

# B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



**December 2007. Vol. 85, No. 10**

**Skiiing towards Mt. Rohr.**

## **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, 11 December** - Entertainment will be a show by Todd Ponzini, Dave Scanlon, et al. on the club's special centennial climbs and camp in Garibaldi park.

**Tuesday, 8 January** - Entertainment will be a show on trekking 4 sides of Everest, by Michael Bromfield. There will also be an avalanche awareness refresher, given by Brian Jones, of Canada West Mountain School.



**On the northern side of Everest. Photo - E. Feller.**

## HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Esther and Martin Kafer

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT</b> -	TODD PONZINI	604-408-9617
<b>PAST-PRESIDENT</b> -	DAVID HUGHES	604-980-6484
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b> -	DAVID SCANLON	604-572-5051
<b>SECRETARY</b> -	ALICE PURDEY	604-293-2951
	JANE WELLER	604-988-3618
<b>TREASURER</b> -	CRAIG KALNIN	604-787-5396
<b>MEMBERSHIP/MAILING</b> -		
	DERRICK JOHNSTONE	604-505-6250
<b>SOCIALS</b> -	DONNA SCANLON	604-572-5051
	ROBERT WOODHOUSE	604-730-0371
<b>CLIMBING</b> -	EMANUELE PORRA	604-533-7723
	ROBERT WOODHOUSE	604-730-0371
<b>CABIN/TRAILS</b> -	DAVID SCANLON	604-572-5051
	PETER WOODSWORTH	604-254-7076
<b>CONSERVATION</b> -	MONIKA BITTEL	604-983-3097
<b>SUMMER CAMP</b> -	we need someone	
<b>FMCBC REP</b> -	BRIAN WOOD	604-222-1541
<b>WEBMASTER</b> -	KEVIN SWANSON	604-943-4364
<b>EDITOR</b> -	MICHAEL FELLER	604-270-4050
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<b>SAFETY EQUIPMENT</b> -	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462
<b>LIBRARY</b> -	JOAN FORD	604-876-4255

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

**EMAIL ADDRESS: [info@bcmc.ca](mailto:info@bcmc.ca)**

**INTERNET SITE: [www.bcmc.ca](http://www.bcmc.ca)**

## CLUB EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

**Avalanche transceivers** - First day - \$5 per day for members, \$7 for non-members then \$3 per subsequent day .

**Snow shovels** - \$3 per day.

**Avalanche probes** - \$3 per day.

**VHF radios** - \$8 per day, \$40 per week

**Satellite phone** - \$60 per week or \$10 per day plus \$300 refundable deposit, all payable in advance, then \$2 per minute use.

If the phone is returned damaged, the renter will be responsible for repair costs. If the phone is lost or damaged beyond repair, the renter will be responsible for reimbursing the club the \$2000 cost of the phone. Trip organizers should request a deposit from trip participants to cover this cost.

First priority for equipment rental is club camps and trips.

Equipment is rented from Kit Griffin at 604-736-8462, who should be contacted at least 2 days prior to the day the equipment is wanted, except for the satellite phone, which should be arranged at least 2 weeks prior to the day it is wanted.

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 (ph. 604-270-4050, email - [feller@interchg.ubc.ca](mailto:feller@interchg.ubc.ca)).

**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. Any person who attempts to participate in a club trip without such mandatory equipment, may be requested to withdraw from the trip. Each person on a club trip is responsible for his or her own safety and for checking the equipment used. Please be considerate and call the trip organizer more than 1 day prior to the trip.

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  
2 courteous and inform the trip organizer.

## Trip Schedule

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### December

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<b>1: Paul Ridge</b>	<b>B2/1675 m</b>
Justin Bennett	604-813-4666
Skiing on and off the ridge to Diamond Head in Garibaldi Park.	
<b>8: Thomas Pk.</b>	<b>C3/1540 m</b>
Todd Ponzini	604-408-9617
Skiing up Harvey Ck. above Howe Sound.	
<b>8: Goat Mtn.</b>	<b>B-C2/1319 m</b>
Bill Maurer	604-789-2172
Skiing beyond Grouse Mtn. in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.	
<b>8: Diamond Head area</b>	<b>B2</b>
Kathy Nemis	604-254-1170
Skiing in Garibaldi park.	
<b>15: Mt. Andrews</b>	<b>B3/2014m</b>
Jos van der Burg	1-604-824-5676
Skiing in the Skagit valley area.	
<b>15: Mt Baker area</b>	<b>B2</b>
Ron Groom	604-469-2092

Skiing and snowboarding in N Washington.  
**15-16: Diamond Head area** **B2**  
Justin Bennett 604-813-4666  
More skiing in Garibaldi park.  
**31: Needle Pk.** **B2(3)/2090 m**  
Bruce Cassels 604-617-6774  
Skiing in the Coquihalla area.

### January

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**5: Howe Sound Crest** **B-C3**  
Monika Bittel 604-983-3097  
Skiing above Howe Sound.  
**12: Cypress Pk.** **C3/2083 m**  
Peter Gumplinger 604-733-8264  
Somewhat extended skiing on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide.  
**12-13: The rambles (ice)** **B5**  
Justin Bennett 604-813-4666  
Ice climbing in the Duffey Lake area.

## Introduction to Backcountry Skiing Program

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**Program Objectives:** To develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence required to safely participate in overnight backcountry ski trips. The program will include 1 evening seminar and 2 weekends spent on overnight ski trips in the mountains. The seminar will be held on the evening of January 17 and the program will run on the weekends of February 2&3 and 9&10.

**Program topics:** Clothing and equipment, trip planning, winter camping, route and snowpack evaluation, avalanche safety, transceiver use and self-rescue, winter mountain travel and weather evaluation.

This program does not cover glacier travel or first aid.

Cost for the program is \$200.

**For whom:** Strong downhill skiers with previous summer or winter backcountry camping experience, and/or: experienced backcountry day skiers who want to gain experience on overnight winter trips.

**Prerequisites:** Open to all BCMC members (new and current) in good physical health and fitness

who are able to confidently ski ungroomed "blue" (intermediate) runs with an overnight (20kg) pack.

**Note that this is not a program on how to ski!**  
*The entire group will be relying on you to be at least a confident intermediate skier! If the organizer determines after the first weekend trip that your skiing ability is not adequate, you will be asked to withdraw from the program before the second weekend trip, and there will be no refund of your program fee.*

**Equipment Required:** Backcountry ski equipment (skis, boots, poles & skins), shovel, avalanche transceiver, and overnight camping gear. Group gear such as tents and stoves will be organized at the pre-trip evening seminar. For further information check the "Programs and Camps" section on the BCMC Web Site: [www.bcmc.ca](http://www.bcmc.ca)  
For more information and to book one of the twelve available spots, please call Todd Ponzini at 604-408-9617.

## Membership

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**Membership fees for 2007/2008 are now due** - Membership fees for 2007-2008 are now due. If you do not pay your dues, **THIS NEWSLETTER WILL BE THE LAST ONE YOU WILL RECEIVE.** You should fill out the yellow renewal form appearing in the October newsletter, indicating if you would like to receive the newsletter by email, read and sign the waiver on the reverse side, then send in the signed form with appropriate dues. **Note - if you renew membership you will be entitled to a free copy of the club's centennial video.**

## BCMC Centennial News

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As a highly successful centennial year wraps up, the club has several items for sale. These are available at club social meetings or by contacting David or Donna Scanlon at 604-572-5051.

Items are -

**1. Centennial logo** - A sew-on cloth logo, about 9 cm in diameter, is available at a cost of \$5 each.

**2. Club bandanas** - The club has also recently produced bandanas with the club logo and wording stating the club is 100 years old. These cost \$10.

**3. BCMC 2008 Calendars** - These feature pictures of club centennial activities and are our best yet, in your editor's opinion. Calendars cost \$12 each to club members, \$15 to non-club members.

**4. Centennial stamps** - Accepted by Canada Post and available in sheets of 40, costing \$33 a sheet (contact Robert Woodhouse at 604-730-0371)

**Centennial banquet** - The club's social event of the century was held on Grouse Mtn. 100 years to the day after the club was born. All 170 tickets were sold, it was exceptionally well-organized by Donna Scanlon, Barb Kornatowski, Claire Oldham, and Radmila Jaksic, and featured several entertaining and interesting speakers (Dick Culbert, Ehleen Hinze, Rafe Hutchinson, and Esther and Martin Kafer, as well as the

### Membership dues are -

Single	\$45	Junior	\$20
Couple	\$68	Life	\$800

### What club members are doing -

The club wishes to congratulate its new president - Todd Ponzini - and Lenore Connaty on their recent marriage, even if it did keep Todd away from the AGM.

**Fatality in the Rockies** - Colin Wooldbridge, an active club member in the 1990's, was recently tragically killed in an ice climbing accident. An obituary will be in the next newsletter.

premiere of the club's excellent centennial video produced by Bill Noble. Former club members from as far afield as California and New Zealand via Nanaimo were present and the first 2 Arcteryx items (pack and parka) were raffled off, the lucky winners being Glenn Woodsworth and Paul Morton.

**BCMC library update** - Several boxes of donated books have now been catalogued by Marilyn Dutton and Mary Maccaree, who have also helped to sort all items in the library. Robert Woodhouse and Michael Kung have very kindly donated bookcases, which will be used to house the expanded library. When all the recently catalogued books are on the electronic database, this will be put onto the club website. The library has probably seen more use this year than in the previous 10 or more as a result of people searching through club publications for different centennial event purposes, particularly the centennial journal, video, and museum display.

**Centennial video update** - The first screening of the video occurred at the centennial banquet. Subsequent to this the executive at their November meeting set up a small committee, chaired by Alice Purdey, to provide advice for the final production. Due to the high cost of editing, it was decided to only add a small amount of text at the end, adding some appropriate acknowledgements and some words highlighting the current activities of the club.

## Reports from the 2007 Annual General Meeting

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The club's centennial year Annual General Meeting was held on 13 November. Approximately 75 people, including a quorum, were present. Reports were presented, as given below (additional reports will be printed in our January 2008 newsletter), a new executive was voted in (by acclamation!), and Alice Purdey and Geoff Mumford gave a fascinating show of a recent trek in the eastern Himalayas.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** - by David Hughes

We are one hundred years old. With an extremely successful Centennial Banquet on Grouse Mountain on October 28, our centennial year has come to a close. The Club Executives over many years had the foresight to save for the Club's centennial year. The current Club Executive and many dedicated members have worked hard to make good use of the Club's savings and have made the BCMC centennial year a great success. To organize our Anniversary, the Club Executive formed a **Centennial Committee** under the direction of David Scanlon. This Committee has generated a number of special events and memorabilia to celebrate our Centennial. A series of special climbs and hikes were envisioned and successfully carried out, despite the difficult weather we experienced this year. Our Club Centennial climbs and hikes included:

- general ski mountaineering camp at North Creek
- a general mountaineering climbing camp to eastern Garibaldi Park
- a special expedition to Mt. Fairweather to commemorate the Club's participation in the first Canadian climb of BC's highest peak in 1958 and to climb the mountain by the only BC approach route – Taylor Ridge, climbed previously in 1986
- a re-enactment of the first climb of Mt. Garibaldi (1907) – skillfully organized and appropriately dressed by Todd Ponzini
- a "bug light" hike up Grouse Mountain for the general public – the idea generated by David Perfitt
- ascent of Mt. Arrowsmith on Vancouver Island where the Mundays first saw Mt. Waddington or Mystery Mountain – organized by Rafe Hutchinson

- Mt. Davis via the Hudson Bay Brigade Trail – Karl Ricker's annual Coquihalla hike

The Club also undertook several other key events and projects to recognize and celebrate our Centennial. These included:

- Centennial video – now completed and copies will be available at the December meeting
- special BCMC exhibits at MEC and the North Vancouver Museum
- special Centennial edition of the BC Mountaineer Journal which will be available early in the New Year
- a fabulous anniversary banquet on Grouse Mountain – special thanks to Donna Scanlon, Barb Kornatowski, Claire Oldham and Radmila Jaksic.

The **Centennial video** "Passion for Mountains" under the stewardship of Martin Kafer, Brian Wood and Todd Ponzini, illustrates one hundred years of mountaineering in BC, drawing from the Club's archives, library and the contributions and memories of many club members. Bill Noble has worked very hard at producing the video and we thank him. In last year's President's report, I acknowledged the majority of donations that had been received including our largest corporate supporters, MEC, Grouse Mountain and Arc'teryx. In addition, I would like our records to also note further donations from the following additional members: Robert Coupe, Dick Culbert, Brian Gavin, Werner Grzimek, Greg Hamilton, Martin & Esther Kafer, Hugh Kellas, Theo Mosterman, Alice Purdey, and Mt. Fairweather Expedition members. The video will be distributed to current members who were members this last year and renew for this next year.

**Special exhibits** on the Club were on display at the Vancouver and North Vancouver stores this fall. A further excellent display and exhibit is being featured at the North Vancouver Museum until April 2008. Our thanks to Hugh Kellas for organizing and being the driving force behind this project. The only project the Club has not been able to complete is a new cabin. The Centennial Committee, and in particular David Scanlon, have worked hard to find another cabin site. The Battleship Lakes site near Lizzie Creek on the

east side of Lillooet Lake was selected, but the Lil'wat Nation at Mount Currie is holding up the approval process.

I am happy to report that we now have a special **2008 calendar**. This calendar records the events of our Centennial Year and I urge you to get your copy. We would again like to acknowledge Monika Bittel and Alice Purdey for their organizational work and in particular recognize the production work of Peter Stange and the printing process handled by Peter Oostlander. It was the two Peters who convinced the Executive to finance another calendar.

I will leave it to David Scanlon to report on the specific memorabilia and fund raising activities of the Centennial Committee.

The Club's **climbing and hiking programs** remain an important reason why the Club continues to thrive. It is our objective to offer a wide variety of trips that appeal to all aspects of mountaineering. Our biggest constraint to offering more trips and courses is finding volunteer organizers/leaders. Thanks to Emanuele Porra and Jos van der Burg for their work on the winter and summer trip schedule and to Todd Ponzini and Kit Griffin and all their support volunteers for our winter and summer courses.

The **Membership Committee** of Derrick Johnstone, Paul Hawman and Steve Tate have again done a great job in helping maintain our membership and answering the ever-increasing email enquiries from the members and the general public. Our Club **Website** has really come a long way from when it was first started. Thanks to Kevin Swanson.

The Club's **Social Committee** has again been one of our most enthusiastic committees. Besides organizing our great monthly entertainment Bob Woodhouse and Donna Scanlon have been key contributors to all the events and programs of the Centennial Committee.

The **Recreation and Conservation Committee** lead by Monika Bittel and Brian Wood has participated actively with the FMCBC in representing our interests on a large number of access and conservation issues. The BCMC and FMCBC's are continuing to represent the Club in working with other backcountry users to secure areas for non-motorized recreation and to work with other users to build a cooperative

environment.

I would like to specifically recognize Michael Feller, our **Editor**. It was Michael's foresight and energy that enabled the Club to collect and archive so much of our history. Without this history, our Centennial video would not have been possible. Michael will soon have a Centennial Mountaineer Journal that will contain articles from the past and present to celebrate our 100 years.

Todd Ponzini in his role as **Treasurer** has been able to keep us well positioned for our Centennial events. We have had the largest increase in membership in many years. Our membership revenue has risen to \$16,849 from \$13,885 in 2005/2006 year. This increase has helped keep our General Fund in good shape. The past investments we have built up will be used to cover the costs of our Centennial and Video fund expenditures.

The Secretary's position is often not recognized as being important to the smooth workings of the Club. Alice Purdey has been an excellent Secretary. She has not only kept us organized, but has been a major contributor to a number of events and centennial initiatives.

In my two tenures as your President, I have tried to shepherd the Club in a positive direction with an emphasis on getting things done. With tremendous support from the Executive and many members we have increased our membership, created significant Club recognition in the community and generated a great deal of enthusiasm and energy. I encourage the younger members to become more involved and to continue to build on this energy and enthusiasm. I believe Todd Ponzini will be the appropriate person to carry us forward at the beginning of our second century.

Thank you for letting me serve as your President.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** - by Todd Ponzini  
The club has had a successful year, in terms of increased income, particularly from membership dues (see Table), although expenses have been more than double what they were the previous year, primarily due to the video (paid) and centennial journal (accrued but not yet all paid). These increased expenses will be partly offset by income from the Arcteryx gear raffle and sales of different items produced by the club during the next year.

**Revenue and Expenses from the General Fund for the year ending 30 September 2005, and previous years.**

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
<b>REVENUE</b>								
Membership dues	16,849	13,885	14,891	15,853	15,945	15,917	6,919	16,168
Interest income	2,333	1,395	1,148	1,538	1,740	2,723	4,195	3,049
Equipment rental, cabin fees	414	40	426	205	385	375	285	583
Stamp, bandana, crest								
T-shirt sales	1,494	---	220	198	218	111	---	---
Instruction courses (net)								
- ski	1,925	2,100	1,645	196	385	1,385	1,112	1,814
- summer	4,494	3,942	4,156	4,179	3,474	4,410	2,313	2,809
Sat phone rental	654	1,006	60	520	---	---	---	---
Member donations	5094	392	205	---	476	80	---	75
Calendars (net)	671	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Publication sales/ads	633	---	673	169	680	17	994	---
Camps (net)	147	60	257	285	318	230	758	409
Other	369	107	51	59	2,493	---	86	300
Bequests	---	---	---	---	---	9,000	---	---
<b>Total Revenue (after bequests)</b>	<b>35,077</b>	<b>23,567</b>	<b>23,652</b>	<b>23,224</b>	<b>26,074</b>	<b>25,275</b>	<b>26,773</b>	<b>25,207</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>								
<b>Publications</b>								
Mountaineer/Journal	11,726	5,128	4,458	2,624	4,406	4,004	4,574	3,016
Brochures, constitution, index, etc.	424	---	---	269	1,057	---	---	---
Newsletter	4,517	4,036	4,615	5,954	7,316	7,627	6,396	5,338
Website	253	153	477	1,810	1,742	1,268	978	1,400
Social activities (net)	1,602	1,610	1,522	1,608	1,472	1,530	1,478	1,240
Postage and stationary	1,553	2,139	1,836	2,434	2,630	3,003	2,190	2,346
Amortization of assets	1,884	1,932	2,001	2,197	1,578	1,052	1,081	1,055
Insurance + tax (cabin)	---	---	---	850	---	19	584	516
Video	21,516	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Memberships (FMCBC)	5,775	5,260	5,720	5,500	5,520	4,040	4,284	4,334
Radio licence/ Sat phone fees	471	802	385	322	---	124	151	219
Cabin	827	1,586	176	223	348	43	27	50
Stamps bandanas crests	3610	---	---	---	---	---	---	82
Conservation	---	---	---	---	---	500	---	---
Voice mail	215	194	180	190	251	252	59	291
Miscellaneous	1,467	350	75	458	203	295	253	61
Donations	1,510	797	500	836	252	719	1,946	2,250
Archives/Library	---	---	---	---	1,281	1,005	2,023	7,123
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>57,348</b>	<b>23,987</b>	<b>21,945</b>	<b>25,275</b>	<b>28,056</b>	<b>24,524</b>	<b>25,988</b>	<b>29,322</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit) of Revenue over Expenses (after bequests and archives expenses)</b>								
	<b>(22,271)</b>	<b>(420)</b>	<b>(2051)</b>	<b>(1982)</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>3,009</b>	<b>4,756</b>
<b>Member's Equity for all club funds</b>								
General Fund (ex. Cent.)	68,608	73,234	60,365	59,026	61,130	64,504	66,040	56,794
Literary & Reserve Fund	37,357	38,229	38,122	37,956	37,847	37,530	37,236	35,564
Life Membership Fund	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500	8,700	8,650	8,650	8,750
Centennial Fund	(2,280)	10,004	9,538	9,307	8,041	7,122	6,737	4,365
Video Fund	(22,794)	(4,443)	---	---	---	---	---	---

## RECREATION AND CONSERVATION REPORT

by Monika Bittel

The BCMC Recreation and Conservation Committee (“R & C Committee”) operates primarily through the Recreation and Conservation Committee of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. (“FMC”), which is recognized by government and various interest groups as an advocate for non-motorized backcountry recreation, focusing mainly on mountaineering, climbing, hiking, backcountry skiing, snowboarding and snow-shoeing. The BCMC is well represented in the FMC R & C Committee and BCMC members frequently attend meetings or sit at tables and forums on behalf of the FMC. BCMC members who regularly attend and participate in the monthly FMC R & C meetings are Ramsay Dyer, Evelyn Feller, Michael Feller, Brian Wood and myself. Many other BCMC members contribute through the FMC R & C list serve by voicing opinions, sharing information, providing feedback, writing letters, and drafting letters or submissions on behalf of the FMC or BCMC.

The following highlights the primary areas of interest or concern over the past year:

**1. Garibaldi at Squamish (GAS):** On September 24, 2007, the FMC and representatives of all the local clubs (BCMC, VOC, ACC-Vancouver, ACC-Whistler, North Shore Hikers and Squamish Climbers’ Access Society) met with GAS representatives – Mike Esler, Keith Thompson and Gord Addison. Mr. Esler provided an overview of the proposed development. Although a number of issues were discussed (i.e., backcountry access and public parking for backcountry access to Garibaldi Park), our primary areas of concern were impacts of the resort on Garibaldi Park, future expansion into the Park and re-location of the Black Tusk Snowmobile Club. With respect to impacts of the proposed resort on Garibaldi Park, both immediate and long-term, the GAS proponents consider this a BC Parks’ problem, not theirs. While they have no immediate plans for expansion into Garibaldi Park, the GAS proponents want to keep their options open for the future (i.e., expanded opportunities for visitors, access to steeper terrain or better snow conditions, and response to climate change).

Accordingly, the GAS proponents will not consider either a buffer between the proposed resort and Park or a covenant running with the resort land, which would prohibit expansion into the Park. Given the potential serious impacts of the proposed resort on Garibaldi Park, a meeting with BC Parks will be scheduled to discuss impacts of the proposed resort and any future expansion into Garibaldi Park. With respect to the Black Tusk Snowmobile Club, which has been located on Brohm Ridge for the past 10-20 years, it was made clear to the GAS proponents that since any re-location of the Club within the Squamish Forest District will displace other user groups, all recreation users in the Squamish Forest District, both commercial and public, and First Nations had to be consulted.

### 2. Backcountry commercial recreation

**tenures:** The FMC R & C Committee continues to review and respond to tenure applications throughout the province. The tenure application from Knight Inlet Heli-SportsLtd. is of particular concern. Knight Inlet Heli-SportsLtd. applied for a commercial tenure for heli-skiing and heli assisted activities over a massive area, including the Waddington area, the Whitemantle Range and the whole Klinaklini-Silverthron watershed. The application was divided into four zones, with the Mt. Waddington area being Zone 2. There are already commercial heli-ski tenures to the north and south of the Waddington area and a gentlemen’s agreement has kept these companies out of Zone 2. Although helicopters have provided climbing and skiing groups access to the Waddington and surrounding ranges since the mid 1970s, the prevailing recreational activities in these areas have been non-motorized – ski touring and mountaineering. The FMC, BCMC, other clubs and many individuals sent letters and e-mails to the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts opposing heli-skiing in these remote ranges and asking that the gentlemen’s agreement between the heli-operators be acknowledged and honoured. In June 2007, the FMC and others were advised by the Ministry that tenure had been granted to Knight Inlet Heli Sports Ltd. as requested in the tenure application with some conditions with respect to Zone 2. We

were advised that - "utilization of Zone 2, Mt. Waddington, is not authorized unless written permission is provided by Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts (MTSA). MTSA ascertained that further time and effort was required in order to fairly assess the public and commercial use in the area and ascertain if shared use of the area is feasible, while still ensuring public safety and the environmental experience...in order for MTSA to fairly assess these values, Knight Inlet Heli-sports Ltd. is required to organize and participate in discussions with key stakeholder user groups of the Mt. Waddington area with a goal to develop a sustainable and collaborative working agreement between the stakeholders. MTSA will facilitate these discussions if required. MTSA will review any agreement reached prior to September 1, 2009, and make a decision on the future use of the Mt. Waddington area..."

The FMC, BCMC, other clubs and individuals are to be included in any stakeholder discussions. To date Knight Inlet Heli-Sports Ltd. has not contacted the FMC or the BCMC and it has not initiated any stakeholder meetings or discussions. For more information on this issue, see the April 2007 issue of the BCMC newsletter and the Spring/Summer 2007 issue of Cloudburst.

### **3. Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP):**

- Signage: Through the efforts of two commercial operators, Whistler Heliski (Doug O'Mara) and Backcountry Snowcats (Kathy Milne), 17 of 21 backcountry forum signs were installed in the Squamish-Whistler corridor, advising of the recommended designated recreational use of various areas. This is part of an ongoing effort to familiarise recreational users with the recommended designated use of areas within the Squamish Forest District. Although there is currently no ability to enforce the designated recreational use of an area, this is supposed to change when the Sea-to-Sky LRMP becomes law.
- Mt. Sproatt: The Sea-to-Sky Backcountry Winter Forum recommended Mt. Sproatt as a non-motorized recreation area. It now appears that Great Canadian Snowmobiling, owned by Intrawest, will be granted a commercial tenure

on Mt. Sproatt in exchange for an area in the Callaghan valley lost to VANOC for the 2010 Olympics. The BCMC and other clubs have challenged this change in designation since Mt. Sproatt is one of the few day trip destinations in a non-motorized area.

- Phelix Creek: The Winter Forum also recommended that the Phelix Creek area be a non-motorized recreation area. A group of snowmobilers is lobbying hard to change that designation in order to put a road through the Cadwallader and Phelix Creek drainages to use as a snowmobile circuit tour. Meetings are scheduled with Kevin Kriese, a senior planner from the Integrated Land Management Bureau, who has been asked by government to resolve the conflict. Resolution of this conflict will either honour or undermine the Winter Sharing Accord developed and incorporated into the Sea-to-Sky LRMP.

**4. Smoke Bluffs Park:** The BCMC continues to be involved in reviewing and developing the covenant to be registered against the FMC lands and the District of Squamish lands incorporated into the Smoke Bluffs Park. The objective of the FMC is to ensure climbers' access to and climbing activities in the Smoke Bluffs Park in perpetuity.

**5. BC Parks:** In June 2006, FMC developed a response to the provincial government's policy for commercial development in parks. The FMC criticised the lack of public process in developing the policy and the size and scale of developments to be allowed in parks. This was fully reported in previous BCMC newsletters (see issues for October and November 2006 and January and February 2007). Since then, the FMC has monitored requests for proposals for accommodation facilities in twelve parks. Those of particular interest were requests for proposals for Mount Robson, Maxhamish Lake (north of Fort Nelson) and Cape Scott (northern tip of Vancouver Island). The ACC national office submitted a proposal for a new hut for Mount Robson. There were a number of issues with ACC's initial proposal, which the ACC has since modified and is now looking to upgrade an existing facility (the ranger station). The FMC,

BCMC and other clubs also made submissions with respect to the Mount Robson Provincial Park Management Plan. The primary areas of concern were the ACC's original proposal for a new hut, implementation of the government's Fixed Roofed Accommodation Policy, prohibition of helicopter day hiking, and reduction of helicopter use for overnight access.

Thank you to all members who attend the FMC Rec & Con meetings, participate on the FMC list serve, provide input, draft letters and submissions and provide comments. Anyone interested in participating in the Rec & Con Committee or anyone with any recreation and conservation concerns, should contact Monika Bittel (E-mail: [monikabittel@telus.net](mailto:monikabittel@telus.net); Tel: 604-983-3097).

### **FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BC (FMC) REPORT** - by Brian Wood

The FMC continues to facilitate communication between member clubs to protect the interests of self-propelled/non-motorized backcountry recreationists and to assist member clubs in a wide range of related recreational matters, described briefly below:

1. Most of the advocacy work is done through the Recreation and Conservation Committee (R&C), which deals with backcountry and wilderness recreation and conservation issues, such as strategic land use planning and conflicts arising from incompatible backcountry activities; and the Trails Committee, which co-ordinates, builds and maintains backcountry trails through member clubs. With the present decline of local logging activity, many of the backcountry conflicts now relate to motorized **commercial** backcountry recreation tenures such as snowmobiling, heli-skiing, heli-hiking, off-road vehicle touring, as well as **public** motorized recreation. The R&C also reviews and assesses four-season resort proposals for remote and pristine wilderness areas or which will impact provincial parks, for example, Garibaldi at Squamish (the resort proposed for Brohm Ridge). R&C also reviews and assesses commercial backcountry tenure applications and applications for Independent Power Projects (IPPs). Apart from the construction devastation of IPP sites, the IPPs require roads for construction and maintenance and power transmission line right-of-ways, which facilitate

#### **Bonnington Range hut booking system**

*The Kootenay Mountaineering Club, together with MoTSA, maintains four huts in the Bonnington Range south of Nelson. Due to increasing use, they have instituted a reservation and fee payment system. Reservations are now required for Huckleberry, Copper, Steed and Grassy Huts. The reservation fee of \$10 per person per night goes towards maintaining and improving the cabins, as well as supplying firewood.*

*You MUST reserve the huts through the Kootenay Mountaineering Club at [www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca](http://www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca) Unregistered parties MUST relinquish overnight use of the cabin to persons having reservations.*

motorized access into wilderness areas and parks.

2) In June 2007, the Kootenay Mountaineering Club hosted the FMC's Annual General Meeting in Nelson, B.C. Club delegates supported the proposal to re-structure the FMC and provided positive feedback. Re-structuring the FMC is a work-in-progress. The initial draft proposal has been refined to incorporate recommendations, ideas and feedback received from the membership. There will be further opportunities to review and comment on the restructuring proposal. The goal is to improve communications with member clubs, make the FMC Board and Committees more representative of member clubs, and make the decision-making process at the FMC Board and Committees more efficient, inclusive and democratic. There are also proposals for increasing membership in the FMC and member clubs and to encourage greater participation of individual club members in a variety of volunteer tasks, including fund raising.

3) At the AGM, member clubs also raised waivers and liability insurance as an area of interest. Some clubs join the FMC specifically to take advantage of the liability insurance offered by the FMC. The insurance costs member clubs an additional \$6 per member over and above the FMC membership fee of \$15 per member. The FMC is currently looking at whether a "standard" waiver can be developed for use by member clubs, along with comprehensive risk

management guidelines, which will include a "best practices" protocol for use of waivers.

4) Work on the transfer of the FMC Smoke Bluffs property to the District of Squamish (DOS) continues and we hope to complete the transfer before the next municipal election, scheduled for the fall of 2008. The goal is to protect in perpetuity climbers' access to and climbing activities in the Smoke Bluffs Park. The FMC has retained two lawyers who specialize in conservation covenants

to work with the FMC in drafting a conservation covenant, which will be acceptable to the DOS and which will accomplish this objective.

5) There is a proposal to re-design the FMC website to make it more attractive and informative, to make it easier for member clubs to update club entries, to keep member clubs up to date on trails and recreation and conservation issues and to make it more responsive to the needs of member clubs and individual members.

## **News - District of North Vancouver to close trails to former BCMC cabin sites**

*Bill Maurer reports -*

The District of North Vancouver (DNV) is planning to close or move the trails leading to the former BCMC cabin sites. Specifically they propose to close the Old BCMC trail and move the Larsen trail further east and closer to Mackay Creek. *A growing population of outdoor-oriented residents and visitors has increased recreational use on DNV Alpine areas particularly relating to trail activities. Changes in recreational use have resulted in issues relating to lack of staging and parking areas, parking impacts on residential roads, public safety, environmental impacts to sensitive eco-systems, code of conduct and commercial uses to name a few.* In 2003 the district council initiated work on a comprehensive strategy for managing Alpine recreation in a sustainable manner.

A vision statement was developed:

*"The vision is one of sustainability to respect the natural systems and managing uses of the mountains in ways that do not diminish the ability of future generations to enjoy this wonderful endowment. By adopting an approach that protects the mountain's ecology while providing recreational, social and economic benefits, the north shore will become a model of sustainable recreational management.*

*At the heart of achieving this vision is a commitment to balance environmental protection with recreational activity. This commitment will be shared by all who are responsible for this asset – individuals using the mountain, governments, private owners,*

*commercial operators, and other agencies. Common, sustainable strategies will emphasize awareness, education, safety, and stewardship. Management approaches will be shaped by a desire to minimize negative impacts on the environment and residential neighbourhoods, while maximizing opportunities for positive outcomes such as habitat enhancement, tourism, partnership, education and other opportunities."*

This was followed by a set of guiding principles and ultimately an implementation plan. This includes the development of a **Trail Classification Map**. Integral to the trail map, is the commitment to assess environmental impacts and make informed decisions on trails suitable for decommissioning, those to be relocated and those supportable for upgrading.

The greatest immediate area of conflict is caused by mountain biking in the Mt Fromme area which is becoming recognized as an international destination for enthusiasts. Hence in 2006, the **Fromme Mountain Trail Classification Study** was launched. Due to the lack of hiking in this area, there has not been a great deal of input from the hiking community. On September 27, 2007 the district held an Open House at Parkgate to announce the results of the study and gauge public reaction. A total of 30km of trails are proposed for closure or relocation. The meeting was filled with mountain bikers, residents, and very few hikers. It quickly became clear that the study was misnamed because it **includes the Grouse Mountain Trail Network** in its scope. It has been misreported (as recently as October 24<sup>th</sup> in the North Shore News) that these are all

mountain bike trails. The fact is that it includes the removal of the Old BCMC trail, the realignment of the Larsen trail, and the removal of the lower Per Gynt trail. The mountain bike trail to the east of the Per Gynt (Executioner) is proposed to become a multi-use trail.

The club used to own a 2 ha parcel of land at the intersection of the Larsen and Old BCMC trails where it's cabins formerly stood. These trails have been in existence for at least 100 years. The precise reason for the closing of the Old BCMC trail and realignment of the Larsen trail is not clear although Susan Rogers (Section Mgr, Parks Planning) has stated that it has to do with private property issues. This is not supported by discussions that the club has had with the current owner of this property who has placed it in a family trust to be kept in its natural state. There are no manmade structures of any kind on this property at the present time.

At their November meeting, the club executive decided that the BCMC does not support the

closing of trails on Grouse Mountain. The complete reports and work to date on the District's Alpine Recreational Strategy are available at <http://www.dnv.org/article.asp?c=988>. This includes the complete set of documentation and maps generated since the inception of the project in 2003.

Contact Bill Maurer ([billm@millsoft.ca](mailto:billm@millsoft.ca), 604-789-2172) if you have further questions or would like to assist with the campaign to save the Grouse Mountain Trail Network: If you would like to provide feedback to the district, the best way is to send an email to Susan Rogers ([srogers@dnv.org](mailto:srogers@dnv.org)), with a cc to ([council@dnv.org](mailto:council@dnv.org)). As an initial approach we are attempting to have the Grouse Mountain Trail Network removed from the Fromme Mtn Trail Classification Study. This would provide the hiking community with an opportunity to be involved in the discussions on the future of this highly used and enjoyed backcountry area.

There is a Snowshoe Hike scheduled to Goat Mtn on December 8<sup>th</sup> which will follow some of these historical trails en route.

