



# B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



Mt. Slesse from the East  
Photo: Derrick Johnstone

**January 2009. Vol. 87, No. 1**

## **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, 13 January 2009**

Chris Cooper, explorer and photographer, will present a multimedia show of the first leg of a historic canoe journey which started May 1st 2008, on the river Thames, London, England. Teams paddled out to the North Sea, around the southeast and south coast through the Strait of Dover into the English Channel and out to the Isles of Scilly in the Atlantic.

**Tuesday, 10 February** - A Varsity Outdoor Club member presents on a trip to Mt. Waddington, including an approach by kayak.



Rounding the Cliffs of Dover  
Photo: Chris Cooper

## HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Esther and Martin Kafer

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT -</b>	TODD PONZINI	604-936-9369
<b>PAST-PRESIDENT -</b>	DAVID HUGHES	604-980-6484
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT -</b>	DAVID SCANLON	604-572-5051
<b>SECRETARY -</b>	ALICE PURDEY	604-293-2951
	JANE WELLER	604-988-3618
<b>TREASURER -</b>	CRAIG KALNIN	604-787-5396
<b>MEMBERSHIP/MAILING -</b>	SILVIA BAKOVIC	778-230-7528
	DERRICK JOHNSTONE	604-505-6250
<b>SOCIALS -</b>	DONNA SCANLON	604-572-5051
	ROBERT WOODHOUSE	604-730-0371
<b>CLIMBING -</b>	ROBERT WOODHOUSE	604-730-0371
	RADMILA JAKSIC	604-602-0468
<b>CABIN/TRAILS -</b>	DAVID SCANLON	604-572-5051
<b>RECREATION</b>		
<b>CONSERVATION -</b>	MONIKA BITTEL	604-983-3097
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<b>EDITOR - NEWSLETTER</b>	ALICE PURDEY	604-293-2951
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<b>SAFETY EQUIPMENT -</b>	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462
<b>SATELLITE PHONE -</b>	PETER GUMPLINGER	604-733-8264
<b>LIBRARY -</b>	JOAN FORD	604-876-4255

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**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 perday 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 (604-736-8462) or Peter Gumplinger (604-733-8264), 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 **Alice Purdey (ph. 604-293-2951, email - [alicep.fred@gmail.com](mailto:alicep.fred@gmail.com))**.

**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

Please check the website for final updates. All trips are ski trips unless otherwise indicated.

### January

<b>1-4: Garibaldi Lake</b> - joint with ACC	<b>B2</b>
John Duffy	604.980.1239
<b>3: Nak (2010m) and Thar (19/20m)</b>	<b>B2/3</b>
Jos van der Burg	1.604.824.5676
<b>10: Unmaed mountain in Cascade Ck area (near Mission) (snowshoe)</b>	<b>C2</b>
Alastair Ferries	604.329.1637
<b>10: Hollyburn Mtn (beginners welcome)</b>	<b>A2</b>
Alena Dzukjova	778.881.5642
<b>10-11: Magnesia Meadows</b> - joint with ACC	<b>B2</b>
Ian McGillivray	604.988.3618
<b>11: Diamond Head - Paul's Ridge</b>	<b>B2</b>
Kathy Nemis	604.254.1170
<b>14: Needle Pk - Two Bears Slide Path</b>	<b>C3</b>
Matt Gunn	604.221.1190
<b>17: Harvey Basin</b>	<b>B2/3</b>
Daniel Carey	604.731.4048
<b>17-18: Mt. Fee loop</b>	<b>B2</b>
Andrej Dobos	604.764.0174
<b>21: Tele-clinic at Cypress</b>	<b>A2</b>
Isabel Budke	604.224.5737
<b>22: Seymour Backcountry</b>	<b>B3</b>
Matt Gunn	604.221.1190
<b>23-26: Rocky Mtn ice climbing</b>	<b>W12</b>
Justin Bennett	604.813.4666
<b>24: Rainbow Mtn via Beverley Ck</b>	<b>C3</b>
Peter Gumplinger	604.733.8264
<b>25: Cypress Bowl Backcountry (snowshoe)</b> - joint with NSH	<b>B2</b>
John Sapac	604.873.6740

<b>28: Cypress Backcountry</b>	<b>B3</b>
Matt Gunn	604.221.1190
<b>31: Zoa Pk</b> - joint with NSH	<b>A/B2</b>
Carol MacMillan	604.879.2947

### February

<b>1: Needle Pk</b>	<b>B4</b>
Randy Enomoto	604.224.6184
<b>1: Blackcomb Backcountry</b>	<b>B3</b>
Ilze Rupners	604.222.3720
<b>6: Rainbow Mtn</b> - joint with SPOC	<b>C3</b>
Ryan Bougie	604.906.1077
<b>6-8: Sphinx Glacier and The Sphinx</b>	<b>C3</b>
Justin Bennett	604.813.4666
<b>7: Silverdaisy Mtn</b> - beginners welcome	<b>B2</b>
Jos van der Burg	1.604.824.5676
<b>7: Ice climbing Whistler area</b>	<b>A5</b>
Neil Beattie	604.669.7847
<b>7-8: Mt. Lindeman</b>	<b>B/C3</b>
Larry Kost	604.594.3130
<b>7-15: Roger's Pass ski week</b>	<b>B+3</b>
Francis St. Pierre	604.224.0502
<b>8: Mystery snowshoe trip</b>	<b>B2</b>
Tracy Leach	778.828.5681
<b>14-15: Russet Lk area via Musical Bumps</b>	<b>B2</b>
Andrej Dobos	604.764.0174
<b>14-15: Steep Ck (tentative)</b>	<b>B4</b>
Eric Hughes	604.315.5975
<b>14-15: Caspar Ck</b> - beginners welcome	<b>B2</b>
David Scanlon	604.572.5051
<b>15: Coleman Pinnacle</b> - beginners welcome	<b>B3</b>
Radmila Jaksic	604.602.0468
<b>18: Tele-clinic at Cypress</b>	<b>A2</b>
Isabel Budke	604.224.5737

## New Newsletter Editor

This New Year edition of your newsletter marks the end of an era. For 27 years, Michael Feller has produced a quality publication, a voice that covered Club and mountain news and spoke strongly on conservation issues. In a letter to the editor, Tom wrote: "The Newsletter represents some of the best mountain literature in the region. It covers issues that no other publication covers, especially the issues of access and climate change politics. And although in the past couple of years many of the clubs trip reports have moved to the website, the newsletter is the most reliable source for historical trip reports, and it's no accident that anyone who's written a decent guidebook in the area, credits the BCMC archive as one of the best resources." Michael deserves a huge

'thank you' and a large bouquet – of alpine flowers. I shall attempt to wave the same flag, but it's a big one. I welcome and encourage your comments. I also welcome offers of assistance as back-up editor. -Alice Purdey, Newsletter editor (in training)

*Thank you, Peter Stange and others who helped me learn the software and other technicalities.*

### From the Archives:

"A Glaciation Committee, formed in 1935, took annual measurements of specific glaciers in Garibaldi Park and sent the data to a central body in Europe." Club members continue to measure glaciers - see articles in this issue.

## NEW

### 'Club Development Committee' (CDC)

#### **WE WANT YOUR INPUT**

This fall the executive started a new committee to explore ideas regarding future club developments. It all began with the membership survey undertaken by Francis St. Pierre. The committee, started as the 'Membership Retention Committee', has been renamed the 'Club Development Committee' (CDC). It is co-chaired by Francis St. Pierre and Werner Grzimek. The other members are Radmila Jaksic, Bob Woodhouse, Silvia Bakovic and Alena Dzujkova. The CDC meets once per month and in between communicates via the forum.

The CDC is now brainstorming topics such as:

- Developing the BCMC into a more web-oriented club (members' first priority according to the membership survey)

- Creating web/email tools that will facilitate members' networking
- How to make it easier to find trip partners
- Better integration of new club members and reducing the churn rate
- Systematic development of more and confident trip organizers
- Implementing mentor programs for various activities
- Energizing and opening the forum to all BCMC members
- Offering more 'beginner friendly' club trips
- Reviewing club objectives and vision
- And many more...

!!! Please let the committee chairs and members know, what YOU would do to improve YOUR CLUB!!!

Mail to: Werner, 3262 W. 21st Av. Vancouver, BC, V6L 1L2 or email to: [wernergr@shaw.ca](mailto:wernergr@shaw.ca)

### Winter season skills trips and sessions

To prepare for the approaching ski season, the BCMC is offering a series of trips and practice sessions to polish those safe backcountry travel skills and good habits that have not been used since last winter:

#### **Jan 3-4: Transceiver practice**

- basic single & advanced multiple beacon recovery

#### **Jan 10-11: Avalanche terrain risk evaluation**

#### **Jan 17-18: Winter roped travel/rescue systems practice**

- two days practising proper roped travel techniques, rescue systems, and belay systems for use on snow and ice

#### **Jan 31-Feb 1: Organized avalanche response**

- two days of organized avalanche response practice simulating various scenarios and group practice.

#### **Mar 1, 2009: Advanced snow/ice rescue systems practice**

- Compound hauling systems, complex hauling systems, and belays. All participants must have a solid working knowledge of knots (prussik, figure 8, clove, Mnter), simple hauling systems (2:1, 3:1, 5:1), snow anchors, and basic belays.

#### **Mar 21, 2009: Mountaineering Practice**

- a day of mountaineering practice for members to hone their skills prior to the spring/summer mountaineering season

#### **Mar 28, 2009: Mountaineering Practice**

- another such day of mountaineering practice

Take advantage of these FREE trips and special sessions to brush up your existing skills or learn one or two new ones. Visit -

<http://bcmc.ca/Schedule/tripsched.asp>

for more information and to sign up for these skill refreshers.



## Reports from the 2008 Annual General Meeting

### WEBMASTER'S REPORT - *Kevin Swanson*

This year, a lot of the changes and enhancements to the BCMC website have been in the Trip Schedule system. The primary change has been allowing members to enter their own trips to the schedule. When a member who is listed as a "Trip Organizer" logs in to the website's Member area, there is a link available to add a trip to the schedule.

Once a member adds a trip, it is saved to the schedule, but not yet published – only trip administrators can see it. An e-mail is sent automatically to the Climbing Chair(s) – currently Radmila Jaksic and Bob Woodhouse – who have the opportunity to review the information and make amendments or contact the organizer. Once they are happy with the trip it is published and available for all to see. This process normally takes under a day, so it is very easy to add last minute trips to the schedule.

Another change is the e-mails that are now sent out on a weekly basis, listing trips taking place within the next couple of weeks. This is an automated process that has had its ups and downs, but seems to be stable now. The e-mail is normally sent either Sunday night or Monday morning (it is triggered when a logged in trip administrator visits the schedule any time after 9:00 pm Sunday.) These e-mails include a link to unsubscribe from the notifications, or to choose HTML or plain text e-mails.

Linking both of the above items, an e-mail notice is now sent when a last minute trip is added to the schedule. If there will not be another weekly e-mail update sent out prior to the trip, one is generated automatically and sent out to all subscribers. This way, a trip can be added to the schedule in the middle of the week for the coming weekend and a few hundred members will receive an e-mail invitation to join in! A great way to organize – and join – last minute trips. This adds real flexibility to the schedule. Organizers can plan a trip based on an actual weather forecast, rather than hoping that weather will be good. Hopefully, everyone's been filling out the Trip Feedback Form on the website. After a trip goes, the organ-

izer should receive an e-mail looking for information on whether the trip went, how many took part, etc. Please make sure you enter this information! We've added a spot to enter access information, as well.

We will also very soon have this trip feedback available for all members to view. This way, you can have a look at how popular some trips are and whether one has gone to a particular destination recently.

I plan to scan the entire archive of BCMC newsletters into an electronic format over the next few months and make them searchable and available to members of the club.

Another goal is to transport the entire website and functionality to an "open source" scripting language and database solution (specifically php scripting, and MySQL database. We currently use JavaScript, Active Server Pages, and a Microsoft Access database.) This will be a longer-term project, when I don't have anything else going on... (Ha!)

Finally, I'd appreciate any assistance that anyone can offer, in either keeping the main, public website up to date, or in helping out with the "backend" stuff.

### CAMPS and PROGRAMS – *Alena Dzujkova*

#### 2008 = transition year:

- Alena joined the executive in January 2008
- Experimented with new types of courses
- Introduced new programs
- Continued running core programs

**Core programs** – these continue to generate lots of interest. Core programs that ran in 2008:

- Backcountry ski program
- Mountaineering course
- Rock Climbing – introduction and basic

All ran successfully and brought new members to the club, many of them now actively participating in club trips and even leading their own.

The lead climbing program did not run due to the unavailability of instructors, which we'll address next year.

## **New courses**

- Wilderness first aid
- Navigation course – was a hit and will run every year
- As a result of high demand BCMC will run a GPS navigation course in 2009

## **Outlook for 2009**

- Core programs will continue to run, training new leaders and engaging volunteers. Our goal is to consistently deliver high quality trainings.
- Special courses covering various aspects of outdoor and mountain travel

- Special courses covering various aspects of outdoor and mountain travel
- Seasonal skill refreshers – see the current (Winter 2009) schedule
- Training new leaders and creating opportunities for the members to develop leaderships skills
- A year full of programs for the members so the overall knowledge and skill set of the club grows and so members of the club are safe and confident in their outdoor pursuits.

## **SOCIAL REPORT - Bob Woodhouse**

From the social committee's point of view I think the array of presentations worked fairly well. This year we introduced the concept of five-minute videos before the main topic. I think this worked well but I suspect it may take a year or so before there are enough club members producing videos to be able to show one at every meeting.

### **A big thank you to all the presenters over the past year:**

Dec '07	Todd Ponzini, David Scanlon	Centennial Activities: Garibaldi Climb, Garibaldi Climbing Camp
Jan '08	Michael Bromfield	Four Sides of Mt Everest
Feb	Ravil Chamgoulov	Mountaineering in Africa and Australia
March	John Baldwin	Winter Ski Trips and Traverses
April	Linda Bily	Ski Touring on Baffin Island
May	Peter Gumplinger	Climbing Mt. Dresden
June	Three presentations	Nursery Peak – a video by Gerry Kollmuss; Day Hiking in NW Washington by Craig Romano; & Best Kept Secrets in SW B.C. by Todd Ponzini
Sept	Brian Wood	Trekking in the Valhallas
Oct	Todd Ponzini	First Ascents Within a Three Hour Drive of Vancouver - Nine Days Around Falk Lake
Nov	Stephen France	Trekking and Ski Mountaineering in New Zealand

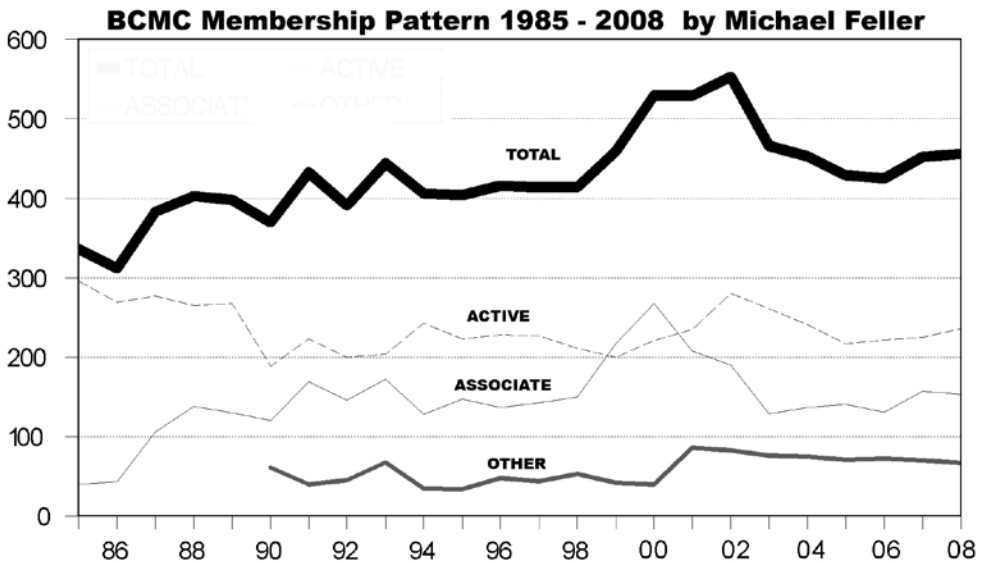
Thanks to Donna Scanlon for the all the prep work necessary to make sure there was always tea to drink and interesting goodies to munch on.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT - Derrick Johnstone**

The 2008 membership year has ended and the Club maintained a high member count following the centennial year. We ended the year with 485 members across our various member types. Excluding institutional members, there are actually four more regular members than last year. The Club continues to attract many new members but also continues to lose existing members. There are ef-

forts underway to make BCMC membership more valuable to everyone and raise our retention rate. We are now well into the membership renewal season. Thanks to those members who have already renewed for 2009. For those who have not yet renewed, please do so soon! Our work is made much easier when we don't have to hunt folks down. As a reminder, the December newsletter will be the last sent to members who have not renewed.

I would like to thank Steve Tate who has been the friendly face at the Membership Desk for many of the Socials over the past couple of years when I was unable to attend. Your help has been greatly appreciated.



**STATUS of GLACIERS: THREE REPORTS**

**The Status of Glaciers in B.C. - An Update: Glacier Surveys – September, 2008**

*by Karl Ricker, Ed Zenger, Rob Tupper and Dave Lyon*

Surveys of “our” two glaciers were carried out again in 2008, confirming the continuation of snout recession, and surface meltdown in their lower reaches at least. Our surveys in 2007 had suggested, however, that the record snowfall of 1999 was perhaps translating into a slow-down of melt, especially at Wedgemount Glacier, because only 2.5 metres of recession at the ice margin was measured for 2006-2007. This was significant, for the long term rate of retraction was about 13.2 metres per year. Thus, there was some expectation that the measurements in 2008 would reveal less loss and perhaps even an advance. Sadly, it was not to be; our trip to the glacier provided a staggering (-) 19.9 metres of recession over the year, plus a huge window of bare rock now exposed through the ice about 100 metres up-glacier from its snout. Robbie Tupper had made plans to run a GPS transect up the glacier to as far as the upper icefall to check the amount of surface meltdown since the

last survey in 2003, but work pressures at his home base (Vernon) denied him the time to organize the project. About seven of the 15-20 campsites built by Parks BC were occupied during our overnight visit. The construction of the trail from cabin to the sites near the east end of the lake is very impressive — a decided long-term benefit to all visitors. Wildlife on the trip was sparse – a goat on the meadows northwest of the cabin, and a solitary American pipit at the east end of the lake was it.

The Overlord Glacier survey had the same expectations, although its recession in 2006-2007 was (-) 7.4 metres, as compared to the long-term average of 10.3 m/yr. Our hope was that the figure for 2006-2007 represented the start of a reduction in recession, vis a vis the 1999 record year of snowpack in its transformation to actual movement of glacier ice. Well, the jury is out on the prognosis; the measurement was (-) 6.4 metres for 2007-2008. Yes, the slow-down has been sustained for at least two years but whether or not an advance is in the offing is yet to be determined – next year? The survey was on a busy weekend; 15 tents were pitched around the cabin for the night. Unlike most previous surveys there was no evidence of the

goat herd visiting the glacier margin over the entire summer. Did they move elsewhere, or was there a calamity over the late winter which featured possible, fatal, colossal avalanches throughout Garibaldi Park and surroundings.

Total recession from both glaciers' historical maximum extent (late 1890s +/-) now stands at (-) 1426 metres for Wedgemount and (-) 1109 metres for Overlord. The latter had an advance of (+) 175 metres for the 1951-1986 period to account for the overall less recession in the 108+ years of drawback from its climax position.

### **The Status of B.C's Glaciers** *by Michael Feller*

Karl Ricker and others have been meticulously recording the disappearance of some of our glaciers, but what about the province as a whole? Those who deny climate change often argue that although some glaciers may be retreating others are advancing and, indeed there are some glaciers that are advancing. Two recent studies using remote sensing data have recently provided a comprehensive picture of the status of glaciers throughout B.C., and this status is not promising.

One study, by E. Schiefer, B. Menounos and R. Wheate (Geophysical Research Letters, Vol 34, L16503, 2007) estimated changes in all B.C. glaciers, while another, by J. A. Van Looy, and R. R. Forster (Journal of Glaciology, Vol.54, P. 469-478, 2008) estimated changes in five central and south Coast Mountains icefields. Van Looy and Forster looked at the surface elevation and ice in the Lillooet, Homathko, Waddington, Ha-Iltzuk, and Monarch icefields. Between the mid 1980s and 1999, a period of only approximately 15 years, these 5 icefields shrunk on average by 0.4m/year in surface elevation and 19.4km<sup>3</sup> in total volume. The Ha-Iltzuk icefield had the greatest losses and the Lillooet the least.

The total area of the icefields decreased by 51.3km<sup>2</sup> during this short period, with the greatest reduction occurring on the Ha-Iltzuk icefield (13.8km<sup>2</sup>), mostly on Klinaklini Glacier. The smallest reductions were on the Homathko icefield (8.3 km<sup>2</sup>).

For 15 glacier terminus positions, the average

retreat was 20 m/yr from 1974 to 1990/92. This retreat doubled to 40m/yr from 1990/92 to 2000/01. During this later period, glaciers exhibiting the greatest retreats were Jewakwa (Homathko Icefield) – 138m/yr, Bridge (Lillooet Icefield) – 118m/yr, and Franklin (Waddington area) – 81m/yr. Glaciers exhibiting the smallest retreats were mostly in the Mt. Waddington area – Cascade (13m/yr), Stocking (15m/yr) and Whitemantle (16m/yr), as well as the Fyles Glacier (17m/yr) in the Monarch Icefield.

Based on Don Munday's maps from his expeditions to Waddington in 1926 and 1927, the glacier retreat in the Waddington area has averaged 2.5km between 1926/27 and 1974, with the greatest retreat being for the Franklin Glacier – 4.1km.

These central Coast Mountain glaciers appear to be retreating at a slower rate than those in Alaska or in B.C's south Coast Mountains, where the Place Glacier has been shrinking in surface elevation by 1.4m/yr throughout the 1990s. Although air temperatures have increased and snowfall decreased since the late 1970's, the glacial shrinkage has not responded in a simple way to these changes but the trends have been all downhill for these coastal B.C glaciers.

At the provincial level, Schiefer and others found that B.C contained 28,800km<sup>2</sup> of glaciers in the 1980's, which represented 4% and 23% of the global and conterminous North American glacier cover, respectively. During the period 1985-1999, glaciers in BC decreased in volume by 22.5km<sup>3</sup> per year and thinned by 0.8m per year, contributing to a rise in sea level of 0.7mm during this period. The recent rate of volume loss in the Coast Mountains (17.0km<sup>3</sup> per year) is approximately double that of the previous two decades. The loss of glacier volume has increased from the Columbia to the Rocky to the Coast Mountains, with the greatest rates of loss in the south Coast Mountains.

The results of these two studies are consistent with those of other studies of the Northern Coast Mountains and SE Alaska (C.F. Larsen and others. Journal of Geophysical Research, Vol. 112, F01007, 2007) and of the southern Coast and US Cascade Mountains (G. Kaser and others. Geophysical Research Letters, Vol. 33, L19501, 2006).

Kaser et al. looked at changes in glacier volumes for the entire planet. On a global basis, glaciers in Patagonia were losing mass at the greatest rate, followed by those of Western North America, Asia, then the Arctic. Interestingly, glacier mass in Europe overall has changed little, since the strong losses in the European Alps have been compensated by gains in maritime Scandinavia. Globally, ice mass balance was close to neutral in the 1960's, but losses have accelerated since that time, leading Kaser et al. to conclude that recent glacial decline "is essentially a response to post-1970 global warming".

The science is unequivocal, and B.C. glaciers are retreating to a greater extent than most.

## **Metro Vancouver's Glacier**

*Adapted from an article by Kelly Sinoski in the Vancouver Sun, December 9, 2008*

Did you know that Metro Vancouver has its very own glacier? It's about 20-hectares in size, is in the northeast corner of the Coquitlam watershed, and is the last of ten that were in what would have been Metro Vancouver's three watersheds during the Little Ice Age two centuries ago, according to an article in the Vancouver Sun on 9 December, 2008. Reportedly, the glacier stores about eight billion litres of water — equal to a seven-day supply for the two-million plus people in Metro Vancouver.

The threat of its disappearance has prompted Metro Vancouver to look at ways to conserve and store water for future generations. Metro Vancouver has three main reservoirs: the Capilano, Seymour and Coquitlam, and three smaller alpine lakes that act as reservoirs: Burwell, Pallisade and Loch Lomond. The article further states that the region "is considering building new dams in the upper Seymour or Capilano valleys or tapping more alpine lakes, which are deep granite bowls with pristine water."

## **Trails and Access**

### **Trail Management: A Call for Public Input**

The Provincial Government is currently engaged in a planning process to develop a strategy for managing trails in BC. A series of open houses is being held to present the draft trails strategy document to the public for feedback.

The draft document can be found here: [http://www.club-tread.com/pdf/TrailsStrat\\_2MB.pdf](http://www.club-tread.com/pdf/TrailsStrat_2MB.pdf)

Upcoming public information and feedback forums:

**Mon. Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30–9:00pm. N. Van. Holiday Inn, 700 Old Lillooet Rd., N. Van.**

**Tues. Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30– 9:00pm. Holiday Inn Express, 8750 204th Street, Langley**

It is important that **non-motorized** recreationalists have a strong turnout at this event. The intent of the strategy is to have clubs adopt certain trails and take on the role of stewards. A few potential concerns with the strategy include:

- A focus in the document on trails being 'inclusive' which may include motorized vehicles. Feedback that needs to be given is that some uses are not compatible (i.e. hiking and atvs) It will not benefit hiking clubs to maintain trails without a designation that restricts motorized activities on the trail. The trails strategy largely glosses over potential user conflicts which are a key point for hikers.

- The need for clubs to carry insurance for trail use to deal with liability issues.

To see an ongoing discussion on the trails strategy please see this thread: [http://www.clubtread.com/sforum/topic.asp?TOPIC\\_ID=28929](http://www.clubtread.com/sforum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=28929)

Please take the time to attend and speak out.

### **Elk Mountain Update** by Jack Bryceland

Two small cutblocks have been done right beside the Chilliwack Bench Forest Service Road just before you get to the trailhead. This is 'cherry picking' since no road construction was required to access the trees. Only the depressed price (hurrah for the recession?) of logs is keeping the Ch'ihl'kway'uhk from cutting more. There is still no agreement to leave any buffer between the cutting & the trail. There are only two lights on the horizon:

- a) The Ministry of Tourism, Culture & the Arts Recreation Officer believes that the trail can be established (i.e. gazetted) in the next six months. That would allow objectives for the trail to be specified.
- b) There have been several instances of the endangered plant, tall bugbane, (*Actea elata*) found in the area. Wildlife Habitat Areas, if they can be established for these plants, require a 250-metre buffer. This might provide some protection for the trail.

## **Squamish Forest District LRMP Winter Backcountry Recreation Management Proposals Released**

*Comment by Michael Feller.*

In late November the BC government released a report prepared by Gordon Erlandson on management of winter backcountry recreation in the Sea-to-Sky LRMP area.

The Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), released for the area earlier in the year had made no recommendations for zoning for public recreation, although it had made some recommendations for commercial recreation. The absence of recommendations for public recreation was in response to a) protests from snowmobilers that the proposed recommendations were too restrictive for snowmobiles (the proposed recommendations were those of the Winter Backcountry Recreation Forum to which snowmobile representatives had previously agreed!), and b) protests from the Lil'wat Nation that the proposed recommendations were too restrictive for motorized use. These protests undoubtedly found a sympathetic ear from the snowmobiling minister at the time. The government's response to the protests was to ultimately hire an outside consultant – Gordon Erlandson – to come up with recommendations, after government bureaucrats had been unable to resolve the issues.

The consultant met with representatives from different user groups, including snowmobilers and those from the FMCBC, delved into background documentation, finding that the page of the Winter Backcountry Forum's Recommendations containing the signatures of those who approved it, including the snowmobilers, had disappeared (allowing some of those snowmobilers to claim that they had not supported it), then produced a report which was sent to the government in the 2008 summer. Although the report was to focus on the Lillooet River drainage area, it was found necessary to broaden it to include the entire LRMP area. The report recommends that the LRMP adhere to the recommendations of the Winter Backcountry Recreation Forum, except for:

- a) Mt Sproatt, where motorized use is to now occur to the summit, outside the 21 Mile Ck. drainage (as if that has ever stopped snowmobilers), and

- b) Phelix Ck., where motorized use can now occur for about 4.5km up the main valley (approx 2/3 of the way to the VOC cabin). The valley heading NE towards Prospector Pks becomes motorized, while the upper Phelix Ck. valley remains non-motorized. Non motorized areas are those in name-only, now, as the report states "motorized closures are not intended to impact the continued use of motorized conveyance in the pursuit of traditional uses by Aboriginal people, where conservation is not an overriding concern". This is obviously to appease the Lil'wat who apparently have a desire to use "traditional" snowmobile access everywhere. The appeasement of First Nations goes even further as the future of the Callaghan valley after 2010 is rather unclear since the First Nations will apparently own part of all the Olympic "legacy facilities" and planning for the area will be a joint process between the BC government and the two First Nations. Where the public fits in is unclear.

The report goes further to help snowmobilers by recommending that a) their Brandywine valley access to the Pemberton Icecap should be upgraded, b) a bridge for snowmobilers across the Soo River should be constructed, to provide snowmobile access to the Pemberton Icecap via Torrent Ck., and c) a snowmobile route should be created though the entire Soo valley, even including its conservancy area, to the Pemberton Icecap. Backcountry skiers were tossed a few tainted crumbs by stating that access should be improved by road plowing and trail grooming (!) in the Tricouni, Mt. Brew, Roe/Chance Ck., and Cloudburst Mtn areas. Powder Mountain Snowcats already groom most of these snowmobile-infested areas and would undoubtedly love someone else to groom their access routes. The only positive notes for backcountry skiers were the recommendations that –

1. parking (albeit paid) be provided for access to Metal Dome from the Callaghan;
2. a non-motorized route from the Nordic Centre to 21 Mile Ck. be established (such a route already exists);

3. annual licensing for snowmobiles should occur; and, most importantly,

4. the government should commit more resources to properly manage the area.

Taking into account the government's zoning of the Callaghan valley, compared to the Winter Backcountry Forum's recommendations, cross-country skiers are ahead (gain of upper Callaghan), snowmobilers are ahead (gain of part of Phelix and Sproatt summit, upgraded access routes in the Brandywine and Soo areas, but loss of the upper Callaghan), but backcountry skiers are definitely the losers (loss of Phelix and Sproatt). The only positives for backcountry skiers are some of the management recommendations, but government is unlikely to do anything about these unless they get strong public support for them. It is my strong Impression that snowmobilers get more of what they want than backcountry skiers partly because they squeal louder and partly because they intimidate people moreso than any other outdoor recreation group. Government officials appear to be either afraid of them or part of their group. It is now more than time that backcountry skiers started squealing louder.

### **Mt. Arrowsmith Gains Regional Park Status**

The Mt. Arrowsmith Massif, which covers approximately 1,300 hectares of alpine forests, lakes, and peaks at the top of Mt. Arrowsmith, has been granted Regional Park status by the provincial government after much lobbying by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C., the Alpine Club of Canada and the Hupacasath First Nation of the Alberni Valley. The park will be managed by the Regional District of Nanaimo in cooperation with the three aforementioned bodies.

Fifteen dollars of your BCMC membership fee goes to support the work of the FMCBC.

### **AMERICAN ALPINE JOURNAL MAKES URGENT REQUEST**

This is an urgent request for your new-route reports for the next American Alpine Journal. The AAJ tries to gather reports on nearly all the world's new mountain routes for the benefit of the world's climbers. Other publications and websites come and go, but the AAJ has been recording new climbs since 1929. All 25,000 pages of the AAJ are now available online ([www.AmericanAlpineClub.org/AAJ](http://www.AmericanAlpineClub.org/AAJ)), and each year we publish a book about the year's new routes. This year we must print the book a month earlier than usual, and so we need your report as soon as possible--preferably now! If you could please set aside a few moments to write us something brief about your new routes, we will be most grateful--and, more important, we'll be able to include your climb in the historical record. Remember that published photographers will receive a copy of the AAJ 2009 next summer, and all contributors can view the latest AAJ online. This is a privilege normally reserved for AAC members only. If we printed your report in the AAJ 2008, you may view that issue online (contact us for the password: [aaj@americanalpineclub.org](mailto:aaj@americanalpineclub.org)). Everyone can view past issues online for free at [www.americanalpineclub.org/AAJ](http://www.americanalpineclub.org/AAJ), but only AAJ contributors and AAC members can view the latest edition.

Our complete publishing guidelines are at [www.AmericanAlpineClub.org/AAJ](http://www.AmericanAlpineClub.org/AAJ), or you can obtain them from our editors. Please correspond with the appropriate editor for the location of your climb: Kelly Cordes (climbs in North and South America): [kellyaaj@yahoo.com](mailto:kellyaaj@yahoo.com) Lindsay Griffin (Greenland, Antarctica, Asia, Africa): [lindsaylargefiles@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindsaylargefiles@hotmail.co.uk) Dougald MacDonald (feature stories and Pakistan): [dougald@indra.com](mailto:dougald@indra.com) John Harlin (miscellaneous and backup correspondence): [john@johnharlin.net](mailto:john@johnharlin.net)

## **BOOKS**

### **The Coast Mountains Trilogy** *by Dick Culbert*

Honourary member Dick Culbert is one of our most accomplished mountaineers; few people know that he was an accomplished poet. This book collects all the mountaineering poems Dick wrote between 1957 and 1971, many never before published.

The book is illustrated by drawings from the same period by former member Arnold Shives, who accompanied Dick on many trips. An Introduction by Glenn Woodsworth puts the poems in their historical context.

Published by Tricouni Press in a very small print run, available in January 2009. About 96 pages, paper-bound. Pre-publication price to club members: \$15 includes GST and postage. Signed copies can be arranged. Contact Glenn Woodsworth (604-224-1178, tricouni@telus.net) for details and to order.

### **103 Hikes, Mary and David Macaree, and the BCMC** *by Michael Feller*

In the early 1970's, the Seattle Mountaineers approached the BCMC wanting the club to coordinate the production of another book in their 100+ Hikes series, this time for southwestern BC. The Mountaineers would publish the guide and the BCMC would get royalties. The club responded positively and struck a committee, chaired by John Harris, to be in charge of the guide, and signed a contract with the Mountaineers in 1973.

The first guide was published jointly by the BCMC and the Mountaineers in 1973. The authorship of the guide was credited to John, Harris, the chair of the BCMC "book committee", David Macaree, who produced the text, and Mary Macaree, who produced the maps. David was a professor in the English Department at UBC and was obviously well qualified for his role, while Mary was a librarian in the Forestry and Agriculture library at UBC, where maps were prominent. She enhanced her map-making skills by reading widely about cartography.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of 103 Hikes was produced in 1980, this time being authored by "Mary and David Macaree,

on behalf of the BCMC". In Canada the guide was now published by Douglas and McIntyre. The club's direct involvement with the guide was declining, although club members still contributed information and photos.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition was published in 1987. This time it was authored solely by Mary and David Macaree. It was decided that, as the club's direct involvement was now essentially non-existent, the book committee having been disbanded many years earlier, all the royalties should go to the Macarees. However, the Macarees wanted to acknowledge the club's contribution, so a new contract was written which gave the Macarees 80% of the royalties, and the club 20%. This continued through the 4<sup>th</sup> edition in 1994, until the 5<sup>th</sup> edition in 2001, for which another club member, Jack Bryceland, had taken over as author. By then, David Macaree had died and Mary was unable to author both 103 Hikes and the newer 109 Walks, to which she devoted her full attention.

During the period 1973 to 2001, the 103 Hikes guide brought in just over \$58,700 in direct royalties and interest which accrued to the club's Literary and Reserve Fund, which was established in 1973. In addition, another probable \$25,000 - \$35,000 interest on the Literary and Reserve Fund monies came to the club, but was transferred to the club's General Fund, beginning in 1985. The exact amount is very hard to calculate as records of Literary and Reserve Fund interest after 1985 are incomplete. Consequently, due mainly to the work of the Macarees, the club has received around \$90,000 income. Mary Macaree, in her will, has bequeathed to the BCMC royalties she would have received on 109 Walks.

The club has also published a guide to climbs on the Squamish Chief, and contributed funds to publish Fairley's alpine guide and the Stein hiking guide. The Chief guide cost \$8000 to publish, and brought in \$12705, for a net gain of \$4075, excluding interest foregone on the \$8000. The Fairley guide cost \$5000 and resulted in a net gain of \$1601, again excluding interest foregone, while the Stein guide cost \$5000 and resulted in a net gain of \$375. Had interest foregone been considered, the club would likely have

incurred net losses on both the Fairley and Stein guides. More recently the club contributed \$16000 to Elaho Publishing for the production of the Alpine Select guide. To date the club has incurred a net loss of \$3336, again excluding interest foregone, for this venture - our worst financial publishing venture to date.

The Literary and Reserve Fund has allowed the club to build the North Ck cabin and to contribute to all its publishing ventures to date. Consequently, the club is very deeply indebted to Mary and David Macaree, who have probably provided the club with more money than any other person or couple.

## **TRIP REPORT**

### **Mount Slesse - Southwest Buttress**

7792 ft. – 2375 m. July 12 – 13, 2008

Slesse is both popular and famous. Best known for its dramatic faces and ridges, it attracts good rock climbers and mountaineers from both sides of the border. The Southwest Buttress, often considered the standard route, is a good Club trip reaching low to mid fifth difficulties if one stays on route.

Slesse is also well known because it was the site of a major Air Canada (Trans Canada Air Lines) crash December 9, 1956, which killed all 62 people on board. Mount Slesse is proving to be more difficult to get to now because the entrance to Slesse Creek valley is now gated at the Chilliwack River road. The Canadian Military has recently gated the road, as the valley is being used as a military target zone. Southwest Buttress, the standard way up the mountain, utilizes the Slesse Creek valley for access.

With a gate at the highway another 7.5 km is added to the trip. Slesse is a long trip with big verticals and trail leading from the valley floor is steep and somewhat grueling. The extra distance to the west side of the mountain had effectively caused most potential climbers to forego their plans this last summer. The gate has also effected the vast majority of climbers tackling the harder northeast buttress route and other east side routes as they have traditionally used the Southwest Buttress as their descent route. The Slesse Forest Service Road was in

good shape this summer until the last 2 or 3 kms.

Not to be deterred I started to make enquires and after a series of phone calls, I determined that the Canadian Military was quite prepared to allow climbers and hikers to enter the valley as long as there are no engagements going on. Recognizing the impracticality of the Department handling gate arrangements, the military has provided a key to the Chilliwack District Forest Office. This office can be contacted at 604-702-5700 or 5702 to arrange for a key for the gate at the entrance of Slesse Creek. The Forest Service Office is at 46360 Airport Road. The one hitch is that the key has to be picked up and returned Monday through Friday between 8:30-4:30. You will have to make a \$50 deposit to secure the use of the key.

After making arrangements for the key, we were set to go. The weekend looked promising and the bigger snow pack along with a cloudy cool May-June meant there would be a few snow patches on the ridge to provide water at usual camping area at about 5800' - 1770m. We met at Theo Mosterman's in Chilliwack, who had been kind enough get us the gate key, before proceeding to the Slesse Creek road. Our key worked and we were soon traveling up the Forest Service road. The last part of the road (after a junction that goes up to a works yard) is in poorer shape, as the road narrows because of alder bushes. The cars were stopped at a point about 1 km from the end of the road because of a major washout.

The walk from end of the road proceeds along the remains of the old forestry road for about 4 kilometres. It is becoming narrower as well because of recent growth over the last several years. This part was easily ride able on a mountain bike several years ago, but use of mountain bikes is now highly questionable.

We reached the trail to start up to ridge running from the northwest end of the peak about 1:00 pm. Our hike up the steep trail to the alpine knoll gained over a 1000 metres and took between 3 and 4 hours. We were fortunate to have water this year as a few snow patches remained. A great campsite with lots of late sun and great views of the Border Peaks and the west side of Slesse.

Next morning we were up and away by 6:30 am and our route a long the ridge took about 1¼ hour to the base of the rock. From here the route proceeds up the first gully than traverses across the face on a convenient ledge about half way across the west face. From here there is a short pitch of class 4 to wide grassy terraces. Proceeding up and around a class 5 corner one enters a rocky gully, which takes you to a col between the main summit and a large gendarme. Up from the col is the best climbing for about a rope length. (Alpine Select rates this section as mid 5<sup>th</sup>, but if you stay fairly close to the southwest corner it is a little easier). After this section a rising traverse back to the north is relatively easy and is marked with cairns. The description and pictures in the Alpine Select are accurate and very helpful.



5<sup>th</sup> class section Photo: David Hughes

We reached the top around 11:00 am where we were treated with great views, sunshine and an hour's lunch. We repeated our route going down utilizing two rapels. We reached the bottom of the last gully about 3:00 and camp at 4:00. The trip down is tough on the thighs, but everyone was back at the cars by 8:15 pm.

The trip home after dinner was relatively smooth until we started up the 2nd Narrows Bridge where we were greeted with a police bridge closure. We were now stuck on the bridge with the second suicide incident on the North Shore bridges in a week. We were able to back off the bridge and proceed to the Lion's Gate avoiding a four-hour bottleneck.

Participants: David Hughes (leader and reporter), Alastair Ferries, Peter and Silke Gumplinger, Marc Hewitt, Eric Hughes and Theo Mosterman.

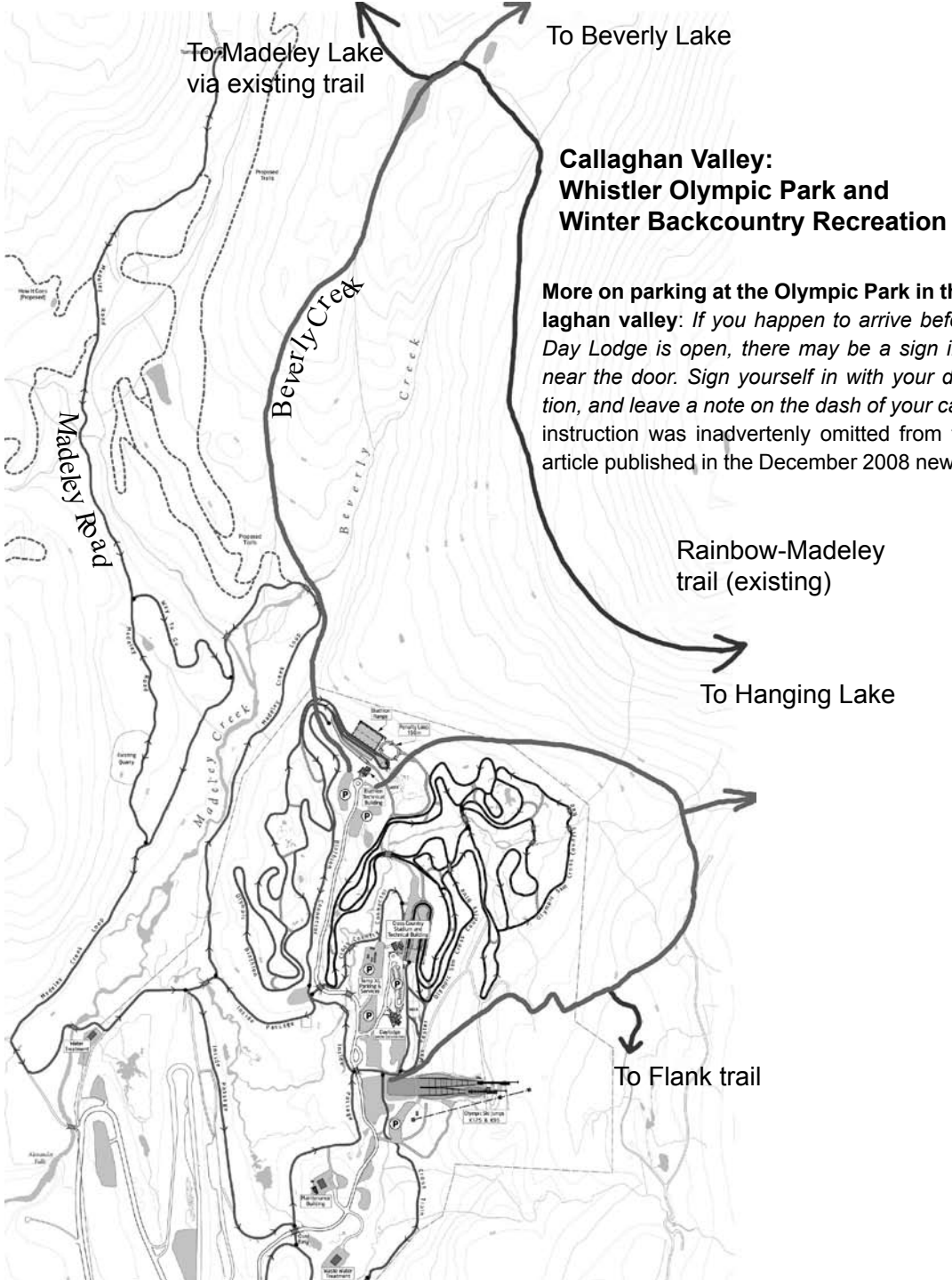
#### *Historical Note:*

In the Halkomelem (a Coast Salish) language, Slesse means fang. This aptly describes the peak with steep relief that dominates the skyline near Chilliwack. It was first ascended in August 1927 by Stan Henderson, Mills Winram and Fred Parkes. The easiest route lies up the SW buttress, the most difficult up the NE buttress. This latter, a serious, multi-day climb, was first ascended by Fred Becky, Steve Marts and Eric Bjornstad in August 1963.

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1956, Trans Canada Airlines flight 810 crashed onto the upper slopes, killing all 62 on board. There is a memorial on a spur road above the Chilliwack River road. Some wreckage is still scattered in the area which is protected (and not to be disturbed) by the provincial Cemeteries Act.



Piton Vets Photo: Dick Culbert



To Madeley Lake  
via existing trail

To Beverly Lake

**Callaghan Valley:  
Whistler Olympic Park and  
Winter Backcountry Recreation**

**More on parking at the Olympic Park in the Callaghan valley:** *If you happen to arrive before the Day Lodge is open, there may be a sign in book near the door. Sign yourself in with your destination, and leave a note on the dash of your car. This instruction was inadvertently omitted from the full article published in the December 2008 newsletter.*

Rainbow-Madeley  
trail (existing)

To Hanging Lake

To Flank trail



Mt. Slesse from the west under July skies, showing the camping area.

Summiteers: Alastair Ferries, Theo Mosterman, Marc Hewitt, Eric Hughes, Silke and Peter Gumplinger.

*David Hughes photos.*