



# *ISLAND BUSHWHACKER*

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MAY, 2003



*The North Face/ACC Winter Leadership Course in the Adamant Range.  
Hinrich Schaefer (second from right) Photo: Sylvia Moser*

## ACC Board meeting May 2003

### Gerta Smythe

Last weekend, May 9 & 10, I went to Canmore and met with the ACC Executive and 16 section reps. The club is growing across the country, now having almost 10,000 members and there have been inquiries of new sections wanting to join. All sections are working hard at improving their leadership levels. Extensive renovations are still ongoing at the Clubhouse, funded by a grant from the Alberta Government. The facility is now affiliated with the Youth Hostel Association and bookings have been steady. The Internet link is up and running; we can now book huts, renew membership and also offer or find volunteer services; but not too many have made use of this website as yet. Our new Vice President for Facilities gave an interesting report on the maintenance and upgrading of huts. There seems to be a different wind blowing from Parks Canada. Once upon the time, Parks were glad to have somebody take the huts off their hands but now they don't seem to like the idea that these huts are making money. Although the greatest income for the club comes from the facilities, Carl Hannigan wants to make sure that all the profit will be channeled back to the huts.

The treasurer projected a \$70,000 shortfall by the end of the year. This seems to be due to poor use of huts and camps this winter (late snowfall and high avalanche hazard) and a big hike in the liability insurance. A \$30 increase in the membership dues would bail us out: to my surprise many sections felt OK with this proposal and nobody listened to my caution to 'cut back the costs, but not increase the fees'!

The Centennial Committee has been hard at work with plans for the ACC's celebration in the year 2006. We too should join the nation and find a meaningful way to contribute to Canada's heritage (zzz. Volunteers are needed for all events including a camp in the Rockies and one in the Yukon. The Centennial Hut Foundation Stone is to be laid, but the site has not been determined yet. Maybe we will get one on the West Coast after all!

As usual, Bob Sandford, our Vice President for Mountain Culture, kept us spellbound with his committee's plans and accomplishments. He is asking us to help Jane Gooch of Vancouver to print an art book of Lake O'Hara by buying some books before they are actually printed. For the Centennial Year he hopes to present us with an electronic edition of all past 100 CAJ's! Since the United Nations have declared 2003 'the year of the water', Bob also charges us to be stewards of the land and observe the impact that global warming is having in the alpine regions.

The afternoon was spent meeting with several Committee Chairs: we heard, that Sports Climbing now has 100 members; that Competitive Ski Mountaineering is gaining popularity and that Western Europe is pushing to have mountain sports entered as Olympic events. The GMC will be held near the Columbia Icefields this year: bookings were slow in the beginning, but the event is now almost fully subscribed. The Bow Hut is slated to receive some Solar Panels to provide energy for fans to bring the heat from the kitchen to the sleeping areas.

Many people gathered for the BBQ in the evening where we met the president of the New Zealand Alpine Club and celebrated Louise's 85th Birthday. She and her husband Richard are still attending the GMC's!



SECTION EXECUTIVE  
2003

CHAIR - Tom Hall 592-2518  
SECRETARY - Lynn Peppler 370-5135  
TREASURER - Geoff Bennett 853-7515  
MEMBERSHIP - Jules Thomson 472-3820  
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ACC website:  
<http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca>  
ACC VI website: [www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/vi](http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/vi)

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**NOTE: Deadline for the next issue is: Sat. Aug. 30, 2003. Send all submissions to : [accbushwhacker@hotmail.com](mailto:accbushwhacker@hotmail.com)**

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The AGM on Sunday was anticlimactic: only 4 people showed up on this sunny Mother's Day. So all the Board Members were there and listened to the same speeches; the Executive was voted in by acclamation and I spent the afternoon skiing at Lake Louise with my son and his daughter.

The 'Gazette' will bring you a more detailed report; but these are the highlights as seen by your section rep.

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**Strathcona Park Under Attack (again)**

The following is a letter written by Sandy Briggs to the Editor of the Times Colonist. April 20, 2003

Dear Editor,

Thank-you for Judith Lavoie's article about the new threat to Strathcona Park in today's Times-Colonist. The attempt by Boliden Westmin Resources to quietly arrange for the draw-down of two Nature Conservancy Area lakes in Strathcona Park is only the most recent in a long list of assaults on our province's oldest Provincial Park. It is completely disingenuous for mine manager Dave Bazowski to suggest that "he has not been given any indication that he should be going through a more formal permitting process...". I am on the Strathcona Park Public Advisory Committee and we heard of this matter through a report from hikers in the area rather than through the normal channels in the parks ministry. We ARE the normal process, and Mr. Bazowski knew we would oppose a proposal which is so completely against the Strathcona Park Master Plan. It becomes a question of whether the designations Provincial Park and Nature Conservancy Area have any meaning at all in British Columbia.

The Friends of Strathcona Park recently wrote a letter of complaint on this issue to Joyce Murray, Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection.

The reply, from ADM Nancy Wilkin, says "Please be assured that the maintenance of wilderness values will be considered if a permit application is submitted." This is insultingly patronizing. I am not in the least assured of anything except that if the provincial government and the mine think they can get away with this then they will try it.

Perhaps the government will also consider this, one of the main concluding statements from the Final Report of the Park Legacy Project (1999): "British Columbians are strongly in favour of environmental protection for the protected areas system. They want assurance that natural values will be protected and that our parks will not become commercialized or privatized in an effort to generate revenue."

Perhaps they will also consider this, the first highlight from the Final Report of the Recreation Stewardship Panel established by the current government (2002): "A strong and virtually unanimous response was support of our first principle: 'The province's fundamental obligation to conserve, protect and restore the natural population distributions and levels of wildlife, fish and their habitats, and to protect the ecological integrity of the parks of British Columbia, will guide the development and management of recreational opportunities.'"

If the Boliden siphoning project goes ahead it will be more proof that neither principles nor the desires of the people matter, only corporate economics.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Alexander G. (Sandy) Briggs

Victoria, BC

## VI Section Summer Camp 2003

**Tony Vaughn**

This year's section summer camp is being held in the spectacular Tantalus Range [near Squamish] from July 5 to July 12, and promises to be a fantastic week (weather permitting of course). The camp will be based out of the Tantalus hut situated on the edge of Lake Lovelywater. Gerta Smythe is this year's camp organiser and Terry Lunn has once again agreed to organise the meals, so based on last year's experience we should be eating very well.

We are fortunate in having Lars Andrews as the certified guide, who will be ably assisted by four volunteer rope leaders, Charles Turner, Martin Davis, Rick Hudson and Don Morton. The camp is full at the present time with 20 participants and there is a wait list of 4.

Access to the Tantalus hut on Lake Lovelywater will be by helicopter from Squamish airport. The group will make their own food arrangements.

The executive decided that to assure that all members who wished to attend this section camp have equal opportunity that selection of the participants was done by lottery. Rope leaders and organizers were guaranteed a place.

This is our second summer camp and hopefully it will be as successful as last years.

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## Main Club News

### Centennial Celebrations

What should the Vancouver Island Section contribute to the Alpine Club Centennial? Do you have an idea? The Centennial Section Sub-committee asks all Sections to consider the following:

1. What special activity or activities will our Section undertake to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the ACC?
2. How can our celebration make a difference in our local mountaineering / outdoor community, and move forward our interests as alpinists and mountain wilderness enthusiasts?
3. When do we want our activity to occur? In 2005 (the lead-up year to the ACC Centennial), or in 2006 (the actual year of the Centennial)? Take into account that applications for funding to support activities usually need to be made in the previous year.
4. If our plans need funding, what resources can we access, and what do we need to do now to ensure we can get the resources required?

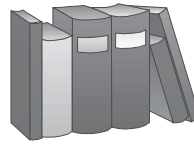
There will be some funding available from the National Club to support Section Centennial Celebrations, but an application is required. So—start thinking and talking now. Please note that there is a limited amount available through the Club; you are encouraged to seek other funding sources as well.

### Alpine Club of Canada to Operate new Kokanee Glacier Cabin

The Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) has been awarded a contract by BC Parks to operate the new Kokanee Glacier Cabin, as well as the Woodbury and Silverspray Cabins and the Kaslo Lake campground in Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park, north of Nelson, B.C. The ACC will begin operating the cabins and campground in June of 2003. The stunning new Kokanee Glacier Cabin is located to best take advantage of the endless backcountry hiking and skiing terrain. Visitors will enjoy an experience they will not forget.

The ruggedly beautiful Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park boasts 85 km of well-marked summer trails with over 30 lakes that offer good fishing for rainbow and cutthroat trout, and excellent backcountry adventure for the whole family. In winter, the abundance of cold dry powder and north facing slopes make for a world renowned backcountry skier's paradise. This park is appropriate for skiers, hikers and climbers with all levels of outdoor experience. The Kokanee Glacier Cabin was built as a result of campaign efforts carried out in memory of Michel Trudeau and the many other Canadians who have lost their lives enjoying Canada's backcountry. The national Kokanee Glacier Alpine Campaign, spearheaded by BC Parks in 2000, with the support of the Friends of West Kootenay Parks and the family of former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau surpassed its fundraising goal of \$900,000. In total, \$974,200 was raised. The funding was used to meet the goals of the Kokanee Glacier Alpine Campaign: to build a new alpine hut to accommodate the increasing demands from backcountry enthusiasts; and to raise national awareness about backcountry safety. Part of the funds will be used to restore the historic Slocan Chief Cabin in Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park as a backcountry interpretive centre. In addition, \$40,000 was donated to the Canadian Avalanche Association to help maintain the Public Avalanche Bulletin and ensure it is regularly updated.

For more information on the Kokanee Glacier Park facilities visit the ACC's website at [www.AlpineClubofCanada.ca](http://www.AlpineClubofCanada.ca)



# New in the Section Library/Archives

To make a reservation at the Kokanee Glacier Cabin, Woodbury Cabin, Silverspray Cabin, or Kaslo Lake Campground, call the ACC at 403-678-3200, ext. 1 or email [info@AlpineClubofCanada.ca](mailto:info@AlpineClubofCanada.ca)

## Summer Job Opportunity at the Kokanee Glacier Cabin

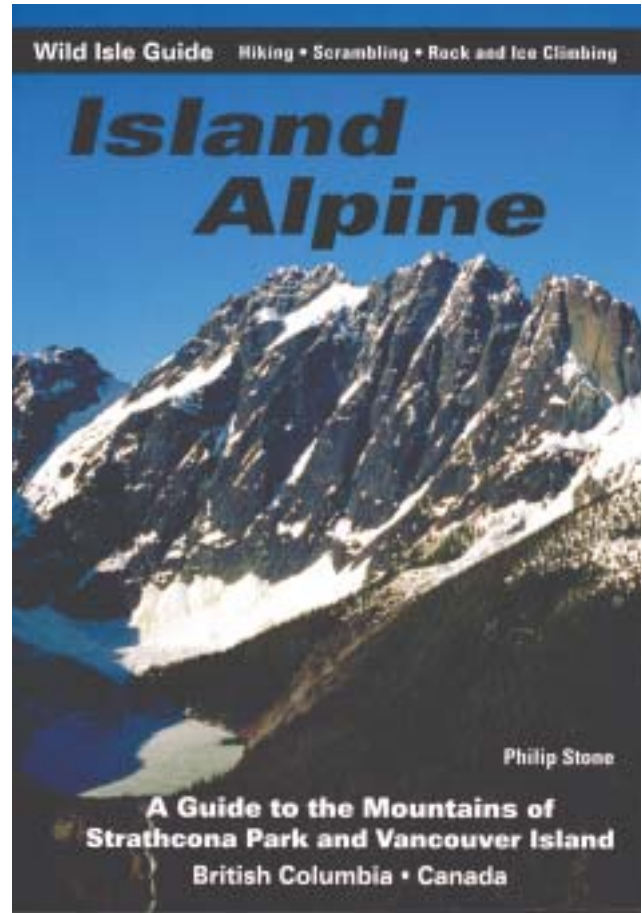
### Kokanee Glacier Cabin Custodians

If you are an outdoor enthusiast who would like to work as a Custodian at the new cabin, and are available from early June to mid October, 2003, we would like to hear from you. In order to qualify for the position, you must be:

- honest and reliable
- customer service oriented
- mechanically minded and handy with tools
- experienced in backcountry travel
- physically fit and healthy
- have a valid standard first aid and CPR certificate

The jobs are scheduled on a week-on, week-off basis. Custodians will be paid \$620 per week, plus a car allowance, plus a bonus, if earned.

Please submit your resume by May 12 to Luther McLain, email [lmclain@alpineclubofcanada.ca](mailto:lmclain@alpineclubofcanada.ca), fax 403-678-3224, or by mail to Box 8040, Canmore, Alberta T1W 2T8



***Island Alpine, A Guide to the Mountains for Strathcona Park and Vancouver Island***, by Philip Stone, Wild Isle Publications, 2003, 476 pages!  
- Hiking Scrambling Rock and Ice Climbing -

and

***Storms of Silence***, Joe Simpson, The Mountaineers, 1996, donated by Tak Ogasawara

*The Section Library/Archives is accessed by contacting:  
Judith Holm 477-8596, [holm@telus.net](mailto:holm@telus.net)  
Requested material can be scanned and emailed to members.*

**“Mountains are very ornamental to the Earth and afford pleasant and delightful Prospects both to them that look downwards from them upon the subjacent countries...and to those that look upwards and behold them from the plains and low Ground.”**

**John Ray (1691)**