



B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



Skiers near Overseer Mtn.

February 2008.Vol. 86, No. 2

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 February - Entertainment will be a show by Ravil Chamgoulov, who continues on his quest to climb solo the highest peaks on the world's continents. This show features the latest 2 he has knocked off - Mts. Kilimanjaro and Kosciusko.

Tuesday, 11 March - Entertainment will be a show by John Baldwin on winter ski trips and traverses. John's new skiing guide to SW B.C. should be out soon,



Mt. Kosciusko, Australia. Photo - M. Feller.

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Esther and Martin Kafer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT -	TODD PONZINI	604-408-9617
PAST-PRESIDENT -	DAVID HUGHES	604-980-6484
VICE-PRESIDENT -	DAVID SCANLON	604-572-5051
SECRETARY -	ALICE PURDEY	604-293-2951
	JANE WELLER	604-988-3618
TREASURER -	CRAIG KALNIN	604-787-5396
MEMBERSHIP/MAILING -		
	DERRICK JOHNSTONE	604-505-6250
SOCIALS -	DONNA SCANLON	604-572-5051
	ROBERT WOODHOUSE	604-730-0371
CLIMBING -	EMANUELE PORRA	604-533-7723
	ROBERT WOODHOUSE	604-730-0371
CABIN/TRAILS -	DAVID SCANLON	604-572-5051
	PETER WOODSWORTH	604-254-7076
CONSERVATION -	MONIKA BITTEL	604-983-3097
SUMMER CAMP -	ALENA DZUJKOVA	604-708-5385
FMCBC REP -	BRIAN WOOD	604-222-1541
WEBMASTER -	KEVIN SWANSON	604-943-4364
EDITOR -	MICHAEL FELLER	604-270-4050

SAFETY EQUIPMENT -	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462
LIBRARY -	JOAN FORD	604-876-4255

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

EMAIL ADDRESS: info@bcmc.ca

INTERNET SITE: 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).

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 courteous and inform the trip organizer.

Trip Schedule

February

- 2-3: Marriott Basin** **B2-3**
Justin Bennett email via website
Skiing north of the Duffey Lake road.
- 3: Needle Pk.** **B2(3)/2090 m**
Randy Enomoto 604-224-6184
Skiing in the Coquihalla area.
- 9: Flora Pk.** **B3/1952 m**
Denis Lalonde 1-604-793-9675
Skiing near Chilliwack Lake in the Chilliwack valley.
- 9-10: North Joffre Ck.** **C3**
David Hughes 604-980-6484
Skiing north of the Duffey Lake road. A dog-friendly trip.
- 10: Zoa Pk.** **B2/1872 m**
Brian Gavin 604-929-0675
Skiing in the Coquihalla area.
- 10-12: Snowspider Mtn.** **B3/2494 m**
Blair Mitten 604-922-0470
Skiing east of Lillooet Lake.
- 16: Cloudburst Mtn.** **B3/1871 m**
Ron Groom 604-469-2092
Skiing and snowboarding on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide.
- 16: Bombtram Mtn.** **B3/1830 m**
Jos van der Burg 604-824-5676
Skiing in the Coquihalla area.
- 16-17: Cayoosh Mtn.** **B3/2561 m**
Peter Gumplinger 604-733-8264
Skiing off the Duffey Lake road.
- 16-17: Mt. Caspar** **B3/2402 m**
David Scanlon 604-572-5051
More skiing off the Duffey Lake road.
- 23: Mt. Burwell** **C2/1541 m**
Mike Peel 604-444-4068
Skiing in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.
- 23-24; Duffey Lake area** **B2**
Liz Ball 604-879-4648

- Yet more skiing off the Duffey Lake road.
- 23-24: Mountain Lake cabin area** **B3**
Monika Bittel 604-983-3097
Skiing above Howe Sound near the club cabin.
- 23-24: Upper Madeley valley** **B3**
Michael Feller 604-270-4050
Skiing in a new area in the Callaghan valley.
- 23-25: Mt. Rainier** **C4/4392 m**
Justin Bennett email via website
Mountaineering in Washington. Participants must have been on a previous trip with Justin.
- 24: Rainbow Lake area** **B2**
Murray Lashmar 604-221-4183
Skiing opposite Whistler. Joint trip with the ACC.

March

- 1-2: Blanshard Needle** **C3-4/1550 m**
Emanuele Porra 604-533-7723
Mountain climbing in Golden Ears Park. Possibly a day trip if Fly's Gully is in shape.
- 1-2: Baggpipe Pk.** **C3/1657 m**
Greg Stoltmann 604-926-6496
Skiing above Loch Lomond in the Mountain Lake area above Howe Sound.
- 1-2: Marriott basin** **B2-3**
Brian Wood 604-222-1541
Blissful blundering on skis off the Duffey Lake road.
- 2-3: Saxifrage Mtn.** **B3/2501 m**
Blair Mitten 604-922-0470
Skiing NE of Pemberton, starting Sunday.
- 8-9: Mt. Breckenridge** **C3/2386 m**
Peter Gumplinger 604-733-8264
Skiing east of Harrison Lake.
- 8-10: Mt. Baker** **C3/3286 m**
Justin Bennett email via website
Mountaineering in N. Washington, approaching via the Coleman Glacier.

Membership

In memoriam – Betty Dellow

Betty Dellow recently died at the age of 86. Originally from the prairies, she came to the province of mountains and married Art Dellow in 1942. She joined the club in 1952 and remained a member until her death. Together with Art, she hiked and skied in the mountains and built a successful trucking business. They also were actively involved in organizing BCMC summer camps in the 1970s and '80s. Betty

worked for the BC College of Physicians and Surgeons as a library assistant. Betty had a love of adventure and a keen interest in learning. Due to her love of natural history, she was also a long-time member of the Vancouver Natural History Society. She was compassionate, patient and kind. She asked for little but gave much. Betty was predeceased by her husband Art in 1989.

In memoriam - Colin Wooldridge

I am sipping on a 16 year old Lagavulin in honour of my good friend Colin Wooldridge as I write. More than one quality single malt has been consumed in celebration of his life.

The following expression was found on a hand-written note in Colin's office: "One lick from the lollypop of mediocrity and you will suck for life." I am not sure who coined the phrase, but it captures the way Colin lived his life. Colin did not know how to approach anything in a halfhearted way. He applied this mantra from his early skateboard lugging experiences, to extreme skiing in the Whistler area, and over the past five years to climbing hard and bold climbing routes in the Rockies. I know that many of us were inspired and guided, both physically and spiritually by Colin during our mountain adventures.

Colin was an exceptional climber, but this was only one of his many talents. More important than his climbing abilities were the friendship and camaraderie he provided to many. He had the ability to smile constantly –even when the bugs were biting like hell or it was freezing cold. One would be hard-pressed to find anyone who can remember him ever losing his cool. He was a constant and stable partner who brought an aura of joie de vivre to every activity he undertook.

One of Colin's goals was to still be climbing Grade V ice on his 50th birthday. His ambitions were often grand, but seldom unfulfilled or unrealistic. It is not surprising that he was able to style up hard routes such as Grand Central Couloir on Mount Kitchener, Andromeda Strain on Mt. Andromeda, or the Weissner-House route on Mt. Waddington, often dragging his less talented partners along for the ride and making it look like a walk in the park. His mental fortitude was such that he could do solo climbs very close to the true limit of his climbing ability, but would always know when not to push and was exceedingly safe.

Colin was never shy to express his opinion, greet with a hug, or to invite himself over for a drink or meal. Friends remember countless instances of him talking and drinking Scotch well into the early hours of the morning, just happy to be in their company. Colin's boundless energy would have him up again in just a few short hours, heading to his next 24 hour, non-stop climbing adventure.

Many of Colin's climbing "buddies" were not aware of his scholarly talents. Colin completed his Masters degree in Geophysics at Simon Fraser University, writing a national award-winning graduate thesis, and was encouraged to pursue a PhD, which he declined in favor of pursuing his love for outdoor adventures. Colin also possessed skills as a poet, a talent he rarely shared with the climbing crowd. He had many other artistic interests, perhaps the ultimate expression of which can be found in the wedding rings that he and his wife, Catherine, designed. It was these talents, in addition to his climbing skills, that made Colin a truly exceptional person.

Colin was an avid and active member of the BCMC for many years. During his time with the BCMC he led many of the more challenging trips on the climbing schedule and acted as the climbing chair. Some of his photos have appeared in several of the BCMC calendars. If Colin had remained in Vancouver instead of chasing the almighty oil dollar to Calgary I am sure he would still be an active member.

Colin passed away after climbing a newer route on Mt. Sparrowhawk in Kananaskis Country. The full story will never be known, as it never is with climbing accidents. His climbing partner, Brian McMillan, survived the accident to pass on a few details. Reportedly, they had completed the technical portion of the climb (WI II, M4) and had unroped to cross a snow slope when it avalanched, pushing them back down the route. Both Colin and Brian were injured but they survived a very windy night in the open. Amongst other injuries, Colin had a compound fracture of his femur, a very serious injury. It is a testament to Colin's strength that he was able to survive the night. Colin used his final strength to stand and wave in a search and rescue helicopter that had flown away twice already. This act may have saved the life of Brian. Tragically, Colin's heart stopped while in Calgary Hospital.

I considered Colin an exceptionally safe climber and the accident occurred on a route well within his

abilities. Unfortunately, the mountains are never predictable, even to the best climbers. Colin will be deeply missed by his family and friends but most of all by

Colin still smiling as the bugs are biting.



his loving wife Catherine and their unborn child. Colin, may your spirit climb on.

Marcus Dell and Nicholas Ranicar

Wilderness First Aid course for club members - February 15-17

Alena Dzukova has organized 2 Wilderness First Aid courses to be run by St. John's Ambulance. The course in January is full, but another will be run on 15-17 February.

The schedule will be as follows:

Feb 15, Fri – 5:30-10pm (St John's Ambulance office bldg, North Vancouver)

Feb 16-17 Sat-Sun 8am - 5pm (Lighthouse Park, West Vancouver)

The cost is \$233.20, which includes study

material. The course will focus on injuries most commonly associated with our activities, such as broken bones, cuts and lacerations, head injuries, unconsciousness, shock, hypothermia, resuscitation....

Upon the completion of the course you will be issued a certificate valid for 3 yrs.

For further information and to register, contact Alena at alena@tamtamy.sk or by phone 604-708 5385 (after 9pm).

11th Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival
february 22 - march 1, 2009

guest speakers • steph davis
jeff lowe
dean potter
conrad anker
jacqui hudson
jeremy frimer
and others

films •
photo competition •
and exhibition •
NEW! vimff earth alive series •

vimff

A perspective on membership in the BCMC

Prompted by the on-line petition concerning non-motorized recreationist support for the Winter Backcountry Recreation Forum's work that was organized by Monika Bittel last November - December, club member Julia Smith wrote - "...I (and other members I've discussed it with) really appreciate the club doing things like this

and it is for this reason more than anything else that I continue to renew my membership and support the club. I know how much work Monika and others do in terms of advocating for access and other issues and while it might not be as sexy as planning climbing trips, I want them to know that their efforts are very much appreciated.

I, like many others, first joined the club because I didn't have anyone else to do trips with, needed to learn some skills and wanted to get to know the area and the community better. Since then, I've made the natural progression that most people seem to and no longer need the club for the same reasons that first drew me to it.

The reason I wanted to mention this to the executive is that having seen it from both sides (as an executive member and club member) I can see that membership retention is an ongoing issue for the club. The Internet now provides pretty stiff competition. Where in the past, a club environment might have been the most logical place to network with like-minded people and to plan and participate in trips, now it's pretty easy to do all that online without a formal organization. So I wonder if perhaps membership needs are shifting? While people might not need the club so much in terms of planning trips, the need for climbers/hikers/skiers to have a voice has never been greater. The nature of the society we live in today is such that people have tremendous pressure on their time. I, for example, simply don't

have time to stay on top of local access & environmental issues as much as I would like to. I barely have time to go on a couple of trips a month. And that is why the club is so important to me now. I might not show up for many socials or participate in a lot of trips but I'm reading my newsletter (usually at red lights and in slow moving traffic... I keep them in my visor) to stay on top of what's going on and I'm happily paying my membership fees even though I'm not sure how I'm going to pay next semester's tuition because I know that without the club, I wouldn't have a voice out there advocating for climbing and the mountains I love so much.

I wonder if more people made this connection there might be a reflective increase in membership?

Anyway... I just wanted to mention this as it's been on my mind for some time and I know that other members feel the same way. The work being done by the club is really important and very much appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who makes it happen."

Julia Smith

News

B.C. to implement a Mountain Caribou recovery plan

According to information released by the Integrated Land Management Bureau in October, 2007, B.C. will begin to implement a plan to allow our greatly depleted mountain caribou populations to reverse their decline. This decline has been due, either directly or indirectly, almost solely to logging activities. Information from a government website stated the following, much of which is pertinent to our activities:

"British Columbia's Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan is a collaborative approach with conservation organizations, First Nations, the forest industry, and outdoor recreation groups in restoring the mountain caribou population to pre-1995 levels of more than 2,500 animals throughout their existing range.

Recovery will be achieved by:

1. Protecting mountain caribou habitat from logging and road building

- Habitat loss and fragmentation have been identified as the underlying causes of mountain

caribou population declines since 1995, with mortality by predators as the secondary cause. Halting and reversing habitat loss is central to the plan's success.

- This will be achieved by increasing fully protected high-suitability winter mountain caribou habitat from 65 to 95 per cent by spring 2008, protecting a total of 2.2 million hectares within mountain caribou range. Accommodations will be made to protect the viability of key resource sectors and to address isolated or otherwise ineffective habitat by increasing protection elsewhere, ensuring future recruitment of high suitability habitat.

2. Responsibly managing human recreational activities in habitat areas

- Activities like snowmobiling, heli-skiing and cat-skiing can displace mountain caribou from their preferred habitat. The plan commits government to work with users to manage their activities so as not to displace mountain caribou. The Association of British Columbia Snowmobile Clubs, British Columbia Snowmobile Federation, and Heli-Cat Canada

all have memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with the Province to reduce impacts on mountain caribou through training, best practices, monitoring, and information sharing.

- Areas where activities threaten to displace mountain caribou will be legally closed to those activities in spring 2008. Consultations with users are currently underway and agreements on both legal and voluntary closures for mountain caribou have already been reached with snowmobile clubs in the Cranbrook and Creston Valley areas. Government will also provide up to \$75,000 to develop snowmobiling opportunities outside of mountain caribou herd areas as well as additional funding to monitor compliance within legal and voluntary closure areas [Ed's comment – do non-motorized recreationists ever get any funding from the government when we are displaced from our activities?]
- On March 22, 2007, the Province provided \$50,000 to the British Columbia Snowmobile Federation (BCSF) and \$11,000 to the Association of British Columbia Snowmobile Clubs (ABCSC) to develop best management practices, education and outreach materials, implement a snowmobiler awareness campaign, purchase and install signage, monitor snowmobile use and compliance with closures and provide snowmobilers with mountain caribou movement and location information [Ed's comment – see my previous question!]
- The current moratorium (section 16, Land Act reserve) on new commercial backcountry recreation applications in southern mountain caribou habitats will be extended for five years to allow time to implement and monitor the effects of best practices by the commercial backcountry recreation sector. A second moratorium on new commercial recreation tenures over the balance of the mountain caribou range will be enacted for one year until habitat and backcountry recreation planning is completed.

3. Managing predator populations of wolf and cougar where they threaten caribou recovery

- Although habitat loss was identified by the Science Team as the underlying cause of mountain caribou population declines, high

predator populations and unsustainable predation rates on mountain caribou are secondary contributors to mountain caribou population decline.

- Habitat protection alone won't reverse negative population trends. The plan commits government to a variety of measures addressing predation rates on caribou. These include changes to hunting regulations increasing cougar and wolf harvests, supporting non-lethal control measures such as wolf sterilization, and the targeted removal of individuals or packs where there is a scientific determination of immediate threat to recovery of mountain caribou herds. [Ed's comment – increased predation has occurred as logged areas have attracted deer, elk, and moose and subsequently their predators – wolves. Logging roads, particularly with packed snowmobile trails, have allowed wolves to get into higher elevation forests inhabited by caribou allowing wolves to hunt caribou in areas which previously had been difficult for wolves to penetrate. Killing more wolves to solve this problem is unlikely to work, based on experience elsewhere].

4. Managing prey of mountain caribou predators to re-balance the predator-prey system

- Government is to research and implement actions to reduce moose and deer populations in key areas through habitat management and hunting regulations.
- These include changes to hunting regulations to increase harvest of deer and moose in or adjacent to core mountain caribou habitats to reduce opportunistic predation on mountain caribou by wolves and cougars.

5. Boosting caribou numbers in small herds by transplanting caribou

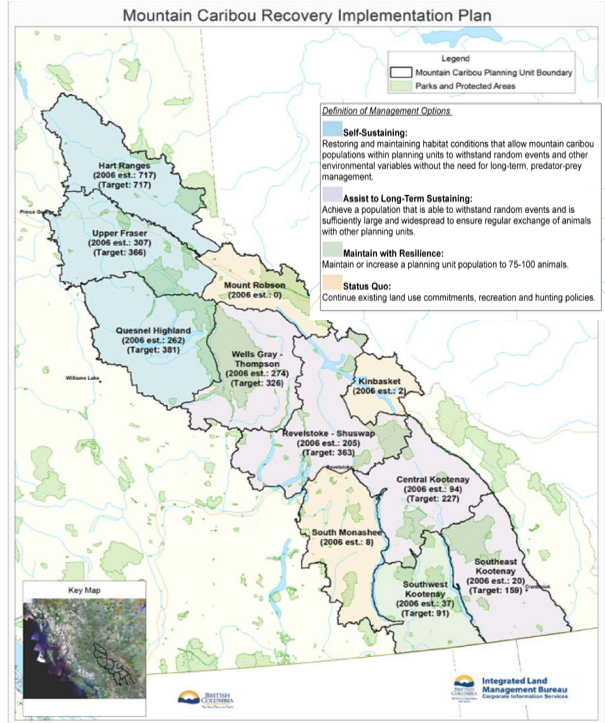
- Small mountain caribou populations of 10-50 individuals will be augmented with animals transplanted from elsewhere.
- The plan commits government to augmenting the southernmost mountain caribou herds as well as working co-operatively with First Nations to develop maternity pens for the southernmost herds, protecting mountain caribou newborn and calves from predators.

6. Supporting adaptive management and developing effective monitoring plans for habitat, recreation and predator-prey management.

- Implementation of the recovery plan will be monitored closely to determine whether the strategy needs to be modified in order to meet the recovery goals. In addition, research addressing knowledge gaps will be supported.
- The Recovery Implementation Plan includes the development of adaptive management and effectiveness monitoring plans for habitat, recreation and predator-prey management.

7. Establishing a cross-sector Progress Board by spring 2008 to advise government on the Recovery Implementation Plan

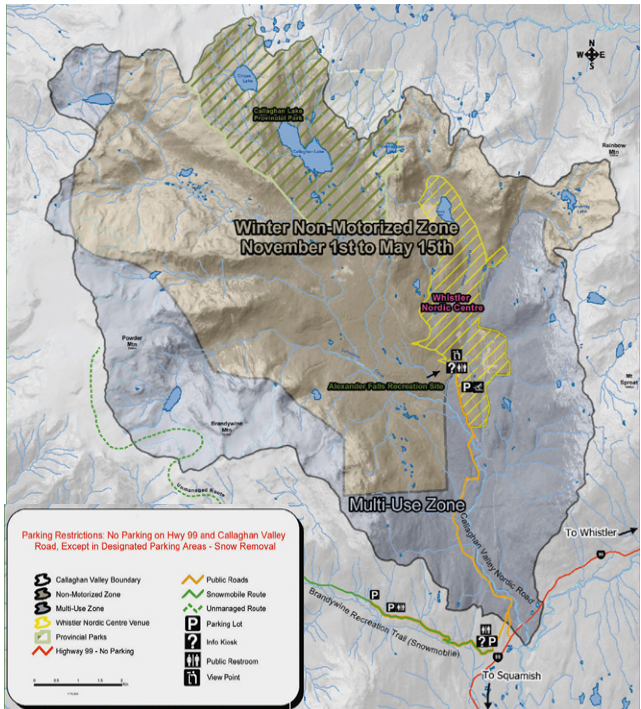
- Implementation of the recovery plan will be periodically reviewed by government and key sector representatives from the Association of British Columbia Snowmobile Clubs, British Columbia Snowmobile Federation, Council of Forest Industries, Forest Ethics, Heli-Cat Canada, Interior Lumber Manufacturer's Association, the Mountain Caribou Project and other stakeholders."



Winter recreation zoning for the Callaghan valley is announced

The B.C. Ministry of Tourism, Sport, and the Arts recently released the winter recreation zoning map for the Callaghan valley. This could not be addressed by the LRMP as the zoning was to be controlled by plans for the 2010 Olympics - a classical example of piecemeal land use planning in which B.C. excels.

Features of the plan include a new Brandywine snowmobile trail, new carparks for snowmobilers, a ban on parking along the Callaghan valley road and Hwy 99, and the loss of one of the very few areas designated non-motorized by the Winter Backcountry Recreation Forum - Mt. Sproatt - which will now have commercial snowmobiling to the top. Backcountry skiers are being told that we have gained because we now have a large non-motorized zone in the upper Callaghan. Here we can plod around in flat circles in the valley bottom, dodging the snowmobiles which are used to groom cross country ski trails in the area. If we venture too high on the surrounding ridges we will encounter heliskiers and snowmobiles. See the accompanying map.



Book Reviews

**Lake Louise at its Best:
An Affectionate look at life at Lake Louise by
one who knew it well**

**Revised and Expanded 2005 Edition
Roger Patillo**

(Victoria: Trafford Publishing, 2005)

The 2005 revised and expanded version of *Lake Louise at its Best* (originally published in 2000) brings together Roger Patillo's insights and observations on life and climbing at Lake Louise from 1957-1964. Patillo has made many trips to Lake Louise since 1964, but the bulk of this thick tome records and recounts, from Patillo's perspective, the glory years at Lake Louise (and all those he knew and worked with at Chateau Lake Louise).

Lake Louise at its Best is divided into ten historic and thematic chapters; 1) A Brief History of Lake Louise, 2) Getting There: A Spring trip to Lake Louise by Train, 3) First Experiences at Lake Louise, 4) Life at the Chateau, 5) Special People at the Chateau, 6) Surrounding Points of Interest, 7) Adventures at Lake Louise, 8) Memorable Bear Encounters in the Rockies, 9) Skiing and Fly Fishing in the Rockies, and 10) Climbing and Mountaineering Adventures.

The life of Roger Patillo and Lake Louise between 1957-1964 are woven together in a most compelling and readable way in *Lake Louise at its Best*. Much of the book is autobiographical, but, given the fact that Roger seems to have been at the centre of much in the late 1950s-early 1960s in the Lake Louise area, we learn a great deal about events and now passed away legends and pioneers of the place.

Many of the 2nd generation Swiss mountain guides were still active (although nearing the end of their more energetic and guiding days) when Roger was in the Lake Louise area. He tells many a tale of his ascents with them, and he also highlights the many treks to the summits in the region. The photographs in the book illustrate and bring into focus much that Roger has seen and done in the Lake Louise area.

Lake Louise at its Best is a wonderful glimpse and snapshot into years at Lake Louise that many know nothing about yet we ignore to our lack and peril. The book is a long read, but for those

interested in a phase and season of mountaineering and Lake Louise history, *Lake Louise at its Best* is a must read. Patillo is a genuine raconteur of the Rockies.

Ron Dart

**The Canadian Rockies:
Pioneers, Legends and True Tales
Roger Patillo**

(Victoria: Trafford Publishing, 2005)

The Canadian Rockies Pioneers, Legends and True Tales is a fit and fine companion to Roger Patillo's *Lake Louise at its Best*. Much is hinted at in *Lake Louise at its Best*, and the reader yearns for more. *The Canadian Rockies* offers the much more that has been anticipated by the keen and eager, and Roger Patillo has not let us down.

The Canadian Rockies is divided into nine compact chapters: 1) Tom Wilson: A Man for all Seasons, 2) Tom Boys, 3) Early Visitors to the Rockies, 4) Early Swiss Guides in the Rockies, 5) The Saga of Sir Edward Whymper, 6) A. O. Wheeler: Lion of the Rockies and the Alpine Club of Canada, 7) More Exceptional Personalities of the Rockies, 8) Two Mountaineering Tragedies, and 9) Final Thoughts, Reflections and Concerns. This tome is packed with fascinating historic details, oral history and reflections of Roger Patillo's life. Those who have lived, moved and had their being in the Rocky mountains pass before the reader like the communion of saints in the church. The pioneers and legends are brought to life by Patillo's animated and dramatic prose. We are walked into a way of seeing and doing history that still lives and we are told much about those who lived heroic lives in the early years in the Rockies.

The final chapter of *The Canadian Rockies* pulls no punches, Patillo offers his insights and perspectives on bears and humans, the risk of the bear population in Canada, how to save the Banff Grizzlies, blunders and how park users must accept responsibility for their own stupidity. Those who were drawn to the few chapters in *Lake Louise at its Best* on mountaineering (as I was) will be doubly treated in *The Canadian Rockies* on many more mountaineering chapters, The older history is well told, and many

of the pioneers and legends tales are expanded upon in an affectionate and gracious manner.

Ron Dart

A Hiker's Guide to the Rocky Mountain Art of Lawren Harris

Lisa Christensen

(Calgary: Fifth House Limited, 2000)

The turn to the mountains is done for a variety of reasons, There are many who think the summit is all. Others are more contemplative and artistic by nature. Photographers, poets, and painters turn to the rock giants for other reasons than rock jocks. Some mountaineers, like Bruno Engler, combine both tendencies and gifts.

Lisa Christensen has already treated readers to a fine book on the Canadian Rockies and art. *A Hiker's Guide to Art of the Canadian Rockies* (1996) was an unbounded success. Many an award was offered to Christensen for this visually informative text. The publication of *A Hiker's Guide to the Rocky Mountain Art of Lawren Harris* adds yet again to Christensen's reputation.

This slim volume holds together many a fine painting with equally informative essays on Harris, mountains, painting and the philosophic vision that inspired and animated Lawren Harris.

Trip Reports

Crown Mountain - 9 September, 2007

Beautiful weather predicted, easily accessible hike, but maybe Crown Mtn. is just not tough enough for the hardcore crowd. Whatever the reason, our organizer was not exactly overrun with eager candidates as the weekend approached, and by Sunday morning we were able to put the entire crew in one car as we headed for the North Shore. After milling about at the Grouse Grind trailhead for 20 minutes, waiting for the one no-show, our tiny band finally marched further east to the BCMC trailhead and started the unrelenting ascent of the lower slopes of Grouse. Grouse?? Well, we wouldn't want to make this trip too slack, now, would we? Despite the invidious rumour that there might actually be an easier way to begin the ascent of Crown, our organizer would have nothing to do with those new-fangled artificial aids. Consequently, we marched upwards, conducted a little broken field running through the hordes swirling around the Grouse Nest, and

The period covered is 1924-1929; these are the years when Harris was the most active in the Rockies. The art of Lawren Harris is front stage all the time, but we also meet other mountain artists in the book. A.Y. Jackson and Harris were close friends on their 1924 romp through parts of the Rockies, hence Jackson appears often (as do some of his paintings). Each of the paintings discussed offers the reader the route and path to take to where the paintings were sketched and a historic primer on the painting. Needless to say, such an approach to Rocky Mountain painting comes quite alive in this overview of Harris' artistic genius.

The book walks the reader into four areas that held Harris' attention: Mt. Robson Provincial Park, Jasper National Park, Yoho National Park and Banff National Park. Each chapter from the four different parks tells us much about, primarily, the unfolding artistic vision of Lawren Harris and A.Y. Jackson, and, in a secondary and less significant sense, Bess Harris and J.E.H. MacDonald.

There is no doubt that Lisa Christensen has done an able and commendable job in encouraging the interested to trek to the Rockies, to know good Canadian painters and to hike the trails that they hiked that inspired their mountain paintings.

shot out on the trail past Dam and Little Goat, before descending into Crown Pass. Once again, the artificial aids (a.k.a. fixed chains) in Greasy Gully were scorned as demonstrably unaesthetic and probably dangerous to human health, The large hawser dangling over the rock step on the ascent of Crown's south flank, on the other hand, was considered acceptable since it was clearly organic, and besides, it was kind of fun to play on. All members of the team ultimately reached the summit block within 15 minutes of each other, various versions of 'high five' were duly exchanged, and ibuprofen was freely distributed to the needy, in anticipation of the descent. The sun shone through gloriously clear air, treating us to long views as far as Puget Sound to the south, the alpine skyline of Garibaldi Park to the north and east, and the Lions and the peaks of Tetrahedron Provincial Park to the west, Focusing once more on our feet, we toddled back down the up-track, meeting still more people headed for

the summit, even as late as 4 pm. It may not exactly be a pristine wilderness, but the North Shore mountains present a savagely rugged landscape that continues to attract a growing number of travelers. By the time we reached the Grouse Nest, there was a general consensus that a manual (pedal?) descent to the car would probably be an unnecessary epilogue - after all, we had already climbed 1500 m as both the old and the young legs could testify! We therefore squeezed into “the box on the wires” with the rest of Vancouver, and descended painlessly to the parking lot far below. All in all, it was a great trip, although perhaps not quite as easy as it may have appeared on the schedule.

The traveling companions were Evelyn Feller, Adrienne Nye, Margaret Ellis (organizer) and Brian Ellis (reporter).



Lisa on Mt. Norman. Photo - P. Pare.

Pender Island Hike and Bike, 3-4 November, 2007

“Ahhhhh - it doesn’t get much better than this” sighed Peter contentedly while basking in the sunshine on the moss-covered ridge of Mount Norman. The two Lisa’s nodded in agreement, similarly soaking up the sunshine while enjoying the panoramic views of the islands cascading into the distance in hues of blues, greens and greys; in the skies above ravens coasted on the thermals – calling and tumbling for the sheer joy of being alive.

The Gulf Islands boast a Mediterranean climate so are an ideal spot for hiking, biking or paddling in the late fall, before the skiing starts in earnest. “So where were all you guys?” I asked myself. “You sure did miss out on this wonderful weekend!”. I’d headed off for Pender Island early and put my bike on the city bus bound for the ferry at Tsawassen. The Gulf Islands ferry dropped me at Pender Island a couple of hours later. After a short bike ride to our log house I soon had the wood stove roaring and everything cozy and warm. Peter and Lisa M. joined me on a later ferry, and Saturday morning we headed off on our bikes for Medicine Beach on North Pender Island – a conservation area whose wetlands are home to the rarely seen Virginia Rail. Scotch mist enhanced the colours of the Arbutus trees – the greens and reds of their trunks were startling in the muted lights – they looked freshly oiled and incredibly vibrant. After our beach ramblings and

explorations we had a leisurely bike home and an early dinner before heading off to our evening’s entertainment at the Community Hall – a concert by TriContinental playing a wonderful combination of blues, jazz and folk. Truly fun and very inspirational. Sunday’s skies were a brilliant blue as we biked off to South Pender, stashed our bikes and hiked to the top of Mount Norman. And it really doesn’t get much better than this on a November weekend – whiling away the time, taking in the unfolding panorama, meditating, doing some Yoga, and simply basking. Ahhhhhhhh!

The lucky three were Lisa Mighton, Peter Paré and Lisa Baile (organizer and reporter).

Zenith Mountain, 15-16 September, 2007

We left Vancouver at 7am and had a brief stop to pick up a friend’s canoe just before heading up the Squamish Valley. We launched by the Pillchuck Creek Bailey bridge, but we left the vehicle at the turnoff to the Pillchuck Creek Main; about one kilometre up the road, and outside of the reserve. Three of us and our gear were more than would fit comfortably in the canoe, so we ferried across the river in two trips. We started hiking just after 10am. With the river low, it was easy hiking down the beach about a kilometre and a half and then up a streambed to the main branch of Tantalus Creek, where we joined the flagged trail. The trail had a well defined footbed in the lower elevations. We did lose it once near

the start, but soon regained it. I replenished flagging as we ascended. Unfortunately, the lower reaches of the trail have been laid out for imminent logging. We enjoyed a long lunch break at a lookout bluff. Although the clouds were clearing, it was still cool and unseasonably buggy. We reached the lake and camp just after 4pm. The plan had been to ascend Zenith Mtn. on Sunday, but Sunday's forecast was not good. After a brief discussion as to whether we had sufficient daylight and energy to make the summit with the remainder of the day, we decided to at least go to the high knob on Zenith's east shoulder and reevaluate. We reached the knob at 5:30 and enjoyed the view of Tantalus. We did not continue on to Zenith; we would take our chances on the weather Sunday morning. The view was spectacular, but this eastern aspect would be better captured by morning light. We arrived back in camp in time to set up the tents before dark. The morning dawned thick with mist and persistent rain. We had a lazy morning and then went to face the descent through steep slick rhododendron. At one point the inhabitants of a disturbed wasp nest sent me running down the hill, screaming, while Norbert and Arman looked on with bemusement and/or concern. I got stung a few times, but Arman endured twice as many while he silently observed my performance. The return to the road was otherwise uneventful. We dropped off the canoe and had a nice dinner at the Sunwolf Cafe to round the trip off.

Participants:
Norbert Eckert,
Arman Sharif and
Ramsay Dyer
(Organizer and
reporter).



Top to bottom - By the Squamish River, Camp by Zenith Lake, Looking south to Serratus from the knoll. Photos - R. Dyer.