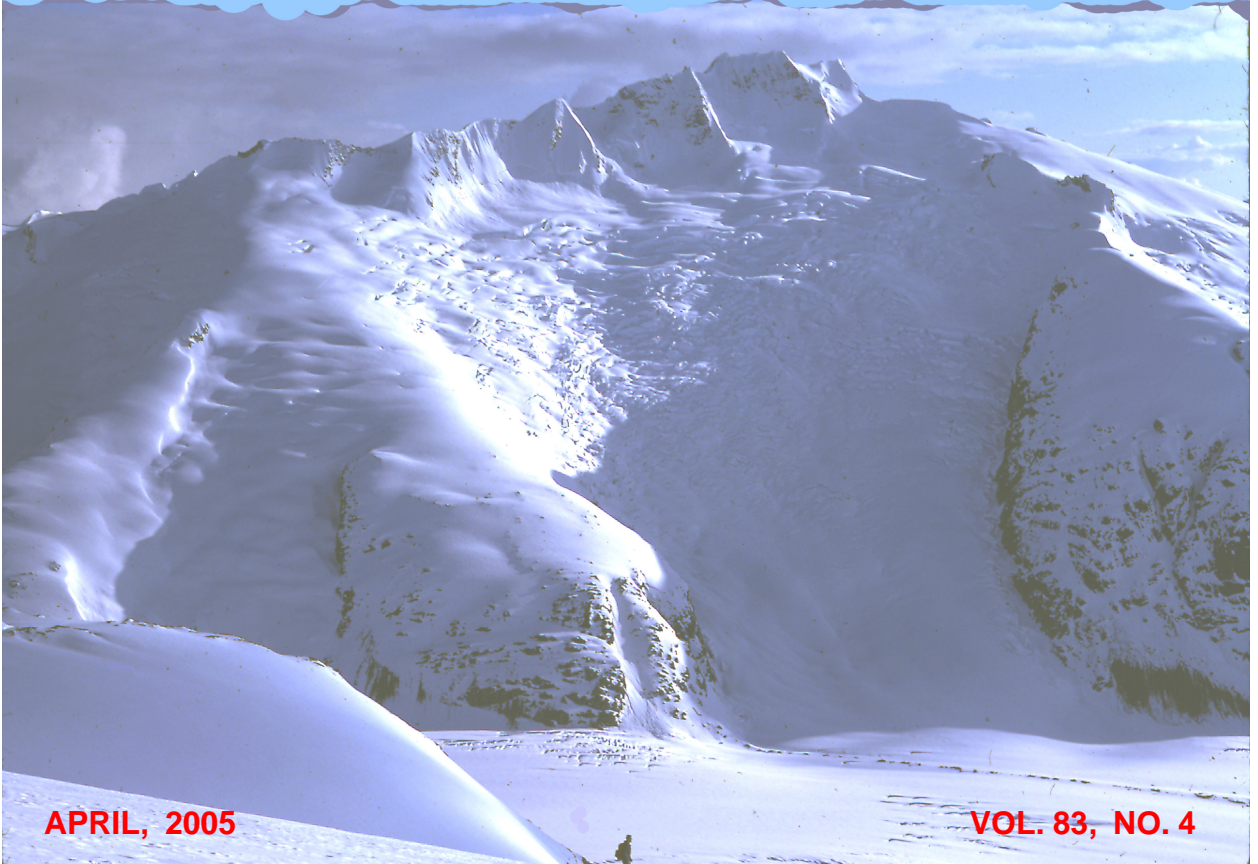


BC. MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER



APRIL, 2005

VOL. 83, NO. 4

EVENING SOCIAL MEETINGS

Evening socials are usually held in the ANZA club, upstairs room (corner of 8th Ave. and Ontario, Vancouver) starting at 7:30 p.m. Cookies, tea, and coffee are provided.

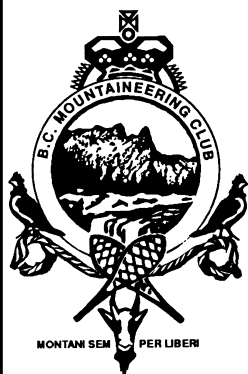
Tuesday, 12 April - Entertainment will be a slide show by Chris Cooper on a 105 day canoe trip down the Alaska and B.C. coast.

Tuesday, 10 May - Entertainment is TBA.

Mt. Tisiphone, Lillooet Icecap.



South Moresby paddling scenery.



HONORARY PRESIDENTS - Esther and Martin Kafer
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| PRESIDENT - | KIT GRIFFIN 604-736-8462 | CABIN/TRAILS - | DAVID SCANLON 604-572-5051 |
| PAST-PRESIDENT - | DAVE HUGHES 604-980-6484 | | PETER WOODSWORTH 604-254-7076 |
| VICE-PRESIDENT - | MONIKA BITTEL 604-983-3097 | CONSERVATION - | MONIKA BITTEL 604-983-3097 |
| SECRETARY - | ALICE PURDEY 604-293-2951 | SUMMER CAMP - | |
| | ANDERS OUROM 604-228-1798 | | PETER WOODSWORTH 604-254-7076 |
| TREASURER - | TODD PONZINI 604-340-9653 | FMCBC REP - | MIKE PEEL 604-444-4068 |
| MEMBERSHIP/MAILING - | 604-268-9502 | WEBMASTER - | KEVIN SWANSON 604-943-4364 |
| | JULIA BORCHARDT 604-204-0726 | EDITOR - | MICHAEL FELLER 604-270-4050 |
| | STEVE TATE 604-737-3608 | | |
| SOCIALS - | DERRICK JOHNSTONE 604-505-6250 | EQUIPMENT - | PAUL KUBIK 604-876-0764 |
| | PAUL HAWMAN 604-924-1235 | SAFETY EQUIPMENT - | KIT GRIFFIN 604-736-8462 |
| CLIMBING - | JOS VAN DER BURG 604-463-7582 | LIBRARY - | JOAN FORD 604-876-4255 |
| | EMANUELE PORRA 604-533-7723 | | |

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2674, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3W8

EMAIL ADDRESS: info@bcmc.ca or bcmc@bivouac.com

INTERNET SITE: www.bcmc.ca

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). All material within this newsletter is copyright © British Columbia Mountaineering Club.

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. Please note that images should be at least 60 pixels/cm (150 pixels/inch) for successful printing. Images with a lesser resolution will probably not be printed. 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. 604-270-4050).

Editorial policy - All submitted written 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. The club has avalanche transceivers and snow shovels available for hire. These may be obtained by contacting Kit Griffin at 604-736-8462 at least 2 days prior to the day they are wanted. 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 a satellite phone available for hire. This may be obtained by also contacting Kit Griffin at 604-736-8462 at least 2 days prior to the day it is 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. If you decide not to go on a trip for which you have previously registered, please be courteous and inform the trip organizer.

All trips are ski trips, unless otherwise indicated.

ORGANIZER

| | | | |
|---|------------|------------------|--------------|
| April 2: Mt. Northgraves Skiing south of Hope. | B2-3/2103m | Jos van der Burg | 604-463-7582 |
| April 2-3: Castle Towers Mtn. Skiing and climbing above Garibaldi Lake in Garibaldi park. | C3/2676m | Todd Ponzini | 604-340-9653 |
| April 9-10: North Ck. or Railroad Pass area. Skiing in the upper Lillooet valley area. | C3 | David Hughes | 604-980-6484 |
| April 9-10: Rainbow Mtn. Skiing opposite Whistler. | C3/2314m | Tony Knight | 604-873-2276 |
| April 9-10: Little Diamond Head (ski/snowshoe) Conditioning and recce trip as the third training session for those interested in climbing Atwell Pk. | B3 | Justin Bennett | 604-813-4666 |
| April 16: The Nipple. Skiing in the Fraser Canyon area. | B2-3/2298m | Jos van der Burg | 604-463-7582 |
| April 22-24: Atwell Pk. Finally the climb of Diamond Head in Garibaldi park. | C5/2620m | Justin Bennett | 604-813-4666 |
| April 23: Needle Pk. (snowshoe) Snowshoeing and scrambling in the Coquihalla area, snow permitting. | B2-3/2029m | Emanuele Porra | 604-533-7723 |
| April 29-30: Silvertip Mtn. (snowshoe) Snowshoeing, if snow permits, to the base of the rock scramble to the summit of this peak in Washington's northeastern Cascades. | C3/2596m | Emanuele Porra | 604-533-7723 |
| May 7-8: Vantage or Skaha (rock) Rock climbing somewhere although rock is likely to be everywhere by May. | A-B5 | Arnie Wilson | 604-222-3713 |

SUMMER CAMPS

Interested in organizing a camp?

If you are leading a camp, could you let Peter Woodsworth (604-254-7076) know so that we can co-ordinate dates to maximize membership choice. If you are considering a camp, feel free to ask for assistance.

One interesting idea that has come up was a family camp based at the Mountain Lake Cabin; easy approach, moderate terrain, swimming and generally great for kids. Any one like to pick up on this?

Garibaldi Park Climbing Camp, July 30-August 7 - C4-5

This will be a hike in, hike out week long mountaineering trip to Garibaldi Park. The plan is to use the Helm Creek trail for access, and first camp at Gentian Pass from where Castle Towers can be climbed. We will then move camp to the upper Sphinx Glacier, from where we can climb Sphinx, Carr, and Davidson. Camp will be moved again to Gray Pass, and the peaks in the Isosceles group can be climbed.

Participants must be BCMC members, have a strong level of fitness, and have experience in glacier travel and outdoor rock climbing to a minimum of Class 4. Please be prepared to discuss your mountaineering experience with the organizer.

For more information or to reserve one of the eight available spaces, please call Todd Ponzini at 604-340-9653.

Camp Updates

The **Lake Lovely Water Camp** organized by Peter Woodsworth is full, but you can still get onto its waiting list. Phone Peter Woodsworth at 604-254-7076.

Southern Chilcotin traverse

A hiking/scrambling traverse from Lorna Lake to Tyax is being organized for early July or later. Plane access to Lorna Lake will cost \$120.

For further information, contact Karl Ricker at 1-604-938-1107.

IN MEMORIAM - (GERALD) JOHN HARRIS (1924-2005)

We met John Harris in the early sixties when he and his wife Enid joined in local club trips and soon became Active BCMC members (Dec. 1961). John was at first a reluctant mountaineer but, after conquering his fear of heights on a narrow a-cheval ridge on Mt. Sifton during the 1963 BCMC camp at Rogers Pass, was a cheerful participant in many later climbs. Both Enid and John were in an eager group of climbers in the expeditionary camp at Falls River in 1964, where climbing in nearly unexplored valleys, glaciers and mountains was the big attraction. John's finest climbing achievement was the first ascent of "Corner Pk." (3030m) and the third ascent of "The Beast" (3110m) during the Falls R. camp, as well as leading a small party on two easier firsts: "Hathwell Pk. (2740m) and "Culture Pk." (2930m) just north of camp.

After taking part in the expeditionary 1965 camp at Ape Lake, John got a taste of real adventure a few weeks later when both he and Enid were in the unfortunate party of five who were forced to swim for an hour and a half in the frigid waters of Garibaldi lake. They hung onto and propelled their overturned power boat to shore, a feat of exceptional pluck and courage which won the admiration of the other camp participants.

John joined the BCMC in 1961. In 1963 he was a member of the BCMC ski and climbing committee, then became Vice-President a year later and then President in 1965 while his wife Enid was Secretary. During the same year I served as V.-P. with John and started to appreciate

his considerable talent as an organizer and people manager. John was therefore the logical choice to be in charge of the book committee, when the BCMC in 1967 accepted the offer of the Seattle Mountaineers to publish a Southwestern BC trail guide, as long as we would do all the hard work as authors to collect the trail information, pictures and produce the maps to make it print ready for a guide book.

John managed the six year project in masterful fashion and, assisted by many helpful club members, the end product "103 Hikes in Southwestern British Columbia" was and still is a very successful guide, now in its fifth edition - it has produced a large benefit to the club's Literary Fund.

For this important contribution to the club John, together with three other members was elected an Honorary Member of the BCMC. I quote from the Newsletter of January 1976: "*In recognition of the monumental job of compiling and sifting all available trail information, ... and spending endless hours in business meetings the club is delighted to announce the election of John Harris (et al.) as Honorary Members for their tireless effort and a job well done, from which the club will benefit for years to come.*"

Both John and Enid maintained a keen interest in the club even after he was less often on club trips because of pressure from his work and often overseas travel as Chief Engineer and later President of CAE Machinery. Many older members of the club will remember the gracious hospitality at the Harris's house parties, often made even more memorable by the clever games, puzzles and treasure hunts that John and Enid devised for their guests.

After his retirement they both enjoyed travelling and the odd sea cruises, but in the last years John's affliction with the progressive burden of amyloidosis prevented him from venturing far from their home on the sea shore in South Surrey.

With John's death the club has lost another link with the Golden Age of mountain exploration in the sixties and seventies of last century. On behalf of the club we wish to extend our sympathy to Enid and John's family. We have lost a good and true friend.

- Martin Kafer



MEMBERSHIP

New Members - The club welcomes the following new Associate Members: Michael Coyle (rejoined), Christian Danes, Sylvia Fuller, Franz Gutschlhofer, Sofia Hunter, Hey Sook Kim, Andre Paul Lechner, Scott Merkley, Jo Orton, Dhalie Patara, Jean Quon, Brian and Kerry Stachniak, John Wolford, and Tung Yat Wong.

New Honorary Members

The bylaws of the BCMC state that "Those who have distinguished themselves in scientific research, exploration, mountaineering, or service to the club may be elected to honorary membership." Since it was founded in 1907, the club has had 41 honorary members. One of them, John Davidson, was an honorary member from 1912-1972, a record that seems unlikely to be beaten. With the recent death of John Harris, we had 12 living honorary members.

At their March 2005 meeting, the executive unanimously elected two new honorary members - Joan Ford and Alice Purdey, making 14 altogether.

Joan Ford is a medical doctor, educated at the University of Sheffield in England. She began climbing with the Sheffield University Mountaineering Club in the 1940s, with trips to the Peak District and north Wales. She emigrated to Canada in 1953, and immediately became a member of the BCMC. She has been a member ever since, and was particularly active in the 1950s and 1960s. More recently, Joan has been custodian of the club's large library, a resource and entertainment for members and others.

Joan is now retired, but for many years had a family practice in east Vancouver. She has been very active in a variety of humanitarian endeavours, including Save the Children and the Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation. She worked at Hillary Foundation public clinics in the Khumbu region of Nepal six times during the 1980s and early 1990s, and maintains her involvement with its work. Joan was made a member of the the Order of Canada in 1991, in recognition of her public service.

The club is pleased to recognize Joan Ford as one of it's newest honorary members, both for her contribution to the club and for her public service.

-Anders Ourom

Alice Purdey joined the club in 1965 and after climbing extensively with the Varsity Outdoor Club, was a very active and accomplished mountaineer, making numerous first ascents and new routes. One high point of her climbing was with a BCMC party that made the first Canadian ascent of Canada's second highest mountain - Mt. St. Elias - in 1971. She was described in Chic Scott's book "Pushing the Limits" as "the leading woman mountaineer of her era in Canada and possibly in North America".

In the mid 1970s, Alice served on the BCMC executive for 2 years as Climbing Chair, then for another year as Treasurer. Parenting obligations and a career temporarily took Alice away from Vancouver and mountaineering. With a deep commitment to public service, she worked for several years as a community health nurse with the First Nations community around Hazelton and with a community health development project in Nepal. More recently she and her husband - Fred Douglas - have returned to Vancouver where she continues working on community health development, most recently, in Ukraine, while fitting in more time in the mountains and with the club again. Alice has served as club secretary for the last year or so.

The club is also pleased to recognize Alice Purdey as one of its newest honorary members, for her contribution to mountaineering, to the club, and for her public service.

-Michael Feller

What Club Members are doing

Ravil Chamgoulov recently emailed from Argentina: "I summited mount Aconcagua on February 28th on the 8th day after arrival at the base camp. I enjoyed this climb, and it was a difficult one. The mountain is really high, only 38 meters below 7000m. It was a very strong wind on the summit day, and most turned back. Only two people followed me that day."

BCMC MOUNTAINEERING INSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Basic Outdoor Top-roping - This program is aimed at those who have done some indoor gym climbing, and want to try it outside. It, or an equivalent, is a prerequisite for Essential Rockclimbing. The program will cover safety, environmental issues, basic equipment, basic climbing skills and techniques, and the elements of top-roping (tying in, belaying, lowering, etc.). It will be a one-day program (plus one planning evening). The program will not cover top-rope anchors, rappelling, or belaying from above.

To participate, you must have a sit harness, rock shoes, a belay device (no figure 8s), two locking karabiners (Ds or ovals), plus one large pear/münter-biner, and a helmet. (These items can be rented from area retailers.) Course instructors or the BCMC will provide other needed equipment. Cost for the program is \$50.

Essential Rockclimbing - Essential Rockclimbing consists of an evening lecture/practice, and two weekend days at Squamish. At the end of the program, you should be able to set up and use a simple top-rope, rappel, set basic anchors, belay and follow a lead climber.

You must provide rock shoes, a sit harness, a helmet, four locking (Ds or ovals) karabiners, plus one large pear/münter-biner, a belay device (no figure 8s), and two slings of 7mm accessory cord (1.5m and 5m in length). Course instructors and the BCMC will provide other needed equipment.

Prerequisite - Basic Outdoor Top-roping or equivalent. This program (or equivalent) is a prerequisite for the Mountaineering Program. Fees and schedule do not include Basic Outdoor Top-roping. Cost for the program is \$120.

Lead Climbing - This is for those who have solid outdoor top-roping skills plus a season's experience. (Participants will be required to organize a basic top-rope on the first day.) You must also have experience in overnight mountain travel. The program will include three weekends and several evenings, plus an optional alpine rockclimbing weekend. Participants may be asked to help with other programs, and are expected to climb regularly together on

evenings and free weekends. By the end of the program, participants should be comfortable leading 5.7 rock climbs, and moderately technical mountain routes. This program covers placing and using anchors, equipment selection and use, safety and environmental issues, leading, training, and related issues.

Participants must have all the basic climbing equipment, and must be prepared to invest in all equipment needed for leading, likely several hundred dollars. Organizer's equipment is also used.

Cost for the program is \$200. Note that members joining the club specifically to take this program will be required to register for next year's club membership at the same time. This is to encourage participants to continue to "give back" to the club, in time and effort, in the future.

Mountaineering - This includes three evening lectures/practices and three weekends. Essential Rockclimbing or equivalent is a prerequisite. This program covers mountain travel and navigation, safety and environmental issues, snow travel, glacier travel, crevasse rescue, self arrest, and ascent of a moderate peak. You must be an experienced backpacker. By the end of the program you should be able safely to undertake most club trips up to the B4 level.

Participants must provide all backpacking and camping equipment, sit harness, ice axe, helmet, and crampons. The BCMC provides other needed technical equipment (ropes, pickets, etc.), and two prussiks for each participant.

Cost for the program is \$280. Note that members joining the club specifically to take this program will be required to register for next year's club membership at the same time. This is to encourage participants to continue to "give back" to the club, in time and effort, in the future.

Limit 9 participants.

To register - download and fill out the application forms on the club website (<http://bcmc.ca/programs.asp>) and send them to Monica Durigon, BCMC, 4127 Cambridge St., Burnaby, B.C., V5C 1G8.

BCMC CENTENNIAL NEWS

Photographs for BCMC Calendars

We are looking for photographs for a BCMC calendar for 2006 and 2007. The calendar will build awareness of the Club, its members and its history and help raise funds for the BCMC Centennial celebrations in 2007. The following are guidelines for submissions for the calendar:

Content: The focus of the calendars will be BCMC members at play in the outdoors – doing the things we love to do, whether its backcountry skiing or snowboarding, showshoeing, rock climbing, mountaineering, hiking, resting after a hard day of playing, enjoying some spectacular scenery, setting up camp, joking with friends, taking a break on the summit, relaxing outdoors, etc. Be creative. We are looking for photographs that demonstrate what this Club is all about. While BCMC members don't have to be the focus of the photograph, we would like to see BCMC members somewhere in the photograph, even if only small figures in a spectacular landscape shot. Photographs can be old or recent in time.

Identification of entries: Each submission should identify the people in the photograph, the date and location of the photograph, the name, address, telephone number and/or e-mail address of the photographer and a title or caption for the photograph. A signed consent from all identifiable persons in the photograph is required (see consent below) and the photographer must confirm in writing that the photograph has not been previously published, with the exception of BCMC publications (newsletters or journal). There will be no compensation for any photographs used in the calendars. There are no restrictions on the number of submissions a photographer can make for use in the calendars.

Format for submissions: In order to ensure the best reproductions for the calendars, all submissions need to be sharp enough to be enlarged to 8" x 10" in size. We will accept 35 mm slides and black and white or coloured prints (5" x 7"). Digital entries should be submitted in print, which should match the quality and character of the original file. The original, uncropped file resolution of digital entries should be at least 2.5 megapixels. If an entry is chosen

for the calendar, the original slides or the original digital files must be available for calendar reproduction.

If people want their submissions returned, this should be indicated when the submissions are made. A self-addressed, prepaid envelope should be included with the submission.

Consent: Written consent to be completed by all identifiable persons in a photograph: "I am of legal age and grant (photographer's name) the right to photograph, make use of and permit others to make use of my name, likeness and image. This permission includes the rights to edit, duplicate, publish and broadcast. I have no ownership or interest in the product or photograph."

Date and place of photograph: _____

Model's name and address: _____

Model's date of birth: _____

Model's signature: _____

If the identifiable person is a child (18 years of age or under), the consent must be signed by the parent or guardian of the child.

Deadline: We are working with tight deadlines in order to have the 2006 calendar ready by the fall of 2005. The deadline for submissions for the 2006 calendar is June 14, 2005. Submissions can be made to Monika Bittel, Julia Borchardt or Alice Purdey, who are the members of the Calendar Committee. If you have any questions regarding the calendars or possible submissions, please contact Monika Bittel (604-983-3097), Julia Borchardt (604-204-0726) or Alice Purdey (604-293-2951).

Centennial Trivia

What BCMC member's family has been in the club since 1908?

Charles Chapman joined in 1908. He was president and an honorary president for a number of years. His daughter, Dora, married Norm Kellas, another BCMC member who was active until war injuries curtailed some of this activities. Their son, Hugh Kellas is now the family's 3rd generation BCMC member. In the club's 2007 centennial year, Hugh's family will have been members for 3 generations and 99 years.

Centennial Documentary Video - Volunteers Needed

As part of our Club's centennial celebrations, we are planning to make a documentary video of our first 100 years. The video will include images from our extensive photo archives and sound recordings of our older members combined with new footage to illustrate the Club's contributions to mountaineering, exploration, backcountry recreation and conservation. We are seeking

volunteers with experience in audio/visual technologies and/or an interest in the Club's history.

If you are interested in assisting, please contact: Martin Kafer 604-733-0462 mkafer@shaw.ca and/or Brian Wood 604-222-1541 bjwood@axion.net

SPRING SKI CAMP WITH THE KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERS

Homathko Icefield ski traverse/ climbing camp - late April-early May

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club will be organizing this ski camp which will fly in and out by ski plane. The party intends to traverse

across the icefield with 2 extended and several short camps, climbing peaks along the way. Estimated cost is approx. \$600. For further information, contact Sandra McGuinness at dog_house@shaw.ca or 250-352-3545.

MEC Adventure Story Contest

Everybody has a story to tell. Tell us yours.

The incentives: *The 1st place winner will receive a \$500 MEC gift certificate. The 2nd and 3rd place winners will each receive a \$100 MEC gift certificate. The winning entry will be published in Explore.*

The essentials: *Self-propelled epics only: no SUVs, ATVs, or PWCs. Entries should be 750 words or less. (Winning submissions may be edited prior to publication.) Preference will be given to stories that unfold in Canada. Stories involving death will be left in the cold. All rights to*

the winning stories will be owned by MEC until December 31, 2006. You must be a MEC member to redeem the prize. Email submissions should be sent as attachments in text-only format.

Deadline: *4pm, Friday April 29, 2005.*

Send your story to:

MEC Adventure Story Contest
C/O Board Coordinator
Mountain Equipment Co-op
149 West 4th Avenue
Vancouver, BC, V5Y 4A6

Or email it to: adventurestory@mec.ca

DEALS FOR CLUB MEMBERS

Cliffhanger - offers BCMC members (show your membership card) 10% off all memberships and day passes for indoor climbing.

Gripped Magazine - Canada's only climbing magazine offers BCMC members a one year subscription for \$20.95 (regular subscription is \$25.95).

Whistler area mountains panorama

Greg Maurer, a local photographer is selling a totally cool labled panorama of the Whistler mountains. He's donating 5% to WEP. I've

ordered one and I think it's something our members might like. Check it out here: <http://www.alpenglowpro.com/maint.html>

- Julia Borchardt

NEWS

Sea-to-Sky LRMP draft plan is now available

The Sea-to-Sky "Consultation Draft" dated February 25, 2005, is now available on the S2SLRMP website. The draft is available at - http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/cr/resource_mgmt/

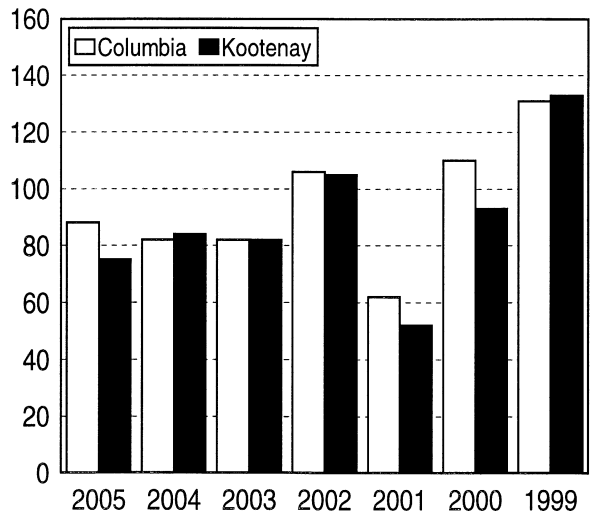
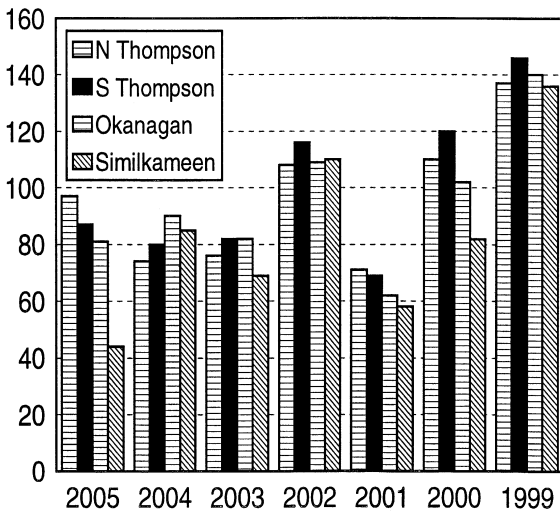
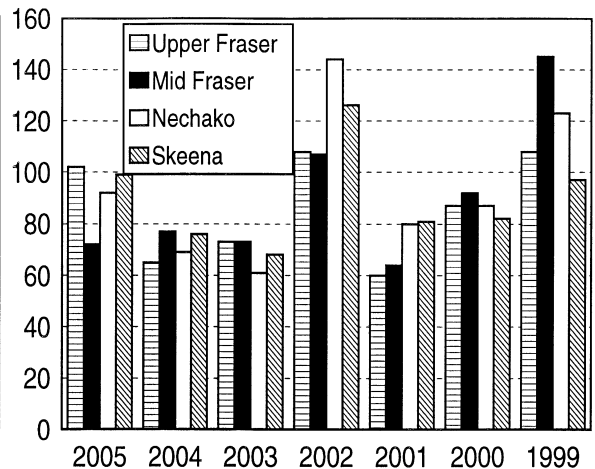
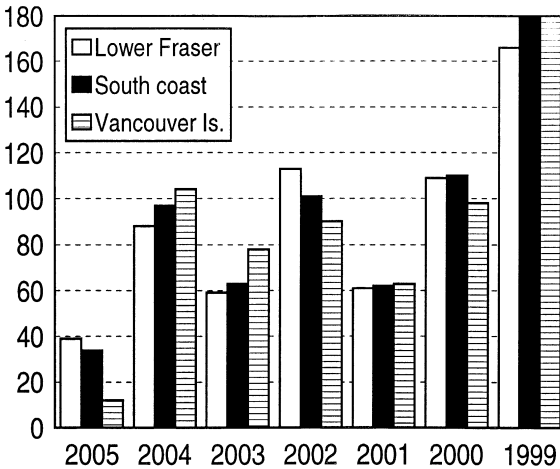
lrmp/s2s/whatisnew.htm

The "Current Status" page provides information on the current status of the LRMP process and future timelines.

Snowpacks in B.C. are highly variable this year

The 1 March snow report indicates that southwestern B.C. has an extremely low snowpack - only 10-40% of average, but this increases as you head north or east. Snowpacks

were around average in the Skeena region and even > 100% in the Upper Fraser region. More details and comparisons with previous years are given in the figure below.



Sechelt Peninsula Mountaineering

Are you interested in the mountains of the Rainy River Valley, Tetrahedron and Panther, Rainy Mtn, Varley, and others? I am retired and organize

my hiking/climbing trips at short notice, depending on weather. If interested phone Peter Feichtner at Gibsons 1-604-886-7476.

The Land Conservancy of British Columbia purchases land between Stawamus Chief and Shannon Falls parks

According to the 2 March, 2005 issue of Access News of the Climbers Access Society of B.C. - "The Land Conservancy of B.C. ("TLC") recently negotiated an option to purchase the gravel pit between Stawamus Chief and Shannon Falls Provincial Parks. The property was to have been the base for the gondola that was unsuccessfully proposed in autumn 2004. The total price is \$900,000, and the purchase will be final on August 31st, 2005, with some interim deposits payable.

The property is zoned commercial, and is the only private land on the east side of Highway 99 in the area, so there is a lot of interest in developing it. TLC identified it as an essential strategic acquisition in the Squamish area; if this land isn't bought, and taken off the market, the possibility of it being developed in a way that conflicts with the values of the parks will never go away. It's much more than "just a gravel pit".

The gravel pit acquisition is part of a larger plan to purchase the upper Malamute at Squamish, and perhaps another property transaction in the Squamish area. TLC has begun negotiations with the owner of the upper Malamute, and an appraisal is being done. The land is zoned industrial, but has high natural and recreation values, particularly for climbing. These initiatives are very timely, particularly given the pending start to work on the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project. The gravel pit should facilitate parking at, and access to, Stawamus Chief Provincial Park.

This initiative is of great benefit to the climbing community, and the Access Society thanks TLC for all its work, and Mountain Equipment Co-op for the impetus and for seed funding. Partners and supporters include the District of Squamish, Squamish Nation, the Ministries of Transportation and of Water, Land and Air Protection, and concerned climbers' organizations.

TLC was founded in 1997 (www.conservancy.bc.ca). It is known for effective work through partnerships, constructive

negotiations, and long-term vision. It has acquired or protected nearly 40,000 hectares of sensitive and threatened lands around B.C., at a total direct cost of \$25 million, with further contributions of \$40 million. TLC has over 3,000 members and nearly 12,000 donors. New members and donations are welcome, to support its efforts to protect B.C.'s natural and cultural heritage. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to 5655 Sperling Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. V5E 2T2. Telephone 604-733-2313.

B.C. government plan to build more lodges in provincial parks exposed

Comment by M. Feller

An organization composed of present and past government employees, called Public Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (PSEES) released a report in February, detailing government plans to promote commercial and private development within B.C. parks. The report was based on internal government documents, including ministerial briefing notes. The report is available at www.pse.ca and provides the following information (note that the report is fully referenced but the references have been omitted from the following extracts for the sake of brevity):

"A confidential Working Draft prepared for the B.C. Government on April 7, 2004 documents that during the period 1998 through to 2001, B.C.'s parks attracted more annual visits than the provinces of Alberta, Ontario and Manitoba combined. However, annual visits to B.C. parks declined from a record of 26.5 million visits in 1998/99 to 17.4 million in 2003/04. This trend for B.C. is "dissimilar to other jurisdictions as their attendance has generally remained steady or even increased slightly over the same time period." The document adds, "Some of the key reasons for B.C.'s performance may include various natural phenomena (fires, floods, etc.) that occurred during peak season, increased fees and a decrease in number of (locations) where visitor statistics are collected".

The above argument is used to justify a push for more development, more commercial facilities and greater privatization in parks in the belief this would reverse the decline in visitation and increase government revenues.

There does not appear to be any analysis of

the relationship between cuts in public service staff over the past three years and the collection of visitor statistics and/or the impact of increased park use fees. Such information should be collected and factored into the analysis before the government makes decisions regarding park management, options, strategies, and plans. But this has not been done.

What the government is saying and/or planning to say publicly - In an undated document titled "Draft Strategic Advice to Cabinet", prepared in anticipation of a public announcement to allow further privatization of B.C.'s parks, the heading is: "Strategy to ensure that lodges respect park values".

Nonetheless, in apparent anticipation of public opposition to commercial development in parks, a draft letter was prepared for the Minister on December 22, 2003. This letter states in part: "Further, any new development must be consistent with park management plans and will be subject to impact assessments and stakeholder consultation. Government's vision for parks is founded on a central principle to maintain the ecological and conservation role and integrity of our parks. With the safeguards that have been put into place, we can increase visitation to our parks system, expand the range of opportunities available to park visitors and derive increased economic benefits without detracting from this vision".

However the Draft Strategic Advice to Cabinet states that "as a result of the Park Act amendments, the B.C. Parks Lodge Strategy was prepared in order to clarify the government's intent". This includes providing "a vision, principles, policies and procedures that will allow timely, clear and transparent development, enhancement and management of lodges in parks".

Providing opportunities for private commercial development in parks is being promoted as a "key element of the Heartland Economic Strategy and the province's goal to double tourism".

For public consumption, the government is planning to carefully de-link the B.C. Parks Lodge Strategy from the Provincial Resort Strategy. The planned public announcement by the Minister of Water, Land, and Air Protection will be separated from the announcement on the resort strategy to ensure that this will be the case.

Comparing general park protection principles with government actions - The table below outlines broadly accepted principles for preserving B.C.'s parks. Beside each principle is an outline of steps that government has taken and/or is planning to take to foster privatization in B.C.'s parks. The question that needs to be raised is how do the government's actions and plans respect park values?

General Principles

Government Strategy and Steps Taken

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The B.C. Park Act must remain inviolate. - Parks are an inalienable public good to be protected under the Park Act in perpetuity. | <p>On December 2, 2003 an amendment to the Park Act received Royal Assent. The amendment added a new provision of certainty that a park use permit can be issued for an activity related to resort or tourism development in a Class A or Class C park. Also directional drilling is now allowed for sub-surface oil and gas and there will be new transitional designations to allow access and development while land use planning is implemented.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Park Act directs the government alone to manage and maintain parks. | <p>The overall government strategy now is based on an entrepreneurial model that involves greater private-commercial developments in B.C.'s parks. B.C.'s parks are now open for business.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government has a duty to maintain a civil service with sufficient staff and funding to manage every aspect of the park system. | <p>Cutbacks in staff and resources preceded this move by government to place greater pressure on B.C.'s parks and to make them more difficult to manage. Most of B.C. parks do not have management plans in place. With the focus shifted to promoting private developments in parks, how will it be possible for the remaining public service employees to provide</p> |

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| | <p>the necessary oversight, reviews, management and monitoring before, during and/or after such developments? Who will be setting the vision, agenda, timetable and priorities for future development? Who will be setting the criteria and schedules for zoning changes within parks? Similarly, who will be pushing for boundary adjustments to B.C.'s parks in order to accommodate other economic interest, and who will evaluate the impact of those demands?</p> |
| <p>- The Park Act gives B.C. Parks a dual mandate to manage for preservation and recreation. Both these mandates must be maintained. The protection of ecosystems, landscapes and wildlife must take priority over recreation.</p> | <p>A project team of governmental staff was established to develop a B.C. Park Lodge Strategy in 2003. In February 2004 a Lodge Advisory Group was established. The group's mandate was limited to being a sounding board - the decision had already been made to proceed with more private developments in B.C.'s parks. A concurrent initiative is to create new categories of lands to accommodate developments in "intensive recreation" and "nature recreation" zones. It appears that these two zones will apply to significant park areas. In summary, all this effort is directed to the economic development in parks. Where is the evidence of a comparable effort being devoted to natural B.C. park resource value, protection and management needs?</p> |
| <p>- The economic values of parks flow naturally from supporting parks with tax dollars making preservation and enjoyment of nature the top priority.</p> | <p>B.C.'s parks and protected areas are integrated with the Heartland Economic Strategy and the Provincial Resorts Strategy. Parks will be expected to generate new revenue towards the government's goal of doubling tourism revenues. Where are the strategies, plans, financial commitments or priorities to support the natural B.C. park values? This part of government's duty to the public "to maintain the ecological and conservation role and integrity of our parks is missing.</p> |
| <p>- There must be no industrial use in parks. Commercial recreational development should be located outside park boundaries.</p> | <p>The B.C. Parks Lodge Strategy includes a network of interconnected private lodge areas in selected parks and adjacent parks. New development sites in B.C.'s parks were identified and listed in a report prepared in September 2004. A Treasury Board Submission document on Implementation on the B.C. Parks Lodge Strategy includes "Corporate Milestones" to identify 10 new park lodge sites and to issue calls for proposals for these opportunities before the end of the 2005/06 fiscal year.</p> <p>Private development within parks will require fire suppression zoning for an extensive area around the facilities. This could threaten the ecological integrity of the park by disrupting natural successional processes. How will this be addressed?</p> |
| <p>- Long-term contracts for private enterprise, based upon park land, services, or infrastructure, must not be allowed. - Wilderness is an essential value of parks. Wilderness is rapidly diminishing in B.C. and should</p> | <p>It is clear that the B.C. Parks Lodge Strategy is designed to provide certainty for private lodge proponents and stakeholders including long term tenure. A survey questionnaire sent out to all current park based operations offering overnight accommodation and facilities states that the objective "is to provide clarity to all interested parties, establish policy, procedures and guidelines which allow timely, clear and transparent new lodge development, lodge enhancement and lodge management decisions". The request is for "input to ensure that our strategy will benefit from your experiences and the finished product promotes</p> |

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| <p>be a top priority of park management.</p> <p>Wilderness combines the ecological, recreational and spiritual values of parks. It epitomizes the wholeness in nature that people are seeking.</p> | <p>appropriate, sustainable and profitable long term investments that attract visitors to our provincial park system”.</p> <p>As of November 2004, the Ministry had eight written/verbal expressions of interest in new private developments in eight different parks.</p> <p>In a Confidential Issues Note providing advice to Minister Bill Barisoff it is stated that park lodge development applications are “part of the government’s larger Resort Strategy” and although “the Park Lodge Strategy will not be implemented until summer 2005, WLAP will consider applications for lodge-type developments under current permit rules and park policy”. Concurrent with all the above work, has been the development of the B.C. Resort Development Strategy 2004-05 Marketing Plan. Led by the Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development, this plan includes a budget for marketing.</p> |
| <p>- Park management must be kept free of conflict of interest</p> | <p>The future plans for B.C.’s parks are based on a new business partnership/relationship with the private sector. The B.C. government is promoting private developments in B.C.’s parks to sell tourism as part of the Spirit of 2010. How will a dependency on private profits generated from private developments in B.C.’s parks fit with the government’s mandate for long term protection of provincial park natural assets?</p> |

The rush to market private opportunities in B.C.’s parks internationally is being done even though only 139 of a total of 679 parks have management plans. Another 343 parks have only statements of purpose or direction. The remaining 177 parks have no written direction at all. This means that if the marketing plans are successful, private developments in parks will set the tone and direction for future developments and alterations in these parks. Plans will be developed in accordance with the private developers’ needs and expectations, not in the context of broader plans that take into account the longer term values of the park and the public’s interests.

There appears to be a vacuum in the government’s plans. It is not clear how private developments will be assessed and monitored by government. It is not clear how such developments will relate to overall park management on both a specific park and a province wide basis.

Even in the limited ‘best case scenarios’ where there are park management plans in place there is a lack of commitment and specifics on how natural park values will be protected and sustained. As stated on page 15 of the B.C. Park Lodge Strategy, “Where management plans exist for parks with proposed lodge development

sites, the opportunity being considered may not be specifically dealt with in the plan for the park. However, the lodge opportunity should support recreational activities that are compatible with the general management direction provided in the plan”. Park zoning amendments are being considered to enable lodges to proceed in areas where they would currently not be permitted.

Other policy changes related to the commercialization or privatization of public parks include lengthening the permits granted to private commercial facilities in parks. Another document titled ‘New B.C. Parks Lodge Strategy Initial Ideas’ advocates loosening the permit and lease criteria to allow private developers to “expand initial service in future years”.

The B.C. Parks Lodge Strategy Project Plan has been advanced quietly and quickly. It is multi-faceted. It involves several ministries and government agencies. It appears the strategy already has Executive and Ministerial approval, and the funding to launch an offshore marketing campaign, complete an inventory of potential sites to be marketed, develop guidelines for implementation, finalize zoning options and implement an overall communications and marketing strategy.

The stated purpose of the Resort and Lodge Marketing Plan is “to market investment in B.C.’s

world-class, all-season resort and lodge opportunities through a coordinated marketing plan that needs to be developed”.

The plans call for a zoning and amendment process that includes a new transitional designation “to allow access and development while land use planning is implemented and/or park boundary adjustments where exceptional provincial environmental, economic, and social benefit merits boundary adjustment”.

Following the release of the PSEES report, response from the printed media editors and columnists was generally frighteningly supportive of the governments plans. The Vancouver Sun maintained its generally anti-environment pro-development stance on this issue, and also revealed that the November 2004 ministerial briefing note containing the 8 expressions of interest for lodge construction included -

- 1) an ACC proposal to build an “eco-lodge” on the Berg Lake trail in Mt. Robson park;
- 2) an Intrawest Corp. plan to build a series of huts along the Spearhead traverse in Garibaldi park;
- 3) a proposal for a floating lodge in the Broughton Archipelago; and
- 4) a lodge development that “borders the ski area” (?) in Mt. Assiniboine park.

The Valhalla Wilderness Society responded by issuing a press release which stated, in part -
"A lodge of any size inside park boundaries will impact park ecosystems," says Anne Sherrod Chairperson of the Valhalla Wilderness Society. "However, the size contemplated for these lodges represents a shocking amount of damage to ecosystems and natural values of parks. Wildlife will disappear and water will not be safe from sewage. Ten parks have already been identified for these developments.

"For 90 years the BC taxpayers have been contributing their taxes to keep BC parks free of this kind of development. A park is a park because it has been withdrawn from the rest of the land base that is available to private interests to make money. Parks were dedicated to preserving landscapes unaltered by human development. When parks are subjected to buying and selling of leases of land and big construction projects,

what's the difference between that and what Land and Water BC (LWBC) is doing on Crown land everywhere else in the province? This project would literally dissolve our park system."

Sherrod said the tourism industry does not need lodges in parks. "Land and Water BC is selling and leasing Crown land for recreational development as fast it can," she says. "This is about wealthy investors grabbing access to prime public land to make huge profits. They are actually going to ruin the front country natural zones and backcountry wilderness that make people want to come here."

Private investors don't have to buy the land to gain control of it. A lease of park land is quite enough to give them powerful legal rights to protect and expand the profitability of their businesses at the expense of wildlife, ecosystems and non-commercial recreationists. This is why the Banff area is losing its grizzly bears, wolves and other sensitive wildlife species.

The leaked documents show that, for the last year, a few hand-picked vested interests and environmental groups, known as the "Lodge Strategy Advisory Group" have been privy to the project. The public at large has been kept in the dark. The participants, which included a number of lodge owners, the Wilderness Tourism Association, the BC Wildlife Federation, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, and the BC Federation of Naturalists, were told that they could not prevent the lodge strategy, but only give advice on how to do it. The environmental movement at large discovered this only when the Public Service Employees for the Environment released the material.

"Sixty environmental groups, mostly in BC, have signed onto a Declaration on the Principles of Parks," says Sherrod. "The principles declare that parks belong to the public and should not be commercialized or privatized; that they are for ecosystem protection, not money making," says Sherrod. "This is what our original Park Act was all about and this is what the public en masse said to the Recreation Stewardship Panel."

In support of the above statement about the public being kept in the dark, your editor is a member of both CPAWS and the Federation of

Naturalists of B.C. and does not recall either organization consulting or informing their membership about the issue

The National ACC clearly do not represent all mountain climbers and wilderness users in their desire to build an "eco-lodge" in Mt. Robson park. The ACC wishes to build this "environmentally sensitive" lodge as part of their centennial activities (2006) and believe that the lodge (for 30 people in hostel-style bunks in 2-4 rooms with "self-service" heating, cooking, and eating) could reduce use of the campsite at the nearby Berg Lake. Apparently the ACC were also part of the government's "Lodge Strategy Advisory Group" but they, too, did not consult their membership over the issue.

The B.C. Campbell government appears to have successfully neutralized several organizations that might have been expected to defend the public interest and nature conservation values of B.C. parks against commercial exploitation and intrusion. The government's

lodge policy for B.C. Parks erodes the difference between parks and other crown land, as the Valhalla Wilderness Society press release was titled, and illustrates yet again a government bereft of any environmental sensitivity and concerned only about making money. Land and Water B.C.'s commercialization of crown land outside parks has been disastrous for those seeking wilderness-type experiences. The lodge policy for B.C. Parks will have the same disastrous effects inside parks. Where then will your children or grandchildren go to experience what you have experienced?

If you are concerned about lodge development in provincial parks you should inform the government of your concerns and support those increasingly few organizations that are still actively trying to maintain our parks and wilderness - Valhalla Wilderness Society and Western Canada Wilderness Committee, for example.

TRIP REPORTS

Lower Elsay Lake Trail, 30 October, 2004

In the fall it is very hard to find a hike that at the same time is interesting, challenging (for me) and reaches places that are remote and not very well known. I saw Peter's name on the BCMC schedule and he was organizing a hike to Mt Bishop. I had a vague idea of where it was. I was curious to explore more of that area and I liked the idea of camping up on the mountain. I wrote Peter saying that I and my boyfriend Rick were

interested in joining the party. He told me that I was the only one who had called him regarding the trip.

By Thursday night we figured that Peter's plan on reaching Mt. Bishop via Vicar Lakes was too ambitious. The snow had already fallen at that altitude and the weather didn't appear to be good. Peter proposed going on Sunday to the Lower Elsay Lake trail for a day hike instead. By Friday we figured that Saturday was a better day

for the weather and also for the time change. We met at 7am at the Baden Powell parking lot on the Seymour road. Another hiker, Eugene from ClubTread.com, joined us. We drove up to the higher parking lot and it was snowing when we reached it. In the pre-dawn darkness it looked



BCMC party on Mt. Bishop, 1915. Charles Chapman₁₅ collection, BCMC archives.

pretty miserable. I thought about the 10 hours of hiking that we had ahead of us and I freaked a little bit. But since we were there, there was no point in giving up. We shuttled down to the real trailhead where the weather improved quite a lot. You could see blue sky and few clouds. Very good, I thought to myself.

After a few minutes we found the start of the Lower Elsay Lake trail which was hidden by logs to prevent people from finding it. I guess the Park Rangers don't want the general public using this trail. It was rough and covered with leaves and the rocks and roots were very slippery. It was mainly downhill for a long way. The great fun in this first part of the trail were the creek crossings. Since the water was coming down very abundantly, it was impossible to cross the many creeks without getting wet. Peter said that the only option was to take off our boots and traverse them with bare feet. I was a little intimidated by the feeling that the water was going to be freezing cold, but I really had no choice and I am always up for new experiences. I managed to cross the three creeks with no problems although I almost lost sensitivity of my feet in one of them. One other creek required us to traverse a log which was all mouldy and very wet. We all ended up with dry feet, but wet bums...except Silke who wisely decided to crawl on the log.

At the end of this part that follows the west side of Indian Arm the trail starts climbing up into Elsay Creek drainage toward the west. We had lunch close to the creek on some pretty rocks. It was pleasant but very noisy and we couldn't really socialize much. When I finished my sandwiches I decided to start moving as I was getting cold. The trail continues to climb up and eventually we reached the point where if you continue to the right you go to Elsay Lake, if you go to the left you go towards Seymour. We couldn't go to Elsay Lake because we were too late. After this point Peter, Silke and Eugene started going very fast and Rick and I were behind, much slower than them. We hiked up the side of a mountain and reached a crossing - Canadian Pass. By that point we had been hiking for 9 hours and I was feeling pretty tired. I thought that the last part we just did was the last uphill of the trip. Then I saw another mountain in front of me and I hoped we didn't have to go in that direction. That was the shoulder

of Mt Seymour and if we wanted to get to the parking lot where we left the cars, we had to hike up again and then go down the other side. We soon reached the snow and hiked in the snow for a good part of the trail. The light was fading and I was making sure I was following the tracks in the snow. The sunset from up there was very nice but we were running so late that I didn't have time to enjoy it very much.

Finally after one last bend of the trail I saw Peter, Silke, and Eugene waiting for us. It was getting really dark. Silke and Eugene took off to get down the mountain with the light that was still available. Peter stayed with me and Rick and we soon had to take out our head lamps in order to see where we were going. I was afraid of getting lost in that darkness but Peter knew the way very well. It was also quite scary to hike downhill on wet and slippery rocks. I had never hiked before in the dark and it was quite an experience. My knee was bugging me by that point and I just wanted to be back and enjoying a nice hot bath. We ended up on the downhill runs and from there we were soon at the parking lot. I was feeling exhausted but very happy that I had participated in such a trip. Another educational adventure.

Participants: Rick Raymond, Eugene Kaplounovski, Silke Gumplinger, Peter Gumplinger (Organizer) and Silvia Bakovic (Reporter)



On Mt. Seymour above the trail to Elsay Lake.