



B.C. Mountaineering Club

Newsletter



March 2008. Vol. 86, No. 3

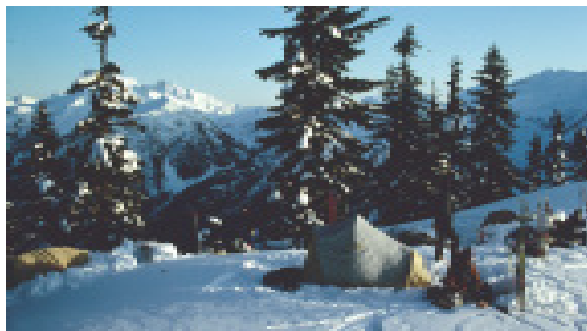
Spring skiing in the Purcells.

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 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.

Tuesday, 8 April - Entertainment will be a show by Linda Bily on ski touring on Baffin Island



Coast Mountains ski camp. 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
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	ROBERT WOODHOUSE	604-730-0371
CLIMBING -	ROBERT WOODHOUSE	604-730-0371
	RADMILA JAKSIC	604-602-0468
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

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: Bagpipe 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: Cayoosh Mtn. B3/2561 m**
Peter Gumplinger 604-733-8264
Skiing off the Duffey Lake Road.
- 8-9: Mt. Caspar B3/2402 m**
David Scanlon 604-572-5051
More skiing off the Duffey Lake Road
- 8-9: Tetrahedron area B2-3**
Michael Feller 604-270-4050
Skiing on the Sechelt Peninsula.
- 8-10: Mt. Baker C3/3286 m**
Justin Bennett email via website
Mountaineering in N. Washington, approaching via the Coleman Glacier.
- 15-16: Mt. Breakeridge C3/2386 m**
Greg Stoltmann 604-926-6496
Skiing east of Harrison Lake.
- 21-23: Marriott Basin B3**
Karl Ricker 1-604-938-1107
Skiing off the Duffey Lake Road.
- 22: Mt. Burwell C2/1541 m**
Mike Peel 604-444-4068
Skiing in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.
- 22-23: Mt. Duke B3/2379 m**
Jim Fraser 604-631-9202
Yet more skiing off the Duffey Lake road.
- 29: Mt. Brew B2/1757 m**
Peter Oostlander 604-451-4585
Skiing and snowshoeing in the Cheakamus valley area.
- 29-30: Watersprite Lake B3**
Todd Ponzini 604-408-9617
Skiing to a potential new hut site in the Mamquam valley, just south of Garibaldi park.

- 29-30: Garibaldi N v  traverse B3**
Justin Bennett contact via email
Two or possibly 3 days, depending on conditions. Classic ski traverse in Garibaldi park.

April

- 1: Golden Ears area (hike) B2**
Reinhard Fabische 604-462-9638
Hiking or snow climbing in the Lower Fraser valley area.
- 3-6: Vantage (rock) A5**
Neal Beattie 604-669-7847
Rock climbing in sunnier climes.
- 4-9: Garibaldi park C5**
Justin Bennett contact via email
Extended mountaineering to Mt. Garibaldi, Dalton Dome, and other peaks.
- 5-6: Birkenhead Pk. C3/2523 m**
Greg Stoltmann 604-926-6496
Extended skiing near Darcy, NE of Pemberton
- 12: Mt. Goetz (snowshoe) C2/2027 m**
Alastair Ferries 604-329-1637
Extended snowshoeing in the Chilliwack valley.
- 12-13: Pelion Mtn. C3/2312 m**
Peter Gumplinger 604-733-8264
Extended skiing in the Ashlu valley, just N of Tantalus park.
- 12-13: The Sphinx C3/2402 m**
Philip Kubik 604-266-5873
Extended skiing in Garibaldi park.
- 13: Rainbow Lake area B2**
Murray Lashmar 604-221-4183

Interested in climbing Denali (McKinley)?

I'm joining a BCMC trip in May, but there are only 5 of us right now, most of whom are maybes. It would be good if a few more people can commit. Standard route (West Buttress), from May 10th to June 7th.

If you are interested, or know somebody who is, let me know.

Radmila Jaksic (ph 604-602-0468 or email radmila@gmail.com)

Membership

In memoriam - E. Rita Ourom (1929 - 2007)

Rita Ourom, a member of the BCMC during the 1960s, died on December 9th. She joined the club in 1962, when our family moved to Vancouver from Ontario. Our mother participated in club trips for some years, and occasionally led trips. The Stawamus Chief area was a favourite of hers. She also helped organize the family hikes that were then popular, involving the Apps, Waddington, Kafer and Ourom families, and others.

Our mother was rather adventurous. A native of Kitchener, she began skiing in the 1940s at Chicopee, one of the first ski areas in Ontario. She earned lift tickets by sidestepping up and down the runs, packing them so that they were groomed. She also worked as a camp counselor in upstate New York for several summers. After normal school (teachers' college), she taught in Labrador, then in British Guiana, migrating from there to Kingston and then Vancouver.

We went on family camping trips most summers during the 1960s, which with four young children, a Coleman stove (of which our mother never quite got the knack), and a big canvas tent, were quite

an effort. It did introduce us all to the outdoors, and although our mother ceased being a member of the BCMC in the late 1960s, she continued to be active outdoors. As a teacher-librarian in inner city schools, she took many children on their first hike up the Stawamus Chief or Hollyburn until she retired in 1995, dragooning family members into helping. She was also supportive of her husband and children, all of whom ended up with a love for the mountains. Our mother's interest in the outdoors extended to a love of gardening in all forms, and she even tried to maintain a garden at the cottage on Lasqueti Island - notwithstanding only occasional visits and the depredations of deer, sheep, and rodents. With other BCMC members, she was involved in the Natural History Society, various gardening organizations, the Friends of Chamber Music, opera, and many other activities and groups. Whatever she did, she was a going concern and enlivened proceedings for all.

Anders and

Julie Ourom

In Memoriam - Sir Edmund Hillary (1919 - 2008)

The passing of Sir Edmund Hillary in January, 2008, is a sad event that must be recorded in all mountaineering club magazines throughout the world, not only because he was the first to climb Mt. Everest, but because of his humble, humanitarian, and philanthropic approach to mountain climbing.

He was never a member of the BCMC, of course, but he has influenced a number of BCMC members, being one of 2 people who started your editor mountain climbing, but more importantly he has influenced many to commit to improving the lives of the residents of the Himalayas, including our own Order of Canada member - Joan Ford. Following his ascent of Everest, he founded the

Himalayan Trust, which built many schools and hospitals in Nepal. He was also the honorary president of various Himalayan Foundations, non-profit organizations dedicated to improving the living conditions and environment in the Himalayas.

He was undoubtedly New Zealand's best known and respected statesman. Unlike many of today's top climbers, he climbed mountains not to boost his own ego and brag about them, but purely because he enjoyed it.

His passing is a loss to the mountaineering world, but his vision lives on.

Michael Feller

BCMC Summer mountaineering and rock climbing course programs

The BC Mountaineering Club is pleased to offer club-based, mentor organized climbing programs for new and current members. These programs are offered ONCE per year.

Please visit www.bcmc.ca for an application form and fill out **one form per program** (if you are interested in attending more than one activity).

Mail your completed and signed forms to:
Monica Durigon
ENGLEWOOD MEWS
88-8701 16TH AVE, BURNABY, BC, V3N 5B5

If you are not a current member you may include a completed membership form as well (also available at bcmc.ca). Please include cheques for payment made out to the "BC Mountaineering Club". These will not be cashed until the program starts and your place is confirmed.

For further information contact -
Rock climbing programs - Paul Miller & Kit Griffin at climbingprograms@bcmc.ca

Mountaineering – To be arranged.

Basic Outdoor Top-roping (maximum 8 participants, cost \$60)

**Dates: Eve Tues Apr 17, 1 Day of Apr 21 or 22
(weather dependent)**

This program is aimed at those who may have done some indoor gym climbing, and want to try it outside. This program, 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 setting up 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. (Some items can be rented from area retailers.) Program mentors or the BCMC will provide other needed equipment.

Essential Rockclimbing (maximum 8 participants, cost \$130)

Dates: Eve Thurs April 29, Weekend of May 3-4
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 (1.5 m and 5 m in length). Program mentors and the BCMC will provide other needed equipment.

Prerequisite - Basic Outdoor Top-roping or equivalent. In other words, you are required to be able to "tie-in" to a climbing harness and belay before the program starts.

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

Lead Climbing - may not run this year Mountaineering (maximum 9 participants)

Cost and dates are not yet available but the program will include evening lectures/practices and overnight practice/training sessions:

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. By the end of the program you should be able safely to undertake most club trips up to the B4 level.

To participate you must -

- be a current member of the BCMC;
- be able to attend all theory and practical sessions comprising the program;
- have solid experience in backcountry hiking and overnight camping;
- have completed the Essential Rock program, or equivalent, and understand basic rockclimbing techniques and ropework;
- be willing and eager to participate in future club activities, including leading club trips and providing mentorship to less experienced members in the future.

BCMC Club news

Talk at the centennial display in the North Vancouver Museum

On **Sunday, March 16 at 2 pm**, the North Vancouver Museum will host a talk by Kathryn Bridge about mountaineers Don and Phyllis Munday, Canada's most famous mountaineering couple. The Mundays climbed for four decades and are credited with over 40 first recorded ascents.

The presentation will take place at the Museum & Archives, Community History Centre at 3203 Institute Road, near Lynn Valley Road &

FMC Cloudburst magazine seeks articles

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC is calling for articles on mountaineering/recreation/conservation subjects for publishing in the next (May?) edition of Cloudburst. Please send them to the Cloudburst Editor, Meg Stanley, at: margaretmary@telus.net. Do this by 15 April.

Mountain Highway. To reserve a seat, please call 604.990.3700 extension 8016.

Kathryn Bridge is author of "A Passion for Mountains: the Lives of Don & Phyllis Munday"; her books will be available for purchase on the day.

Video Distribution Committee

Dave Scanlon and Brian Wood are the beginnings of a small committee to find ways and means of getting the BCMC Centennial Video to be shown at mountain (and historical?) film festivals, and perhaps eventually on broadcast television. Ross Wyborn has been assisting them by producing shorter versions of the centennial video. This is a highly appropriate activity for someone recovering from knee replacement surgery and we wish Ross a speedy return to more active pursuits.

In the meantime, the committee needs about two more members with ideas, perhaps even with suitable experience.

Please contact Dave at 604-572-5051, or Brian at 604-222-1541.

A further belated report from the 2007 Annual General Meeting

Climbing Report – by Emanuele Porra

With the BCMC celebrating its Centennial this year, the challenge was to bring a better than average year of trips, camps and climbs. I'm not sure if we succeeded but it was not due to a lack of effort from many members. First of all a big thank you to all members who organized a great number of day and weekend trips. Weather was definitely a challenge this year, but that didn't stop many trips from succeeding. Thanks to all who organized camps and climbs, namely Dave Scanlon, David Hughes Todd Ponzini and Karl Ricker. We would also like to thank the course organizers - Todd Ponzini, Paul Miller, Kit Griffin, and their helpers - who did another excellent job in training our new members. A big thank you to Andrej Dobos for organizing the Wednesday evening rock climbing which was well attended considering the wet summer we had. Last but not least, a special thanks to our phone volunteers who have the thankless task of contacting

members to get them to volunteer their time to organize trips. Thanks to Karin Albert, Darlene Anderson, Neal Beattie Rita Ciammaichella, Susan D'Aloisio, Margaret Ellis, Jim Fraser, Evelyn Feller, Kit Griffin, Ron Groom, Margaret Hanson, Mary Hearnden, Chad Hooper, Ziff House, Radmila Jaksic, Marian Jans, Scott Jutson, Larry Kost, Tracy Langham, Esther Lehmann, Amy Smith, Jane Weller, and Michael Wiskar

Your two climbing chairs have served for several years, and have tried to fulfill this position to the best of our abilities. We will be the first to admit that there is always room for improvement. With that said, this will be Jos's last year as climbing chair although he will be helping me out in some capacity over the year. Balancing family, work and club commitments is becoming ever increasingly difficult for me to do. I feel that I am not bringing the level of energy and dedication that I once did, and that this position requires. As such, I feel that I need

to step back, and let someone else with the time, fresh energy and vision to succeed me. Until that person is found, I will continue to serve as climbing chair. Shortly, after writing this, Bob Woodhouse, a fellow executive member, has come forward and volunteered to fill Jos's vacancy and be co climbing chair. [Radmila Jaksic has recently volunteered to replace Emanuele].

As we start another year, we do have some serious concerns however about the direction in which the club is heading. In this age of internet based clubs and instant messaging, it seems that more and more people are organizing last minute private trips and climbs via e-mail and instant messaging. It's the new age and the club is going to have to re adjust to this new reality. In what form, we are not sure but we don't have much time before the club's role will be severely diminished. We are hoping that

the club will be able to attract a new generation that might have a better idea on how to re shape the club and make it more relevant and attractive to today's climbing community. The current members could play a great part in this debate by letting the climbing chair and membership know how we can improve our schedule or how we can better attract more active members to the club to organize trips and keep it viable and vibrant. We can't keep on counting on the same members leading trips every year. If we put our efforts together, we are sure that we are up for the challenge.

Trip statistics 2006-2007				
Number of trips objective	Number successful	Number of participants	Number of members	Number reaching the
<u>Winter and Spring schedule (Total number of trips on the schedule: 88)</u>				
Day Trips				
48 (44 in 2006)	28 (7 unknown)	225 (231 in 2006)	160	22
Weekend Trips				
36 (35 in 2006)	17 (4 unknown)	145 (106 in 2006)	115	7
Ski Camps				
2	2	17		
Climbing camps				
2	2	19		
<u>Summer and Fall schedule (Number of trips on the schedule: 70)</u>				
Day Trips				
33 (41 in 2006)	18 (4 unknown)	121 (254 in 2006)	94	16
Weekend Trips				
33 (41 in 2006)	21 (4 unknown)	159 (210 in 2006)	125	16
Climbing Camps				
4	2	19		

News

Developments at Skaha

From Access News of 21 January, published by the Climbers Access Society of B.C.

Skaha purchase complete

The Land Conservancy of B.C. announced recently that the purchase of subplot 18 at Skaha was complete. This 304 hectare property, which

is southeast of the climbing area, will provide permanent public access to and parking for Skaha. It will also protect the area's high recreation and conservation values. The entire area, including subplot 18, is to be managed as a Class A provincial park.

Key partners and donors in the \$5.25 million purchase included a number of government agencies, public organizations, and businesses.

Braesyde parking closed

Braesyde parking lot closed on November 4th. It has been used for public and climbers' parking since 1992, thanks to the kindness of the Dunlop family. There is no current alternate access to Skaha that doesn't involve illegal parking,

crossing private land, or both.

New parking and access (Spring 2008)

It will take time to plan and fundraise to create an access road, parking, and other facilities at subplot 18. The Land Conservancy, the Skaha climbing community, and other partners, are working on an interim solution for spring 2008. This will be publicized as soon as it's available.

Economic growth and threats to our wilderness and their ecosystems: Part 4

Opportunities to experience wilderness and to protect it are on the rapid decline in B.C. as proposal after proposal to develop, exploit, subdue, and urbanize our rapidly diminishing wilderness areas pop into the government's welcoming lap. From ski resorts, such as those at Coquihalla (see below), or Brohm Ridge, to IPP's such as those in the upper Pitt (see below) or Ashlu, to commercial motorized recreation, such as in most of our Squamish Forest District and potentially Phelix Ck. (see below) as well, we live in a society, spearheaded by like-minded politicians from all political parties, that seems to think that perpetual growth is the only way.

Develop at all costs no 1 – Pinecone Burke park and The Upper Pitt River Valley - Under Threat from Private Hydro Projects

The following information was compiled by Elaine Golds and the Burke Mountain naturalists.

History of the Upper Pitt.

Only a few kilometres northeast of Greater Vancouver lies a spectacular valley with magnificent waterfalls, hot springs, splendid scenery and wild salmon abundance. Accessible only by boat, the Upper Pitt River Valley at the north end of Pitt Lake has escaped many of the typical development pressures. Even today, this valley hosts only a handful of full-time residents. While logging has occurred in the lower valley for over a century, the upper elevations of the Upper Pitt River Valley are protected within three provincial parks - Pinecone-Burke, Garibaldi and Golden Ears on the west, north and east, respectively. The establishment of Pinecone-Burke Provincial Park in 1995 was supported by thousands of residents in the lower mainland.

the Upper Pitt faces a grave threat from a large

cluster of hydro projects in which an unprecedented eight tributaries of the Upper Pitt river would be diverted to produce electricity and a transmission line carved through pristine wilderness in Pinecone Burke Provincial Park.

Situated in the heart of Katzie First Nation territory, the Upper Pitt valley is remarkably rich in its wild salmon and wilderness-dependent species. It supports the largest remaining wild coho population in the lower Fraser and has a unique race of sockeye that take up to 6 years to mature. It provides valuable habitat for all species of Pacific salmon plus steelhead, cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden and the largest population of bull trout remaining in the lower mainland. The Upper Pitt River valley attracts grizzly bears, wolves, marbled murrelets, wolverine and mountain goats. Because of its remoteness and habitat values, government biologists selected the Upper Pitt Valley for the re-introduction of elk in 2004. Today, the elk are thriving.

The Proposed Private Power Project.

The Upper Pitt hydro proposal from Northwest Cascade Power. Inc. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Run of River, Inc.) is a very large 180 MW (megawatt) cluster of 7 powerhouses. To be approved, this project will require an Environmental Assessment and deletion of land from Pinecone Burke for a 42 km transmission line to Squamish. Because Pinecone Burke Park was established by legislation, a boundary change will require a vote in the provincial Legislature. Public information sessions have been scheduled (see BC parks website, at the end of this article or www.bmn.bc.ca). The Environmental Assessment process is open for public comments on the draft Terms of Reference between February 23 and April 8, 2008 (see www.eao.gov.bc.ca. current projects. Upper

Pitt). Because complete information regarding this project has not yet been released, some of the information below may be subject to change.

Shockingly, the proposed Upper Pitt “run-of-river” projects would divert all major tributaries of the Upper Pitt River that lie outside of park boundaries. It is an unprecedented high-density cluster of river diversions that would have a heavy impact on this small valley. Within only a short 12 km stretch of the river, eight creeks would be diverted, in part, and seven powerhouses constructed. These creeks include Boise, Homer, Pinecone, Steve and Bucklin Creeks on the west side of the Pitt river plus Corbold, a tributary of Corbold and Shale on the east. The portions of their headwaters that are outside park boundaries will be dammed and reservoirs constructed. In total, over 30 km of creeks will lose a substantial portion of their flows. These power projects typically result in diversion of 80-95% of the mean annual discharge of a creek. The Upper Pitt River is internationally renowned for its abundant wild salmon. It’s hard to imagine a more inappropriate place for eight river diversion projects. Astonishingly, creek diversions and powerhouse construction are proposed within aquatic habitat used by ocean-migrating salmon in four of the eight creeks despite the fact that important coho and chinook spawning areas are found in lower reaches. Boise Creek, reported to be highly sensitive to low water winter flows, supports a unique hybrid of Dolly Varden/bull trout which are present throughout the entire reach of the creek proposed for diversion. Any disturbance to this creek and wild salmon habitat is totally unacceptable.

In addition to impacts on fish habitat, considerable construction will be required on public land. New roads, powerhouses, intake structures, transmission lines, gravel pits and penstocks to carry water are anticipated to cover more than a hundred hectares of land in the valley. Transmission lines and roads will require forest clearing and creek crossings. Construction will remove some of the protective cover of riparian forest along the creeks. Such construction in the Upper Pitt River Valley, with its steep mountainous terrain and heavy rainfall and snowstorm events, could lead to blocked culverts, road failures, landslides and damage to salmon habitat.

Threats to Pinecone Burke and our Provincial Park System

The electricity generated is proposed to be taken

from the valley to Squamish on a transmission line that would cross a remote 4.6 km portion of pristine wilderness in Pinecone Burke, a Class A Provincial Park. Construction of a transmission line through pristine wilderness in a Class A park is unprecedented; in fact, it is prohibited under the BC Parks Act. **Fears are high that deletion of land from Pinecone Burke will set a new precedent for industrial intrusions into other provincial parks and protected areas.** Why is the provincial government even allowing the consideration of such an illegal industrial activity in a Class A park? Deletion of land from Pinecone Burke Park could interfere with wildlife movement from wilderness areas in Garibaldi Park to southern portions of Pinecone Burke Park and the adjoining protected Coquitlam drinking watershed. The Steve Creek corridor proposed for the transmission line contains sensitive wetlands and critical grizzly bear habitat- the transmission line is proposed to go straight through this area. The proponents propose to “compensate” for the deletion of this land from the park by adding what appears to be mostly a high elevation rocky ridge to the park. In addition to crossing what is now Class A protected wilderness, the transmission line would go straight through the most valuable habitat within the proposed addition - what sort of “park addition” would that be? They say they will bring in materials to construct the transmission line by helicopter (not a good activity around mountain goats).

An additional concern is that, once constructed, transmission lines become beacons that attract inappropriate use, such as ATVs and snowmobiles, into pristine habitat used by wilderness dependent species [and those humans seeking wilderness experiences close to Vancouver – ed’s. comment].

Do We Need Low-Value High-Cost Electricity from Private Projects?

Despite its high environmental and financial costs, the electricity produced by run-of-river projects is considered low-value because it can be supplied only on an intermittent basis. Little electricity will be produced in winter when high elevation intakes are frozen - yet this is our period of highest electricity consumption in BC. A report recently released by BC Hydro indicates conservation initiatives alone could result in electricity consumption in 2027 being no greater than what it is at present. Clearly, conservation - not environmental destruction - is the

best way to meet our future energy needs.

There are many reasons why such a large cluster of hydro projects is unacceptable in a special place like the Upper Pitt valley. While the Upper Pitt is a particularly egregious example, hundreds of rivers are now threatened with similar diversion projects. The provincial government currently has no management strategy to identify which sites could be suitable for energy projects and which, such as the Upper Pitt valley, are totally inappropriate. With no overall planning, BC's remote wilderness areas are likely to become covered in a web of overlapping and redundant private transmission lines...all of which will only increase our electricity costs.

Pinecone Burke is a Class A Park with legislated boundaries. Thus, transmission lines are not allowed in the Park and a change to boundaries will have to be passed in the provincial legislature. The proponents want this to occur during the spring sittings.

Steve Creek is one of only 2 areas identified in the entire Upper Pitt Valley as wildlife habitat for grizzly bears (outside of park boundaries). It is our understanding these areas have not been formally designated as WHAs because of the typical reluctance of provincial government to set aside habitat for species at risk. Nonetheless, these areas have been identified by their biologists. These bears are possibly the closest grizzlies to Greater Vancouver - they are likely attracted to the Upper Pitt by the good salmon runs. Just below and also partially within Pinecone Burke Park, the Steve Creek corridor contains a sensitive wetland complex. NWCP proposes to construct a dam, a reservoir, an intake structure plus pipes and roads within the identified grizzly bear habitat and divert Steve Creek as one of their 8 run-of-river facilities in the Upper Pitt. The reservoir will likely impact on the wetlands. The transmission line would run the length of Steve Creek from valley bottom up and over the pass into the Mamquam.

A Park Boundary Adjustment Policy, secretly adopted by the provincial government in July 2004, allows boundary adjustments to be considered if they are "in the provincial interest". There is nothing "in the provincial interest" about this proposal - the electricity to be generated could be easily produced elsewhere or saved through conservation initiatives. This is solely in the interests of a private corporation. NCWP arranged public meetings in late February. These were held in Mission, Squamish, and Pitt

Meadows. Obviously, there should have been meetings in Vancouver and Coquitlam close to public transit so that the public would not have to drive kilometres to attend. For a corporation that supposedly cares about greenhouse gas emission, the meeting locations were especially inappropriate.

Your Help is Urgently Needed to Protect Pinecone Burke Park!

Comments from the public are being solicited until April 2 (midnight) on the proposed park boundary change. Please, stand up for our parks and say no to the proposed change in this park boundary. Stopping the transmission line could present a serious impediment to the entire project. Please submit your comments to PineconeBurke@gov.bc.ca or mail them to Boundary Change Pinecone Burke, c/o BC Parks, PO Box 9398, Stn. Prov. Govt, Victoria, BC, V8W 9M9 or fax to 1-250-387-5757. For more details, see www.runofriverpower.com under Pitt River Projects or www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/bound_adj_policy.html#pinecone.

Develop at all costs no. 2 - Juliet Ck. - Coquihalla ski resort proposal proceeds through the Environment Assessment Office (EAO) process

Comments by M. Feller

The Juliet Ck. ski resort developers, Westscapes Development, Inc., have come back to the EAO with a revised plan. Previously the FMCBC had told them which areas we valued for skiing and mountaineering that they should avoid. Their revised plan now includes all these areas, with a ski lift up Zoa, for example, as well as snowcat skiing from a lodge near the Bighorn-Alpaca-Llama ridge. This is all cleverly hidden on vague and unclear maps. Their proposal includes 3500 ha of downhill and cross country skiing, an 18-hole golf course, 3300 dwelling units, parking for 2000 cars, and other major commercial centres. Westscapes expects the resort to grow to be about the size of Sun Peaks, near Kamloops, with a 400 ha base. The water supply for such a large development is uncertain, but its impacts on the wilderness are not. One only has to look at Whistler for a guide.

The period for significant, public comment will come after Westscapes produces its application to the EAO for approval.

Develop at all costs no. 3 - Yet another

commercial heliski application for the Waddington area.

Comments by M. Feller

“Bute Inlet Development Corp. (a Homalco First Nation company) is partnering with King Pacific Lodge and Rosetta Resorts to build and operate a high end Destination Wilderness Resort with a key emphasis on providing a pristine heli ski experience using an Ecosystem-Based Management style that encourages the well-being of the land, animals, water and the people of the First Nations. The Homalco First Nation, their tradition and people will be an integral part of this recreation experience.”

Thus reads the opening paragraph of the brief executive summary of the application. Given that it is by a First Nation, it will be approved regardless of any deficiencies. The fact that it overlaps the Knight Inlet Heliski application, which the FMCBC and others have been fighting for many months, appears irrelevant to the government.

Heliskiing will occur on the Homathko Icefield and adjacent areas. This Icefield is claimed to be part of the traditional territory of the First Nation. I find it difficult to believe that any of their members have ever traversed the Icefield.

The FMCBC will be pushing for a complete heli-hiking/heliskiing exclusion zone for a 15 km radius around Mt. Waddington, as well as adherence to a good avoidance protocol to avoid disturbances to skiing/mountaineering parties. It is a pathetic state of affairs that once we had all the mountains, but we can now seek only small islands of sanity in a sea of motorized madness.

Development at all costs no. 4 - Powder Mountain Catskiing (PMC) proposes an expansion to its tenure area in the Chance Ck.-Roe Ck.-Tricouni area

Comments by M. Feller

PMC signed a letter to the FMC in 2003 promising that they would not expand - after gaining approval for an expansion they previously verbally stated would not happen. So we have another proposed expansion, this time mainly in the Cypress Pk. area, as well as constructing a snow-cat road high up onto Brew Ridge, which would allow snowmobilers to overrun the VOC's Brew cabin, one of the few areas in the Squamish Forest District that is supposed to be non-motorized in winter. The proposal is before the Integrated Land Management Bureau and is

being fought by the FMCBC

Develop at all costs no. 5 - Snowmobilers build a trail up Phelix Ck. with an eye to running commercial tours from Birkenhead to Bralorne

Comments by M. Feller

The recreational zoning, developed and approved by participants of the Winter and Summer Backcountry Recreation Forums, is beginning to unravel as a result of 1) shifting of commercial tenures in the Callaghan valley by the 2010 people, who display no concern at all about displacement of backcountry skiers, 2) ignorant selfish snowmobilers who want everything and are prepared to forego nothing, and 3) a desire by government to appease the Lil'wat First Nation (who apparently don't want many motorized closures as this would prevent them accessing their traditional territory using traditional means, presumably).

The previous 3 points are all interlinked and can be likened to the removing of a few rivets from different parts of a flying plane that had been constructed using many rivets. Loss of Mt. Sproatt to snowmobilers in return for an upper Callaghan valley free of most snowmobiles, but also of most places to park cars both for day and overnight, but full of people who demand payment to use groomed trails which must necessarily be traversed to leave the only place where one can park cars, summarizes the Callaghan. The second point is illustrated by the actions of a few snowmobilers from Darcy, apparently supported by new leadership in the Pemberton Snowmobile Club. The backcountry forums considered all recreational users and came up with plans that accommodated all groups, based on compromise and tradeoffs. No one got all that they wanted, but everyone got something. Unfortunately, a few snowmobilers in Darcy, who wanted no restrictions at all on their activities, ignored the zoning and have gone ahead and built a snowmobile trail up Phelix Ck. They apparently have plans to run commercial tours to Bralorne.

The following comments come from an excellent Varsity Outdoor Club website, to which you are referred for further information (www.ubc_voc.com/wiki/sea_to_sky_backcountry_forum). The VOC have a cabin in Phelix Ck. and are spearheading attempts to get the government to be reasonable and fair over the issue.

Phelix Creek Issues

A snowmobiler petition was submitted with 121 signatures. This prompted a counter petition which gathered about 350 real and 900 electronic signatures.

Harry Redmond is leading the charge on the snowmobile side. He opted out of participating in the stakeholder forum and now wants the government to change the LRMP unilaterally to his liking. If the government listens to him, they are saying that you don't have to participate in stakeholder forums and negotiate to get what you want. This sends a strong message to the rest of BC that they do not have to participate in these kinds of stakeholder forums, merely lobby the government instead. He may be trying to break up the forum altogether by going after one of the prime non motorized zones. Unilateral changes to the forum by the government go against the spirit of the forum, which is direct stakeholder negotiation to achieve a solution acceptable to all parties

Phelix creek was zoned for non-motorized use by the forum. This decision was signed off by all forum representatives, including the representative from the Pemberton Valley Snowmobile Club.

The government approach is to isolate Phelix Creek and look at it as a single issue. However, this is not in the spirit of the forum which took a fair and balanced approach to recreation opportunities throughout the Sea to Sky corridor. Any changes to one area upset the balance of the forum recommendations and would require renegotiation with forum stakeholders. Around D'arcy, Phelix Creek is the only non-motorized zone. Birkenhead peak, Haylmore Creek and the Birkenhead River are zoned motorized. Birkenhead Lake park (which is adjacent to the start of the Phelix Creek road, also allows snowmobiling in some parts of the park. New logging roads on the east side of Phelix Creek below 1000m are also already in the motorized zone. In the D'arcy area, there is much more land zoned for motorized recreation than for non-motorized recreation.

The Brian Waddington Hut in Phelix creek was built in 1998. The area has been popular for non-motorized activity since the early 1970s (many first ascents were completed in 1972). The site was selected because it was already a popular area for ski touring and there was no historic snowmobile activity. Access to the area by snowmobile is very

difficult due to terrain constraints. At the time, MOF also requested that the chosen site for the cabin have a low potential for skier-snowmobiler conflicts, and the Phelix Creek site was approved with this in mind. Snowmobile use in the area is more recent, as the machines have only recently become powerful enough to get through steep terrain to the alpine.

The forum recommendations were accepted into the Sea to Sky LRMP, subject only to negotiations with first nations. On the ILMB website, it states "Until the final LRMP is completed, the current draft will be used as interim management direction for provincial government decision making with the plan area." The ILMB Website states: "the upper portions of Phelix Creek are zoned RA1-A for winter recreation, which means non-motorized with air access allowed." It goes on to say management direction for the valley and adjacent areas is "to maintain the wilderness, natural and visual, and aesthetic (including noise management) qualities with the Birkenhead park and also the Wildlands draining into the park so that the experience for humans and wildlife is the same for both." The upper portion of Phelix Creek is zoned as Wildland, part with a wildlife emphasis and part with a non-motorized recreation emphasis.

Kevin Kriese, from Smithers, has been brought in by the government as a specialist first nations negotiator for the Sea to Sky LRMP. He is currently negotiating the LRMP adjustments with the Lil'wat First Nation, but appears to be responsible for most of the LRMP. Mr. Kriese also feels that the 'locals' (although we stated that we all felt that we were also 'locals') weren't so happy and felt like they weren't consulted - this impression is from local government members in the communities in the area.

In response to this, the government has hired a mediator to sort out the situation. The Callaghan, Sproatt, Brandywine etc. (the Squamish Nation area) is apparently now a done deal, but the entire NE area of the Squamish Forest District (the Lil'wat Nation area) is still up for debate, subject to the mediator's decision. This time it will **not** be a forum type negotiation where all parties sit down together and discuss the problem - every party will talk with the mediator individually. The whole thing will happen quite quickly, and apparently be finished before spring.

Ok - so what do we do now?

What is **still very important** is that we continue

to write THIS MONTH (March) letters of support for the original backcountry forum as the closest thing to an ideal compromise - something which was already worked very hard on by all parties, and which can not be repeated during a few short months of mediator-based negotiations. Equally important is to support non-motorized access areas. Still a very large and difficult issue for both the government and the motorized community to understand is that allowing both motorized and non-motorized access to an area is not sharing. It is fundamental to our arguments that they realize the non-motorized community has been forced to leave time and again as snowmobiles gain access to new areas, and that we're running out of places to retreat to. Every supporting letter from the public (you!) which helps demonstrate the fact that the two activities are incompatible helps remove the stereotype that we (those negotiating) are not simply greedy and unwilling to share territory. This puts us in a much stronger position.

If you're waiting to write a letter, now is the time. The negotiations will be concluded, and the zoning decided before the end of the season. While it's true that enough pressure can change any government decision, it is far easier to do so while the decisions are being made!

The key points to raise in the letters, if they apply to you, are:

- Identify yourself as a recreational user of the Sea to Sky backcountry.
- Your support for the Winter Sharing Accord developed by the Sea to Sky Winter Backcountry Recreation Forum because it balances the recreational interests of all user groups, including the motorized and non-motorized recreational users.
- Government should honour the Winter Sharing Accord and support the implementation of the Winter Sharing Accord.
- Any changes to the Sharing Accord must be negotiated with all users and stakeholders to ensure a fair outcome in the spirit of the original accord. Unilateral changes by the government are not acceptable.
- Snowmobiles and other motorized uses detract from your backcountry skiing experience.
- You do not want motorized use of Mt. Sprouatt or

the area surrounding the Brian Waddington Hut. If you have any questions or need more information regarding the Winter Forum or the Winter Sharing Accord for the Sea to Sky corridor, please contact Monika Bittel at monikabittel@telus.net or Sandra Nicol at sandra.nicol@telus.net.

Be polite, especially when identifying potential problems with snowmobiling. Many of the people we are writing to are sledders, so personal attacks are absolutely not okay.

Avoid copy-pasting. It's more work, but an individually written letter counts for more to the government.

Mail a hard copy to Kevin Kriese. At the end of the letter, after the signature, have a list of people that the letter has been CCed to: "CCed by email to:". Write here the names and titles, but not the addresses, of the people above. Attach the letter to emails sent to the CC list. Write a short note in the body of the email, asking them to read your letter regarding your concerns about X (eg motorized recreation in the Phelix area) and to say that the original copy of the letter was sent to Kevin Kriese (include his title).

Include your return address in the letter and on the envelope.

Encourage your friends to write letters.

You do not have to go into a huge amount of detail, or write about a lot of issues. A 1-2 page letter is good.

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Interested in a ski traverse for Darfur?

Jeremy Frimer writes -

I'm a long-time Coast Range enthusiast, with a long history of climbing, skiing, and involvement in the outdoor community. I am organizing a community-driven ski traverse—from Whistler to Vancouver—with the goal of bringing the outdoor community to have fun and at the same time raise awareness about the ongoing crisis in Darfur. Some of the details:

What: A ski and bike relay from Whistler village to the Olympic clock, Downtown Vancouver in April 2008. An LED torch will be passed from one group to the next along the relay, which will culminate in a rally in downtown Vancouver. The idea is inspired by “Dream for Darfur” (www.dreamfordarfur.org/), which organizes Olympic torch style relay marathons around the world to connect the Olympics and Darfur.

Why: (1) because it will be fun; (2) because I and the backcountry community feel that freedom from rape and murder in the desert is a natural extension of Freedom of the Hills. I and the backcountry community feel that genocide is something with which this world could do without; (3) because there is now a connection between winter outdoor sports, the Olympics, and genocide—we want to raise

awareness of this and force the agenda back into the public's, media's, and government's attention; (4) because we feel that Canada can do way more to bring a peaceful resolution to the crisis in Darfur; (5) because we want to be part of the solution.

What do skiing and Darfur have to do with one another? The connection has everything to do with the Olympics. China is a major player in Sudan, being the importer for 65% of Sudan's exports, and being the supplier of arms to Sudan. China will not take an active role in pressuring the Sudanese government to cease genocide tactics and to actively seek peace unless China feels that it must. With our Olympics here and with the 2008 summer Olympics in Beijing, the time is right to draw attention to this issue. The current Canadian administration has been weak on Darfur, even terminating the Canadian envoy to Darfur, led by Romeo Dallaire. Taking a leadership role in preventing gross human rights violations in Darfur is a project that Canadians, regardless of political affiliation, resonate with. We have concrete recommendations about how the Canadian government takes a leadership role in Darfur, that does not require troops.

What am I getting out of this? The truth is that I am doing this because I feel that it is the right thing to do. I stand to gain nothing financially from this, just the satisfaction that I did not stand idle as genocide took place. I have wondered what good all my mountain conquest has in any meaningful sense. Climbing doesn't have to be "one of those ass-holish, self-centered things to do." But it takes effort to make it so. Why else? My

mother and grandparents survived the Holocaust in Poland. I wouldn't be here were it not for the allies standing up to genocide. I have a responsibility as a global citizen to defend human rights and work for peace.

What would the BCMC's involvement entail?

It could be something as simple as publicizing the ski traverse to members and working with me to get people signed up for the various legs of the rally. Jeremy Frimer can be contacted at jeremyfrimer@gmail.com

Trip Reports

Joffre Peak, 30 June 30 – 1 July, 2007

It was alternating rain with brief clearing as we trekked up to the third lake and it had rained copiously the week before, so I wasn't entirely optimistic about prospects for summiting the next day. Much has changed since I first visited the area 30 years ago. The glacier no longer calves directly into the lake and in fact has retreated to the very edge of the saddle between Joffre and Slalok.

We pitched tents, used the super biffy with a real seat and hung out in the tents while squalls of rain alternated with sunny patches. Finally at 3:30 pm we decided it would be wise to do some reconnaissance and see if our approach up the right hand side of the icefall would go. Higher up, it became obvious that it was easier to move left onto the icefall of the Matier glacier than tackle the snow bridge above us on the right and once over the snout it was an easy trudge to the base of our planned climb. On our return, Hale slipped going down the icefall and I was able to test my arrest abilities.

Serguei gallantly volunteered to wake everyone Sunday morning at 4 am. We were moving by 5:40 am after a brief wait for Peter M who had not felt well after descending to camp the previous afternoon. I think Ilze stabbed his bivvy sack to get him moving. The snow in the SW couloir was crisp and Ilze led off, placing 2 snow stakes as running belays over the 350 m of the couloir. Bits of small rock winged down on those of us below and one nicked Hale, causing a minor wound on his neck. Helmets are definitely recommended. The couloir remains at about 45 degrees for its entirety so there were some

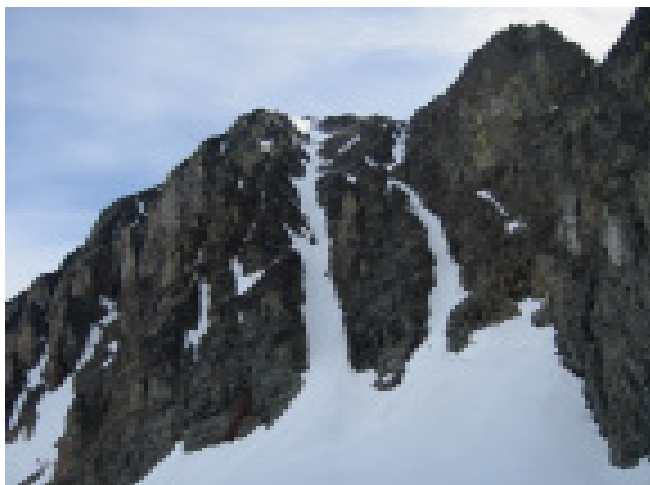
tired calf muscles the next day. My rope topped out and we peered around the corner to see Ilze's team on the summit. I recorded five hours from camp to the summit.

It was one of those days with clouds scudding overhead and a stiff wind that sapped body heat, so after five minutes we were seeking shelter from the wind in the couloir.

Ilze's team front-pointed all the way down, placing running belays as they went. As the snow was softening, I tried facing out and was about halfway down the couloir when I heard a shout and saw Ian hurtling down the slope above me. Hale's arrest caught him before his weight came onto me so I didn't get to test my holding power a second time. Ian's crampons had balled up in the now wet snow so anti-bots are definitely a plus.

A quick drink and a snack at the bottom of the couloir, then a trudge to the Joffre-Slalok col where we watched some people in running shoes with ski poles struggle to follow our steps up the icefall. Wisely, they backed off and our day was not prolonged by involvement in rescue efforts. Supper in Pemberton at the Wildflower and then the long drive home with the mountains on either side of Howe Sound holding the promise of future adventures.

Participants: Peter Malacarne, Serguei Okountsev, Ian Smith, Ilze Rupners, Hale Loofbourrow, Peter Steiner, and Randy Enomoto (Organizer and reporter).



Joffre Pk. - ascending the icefall (top), the couloir climbed (on the left), above, and Ilze and Peter Steiner in the couloir, above. All photos - S. Okountsev.