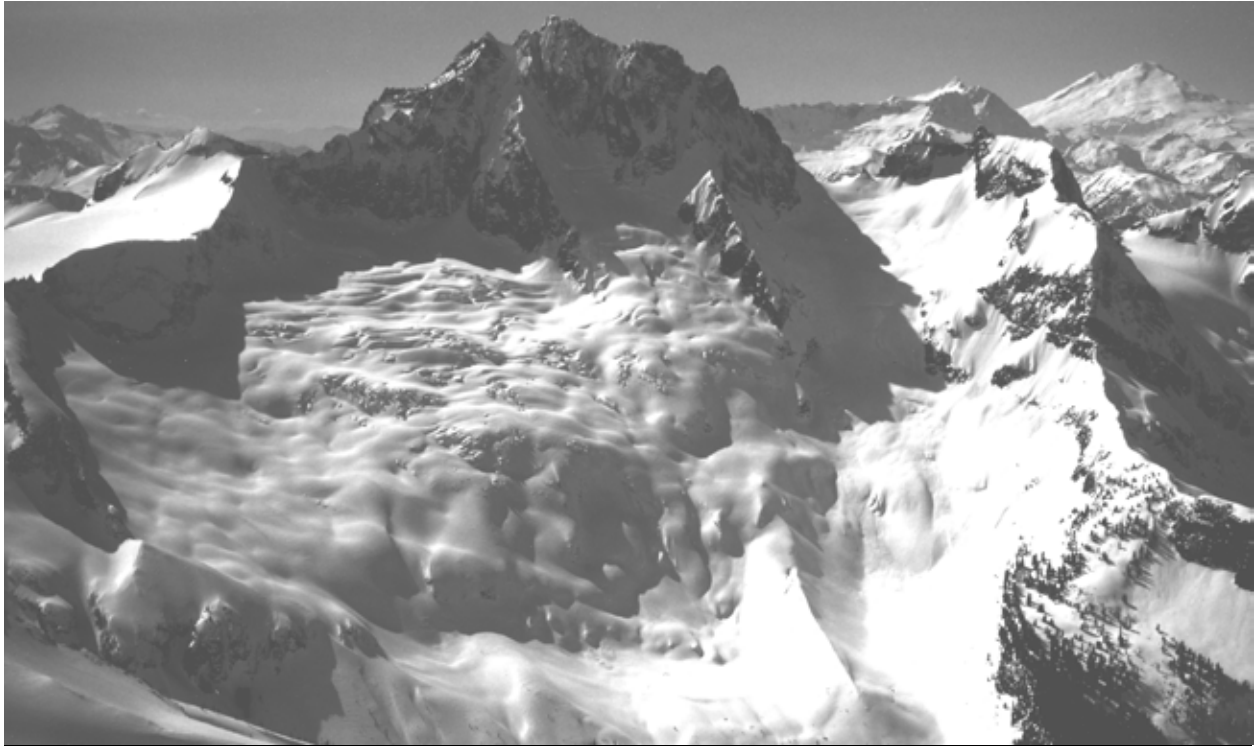


BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2002

VOL. 80 NO. 3



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, 12 March - Entertainment will be a slide show on ski mountaineering in various parts of the Coast Mountains by Dave Hughes, Paul Kubik, Jos van der Burg, and Brian Wood.

Tuesday, 9 April - Entertainment will be a slide show by Martin Kafer on early club ski camps in the Lord River, Stikine, and Whitemantle areas.

Mt. Redoubt in winter.



Ski mountaineering in the Manatee area, 1967. Photo - A. Menninga



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
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The **BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER** is an official publication of the B.C. Mountaineering Club and is published 10 times per year (every month except July and September).

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

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

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

SCHEDULED TRIPS

Participation on club trips is open to any person with adequate skills and experience, subject to the approval of the trip organizer. All non-member participants must sign a disclosure and waiver form relieving the club and all other participants on the trip from any liability. A trip organizer is not a certified guide. The function of the organizer is to organize the trip, ensure that it gets underway, know the access to the area, and know a route or routes on the climb.

It is expected that each person on a club trip has the necessary skills, experience, fitness, and equipment. The organizer may specify certain equipment mandatory for participation in a trip. Any person who attempts to participate in a club trip without such mandatory equipment, may be requested to withdraw from the trip. The club has avalanche transceivers and snow shovels available for hire. These may be obtained by contacting Kit Griffin at 604-736-8462 prior to the Thursday before the weekend the transceivers are wanted. Each person on a club trip is responsible for his or her own safety and for checking the equipment used. Please be considerate and call the trip organizer by Thursday evening for weekend trips, and by Friday for Sunday trips. If you are given a ride, please remember to pay the driver your portion of the car costs.

		ORGANIZER	
March: every Wednesday: Cypress ski area More practising and enjoying your skiing.	A1	Dave Morriss	604-732-9896
March 2-3: Duffey Lake road area Skiing east of Pemberton.	B2-3	Liz Ball	604-879-4648
March 2-3: Sky Pilot Mtn. Skiing and climbing above Howe Sound.	C3(4)/2025 m	Todd Ponzini	604-983-2612
March 3: Tricouni Meadows Skiing in the Squamish valley.	B2-3	Murray Lashmar	604-732-8184
March 9-10: Mt. Matier Fine skiing south of the Duffey Lake road.	B3(4)/2770 m	Tom Kuczmierowski	604-585-6835
March 9-10: Diamond Head area Easy skiing in Garibaldi Park. Self rescue and transceiver practice as well.	B2	James Clark	604-983-9225
March 9-10: Cloudraker Mtn. Extended skiing east of Lillooet Lake.	C3/2375 m	Ian Hopper	604-929-3720
March 10: Cambie Ck. area Easy skiing in Manning Park.	B1	Theo Mosterman	604-823-4713
March 15-18: Spearhead traverse Classic traverse near Blackcomb in Garibaldi Park. For 3 or 4 days.	C3	Eric Hughes	604-980-6484
March 16-17: Fat Dog Creek Easy skiing in Manning Park.	B2	Alice Obermajer	604-520-0580
March 16-17: Caspar Ck. Skiing off the Duffey Lake road.	B2-3	Mike Peel	604-444-4068
March 16-17: Place Glacier area Extended skiing east of Pemberton.	C3	Nana Zolbrod	604-737-9889
March 16-17: Mt. Marriott area A truly seiniior trip north of the Duffey Lake Road.	B3	Brian Wood	604-222-1541
March 16-19: Spearhead traverse Again the classic traverse in Garibaldi park.	C3	David Scanlon	604-464-3730
March 23-24: Mt. Breakenridge Skiing east of Harrison Lake.	B3/2385 m	Jos van der Burg	604-463-7582
March 23-24: Mt. Garibaldi Prominent peak in SW Garibaldi park.	C3(4)/2678 m	Greg Stoltmann	604-926-6496
March 24: Mt. Price Above Garibaldi Lake in Garibaldi park	B-C3/2049 m	Blair Mitten	604-922-0476
March 24: Mt Rohr Skiing off the Duffey Lake road.	B2-3/2440 m	Monika Bittel	604-983-3097
March 29-31: Mt. Currie Extended skiing in northern Garibaldi park.	C3/2596 m	Greg Stoltmann	604-926-6496
March 29 - April 1: Snowspider Mtn. Skiing east of Lillooet Lake. Suitable for snowboards.	B3	Kevin Bogle	604-437-9448
March 29 - April 1: Spearhead traverse Yet another trip to this classic traverse, in advanced company.	C3	Brian Wood	604-222-1541
March 30: Tomyhoi Pk. Extended mountaineering in the Chilliwack valley area.	C-D3-4/2271 m	Irek Jasiak	604-930-8541
April 6-7: Mamquam Mtn. Extended skiing east of Squamish.	C3/2595 m	Marcus Dell	604-274-9511

April 6-7: Ipsoot Mtn. Extended skiing west of Pemberton.	C3/2590m	Darren Quist	604-351-2295
April 6-7: Vantage/Frenchman Coulee (rock) Rock climbing not in Alberta.	A5	Monica Durigon	604-222-3713
April 6-7: The Sphinx Extended skiing above Garibaldi Lake in Garibaldi park.	C3/2410 m	Evelyn Feller	604-270-4050
April 7: Needle Pk. Skiing bowls in the Coquihalla area.	B2-3(4)/2075 m	Donald Cann	604-742-2345
April 13-14: Mt. Shuksan Skiing in northern Washington, approaching from the south via the Sulfide Glacier.	B3(4)/2783 m	Peter Gumplinger	604-733-8267
April 13-14: Mt. Sedgwick Extended skiing above Howe Sound.	C2-3/2077 m	Rich Pawlowicz	604-222-3343
April 13-14: Mt. Callaghan Skiing on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide.	B3/2410 m	Phil Kubik	604-266-5873

SPRING SKI CAMP

A fly in, fly out ski camp is planned for the latter part of April or early May. Definite date will be determined well in advance, after information regarding other users (snowmobiles and heli-skiing) has been obtained. Proposed location is in

the Dickson Range. Cost for flight only is usually about \$450 - \$500 per person, with a few dollars extra for rental of club equipment. For additional information, phone Pat Crean at 604-986-5622.

BCMC SUMMER CAMPS, 2002

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

Seven days of mountaineering in the glorious Tantalus Range (map ref. 92G/14) with routes to charm the beginner to the advanced. Accommodation is in the luxurious A.C.C. cabin with swimming and boating at the doorstep. This is a self-guided camp for club members. \$275 covers helicopter in and out and hut rental. 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 physically fit. For information and registration, contact David Scanlon at 464-3730.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

The club welcomes the following new members:

Active: Isabel Budke

Associate: Kevin Dring, Jon Faris, and Michael Fuhrmann.

New Honorary Member - Mary Willis

Mary joined the club in 1937 as Mary Macdonald, marrying Clare Willis in 1939. Both Clare and Mary were very active on the executive and on club activities during the 1940's and 1950's. They were part of the small group of club stalwarts who kept

the club going during the 2nd world war and got it reactivated again after the war. Mary served on the executive as editor in 1949 and '50, as secretary in 1944 and '45, and as membership chair in 1950-'53 - 8 years on the executive is a significant contribution to the club (only a handful of people have spent longer on the executive). She was a gifted writer whose numerous articles for the BC Mountaineer reflected a great sense of humour. One example was published in our last (February) newsletter. During the second world war, club membership had become somewhat stagnant, newsletter publication had dropped to 6-10 issues per year, from the previous 12, and summer camps ceased in 1941. A few years after the war Mary became a strong-minded editor and produced 12 issues of the newsletter again per year. At the same time the club established a committee to investigate ways of increasing membership. The committee produced its report in 1950. Mary became chair of the membership committee at that time to implement the recommendations of the committee. For the first time the club went out into schools to give lectures to induce young people to join. While membership didn't skyrocket, it certainly increased. Mary had always been a strong supporter of summer camps, beginning before the war in the

mid-late 30's. She was a leading participant in the first post-war camp in 1947, writing the official report for this camp, as well as a subsequent camp in 1950. She continued going on camps up to 1964 - about 30 years of activity with the club. In the late 40's - early 50's the AGM report used to give the most frequent participants on club trips. She was listed as this person in 1951 with 13 trips for the year. Her name was very common on trip reports throughout the 50's. She also supported trail clearing and went on some of Paul Binkert's early trail clearing trips in the early 60's. During the 1940's and 50's Mary's life was considered to be the B.C.M.C. She has remained a member of the club to this day, only 1 other person we know of being in the club longer. Although it is very belated, but acting on the principle "better late than never", the executive at their January meeting appointed Mary as an Honorary Member, in recognition of her contribution to the club during a critical time of its existence.

What club members are doing - the Ruck-sack

It looks like John is rapidly making up for lost time so the club wishes to congratulate **Annette Lehnacker** and **John Clarke** on the recent birth of their son - Nicholas

BCMC NEWS

New BCMC General Information Brochures.

The club recently produced some full colour general information brochures. These were excellently put together by Mirella Lioce and printed, free of

charge, by club member J.P. Shason, of Gastown Printers. The club is extremely grateful to both Mirella and Jan-Paul for these first class brochures.

Federation of Mountain Clubs starts a program to get discounts on purchases by FMCBC members

The FMCBC has recently begun a "Retail Business Associates programme" in which businesses give discounts to FMCBC members in return for getting a free ad in the FMCBC newsletter - "Cloudburst".

NEWS

To date several businesses have signed on, Backpackers Shop (across from MEC) and Mountain Magic in South Surrey being 2 of them. You will get a 10% discount on purchases from these stores if you let them know you are an FMCBC member (by showing your FMCBC membership card which will be distributed to BCMC members in the near future).

Interesting interview in the New Zealand Alpine Club's magazine - The Climber

The most recent, Summer 2001/2002, issue of the NZAC magazine "Climber" contains an interview of a woman climber. It is headed by one photo of her in alpine touring gear skiing up a glacier in N.Z. during her winter holiday last year, and another photo showing her climbing a steep ice pitch, ice tools in both hands. On a recent trip to Aconcagua she was forced to turn back at around 6000 m due to severe winds and freezing conditions. The woman is Helen Clark, New Zealand's current prime minister. "In a high pressure world, the sanctuary mountains offer is very important" she says.

Oh that such sentiments were shared by leading Canadian or B.C. politicians, whose appreciation of life is limited to the outlines of dollar notes, pork barrels, and environmental rape.

Back issues of BCMC newsletters - "The B.C. Mountaineer" from 1923 to 1927 are available. If you are interested in obtaining any of these, not a complete set, contact Howard Rode at 604-987-1450.

Dark days ahead for our mountains.

BC's government, which is one of those that know the cost of everything and the value of nothing, seems to be gearing itself up for an orgy of selling off our mountains and commercializing all crown land, both outside as well as inside parks (BC Parks will be losing fully 50% of their staff in Squamish who look after all parks in the Squamish - Pemberton area). Anyone familiar with Newton's third law knows that this is bound to cause a reaction. Concerns about our government's plans are rapidly increasing. Below are assessments from 2 sources. The first is by Dale Marshall, a resource policy analyst with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives; the second is a statement put out jointly by Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, B.C. Wildlife Federation, and East Kootenay Environmental Society.

In service of business: BC's new plan for the environment - by Dale Marshall

When analyzing the full array of plans to cut, privatize, and deregulate environmental protection, there is one clear theme that emerges. In its bid to improve the province's investment climate, the BC government has put the emphasis on facilitating access to BC's natural resources, while risking environmental protection and the long-term viability of those resources.

The language contained in the January 17th Ministry "service plans" is striking. The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (MWLAP) will focus on "client service" in order to do away with "constraints on economic development." The Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM) will "facilitate sustainable economic development." The Ministry of Forests will eliminate regulations to "facilitate industry competitiveness." The Ministry of Energy and Mines' mandate is to trim regulations to foster "a more competitive investment climate." The Environmental Assessment Office, originally intended to identify the environmental risks associated with major projects, will now use "enabling statutes" to approve projects in a more "timely, cost-effective, and certain" fashion.

Regulations will be cut in forestry, mining, oil and gas projects, and agriculture. Fish farms, despite continued escapes of Atlantic salmon and increased evidence of environmental impact, will be allowed to expand as the laws that regulate them are "streamlined." The forest industry will now undertake activities formerly done by the government—insect/disease control, treating invasive plants, silviculture, timber supply analysis—and shoulder the costs. The fact that industry leaders applauded the changes speaks volumes about how they expect their environmental compliance costs and timber supply calculations to change.

BC is the only province, post-Walkerton, to weaken drinking water regulations. Though the MWLAP promises to improve drinking water protection, the MSRM (in a remarkable contradiction) vows to "minimize the provincial role" in that protection.

It is difficult to understand how cutting forestry, mining, and agricultural regulations will improve water

quality.

The reality is that the remaining staff at Water, Land and Air Protection will not have the capacity to monitor and enforce regulations. Together, the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management will lose 1,000 people, continuing the downward slide in funding and staffing at the environment ministry over the last decade. The Ministry of Forests had its monitoring and enforcement budget cut by 14%.

The intent is not only to deregulate resource-dependent industries but also to allow them "greater access to Crown land and resources." This will also make it more difficult to resolve First Nations treaty negotiations. It does not appear that the government is at all interested in reinvigorating treaty negotiations in any event, given the substantial cut to the treaty negotiations office (including a 40% reduction in staff) and the complete elimination of 17 treaty advisory committees.

Expect wilderness experiences in British Columbia to also change. Parks will have higher fees, fewer services and facilities, but more commercial operations. Recreational sites and trails will no longer be maintained, nor will Forest Service roads that have only non-industrial users, i.e. campers, hikers, and canoeists.

Unfortunately, this is not all. No permits will be required for low- or medium-risk landfill sites ...there will be no provincial response to some environmental spills . . . the list goes on. The repeated injection of the word "sustainable" in the budget documents is clearly intended as a smokescreen for what is nothing but a massive reduction in the government's duty to protect BC's environment.

Selling Out Super Natural BC - by CPAWS, B.C. Wildlife Fed., and E.K.E.S.

"BC Assets and Lands (BCAL) is selling off BC's public wilderness to private interests. The crown corporation has the mandate to sell or lease public lands and to make money doing so. Of particular concern, is the large number of commercial tourism operations that are granted tenures in the backcountry wilderness without a comprehensive recreation plan in place that takes into account both wilderness and

wildlife values and public use.

There have been many controversial commercial recreation tenures issued by BCAL since its establishment in 1998. Between Invermere and Golden alone, there are over 120 heli-hiking landing sites. A recent tenure allocation for a heli skiing tenure in the Quesnel Highlands sparked outrage across the Province because it is located in critical habitat for threatened mountain caribou. The government is risking the continual decline and potential extinction of this species in favour of a commercial operation that already has access to approximately 2.5 million hectares of BC's backcountry. In making these tenure decisions, BCAL has disregarded concerns raised by wildlife biologists and the public.

Instead, the government has opened the floodgate to more tenures and land sales. The Premier in a recent address to the BC and Yukon Hotel and Restaurant Association stated that his government wants to open crown lands to "huge opportunities in backcountry tourism and eco-tourism."

We have heard that new policies are being developed regarding commercial recreation applications or permits as follows:

- Public consultation will not be required and any public consultation that would occur may or may not be incorporated into decision-making regarding the issuance of tenures in the backcountry.
- Other agencies may or may not be referred to regarding backcountry recreation tenures. If they are referred to, they have 30 days to respond and their comments or scientific feedback may or may not be incorporated into the decision.
- Signing of tenures will be the sole responsibility of BCAL and will be at the discretion of the Regional Manager.
- An overall backcountry recreation/commercial use plan may or may not be developed and implemented. If one is initiated it will be organized by, controlled by and implemented by BCAL at their discretion.
- Provincial Wildlife Management Guidelines that have been developed by scientists, government and stakeholders specifically for the backcountry commercial recreation industry in order to minimize their impacts on wildlife have been shelved.

Instead, an industry-driven best practices policy will to be used as well as self-regulation by industry.

- Tenure applications that have been in the system for 12 months must be processed by March 2002.
- Any new tenure application will be fast tracked and processed within 4 months of receipt of the completed application.

The public believes that BC's lands and wildlife resources are being protected and managed in the public interest. Our role as conservation and wildlife groups is to let our members know that this is not so. The government is making land use decisions based solely on economics while stating they have a strong commitment to the environment. This is hypocritical and unacceptable.

We need to act now to ensure that the tenure process includes opportunities for meaningful public input,

incorporates input from wildlife biologists and the public, and adheres to the provincial wildlife management guidelines for backcountry recreation. In addition, BCAL needs to initiate backcountry recreation planning that is inclusive and broad-based. Perhaps most important, it's time for government to recognize sensitive ecological values and say no to applications that put endangered and sensitive species at risk. **Please write a brief letter to Minister Stan Hagen**, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, stating your concern with BCAL's approach to issuing backcountry tenures and the need for reform. "

Minister Stan Hagen
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
PO Box 9054, Stn Prov Govt., Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2
FAX: 250 356-8273

Copy: Premier Gordon Campbell
Premier's Office,
PO Box 9041, Stn Prov Govt., Victoria, BC, V8W 9E1
FAX: 250 387-0087

THREATS TO MOUNTAINS AND WILDERNESS 2002 - TECHNOLOGY AND COMMERCIALIZATION

This year is the International Year of the Mountains. As mountains and wilderness are the main reasons for our club's existence, as the two are intimately linked in B.C., and as technology and commercialization have probably become the two greatest threats to both, it behooves us to develop a greater understanding of the threats in order to do something about them. Consequently, your editor will be printing discussions and articles about these threats throughout the year. The first such article follows:

Mountaineering: The Heroic Expression of our age

The U.S. Forest Service hosts and publishes many conferences on wilderness and outdoor recreation, much of which should be of interest to club members. The following paper was authored by Mikel Vause, a professor in the English Department at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah. It was published in the Proceeding of the 6th World Wilderness Congress USDA Forest Service Proceed-

ings RMRS-P-14, in 2000, and is reprinted with the permission of the author.

The end in itself

In the past few years, with the influx of climbing parties in all of the major mountain ranges, and the number of accidents (many ending in death), the question of why humans climb has come to the forefront. For what purpose do people go into high, cold, and extremely dangerous places? It is obvious that income from such enterprises is minimal. Aside from airlines, only a few expedition outfitters are making a profit from supplying equipment, food, guides, etc. The native economies, such as in Nepal, receive certain benefits, and occasionally a climber might sell a book or film. In reality, the commercial aspects of climbing mountains are limited.

For most mountaineers, the pure physical enjoyment and spiritual uplift that accompanies a body tired from adventure in wild nature is reason enough to climb mountains. Materialism is, for most, at the bottom of

the list. As John Henry Newman argues, “knowledge [has] its end in itself,” so, also, climbing mountains has “its end in itself.” One ventures out for the riches of building both a strong body and mind, and in some cases, to become rich in the spiritual sense. This argument could be fairly made until recently, but in the past decade or so there has developed an ever growing sense of commercialism in the world of mountaineering.

The guiding business is nothing new to mountaineering. In fact, climbing may never have evolved as it has were it not for the early shepherds and hunters leading European aristocracy through the Alps, Scottish Highlands, and England’s Lake District. Climbing schools, such as: The International Alpine School in Switzerland, Exum Guides in the Tetons, National Outdoor Leadership Schools, and Outward Bound, have continued this sport-old tradition of mountaineering. One need only to look in the advertisement pages of outdoor and climbing magazines to find dozens of schools and services that offer the climbing experience. The fact that there are places people can go to get instruction on how to become mountaineers is a good thing, which was the overarching philosophy of guide services and instructional companies. Such companies, for the most part, continue to be useful when they focus on teaching mountaineering.

But sadly, as with about every other aspect of our society, individuals start looking for ways to profit by providing shortcuts, or ways to achieve desired ends by cutting corners. The television is replacing books, and the telephone is replacing written correspondence. Why read a novel when one can watch a film based on a novel, or write a letter when, in a matter of seconds, space and distance can be spanned with a phone call or email? There is very little in our world that technology has not affected. This, coupled with the immediacy modern society attaches to all aspects of life, paradoxically makes much of what we do, in the end, more complicated.

Technology Versus Experience

Climbing is no different. As Coburn (1997, p. 53) in

“Everest: Mountain without Mercy” points out, because of air support the trip from Kathmandu to Lukla that was once “a two week walk [has]...been reduced to a forty minute flight.” Air support now allows relatively easy access to high, remote mountains, and this is not the only high-tech advantage. One must also consider the advances in equipment such as plastic boots, step-in crampons, high-tech ice axes, ever-dry ropes made from stronger and lighter nylon, clothing that weighs nearly nothing and is not only waterproof but breathable, light-weight stoves, and freeze-dried food; the list goes on and on. Yet with these many improvements intended to make the activity more safe, and certainly more comfortable, why are people climbing big mountains and dying at such alarming rates?

Part of the problem has to do with why they are on the mountain in the first place. Are they there for intrinsic reasons, for example, personal physical challenge, or mental and spiritual elevation? Or are they climbing because high adventure is in vogue and they have some disposable income? It is commonly held that one can do anything money. When it comes to climbing, many believe that because they can hire an experienced guide and are able to purchase the latest Gore-tex clothing and the most up to date climbing hardware, they will be safe. By taking on the role of client, they have purchased protection without paying the “real” dues that come from personal experience. According to Peter Athans, a professional Everest guide: “Occasionally you’ll get a client who thinks he’s bought a guaranteed ticket to the summit” (Krakauer 1997, p. 23). The truth is that no amount of expensive equipment, or the fact that one is part of a guided party, can substitute for experience. In order to perform in difficult situations one must be prepared, and preparation comes from experience.

Apprenticeship

In the climbing community in which I grew up, there was a core group of climbers who served as mentors to almost all the beginning climbers in the area. It

was nearly impossible to start a climbing career without having some contact with members of that group. It was a friendly time, and new climbers were welcomed as long as they wanted to learn proper climbing techniques. One served an informal apprenticeship by climbing with more experienced climbers. After one had learned rope handling, the new climber was ready to serve as a second and participate in multi-pitch climbs. (Admittedly it wasn't all that hard to figure out how to drive and remove pitons; today's equipment is a bit more technical and takes more practice to use.) After a period of participation as a second, the opportunity to lead came. By today's standards this process seems long and drawn out, but looking back I remember very few accidents, and a fatality was extremely rare. Part of the problem today is impatience.

Immediate Gratification

We live in a world that has come to expect immediate gratification on all fronts. Everything one wants in life must be immediately available. In the 1990's it is almost unheard of for a young person to save money to buy a car. Why should one have to wait when they can simply take out a loan. One can hardly walk across a college campus in America without being confronted by numerous opportunities to apply for credit cards. This have-it-now philosophy easily transfers to all other aspects of society. There can be no question that in many ways the amazing technological advances of the twentieth century have made life better, but in some ways it has made life more dangerous because it provides opportunities too easily and without requiring proper preparations. The disasters on Everest in 1996 drives this point home.

In an attempt to "unite vocation and avocation," climbing guides like Rob Hall, Scott Fischer, and others somewhat unwittingly diminished the dangers of climbing a mountain the size and immensity of Everest. In an attempt to make a living doing what they loved to do they allowed people who had no business being on Everest, due to lack of experience and preparation, who hadn't paid their dues so to speak, to not only endanger themselves, but put the lives of other climbers on the mountain, the guides in particular, in jeopardy. According to Sir Edmund Hillary, the first to successfully reach the Everest sum-

mit in 1953, adventures such as Hall's and Fischer's are "engendering disrespect for the mountain" (Krakauer 1997, p. 66). Krakauer provides a vivid illustration as he recounts a conversation with Scott Fischer:

A few weeks after Fischer returned victorious from Everest in 1994 I encountered him in Seattle. I didn't know him well, but we had some friends in common and often ran into each other at the crags or at climbers' parties. On this occasion he buttonholed me to talk about the guided Everest expedition he was planning: I should come along, he cajoled, and write an article about the climb for "Outside" magazine). When I replied that it would be crazy for someone with my limited high-altitude experience to attempt Everest, he said, "Hey, experience is overrated. It's not the altitude that's important, it's your attitude, bro. You'll do fine. You've done some pretty slick climbs - stuff harder than Everest. We've got the big E figured out, we've got it totally wired. These days, I'm telling you, we've built a yellow brick road to the summit" (Krakauer 1997, p. 66).

Such statements as those attributed to Scott Fischer are not only deceptive but extremely dangerous. As all mountaineers know, the complexion of a mountain can change from moment to moment. In a recent conversation with Doug Scott, who reached the summit of Everest via the Southwest Face in 1976, the point was made that if one signs onto a guided expedition to Everest they should be sure they have purchased a round-trip ticket. "... We've built a yellow brick road to the summit," but what about getting down from the summit alive? Apparently there were some in 1996 who, unfortunately, only had a one-way ticket.

This essay is not meant to be an attack on Rob Hall, Scott Fischer, or any other mountain guide, but it does raise questions about the "materialistic premises" creeping into mountaineering, which is the concern Bonatti (1974) addresses in his essay, "Mountaineering."

In Bonatti's essay one finds one of the best examinations of why humans climb mountains. The essay "Mountaineering" provides a careful examination of

the role of the mountaineer in the modern era, dominated by technology and industry. Because mountaineering is basically a romantic (intrinsic) pursuit, it seems to be at odds with the basic philosophies that govern a (extrinsic) techno-industrial society where material gain equates with success. The article deals with the age old, archetypical conflict between the spiritual and the physical. Many mountaineers find that time spent in the mountains brings them to elevated inner feelings, sometime revelatory, sometimes insightful or reflective, as the result of direct contact with wild nature, or nature in a relatively unmolested state – free from the harmful by-products of human over-involvement.

Philosophical considerations

It is clear in romantic philosophy (whether it be the ancient eastern philosophers of Buddhism, Taoism, or the more modern western philosophers such as the German romantics Goethe and Schiller, the English romantics Blake, Wordsworth, and Coleridge, or the Americans Emerson Thoreau and Whitman) that humans, if left to the influences of the unspoiled natural world, will in fact, elevate themselves to an almost divine state through repeated contact with the workings of the natural world.

Humans learn best by first-hand experience. In the words of Ann Zwinger, “there is no substitute for blisters and sunburn” (Trimble 1989, p. 9). Bonatti’s philosophy agrees with that of Zwinger as he explains that to venture into the mountains is a natural human desire. He, in fact, argues that testing oneself against the mountain is “a way of expressing man’s ancestral dialogue of love with mother nature in terms of action” (Bonatti 1974, p. 71). Bonatti, the romantic, goes on to lament the loss of past values, particularly those placed on mystery and heroes. He says, “Daily living has become a round of demands, provocations, and doubts. The intellect sweeps away spiritual values even before they are formed. Deprived of standards in a decadent society where nothing is fixed or defined, heroism has leaked away for sheer lack of purpose.”

Edgar Allan Poe (1966) expresses the same concern in the poem “Sonnet To Science”

Science! True daughter of Old Time thou art!
Who alterest all things with thy peering eyes.
Why preyest thou thus upon the poet’s heart,
Vulture, whose wings are dull realities?
How should he love thee? Or how deem thee
wise,
Who would not leave him in his wandering
To seek for treasure in the jeweled skies,
Albeit he soared with undaunted wing?
Hast thou not dragged Diana from her car?
And driven the Hamadryad from the wood
To seek a shelter in some happier star?
Hast thou not torn the Naiad from her flood?
The Elfin from the green grass, and from me
The summer dream beneath the tamarind tree?

Bonatti sees the mountaineer as taking up the role of hero in a time when the human spirit needs a new champion who through physical action and spiritual elevation, leads a rebellion against the frustrations of industrial civilization, rebellion against a collective society, a society almost happy to sink into a general mediocrity, and always content to seem rather than be. It is also a rebuttal of disillusion and ignobility and of that security offered as progress, which, when achieved, makes spiritual progress impossible” (Bonatti 1974, p. 72).

To the romantics, a techno-society is evil as it entices people, through the glorification of the material, to divorce themselves from nature. There is an obvious danger in the invitation of industry for people to leave the pastoral settings such as small villages and farms, where they are in constant contact with harmonious workings of nature, for the large industrial urban centers made up of row houses and factories. In the pastoral setting, currency is much less important than in urban settings because much of what is necessary for existence is produced through an active partnership with nature – tilling the land, planting seed, tending the garden, and reaping the harvest. Whereas, in the urban setting of the industrial community, one receives wages for working in the factories; it is necessary to purchase life’s necessities from vendors, thus eliminating first-hand participation in the harmonious natural process. As Wordsworth (1990 lines 179-200) states in his poem, “The Old Cumberland Beggar”:

May never HOUSE, misnamed INDUSTRY,
Make him captive! – for that pent up din,
Those life-consuming sounds that clog the air,
Be his natural silence of old age!
Let him be free of mountains solitudes;
And have around him, whether heard or not,
The pleasant melody of woodland birds...
As in the eye of Nature he has lived
So in the eye of Nature let him die!

Emerson suspects that humans are the only animals not in harmony with the natural world and that human disharmony is learned, not innate. Such a philosophy is in direct conflict with the old puritan standards of Emerson's time that argued humans are born degenerate as a result of the fall of Adam. Emerson sees in most humans an innate goodness that gets replaced with learned disharmony, and they are, therefore, further removed from the natural world and its spiritual by-products. Emerson goes on to argue that humans can, in fact, but only through frequent contact with wild nature, actually unite what he called the "ideal and the actual, and thus bring together the physical and spiritual to create a harmonious existence.

This same idea is paramount in Scott's (1991) essay, entitled "On the Profundity Trail," in which he argues that going into remote places (places that take commitment to visit) enables him to recharge his spiritual batteries, and when he returns to the social world he is better prepared to contribute to its betterment. In recounting his ascent of the Salathe Wall, Scott states: "...after the trip I did seem to know positively where to go next – and that was back into society, relaxed, but with a new zest and enthusiasm..." He goes on to explain that the more commitment it takes to complete the journey the greater the reward:

If big wall climbing is pursued in a more hostile environment and for longer periods, if the big wall climber climbs alone, as Bonatti did on the Dru, then the doors of perception will be opened wide. The climber involved may experience a more lasting state of heightened awareness, and may even reach a truly visionary, if not mystical, state of being which transcends normal human

comprehension....The climber who is willing to extend himself to the limit of his technical skill and endurance on any long climb, is en route up the profundity trail (Vause 1993, p, 110).

Who Should Be on Everest and Why

Returning to the idea of novice climbers on Mount Everest, it should be noted that even though both Bonatti and Scott speak of committing oneself to the "limits of technical skill and endurance," the point should also be made that one must know, and be realistic about, one's limitations. Spiritual and intellectual enlightenment does little good if one is dead and unable to share it with others.

So why climb? The argument has been made that to do so for material reasons can, in many cases, only lead to disaster as was the case on Everest in 1996. Ironically, it was those with the most experience that were killed in an effort to meet their obligations to paying clients. Wilfrid Noyce, a member of the successful 1953 British Everest Expedition said, "...we go out because it is our nature to go out" (Vause 1993, p. 10). Anderson(1970), in his work, "The Ulysses Factor," states it is a natural human instinct to explore – to seek adventure.

The philosopher Sayre (1964) led a four-man expedition to the north side of Mount Everest in 1962 and recorded the adventure in the book "Four Against Everest".

In this most interesting expedition account, he discusses several reasons humans climb: "the question about climbing is not a question about motivation at all" ..it is really a question about relative values," One value is that of beauty: "If a person will cross the ocean just to look at the beauty of a cathedral, why would he not do as much or more to see sights such as these [speaking of the Himalayas]" (Sayre 1964, p, 204), Sayre goes on to say that there is a reason greater than to view beauty, but it is directly connected to beauty:

Very closely assisted with the beauty of the mountains are some special emotions which the highest and wildest peaks provoke. I feel a special excitement when I look out over thousands of square miles of untouched country. I feel it again when I walk where only a hand-

ful of men have walked in the history of the world, when I explore some hidden ridge or crag, or when I make the first track across a great unbroken snow field. I feel a special happiness to be alone in the high, silent places of the world tucked closely under the sky. Such things are worth a little insecurity and sacrifice (Sayre 1964, p. 204).

Just as Bonatti and Scott, Sayre loves his time in wild solitude, but he also recognizes the need for contact with others of his kind:

We need to experience nature with friendly marks upon it of human works and struggle and hope. But also we need to see nature apart from even the smallest sign of human interference. For this the high mountains are perfect (Sayre 1964, p. 208).

Bartlett, a mountaineer and author of "The Undiscovered Country," sees the need for humans to return to their primitive roots and that going into the mountains is a means to that end. He points out, "A return to the primitive encourages a mental retrenchment in which the forgotten elements of life regain their rightful status...the attraction of the primitive life is that it takes one away from these pressures [Bonatti's industrial, collective society] which makes it impossible to feel psychologically free (Bartlett 1993, p. 71).

One of the ways this whole process comes about, according to Bonatti, is that mountaineering is a natural "next step" for people who live around mountains. Referring to early mountaineers, Bonatti states that after they had explored the valleys and passes they "felt the urge to conquer the summits" (Bonatti 1974, p. 71).

MEETINGS/EVENTS OF INTEREST

2nd Annual Vancouver Telemark Festival, March 9th, 2002 will be held on Mt. Seymour.

8:30 am Register in the Main Lodge

9:00 - 1:00 pm Ski Improvement Clinics/Avalanche Clinics

8:30 - 3:30 pm Demo gear from G3, K2, Tuta, Karhu, Elan, Scarpa and Garmont.

1:30 - 3:00 pm Dual Slalom Uphill/Downhill Telemark Race

3:00 pm Ski Demonstration and Costume Challenge

As the routes to the summits became harder and more technical Bonatti states, "Mountaineering really transcended its origins, assuming an almost philosophical significance. I would say that it acquired a soul, and from there went on to become an active and heroic expression of our age" (Bonatti 1974, p. 71). That expression is the escape from the doldrums of collective society and the freedom and elevation of the human spirit coming from contact with wild nature. Bonatti continues:

Knowledge and wisdom are both essential to human progress, but they are not the same thing, as philosophy has long reminded us. However, let us accept our so called social conquests; let us disembark on the moon and other planets in our insatiable pride; only let us not forget that the destiny of man is to become ever more human, That is what the wise, useless, 'mad actions' of our present-day heroes are meant to remind us (p. 73).

What is the purpose of mountaineering? To gain in things material? No. The purpose is as stated by John Muir, the nineteenth century American mountaineer:

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees, The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves" (Muir 1979).

References for this paper are available in the the original publication, or from your editor.

4:30 pm Awards, Prizes, Silent Auction and Party

Discounted Pass - All outdoor group (BCMC) members will received a \$5 discount. The regular festival pass is \$39. Includes your full mountain life pass. Just show proof of your current club membership.

For more information about the festival please visit www.telemark.ca or e-mail Wayne Yee at wye@telemark.ca or phone 604-879-1058.

TRIP REPORTS

Howe Sound Crest trail, January 19, 2002

In our quest to escape the growing intrusion from snowmobiles into the wilderness we have started to look at areas that sound, at first, not very appealing for ski touring - specially a ski tour so close to the city. And not to mention the hordes of people at Cypress Bowl. But the tour makes for a nice day, traversing the high country above Howe Sound with it's outstanding views in all directions. The different colours of the sun reflecting off the sound, the dark contours of the islands, the white ridge lines of Unnecessary Mountain and the city.

The trip got off to a rocky start. Three people did not show up. Then we had to sort out the car shuttle between Lion's Bay and Cypress Bowl. When it was decided that everybody was to drive to Lion's Bay we ended up waiting for Dave. We were getting impatient and were ready to denounce him as president for not knowing where to find the parking lot at the start of the Lion's trail. When he finally arrived we learned that he did not have the key to his truck gas tank on him and had to drive back home to get it. Once that was sorted out we were on our way back to Cypress Bowl and joined the masses in the parking lot there.

The weather was outstanding, considering that it was sunny but the forecast had been for cloudy, showery skies. Finally at 9.45 am we were on our way. It did not take long before we left the crowds behind. It is always a pleasure to reach the old growth forest on the west side of Mt. Strachan. One hour into the trip Paul and Karen had to turn back. Dave gave the keys



On the Howe Sound Crest Trail. Photo - P. Kubik

to Paul who then drove back to drop off Karen. He would then come back up the Lion's trail to meet us on the way back.

With the recent mild and wet weather the snow had turned to rock hard ice in the cooler weather. The fresh snow that had fallen was not enough to make it much easier and it took considerable effort at times not to slip sideways down the mountain, specially in amongst the trees. We had our first run off St. Marks summit. A 150 m run in 20 cm of fresh snow on top of ice. It was enjoyable for most, but if you turned too hard you would scrape the snow away and hit the ice. We put skins back on and climbed up to Unnecessary Mountain. We stopped for lunch and enjoyed the outstanding view. Once on our way we followed the long ridgeline towards the Lion's. There are some steep dropoffs mainly on the west side. The last bump on the ridge can be bypassed on the right (east side). That brings you to the saddle between the Lion's and Unnecessary Mountain. By traversing further over towards the Lion's you clear the cliffs near Unnecessary Mountain before you begin the ski descent. It was 3 o'clock when we began the ski down the avalanche slope. It was a very enjoyable run of about 500 m - always the highlight of the trip. Near the bottom we ran into Paul, not very happy that he was going to miss out on that great run. He should not have stopped for that lunch in Horseshoe Bay.

At the bottom of the run we tucked into the forest and picked up the Lion's trail. We had to carry skis from this point because it would have been suicide to have skied the trail. This is the part that is the drag. But by starting from Cypress Bowl you only have to walk down it, not up it. And you get to see some beautiful scenery along the way.

Also you are very likely to have the area to yourselves because on most trips in the area we have not run into anybody.

At 5:45 pm we reached the cars in the dark. It had turned out to be a great day. Definitely a tour worth doing.

Participants: Stefan Albrecher, Stefan Reinker, Paul Kubik, Karin Rolfes - Kubik, Brian Wood, David Hughes, Mike Peel, and Jos van der Burg (Organizer and reporter)

Frosty Mtn., 20 January, 2002

On Friday I had twelve people and by Sunday morning there were only five of us. Colds and snow conditions kept the rest at home (this was the weekend Vancouver got all the snow.)

We left the cars at Lightning Lakes parking lot at 10am in beautiful powder, semi-clear skies and a cold -15°C. We followed the Frosty Mtn. trail to about 1500 m where we lost it and then headed basically south to the peak.

There was high avalanche hazard everywhere this weekend. But Frosty Mtn. must be one of the few peaks that is completely safe from avalanches right to the summit, if you take the right route. We never felt there was any danger at any point on the climb. It has thick trees on the steeper parts and then a gentle ridge as it opens up. It's then a scramble up some scree on a wind blown ridge to the summit. Three of us reached the summit at 3pm, a bit later than I planned due to the somewhat heavy trail breaking. We immediately hurried down to enjoy the ski descent before dark. A fast ski down saw us back at the car as the sun started to set at 5pm. We then decided to go to the lodge for dinner, knowing the other two would be late.

The two others who decided to take it easy and not make the peak, were not ready when we got to them on our way down. They were in no hurry and seemed happy to ski down in the dark. They arrived in the Manning park lodge parking lot at 7pm as we were about to head back to Lightning Lakes to look for them.

Participants: Jos Van der Burg, Roger Goodwin, Jas, Andre, and Brian Vezina (Organizer and reporter).

Tetrahedron area, 2-3 February, 2002

The organizer devoted most of his time to organizing the trip participants and forgot to organize himself. The most serious manifestation of this was an absence of skins for his skis. He realized this only after the ferry had left. The next hour revealed that it was impossible to buy or rent skins in Gibsons or Sechelt. Hockey tape and string had to suffice. The recent snow had been sufficiently dry that it was possible for our two 4WD's (SUV's have their uses!) to drive all the

way with minimal plowing, to the trailhead, which had been reached by another six 4WD's. A number of vehicles that had fallen by the wayside were passed on the way. The Tetrahedron Ski Club can only afford to have the road plowed a couple of times per season. We were fortunate that only about 30 cm of snow had fallen since the previous plowing.

We set off under cloudy skies with the occasional sunny break, passing a group of snowboarders cavorting on the logging road just above the car park. Most of the tracks in front of us were made by snowshoers and most of these headed towards the popular Bachelor Lake area. We followed the ski tracks of a party of 2 to Edwards Lake. The ski tracks headed across the lake towards Chapman Ck., so we left them as we headed for the Edwards Lake cabin. After a small amount of confusion we reached the cabin with its 2 snowshoer occupants. The warmth of its heater and the wretched state of his makeshift skins were sufficient to keep the organizer in the cabin while, after lunch, most of the other members of the party went for some skiing in the trees above the cabin en route to Mt. Steele.

The makeshift skins had been criss-crossing string on one ski and hockey tape wrapped around a twisted section of tape on the base of the other ski. Both skis balled up badly but the string to a less extent. However, the metal edges cut through the string resulting in an arrival at the cabin with bits of string flying in all directions from one ski. The hockey tape method, an inspiration of Dave's was declared the better method.

Shortly after dinner the 2 skiers who had crossed the lake heading for Chapman Ck. turned up. They had aborted their trip to McNair hut as it was taking them too long. They soon proceeded to attempt to blow the cabin up with a leaking propane cylinder, then torch the cabin with a malfunctioning white gas stove – they had each carried a stove and neither worked! They did get a roaring fire going in the wood stove however.

During dinner, massive confusion occurred over how to prepare a packaged berry crumble that the snowshoers had. Nathalie found that the French instructions differed from the English ones and provided the clue. Most of our party put in their two bits worth

but ultimately it was agreed that, no matter in what order the crumble ingredients were mixed, ultimately it would taste the same.

Peter proceeded to teach knots to one of the snowshoers while Monica came to the realization that despite having taken a ferry we were not really on Vancouver Island. Around this time it started to snow. The 2 snowshoers retreated outside for a torrid night in the igloo they had constructed after seeing us arrive, while the rest of us retreated upstairs to our sleeping bags. The snowshoers missed the snoring concert held in the cabin.

Nathalie had been determined to get up at 4 am, but not even the crashes of the snow avalanching off the cabin roof during the night got her up at that time. She did, however, join the 2 other insomniacs in our party – Peter and Dave – for a predawn breakfast. The falling snow and a bad night's sleep provided no incentive for the organizer to get up but, eventually, he decided to get up to give moral support to the troops, who sounded as if their departure was imminent. He was only halfway through breakfast when Peter and Dave departed, heading for Steele. Dave had forecast sun for the morning. In the morning snowfall he changed the time to noon – definitely a prospective Vancouver weather office forecaster!

During breakfast, Monica was captivated by a watch built into a small karabiner that one of the snowshoers had. This watch was also capable of answering one's question with a no, a yes, or something similar. Nathalie decided that this watch made maps, compasses, altimeters, GPS units etc. redundant. All one had to do was ask it whether one should go left, or right, or up, or down, etc.

The remainder of the party straggled out heading for Steele sometime later, the organizer now having both skis fitted with hockey tape skins.

Neither ski was found to have any grip, even after the use of additional tape. A laborious set of switchbacks was used to connect the flatter parts of the other's trail. Needless to say, the organizer dropped well behind and was no longer capable of giving even moral support to the troops – survival was his main concern.

In the cloud and snow, and not wishing to tempt the avalanche gods on Steele, Dave and Peter went to the Steele cabin while Monica and Nathalie got to the high point on the ridge just below Steele. The organizer, with the support team of his wife, didn't even make it to the ridge as he was passed by the troops coming down. Tape was gleefully ripped from the skis, then a relatively pleasant ski back down to the cabin was had, with Peter diving into a stream providing extra entertainment.

Back at the cabin, the stove pyros, members of the Tetrahedron Ski Club, were about to leave as we settled down for lunch. After packing and eating and cleaning the cabin a bit, we, too, departed for an enjoyable ski in now just overcast conditions down to the lake. The climb back out of the lake basin was less than pleasant for the organizer, whose newest set of tape skins decided to fall apart half way up. But eventually the road was reached and the sun even came out. The ski down the road on its thick concrete-like snow was relatively uneventful, except for the entertainment provided by the somersaulting Monica. At the car park Dave, Nathalie, and Evelyn decided to ski a few km further down the road. They set off, straddling the ruts of car tires, to be picked up later. A drink and cake in Sechelt and the troops were on the 4:30 ferry back to Vancouver.

Participants: Dave Scanlon, Nathalie Sermet, Monica Durigon, Peter Woodsworth, Evelyn Feller, and Michael Feller (Organizer and reporter).