

# BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER



## **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.

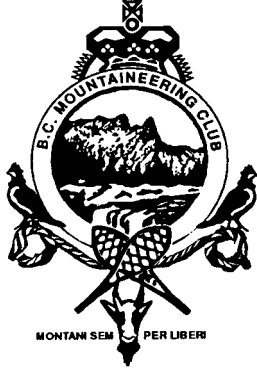
**Tuesday, 10 February** - SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING - to consider adopting the Constitution and By-laws published in our previous (January) newsletter - Entertainment will be a slide show by Robin Walshaw on a recent climb of Mt. Everest.

**Tuesday, 9 March** - Entertainment will be a slide show by Peter Norris on caving.

Nearing the summit of Hatcherhead



Mt. Everest from the north. Photo - Evelyn Feller

	<b>HONORARY PRESIDENTS - Esther and Martin Kafer</b> <b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS</b>		
	<b>PRESIDENT -</b> KIT GRIFFIN 604-736-8462 <b>PAST-PRESIDENT -</b> DAVE HUGHES 604-980-6484 <b>VICE-PRESIDENT -</b> MONIKA BITTEL 604-983-3097 <b>SECRETARY -</b> ALICE PURDEY 604-293-2951 ANDERS OUROM 604-228-1798 <b>TREASURER -</b> TODD PONZINI 604-215-2665 <b>MEMBERSHIP/MAILING -</b> JULIA BORCHARDT 604-204-0726 STEVE TATE 604-737-3608 <b>SOCIALS -</b> PAM KRANNITZ 604-946-9942 DERRICK JOHNSTONE 604-221-9097 <b>CLIMBING -</b> JOS VAN DER BURG 604-463-7582 EMANUELE PORRA 604-533-7723	<b>CABIN / TRAILS -</b> DAVID SCANLON 604-464-3730 PETER WOODSWORTH 604-254-7076 <b>CONSERVATION -</b> MONIKA BITTEL 604-983-3097 <b>SUMMER CAMP -</b> PETER WOODSWORTH 604-254-7076 <b>WEBMASTER -</b> KEVIN SWANSON 604-943-4364 <b>EDITOR -</b> MICHAEL FELLER 604-270-4050 <hr/> <b>FMCBC REP -</b> MIKE PEEL 604-444-4068 <b>EQUIPMENT -</b> PAUL KUBIK 604-876-0764 <b>SAFETY EQUIPMENT -</b> KIT GRIFFIN 604-736-8462 <b>LIBRARY -</b> JOAN FORD 604-876-4255	
<b>ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2674, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3W8</b> <b>EMAIL ADDRESS: <a href="mailto:info@bcmc.ca">info@bcmc.ca</a> or <a href="mailto:bcmc@bivouac.com">bcmc@bivouac.com</a></b> <b>INTERNET SITE: <a href="http://www.bcmc.ca">www.bcmc.ca</a></b>			

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**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. Deadline for submissions is the first Tuesday of the month preceding the publication month. Send submissions to Michael Feller (email - [feller@interchg.ubc.ca](mailto:feller@interchg.ubc.ca), ph. 604-270-4050).

**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. The club has avalanche transceivers and snow shovels available for hire. These may be obtained by contacting Kit Griffin at 604-736-8462 at least 2 days prior to the day they are wanted. Any person who attempts to participate in a club trip without such mandatory equipment, may be requested to withdraw from the trip. The club has a satellite phone available for hire. This may be obtained by also contacting Kit Griffin at 604-736-8462 at least 2 days prior to the day it is wanted. 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 by Thursday evening for weekend trips, and by Friday for Sunday trips.

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.

**ORGANIZER**

**All scheduled trips are ski trips unless otherwise indicated.**

<b>February 1:</b> Silverdaisy Mtn. Skiing at the western edge of Manning Park again.	B2/2040 m	David Scanlon	604-464-3730
<b>February 7:</b> Mt. Mulligan Easy skiing above the Stawamus River, east of Squamish.	B2/1620 m	Rhys Gibb	604-321-9955
<b>February 7-8:</b> Tricouni Pk. Skiing on the Squamish-Cheakamus Divide.	B2(4)/2130 m	David Hughes	604-980-6484
<b>February 7-8:</b> Saxifrage Mtn. Skiing east of Pemberton.	B3/2501 m	Mike Peel	604-444-4068
<b>February 7-8:</b> Tszil Mtn. Skiing in the Joffre Lakes area off the Duffey Lake road.	B3/2377 m	Greg Hamilton	604-984-6800
<b>February 8:</b> Hollyburn Mtn. Easy skiing in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.	A2/1324 m	Peter Parrotta	604-732-5555
<b>February 14:</b> Needle Pk. Skiing in the Coquihalla area.	B2(4)/2101 m	Margaret Hanson	604-341-5961
<b>February 14-15:</b> Snass Mtn. Skiing just N of Manning Park.	B-C3/2310 m	Jos van der Burg	604-463-7582
<b>February 15:</b> Mt. Seymour - John Clarke tribute A winter trek in Vancouver's north shore mountains, following an interesting route lead by John Clarke some years ago via steep gullies and benches around and up to the second Peak. This trip is a tribute to John Clarke.	B2/1455 m	Blair Mitten	604-922-0470
<b>February 21-22:</b> Pk 7600 Relatively easy skiing off the Duffey Lake road.	B2/2300 m	David Scanlon	604-464-3730
<b>February 21-22:</b> Welch Pk. Skiing to a climb of the NW Face of Welch.	C4/2438 m	Todd Ponzini	604-340-9653
<b>February 21-22:</b> Tetrahedron area Relatively easy skiing on the Sechelt Peninsula.	B2	Alfred and Jurgen Menninga	1-604-886-0775
<b>February 22:</b> Mt. Seymour area (snowshoe) Family snowshoeing in Vancouver's north shore mountains.	A1	Peter Oostlander	604-451-4585
<b>February 22:</b> A local mountain Easy skiing somewhere close to Vancouver. Contact the organizer for further details.	B2	Pat Crean	604-986-5622
<b>February 27-29:</b> Snowspider Mtn. Extended skiing east of Lillooet Lake.	C3/2540 m	Linda Bily	604-733-0042
<b>February 28:</b> Hollyburn Easy cross-country skiing in Vancouver's north shore mountains.	A1	Kit Griffin	604-736-8462
<b>February 28-29:</b> Mt. Albert Edward Skiing in the Forbidden Plateau area of central Vancouver Island.	B2-3/2093 m	Brian Cashin	1-250-338-1268
<b>February 28-29:</b> Mountain Lake cabin Skiing above Howe Sound.	B2	Anders Ourom	604-228-1798
<b>February 29:</b> Cross country skiing Easy skiing on "Sadie Hawkin's day cross country skiing". To be experienced only once every 4 years.	A1	Wendy Holmes and Dave Morriss	604-732-9896
<b>March 6-7:</b> North Joffre Ck. area Skiing north of the Duffey Lake road.	C3	David Hughes	604-980-6484
<b>March 6-7:</b> Mt. Garibaldi Skiing above Squamish in Garibaldi park.	C3(4)/2675 m	Rhys Gibb	604-321-9955
<b>March 6-7:</b> Gentian Pk. Skiing in the Black Tusk area of Garibaldi Park.	B2-3/2197 m	Evelyn Feller	604-270-4050
<b>March 7:</b> A local mountain Easy skiing somewhere close to Vancouver again. Contact the organizer for further details.	B2	Pat Crean	604-986-5622

## TELEMARK SKI CLINICS

Club members are organizing telemark clinics jointly with the ACC at Cypress Bowl on some Wednesdays in February. For further information,

contact -  
Isabel Budke 604-224-5737 (Feb 4+18)  
Linda Bily 604-733-0042 (Feb 25)

### BCMC SPRING SKI CAMP 2004 (May 1-9)

This camp will be a one week ski trip to the mountains at the head of the Hurley River. We will drive as high as possible on the Hurley River Road, and then take to our skis - no helicopter access will be used. Some days will be spent travelling, and some will be spent doing day trips out of a fixed camp. The goals of the trip will be to climb Mts. Sampson, Sessel, and Thiassi.

Participants must be BCMC members, must have been on at least one overnight ski trip during the winter, and must be comfortable skiing moderately steep slopes with a heavy pack. Some mountaineering experience (ie. use of an ice axe) is also required to attain some of the area's summits.

Call Todd Ponzini at 604-340-9653 for more information and to reserve one of the twelve spots.

### BCMC SUMMER CAMP 2004 (July17-25)

#### 7th Annual Lake Lovely Water Summer Camp

Eight days of mountaineering in the glorious Tantalus Range (Map Ref. 92G/14). Accomodation is in the luxurious A.C.C. Lake Lovely Water cabin with swimming

and boating at the door. We will also be running a mountaineering school for several beginner level participants. This is a self guided camp for club members only, \$325 covers helicopter and hut rental. For further information, contact Peter Woodsworth at 604-254-7076.

## MEMBERSHIP

**New Members** - The club welcomes the following new Associate Members: Sheila Clare, Chris

Ferris, Doug Hopwood, Mathew Kings, and Michael Palano.

#### **Fred J. Brownsword — 1906 - 2003**

Fred Brownsword joined the BCMC in 1926 and remained a member for over 76 years until he passed away last October. He was very active in the club, especially during the 1950's and 60's, when he participated in and led many club trips. He also took part in many club camps, including the second BCMC expeditionary camp at Ape Lake, where he was a member of first ascent parties on three or four peaks.

Fred was cabin chairman for some years starting in 1960, this was at the time when the two club cabins on Grouse and Seymour were getting old and needed a lot of attention. "Fred was very much a club man and never missed a cabin work bee, he was one of the best!" is how his contemporary, John Holmes remembers him.

Before, but especially after retiring in 1976, he indulged in travelling the world, climbing in Europe, trekking in Nepal to Everest and Annapurna, and to more exotic places such as Thailand, India, Japan,

China, on the trans-Siberian railway to Kazakstan and on to Afghanistan.

In his later years Fred also became a keen ball room dancer, which he enjoyed with various lady friends and often attended evening lectures at UBC ( on "exotic and abstruse subjects" according to John Holmes).

Fred was also a very avid photographer and found it very hard to shrink his store of slides and photographs when he decided to move from his house into a room in a senior's complex in 1991. When he was eighty years old Fred was, together with two other BCMC oldtimers, John Holmes and Hugh Aikens (total age of the three: 231 years), on a day trip to the top of Black Tusk in Garibaldi Park. On the way down he elaborated to a young lady park ranger that this was a memorial trip since he had been up there the first time in 1927!

Prepared by Martin Kafer with assistance from Pat Brownsword and John Holmes.

## WILDERNESS EDUCATION PROGRAM

### A Legacy for John Clarke and the Young People of British Columbia

In mid November of 2002 John Clarke, BC's legendary explorer and mountaineer, watched with obvious delight and emotion as some 200 students flocked into the high school auditorium to hear him talk about the wonders of BC's wilderness. John loved talking to young people about our backcountry almost as much as he enjoyed going on his trips. Tragically, this was to be John's last presentation, and I think he must have known it. He passed away in January 2003 after battling for almost a year with brain cancer. John knew, however, that the school program that he and I had initiated in 1996 would continue. In the last weeks of his life he was an enthusiastic supporter of the revised Wilderness Education Program (WEP) and its plans for the future.

WEP is now a core program of *BC Spaces for Nature* ([www.spacesfornature.org](http://www.spacesfornature.org)) - a wilderness conservation organization with decades of experience in protecting BC's wild lands. *BC Spaces* has played a leadership role in successful conservation campaigns spanning 30 years which have led to the protection of more than 2.5 million hectares, in places such as: Tatshenshini, Nitinat Triangle of Pacific Rim National Park and the Spatsizi. *BC Spaces* is now turning its expertise to fostering a passion for wilderness in future generations. Together, *BC Spaces* and WEP are creating and expanding the WEP team, providing support with program development, strategic planning, and training new WEP educators and volunteers.

Since the Fall of 2002 WEP's three professional educators - Becky Macoun, Tim Turner and Mark Lebbell - have been following in John's footsteps, providing in-school presentations and workshops for teachers' conferences and professional development days. Like John, they bring wilderness live to the classroom, showing spectacular images of BC's wild places, conjuring up a variety of fascinating wilderness artifacts (a beaver-gnawed tree trunk, a whale vertebra, the flattened, punctured tuna can a hungry grizzly bear had popped into its mouth). Often a tent is set up in the classroom or schoolyard and students delve into the backpack and learn about the essentials of a backcountry trip. Sounds of nature, music and

games are also a popular part of the program.

The transition has been challenging and rewarding. WEP has recently been successful in obtaining significant funding from the Vancouver Foundation and Van City to support the expansion and development of the program.

We have also been focusing on program development and creating a model of wilderness education that will eventually spread throughout BC. A critical and exciting step in the expansion and development of WEP is the addition of Katy Holm to the WEP team. It became evident this past year that in order to develop the program effectively we would need to have someone working on a permanent basis for WEP. I have been volunteering my time as program coordinator, director, fundraiser etc, etc, since WEP's inception. It's high time to let someone else share some of this fun - and get paid for it! Katy starts her new position as program coordinator/educator in January 2004. Katy is a professional educator with an undergraduate degree in Biology. Her outdoor and wilderness experience is exemplary; she is skilled in river and ocean kayaking, rock climbing, ice climbing, and mountaineering.

On behalf of everyone connected with WEP, I would like to thank all of the members of the mountaineering community who have generously supported WEP over the years - without your incredible generosity WEP wouldn't be where it is today.

Often, when John and I would talk about the future of WEP, John would say "I'm in this for life!" We are delighted that you are a part of John's legacy.

For information about WEP visit: [www.wepbc.ca](http://www.wepbc.ca) To book a WEP school presentation or for more information, phone Lisa: 604 732 0509.

To make a tax-deductible donation write a cheque to: *BC Spaces for Nature: WEP* and mail it to: WEP, 3116 West Third Ave, Vancouver, BC, V6K 1N3. Or to make a donation on line visit: [www.wepbc.ca](http://www.wepbc.ca) and click on donations.

Lisa Baile, WEP Director

## **MT. LOGAN EXPEDITION JUNE/JULY, 2004**

*Brian Wood is organising a trip to climb Mt. Logan via the King's Trench Route in June /July 2004. The trip could take between 4-6 weeks, depending on weather and transportation to and from Whitehorse. Skis and Krazy-Karpets (roll-up sleds) will be used*

*where possible. Expected costs are \$1700-\$2000, plus food costs.*

*Those interested and with appropriate experience can contact Brian , before 29 Feb 2004, at  
Tel/fax : (604) 222-1541,  
or by email at : bjwood@axion.net*

## **NEWS**

### **BC Government steps up its assault on our parks and backcountry areas**

Comment by M. Feller

New legislation and recent actions by the BC government have suggested a significant increase in the government's attempts to urbanize and commercialize our remaining backcountry. Not content with its horrific efforts outside parks, the government has now turned its attention to destroying provincial parks as well. It has demonstrated an inability to see anything other than dollars throughout our mountains and backcountry.

These are strong words, but consider the following:

**1. Commercial backcountry recreation tenures** - Land and Water BC (LWBC) continues to dole out commercial backcountry recreation tenures at a frantic rate, regardless of public concerns, land use plans, or of any concern for the social good. As I write this I have just reviewed another 30 applications for the Squamish-Pemberton region, including one for a helicopter-assisted snowmobile operation on the Pemberton icecap, one for an expanded snowmobile operation to Sproat and Madely Lake and through Callaghan Lake park, one for helicopter snowshoeing on Sproat, one for helihiking in the Place Gl-Saxifrage area, one for helihiking south of the Joffre - Matier area, and one for dirt bikes up Roe and Chance Cks, over to High Falls Ck.. Such reviews will be ignored by LWBC but allow them to say that they have consulted the public. The Squamish Forest District presents a clear example of LWBC's mindset. It has consistently ignored input from the public and from the Winter

Backcountry Recreation Forum and given out commercial tenures without regard to the Forum's recreation use recommendations and as if there was no tomorrow. The Forum was informed, but not by LWBC, in November, 2003, that a heliski/helihiking tenure had been given to Black Tusk Helicopters for vast areas near Squamish (Mountain Lake - Sky Pilot, Cloudburst, Ashlu-Elaho area) which cover the few remaining areas the Winter Backcountry Recreation Forum had designated as non-motorized. The tenure was given out in 2002 but the Forum was not informed about it. Previous letters of objection from the FMCBC over the Black Tusk Helicopter's application, as well as the Forum's proceedings, were ignored. We are now in the position of having **ONLY ONE SINGLE AREA OUTSIDE GARIBALDI PARK WHERE WE CAN ESCAPE MOTORIZED RECREATION** in the entire Squamish Forest District - 21 Mile Ck valley.

This has come about only during the last 2 years when the present government drastically increased the rate at which tenures were given out. LWBC established the Sea-to-Sky Winter Backcountry Recreation Forum, but has totally ignored it to date, other than to give out heliski tenures in areas the Forum had designated to be snowmobile-free. The Forum has assisted LWBC in this respect, and, under instructions from the government, LWBC has continued to sell off the backcountry.

**2. Independent Power Projects** - LWBC is also presiding over another land use debacle, that involves the trashing of numerous rivers and streams and their surroundings under the guise of producing "green" power. These are the ever-expanding independent

power projects that are now beginning to threaten every watershed in the lower mainland. Without any meaningful public input, this LWBC arm of government is continuing to give away stream after stream. So far we have had major access roads pushed up both forks of Miller Ck., providing snowmobilers easy access to the Ipsoot and Rhododendron areas, an access road up Sigurd Ck is on the horizon, as are roads into Garibaldi Park up Billygoat and Tuwasus Cks. Other streams about to be sold off as IPPs include North, Sims, Pebble, Meslilloet, Douglas, Fire, Skookim, Elaho, Ashlu, etc., etc.

3. **Bill 75** - The provincial government recently introduced this bill which gives B.C. cabinet ministers extraordinary powers to overrule environmental legislation and local government. West Coast Environmental Law has the following critique of this bill:

"The Bill gives the BC Cabinet and individual ministers extraordinary powers to overrule provincial or local government laws, regulations or bylaws if they are perceived as being 'constraints' to development projects that the government designates as 'provincially significant.'

Once designated, if a project proponent feels that provincial or local laws are getting in the way of project approval, the minister responsible for the project can make orders replacing any requirement of any approval authority that is "perceived to be a constraint" to the project. Constraints are defined broadly in the Bill. They may include laws, regulations and bylaws, but also government policies and programs. Proponents could even argue that paying their share of taxes is a constraint on a project. Examples of projects that could be approved under the Act include mines in parks contrary to the Park Act. Currently, the Parks Act prohibits the expansion of industrial activities in Parks. In most cases the legislature would need to amend the Park Act or park boundaries before allowing expansion of a mine or hydro reservoir in a Park. Indeed, the government recently backed down on expanding hydro development in Strathcona Park. Under the Significant Projects Streamlining Act, a minister could approve "provincially significant" mining or hydro developments in Parks.

Environmental Assessment no constraint. The leg-

islation is extraordinary in that it allows Cabinet and ministers to overrule virtually all provincial legislation passed by the Legislature, including environmental laws. Although the Bill says that these powers are subject to the Environmental Assessment Act, this provides little comfort. The Environmental Assessment Act was deregulated in 2002 and the government can already decide to exclude a project from environmental assessment, force fast approvals, and eliminate any public consultation or other processes designed to ensure adequate assessment.

Local government authority reduced. The potential for intrusion into local government authority is a significant component of this legislation. Cabinet ministers may override local government decisions if they are "perceived to be a constraint" to a project. This Bill is one of several recent incursions into local government authority by the provincial government. The Community Charter, which replaces the Local Government Act, requires provincial approval for all bylaws relating to protection of the natural environment. The provincial government also diminished local government powers in relation to farms and fish farms in Bill 48, which was passed despite a resolution by the Union of BC Municipalities asking the government not to do so.

Traditional Democratic Principles Undermined. - Bill 75 also represents an erosion of democratic and constitutional principles concerning the respective roles of the legislative and executive branches of government. Normally, the legislative branch of government passes the laws, and the executive branch administers them. By delegating to Cabinet and its ministers the power to suspend provincial laws and replace them with any other requirement at whim, Bill 75 casts considerable uncertainty over what is the 'law of the land' and the role of the Legislature in debating and passing environmental laws, for anything the government considers to be a significant project in British Columbia. It significantly erodes the fundamental rule of our parliamentary system that the executive cannot exclude individuals from equal application of the law.

For more information please contact: West Coast Environmental Law 604-684-7378

4. **Bill 84** - This other recent bill represents an all out assault on our provincial parks, opening them up to commercial resort development and deletion for industrial purposes. According to the government's Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection press release -

"We committed in the throne speech that we want to see B.C.'s parks be major magnets for tourism, and Premier Campbell reiterated that pledge in September," said (Minister Joyce) Murray. "Our parks are for people - we want to ensure the public is welcome and that there's a range of recreational opportunities to attract people to our parks in a way that maximizes their tourist potential". These changes will broaden the appeal of parks beyond the traditional camping experience. This will allow the park system to keep pace with changing local and international demands and demographics. The changes will also provide new and exciting economic opportunities for rural communities neighboring parks... "We want to attract more people to our parks by providing more choice and more opportunities," Murray said. "The more people experience nature, the more they grow to respect and appreciate it and that is just one of the benefits of this change." By creating opportunities through park lodges and recreational activities and clarifying that new facilities are permitted in parks, the changes clearly show that the province's parks are there for the benefit of communities and individuals as well as wilderness protection. British Columbia's provincial park system is already home to a number of lodges, many of which have been in operation for decades. These facilities play a significant role in attracting park visitors and make an important contribution to local economies."

**Tony Eberts**, responding to the Minister's defence of her legislation, in a letter to a newspaper editor, states-

"The promise that her government will maintain rigorous standards in construction of lodges and other facilities has a hollow ring in light of the slashing of environmental protection reviews in catering to logging and mining interests in B.C.

Ms. Murray also trots out the old argument that more accommodation is needed in parks because many

visitors (especially older ones) are not able to "rough it" with wilderness campsites. It's strange for an administration so dedicated to fostering private enterprise to overlook the hundreds of lodges and resorts outside of park boundaries but close to them. These places offer every level and type of accommodation without impinging upon the parkland itself. Park visitors with limited mobility don't need to sleep and dine inside a wilderness in order to enjoy the wonders of nature by day. And it is wilderness that draws visitors from around the world to B.C.'s parks, not the availability of lodges and fast-food outlets that inevitably detract from the real enjoyment of nature.

For many years, our park system has been a major draw for tourists, generating many millions of dollars for the parks themselves and also for nearby communities and businesses. Once wilderness is "developed", its wonders are gone forever. "In wilderness is the preservation of the world," said Henry David Thoreau. The temptation to rake in higher revenues by inviting wholesale development of parks must not take precedence over nature."

**The Western Canada Wilderness Committee** states - "The introduction of the "Parks and Protected Areas Statutes Amendment Act" (Bill 84) yesterday by the Minister in charge of parks, Joyce Murray, has sent the surest signal yet that Minister Murray is unable -- or unwilling -- to stand up for the environment. Bill 84 is designed to sidestep environmental regulations for developments inside provincial parks.

Under the new legislation, which received first reading in the house Tuesday, November 18, discretion would be given to the Minister alone to decide if she is *of the opinion* that a proposed development is consistent with the recreational value of the park involved. The controversial Act also expands and clarifies opportunities for "directional" drilling under protected areas.

"When did Joyce Murray become the Minister of Industrial Development? Her job is to protect parks now and for future generation", remarked a concerned Gwen Barlee, Policy Director for the Wilderness Committee. "Parks have never been properly funded but since Minister Murray took over it's gotten much worse.



Staffing has been gutted, much hated parking fees have driven visits down and now we see an attempt to turn our protected areas into 'McParks'."

British Columbia's protected areas system has made the province a renowned tourist destination for nature lovers and wilderness enthusiasts worldwide. According to government reports, visitor expenditures on parks in 1999 were nearly half a billion dollars, with almost a third of expenditures coming from out-of-province visitors (*Economic Benefits of British Columbia's Provincial Parks - September 2001*). B.C.'s parks are especially popular with visitors from jurisdictions with fewer wilderness areas or where parks have been over-commercialized such as the United States.

"Big private investment in public parks will inevitably mean big private control of public parks. What is next - water slides, go-carts and Burger Kings? Parks are publicly owned and should be managed by the government for ecological integrity and appropriate recreation activities," said Barlee. "The people of this province fought hard and built a spectacular park system over generations and generations. If the calls and emails we've gotten from our members are any indication, the people of BC won't take this new attack on their cherished protected areas system lightly."

The bill also resulted in the deletion of 1036 ha in Graham Laurier Provincial Park in northern B.C. for oil and gas development. Public criticism of this has been widespread.

**The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society** states - "These legislative changes undermine the ecological values that led to the establishment of the park, noted Eva Riccius, of CPAWS-BC. "We are very concerned with the direction this government is taking on parks and protected areas."

Graham-Laurier Provincial Park is part of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area, which took seven years, three public Land and Resource Management Processes (LRMPs), and two legislative acts to create. "Dismantling the park is disrespectful to the rights of the Treaty 8 First Nations in whose territory the park

lies, and of the Kaska Dena Nation who supported the initial legislation," said Riccius. "It also undermines the years of forthright work done by northerners and others to find a reasonable compromise to permit development while protecting wilderness in northern BC."

CPAWS notes that the changes were drafted without any consultation with First Nations, LRMP participants, or provincial organizations concerned with parks. This is the wrong way to do business with both the concerned First Nations and the citizens of BC."

**Larry Pynn**, in an article in the Vancouver Sun, reported "Brian Gunn, president of the Wilderness Tourism Association, said there are concerns within his membership about Murray's direction. "At present, we're not in favour of putting access roads through existing provincial parks," he said.

The Wilderness Tourism Association represents 160 independent members plus related associations governing activities such as sport fishing, guide-outfitters, and heli-ski operators. The value of B.C. wilderness tourism is estimated at \$2 billion annually.

Association member Pierce Clegg of Babine Norlakes Lodge near Smithers said the new legislation expands a government policy of putting economics above wilderness. Budget cuts to Fish and Wildlife staff, logging encroachment on park buffer areas, and commercialization of parks are "making mockery of any wilderness for future generations," said Clegg, a fishing guide who operates within Babine River Corridor Provincial Park. "It's all about making money," he said. "Perhaps it's greed or lack of leadership, but we must make a stand for our parks and areas buffering our parks."

Murray noted that early next year, she will form both park and fish-and-wildlife advisory panels to provide her with advice on policy issues, a recommendation of the recreation stewardship panel in 2002 chaired by Bruce Strachan, an ex-Socred environment minister.

Murray's decision on Graham-Laurier was made

against the advice of the Fort St. John LRMP - a process involving multi-stakeholders, including the oil and gas industry - after a direct request from the energy and mines ministry. She said she couldn't comment on the Fort St. John LRMP process because that occurred before her Liberal government was elected in 2001.

"The Energy and Mines ministry has pretty clear goals to increase the revenues to government from the oil and gas industry. If an economically viable deposit is confirmed, we'd need to access it in an expeditious manner."

Murray argued it would cause more environmental damage for industry to create a new access road outside the park rather than to upgrade an existing old forestry road running through the southern portion of the park. Under the legislation, the 1,000-hectare corridor used for the access road would become a "protected area," reverting to parkland again when industry no longer requires it."

Meanwhile, another arm of the provincial government continues to give public subsidies to the forest industry -

### **Old growth trees at Elk Creek in the Chilliwack valley are sold by BC government for 25 cents a tree.**

The Western Canadian Wilderness Committee states - "Information received through BC's Freedom Of Information Act has revealed that the stumpage charged Cattermole Timber Co. by the BC government for logging trees in the Elk Creek Rainforest near Chilliwack is only 25 cents per cubic metre of wood. A cubic metre is equal to a tree about the size of an average telephone pole. About 30 cubic metres fill a logging truck.

"We were shocked when we learned of the ridiculously low stumpage the logging company is being charged. A normal stumpage would be at least between \$20 and \$30 per cubic metre. At 25 cents a

cubic metre the BC government will spend more money on administrating this logging plan than they'll receive in stumpage. It's subsidization of the logging company pure and simple. It would have been cheaper to leave the trees standing as we had asked," said Joe Foy, campaign director for Western Canada Wilderness Committee. The Elk Creek Rainforest is one of the most controversial logging sites in the Province. Home to a number of endangered species, including the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet, the forest has also been identified as an important First Nations spiritual and cultural retreat area.

During the public comment period the Forest Service received hundreds of submissions from local people which overwhelmingly called for no logging to be allowed in this special forest. But this past summer the District Manager of the Chilliwack office of the Forest Service went ahead and gave Cattermole Timber Co. the go-ahead to selectively log the cutblock, using a helicopter to remove the logs.

Soon after a group of "Forest Protectors" set up camp in the forest in an attempt to talk to the loggers sent to cut the trees down. Protectors were threatened with death by some of the loggers and several Protectors were beaten up. The logging was completed several weeks ago - though the logs are still lying on the ground and have yet to be removed. The company is now seeking to get permission from the Forest Service to build a road to the site, contrary to their original plans to use a helicopter only.

"This latest news about 25 cent stumpage just adds insult to injury," fumed Foy. We only recently learned that the BC Cabinet has granted Cattermole a permit to export the logs to some off-shore mill - so there won't be any BC manufacturing jobs. Now we learn that as taxpayers we won't even recoup costs for administration. No wonder the USA is claiming BC subsidizes its logging. The Elk Creek fiasco proves their point," said Foy."

## EQUIPMENT/TECHNIQUE

### **Avalanche safety equipment for backcountry skiers.**

An Austrian study by H. Brugger and M. Falk, published in *Avalanche News*, Vol. 66 (Fall 2003), of the Canadian Avalanche Association concluded that the use of avalanche transceivers and an ABS Avalanche Airbag are justified as they have been shown to reduce the duration, and the degree, of burial, respectively. Other equipment, such as the Avagear, K2 Avalanche Ball and the AvaLung, have not yet been shown to be effective, although this may be due to the current lack of data.

“The ABS Avalanche Balloon or Airbag System is the only commercially available avalanche safety device designed to reduce the extent of burial. It consists of one or two balloons which are integrated into a special backpack. Pulling the emergency handle inflates the balloons with 150 litres of a nitrogen/air mixture within 2 to 3 seconds. Buoyancy, due mainly to the effects of the inverse segregation, causes the person caught in the avalanche to be held on the snow surface.....

The Avagear rescue jacket is being developed in the United States and is in its trial phase. In contrast to the ABS balloons contained in a backpack, the Avagear balloons are contained in the collar or shoulders of a jacket or vest, and inflate around the neck and the shoulders of the victim. With this design the head of the victim should stay above the snow surface more often, and the balloon protects the victim's head and cervical spine during the flow of the avalanche. In addition, one hopes that with this system it is more likely to have an air pocket around the head and face of the victim if a full burial does occur.....

The K2 Avalanche Ball is a further development of the avalanche cord, an old concept which is out of date. After pulling the trigger handle, the spring-loaded Avalanche Ball pops out of a small pocket on a backpack and opens itself. The low density ball stays attached to the person by a cord, and floats on the surface of the avalanche. When the avalanche stops, compan-

ions must visually locate the ball and then follow the cord to the person by a cord, and floats on the surface of the avalanche. When the avalanche stops, companions must visually locate the ball and then follow the cord leading to the buried person. The presumption is that prompt location of the victim should lead to faster recovery, reducing the duration of burial. Up to now several successful tests have been conducted, but no “real life” uses of this device have been documented.....

The AvaLung (TM) survival jacket was patented by MD Thomas Crowley and developed by Black Diamond Equipment Ltd. in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. The AvaLung is a sleeveless synthetic jacket which is worn when travelling in the backcountry. In an avalanche the victim needs to get the mouthpiece (which comes out of the collar) in his mouth and keep it there during the flow of the avalanche. A valve separates the inhaled air from the exhaled air. During inhalation, the air is extracted from the avalanche snow through a special textile filter on the front side of the victim; during exhalation, the air is directed and vented to the back side of the victim. Due to the separation of the exhaled air, the re-inhalation of CO<sub>2</sub> is prevented. The latest version of the AvaLung system is integrated into a lightweight chest harness.....

The goal of the AvaLung system is to prolong survival time in a full burial situation by at least one hour. The AvaLung concept assumes a full burial situation, therefore a transceiver and a shovel must always be carried as well. To be successfully rescued, the victim depends on third party help. The efficiency of this safety equipment has been proven in 33 experimental tests where the human test subjects were buried at a 1 m depth. There are three documented cases where the AvaLung was used in real avalanche situations. The question of whether or not the mouthpiece can be properly positioned and kept in the victim's mouth through the turbulence of the avalanche cannot be conclusively answered yet. Compared to the ABS avalanche airbag system, the AvaLung has the advantage of lighter weight and lower price.”

## TRIP REPORTS

### **Brandywine Mtn., 8 November, 2003**

The trip was successful and the objective was met by 88.9% of the participants. We hiked up the trail to the meadows, rather than using the road. We started hiking around 9 am and reached the summit (1300 m higher) before 1 pm. We were back at the cars about 4:35 pm. It was a very successful trip where nearly everyone had a good time. The youngest participant was 13 years old, Michael, and he was incredible.

Participants: Nancy Henderson, Peter Oostlander, Marilyn Cox, Dan Freedman, Lauren Owen, Michael Grubner, Gloria Flores-Fuster, Philipp Holgne, and Darlene Anderson (Organizer and reporter).

### **Diamond Head, 30 November, 2003**

This was a very popular trip. I turned away non-members and stopped answering the phone or returning calls once I had 15 people going. Sorry to those of you who missed out.

I wanted this to be an easy day, so we left St. David's church at a respectable 8 am. There was some concern that weekend because of avalanche danger, but the area that I like to ski in ("my secret spot") doesn't avalanche or get avalanched on. It was a beautiful sunny day (which added to the popularity, I think), and the road up had been plowed recently. I was impressed by the Honda civic that scurried up behind our 4-runner without chains. Those new grippy snow tires are amazing! Maybe I can take my brand new Jetta up there!

This was the first day skiing for a number of us (some for the season, some for the first time ever), and a few had to adjust their new skins and bindings on their new sports junkies gear. Amazingly, no one had any

gear failures. On the way up we noticed the single track through cement like snow on either side, and feared for our descent. Luckily some other skiers descended mid-day at which time the snow had softened, widening the track into ice-plowable width for us. Our second fear was that we'd be skiing through breakable crust, but the snow above Red Heather was bizarre and happily skiable: if you fell, you went plumpff into about 50 cm of powder. If you took off your skis you dropped into 50 cm of powder. But skiing, we stayed on top, with about 2-10 cm of snow.

It was great to be in the snow and sunshine and snow encrusted trees, and everyone had a great time playing on the slopes. Because I thought it was going to be a difficult descent, we left to go back down at around 3:15pm, and everyone made it to the cars by 4 pm. The drive down was uneventful except for someone coming up at the same time (a more frequent occurrence – they ski to Elfin Lakes in the dark), and a Sunday driver looking for some entertainment who got himself parked in the ditch off the road (we realized that the sign at the chain-up area had been removed – beware!). We stopped to help him turn around, and to teach him some of the rules of the Diamond Head road (like, don't lurch into the middle of the road when you see someone driving down and, once you are safely on your way down the road don't stop in the middle of the road to get out of your car to thank your rescuers, while an entourage of vehicles has started down the road behind you!!!!).

We all stopped at the Shady Tree pub to fuel up and share stories. A great day was had by all.

Participants: Rhys Gibb, Lesli Cowan, Julien Henley, Bill, David Wilburn, Cathy Choinicki, Nadine Parker, Ryan, Paul Ng, Ann Lavergne, Murray Lashmar, Derrick Brackley, Anja, Marika(?), and Pam Krannitz (Organizer and reporter).