



THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA, VANCOUVER ISLAND SECTION

ISLAND BUSHWHACKER

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The North Face / Alpine Club of Canada Winter Leadership Course 2003

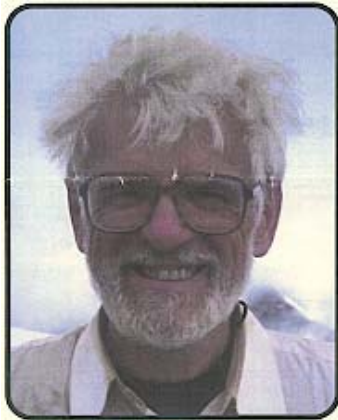
Hinrich Schaefer

“Pumpkin colored” is one of the comments to our course habit, the orange vests sponsored by The North Face. So here are the ten of us, and three mountain guides to turn us from pumpkins into competent trip leaders for the Alpine Club.

The setting couldn't be better than the Vista lodge in the Esplanade Range near Golden, BC. Although I am not sure that all the untouched powder slopes around and the spectacular views of the Selkirks and Rockies are conducive to concentrating on the material we are to learn. Another “problem” is the food, so plentiful and tasty that after the meals we often feel too satisfied to move. “Skiing on six thousand calories a day” is the kitchen motto and Daryl executes it with a variety of flavors and elaborate dishes that more than outweigh the cold and the exercise. Other comforts aren't amiss either. A warm and cozy hut, comfortable bedding and a sauna to rinse off the days sweat make life in the mountains more than bearable.

And of course there are a total of fourteen people full of interesting experiences, attitudes and opinions. There is John, who quietly takes on every chore around the hut but will also cram his endlessly tall body into the kid's toboggan to go for a ride. Danielle, who outsmiles the sun and draws from her expedition experience in charming French Canadian accent. Martin, as much at home in the snow profile pit as when ripping it up on the slopes or playing the guitar. Bruce, able and eager to take on responsibility. Bonnie, whose flashy fake leopard hat is in contrast to her quiet competence. Albert, soon battling a cold which he won't let get in the way of his learning or his fun. Tony, whose course script might be more comprehensive than “Freedom of the Hills”. Rob, proving that less advanced skiers can be the best leaders. Sylvia, integrating everyone and harmonizing group and decisions. And myself, struggling whether I should give skis, notebook or camera the priority.

Together we represent six different club sections ranging from West Coast cement to Rockie's powder. With these diverse geographical and personal backgrounds the three guides know that their job is not to teach but to facilitate our learning. Of course there are theory lessons, but mostly they share their knowledge and experience by modeling and guiding us when we take charge



JOHN JOSEPH CLARKE
February 25, 1945 – January 23, 2003

THANK-YOU to Sandy, Catrin, Judith, and Russ for the slide presentation, January 23, in honour of John Clarke. John passed away that day; it was as if we were saying good-bye to him, and expressing our appreciation for the wonderful person he was in so many ways, and for the legacy he left in a variety of areas. You can read about John in the ACC Winter Gazette.

The Wilderness Education Program he started will be continued by others; donations can be sent to: BC Spaces for Nature (WEP), 3116 W. 3rd Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6K 1N3 A trust fund has also been set up for his son Nicholas; we raised \$350 at the slide show to help support John's family. If you weren't able to attend and would like to donate, our Section Executive is taking care of forwarding the contributions to the appropriate person (cheques to be written payable to Annette Clarke). Thank you to everyone who donated.

Call Claire (652-1509) if you have any questions regarding the trust funds.

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OF THE
ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA



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ourselves during the different exercises. And each of them according to their own character. Cyril, who would put most show masters to shame. Peter, observantly trusting us and Brad, laughing away the mistakes that would cut into his powder runs. This way we learn and review snow stability and avalanche hazard; route finding and track setting; avalanche and crevasse rescue; navigation and trip planning; short roping and down hill leading. We learn, try out, take charge. And it is demanding to make the calls, weighing challenge against safety, watched by your peers and the guide. And find that too much cannot be explained in words. Group handling, decision making and conflict management are just a few of the problems that can't be solved by following a rigid scheme. Here, I find, Brad, Peter and Cyril do their best job. They make clear that only work and experience will get you there and that it is a long road to go, but they don't leave you discouraged. They show that you are already on your way and steadily making progress.

By the end of the week, after many an ascent with wonderful views and countless downhill turns in the dry powder we have grown together as a group. And each of us has grown a bit more into the uniformly too large North Face leadership vests.

Participants: Rob Hafer, Danielle Tardif, Bruce Hardardt, Bonnie Hamilton, Albert Schwarz, Martin Ederle, John Huybers, Tony Knight, Sylvia Moser, Hinrich Schaefer, Daryl Ross (cooking and teleturns), Brad Harrison, Peter Amman, Cyril Shokoples (mountain guides)

Mid Island News

Barbara Baker

Access Issues:

1. Mt. Klitsa: Taylor River Flats road has been barricaded due to Fisheries concerns so the very convenient bridge is not negotiable. Take a sharp Left just past the highway bridge over Taylor River & backtrack on South Taylor Main to Br. 552 as usual.
2. A log pile at the bottom of Nahmint Branch 600 blocks South access to Klitsa
3. A big log has rolled onto the Triple

Peak branch of Marion Creek Road making a long trek to trail head.

4. The road to the Judge's Route trail has been brushed out to enable logging in the lower Old Growth!! Concerned groups are attempting to recategorize the area.

5. Roads driveable high & deep into the back country because of lack of snow in the lower elevations allowing recent trips to Cameron & Nahmint Valleys & the Beauforts. Lots of activity of the motorized variety too, particularly Arrowsmith/Cokely.

Up-Island News

Lindsay Elms

Coast Mountains

On November 25, 2002 Nathan Travis Smith, a 25 year old climber from Black Creek, left Quadra Island by boat on a solo trip to climb Mt. Dougie Dowler (1,940m) in the Dowler Range on the south side of Bute Inlet in the Coast Mountains. Seen from Campbell River this mountain is sometimes called the Cowboy's Hat because of its distinct shape. After beaching his boat, Smith then began a hike up a creek to the base of the mountain. Smith had told a friend that he was heading for the summit of the mountain but never provided an exact route description, however, he did give an expected time of return. On November 29 the RCMP and the Campbell River Search and Rescue were alerted when he was reported overdue. The Coast Guard located his boat and later that day, using a logging company helicopter, Smith's body was found on a snowfield below a steep cliff, about 300m below the summit. A Vancouver Island coroner says there is no doubt that Smith's death was accidental and they are not looking at equipment failure as an explanation for the mishap. The coroner said the cause of death was multiple blunt force trauma which came about as the result of a long fall. Possible causes include loose rock, Smith losing his footing, poor weather or sudden illness. But because the accident was unwitnessed, it may never be known why Smith fell or if he was climbing toward the summit or possibly making his way down.

Vancouver Island

On the East Face of Colonel Foster Cumberland climbers Mike and John Waters put up another new route in 2002 giving a direct start to the Cataract Ridge first climbed by Phil Stone and Sarah Homer in 1988. The plan began while sitting in their tent during a down-pour at Foster Lake with some friends. Five years ago the two brothers had climbed the Culbert route on the East Face in a 12 hour round trip from Foster Lake but now they were talking about wanting to climb not only a new route but to start at the trailhead and do the round trip climb in under 24 hours. Two weeks later on Aug. 17 at 1:00 A.M. they were standing at the Elk River Trailhead on a warm clear night with a bright moon. With packs weighing about 7 kilos: two 9mm ropes, 15 biners, 4 cams, half a set of nuts and some slings, rock shoes, a few energy bars, some pepperoni and power gels, they began hiking in towards the mountain at 1:30. At Landslide Lake they unexpectedly surprised someone camping out: "Oh, sorry" they said as they scurried off into the bushy trail around the lake. As the light grew they traversed under the East Face to the start of a new line they had looked at previously. They crossed the moat about 50m to the right of the Cataract waterfall and climbed up some polished rock with a light dusting of gravel for 100 metres. At the first ledge they put on their rock shoes but left the ropes in the bag. With easy looking 4th and low 5th class rock they climbed close together so that any rocks dislodged wouldn't gather too much speed before reaching the second climber. In general the route was solid with only a few loose rocks. Mike led the first 200 metres along the right hand side of the Cataract waterfall until reaching a steep wall and an easy ramp trending out right. They took turns leading the ramp, staying right where gullies/ramps veered off and up to the Cataract Ridge. The ramp finally narrowed to a crumbly notch with an amazing view down a shear face into the Grand Central Couloir. The rope came out and Mike led the 50m steep 5.8 traverse up onto the Cataract Ridge in which he only placed two pieces of protection. Once on the established route they put the rope away again and soloed up to the South Summit arriving 9 hours after leaving the trailhead. On the way down to Foster Lake they chatted with several climbing groups and at the lake they met some runners who had ran in from the parking lot in 2.5 hours. They arrived back at the car in 14 hours 48 minutes satisfied with the effort of establishing a new route "Expressway 5.8 (IV)" as well as climbing the "Foster" in under 24 hours.

On January 11, 2003, Rambler Peak received its first winter ascent when Phil Stone, Ryan Stuart and Cameron Powell took in a spell of good weather for the climb. Unfortunately the weather on the summit day failed to live up to the expectations of the preceding days and following day of the trip. The three met at the Quadra Ferry terminal in Campbell River on the morning of the 9th and then drove up to SPL for a brief stop to rent snowshoes before heading on the Elk River Trailhead. Clear blue skies and picture perfect mountains paved the way as they hiked up the Elk River, reaching the campsite at the gravel flats after dark. The next morning after a cold night they continued up the East branch of the Elk River to the campsite in the grove of old growth below Ramblers North Col. Here they left the

tent and some food and dry clothing before continuing into the upper canyon of the Elk River. As far as possible they climbed up the west side of the canyon (to feel some heat from the sun) aware of the affects of the sun on the upper snow pack but the week of high temperatures had loosened much of the avalanche prone snow and deposited it in huge mounds in the narrow confines of the canyon floor.

They arrived at Elk Pass a half hour before the sunset behind the peaks of Strathcona Park. Without their tent they dug a shallow pit in the snow then each went off for a little personal time to savor the mountains. That night bands of clouds kept drifting overhead periodically blocking out the moon and stars, however, just before sunrise the weather finally made up its mind what it wanted to do. The wind rose and the visibility plummeted to 100 metres as they made their way up to the shoulder of Rambler. Taking compass bearings to ensure a safe return they eventually reached the East Gully. The gully protected them from the wind, however, it returned with vengeance once they topped out on the Rambler Glacier. With just enough of a view of the base of the main summit tower to have a reference, they took a second compass bearing for their return before striking out across the windswept glacier and around to the gully system on the north side of the summit tower. The snow and ice above looked steep but inviting. A greenish blue gleam and the chimney-like width of the gully looked like a page out of a book of classic Scottish winter climbing. Stone climbed the steady but easy grade three gully solo while Stuart and Powell roped up.

"Arriving on the crest of the narrow shoulder below the summit block I [Stone] cut a small ledge and sat down as Cam followed closely behind towing the rope. After setting a hasty T-slot Cam belayed Ryan up. As we regrouped on this exposed perch, the storm rose another notch in intensity. Ryan led through a short pitch to the top of the shoulder and again we gathered to survey the final step in a blinding whiteout. It seemed foolhardy given the conditions to make another pitch of it and then deal with setting a rappel off the storm lashed summit. There would have been a real danger, we felt, of being literally blown off the top if we tried to stand up there. So we each scrambled as high as we dared against the block, tagged a high point and then hastily down climbed to the top of the gully. By now the storm was reaching its peak and thick ice rime was forming on our clothing, tools and ... well everything. The wind whipped snow and ice crystals into such a frenzy at times it was impossible to see an arm's length. I urgently dug a bombproof T-slot using one of our snow pickets and then dropped the single 9 mm rope down the gully. As I downclimbed/rappelled I fixed gear, including a solid angle piton halfway down, so that after Ryan had followed on rappel Cam could downclimb the long 60m pitch with a belay. This sequence went off slowly but without a hitch. As I waited for each of the other two I watched the clouds part from time to time exposing the wicked edge of the North Ridge dropping down into the Elk River. When visibility was poorer I settled for marveling at the spin drift which was pouring down the gully and getting picked up by the wind and carried right back up the fissure."

Once all three were back down on the glacier they unroped and

climbed across to the gully descending it and then traversing across to Elk Pass where they picked up the rest of their gear and headed down to their tent in the grove of trees lower down the valley.

Comox Lake Crags: This was a good year for route development at Comox lake. Half a dozen dedicated climbers worked on routes this year and a Bosch “Annihilator” hammer drill sped up bolting. “In Focus” magazine featured Comox lake climbing in their June issue. The article highlighted some of the route developers and climbing history. The first new route of the year was finally climbed after many cold attempts in March 2002. “Almost Legal” 5.11+ is a short route on *Devil’s Ladder*. Many boulders were cleaned up and sent to the bottom of the lake. Often you would see groups of guys with mats and brushes scurrying about the woods behind the Campground. Problems up to V7 were climbed, but most are in the V1 to V3 range. June and July saw the remainder of the long routes completed. Two moderate face routes were climbed on *Devil’s Ladder* and Quickdraws are all you need for most of the routes.

For more information on the Comox Lake Crags check-out:

www.comox-lake-crags.freeservers.com/

Comox Lake Crags by John and Mike Waters

In Focus magazine “Comox Lake Crags” by Ryan Stuart, June 2002

Name changes and new feature names:

Iceberg Peak: The peak at the southern end of Rees Ridge for many years was unofficially known as Iceberg Peak. This name was given by the topographical surveyors who were mapping Strathcona Park in 1936, however, BC Parks were reluctant to have this peak accepted officially because it was part of “Rees Ridge.” In 2001 Iceberg Peak was officially recognized as a BC place name, however, the northern peak of Rees Ridge, locally known as Mt. Celeste (named by the surveyors), has still not been accepted. Map 92F/11 Forbidden Plateau GR272935

The following list of new names were all submitted by Ruth Masters of Courtenay and are just a few of the most recently adopted by the BC Geographical Names office of the Ministry of Environment, Lands & Parks.

Jap Mountain, near Cumberland, was adopted by the BC Geographical Names Office in August 1982, however, on July 31, 2002, this name was change to Nikkei Mountain, as instructed by unanimous resolution of the Council of the Village of Cumberland, in turn recommended by representatives of the National Association of Japanese Canadians. “WHEREAS the Council of the Village of Cumberland has determined it appropriate to respect, portray and promote the social and cultural history of our historic community; AND WHEREAS social conventions of past eras frequently led to naming local geographic features in a manner which is now recognized as disrespectful to pioneers of various ethnic origins; AND WHEREAS this is the 60th anniversary of the forced relocation of those families in our community that were of Japanese ancestry; AND WHEREAS it is Council and the community’s desire to demonstrate that these Japanese families were, and still remain, an important part of our heritage; Council now, therefore resolves:

THAT the Provincial Government be requested to rename the local landmark, heretofore known and named “Jap Mountain” as NIKKEI MOUNTAIN, meaning “the mountain of people of Japanese ancestry living outside of Japan”, as a demonstration of our community’s longstanding support and affection for our former neighbours, who were so suddenly and wrongly removed from our midst.” (Council Resolution, Village of Cumberland)

Harvey Lake: Named to remember Royal Canadian Navy Sub-lieutenant Barnett (Buster) Harvey. Born 1919 at Comox, Harvey had served as a Midshipman aboard the British vessel in Singapore from August 1939 until January 1941, and was rejoining his ship in England after home leave, when his troop transport *S.S. Nerissa* was torpedoed during the night of April 30, May 1, about 100 miles off Ireland in the North Atlantic. When last seen Harvey was helping people aboard a lifeboat; more than 300 of 375 on board were lost. Adopted October 30, 2001. Map 92F12 Buttle Lake GR045965

Jack Shark Lake: Named around 1973 after Jack Shark (1906-1999), who located and built many trails in Strathcona Park, including the Augerpoint Trail from Buttle Lake to Mt. Albert Edward that passes near this lake on the west side of Augerpoint Mountain. Shark was born and raised in Austria, and later lived in Argentina, Tahiti, Saskatchewan and the Yukon. He finally settled in the Comox Valley around 1948. He had a long association with the Comox District Mountaineering Club and skied locally until he was 84. Jack Shark died at the age of 93 in Comox. Officially adopted July 3, 2001. Map 92F/11 Forbidden Plateau GR204049

Cottingham Lake: Named to remember RCAF Flying Officer Cyril Morgan Cottingham of Comox. Cottingham served as a pilot with the 49th Squadron, and was flying his 19th mission when his Lancaster Bomber went down during air operations over Germany on the night of November 22-23, 1943. All the crew were missing and presumed dead, however, the family were later advised that the wreckage of the plane was found, with the bodies of the crew inside, about 20 miles from Berlin. The aircraft was identified from serial numbers of the various plane’s parts. Adopted October 30, 2001. Map 92F/11 Forbidden Plateau GR298878

Owen Lake: Named to remember RCAF Warrant Officer 2nd Class John David Owen from Comox. Owen was serving as a pilot with 625 (RAF) Squadron and returning from a mission over Berlin when his plane was shot down during the night of March 24-25, 1944. Owen was buried at Tubburgen Roman Catholic Cemetery in Overijssel, Netherlands. Adopted November 11, 2002. Map 92F/12 Buttle Lake GR963015

Hutton Lake: Named to remember RCAF Pilot Officer Allan Hutton from Comox. Hutton was born in Cumberland in 1919, and worked on the family ranch near Minto before trying his hand at logging. Hutton was 26 and serving as an air gunner with 14 (RAF) Squadron when his bomber failed to return from a mission over southern France, April 19, 1944. Adopted November 11, 2002. Map 92F/12 Buttle Lake GR978038

Reference: <http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/bcnames>

and Ruth Masters



Campbell Icefield Chalet

Photo: Russ Moir

About A Wilderness

Russ Moir

Well, it needs to be said, the upper Bluewater Basin is an idyllic, high alpine bowl, which sits on the west side of the Rockies Divide, and it's been despoiled, scarred, intruded upon. Somebody's gone and built a lodge on the spur ridge coming down from the Campbell Icefield, plunk in the middle of a raw, silent and hauntingly peaceful mountain haven.

Now that idea's been aired out, perhaps the picture needs to be examined in a more reasoned manner.

To begin with, Bernie (Schiesser) and his partner, Eric (Lomas), have, over a ten year period, proposed, cajoled, planned and now constructed a well thought out refuge in the midst of this glorious mountain scene. The talk among wilderness advocates and ecological guardians is of how to stop more and more of our province/country being taken from the wild side and "tamed". So here's another case of "resource exploitation", of "commercial development", taking over an uncut jewel. Yet there we were, alpine junkies, indulging our pleasures in a "developed resort", where once lay a raw, pristine landscape. The lodge had only been opened three weeks beforehand. How could such a thing be condoned?

These thoughts drifted through my mind as I began to explore the slopes and ridges of the Bluewater basin along with my friends, on an annual ski jaunt. The delights of setting trail through sheets of glistening powder, of carving down untouched blankets of the stuff, of gazing across to the Freshfield/Barnard ridge, were joys not to be taken lightly. We could sit in the sunshine on top of the "Lightbulb" and spot Sir Sandford with its plume of ice crystals tailing off towards Sir Donald, over by the Rogers Pass. The world seemed to go on forever. And there down below, if you squinted, you could just make out, above the stands of sub-alpine firs, an incongruity, a geometric shape.

In the midst of all those natural curves stood a mountain hut! My conscience began to wrestle with a dilemma. How can you justify building in such a place? How much pleasure and value do we get from being here, even when the place has been changed forever in its wildness? Something's been lost. But what's gained? I finally came to some terms with the issue on the third night of our stay. The moon was out shining its light on the icy cliffs above the Bluewater Glacier. The air was so clear, dry and cold that the myriad of stars seemed to be close companions rather than vastly distant, aloof objects. I'd walked outside to spend some quiet time in solitude, after a convivial and enormous supper with my friends.

I took in the wild, silent world that surrounded the place, then stared hard at the alien structure in front of it all. Its lights shone out across the snows, the sounds of talk and laughter came through the air. I could see the odd head bob about inside. I knew there was the bond of friendship and love inside that structure. Without that building, our group would not be here. There are some who would be able/choose to do the solo voyage, to bring in their own needs and leave without trace. But just there and then, the two sides of the picture seemed to come together in a form of harmony. The warm, inviting welcome to be found inside the lodge more than compensated for any loss of wildness in the place. There was, for me at least, a sense that some gain had been made on the Icefield. I drifted back inside.

I know that for some, any intrusion such as this, is unjustified. Be it so, Bernie and Eric have been gracious in the way they've gone about their invasion. The Campbell Icefield remains a fond memory for me and is a place to which I'll return. In my mind's eye it still has a wild, uplifting mountain magic.

Climbing Helmets

Peter Rothermel

Often on club trips, there are times when helmets should be worn, yet aren't and I'm as guilty as the next in forsaking this simple, light weight piece of insurance. If I'm leading a trip and others don't have helmets, I often won't wear mine, as it makes me feel like I'm just looking out for myself. If I'm on someone else's trip and that leader isn't wearing a helmet, I usually won't, in deference to them. You can often find us tramping up some rock pockl and the helmets stay strapped to our packs, until the rope comes out and harnesses are donned. Pretty stupid, eh?, but I'll bet you're just as guilty. How many of us wear a helmet when we sport climb and risk being seen as geeks? The image of a young rock star hanging by one hand on an overhang, while dipping the other hand into their chalk bag, just wouldn't have the same visual impact if he/she was wearing a helmet.

More often than not, you'll see people skate boarding and snow boarding (though not often skiing) wearing head protection and how rare it is to see someone on a bike without one. So why the aversion to helmets in the hills? Maybe it harks back to when helmets were heavy and clunky... maybe it's just a macho attitude, but it's all too common.

Helmets have come a long way since the fiberglass motor cycle type and the newest ones are so light and comfortable, that there is just no reason not to wear one. These new styles differ from the older types in the same manner that newer climbing styles differ from past attitudes. In the past, the rule was "The leader never falls". This was due to the limits of equipment, especially ropes. Helmets, and even until fairly recent times, all relied on a suspension system that kept it off the head and would absorb an impact as from above, such as would be from rock fall. The newer generation of helmet reflects the newer standard of climbing, "If you're not falling, you're not pushing your limits." These helmets are foam filled, with a thinner shell, yet are designed to give better side impact protection than the older styles.

Even seemingly minor head injuries can have lasting effects. Months and even years later symptoms such as loss of memory or aggressive behavior may manifest them self, even though the initial trauma did not seem severe.

Probably on most club trips, wearing helmets should be the rule, not the exception, maybe for no other reason than for liability. I think a good lawyer could get quite a bit of mileage from "Your Honor, this club is clearly negligent in not providing proper protection and guidance for my client. Even people on bikes all wear helmets!" Maybe if the clubs set the standard, helmets in the hills would be as common place as they are on the streets.

So what's in a helmet?... hopefully your head, safe and sound!



New in the Section Library/Archives

"**Columbia Icefield, a Solitude of Ice**", The Mountaineers, 1984, many beautiful coloured photographs, mountaineering history, donated by Leslie Gordon

"**Child of the Wind**", 2003, John Clarke's Wilderness Education Program, ~25 minutes

from Mills Winram's Journals, 1932-33, copied onto CD, first ascents of Mt. Meagher, Mt. Dalglish area, approached from Toba Inlet. The pages are a delightful combination of facts, his photos and drawings, in a style rather similar to that of John Gibson.

"**Once upon a Mountain, the Legend of the Grizzly Group**", ACC Summit Series, 2003

"**The Highest Calling, Canada's Elite National Park Mountain Rescue Program**", R. W. Sandford, ACC. 2002

"**Avalanche Safety for Skiers, Climbers and Snowboarders**", Revised Edition, Tony Daffern, 1999

The Section Library/Archives is accessed by contacting:

Judith Holm 477-8596, holm@telus.net

Requested material can be scanned and emailed to members.

South Chilcotin

"Provincial Park" Status?

Russ Moir

One of the main things which came out of the tributes to John Clarke was the energy and inspired dedication John put into his vision for the preservation of the Randy Stoltman Wilderness Area. John's good friend, Randy, was one of the visionaries who saw the need to preserve the South Chilcotin area as an unspoiled jewel of BC's wild places.

The South Chilcotin/Spruce Lake area, designated as a Provincial Park by the last government, a move rescinded by the new government, is in danger of being DESTROYED as a wilderness area under new legislation due for passage in June 2003.

IF you are concerned about this and want your voice heard in order to return the South Chilcotin to its previous status as a Class A Provincial Park, there are several options for you to ACT ON.

SOME ACTION is a MUST to get the message across!

BECAUSE, it's very likely that passage of any relevant legislation in June will be done en masse at a last day legislature sitting, with almost zero debate.

Here are three actions, choose them all if you want.

Save Our Parks Coalition, includes WCWC, Sierra Club,

etc., Sign on their "Declaration On The Principles Of Parks" campaign.

Go to www.savebcparcs.net and go to Spruce Lake choice - www.wildcanada.net/takeaction go to bcparcs, go to South Chilcotin

POTENTIALLY the hardest hitting action is to go DIRECTLY to the "top" and let Premier Campbell know of your concerns about the actions of the Government on South Chilcotin. The two websites above would give you fuel for your message.

The e-mail address for the Premier is: premier@gov.bc.ca

Also Joyce Murray, Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection would be a useful "target" for "protection" of the area!!

PLEASE consider doing SOMETHING.

Any problems you may have can be answered on the WCWC web site or at their Victoria office

Letter Expressing Concerns about Strathcona Park

Joyce Murray
Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection
Box 9047, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2

Dear Minister:

It has come to the attention of the Friends of Strathcona Park that Boliden Mines, operating in Strathcona-Westmin Park, are interested in siphoning water from two lakes in Strathcona Park and using them for power generation. Also, that a power line from the mining operation to the outside power grid is also being considered in the long term. We have a number of questions and comments that we would appreciate your response to. It is our understanding that verbal permission was granted to Boliden to do some survey work around Carwithen and Greenview Lakes in the Wilderness Conservation area of Strathcona Park. We would like to know why District Manager Ron Lampard (now retired) gave verbal permission instead of granting a Park Use Permit? Why were local park's staff not told of this permission? Why was this done when groups like Strathcona Wilderness Institute needs a PUP to conduct nature walks in the park? It seems that Boliden has been given preferential treatment in this case.

We would like to remind you that in a court case between the Friends of Strathcona Park and the BC Government (Vancouver Registry No. A982848, July 1999) regarding the granting of a PUP allowing Timber West to build a logging road through Strathcona Park to access their timber outside the park, the judge found that proper public consultation had not been done, and that, if he had known the facts of the case before the road had been constructed, would have granted an injunction stopping it being built. In view of this finding we strongly suggest that if Boliden's application is to go ahead, proper public hearings be held. Please tell us whether or not such a process would be followed.

We are strongly opposed to these lakes being touched in any way. When Westmin-Strathcona Park was created, it was to

be reclaimed and returned to Strathcona Park proper as a class A park. There are already five lakes in the class A part of Strathcona Park that have been negatively impacted by the mining operation. Jim Mitchell Lake, Lower Thelwood Lake, Upper Thelwood Lake, Tennant Lake and McNish Lake have already being dammed or siphoned, and spoiled. These lakes need to be reclaimed and restored to their original condition when the mine is exhausted. Spoiling two more lakes is not acceptable. Carwithen and Greenview Lakes are in the Wilderness Conservation Zone of the park. We would like to remind you that: "The objective of this zone is to protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide unassisted backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where not motorized activities will be allowed areas designated as Wilderness Conservation are large natural areas free of any evidence of modern human activity, with very low use and without facilities." (from page 11 of Strathcona Park Master Plan).

This area is also part of the Strathcona Nature Conservancy Area, a "roadless, wilderness area within Provincial Parks retained in a natural condition for the preservation of their ecological and scenic features" according to page 7 of the Master Plan. This future designation gives these lakes even more protection from exploitation. The need for ongoing helicopter access to manage these siphons is also contrary to the Park Master Plan (see page 36).

The Master Plan for Strathcona-Westmin Provincial Park (pg ii) also states "One objective of the Strathcona Provincial Park Master Plan is "To eliminate the existing reservoirs of Jim Mitchell, Thelwood and Tennant Lakes once these are no longer needed by Westmin..."

Through a review of reclamation and decommissioning plans, this Plan will ensure that this objective is achieved by returning the Strathcona-Westmin lands to a condition representative of their state prior to flooding."

With respect to the idea of a power line of some sort connecting the mine's power generation facilities to the B.C. Hydro grid, it is also not acceptable. A number of years ago a similar application came before the public and was overwhelmingly rejected. In view of the above quotes from various park's documents, such a power line would not be in the public interest. Its existence would make the long-term reclamation of the mine area more difficult to achieve.

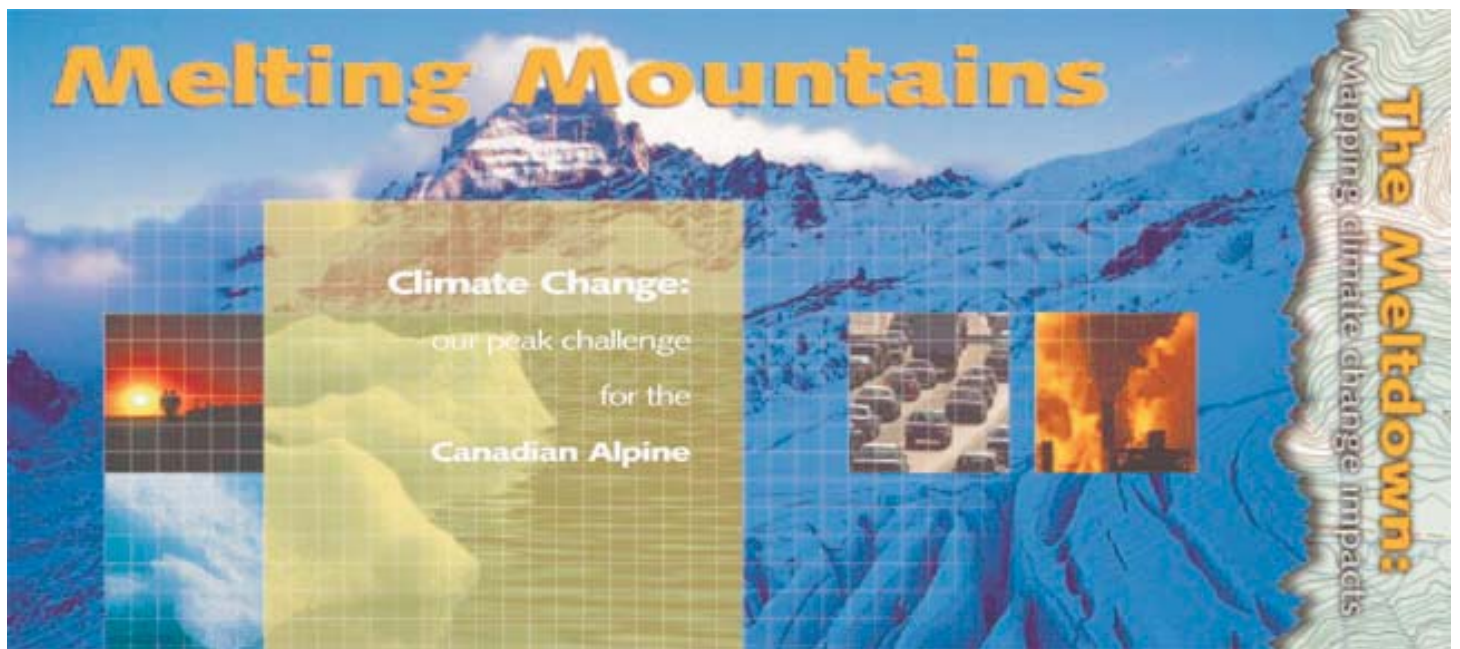
On a somewhat related matter, we would like to know why the new Master Plan for Strathcona Park has not yet been signed. Years of public hearings went into this plan as well as many hours of parks staff time.

The Friends feel that while we do not agree with everything in it, it does accurately represent the result of public opinion and would provide a more up to date guiding document than the original 1993 plan.

The Friends of Strathcona Park would like to request a meeting with you, Minister Murray to introduce ourselves and discuss the future of Strathcona Park. Please respond to this letter with both answers to our questions and our request to have a dialogue with you. We feel that such a meeting would help us understand each others points of view, and open lines of communication.

Yours truly

John Milne, for the Friends of Strathcona Park.
email: jomilne@island.net



Climate Impacts on Mountains & Mtn Recreation

Dear Mountain Enthusiast,

The Alpine Club of Canada, the David Suzuki Foundation, and Mountain Equipment Co-op have joined forces to produce a brochure, *Melting Mountains*, that explores the impacts of climate change on the Canadian alpine environment. This graphically rich brochure also maps out "our peak challenge" - how we can help solve the climate crisis.

Be informed on the latest science behind climate change including issues like:

- * What are glaciers telling us about our climate?
- * How is alpine wildlife vulnerable to climate change?
- * What could climate change mean for snowpack and climbing routes?

This brochure is great for outdoor clubs, backcountry stores, nature groups, mountain parks (visitors centres), and guiding and earth science programs.

Brochures can be ordered free of charge:

Email: <<mailto:mountains@davidsuzuki.org>> mountains@davidsuzuki.org

Web: <<http://www.davidsuzuki.org/mountains>>

www.davidsuzuki.org/mountains

Phone: 1-800-453-1533

When placing orders, please include your name, mailing address, number of brochures requested, and group or organization (if applicable).

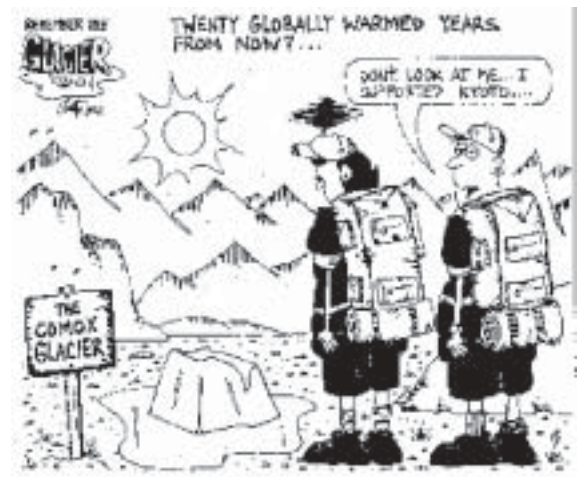
Feel free to pass this information to your friends and other mountain enthusiasts (fellow hikers, skiers, climbers, mountaineers).

Thanks for your interest in our mountains!

Ian Bruce

Project Director

Melting Mountains Awareness Program.



Mt. Becher

March 10/2002

Judith Holm

Even with Great Trail Breakers there was still time to complete a game of tick-tack-toe in the snow while waiting to go, all 8 in a row, in 60 cm of concrete new snow. Did we give up? NO! Only when the avi risk was no longer low.

Participants: Jeremy Miller, Tim Strange, Charles Turner, Tom Barchyn, Tony Vaughn, Christa Zala, Viggo Holm and Judith Holm (coordinator)