliate/Associate Member Clubs. The FMCBC has two original committees, namely Trails, and Recreation and Conservation, each of which meets regularly with about 5-15 volunteers, and a new Research Committee. The Trails Committee administers the Adopt-a-Trail program which coordinates construction and maintenance of hiking trails carried out by member clubs, and has a computerized trail inventory for the Province of about 600 trails. Some local offices of the Ministry of Forests want to establish co-management plans with the FMCBC for trail maintenance. The Recreation and Conservation Committee monitors backcountry activities and tries to protect its members' interest in disagreements and/or conflicts with government and/or industry, and in discussions with other recreationists. It also receives requests from government and industry for comments on commercial backcountry recreation proposals, strategic land use plans such as park master plans, logging plans, etc. Recent projects include planning input for Callaghan, Tantalus and Kakwa Parks, and the BCAL Forum on the Sea-to Sky Corridor. The Research Committee collates and presents environmental data to support particular projects, the main one being the Upper Elaho/Sims area in the Squamish Forest District.

The FMCBC also provides instruction for the public

need to be adaptable to constantly changing technology (Freimund and Borrie 1998). Until such a policy mechanism is achieved, it would be wise to slow the adoption of technology for wilderness. Technology is largely an unthinking process with much of it happening by habit (Mitcham 1994). Such incremental changes in the accepted values, meanings, and knowledge of wilderness may prove to be an unwanted legacy of this technological age.

References

These are available in the original publication or from your editor.

on safety in the mountains through the Canada West Mountain School (CWMS), which is BC's largest mountain school. CWMS has provided instruction on mountain travel for almost 20 years to more than 15000 students, including many who were, or who later became, members of FMCBC member clubs. For many years the FMCBC and CWMS have mutually benefited by sharing office expenses, and recently CWMS has started transferring \$10 to the FMCBC for each student who takes a CWMS course.

As many of you know the FMCBC no longer receives the Provincial Government operating grant which had sustained it for many years, and this has produced the present crisis. This grant was \$50,000 in 1995 and was reduced to zero in 1997. In earlier days the FMCBC had a full-time Executive Director and several full-time employees to administer government-paid work crews for trail building and maintenance, but without government funding this is no longer possible. In 1995 the FMCBC raised membership dues from each regular club member to \$12 (in general), but this amount has not been raised to keep up with inflation. Thus, not only has the FMCBC lost its government grant, but it is also trying to operate on inflation-reduced membership dues.

The FMCBC is a non-profit organization which relies primarily on volunteers to perform most tasks. It has only one direct employee, Pat Harrison, the

Executive Director (ED), who is paid \$15,000 per year for 2 days/week. Because of the present state of the finances, he has refused to accept a recent raise as it would worsen the situation. He shares an office assistant with CWMS, and this costs the FMCBC the equivalent of one day per week. However, as anyone who volunteers with the FMCBC knows, Pat works about 5 or 6 days per week, and this unpaid time cannot, and should not, be maintained. Furthermore, he does not charge many of his related expenses such as travel expenses to meetings etc. which, if they were charged, would increase costs considerably. For example, in one 18 month period, to keep in touch with FMCBC members he visited 14 of the 24 member clubs, which were mostly out of the lower mainland. He also serves on many committees, most of which include government bureaucrats, and thus he is known in government circles. If there is no change in the present situation, he can continue working for the FMCBC only for **another 18 months** or so. He has volunteered for the FMCBC since 1994, but in 1997 and 1998 while as President he served as a *de facto* ED (unpaid) as we could not have financed an ED at that time. He is also currently chairing the Squamish Forest District winter recreation backcountry forum – a critical land use planning forum for the BCMC and all clubs whose members use the backcountry in winter. Clearly he has shown his strong commitment to wilderness recreation and our organisation, and is very experienced and well qualified for the position, but I feel it is totally unreasonable to expect this unselfish dedication to continue indefinitely. Typically, executive directors for non-profit organizations are earning between about \$44,000-\$63,500 annually for 5 days/week, and based on our previous hiring experiences we cannot expect to hire an experienced executive director for less than \$60,000. Assuming the FMCBC continues to receive the casino lottery grant, Pat estimates that the FMCBC will still be underfunded by about \$45,000 per year. At the last AGM of the FMCBC many people agreed that we cannot continue to take Pat for granted, nor continue taking advantage of his good nature. It is very clear that since 1997 the FMCBC has been, and still is, **operating in a non-sustainable mode**.

Many of us feel the need for the FMCBC is greater

now than it was in the past. One reason is that in the last decade, under the then NDP Government, the Province entered an unprecedented era of strategic land use planning. The FMCBC has a long history of negotiating with logging companies to reduce the impact of logging on our trails and viewscapes. Another reason for the increased need of the FMCBC is that the number of people using the backcountry for both public and commercial recreation has increased considerably in the last decade or so. This can only get worse as the present government has promised to **double** the number of commercial recreation opportunities. Also, the use of more powerful and versatile off-road recreational vehicles (eg. snowmobiles, ATV's), and the increasingly widespread use of aircraft, especially helicopters for heli-skiing heli-hiking, etc., have made the backcountry a much less peaceful place where it can be difficult to experience wilderness.

The FMCBC, through individual club members and its committees, has represented the interests of non-motorized backcountry recreationists at numerous meetings to try to ensure that we are not restricted from enjoying backcountry experiences that had been previously available throughout the Province. The FMCBC can draw on the expertise and opinions of the total membership base from all member clubs, and thus represents a group of about 4000 individuals. We feel that bureaucrats and politicians tend to take notice of well researched and reasoned opinions of groups of that size, rather than possibly contradictory letters from individuals who may not be aware of all the facts. It is important to speak with a single voice on contentious issues and so we try to obtain and present a balanced viewpoint by using the FMCBC computerized list server which is administered by Pat and is very useful for informing and polling members. Telephone conferencing is also used at the FMCBC Board Meetings which usually include 6 delegate/directors scattered throughout the Province. In these "hi-tech" ways the FMCBC can obtain comments and opinions from members outside the Lower Mainland, and so it can be reasonably inclusive of those who take the trouble to contact it with their views.

Communicating one's views to the government is very time-consuming and becoming more sophisticated and

costly. I feel that letter writing campaigns to the government are effective only for some "emotional" issues where many members of the general public can become directly involved, and I feel that disputes over competing uses of recreational territory are not (yet?) a "hot" issue for most people. Persuading government to follow a desired course usually requires a lobbyist to develop relationships with influential ministers or bureaucrats, and this is something that Pat has been doing for some time now, and has acquired some credibility. He is also often contacted by the local media when a balanced view on some outdoor recreation issue is required, for example for comments on the "Grouse Grind". It appears that we are running the risk of losing a valuable person in Pat, and without an effective lobbyist and media contact our interests will likely be ignored.

Organizations representing other outdoor recreationists have more resources for making their views known to government than we do. For example, a local snowmobile group has a full time executive director who is financed at least partly by annual membership dues of \$200 from each individual club member. In addition, the group requires from each club member the equivalent of \$200 of work service per year, and so if some members do not perform work service their annual dues increase by \$200 each. Also, it seems that motorized recreation groups can attract funding, eg. corporate grants, from the manufacturers and/or distributors of the motorized vehicles that their members use. These corporate grants may be used for general operating expenses or to pay for lobbying or advertising to support their members' interests. In the past the FMCBC has met opposition from its member clubs to increase annual dues, and has had only limited success in attracting corporate funding which is usually restricted to pay for specific projects, and is not for ongoing operating expenses.

To determine its policies, the government's perception of numbers of potential votes and generation of economic activity are very important issues. A rela-

tively small group of motorized recreationists with adequate resources used effectively can be a more successful persuader than a larger group of non-organized (disorganized?) non-motorized recreationists with less resources. As a result, local politicians and bureaucrats seem to view motorized recreation as a more effective economic engine for the "new economy" than self-propelled backcountry recreation. At the last AGM, a straw poll of the delegates indicated that five member clubs, all located out of Vancouver, had polled their members and found that the majority of their members were in favour of **increasing** their annual individual member dues to the FMCBC by amounts ranging from anywhere between \$3 to \$15 per year. A vote of the delegates was carried to increase the dues by \$3 per year to \$15 per year for each regular member, but this increase starts in 2002 and is sufficient for only a fraction of the FMCBC's needs. To bring the annual dues into line with 1995 dollars, the dues should be increased to about \$17-18 per year, but this amount is considered to require an excessive raise in dues at this time. The present \$3 increase would still not provide sufficient extra revenue to fully finance a replacement full time executive director, and so the FMCBC will have to become more effective at fund raising. The FMCBC has asked Gordon White to assist in this task as Pat cannot perform his other duties and also be effective at fund raising. If we cannot raise more funds to cover our operating expenses, the effectiveness or very existence of the FMCBC will be threatened.

As you can see there are several important issues to consider. I believe you should consider the points above, and then perhaps discuss them with members of your BCMC executive who work for the FMCBC, Mike Peel and Brian Wood in particular. The next AGM of the FMCBC at the end of June will provide opportunities to review any ideas to improve the financial position and future effectiveness of the FMCBC. Please give this matter your urgent attention so that we can get some good ideas.

Brian Wood

NEWS

Telus to shut down its radiotelephone service

TELUS has decided to withdraw "...obsolete services because newer technologies provide less costly and more efficient solutions". So, as of June 6, the club radio will no longer be capable of making phone calls via TELUS. The "newer technologies" we will have to use will be considerably more expensive to the club. Your executive is currently investigating alternatives.

Dismantling of B.C.'s outdoor recreational infrastructure continues

by Pat Harrison, Executive Director, FMCBC

I have sat through many frustrating meetings as a member of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC, but few as frustrating as the one at Richmond Inn on Thursday, 28 March 2002. The meeting was organized by the MOF (Ministry of Forests) and LWBC (Land and Water BC, formally BCAL [BC Assets and Land Corporation]). I am not frustrated at the messengers, but at the message they carried: The government is going to dismantle the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure of BC and sell it off to the highest bidder. As Ed Mankelow, member of the BC Wildlife Federation Conservation Committee mentioned, "It's all about money". The only mandate of MOF after the 'Core Review Process' (which did not involve the public) is production of fibre.

I am outraged that this government believes that public crown land is a private reserve for the wealthy. Let's remember, this is our land, and we should be stating (dictating) what the core functions on our land are. No longer is Outdoor Recreation considered a core function of MOF. The entire Outdoor Recreation operation for the province costs the taxpayers between \$5-7 million per year including salaries; one of the lowest in Canada.

So here are the specifics:

- MOF has a reduced budget of \$188 million per year (\$538 down to \$350 million).
- This translates into a loss of 1,433 MOF em

- Forest Service Road maintenance (FSRs) is no longer considered a core function.
- It costs \$10-20 million to maintain the 45,000 kilometres of FSRs.

Here are options for the 45,000 kilometres of FSRs:

1. 35,000 km to be maintained by industry. These are classified as Industrial Roads (reminiscent of the 1960's).
2. 1,300 km to be maintained by MOF as Community Roads (if a First Nation's Reserve, post office, or school are serviced).
3. The remainder will be left to decay. MOF will check annually (with what employees?) the remaining 8,000 km of road to see if they are safe. These will be classified as Wilderness Use Roads (do wildernesses have roads in them?). MOF will not maintain these roads, but will determine if they are needed for environmental protection (forest fire fighting). MOF now expects these roads to be used primarily by people owning 4X4s. That's 8,000 km of road not available to people who can not afford, or choose not to own, these types of vehicles. If MOF determines that it is cheaper to pull a culvert than replace it on WURs, then the WURs will be deactivated.

Questions arising from participants at the meeting were:

1. As government is currently in the process of making government not liable on crown land, who is liable if someone is injured on Crown Land because of poor road conditions?
2. What staff are left to check WURs each year?
3. Who will be doing enforcement of any kind?
4. Who will be reporting environmental degradation? MWLP? Probably not as they have so few biologists left.

MOF did state that if a user pay mechanism were put into place, they would be willing to buy back services and maintain liability. Huh? MOF also stated that all recreation sites and trails will be transferred to private organizations utilizing the services of LWBC (Land and Water BC). In other words, privatization

of our public lands to the highest bidder. One must remember that LWBC is mandated to increase its revenue through sales and leases by 75% this year! While MOF states none of the roads will be private, nor access denied, nor roads gated, the highest bidder will get control and can charge a fee for access. Now there is a plan for complete inequity from region to region, valley to valley, trail to trail. This process will ensure total fragmentation of our Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure.

So, when is this going to take place? Now! By March 2004 all recreational roads, sites, and trails are to be transferred.

All for the savings of \$5-7 million per year for recreational sites and trails! After forty years of hard work by many, many organizations to have access to our lands, all of this hard work is to go down the toilet in the next few months. By the time Mr. and Ms. Public go to their favourite recreational site, trail, or road, it will be too late. Their favourite site will have either been privatized or closed (if no vendor is found).

Another problem that arose was that of risk of assessment. All roads, sites, and trails will have a risk assessment completed by June 2002. If bridges or other structures are deemed unsafe, then the trails will be declassified as trails. That means that any type of activity can then occur on a trail that was previously classified as non-motorized or wilderness. All risk assessment will be done in house with no public input. At this moment of writing, MOF officials were unable to give us the criteria for risk assessment.

For organizations having agreements with MOF, those agreements are null and void as of 1 April 2002. BC Hydro, BC Federation of Snowmobiles, the 4X4 Association of BC, and the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC no longer have any agreements with MOF.

When asked by Gerry Buldoc of the 4X4 Association of BC and Pat Harrison of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC how volunteer work would fit into the transfer, they did not have an answer. They seemed unaware that all the volunteer work worth millions of dollars even existed. Is the government willing to give up this valuable service to the public by privatizing the backcountry?

MOF will continue to set recreational standards (even though they no longer have any recreationists on staff) and will be responsible for “visual recreation that needs management”. What the heck does that mean? Land and Water BC were present at the meeting “to assist” in the transfer. Let’s not forget their mandate as a company (with Stan Hagen the lone stockholder): to increase economic development. Alex Wallace, Co-Chair of the FMCBC Trails Committee, asked the LWBC spokesperson about LWBC’s role in land stewardship. LWBC spokesperson responded that he did not know what stewardship meant, nor does LWBC have any recreational mandate and as such will not participate in Outdoor Recreation activities. Their sole involvement is getting people a commercial tenure on our public land. This means the more favourite sites will be up for grabs by the organizations with the deepest pockets. That ought to cause an all out war among user groups! As LWBC spokesperson stated “We only charge a nominal fee for tenures: as little as \$500. We really don’t make any money off this process.” Let’s do the math: 650 hiking trails times \$500 equals? well, you know, nothing we or any other non-profit organization can afford. Furthermore, all commercial tenure groups will have to pay for liability insurance, as the government can no longer be held accountable. LWBC says after all “It’s all about performance-based government”. I’m suggesting that...we don’t want our Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure fragmented. We want government to operate it.