

Island Bushwhacker

Volume 47 | Issue 1 | Spring 2019



5040 Peak Hut

Photo by Rodney Newcombe

ACC VANCOUVER ISLAND SECTION

Social Events

The club has a monthly slide-show presentation at the Swan Lake Nature House, 3873 Swan Lake Road, Victoria, BC on the second Thursday of each month, except in July and August. The doors open at 7:00pm, and the show starts at 7:30pm.

Web Information

Web site: accvi.ca

Webmaster: webmaster@accvi.ca

Executive Meeting Minutes

Available on our meeting archives.

National ACC Office

For new memberships and renewals, changes of address or other details, and booking huts, contact the ACC National office directly.

www.alpineclubofcanada.ca

info@alpineclubofcanada.ca

403 678 3200, or P.O. Box 8040

Canmore, AB, T1W 2T8

Annual Membership Dues

Single \$53 Family \$75

Youth (19 and under) \$38

The Island Bushwhacker Newsletter

A monthly (except July and August) publication of the Vancouver Island Section.

Newsletter Editor: Mary Sanseverino, 250 592 4677,

newsletter@accvi.ca

We encourage submissions of items of interest to our membership, including news items, announcements, and short articles, along with photos. Email your submission by the 25th day of the previous month.

Advertising shall be accepted at the discretion of the editor. All advertising shall be for products or services of direct interest to our membership.

Our Motto

1. COME BACK ALIVE
2. COME BACK FRIENDS
3. RESPECT THE LAND
4. HAVE FUN
5. GET TO THE TOP
(IN THAT ORDER!)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Slideshow, Thur, Mar 14. The Island in my Backyard with Isobel Glover. Join Isobel to hear about her 2018 summer of adventure as she became the first person to hike the entire 800 km Vancouver Island Spine Trail.

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Reminder to Members:

Keep your [membership](#) up-to-date, so to as to be covered by the ACC's liability insurance. Keep your [contact information](#) current on ACC National's site, as it's from this master list that we download our email addresses for mailouts.

Join the ACC-VI's [Facebook group](#).

You don't have to be a Facebook member to see this page.



Upcoming Slideshows, Presentations, Meetings and Get-togethers

Slideshow, Thursday, Mar 14. [The Island in My Backyard – Isobel Glover](#)

In the summer of 2018, Isobel Glover hiked from one end of Vancouver Island to the other. She followed the still incomplete route of the Vancouver Island Spine Trail, an 800-km journey passing through every aspect of the Island from ridge lines to valley bottoms to rugged coastlines. In August she became the first person to complete this route and likely the first woman ever to hike the length of Vancouver Island. Come hear about the adventures (and misadventures) of this expedition!

Slideshow, Thursday, Apr 11. [Travels in Peru](#)

Join Martin Hofmann and Alcina De Oliveira for some images from their travels in Peru. Including the obligatory hike to Machu Picchu and treks in the Cordillera Blanca. They also visited some of the less travelled areas: Cañon Cotahuisi and Vale Rojo. The highlight was a trek around the Cordillera Huayhuash on the semi-alpine circuit.

Special guest appearance by Keith Battersby with some jungle experiences!

Victoria Slideshows are at Swan Lake Nature House. Doors open at 7:00 pm, the show starts at 7:30 pm. Goodies and tea available by donation. Location: Swan Lake Nature House at 3873 Swan Lake Road. New members, friends and family are always most welcome! We look forward to seeing you there.!

Save the Date - June 15/16 2019: Respect the Mountains Day

June 15/16 2019 is an Alpine Club National Day with all 24 sections across Canada participating. The idea is to have a work party at a trail/trails, and an information booth about how we can respect our environment, leave no trace etc. Event will have corporate sponsors providing educational material. **To help out, Christine Fordham natrep@accvi.ca** Save the date - more info coming as we get closer.



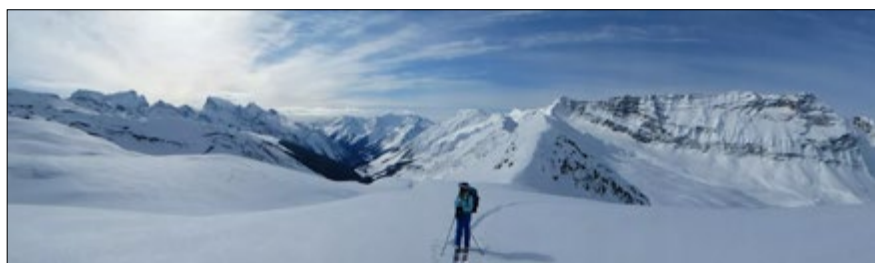
Upcoming Trips

Full information for all trips is located online at [ACC-VI Trip Schedule](#). Each trip listed here links to the [Trip Schedule](#). Click trip titles for links to full info.

Check the [Trip Schedule](#) often for new offerings!

Schedule

Date	Event
Mar 08, 2019 to Mar 10, 2019	Mount Cain - with or without kids
9-Mar-19	Grassy Bluffs, Sooke Hills (B2)
Mar 15, 2019 to Mar 16, 2019	***Waitlisted*** Mt. Myra St. Patty's Ski C4
17-Mar-19	Snowshoe trip with ICA youth (A2)
Mar 21, 2019 to Mar 24, 2019	*FULL* Skiing with Kids and Youth at Mount Cain
26-Mar-19	Backcountry Cooking Workshop
Mar 30, 2019 to Apr 06, 2019	Ymir backcountry lodge
13-Apr-19	Arrowsmith Via Main Gully
28-Apr-19	Crevasse Rescue Course
6-May-19	Intro to Rock Climbing Workshop - Evening Classroom Session
May 24, 2019 to May 26, 2019	*FULL* Kids and Youth: Steep Snow Skills Workshop at the Hut (B2-B3)
May 31, 2019 to Jun 02, 2019	Intro to Rock Climbing Course and Workshop - Weekend at the Crag
May 31, 2019 to Jun 03, 2019	Mt. Rainier via Disappointment Cleaver
8-Jun-19	Steep Snow Crag Day
Jun 14, 2019 to Jun 16, 2019	*FULL* Steep Snow: Intro to Mountaineering - Alpine Weekend
Jun 15, 2019 to Jun 16, 2019	RESPECT THE MOUNTAINS DAY
Jul 06, 2019 to Jul 08, 2019	Mt.Myra-Mt.Thelwood-Moyeha Mt.
Aug 03, 2019 to Aug 05, 2019	Quadra Island Rock Climbing (A5)
Aug 31, 2019 to Sep 02, 2019	Crest Creek Crag - Rock Climbing (A5)



*Campbell Icefiled Pano
Photo: Roger Taylor (from the [2018 photo competition](#))*

Mountain Education

ACC-VI offers a wide variety of courses aimed at giving our members the technical and safety skills to get out there in the mountains. Courses are open to ACC members in good standing only. You are welcome to join the section if you would like to enroll in one or more of these courses.

*Education and Courses: <http://accvi.ca/programs/education/>
Is there something you would like to see? Contact education@accvi.ca*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Education Even</i>
Mar 26, 2019	<p><u>Backcountry Cooking Workshop</u> Are your backcountry trips limited in length by the number of Mountain House flavours in stock? Are your camp dinners less appetizing than your first attempt at cooking in college? Looking for some new inspiration for this summer's trip menus? The presentation is suitable for beginner and advanced "camp chefs". Cost: \$20.00 Register with Alois at alois.accvi.trips@gmail.com</p>
Apr 28, 2019	<p><u>Crevasse Rescue</u> Get ready for glacier travel with a focused day of crevasse rescue training. The course starts with basics of ice axe self arrest and building T-slot anchors. Then we carry on to route finding on glaciers and when to rope and when not to, preparing the rope for glacier travel and moving roped. Finally the full process of a crevasse rescue from arresting the fall up to and including a drop loop haul and a z-drag system are covered. Cost: \$126.00 - taught by Island Alpine Guides Register with Alois at alois.accvi.trips@gmail.com</p>
May 6, 2019 May 31 - June 2, 2019	<p><u>Intro to Rock Climbing - Classroom and Rock sessions</u> <i>Monday 6 May 6:00PM – 9:00PM</i> Evening Classroom session (Swan Lk Nature House) –An evening discussion of climbing basics, gear, and knots. This evening will be mandatory in order to prepare for the follow-on weekend. <i>Friday 31 May – Sunday 2 June:</i> Weekend at the Craggs (Crest Creek Craggs) -Three days of climbing at Crest Creek Craggs in the vicinity of Gold River in Western Strathcona Park. Island Alpine Guides will be joining us on Friday 31 May for a day of formal instruction, followed by two days of an ACC-led climbing workshop. Cost: \$149.00 - Island Alpine Guides provide on-rock instruction Register with Alois at alois.accvi.trips@gmail.com</p>
June 8, 2019 June 14 - 16, 2019	<p><u>*FULL* Steep Snow: Intro to Mountaineering - Alpine Week-end</u> Contact accvi.education@gmail.com for waitlist possibilities.</p>

Executive Episodes:

A quick update of ACC life from the chair's chair.

Who was it who said “February is the shortest month, that can feel like the longest”? Likely not some ACC-VI-ers, at least not in 2019. Our blast of real winter this year was a blast indeed. Members took advantage of the unusually sustained low temperatures for some great skiing and ice climbing opportunities. And now as I write, we are ‘springing forward’ with the clock and cheering on the swelling flower buds in the hills. Happy spring days everyone.

We built it – and they came

In the last newsletter we celebrated the official opening of the 5040 Peak hut, the culmination of an extraordinary three+ years of planning and building. Since January 2019 the hut has been officially open for bookings, and has been attracting a steady stream of adventurers and very happy customers. If you have not already done so, consider joining the ACC-VI 5040 Peak hut Facebook group here, so you can keep up to date with feedback and conditions up at the hut, with some wonderful images to enjoy.

Once more we are grateful to Chris George for capturing some of the magic of this place with some spectacular photography:



*Skiing from
5040 Peak hut,
January 2019.
Photos by Chris
George.*



Please note we now have a page on our website dedicated to the 5040 Peak hut, with all information about how to book etc. Check it out [here](#).

Seven pitches of waterfall ice

Right here on Vancouver Island at Della Falls. This is Chris Jensen's tale to tell – and you don't want to miss his account of this climb with Will Gadd and Peter Hoang on 4 March 2019. See our section Facebook page - it is open to all [here](#) (Editors note: You don't have to be a Facebook member, just open the link, scroll down, and ignore the Facebook enticements to join).

Many congratulations Chris on this latest adventure, and for once more putting Vancouver Island mountaineering on the map.

Approximate line of the climb at Della Falls.

The main event' – with Will Gadd at Della Falls. Photos by Chris Jensen.



The AGM weekend 2019

For the seventh consecutive year, the Vancouver Island Mountain Centre at Mt Washington provided the perfect venue for our AGM on Saturday 2 February. The meeting acted as a focal point (aka an excuse) for a large get-together in the mountains. Workshops, courses, ski tours and snow-shoe outings were all part of the mix of this convivial weekend. With thanks to Colin Mann for his help with organising, we expanded our accommodation options this year, and welcomed about 70 people to the pot-luck dinner and meeting. The AGM was an opportunity to highlight the achievements of 2018, and set the course for the year ahead. For details, the minutes of the AGM are posted on the website.

Following the meeting, Robert Ramsay was presented with his “Rick Eppler Island Qualifiers Award” for his successful completion of the nine ‘IQ’ peaks. Congratulations Robert!

Later, Derek Sou shared Stefan Gessinger’s video of the Kids and Youth Group skiing and climbing at Liberty Bell in May 2018. This expedition was one of four projects we were able to partially fund through grants from the memorial fund in 2018.

Developments in the Sooke hills – the good, the bad and the ugly

The Sooke hills, which provide the western backdrop to Victoria, are a popular destination for many of our members in all seasons. Much of this wilderness area is parkland that was set aside in 1997 when land was transferred from the greater Victoria Water District to Capital Regional District (CRD) Parks. At the time this was said to “protect forever over 4000 hectares of magnificent hills and forest lands.....and to provide a natural area buffer for the adjacent water supply lands”. Since this acquisition, the park has been held in reserve status while stewardship studies were completed, and plans are now afoot to open the Sooke Hills Wilderness Regional Park by 2020. Recent meetings have focused on helping develop a draft trail system and facility plan to address the interests of different user groups, including hiking and rock-climbing as represented by some of our members. Thanks to Ian Brown, Alois Schonenberger and Dave Suttill for helping contribute to these discussions. We are hoping there will be a chance to give feedback on the draft plan before it is finalized in the summer. Watch this space.

As reported in the last newsletter, in late 2018 the CRD initiated a series of meetings to seek input on the potential acquisition of land for future regional parks. Several members attended workshops as an early part of this study, with the focus on identifying priority areas for potential future regional parks. Thanks to all who took part in the discussions and/or contributed through the online survey. Follow-up discussions include a proposal to renew and expand the Land Acquisition Fund, a critical component of this vision. This is all good.

And now a new threat to this wild space. The provincial government has announced its intention to consider transportation routes as emergency alternatives to the Malahat, and one option may involve a route through the Sooke Hills and Greater Victoria watershed. We took the opportunity to address meetings of both the CRD Water Commission and the CRD Parks & Environment Committee on 20th and 27th February respectively, and were heartened by motions which were passed at both meetings expressing opposition to any plans to compromise the integrity of the parkland by road building or activation. This though is just a start, and there is more to be done to stand down this threat.

Here are some ways in which you can help add your voice:

1. Consider attending either or both of the next two CRD meetings to witness and show your support.
 - **CRD Board meeting.** 11.00 am, 13 March 2019: 6th Floor Boardroom, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria
Motions will be tabled to approve the decisions of the Parks Committee and the Water Commis-

sion opposing any roadways through the CRD lands.

- **CRD Parks Committee meeting.** 10.00 am, 27 March 2019: 6th Floor Boardroom, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria
Motions will be tabled to renew and expand the Land Acquisition Fund for future park development.

2. Write to:

- your MLA
 - the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Honourable Claire Trevena
claire.trevena.MLA@leg.bc.ca Tel. 250-387-1978 expressing your concern about this potential threat to the parkland.
3. Consider joining the Facebook group ‘**Friends of the Sooke Hills Wilderness**’ to keep abreast of developments and ideas.

The local press is giving some coverage to this story – a good article by Alison Spriggs summarising many of the concerns expressed appeared in the [Times Colonist](#) on 3 March 2019.

Thanks for your help in showing up and speaking up; the very least we can do is ensure the protection of what is already set aside as protected land.

Access, affiliations and agreements

Many of our members were distressed to find that over a sunny long weekend for Family Day in February, locked gates at the Cameron Main effectively closed off access to Mt Arrowsmith Regional Park and other backcountry destinations. Two major forestry companies on the Island, TimberWest and Island Timberlands, signed an affiliation agreement last year, and now operate under Mosaic Forest Management. <https://www.mosaicforests.com/about-mosaic>

It is early days in this new merger, but our Access & Environment champion Barb Baker has lost no time in engaging with them on this example and related issues of access denied to the backcountry. Thank you Barb for continuing to advocate for us in this way, prioritising the establishment of permanent corridors to public spaces.

Ski rental discount for members

The good folks at Ski Tak in Courtenay <https://skitakhut.com/contact/> are offering 20% off all ski rentals for members. This might be a great way to try out gear before making purchases. And remember that ski safety gear – probes, shovels, transceivers - are available to rent at very reasonable price from our own supply. Contact gear@accvi.ca

Membership in the FMCBC

The executive is currently considering our ongoing membership in the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC), and welcomes your input. Our section has been a member of ‘The Fed’ for many years, for which a portion of each member’s annual club fee goes to supporting the FMCBC. The summary of their mission is: *To advocate for safe, self-propelled activities (such as hiking, mountaineering, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running and other backcountry activities) and the protection of BC’s backcountry for current and future generations to experience.*

You can learn more about the Federation on their [website](#). Our FMCBC coordinator, Anya Reid, will also be happy to provide more information at fmcbc@accvi.ca

Please send all queries and points of view to Anya by **31 March 2019**. Thank you for your contribution to this decision.

Member News



Congratulations to our membership coordinator Kathy Kutzer and Skafti Sinclair on their marriage in Canmore on 16 February. Anyone who knows this happy couple will not be surprised to hear they are spending their honeymoon skiing, this time in Europe. Happy times, trails and turns to you both!



And special congratulations to our leadership coordinator Natasha Salway on her award of the 2019 [Karl Nagy Memorial Scholarship](#) for ACC volunteer leaders. Natasha will be working with the guides and clients during Week 6 of this year's GMC. In a masterplan of timing, she will be flying out of the camp the same day as her planned wedding celebration – as she says, it is a good thing that Colin is so supportive of her in this venture! We trust the weather gods will be equally on side, and look forward to hearing about both events at the end of the summer.

Executive events

The ACC-VI executive last met on 28 February 2019, and will meet again in April. Minutes are posted on the website.

Happy trails
Catrin Brown

Catrin@shaw.ca | chair@accvi.ca

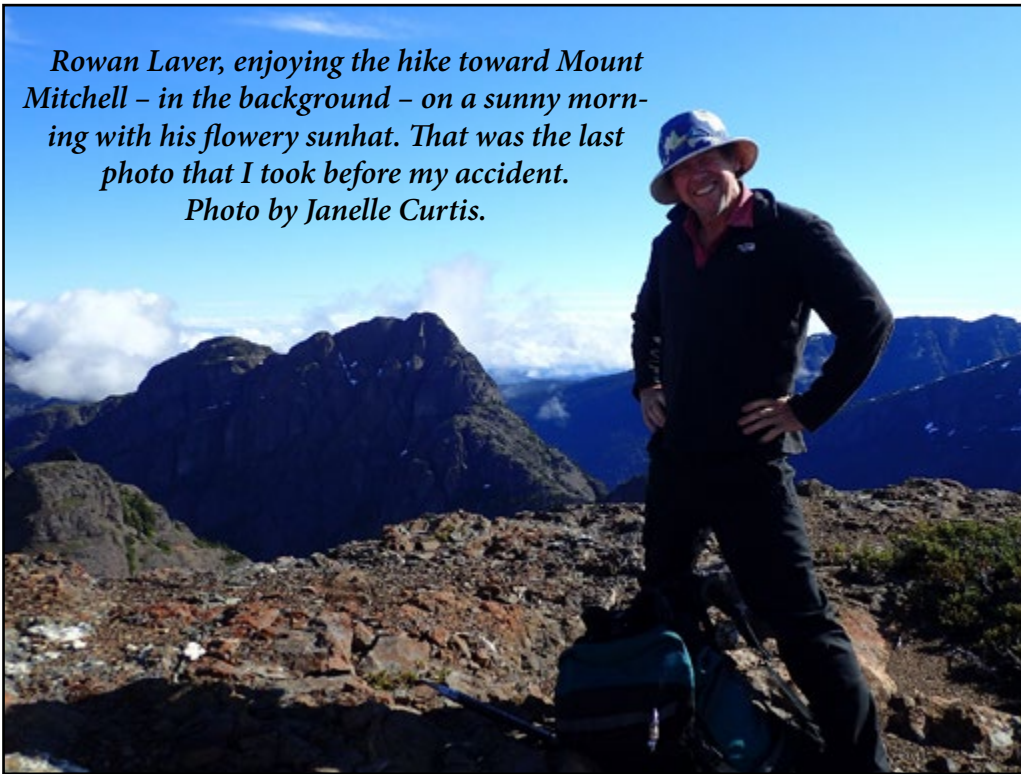


The rest of the story: Meeting with the Comox Valley Ground Search and Rescue team after my accident

By Janelle Curtis

My dear partner in climbing and in life, Rowan Laver, and I left Nanaimo on 1 July 2016 for an attempt to reach the summit of Mount Mitchell. We parked our car at Buttle Lake, hiked up Jack's Trail to the saddle between Jacks Fell and the ridge that leads to Augerpoint Mountain, made camp next to one of the glassy tarns, and enjoyed the sunset over some of our favourite mountains on Vancouver Island. Little did we know as we hiked up Jack's Trail toward alpine terrain in Strathcona Park that our lives would change dramatically the next day when we followed the ridge between Augerpoint Mountain and Mount Mitchell.

Rowan Laver, enjoying the hike toward Mount Mitchell – in the background – on a sunny morning with his flowery sunhat. That was the last photo that I took before my accident.
Photo by Janelle Curtis.



We started our hike toward Mount Mitchell before 7 am because we expected a long day and some precipitation in the afternoon. We guessed that hiking the ridge that connects Augerpoint Mountain and Mount Mitchell would be straightforward. But around 9:30 am we came across a precipitous cliff near the col. We weren't expecting to find a rocky bluff between the two mountains, especially after having examined maps and descriptions of our route. But we had a climbing rope and gear with us because we were anticipating steep, exposed scrambling and/or climbing

given that Phil Stone described the South Ridge route we were on as low 5th class in his much-used book, *Island Alpine: Alpine Climbing & Mountaineering on the Mountains of Vancouver Island*.

The cliff before us looked exposed though passage seemed possible with some solid hand and foot holds. We each looked for a safe descent route and talked through our options. Rowan thought the rock below looked solid. But he also thought we should rope up because the ground where we were standing was loose. As he pulled out our rope to set it up so we could rappel down to the more secure ground below he heard me say "Oh no!!!"

When he turned to see why I said that, he saw me sliding down the rock face and then watched in horror as I tumbled end over end on the steep scree below the cliff. He didn't see me at the moment I fell, so neither of us knows exactly what happened. We are still very surprised that I fell because I am normally prudent in

the backcountry. But as Arno Ilgner wrote in his sage book Espresso Lessons: “The very nature of climbing involves risk. Every climbing situation holds the potential for serious injury or death... Gravity pulls us down regardless of our ability or wishes.”

When I came to a stop, Rowan quickly hit the SOS button on his inReach Satellite Communicator as he knew it was an emergency. He didn’t know what state I was in or if I was even alive. He threw his backpack over the cliff edge and downclimbed the sketchy rock.

Rowan guessed that I fell about 15 m over the rocky cliff and then tumbled down another 60-80 m on the scree below. As he took his last few steps toward me, he wondered what he would find. He didn’t think I could be alive. Much to his great surprise and relief, I moaned. Although I was having difficulty breathing, I was alive. Alive, but unresponsive. It relieved Rowan when he found me, but he was uncertain about what would happen next because of my laboured breathing, my unconscious state, and the mechanism of my injuries. For all he knew, I was about to die.

Rowan loosened the strap on my helmet because it was tight around my neck. He stabilized my head and left my backpack on because I was lying on my back. He felt around my neck but found no serious injuries. Then he examined my abdomen and detected no evidence of internal injuries. He also discovered no evidence of arterial blood loss. I had blood on my face from some lacerations on my scalp and forehead. He put his hat over my face to provide me with shade as the sun was still bright. No one wears that flowery sunhat anymore because my blood stained it.

Rowan retrieved my SPOT satellite GPS Messenger from my backpack and activated that SOS beacon too. Just before 10 am and less than half an hour after I fell, a friend and coworker of Rowan’s, Rob McKeown, texted him to let him know he had just received a message from inReach and asked if everything was ok. Rowan explained that this was an emergency and asked him to send the GPS coordinates of where we were between Augerpoint Mountain and Mount Mitchell to the RCMP. Rob forwarded the details to the Comox Valley Ground Search and Rescue (CVGSAR) team Incident Commander, Paul Berry, who was working with the RCMP in response to our emergency. Rob explained to Paul more about our backcountry experience. The RCMP was already coordinating my rescue and then texted Rowan to let him know a helicopter was on its way. Connecting with the RCMP about my rescue was a huge relief to Rowan.



*The rocky cliff that I fell off on 2 July 2016. Arrows mark the approximate locations of where I slipped and where I landed. This photo was taken from close to the Grizzly helicopter that I was moved to with CRSAR’s long-line.
Photo by Rowan Laver.*

About 1.5 hours after my accident, the first helicopter, an RCMP Air 8, arrived on the scene and dropped off the CVGSAR team lead and one of their members who is a paramedic. A different helicopter – a Grizzly – brought in three other CVGSAR volunteer members with training in emergency response and/or wilderness rescue. With them, they also brought more medical supplies, including a backboard, a rescue basket (litter) for use with ropes, and a cervical spine collar. The additional medical equipment allowed the CVGSAR team to prepare me for smooth transfers and a rapid transport to St. Joseph's Hospital in Comox.



Part of the CVGSAR team in action during my rescue. From left to right: Andrea Rayburn, Tom Braidwood, Rowan Laver, and Gordon Thompson.

I'm there amongst my rescuers too.

Photo by Sebastien Marcoux.

Rowan is a member of the Ladysmith Search and Rescue team, so much of what the CVGSAR team was doing was familiar to him. When we met members of the CVGSAR team in January 2019, they described him as being “calm and collected” during my rescue.

The CVGSAR team assessed my Glasgow Coma Scale as 7-8 out of 15, with a score of 1-2 out of 4 for eye movement because I opened my eyes spontaneously every so often, 2/5 for verbal communication because I was moaning, and 4/6 for movement because I was withdrawing from pain. They stabilized me as best they could and put on a neck brace. They could administer a high concentration of supplemental oxygen with a nasal cannula because my jaw remained clenched. While Rowan monitored my vital signs, the CVGSAR team undertook primary and secondary assessments and prepared me for transport. Part of the Campbell River Search and Rescue's (CRSAR) Helicopter External Transport System (HETS) team had just arrived to help long-line me to more level ground so they could transfer me into the Grizzly. Two CRSAR volunteers helped put me into a sling. Then their helicopter came back with its long-line. The CRSAR team hooked me up and one of them came with me as I was slung downhill so they could fly me to an awaiting BC ambulance. The Grizzly was set up in such a way it essentially brought an Intensive Care Unit to me in the mountains. By the time we arrived in Comox, the paramedics had finished critical stabilizations.

After the Grizzly helicopter dropped me off with the BC Ambulance Service, it came back to bring Rowan and two of the volunteers to our camp, where they gathered our tent, food bags, and other gear, and then flew back to Comox. There, they unloaded all the gear and CVGSAR volunteers gave Rowan a ride to St. Joseph's General Hospital, where the ambulance brought me.

We learned a few years after my accident I opened my eyes spontaneously in the ambulance and looked right into the eyes of the CVGSAR paramedic just before they dropped me off at the hospital. I also had fixed pupils and exhibited decorticate posturing - specifically, I contracted the muscles in my arms and hands inwards. The paramedics had strapped my legs down and wrapped them together, so it wasn't clear if I was also extending and rotating them inwards. Nevertheless, my symptoms suggested that I had a brain injury and a poor prognosis. My breathing became increasingly erratic - another sign of brain trauma. When I experienced abnormal posturing, the CVGSAR and BC Ambulance Service paramedics exchanged knowing looks about my prognosis. It surprised them to learn that I survived. Later that day, I was diagnosed with a severe diffuse axonal injury, like the head injury associated with shaken-baby syndrome. Apart from having my brain shaken on the way down the cliff and scree, my helmet protected me from more lacerations and what might otherwise have been a very serious blow. Good thing I was wearing my helmet while hiking in that snowy, rocky, and steep terrain!



*My scratched and dented helmet.
It was time to replace it anyway!
Photo by Craig Ferchuk.*

I arrived at the hospital about 2 hours after my accident, which is remarkable given our remote location at the time of my accident. Rowan arrived soon afterwards. Once at the hospital, he went into the Emergency Ward while two of the CVGSAR volunteers waited outside. Those volunteers then thoughtfully drove up to Buttle Lake to get my car and bring it back to the CVGSAR base in Comox. Twenty-three CVGSAR volunteers kindly shared their time - 103 person-hours - to help bring both of us and our equipment out of the mountains. The CRSAR team also put in many hours of their time.

I opened my eyes and withdrew from localized pain again at the hospital in Comox. During my fall, I broke 10 bones, including one of my ankles, two bones in each knee, and four in my degloved hand and wrist. I also fractured four of my teeth. I was in a coma for 1-2 weeks afterwards. Fortunately, I don't remember pain from the injuries I sustained during my accident and I do not suffer from any now.

BC Air Ambulance transferred me to the Victoria General Hospital where I spent 5 months as an

inpatient recovering from my traumatic injuries. I also had the great fortune of working with part of the Intensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Program team at the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital for a year after being discharged from the hospital in Victoria.

I came to refer to the most significant steps in my recovery as ‘milestones.’ Those milestones included learning how to speak, walk, swim, climb, and ski all over again. One of the more important milestones during my recovery was meeting some compassionate members of the CVGSAR team who volunteered their expertise and time during my rescue.

Rowan and I went to Comox in January 2019 to share a presentation about our hike, my accident, the injuries I sustained, and the path we have been on during my recovery. Val Wootton and Lindsay Elms, who were, by coincidence, standing on the summit of Mount Mitchell at the time of my rescue, also attended the CVGSAR meeting. They shared their experiences with the use of emergency satellite beacons and how Val’s own rescue from the mountains took place a year after mine.



Reunion with some of the compassionate CVGSAR members involved in my rescue. From left to right: Gord Thompson, Rowan Laver, me (Janelle Curtis), Chris Smith, and Andrea Rayburn.

Photo by Craig Ferchuk.

The day after our meeting, CVGSAR posted the following message on their Facebook page:

“Often when we hand our clients over to BC Ambulance, that’s the end of the story for us. We usually never hear about their actual injuries (we treat in the field for injuries that we assess without the aid of x-rays etc. and typically in less than ideal circumstances), nor do we hear how their recovery has gone. At this week’s training night, however, we had the honour and privilege of hearing the ‘rest of the story’. In July of 2016,

we were called for a beacon activation for an injured hiker that had taken a major fall enroute to Mount Mitchell in Strathcona Park. It was a tense rescue with an unconscious subject, possible spinal injuries, broken bones, lacerations, etc. Three helicopters were used, including Campbell River Volunteer Search and Rescue Society's HETS team and the RCMP's Air 8...Thank you Janelle and Rowan for taking the time to share with us the 'rest of the story'."

Thank you CVGSAR and CRSAR for bringing us both out of the mountains safely on that fateful day!

CVGSAR and CRSAR have been supporting our communities on Vancouver Island with their expertise in the backcountry for at least four decades. They are highly trained in rescues that require helicopters, ropes, dogs, tracking, and avalanche and swiftwater safety awareness. They are on call 24 hours per day and seven days per week. I wouldn't be here today without their help and neither would a lot of other people in our communities.

When Rowan and I reflect on how our lives have changed since my accident, we agree that we have a much greater appreciation of how precious life is. Now, we are less likely to take the simple things in life for granted including being able to walk, being aware of our surroundings, and remembering the day's events. I am now back to work on a full-time basis and have enjoyed traveling for fun and for work-related meetings the past few years. While we still pursue our interests in hiking, climbing, mountaineering, and skiing, my challenges with balance and coordination mean we are engaging in those activities at different levels now, albeit with the same zest as we did before my accident. Rowan and I feel much closer to each other after everything that we have been through together during the past few years. We also feel a deeper sense of community because of the overwhelming help from strangers within the ACC-VI, CVGSAR and CRSAR, and from our friends and colleagues. We don't feel like we can thank everyone enough and we appreciate everyone's help. Thank you!

More info:

Comox Valley Ground Search and Rescue:

<https://www.cvgsar.com/>

Search and Rescue Groups Serving the Province of British Columbia:

<https://www.bcsara.com>



Map of Search and Rescue groups serving Vancouver Island and British Columbia.

[Click the map to open an interactive web page.](#)

2018 ACC-VI Leadership Recognition Program Results!

Natasha Salway, Leadership Recognition Program Coordinator.

2018 was once again a very good year for our leadership recognition program. This program was created in 2015 to give our active leaders a chance for some healthy competition throughout the year to put up the most trips. At the end of the year, we are able to give back to them with some cash prizes, as well as the top prize of an Arc'teryx softshell jacket for the winner.

This year we had 54 leaders participate and submit signed waivers to librarian@accvi.ca. In total, our leaders accumulated 265.5 points! Our top trip leader earned 29 of those points, falling just short of the 2017 top leader total of 31.5. Here are the final results of 2018.

Name	Points	Name	Points
Moar, Walter	29	Addison, Vivian	2
Schonenberger, Alois	27.5	Brown, Mela	1.5
Sou, Derek	20.5	Hedges, Shawn	1
Gessinger, Stefan	18	Williams, Liz	1
Brown, Catrin	17	Alloway, Jen	1
Coates, Brianna	14.5	Pape-Salmon, Andrew	1
Mann, Colin	11	Steiner, Harald	1
Swanson, Eric	9	Steiner, Finn	1
Hofmann, Martin	8.5	Alfredson, Craig	1
Salway, Natasha	8	Friesen, Glenn	1
Devault, Evan	7.5	Kutzer, Kathy	1
Schellhammer, Erich	7	Miles, Savannah	1
Taylor, Margaret (Peggy)	6.5	Minnaard, Zoe	1
Gourlay, Clarke	6	Hubbard, Mike	0.5
Slatkoff, Josh	5	Kasting, Colleen	0.5
Fordham, Christine	5	Langer, Sonia	0.5
Hudson, Rick	5	Lettington, Matthew	0.5
Lamb, Nicole	5	Parsons, Brian	0.5
Swanson, Shannon	5	Curtis, Janelle	0.5
Collins, Scott	4	Visnovska, Lenka	0.5
Aschenbrenner, Kara	4	Briggs, Sandy	0.5
Polt, Serena	4	Fishwick, Dave	0.5
Scott, Jes	3.5	Lockerbie, Lisa	0.5
Tansley, Caroline	3.5	Morgan, Peter	0.5
Turay, Tim	3.5	Plush, Tamara	0.5
Jamison, Shannon	3	Sandl, Chris	0.5
Whitney, Michael	2		
Lembcke, Shanda	2		

Reminder that for your trips to count at full value for this competition, you must submit your signed waivers to the Librarian.

25 trip leaders earned new ACC Trip Leader Badges this year. We also had the pleasure of handing out our very first badge for 50 points to Alois Schonenberger! He is already well on his way to his 75 badge!

This year we were lucky enough to have generous support provided by the three Vancouver Island locations of Valhalla Pure. (Victoria, Nanaimo and Courtenay.) Each store donated \$150 worth of gift cards to be given out as prizes for this program. A huge thank you goes out to each store for this gift! Please be sure to thank them if you were one of the lucky winners.



2nd place Derek Sou \$100 VPO Gift Card
3rd place Stefan Gessinger \$100 VPO Gift Card
4th place Catrin Brown \$100 VPO Gift Card
5th place Brianna Coates \$50 VPO Gift Card
6th place Colin Mann \$50 VPO Gift Card



Derek, Brianna, Colin, and Catrin with their Gift Cards - well done!!

Waiver draw winners (Draw for everyone else who submitted their waivers, not including the top leaders.)

Josh Slatkoff \$25 VPO Gift Card

Nicole Lamb \$25 VPO Gift Card

Eric Swanson ACC Water Bottle

Serena Polt ACC Water Bottle

This year saw two leaders go above and beyond with the pure volume of trips and workshops that they put onto the schedule. The race was neck and neck for the entire year, so the leadership committee felt that the only fair result was to call a tie for first place and present an Arc'teryx soft shell jackets to both of our top leaders for 2018!



Tied for first place: Walter Moar and Alois Schonenberger!

A huge thank you goes out to the Arc'teryx team for being so helpful and accommodating with their ongoing support of our leadership program. Congratulations to both Walter and Alois for earning the top spots of 2018! I also would like to personally thank each and every trip leader who continues to put trips up on the schedule. Trips are the lifeblood of our section and we truly value the time and energy that you put into running them! Thank you!

Questions about leading trips or our Mentorship Program, please email leadership@accvi.ca. The Leadership Recognition Program will continue in 2019 and some of our leaders are already off and running! Join in the fun! For more info please visit the website <http://accvi.ca/trip-leaders/leader-recognition-program/>

Memorial Fund Youth Grant for 2019

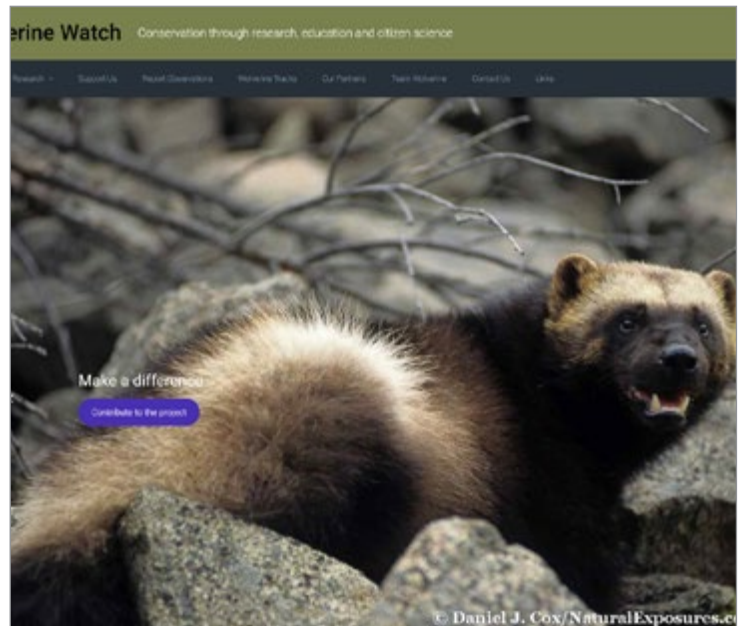
Geoff Bennett

On Feb 18th a grant of \$1,000 was awarded from the Memorial Fund to Derek Sou on behalf of the ACC-VI Kids and Youth program. The team of twelve youth plus Stefan Gessinger and Derek plan to climb Mariner Mountain from Bedwell Sound in June. They will travel by water taxi from Tofino to the Clayoquot Wilderness Resort then travel up the old logging road on mountain bikes. A sea-to-summit adventure! They plan to do some training beforehand, including a steep snow workshop at the 5040 Hut from May 24-26.

BC Wolverine Study

Geoff Bennett

A recent article in [CBC News](http://www.cbcnews.ca) has alerted us to a current research program in BC called <http://www.wolverinewatch.org/>. If you have seen a wolverine in BC, or its tracks or a den, you can submit your observations online. Wolverines are not “officially” present on Vancouver Island although there have been several possible sightings over the years. Geoff Bennett and Tony Vaughan are fairly convinced they saw fresh wolverine tracks high on the Comox Glacier in 2002. Janelle Curtis is also reasonably certain that she saw wolverine prints in the sand near Cape Scott in 2009. ACC-VI members are more likely than most people to encounter wolverines in their natural habitat. Look for prints about the size of your fist, with five toes on each foot, claws visible and a peculiar loping gait as described in the CBC article. A marten is much smaller. [There is an ID card on the wolverine website](http://www.wolverinewatch.org/). Take photos with something for scale.



Ucluelet First Nations Warrior Youth Games

Geoff Bennett

West Coast First Nations plan to hold the First Annual Youth Warrior Games at Effingham Inlet from 24-26 May. They would like to invite two ACC-VI members to help them with rock climbing and rappelling, similar to the September 2018 weekend near Ucluelet with Brianna Coates, Krista Gooderham and Alois Schonenberger. A reconnaissance crew will be heading up the inlet by boat on Saturday, March 2nd and again before the event. If you have experience on rock and are interested in connecting with First Nations in the mountains, please contact catrin@shaw.ca or geoff.bennett@shaw.ca.

The Eden Spires

By Lindsay Elms

Looking towards Mt Eden (centre) with the spires to the right from Hapush Needle. Photo: Sandy Briggs



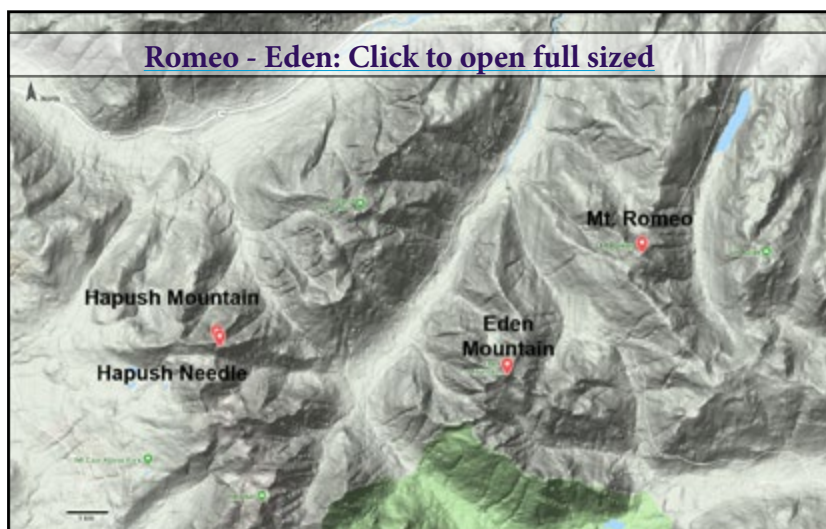
The outdoor company The North Face™ has a logo – Never Stop Exploring. Go to any film festival and TNF trailers show outdoors people, like you and me, exploring remote places in both their backyards and overseas. It is very easy for locals, and that includes Vancouver Islanders, to think that there is nothing left to explore in their own backyard, but I am going to say that this is NOT true.

In the last Newsletter I wrote about the beautiful spires of the Mackenzie Range along Highway 4. Ask Stefan Gessinger, Bill Perry, Bob Tustin or the late Rick Eppler (to name just a few) as I'm sure they'll agree! However, the Mackenzie

Range do not have the only spectacular spires on the island. Just ask ... you don't need to ask anyone as you all know this! Anyway, in the spring of 2018, a few friends and I explored the unclimbed spires next to Mount Eden between Kunnum Creek and the Adam River. But first a bit of history.

Back on August 24, 1999, I went up the Kunnum Creek Main and then a side road with the intention of reconnoitring Mount Romeo. I wasn't certain if the side road I was on was the correct road for accessing Mount Romeo from the northwest. However, due to adverse conditions I eventually arrived on a summit but was unsure of exactly where I was. My gut was telling me this wasn't Mount Romeo. This was in the century before GPS's. Anyway, I put on more clothing and sat down waiting for a clearing in the weather. Eventually I got the break and pulled out my map – it didn't help that Mount Romeo was on the edge between two

of the 1:50,000 maps and one of them I had left at home. Through the clouds I was able to determine that I was on a summit 1 km southeast of Mount Eden. Romeo was about 2.5 km north of where I was sitting. I guess you could say the reconnoitring trip was successful. A month later (September 28) I returned and climbed Mount Romeo. A month after that (October 22) I was back to climb the true summit of Mount Eden. I approached the peak from the north but found the final section of the North Ridge a little daunting



so I traversed around the northeast side of the peak and climbed some 5th class rock on the East Ridge to the summit. Tick! Both Romeo and Eden were off my 'to do' list.



*Laurence putting crampons on at the bottom of the snow gully.
Photo: Lindsay Elms*

Nineteen years later (early June 2018) Rod Szasz and I climb of an unnamed peak 2 km south of Mount Nora and in the distance saw a couple of striking spires immediately south of Mount Eden. I had noticed them before – when I climbed Mount Eden - but I never thought any more about them. In fact, I have to say I had forgotten about them. I know after Rod and I posted our trip photos on Facebook showing the twin spires that others had also noticed them (Sandy Briggs and Aaron Smeeth), but like me they had never taken any steps towards climbing them. Rod and I decided that had to be rectified.

On June 14, 2018, Rod Szasz, Chris O'Grady, Laurence Philippsen and I decided to climb the Eden Spires. I knew from a trip up Mount Romeo in the fall of 2017 that the roads were in good conditions up Compton Creek off the Adam River. The evening before the climb we drove to the end of the Compton Main about 1.5 km southwest of Mount Eden. While driving in we could see a long snow-filled gully that terminated in a saddle immediately to the south of the two spires. It looked to be a possible route to the spires. The next morning, after a little bit of bushwhacking, we arrived at the bottom of the gully and put our crampons on. Higher up it got steeper and then the snow disappeared and we had to scramble up a steep, narrow rock gully to the saddle. By now visibility had diminished and there was drizzle in the air. The rock above us was steep and wet, and we didn't

have enough rock gear to attempt the final 150 metres. Instead, we scrambled up to a summit southwest of us where we got a fleeting glimpse of the twin summits in between showers. You could say we had another successful reconnaissance.

Six days later (June 20) Rod and I were back at the end off the Compton Main sitting around a fire knocking-back a couple of pre-climb beers. Ah, the joys of being at the end of a logging road with lots of available firewood. The next morning, we thrashed through the initial bush at the bottom of the East Ridge on the South Eden Spire. We had to zig-zag through the bluffs ending up below one pitch where we had to pull out the rope. A few 5.6/7 moves on loose rock with a bit of air below us and then the final 4th class scramble to the summit. We listened to the thunder rolling and rumbling around, and watched the rain showers on the nearby peaks hoping that it would pass us by. We didn't want to be scrambling down wet steep rock or deal with damp bush. Luckily for us it held off until we got back down to the truck.

Now there was still one unclimbed spire left – the North Eden Spire - so seven days later (June 27) Rod and I were back at the end off the Compton Main again sitting around a fire drinking beer. Ah, the joys



*Rod in the rock gully.
Photo: Lindsay Elms*



*Some of the thick bush on the South Eden Spire.
Photo: Lindsay Elms*

Yes, there is something about claiming a first ascent. If someone was to beat us to the prize/ first ascent, so be it. It would mean someone was inspired by our photos and trip report. That's what climbing is about - sharing. Anyway, we reached the saddle at the head of the valley and harnessed up, leaving our packs under a tree.

We scrambled up steep heather slopes to a narrow cleft that looked better than the rock wall to our left. Blocks of rock were like stepping stones which brought us up to a bench we had noticed while coming up the valley.

of being at the end of a logging road with lots of available firewood. Oh, I have already said that! Sorry!

The next morning, we started up the valley and instead of deaking off into a side stream to the left we stayed in the main valley - the valley leading to the saddle between Mount Eden and the two spires. We chose to come back so soon because we wanted the snow coverage in the lower creek bed. The lack of snow wouldn't stop us, but it was nice having the coverage to speed the approach. Besides, our photos on Facebook might inspire others to beat us to the prize.



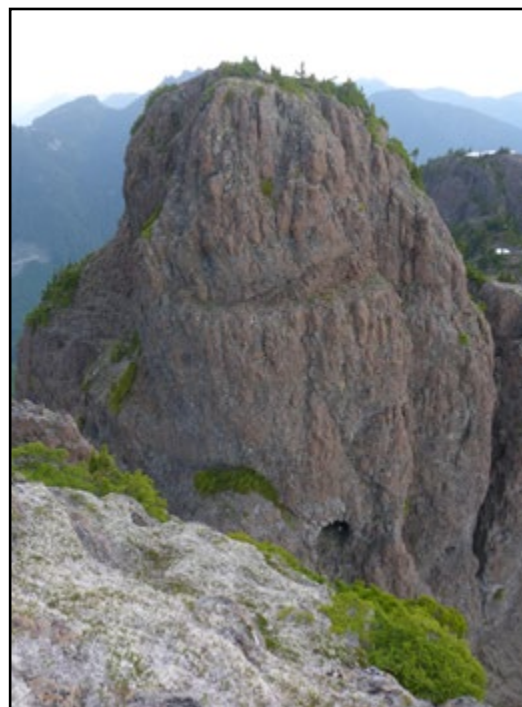
*Rod gearing up.
Photo: Lindsay Elms*



Here we uncoiled the rope and Rod led up the rock face. A couple of runners around stubby trees growing in nooks (there was no cracks for placing cams or friends) provided protection if one slipped - not fall because it wasn't vertical.

*North Eden Spire.
Photo: Lindsay Elms*

*South Eden Spire.
Photo: Lindsay Elms*



After a full runout we were able to dispense with the rope and scramble to the summit.

Wahoo! That sums up my feelings on the summit. I don't need to say any more about it. On the descent – after climbing any mountain you have to descend – I was still on a high. I wasn't feeling it was anticlimactic.

Although I have climbed all the spires around Mount Eden, just like the Mackenzie Range, I WILL return. Why? Because I love the adventure and the thrill of exploring the mountains, but also because I love sharing the mountains with friends.

*Rod rappelling the North Eden Spire.
Photo: Lindsay Elms*



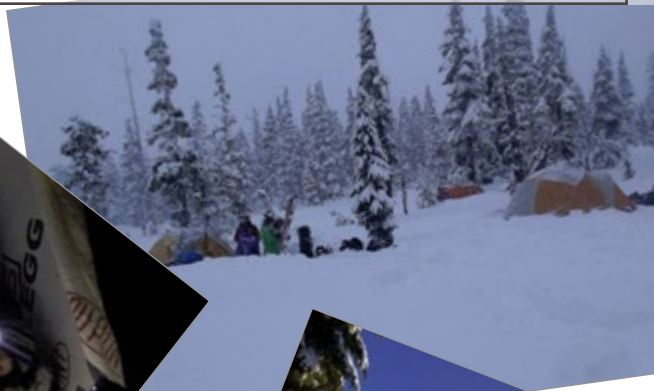
*Lindsay on the summit of North Eden Spire.
Photo: Rod Szasz*



ACC-VI Youth Feb 16-17 Snow Camp

ACC Youth Feb 16/17 snow camp. A great outing - a cold and snowy approach/evening and night made the sunny second day even better. 3 parties built and slept in quinzees and some of us enjoyed some fresh turns on Sunday.

Stefan Gessinger - [from the ACC-VI FaceBook Page](#)



The ACC-VI Section's new hut on 5040 Peak is now OPEN!

Chris Jensen, General Manager, 5040 Peak Hut

On January 11th, 2019 the first public guests were welcomed to the VI Section's new hut on 5040 Peak. The fire was on and comfy foam beds were waiting for their arrival. It was a celebratory weekend filled with good cheer and fun skiing.



Lots of excited skiers and some snowshoers have been making the trek up to the hut. On weekends it has generally been fully booked at the max capacity of 12 guests. The hut is also seeing increased use on weekdays.

The snowline on Marion Creek FSR was quite high for most of the winter. This allowed people to drive to 8 km or further for much of January and early February (Cobalt Lake Trailhead is at 9.7 km). Recent heavy snowfall has pushed the snowline down lower in the Marion Valley. People have now been driving to the 4 km hill and skinning in from there.

With all of the guest traffic there has usually been a good skin track on the road and boot pack through the old growth forest. Approach time largely depends on how far people can drive up Marion Creek FSR, whether there's fresh snow and how light the packs are. From the 4 km hill, most parties have been taking about 5 hours to reach the hut.

People have been thoroughly enjoying the views from the deck, the great ski terrain and the hut's modern amenities. Public reviews have been extremely positive. However, as the hut is stressed tested by both guests and winter conditions, some issues have come up with hut's more technical systems. Sometimes in the mountains it isn't just one error that causes a failure, but rather a series of small issues that cumulatively create a failure. The hut experienced this scenario with the wood pellet stove. A knock-on effect of different issues led a guest to plug the wood pellet stove directly into the Honda generator. This fried the main circuit board in the wood pellet stove. Having no heat was now a big issue! Thankfully our tech guru, Martin Hofmann, came to the rescue, repaired the board and the stove was working again before the next weekend. We've now taken steps to address the some of the issues that led to this situation.

However, the biggest step that can be taken to prevent this scenario from happening again is to reduce



5040 Peak Hut is now OPEN!



the need to start the generator to charge the hut's main battery bank. This happens when there have been continuous guests at the hut along with low solar energy due to weather conditions. The preferred solution to significantly reduce or completely eliminate generator use is to invest in two wind turbines.

The best equipment to use in the windy environment of 5040 Peak are [Air 30 Turbines](#) produced by Primus Windpower. These are the same wind turbines that the ACC uses on the Louise and Richard Guy Hut in the Rockies. The hut budget did not allocate funds for this equipment and all of the donations and grants have now been spent.

No funds remain to purchase the wind turbines and related hardware.

The estimated budget to enhance the electrical system with wind turbines is \$5,000. This equipment will provide for redundant production of renewable energy (wind and solar) and will ensure that adequate electricity is available to power the fans etc in the wood pellet stove. **If you can help with purchasing this important equipment** then please consider donating to the hut fund. Charitable donation receipts are provided for all contributions \$20 and above. Donations can be made quickly and easily by credit card at: [The Vancouver Island 5040 Hut Construction donation page.](#)

Once the wind turbines have been added then guests or the hut steward should no longer have to use the generator to charge the batteries. This improvement not only reduces potential complications as we've already experienced, but an additional key benefit is that it will substantially decrease the high costs of buying gas for the generator and flying it up. Wind turbines will make the hut will be more self sufficient and will reduce CO2 emissions. Please consider donating for this purchase.

The National Office of the Alpine Club of Canada has been doing a professional job of managing the hut's reservations. We are very thankful for their capacity and expertise to provide this service.

Reservations can be made 7 days a week by calling 403-678-3200.

The hut fee is \$20 per night for members and \$25 for non-members. Consider reserving your bed now before it's all booked up.

Looking ahead, from August 17-25 the hut has been booked for a ACC-VI Section Hut Week. More information on this event will be coming soon from the Executive.

Early in 2019, the Government of British Columbia approved the application for officially construct and maintain the Cobalt Lake Trail. We will be looking for volunteers this summer to help improve the access and safety on the Cobalt Lake Trail. Donations to the hut fund will also be used to purchase supplies and equipment needed for trail work.

The hut committee was created on February 2, 2015. Exactly four years later at the ACC-VI's AGM, the hut committee reported that it had accomplished what it had set out to do: build a new backcountry alpine hut for Vancouver Island. The mountaineering community has been expressing its immense grati-



5040 Peak Hut is now OPEN!



tude to committee members for creating this dream-like facility. With the hut build now complete, Chris Ruttan, Rick Hudson and Lindsay Elms are stepping down in the official capacities; however, they will still advise and be involved as time allows.

The transition from the build to operate means that hut committee roles are also changing. We are now looking for keen volunteers to support the hut in the following new roles:

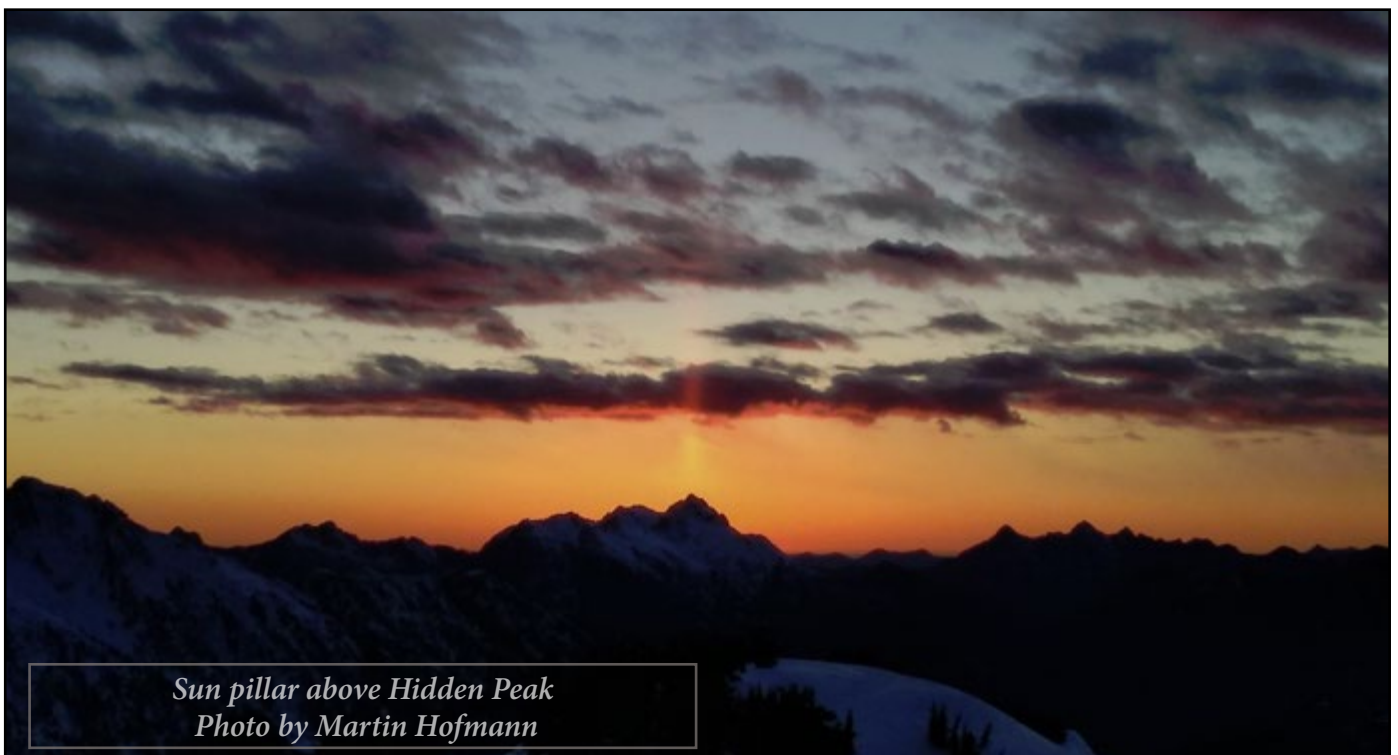
1. **Facilities Manager:** responsible for overseeing general building maintenance;
2. **Communications Manager:** addresses public questions, media requests, coordinates volunteers when needed, and;
3. **Access Manager:** responsible for trail and road maintenance (to whatever extent possible).

These three positions will be joined by Colleen Kasting as Financial Manager, Martin Hofmann as Hut Steward Manager (and Tech Guru) and Chris Jensen as General Manager. If you are interested in filling any of the positions, then please contact us at huts@accvi.ca.

Another opportunity to be involved is to enrol in our Hut Steward Program. If you're interested in becoming a hut steward, then please contact huts@accvi.ca. A hut steward is often up there to look after any issues that might come up and ensure registered guests are staying there.

After more than 100 years of the section discussing building an alpine hut, we finally have one! If you haven't already visited it, then consider coming up to the enjoy the magnificent views from Vancouver Island's new alpine hut.

Thank you to the hundreds of generous people that made this project possible.
Chris Jensen



*Sun pillar above Hidden Peak
Photo by Martin Hofmann*

e-Trails: Mountain News and Stories

Colin Mann reports: "The great folks at Ski Tak Hut in Courtenay have offered us a deal of 20% off all backcountry ski rentals for ACC-VI members with a valid membership card. Membership cards must be available at time of rental to receive this discount. Great for all the folks who are thinking about getting into backcountry touring this winter. Please call ahead if you are coming with a group of two or more."



Things to rent include: Touring skis, skins, and poles, touring boots, avalanche transceivers, probes, shovels, snowshoes.

Shaun Peck reports: "On Feb 27th, 2019 ACC members Catrin Brown (37.1 minutes), Nitya Harris (51.58 minutes) and Diane Bernard (47.2 minutes) all spoke about preserving the Sooke Wilderness Park at the CRD's Parks and Environment Committee." Here is the video of the entire process:

http://crd.ca.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=1&clip_id=1373

Reminder: Applications for this summer's *The North Face Leadership Course* are now open! All details on the course can be found [at this web page](#) and applications must be received by March 22nd to be considered by the Committee.

Mary Sanseverino reports on ACC-VI trip photography courtesy: Recently the Executive discussed what happens when trip photographs are posted online, in the Newsletter, etc. but someone in the photo feels uncomfortable being in the posted image. We don't have a section photography waiver. ACC National does - anyone who has attended the General Mountaineering Camp will probably remember reading and signing one. The Executive is reluctant to add yet more paperwork to section trips. So, to address concerns in these days where it is both easy to take photos and to share them publicly, we felt suggesting and soliciting feedback/ideas on trip photographic considerations might be in order. Consider the following:

- 1). Photographers - make it easy for trip participants to tell you they would rather not appear in your photos by inviting them to have a quiet word about it with you early in the trip.
- 2). Trip leaders - consider bringing up the issue of courteous photography in your trail-head talk. Making it "no big thing" to opt out of being in a picture can help trip participants feel comfortable making whatever choices they want around photography.
- 3). Trip participants - respect other participants wishes not to appear in a photo. Don't try and "talk them into it". A simple, "I'd rather not" or "no thanks" should be all that's necessary.

Remember the ACC-VI motto:

1. *COME BACK ALIVE*
 2. *COME BACK FRIENDS*
 3. *RESPECT THE LAND*
 4. *HAVE FUN*
 5. *GET TO THE TOP*
- (IN THAT ORDER!)

What do you think about this matter? Email Mary Sanseverino at newsletter@accvi.ca with your thoughts. She will bring it forward at the next Executive meeting.

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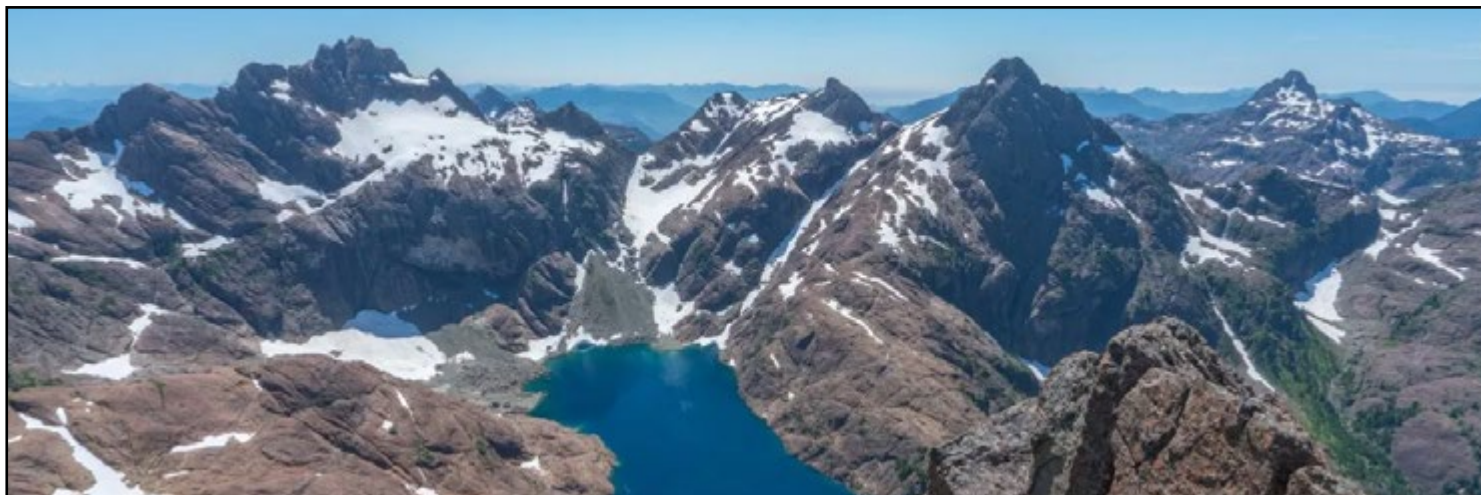
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* Non Executive Coordinators



On Mt Grattan summit looking over the Thupana Range
Photo: Hunter Lee - [ACC-VI 2018 Photo Competition](#)



***From the Front Cover:
5040 Peak Hut in Winter***

Taken by Rodney Newcombe on Feb 20, 2019 - a bluebird day at 5040 Peak!

Thank you to this month's contributors:

***Geoff Bennett, Sandy Briggs, Catrin Brown, Janelle Curtis, Lindsay
Elms, Craig Ferchuk, Christine Fordham, Chris George,
Stefan Gessinger, Martin Hofmann, Chris Jensen, Rowan Laver,
Hunter Lee, Colin Mann, Sebastien Marcoux,
Rodney Newcombe, Shaun Peck,
Natasha Salway, Rod Szasz, Roger Taylor.
Well done everyone!***

