

Island Bushwhacker

Volume 50 | Issue 3 | Autumn 2022



*Accessing the island alpine isn't
always a walk in the park.*

Photo by Megan Walter

ACC VANCOUVER ISLAND SECTION

Social Events

The club hosts monthly slide shows at the Swan Lake nature sanctuary in Victoria, when health guidelines allow. We aim to continue to offer a streamed in-person event, so that members further afield or who prefer to watch from home can also be involved.

Web Information

Web site: www.accvi.ca

Webmaster: webmaster@accvi.ca

Executive Meeting Minutes

Available on our meeting archives which are [here](#).

National ACC Office

For new memberships and renewals, changes of address or other details, and booking huts, contact the ACC National office directly at:
www.alpineclubofcanada.ca
Email: info@alpineclubofcanada.ca; Tel: (403)-678-3200; Address: P.O. Box 8040, Canmore, AB, T1W 2T8

Annual Membership Dues

Single \$58 Family \$83 Youth (19 and under) \$41

The Island Bushwhacker Newsletter is published the first week of March, June, September, and December. Other weeks, the **High Points Bulletin** summarizes events and key section announcements.

Newsletter Editor: Janelle Curtis

High Points Editor: Allison Caughey

We encourage submissions of items of interest to our membership, including articles and photos in months when the newsletter is published. Please email your submissions to newsletter@accvi.ca 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

COME BACK ALIVE
COME BACK FRIENDS
RESPECT THE LAND
HAVE FUN
GET TO THE TOP
(IN THAT ORDER!)

UPCOMING EVENTS

The *ACCVI Summer BBQ* is on 7 September. Come and share stories about your summer adventures and re-connect with others after a long covid-induced break. Read about it [here](#).

Contents

- 3 Upcoming Trips
- 3 Mountain Education
- 4 Notes from the Chair: David Lemon
- 5 Albert Hestler (1933-2022)
- 6 VI Mountains - Now and Then
- 12 Tribute to Robie Macdonald (1947-2022)
- 14 Access and Environment
- 15 Soprano Peak Summer Camp
- 19 Lake O'Hara Summer Camp
- 21 Distinguished Service Award
- 23 Born to be Wild - VI Marmots
- 24 Book Review of A Journey Back to Nature: A History of Strathcona Park
- 25 Hišimýawił Pronunciation
- 26 Greening the Alpine Club
- 35 CRD Parks and Strategic Plan Update
- 36 Landscape View: Island Bushwhacker Newsletter
- 38 Leadership Points Update
- 39 ACCVI Executive Committee

Reminder to Members:

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

Join or visit the ACCVI's [Facebook group](#). You don't have to be a Facebook member to see this page. And visit ACCVI's Discussion Forum at <https://discourse.accvi.ca/>



Upcoming Trips

*Full information for all trips is located online on the ACCVI [Trip Schedule](#).
Keep your eye on the [Trip Schedule](#) often!*

Event Schedule

Our trip and event schedule depends on members volunteering to lead a trip or organize an event. There are no specific requirements, other than confidence to lead a small group on your chosen route. For extra information please check the 'Information for leaders' section of our website (<https://accvi.ca/trip-leaders/>) or email a question to leadership@accvi.ca.

Dates	Trip/Event
2-5 September	Trail Building
7 September	Summer BBQ
9-11 September	Comox Glacier with possible Black Cat Peak (C2/3) **Full – waitlist being taken**
16-19 September	Mt. Celeste & Iceberg Peak (C2)

Thank you for contributing to our community in this important way!
Keep an eye on the [trip schedule](#) for information about upcoming trips!

Mountain Education

ACCVI offers a wide variety of workshops and courses aimed at giving our members the technical and safety skills to get out there in the mountains safely.

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 ACCVI's courses.

Education and Courses: <http://accvi.ca/programs/education/>.

Is there something you would like to see? Contact education@accvi.ca.

Please see the [trip schedule](#) for information about upcoming education events.

Notes from the Chair

By David Lemon

The summer is drawing to a close, and the days are getting shorter, but there is still ample time to enjoy the alpine.

It has been a busy summer for the section, with the summer fly-in camp to [Soprano Peak](#) and a hut camp at Lake O'Hara's [Elizabeth Parker Hut](#). Both were a great success, thanks to the hard work of the summer camp committee (Liz Williams, Jeff Beddoes and Laura Darling) for the fly-in camp and Cedric Zala for the Lake O'Hara week. Thanks to all of them for making these wonderful camps possible.

It is great to see so many members out enjoying the mountains on those and other shorter trips over the past few months.

Congratulations also to Rich Priebe, Barry Hansen, and Eryn Tombu-Haigh who completed the Island 6000'ers this summer, qualifying for the [Charles Turner Vancouver Island 6000'ers Award](#).

There have been some sad aspects to the summer as well, with the death of one of our oldest members, **Albert Hestler** on August 5th. Albert will be sorely missed, but with us in spirit when we visit the mountains he loved so much.

Looking forward to the resumption of the regular fall activities, we still need a coordinator for the slide show evenings. We hope to restart in October with a temporary arrangement but need someone to carry on a regular schedule. Please contact any member of the executive if you are interested.



Albert Hestler on Poachers Peak. Photo by Shaun Peck

Albert Hestler (1933-2022)

By David Lemon

We are very saddened to pass on the news that Albert Hestler died on Friday, August 5th. One of our oldest members, Albert was a great inspiration as an active mountaineer throughout a long life. He was a wonderful companion in the mountains and his stories of his experiences travelling the world exploring the alpine environment were fascinating. It is a great loss for our section, and he will be sorely missed.

Memories of Albert and condolences to his partner Liz can be shared on the obituary site <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/victoria-bc/hans-albert-hestler-10878797>

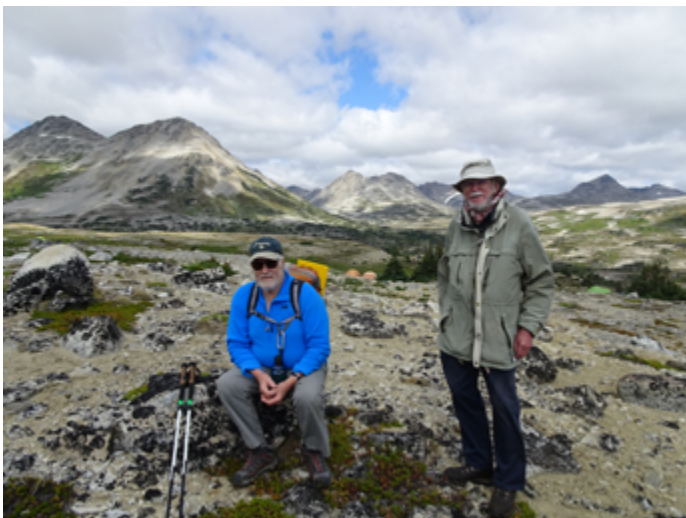
A full tribute to Albert will be posted on our website. And information on how we will celebrate Albert's many years of contribution to the club will be shared soon.



*Albert Hestler in 2009. Prosit.
Photo by George Smekal*



*Cyclone Peak summer camp in 2015.
Photo by Rick Hudson*



*Griswold summer camp in 2021.
Photo by Shaun Peck*



*Griswold summer camp in 2021.
Photographer unknown*

Vancouver Island Mountains - Now and Then

By Catrin Brown

There is still plenty of time to contribute to our “VI Mountains Now and Then” project 2022. A reminder that this is a celebration of our Island mountains through repeat photography, with the goal of publishing the paired photographs in the 50th anniversary edition of the *Island Bushwhacker Annual* in 2023.

Mary Sanseverino has previously shared her expertise for this project, and this is given below. In essence it's a case of getting out there with your camera and taking a photograph which repeats as closely as possible an earlier photograph from the same place. The paired photographs are hosted on a special page on our forum <https://discourse.accvi.ca/t/vancouver-island-mountains-now-and-then/432/6> Check it out and think how you may add to the collection.

By the way, we have a very loose interpretation of “Then” and “Now” in terms of the time span or dates of the photos, so feel free to submit any pairs that are of interest. Points of comparison may include topography, land use, snow pack, clothing, gear etc. Good sources of photographs are in the previous editions of the *Island Bushwhacker Annual* at <https://accvi.ca/programs/island-bushwhacker-archives/> and *Island Bushwhacker Newsletters* here: <https://accvi.ca/programs/newsletter/>

And just to give you some ideas, here are some older images you may like to try and repeat:

Triple Peak in 1984



Comox Glacier in 1986



Alexandra Peak in 1987



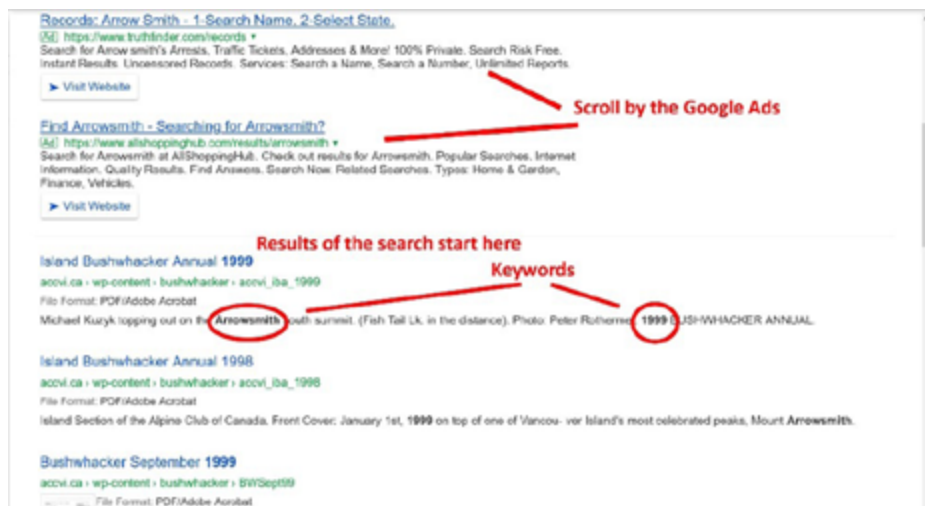
Golden Hinde in 1987



Vancouver Island Mountains – Now and Then: How to participate in the ACCVI repeat photography project

By Mary Sanseverino: msanseve@gmail.com

As many of you know repeat mountain photography is something of a passion of mine (mountainlegacy.ca). Over the past few years a number of people have discussed with Rob Macdonald how interesting (and fun!) it would be to do some repeats on Vancouver Island. I'm sad I didn't get the chance to get out and do repeats with him, but am honoured to be helping his idea come to life. In fact, we can all help bring Rob's vision to life! Read on to find out how.

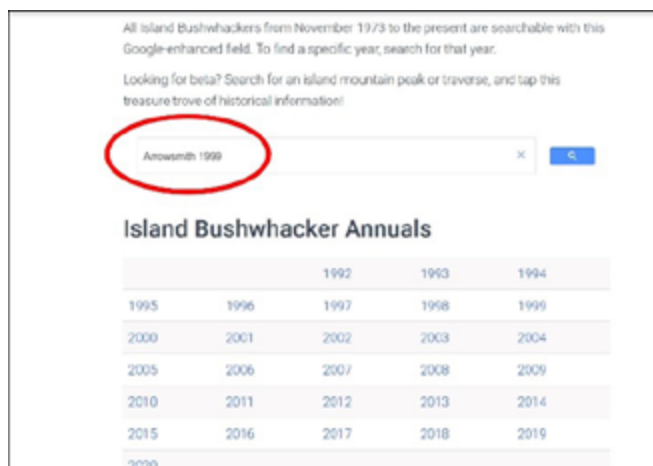


The Basics:

- Find an old(er) photo taken in a Vancouver Island mountain setting that “speaks” to you or somehow grabs your attention. Island Bushwhackers Annuals are a great place to start: [IBA Archive](#).
- Make a copy of it.
- Get yourself and the copy out to the same(ish) location.
- Set up the modern photo as best you can to match the old/historic photo.
- Take the photo.
- Get home safely and upload the historic and modern photo pair (and a few words about the images) to the [Vancouver Island Mountains: Now and Then](#) Event on the ACCVI Discussion Forum.

Filling in the “How-to” Details (this is where the fun – some might say devilish fun – takes place!):

1). Find an old(er) photo taken in a Vancouver Island mountain setting. You could use any photo you like – one of your own, or something from friends/family – but we are suggesting you might like to start with the archival treasure trove of Island Bushwhacker Annuals and Newsletters available on the ACCVI website.



Turn your browser to accvi.ca/programs/island-bushwhacker-archives. You'll see links to past *Island Bushwhacker Annuals* (1992 – present day), and you can access older editions going back all the way to 1973 by putting the year in the Google-enhanced search bar. Click the search icon or just tap the Enter key and Google will throw up a results screen.

If you'd like to refine your search – say look for a mountain name, a year, and/or a person – simply add a few more terms and try again.

For example, entering 1999 and Arrowsmith in the search bar will give 18 results.

2). Make a copy of the “historic” photo. There are lots of ways to do this. Here are a few tips.

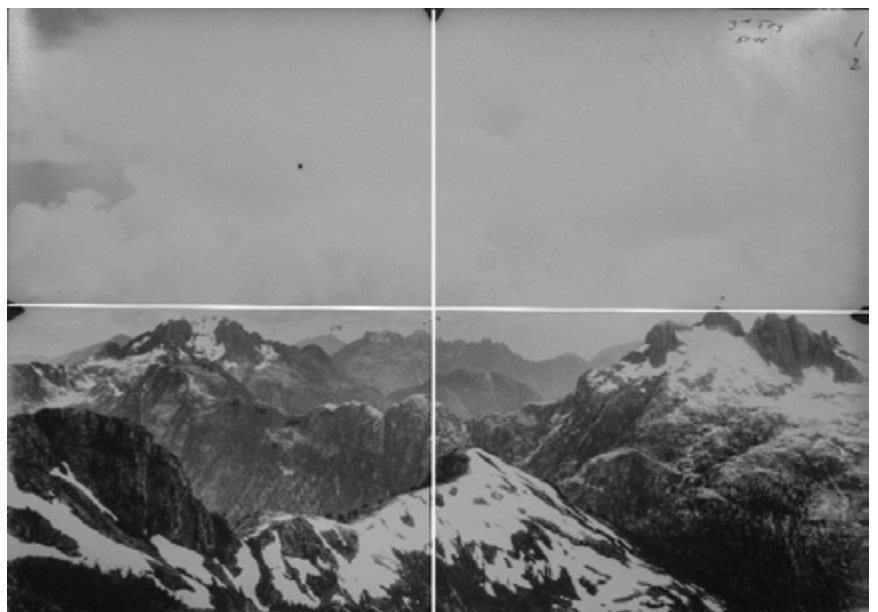
- If working in the Windows world – check out [how-to-screenshot-on-windows](#). I like the “Snip and Sketch” tool (**Windows Key + Shift + S**).
- In the Mac world – check out [how to grab a copy of the screen](#) – I like capturing a portion of the screen with **Shift + Command + 4**.
- On your mobile device – [Android How-To-Screenshot](#). iPhone [How-To-Screenshot](#).
- Screen shot – what the heck is that? Keen to participate but stymied by how to get the historic photo from the *Island Bushwhacker Annual* (or newsletter) to your computer/mobile device/sheet of paper? Drop me an email – msanseve@gmail.com – and I'll help out as best I can. It would be great if you could include info about the historic photo you are interested in (e.g. year, page number, and description of photo in the *Island Bushwhacker Annual* (or newsletter); web page with photo on it; etc.) but don't let a lack of detail stop you from getting in touch!

3). Out you go to repeat the photo! I find it helpful to have the photo as a hard copy, but having it on a mobile device works too. I often like to put a crosshair on the image – like I've done with this 1941 image taken from 5040 Peak by surveyor George Jackson.

If you've got a hard copy to take with you just use a straight edge and draw the lines right on it. Or, you can simply eye-ball the historic image and try to get as close as possible to where you think the original photographer stood. A handy thing about getting images from the *Island Bushwhacker Annual* (or newsletter) – the accompanying story often gives very good clues as to photograph location.

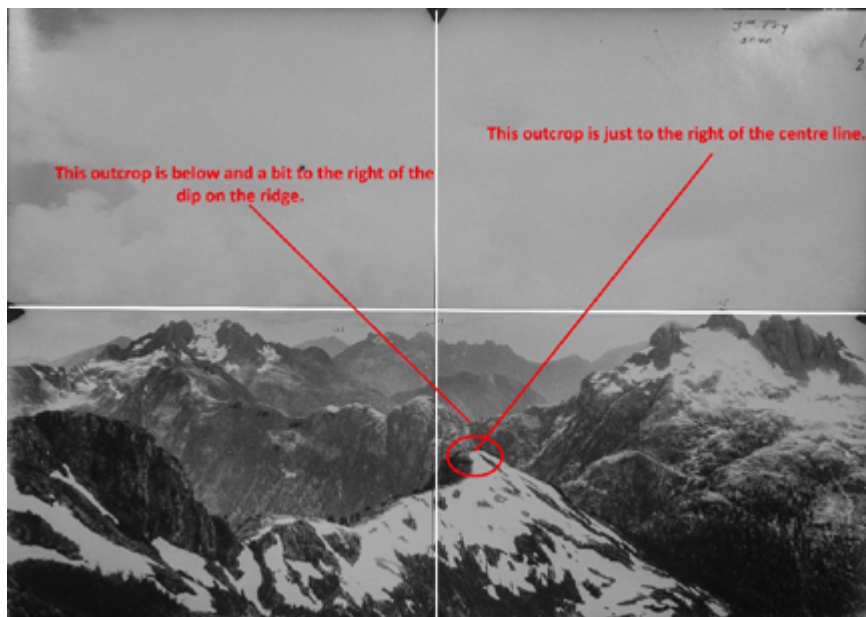
4). To get as close a repeat as I can I often start with lining up things in mid or far distance relative to where I am standing. I look at where peaks, outcrops, etc. are in relationship to each other and adjust my position accordingly. For example, when I repeated the 1941 shot from 5040 I used the bump at the end of the ridge over Cobalt Lake as a key “line-them-up” component.

After I've gotten pretty close using just the historic photo, up comes the camera and I look through it glancing back and forth between the camera



view and the historic photo. That's one reason why I like having a printed copy of the historic shot – it's a bit harder to get repeats when your phone does double duty as camera and historic photo display. The other reason – I don't cry too much if I drop the paper!

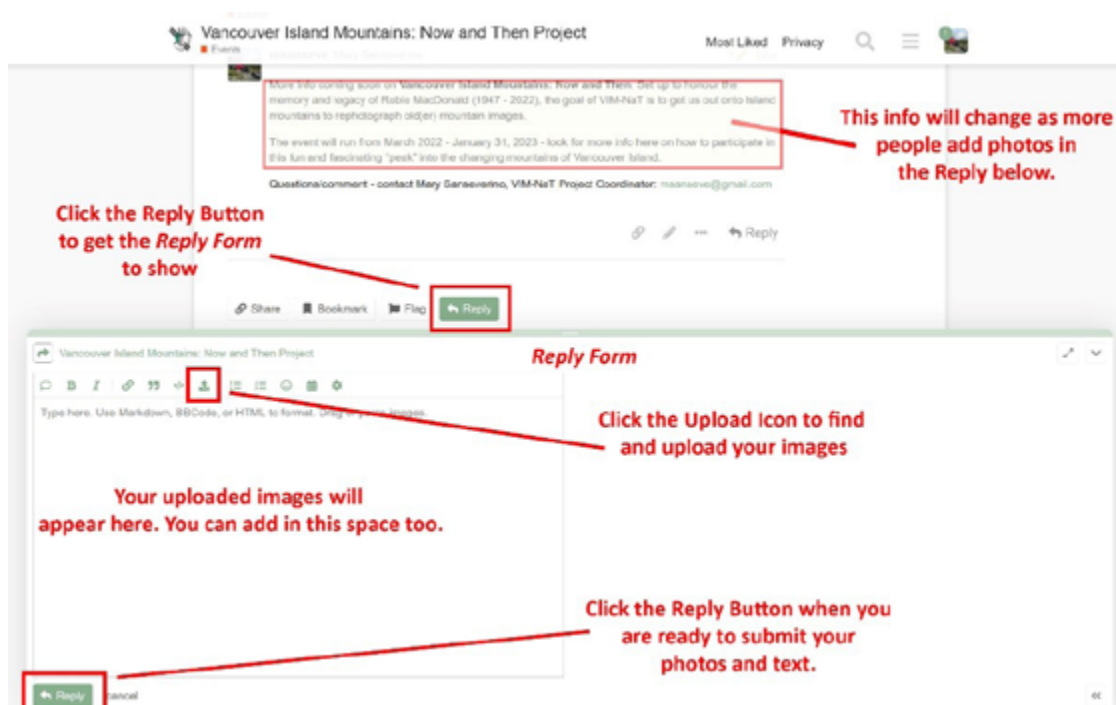
5). Click the shutter and get the repeat. Don't feel you have to use a "real" camera – anything you have available will do the trick. A shot from a phone or point-and-shoot camera, especially if well aligned, will be grand. Long story short – don't let gear, or lack thereof, hold you back from participating. This is about telling Now and Then stories – the photos are only one portion.



It's not a show-stopper if you can't get it, but it would be great to have a photo location. Perhaps those of you using a GPS can drop a waypoint when taking the photo. Those shooting via a phone can enable GPS (if possible) and have the location recorded automatically with the shot. Again, don't worry if you don't have these things – jotting down a few notes down about the general location will work just as well.

6). When you've safely made it back home point your browser to the **ACCVI Discussion Forum Events** page [Vancouver Island Mountains: Now and Then](#). From here you can LOGIN and click the REPLY below the VIM-NaT Event. No account on the Discussion Forum – no worries – you can create your own account for free by clicking the SIGN UP button on the top right.

Now you are ready to upload your historic/modern image pair(s) along with some written comments on the photos. Check out the handy how-to screenshot to get a feel for the upload basics.



There are so many things you could write about for a given historic/modern pair. For example, what drew you to repeat the photo you did? Are there people in the photo – if yes, who are they? Are there any changes evident between Now and Then? And so much more.

At the very least please consider telling us where, approximately, the image was taken (see point 5 above), when the images were taken – although the historic shot might be an approximation – and who was involved. But, don't let lack of words stop you from uploading – get the photos in place and we can deal with the who, where, and why at a later date!

7). Okay – you want to participate – in fact you've done everything just like it says here but the darn uploader isn't working for you (or, maybe you've said to yourself "I've got enough accounts already! I can hardly remember my own name let alone another password"). No problem – just pop the photos into an email and send it along to me. I'll take care of getting them uploaded: Mary Sanseverino, msanseve@gmail.com.

I think that's all for now – don't let all this blah-blah scare you away – just think of it as yet another (as if we needed more!) excuse to get out and explore our amazing Vancouver Island Mountains. We'll keep everyone updated with an ever-growing interactive map linking your photos and stories to our VanIsle mountain home.

Mary Sanseverino

Questions/comments/ideas? Feel free to get in touch with either Catrin Brown (catrinbluesky@gmail.com) or me (msanseve@gmail.com). We hope this is the start of an outstanding project that will honour the memory and legacy of Robie Macdonald – an outstanding mountaineer, friend, colleague, and person. Climb on!



Morning Mist in Paadise Meadows. Photo by Carol Doering submitted to the Vancouver Island Category of the ACCVI 2021 Photo Competition

Celebration of the life of Robie Macdonald.....“A life well lived”

By Catrin Brown

A large crowd of ACC friends gathered to celebrate Rob's life on Friday 19 August. Special thanks to Russ Moir and Lynne Moorhouse for generously sharing their home for this event. It was a time of rich reconnections, of tributes and tears, of love and laughter. Rob is remembered for his pioneering mountaineering on the Island and his long-term contribution to the section, as well as his internationally acclaimed scientific research. Above all else, Rob left a legacy of unwavering guidance and friendship.

A full tribute to Rob's life and accomplishments written by Paul Erickson is now on our website here: <https://accvi.ca/programs/memorial-fund-youth-grants/memorial/#rob> and is reproduced below.

Robie Macdonald (1947-2022)

By Paul Erickson



*Robie Macdonald on Corfu. Photo by
Julie Henderson*

Robie (Rob) Macdonald, a long-time member of the section and one of the most accomplished Vancouver Island mountaineers, passed away peacefully at home on February 13.

It is hard to imagine a conversation about mountains and climbing on Vancouver Island that doesn't include his name.

His first climbing trip was to Elkhorn in 1974, and I still remember the look on Rob's face as we sat on the summit. He loved it all, the adventure, the challenge of finding a route, struggling through the bush and the obstacles in the way, all necessary for the goal of breaking into the alpine and climbing the peak. This was the beginning of a lifelong love affair that saw him climb all the major peaks on the Island. Many were first ascents.

One of these was Mt Bate in what is now referred to as the Alava-Bate Sanctuary. I had the good fortune to be with him when we first discovered this area. We had climbed Mt Alava from the west after a horrendous bushwhack and difficult scrambling to get out of the Perry River Valley. After pulling to the top of Alava we were both awestruck (or gobsmacked Rob would have said) by our first view of Mt Bate and the stunningly beautiful Peter Lake surrounded by Mt Grattan and what looked like an obvious stone thumb. That sight pulled us back again and again and we eventually climbed all the peaks in the area including an ascent of Mt Bate from the outlet of Peter Lake.

There were many other first ascents on the Island for Rob. With his long-time climbing partner and friend, Rick Eppler, he explored and climbed mountains all over the island, but his name and Rick's are perhaps

most associated with the mountains along Highway 4 past Sproat Lake. Adder Mtn, Cats Ears, Triple peak, Hidden Peak, Steamboat, Limestone twins and Fifty Forty and many more were all climbed, many for the first time, during Rob's exploratory efforts in this area.

Rob continued to hone his climbing skills through the 80s and 90s, and in addition to the many challenging climbs on the Island, he added many more on the mainland. He also set about climbing as many peaks as he could easily access in Roper and Steck's *Fifty Classic Climbs of North America*. He ticked off ascents of the Grand Teton, Forbidden Peak, Wolf's Head, Slesse northeast buttress, Mount Sir Donald, Bugaboo Spire, and Mount Waddington during this period.

As he got older, Rob never lost his love and joy of being in the mountains. In his later years he did more hiking than climbing but still loved the challenge of a difficult scramble preferably with a bit of exposure. He would always rate a trip or objective based on "time in the alpine". He travelled to Scotland many times to scramble the Highlands and Isle of Skye, and to Switzerland where he discovered the joys of Via Ferratas. During the last decade of his life, he spent a week each summer in Canmore working his way through Alan Kane's *Scrambles in the Canadian Rockies*.

He took up photography and spent more time on his outings recording the beauty he saw in the mountains and its wildlife and flora. Like everything else he did, he excelled, and his photos were eagerly awaited after a trip, with many making it into the Bushwhacker annuals. With all that he had going on in his life he still found time to edit and produce the Bushwhacker annuals that are such an important part of the Section.

But mountains were not his only passion. Robie came to the Island in 1973 after completing his PhD at Dalhousie University, not to climb but for a Post Doctoral Fellowship position at the newly formed Ocean Chemistry section of the Institute of Ocean Sciences. Oil exploration in the Beaufort Sea had just started and there was a rush by the Federal Government to obtain chemical, physical, and biological information on the continental shelf where exploratory drilling was taking place. This introduced Rob to arctic oceanography and ocean contaminants which became a central theme for much of his future research work. Over his 39-year career with Ocean Sciences as a research scientist, Rob became, to quote from the Federal Government website "*one of the world's leading marine geochemists. He won international respect and numerous medals and awards for his innovative and ground-breaking research using geochemistry to understand earth and ocean processes.*" His work has been published in over 180 peer-reviewed journal articles, numerous book chapters and reports, and one co-edited book on the organic carbon cycle in the Arctic Ocean. He also became an adjunct faculty member of the University of Manitoba where he took on graduate students of his own.

Rob officially retired from IOS in 2013 but he continued to publish and, through collaborations with scientists from all over the world, continued to follow his research interests. He derived a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction through his mentoring of graduate students at the University of Manitoba. In 2019, in a fitting culmination to his stellar and productive scientific career, he was awarded the Order of Canada for having identified the effects contaminants have on northern marine ecosystems and on nearby Indigenous communities.

Family was important to Rob and no one more so than Julie, his life partner and frequent climbing and adventure companion.

With all that Rob accomplished in the mountains, in his research, and the awards and recognition he received, it was Rob the person that I admire the most. His insight, humour, companionship, compassion, and leadership were apparent and cherished by all who knew him. Rob could always be counted on to lighten any situation with one of what seemed like his endless supply of jokes. What gave him the most satisfaction and

comfort was knowing that he had made a positive difference in the lives of those he knew. This recognition gave real meaning to his life. And though he always seemed a little surprised when being told that he had really helped or influenced someone's life or life choices, it was no surprise to those who knew him. He always put the well being of others above his own, whether with family, on an outing in the mountains or in his collaborations and joint publications with other scientists. This was true even towards the end when he would comfort his friends and family in their grief and sadness.

We had many discussions and musings on the important things in life. One of these musings really resonated with me and is a good summary of how Rob viewed life:

"The universe makes the atoms of life only in super-novae. We are all stardust, billions of years old, living with borrowed materials. The universe loans these materials to us but will sooner or later take them all back. The gift you get to keep is the interest you make while using these atoms during your life. Invest wisely because that is all that will remain of you and even then, only for a while."

Rob did invest wisely and the memories of all he accomplished and of the exceptional person he was are the gifts he left to all who knew him. He left the world with a smile.

His truly was a life well lived.



Access and Environment

By Barb Baker

Quiet summer.

Private gate closures happened late this year. We have not been prevented from using our Mosaic permit keys to date. National insurance coverage has been renewed.

Interesting hiking access consideration in this article:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/2022/09/01/new-book-aims-make-hiking-more-accessible-all-bodies/7864847001/>



Soprano Peak 2022 Summer Camp

Summer camp 2022 was held over four weeks in what turned out to be a truly gorgeous location, suggested by Peggy Taylor. Week 1 had 15 people; Week 2 had only nine due to some health-based drop-outs; Week 3 (Family week) had nine; and Week 4 had 14 people. No-one cried (as far as I know), no-one died, there were no critical incidents, and I believe everyone had a really great time!

Liz Williams (summer camp committee)

Week 1

The thought of camping on snow due to the very high snow pack and cold spring left me, well...cold. We flew in a day late due to the low ceiling and rain but made up for it with an early start on the Monday which allowed us a full afternoon of adventure once we were there.

I'd given instructions to Ian Brown (senior – we had two Ian Browns) to find a site that met the following criteria:

- Flat, dry heather to camp on;
- A rushing creek close by for our water source;
- Fabulous scenery and mountain objectives;
- Snow pack for refrigeration;
- Shallow, warm tarns for the end of the day;
- And NO BUGS!

Well! Ian delivered on all counts! He'd arranged a time warp to an alternate universe (unfortunately the bugs cottoned on to us by the end of the week, but hey, that's why we have bug tents!). Every possible peak was climbed, the ridges were marvellous, the emerging flowers beautiful, the marmots fat and curious (we even had a 'greeter' at the biffies), and the fledgling ptarmigans so cute. We had no evidence of bear in Week 1, and bluebird skies all week. A really great group, super food, camaraderie, the lot!

Liz Williams (summer camp committee)



Week 1. (Photo by Ken Wong)

Week 2

Week 2 was somewhat unusual this year, with a much different vibe. Because of last minute dropouts due to illness, injury and COVID protocols, we were a relatively small group of nine women and we had a blast! Since eight of us hiked/scrambled together every day and the 9th was happy doing her own thing closer to camp, we enjoyed the luxury of an entirely flexible daily schedule.

Everyone pitched in and helped out every day so we were able to stay out as long as we wanted, given that no food prep would happen until we all returned. We scrambled up every ridge we could technically manage, summited several peaks, visited “The Far Side,” swam in almost every lake and ran a couple of “snow school” sessions.

The lessons, relaxed pace and mutual support resulted in a huge increase in skill levels, on both snow and rock, over the week. It was wonderful to see many women achieve heights (literally) that they didn’t think they were capable of! The weather was perfect, the mosquitos horrendous and the laughs limitless. We arrived as a group of friends and acquaintances and left a tight group of close friends.

Overall it was an awesome week with an amazing group of supportive women. Well done ladies!

Carol Doering (camp manager)



Week 2. (Photo by Carol Doering)

Week 3

It was very hot when we arrived and after an orientation during which we were impressed and thankful for how Week 2 left the camp, we hiked around the valley ending up at a waterfall where we all dunked our heads. The next two days we climbed Soprano and Linus.

Then the rain came and we sang "rain, rain go away" and hail came, then "hail, hail" and then snow came! In early August, we had snow on the ground outside the tents and tent zippers were frozen. Fortunately, Tina had brought a project for us all and we all knitted toques. We also played cards and hiked the ridge.

The nice weather returned, so we went up Contralto and Schroeder and then it was time to fly out. We missed giving Faulty Tower and Soprano East a shot, but we'll have to go back one day. Thanks to all the organizers for a great week.

Derek Sou (camp manager)



Week 3 - Family Week. (Photo by Bianca Parcher)

Week 4

Week 4 of the ACCVI Summer Camp, Soprano Peak edition, was fully subscribed as we gained one member from Week 2 who had recovered fully from Covid, but unfortunately we lost one member as a last minute dropout on the travel day! We had excellent weather with only a small blip on Friday evening when a short, but fierce wind, rain, thunder and lightning storm blew through. Luckily I had repaired the multiple tears in the windows with tear-aid that afternoon from the storms of Week 3, so we did not leak like a sieve! All campers had to beat a hasty retreat from the bug tents to the drying tent as the system approached quickly. Luckily no one's tent blew away - this was a memorable cooking evening for Roger and me to be sure. There were hoards of bugs on our week, so everyone was happy for the two bug tents to retreat to when needed! Sightings of a bear passing through the area on day one, many marmots, chipmunks, ptarmigan moms and chicks, and the occasional pika and even some goats (or sheep?) in the distance were a thrill to see.

Many objectives were met on the week including two groups summiting Soprano Peak, one group on Contralto, one group tackling Linus and Schroeder in a double summit day with loads of boulder scrambling, one group hitting just Linus via a different route, one group heading up the two peaks to the north-east of camp, one large group joined by two later headed up the North Ridge above camp, and two groups went to the next ridge and peak over (there is debate as to whether this summit was named Goat Peak or Modal Peak?) with all enjoying the meadows, streams and multitudes of stunning flowers along the way, in addition to a few tarn tours, which of course had to include dips, and wanderings on the "golf course", the rise to the north of camp. Sadly there was one member who took a significant tumble mid-week and suffered multiple bumps and scrapes on his head, a small but deep laceration on one hand and a severely twisted knee. First aid was rendered on site, anti-inflammatories and pain meds given and he was able to make it back to camp where he had to sit out the rest of the week. We hope he heals quickly after the fact!

Our group was a fun and ambitious bunch of ACCers and I was thrilled to see some of them learn new skills, meet some terrain challenges head on with great success and push some comfort boundaries, learn to navigate in the wilderness without signs or trails, and indeed even lead a trip on one's own in tougher territory than one might be used to! It was a joy to see growth in many of our week's hikers and to share the area with so many great folks. I must add that Week 4 participants cooked amazing meals and were the most efficient at take down that I have ever seen! This will remain a most memorable camp for this manager and I must agree that this is one of the loveliest areas that our section has had a chance to explore at summer camp over the years. We are indeed blessed to be able to have the time, energy and where-with-all to engage in these outdoor activities in such crazy times.

Peggy (& Roger) Taylor (camp managers)



Week 4. (Photo by Mary Sanseverino)

Lake O'Hara 2022 Summer Camp

By Cedric Zala

Q. What do you get when you take 24 people, many of whom have never met the others, put them all together in a mountain meadow hut with no electricity, running water or privacy, and give free rein to their desires to hike, scramble, climb and otherwise explore a mountain haven in the Canadian Rockies?

A. The 2022 ACCVI summer camp at the Elizabeth Parker Hut at Lake O'Hara!

Over the past 20 years, the club has organized a number of hut-based summer camps in the Rockies and Selkirks, but we had not done one since 2016. Then, earlier this year, I (as organizer of several previous hut-based camps) was contacted by Albert Hestler, who suggested that it would be great to have another camp at this stupendous location.

And so it began, until on August 1 two bus-loads of ACCVI campers rumbled up the road, with packs, duffels, climbing gear, and even two guitars. Over the next week, we would go off in groups every day to enjoy the amazing network of hiking trails along the valley floors and slopes, and the scrambles up lower-altitude peaks like Mts. Schaeffer, Yukness and Walter Feuz (aka Little Odaray). Some of our more adventurous, fit, competent and daring members even summited the 11,000-foot-plus peaks of Mts. Lefroy (11,230 ft), Victoria (11,365 ft) and the daunting Hungabee (11,457 ft).

In the mornings we would organize ourselves into groups with similar interests for the day. We would disperse, each group packing a two-way radio, and embark on our objectives, checking in at two-



The group at the 2022 Lake O'Hara Summer Camp, standing in front of the Elizabeth Parker Hut with Wiwaxy Peaks, Mt. Huber and Mt. Victoria in the background (Photo by George Lum)



The peaceful Lake Oesa, with (L to R) Mt. Lefroy, Glacier Peak, Mt. Hungabee and Ringrose Peak (Photo by George Lum)

hour intervals. Then following the exploits of the day, we would filter back to the hut during the afternoon, ensuring that we were there by 5:30 for the appies course, provided by the cooks of the day. This would be followed by a full meal and dessert, also provided by the cooks, using the ample kitchen available in the hut. After dinner, volunteers from each of the day's groups would talk about their exploits and experiences and we would discuss options for the next day's adventures.



Walter Feuz Peak (L) and Mt. Odaray (R) from a wildflower meadow above Schaeffer Lake (Photo by George Lum)

Some days were really special, as when bears were in the area. The discovery of scat on the trail near the hut greeted us on the second day, and over the next few days there were several sightings of the animals themselves. One hiking group on the valley trail to the northwest spotted a grizzly sow and cub across Linda Lake, while a day or so later another group bound for Little Odaray saw the pair across a meadow just west of Schaeffer Lake. On sighting them, our leader brought the group to a halt, and then got them to back up for a few yards before we announced our presence by singing Jingle Bells. The mother and cub looked over, mystified, and proceeded on their way. On another day we discovered that a group of porcupines had moved in under the out-

house/woodshed and were gnawing loudly at the plywood walls. And on many of the days, one of our guitarists at the camp would pick up their instrument and play and sing selections from a repertoire of campfire songs, Joni Mitchell and lots more.

We had mostly good weather, although a front did move in mid-week for a day, and there was fresh snow on the mountain ridges maybe 1000 m above the hut.

The camp was completely Covid-free, thanks in part to the cooperation of those attending to take extra health precaution during the previous week, and to test themselves the day before the camp began. And happily, the demands on the specially-bought first aid kit were extremely modest, with the toll being one acetaminophen tablet and one band-aid!

Some idea of the beauty of the area is given in the photos. A fuller account of the camp, with descriptions of the climbs, will appear in the next *Island Bushwhacker Annual*.

With warm thanks to my co-organizer and trip leader Geoff Bennett and to the wonderful group of people who helped make this camp the hugely enjoyable experience that it was.

On a sad note, Albert Hestler, whose initiative led to the camp taking place, was not able to attend and passed away on August 5, 2022. His proposal ultimately gave great pleasure to the many attendees of the camp, and he will be remembered with gratitude.

Participants: Lisa Bacon, Geoff Bennett, Joisan Fairwell, Dorothy Field, Abe Johnson, Chad Katunar, Fred Katunar, George Lum, Elizabeth Martinson, Wade Martinson, Michael McIlvaney, Chris Neate, Roger Painter, Shaun Peck, Serena Polt, Caroline Shannon, Tara Sharpe, Jay Simpson, Lisa Simpson, Josh Slatkoff, Roxanne Stedman, Sandy Stedman, Cheri Van Patten, Cedric Zala



The peaks to the north and east of Lake O'Hara taken from Walter Feuz Peak: (L to R) Mt. Victoria, Mt. Huber, Mt. Lefroy, Glacier Peak and Ringrose Peak. Note the fresh snow on the upper ledges. (Photo by Cedric Zala)

Alpine Club of Canada Distinguished Service Award to Catrin Brown

By Mike Hubbard

Catrin Brown was recently awarded the Alpine Club of Canada's ***Distinguished Service Award*** for her contributions to the ACCVI and our mountaineering community. Congratulations Catrin and many thanks for your tireless energy and thoughtful contributions!



Catrin has been the Chair of the Vancouver Island Section since she took over the Chair from me in January 2016. Prior to that time, she had been on the executive for many years and had acted as trip scheduler and secretary in addition to leading trips herself, organizing annual ski camps in the Rockies or Northern Selkirk and participating in all the activities of the section. She was awarded the Don Forest Service award in 2012. As Chair she has proved tireless in continuing to promote the objectives and work of the Club. Under her Leadership the section has planned, built, opened and run the first ACC hut on Vancouver Island on

5040 Peak. The hut was opened in October 2018 and, despite the restrictions of the pandemic, has proved to be a great success.

Under her leadership the section has continued to run an extensive educational program including both rock, snow and ice skills training. The section's annual week-long summer camp has been extended from three weeks to four, adding a family week supported by youth bursaries from the section. This week has proved to be very successful in introducing young people to the remoter mountains of the Island and Coast range and teaching the skills required to be safe in that environment.

She was instrumental in adding a new award to recognize the mountaineering achievement of members who successfully climb all Island Peaks over 6000 ft. "The Charles Turner Vancouver Islanders 6000'ers Award" and at least eight members have already qualified for the award. She has also encouraged diversity in the section by adding to the schedule trips for specific groups of people who would otherwise not feel comfortable to join the sections programs such as LGBTQ and members of the Intercultural Association.

During the pandemic she has planned and chaired Zoom executive meetings for the section's large executive, encouraged trips and social activities where possible in compliance with Public Health orders and kept the Section in good spirits. The section's membership numbers have never been healthier and are presently sitting at 692 up from 610 in 2018. She has also introduced a new discussion forum on our website to encourage connection and interaction.

Catrin first joined the section in 1992. She joined the executive in 1996 serving as Trip Scheduler 1996 – 2001, as a member at large 2004-2006, then again as Trip Scheduler for 2010 and 2011, as Secretary for 2012 and 2013 and finally as Chair from 2016 until the present.

In addition to her work on the executive and involvement in section activities, she has participated in meetings with the Capital Regional District on planning for the Sooke Hills Wilderness Park and for the past five years has sat on the Strathcona Park Public Advisory Committee.

SUMMARY

1. A member since 1992.
2. Involvement on the executive since 1996.
3. Don Forest Service Award 2012.
4. An outstanding chair since 2016 during which period the section under her leadership created the first ACC Hut on Vancouver Island and remained in healthy condition despite the restrictions imposed by the Covid 19 Pandemic.



Born to be Wild

By Christine Fordham

Seen enjoying the July's rain, this elusive "Vancouver Island Marmot", must be a wild-born marmot, as it has no ear tag.

If you are lucky enough to spot a marmot, it will help recovery efforts to report it to the [Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery Foundation](https://accvi.ca/indigenousnames/vancouver-island-marmot/). See information on our website at <https://accvi.ca/indigenousnames/vancouver-island-marmot/>



Born to be wild. Photo by Christine Fordham

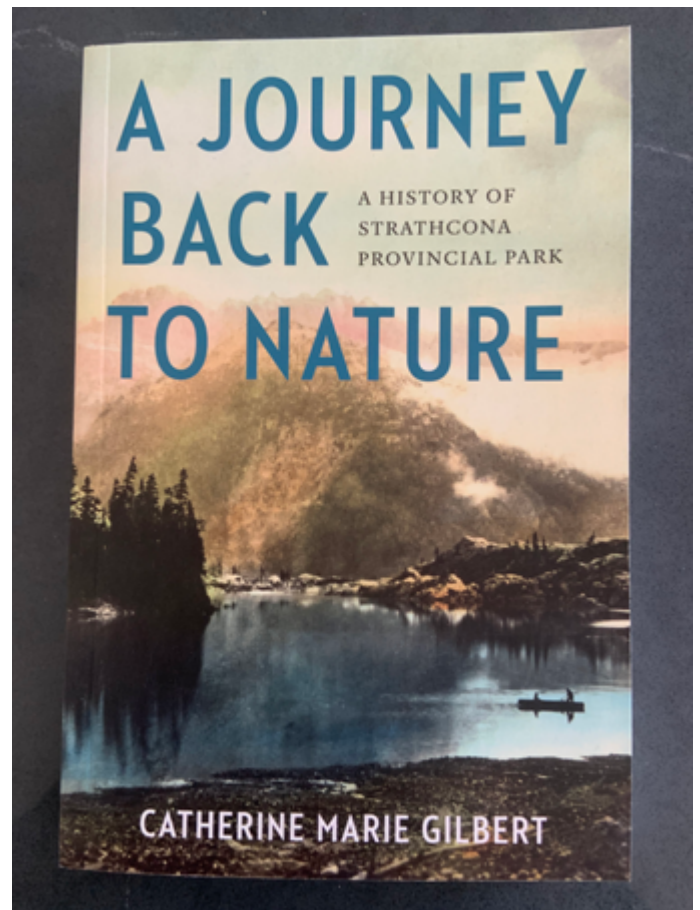


A book review of Catherine Marie Gilbert's A Journey Back To Nature: A History of Strathcona Provincial Park (Heritage House Publishing)

By Lindsay Elms

Catherine Gilbert is no stranger to Vancouver Island. In 2018, she completed her master's thesis on the environmental history of Strathcona Provincial Park and obtained her master's degree on Public History from UVic. She has written several books on local history and worked with Myrna Boulding on Survival Strathcona Style, the history of Strathcona Park Lodge.

In 1911, Strathcona was the first provincial park in British Columbia and since then has had a chequered history. The park was established during a time when the extraction of natural resources such as timber, mining and hydro-electric were being developed by a burgeoning island community. As a remote, hard to reach park, Strathcona suffered, or as the well-known environmental activist Ruth Masters chimed, it was "pillaged." Boundaries were drawn in a straight line without taking into consideration land contours or bodies of water. Buttle Lake was not wholly within the park and forestry companies, after purchasing the E. & N. lands, began harvesting timber on the Park's border leaving unsightly clear-cuts which heralded visitors at the Buttle Lake entrance. Mining was not permitted under the original Strathcona Park Act, but to get around this issue the act was amended in 1918 to appease prospectors and allow mineral exploration. In the 1950's legislation was changed to allow a mine in the Park, but public protests in the 1980's halted further industrial development of a new mine near beautiful Cream Lake. In the 1950's BC conservationists were concerned about how hydro-electric power generation would affect both Strathcona's wilderness and its waterways. One of the most renowned of these conservationists was Roderick Haig-Brown who spoke out about placer-mining, logging and open pit mining in the Park. His objections to the proposal to dam Buttle Lake for hydro-electric, which resulted in the famous "Battle for Buttle," underscore the differing values that his own community of Campbell River had about resource use and development within a park.



Catherine digs deep into the history of these contentious issues, but she also delves into the stories of the colourful people involved with the Park, names many of us recognize. Here we learn about their role in the intriguing history of the Park. As someone who has written about the mountaineering history of Vancouver Island, I have learned about people who I only knew of by name.

Strathcona Provincial Park is awash in natural beauty. The Alpine Club of Canada's expedition of 1912 paints a glowing testament of the alpine attractions to the new park which over one hundred years later is still drawing an ever-increasing number of both local and international visitors to experience the wilderness playground we call our backyard. A Journey Back To Nature is a book to be read and re-read by all of us who love Strathcona Park. The slogan "Don't Cut the Heart Out of Strathcona" should forever be in the back of our **minds** if we want Strathcona Park to remain intact for the future.

***Hišimýawił* Pronunciation**

By Geoff Bennett

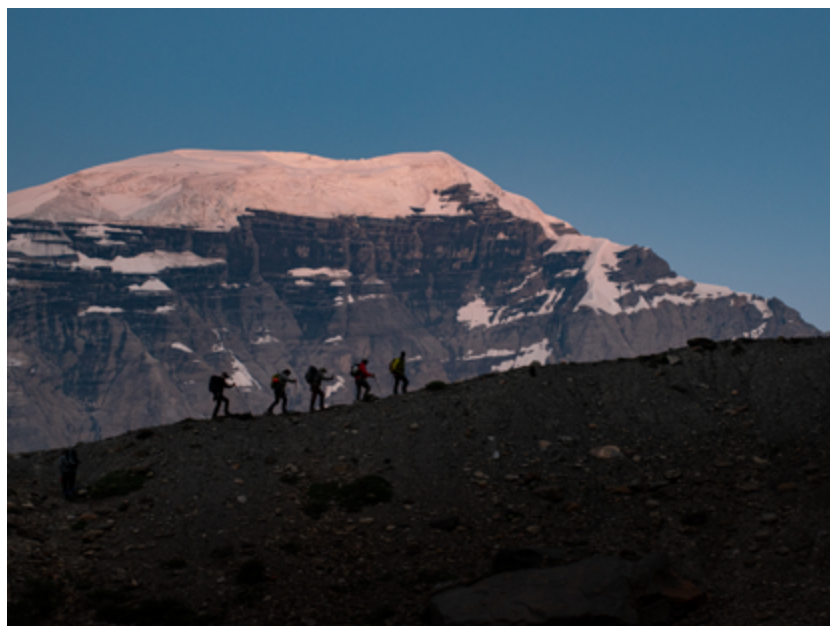
The name ***Hišimýawił*** means “Gather Together” in the Barkley Sound dialect of the Ucluelet Nation. It looks more complicated than 5040 (the old name), but the pronunciation is easy with a bit of practice. Here’s a refresher, actually, an update, because I’ve learned a couple of new things since 2019 when the hut was named by First Nations.

Hish-IM-ya-width

- Hish (the sound of a group of people – or whales! – eating herring roe, according to Gisele Martin of the Tla-o-qui-aht Nation)
- IM (the emphasized syllable, “im” as in “him”)
- ya
- width (as in “length” – I heard a native speaker using this pronunciation for the final syllable “wił”. You can also say “wit” but that’s not quite right. If you’re really ambitious you could try a juicy “witł” but you might tie your tongue in a knot.)

I said it out loud a few times until I got it right. When writing emails or articles like this, just Copy/Paste as Plain Text from the ACCVI website or another document.

Hišimýawił is the only ACC hut in Canada to have been gifted with an Indigenous name. Using this name, rather than 5040, is a sign of respect to First Nations.



Alpen glow at Mt. Mummery. Photo by Jane Maduke, submitted to the Summer Activity category of ACCVI's 2021 Photo Competition

Greening the Alpine Club

By Geoff Bennett

ACCVI camps and the hut emit around 20 tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere each year. Offsetting options have been closely scrutinized in the past decade and credible alternatives are now readily available. The annual cost to ACCVI to fully offset its carbon footprint for camps and Hišimýawił maintenance is about \$500. The Executive is currently debating a motion to purchase carbon credits. If approved, our Section would be the first in Canada to do so. This article explains the background.

Feedback is welcome to geoff.bennett@shaw.ca.

Good Stewards

As individuals and as a club, we take good care of the alpine environment. We explore our mountain world on foot, by bike and ski, and often by canoe and kayak. We car pool. Our trips and summer camps leave no trace. The Hišimýawił Hut (hish-IM-ya-width) has a composting toilet, a pellet stove and is powered by solar panels and wind turbines. Our members readily adhere to the [ACC Vision and Mission Statement](#), which promotes responsible access and minimal impact upon the alpine environment.



Hišimýawił turbine (photo by Gary Croome)



Hišimýawił solar panels (photo by Lawrence White)

However, there is no mention in the mission statement of climate change mitigation or a reduction in carbon emissions. It is possible that the intent is there and that the ACC board will catch up soon. Many of our members are concerned about the effects of increased temperatures on alpine glaciers, flora and fauna. This was tragically illustrated in Italy in July when the Marmolada Glacier collapsed. In our lifetime, icefields and snow couloirs on Canadian mountains have diminished dramatically. Everyone in the world is now affected by climate change.

Despite our green credentials we continue to drive our cars and fly in helicopters to our alpine destinations. Our annual carbon emissions for major Section activities are small but not trivial: 10 tonnes per year (driving to summer and winter ACCVI camps) plus another 9 tonnes for helicopters (camps and Hišimýawił) for an annual Section total of 19 tonnes¹. By comparison, Canada's per capita emissions are 15-23 tonnes per year, one of the highest in the world; global per capita emissions are 5-8 tonnes.

For the cost of one or two cups of coffee a year per camper, ACCVI could offset our carbon emissions for

driving to and from camps, as well as helicopter flights to those camps and the hut. Read on to find out more, including a full analysis of carbon offsets.

Can We Do Better?

Can we do better, both as individuals and as a club? There are some simple but significant things we can do in the hills. Consider the humble example of toilet paper and towels. Despite some misleading claims to the contrary, [most of the popular brands](#) are produced with virgin timber from clear-cuts. There are [several more ethical brands](#), made from 100% recycled paper, that do the job with minimal sacrifice in cost and comfort. Bonterra (not mentioned in these two links) and 365 are available in Victoria and elsewhere in Canada.



Propane and Wood

What about fuel at the hut and camps? A few solar panels and a small wind turbine cannot generate enough power for heating and cooking. Surprisingly, propane is the best (or least bad) of the fossil fuels when it comes to emissions. It's also on a par with alcohol. Therefore, eliminating propane has little effect on reducing emissions, especially given the small amounts used for cooking at camps and the hut.²

Burning wood to heat the hut is carbon neutral only if trees are planted to replace the burned wood. Even then, these plantations should not be harvested for decades. We generally don't know if this happens but it seems unlikely. Pellet stoves, like the one used at the hut, are deemed to be more efficient than conventional wood stoves. Hišimýawił uses CleanBurn pellets from Sunray in Nanaimo. They are made from sawdust, unlike the Pinnacle brand (by Drax) which uses a large proportion of virgin timber. However, the latest [science](#) suggests that any form of wood burning, including campfires, generates significant carbon emissions as well as other pollutants. We should monitor this debate and consider alternatives for the future.

Given sufficient electricity, ACC cabins could have heat pumps and induction stovetops. We're unlikely to see that happen in the near future. However, inexpensive solar hot water heaters are now being sold in developing countries. They could be popular in summer at camps and the hut.

Vehicles

Up until recently, the only way to access trailheads (with a heavy load of gear) was with a gasoline-powered vehicle. However, this is changing very quickly. The driving range of new electric vehicles (EV) is no longer an issue and charging stations are now widespread in BC. The EV drivetrain is well-suited to 4WD. Electric trucks, SUV's and a wide array of cars are rolling off the assembly lines, although waiting times are currently long. EV's are now cheaper than comparable gasoline vehicles over their lifetime. Most importantly, they produce far fewer emissions, even when the manufacturing process is included.

Helicopters

The last and most difficult issue is our use of helicopters. Few of us would be willing to hike into remote destinations when a helicopter is available. We use them routinely for camps and for supplying the hut. The parent ACC burns a lot of jet fuel supplying the GMC, the huts and various other expeditions across Canada. Perhaps it's time to initiate a discussion on helicopters. Here are some of the facts and debating points:

- A typical small helicopter generates a lot of carbon (one tonne in less than two hours).
- Flying in a helicopter for recreation is a privilege that only a few people on this planet can access or afford. Are we entitled to it?
- Should we prioritize the environment or our desire to access remote backcountry?
- In the pre-helicopter era, the ACC used porters and packhorses. Our Section used porters for the 2007 Stanley Mitchell camp and packhorses for the 2009 Wates-Gibson camp.
- A possible compromise for some summer camps is to cut the number of flights in half and to reduce the fee for those who choose to hike in and out.
- There is no reasonable alternative to a helicopter for supplying Hišimýawił.

Greg Hill

[Greg Hill](#), a Revelstoke ski guide, leads a remarkably modern alpine lifestyle. He drives an electric car to the mountains, buys local and even avoids meat. Apparently, the elimination of beef and lamb from our diet would significantly reduce global emissions, especially [if pasture is converted to forest](#). Hill has shown the way in his offbeat film [Electric Greg](#).



Photo by Anthony Bonello in <https://blog.arcteryx.com/electric-greg>

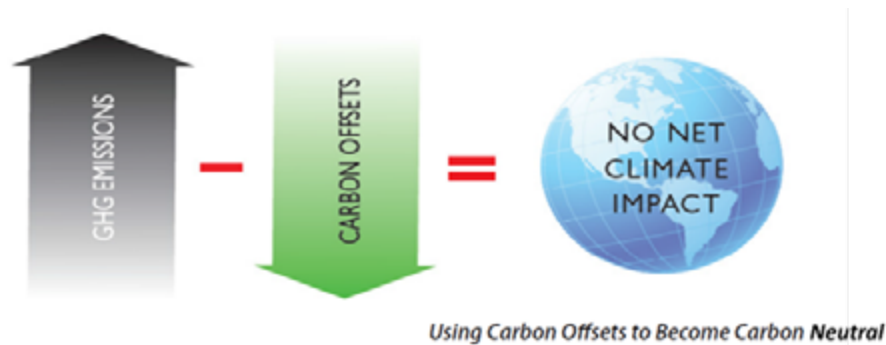
We will continue to drive gasoline-powered vehicles and to fly in helicopters for years to come. Nevertheless, we can probably state that we've done our best to reduce our carbon emissions to a minimum. So what should we do about these irreducible emissions?

Carbon Offsets

This is where the world of carbon offsets comes in, when all other options to reduce emissions have been exhausted. A carbon credit, sometimes called a carbon offset, represents the certified removal of one tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent from the atmosphere. Carbon offsetting is the purchase of carbon credits, generally in an amount equivalent to the carbon emissions that your lifestyle or business has created. The cost is at least C\$20/tonne for a certified quality project, and usually somewhat higher.

To quote the [David Suzuki Foundation](#): “Carbon offsets are an innovative, market-based way to take responsibility for the carbon footprint that remains after efforts have been made to reduce emissions.

Carbon offsets are simply credits for reductions made at another location, such as wind farms that create renewable energy and reduce the need for conventional sources of electricity like coal-burning generators. As a result, they are sometimes referred to as “carbon credits.” Anyone can purchase carbon offsets and use them to balance their own emissions. If you purchase enough offsets to balance all of your emissions remaining after reduction efforts, your net emissions will be zero. This is often referred to as becoming “carbon neutral.”

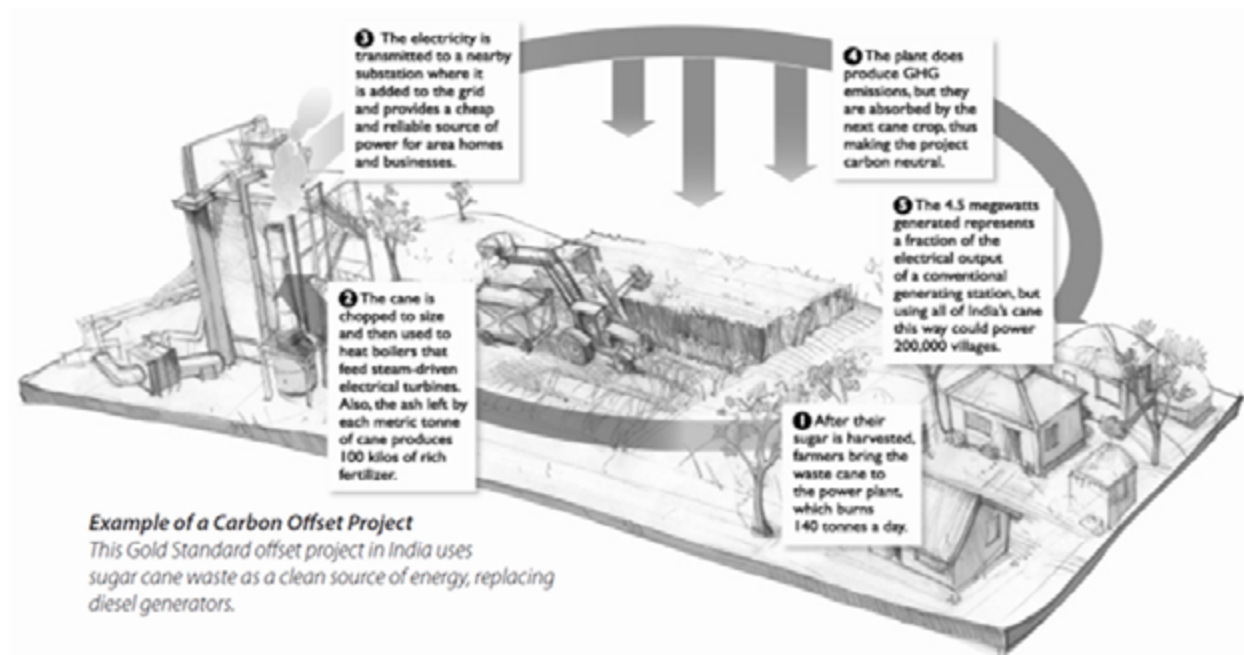


In his book [Regeneration](#) Paul Hawken states: “An offset is a promissory note. By paying you receive a promise that the greenhouse gas emissions you’re generating today will be offset by the elimination of an equal amount in the future. The location of the offset could be anywhere in the world, and the time frame could be short or long.” Hawken goes on to say that “carbon trading schemes need to overcome a number of daunting challenges, the following three in particular:

1. **Permanence:** To be credible, the achieved emissions reduction must last indefinitely. For example, a newly planted forest must not later be logged or lost in a wildfire releasing its stored carbon.
2. **Additionality:** The emissions reduction must be in addition to whatever was going to happen anyway. An offset doesn’t count if a planned solar farm was going to be built regardless of the transaction.
3. **Accounting:** The emissions reduction must be carefully measured and monitored to ensure that the promissory note has been fully paid.”

Certification

Carbon offsets have been criticized in the past and even today. For example, some forestry companies peddle offsets in order to pay themselves to delay logging for, say, 25 years. This is almost meaningless in terms of carbon sequestration and the loggers were planning to do it anyway. The early days of carbon offsets (not so long ago) have been characterized as “the wild west.” In response, various organizations have established themselves as auditors and regulators of the carbon market. The most well-known of these is [Gold Standard](#), a UK non-profit which invests in developing countries. Projects certified by Gold Standard have to meet the criteria listed by Hawken above, as well as several of the UN sustainability goals. A reputable certifier for Canadian projects is The Canadian Standards Association (CSA), who also adhere to the UN protocol. A brief summary of these two standards can be found on the [Less.ca](#) website.



An example of a carbon offset project certified by Gold Standard. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced by burning sugar cane waste are absorbed by the next cane crop. There are many different types of projects. Some of the most common include renewable energy projects like wind farms, small hydro and biomass (organic matter used as fuel), along with energy efficiency projects like retrofitting office buildings or introducing more energy-efficient heating technology. Still other projects involve capturing and burning methane from landfills or livestock, preserving forests, and planting trees. (from the [David Suzuki Foundation](#)).

Why bother?

Gold Standard asks “[Why should I offset?](#)” One of the simplest reasons is that it is better than doing nothing. Offsetting can be seen as a voluntary application of the “polluter pays” principle, whereby those who produced the pollution take responsibility for cleaning it up. Offsetting can also generate social benefits: “Purchasing emission reductions from projects that support sustainable development in vulnerable communities ensures that offsetting also contributes to climate justice, improving the lives of those least responsible for the problem and least economically equipped to adapt to the changing conditions caused by climate change. This helps contribute toward meeting UN Sustainable Development Goals such as no poverty, good health and well-being, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable clean energy, decent work and economic growth, life on land and of course, climate action.”

Carbon Offset Programs

The ACCVI Section has been using [Blackcomb Helicopters](#) to access our Chilcotin summer camps for the past several years. This company has a carbon offset program which supports the [Darkwoods Forest Carbon Project](#) near Creston under the guidance of the [Nature Conservancy of Canada](#) (NCC). When I spoke to Jordy Norris at Blackcomb Helicopters it was clear that they are proud to be the first helicopter company in the world to offset emissions from their entire operation. The carbon cost is included in the hourly fee charged to clients such as ACCVI. For our summer camps, the cost per person is less than \$3 out of a total weekly camp fee of \$700.³



I also spoke to Rob Wilson, the Finance Manager at [NCC](#), about [Darkwoods Forest](#), one of only two carbon projects which they support. Although he characterizes Darkwoods as a “premium” project, it is more suitable for large investors. For the Alpine Club, as well as ordinary consumers, he recommended purchasing carbon credits through a broker such as [Planetair](#), a Canadian non-profit carbon offset vendor. They are also highly recommended by the [David Suzuki Foundation](#) (see the vendor comparison on page 50.) The top-rated vendor on the David Suzuki Foundation’s list is [Less.ca](#), which is the group that [Air Canada](#) uses when customers offset the carbon from their flights.



Darkwoods Forest near Creston, BC (photos by Tim Ennis/NCC and Bruce Kirkby)

A global problem

Climate change is a global problem. Hence it doesn't matter where a carbon offset project is located on the planet. It is more important to reduce carbon quickly rather than locally. The carbon payback from a forest plantation is typically 50-100 years, assuming the forest is neither logged nor burned in the meantime. Although it may be appealing for the Alpine Club to invest in a local BC forest project, it may actually be better to invest in projects with a faster payback. These kinds of projects are typically found in developing countries, which offer additional benefits to local communities. Some can also be found in Canada.

Recommended programs

Either the [Planetair Global Portfolio](#) or one of the [Less portfolios](#) would be the best fit for the Alpine Club. They are highly rated by the David Suzuki Foundation and are recommended by the Nature Conservancy and Air Canada, among others. And they are good value.

The Planetair cost is \$25 per tonne of carbon. In their words, "It comprises various projects [in developing countries] that neutralize greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in a real, additional, transparent, and verified manner. Each tonne of GHG is offset by a Gold Standard certified credit. The portfolio offers the best value for money. It is designed for people who wish to neutralize their climate impact in an efficient manner and at the best possible price. The credits originate from various types of projects [efficient cookstoves in Uganda, home energy efficiency in Kenya, drinking water in Rwanda, solar power in rural Thailand]. The climate benefits of these projects are immediate, unlike those of trees, which can take up to 70 years to capture a tonne of carbon. With the climate crisis accelerating, we do not have the luxury of waiting all these years to offset the greenhouse gases we emit today. To be certified, the projects must be audited by independent evaluators against the stringent Gold Standard requirements. The Gold Standard requires projects to contribute to at least three UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), including Goal 13, which pertains to the fight against climate change."



Photos of carbon offset projects offered by [Planetair](#)

[Planetair](#) also has a portfolio which includes Canadian forestry projects. However, the cost is C\$30/tonne and is subject to the concerns mentioned above.

[Less.ca](#) charges \$24/tonne for their Gold Standard certified projects in developing countries. At the moment, these include a safe drinking project in Uganda and landfill gas extraction and electricity generation in Turkey. They also offer CSA Standard-certified projects in Canada at a cost of \$20/tonne: a slag-based recycling operation in Quebec and landfill gas capture in Ontario.

How do these projects reduce carbon?

- More efficient cookstoves require less fossil fuel and eliminate wood-burning.
- Safe drinking water eliminates the need to boil water.
- Solar panels produce fewer emissions than gas or coal-powered electricity plants

There are many other examples. These kinds of projects offer permanent carbon reduction as well as benefits to local communities.

In Conclusion

I've read that one of the most important things we can do to address the climate crisis is to engage our family and friends in conversation. Even just thinking about our carbon footprint keeps us focused on the issue and leads to positive action. Doing small things as individuals can make a big difference overall. I really hope that we, as a group of alpine enthusiasts, can lead the way.

Regarding the specific issue of carbon offsets: ACCVI could invest in either or both of the [Planetair](#) and [Less](#) portfolios. So what would be the annual cost to ACCVI for the purchase of carbon credits? Assuming emissions of around 20 tonnes per year at \$25/tonne, the total cost to the Section would be around \$500. About a quarter of this is already included in the Blackcomb fee. Most of the remaining cost would be covered by the fees charged to camp participants. However, the amount is so small that it may not be necessary to increase those fees. *The cost per camper would be a mere \$2 to \$8 – the price of one or two cups of coffee.*



Photo credit splash.com via Times of India

The amount of volunteer time is also minimal. One person (myself for starters) can obtain the annual helicopter hours from camp organizers and the hut committee. The driving distance to camp trailheads and the approximate number of cars can be easily estimated. The treasurer would be given the total and would then make an online donation.

Where might this lead? We're good stewards of the alpine environment but guides like Greg Hill are showing us what else is possible. If we, as a Section, can become carbon-neutral, we may be able to persuade the rest of the Alpine Club to do the same. That's 10,000 people discussing the issue with family and friends. We could even become carbon-negative by offsetting two or three times more than we generate. Now that's leading by example.

I would encourage each one of us to contribute ideas. In that vein, I would particularly like to thank Laura Darling, Tara Sharpe, KT Shum and Wendy Bennett for their significant contributions to this article.

Questions from the executive

In June, several members of the executive asked the following questions:

- ***What are the administration fees?***
 - o Most non-profits and charities spend 15-25% of their revenue on administration and fundraising. Planetair did not offer a percentage but provided this explanation: "What is important to us (and this is verified by our auditors) is that we retire 100% of the carbon our contributors ask us to retire. The carbon transactions we perform do contribute to our 'revenues' but our goal is not to maximize that revenue but to ensure we break even and ensure the viability of the organization."
- ***Can we buy carbon offsets directly or do we have to go through a middleman or a broker?***
 - o Buying offsets directly would require a lot of extra effort on our part to find a properly certified project and to do the accounting. In addition we would need an auditor to ensure that the carbon credit is actually retired.
- ***Why not just donate to a worthwhile project instead of purchasing carbon offsets?***
 - o There are many good projects that benefit the environment. However, the rationale for carbon offsetting is different. It requires a scientific/accounting approach to ensure that the carbon we generate is actually offset by the carbon removed by the project.
 - o Buying land to protect a forest is good. The challenge is to find such a project and to calculate the amount of carbon removed.
- ***Do projects involving sustainable logging, forest research and biodiversity actually sequester carbon?***
 - o Some do but "the devil is in the details." If properly certified by Gold Standard, CSA or other reputable auditors, then yes. However, the carbon captured by planting forests may be endangered by harvesting too soon or by wildfire. Ideally, forests should be at least 70 years old before being (selectively) logged. Research, Indigenous forest management and biodiversity are worthwhile but don't necessarily capture carbon.



Footnotes from Greening the Alpine Club by Geoff Bennett:

¹Easy rules of thumb for the calculation of carbon emissions:

- Driving: 5,000km equals one tonne for an average gasoline-powered car
 - o Sources: [Fuel Efficiency Canada](#); [Fuel Consumption and CO2 Canada](#)
 - o 4-week summer camp: 7 vehicles per week; round trip 600 km = 3.4 tonnes
 - o 1-week Lake O'Hara camp: 12 vehicles; round trip 1800 km = 4.3 tonnes
 - o 1-week ski camp to Golden: 7 vehicles; round trip 1600 km = 2.2 tonnes
- Helicopter: 1.8 hours flying time equals one tonne (source: Finance Manager at [Blackcomb Helicopters](#))
 - o 4-week summer camp: 10.4 hours average = 5.8 tonnes
 - o 1-week winter camp: 4 hours approx. = 2.2 tonnes
 - o Hišimȳawił annual resupply: 2 hours = 1.1 tonnes

²Hišimȳawił uses two or three 100 lb tanks of propane for cooking in one year. Each tank contains 0.15 tonnes of carbon. Therefore, total annual carbon emissions for the hut are less than ½ tonne. Emissions from propane used at camps are much less.

³This estimate of the carbon cost/person for helicopter flights is based on 5.8 tonnes of carbon for 60 participants during 4 weeks of summer camp. Blackcomb pays about C\$25/tonne to the [Darkwoods Forest Project](#). Therefore, the cost per participant is $5.8/60 \times 25 = \text{C}\2.42 . The fee charged by ACCVI to each camper in 2022 was \$700.

CRD parks strategic plan update

By Catrin Brown

Over the last six months, CRD parks has been involved in a comprehensive update to the Regional Parks and Trails strategic plan. As ACCVI was identified as a stakeholder in the process, I was invited to participate in focus group sessions. The process also involved public input via online surveys and feedback from municipalities. I found the sessions full of interest, especially given the diversity of user groups represented. Finding the balance between recreation and conservation can be challenging, and developments such as electric mountain bikes raise new issues.

In July, the new Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan was approved by the CRD board on an interim basis for one year while engagement with First Nations continues. I was sent the following summary:

The highlights of the renewed Strategic Plan are: a commitment to build strong relationships with First Nations in the region and support Indigenous rights; increased efforts to conserve natural areas and cultural heritage; improvements to the visitor experience; preparations for and action on climate change; improved resiliency across the service; and enhanced access to and equity in regional parks and regional trails.

The plan can be viewed here: <https://getinvolved.crd.bc.ca/regional-parks-strategic-plan-update>. By the way, there are now 32 CRD parks and 3 regional trails in the south Island and Gulf Islands - and we need every one of them!



Portrait View: Island Bushwhacker Newsletter

By Janelle Curtis

Editor's note: The Portrait View column in our ACCVI Island Bushwhacker Newsletter focuses on the many and varied contributions of folks on the list of ACCVI Executive Members and Coordinators who contribute to our mountaineering community's activities

I have been a member of the ACCVI since I learned some basic mountaineering skills during a club trip to Mount Baker. ACCVI has been much more than a club for me; by joining it, I soon connected with a vibrant community of people who also enjoy alpine environments, and value nature, wild places, and supporting each other. A few years later I joined the ACCVI Executive to help them with membership responsibilities.

After I contacted Mary Sanseverino about an article I was writing - *Coming Full Circle on Augerpoint Mountain* - for the winter 2019-20 issue of the ***Island Bushwhacker Newsletter***, she mentioned that she was stepping down from editing the newsletter after 6-7 years (I think it was probably longer!) and asked if I knew of anyone who might be interested in taking on that role. I asked her a bunch of questions about the Adobe InDesign software she was using to produce issues, the template she uses, submission timelines, the need to solicit content, target length, and her willingness to mentor me during the transition. Mary kindly answered my many questions and offered to mentor me through the process of pulling together a newsletter, and a few months later, I was working on my first issue!



*Janelle Curtis in the X-Gully
on Mount Septimus. Photo by "The Great"
Rowan Laver*



Mary explained that she normally set aside 3-5 days to prepare a newsletter, and after a few years, I spend roughly 4-5 days on an issue. But I have to say that I was on a very **steep** learning curve with InDesign initially: I easily spent a full week just watching videos on how to use the software. Although I have already pulled together 10 issues of the newsletter and the **2021 Island Bushwhacker Annual**, which is created with the same software, I still find myself looking up how to get stuff done with InDesign!

Quarterly issues of the ***Island Bushwhacker Newsletter*** are posted in early March, June, September, and December. The process of starting to prepare an issue begins roughly 4-6 weeks before it is posted. I start by contacting prospective contributors. Regular columns include the ***Portrait View***, which features contributions by members of our [ACCVI Executive Committee and Coordinators](#) who contribute to our mountaineering community's activities. Then there is the ***Landscape View***, which generally highlights the roles of folks

outside ACCVI who also contribute to our mountaineering community. And I aim to feature articles about the chair's report, ACCVI history, backcountry access and environment, leadership points, organizations that ACCVI supports, and recommendations on books or films about nature, wildlife, or mountaineering. Of course, people often submit articles that may be of interest to ACCVI, but members are now asked to post trip reports on the discussion forum [here](#) or submit them to the *Island Bushwhacker Annual* [editor](#).



Overall, I have really enjoyed the creative process of working with members of ACCVI on newsletter issues and always appreciate everyone's contributions of text, weblinks, and images. I have especially enjoyed learning about the club's activities and achievements over the years. As I often say, the newsletter is a ***resounding celebration of our mountaineering community***. I look forward to working with members on future issues. And as always, any comments, questions, or ideas would be warmly welcomed!



To check out ACCVI's *Island Bushwhacker Newsletter*, go to: <https://accvi.ca/about/newsletter/>

Leadership Points Update – The Race is On!

By KT Shum

Our Section is roaring back to a busy schedule in 2022, posting close to 70 outdoor trips and other activities by mid-August. Trips, trainings, slide shows, and social events are continuously being added to <https://accvi.ca/events/> so be sure to check it regularly. Better still, do setup automatic new-trip notifications (see the video on right side of the events page for instructions).

We are grateful for the efforts by all our trip leaders and event contributors for staging these many activities. Further, we much appreciate that waivers have been received for over 80% of the outdoor trips up to early August. This is reflected in the tight leadership award points tally – with the top three within one point of each other! It is also notable that two leaders in the top six are new to the leadership rank – they combine for just one point before this year.

Cumulative Leadership Award Points earned in 2022 for waivers received by mid-August are tallied in the table below. Please send questions or comments, or if there are discrepancies, to leadership@accvi.ca. With waivers for the summer camps - 4 weeks at Soprano Peak and one week at Lake O'Hara – yet to come in, the race for the top prize is shaping up to be an exciting one!

The 2022 Leader Recognition Program continues to offer swags this year to all those who earn nine or more points but not otherwise winning the Arc'teryx soft shell jacket or gift certificates. Swag options are a light grey cap, a rib knit acrylic neck warmer (black), or a winter ear band fleece (black), all embroidered with the ACCVI logo. Details of the Recognition Program can be found at <https://accvi.ca/trip-leaders/leader-recognition-program/>

Trip Leader	Points
Catrin Brown	<u>13.5</u>
Martin Hofmann	<u>12.5</u>
Walter Moar	<u>12.5</u>
Knut von Salzen	<u>8.5</u>
Casey Matsuda	<u>9</u>
John Relyea-Voss	<u>9</u>
Peggy Taylor	<u>4</u>
Derek Sou	<u>3.5</u>
Josh Slatkoff	<u>2.5</u>
Gary Croome	<u>2</u>
Keith Battersby	<u>2</u>
Stephanie Leblanc	<u>2</u>
Iain Sou	<u>1.5</u>
Mike Hubbard	<u>1.5</u>
Andrew Cripps	<u>1</u>
Andrew Pape-Salmon	<u>1</u>
Kyle Bourquin	<u>1</u>
Laura Darling	<u>1</u>
Mary Sanseverino	<u>1</u>

ACCVI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair

David Lemon
chair@accvi.ca

Past Chair

Catrin Brown
pastchair@accvi.ca

High Points Coordinator

Allison Caughey
newsletter@accvi.ca

Secretary

David Sutill
secretary@accvi.ca

Treasurer

Garth Stewart
treasurer@accvi.ca

National Representative

Christine Fordham
natrep@accvi.ca

Access and Environment

Barb Baker
access@accvi.ca

Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival (BCMFF)

Coordinator

Laura Darling
bmff@accvi.ca

Hišimýawił

Martin Hofmann
huts@accvi.ca
More about Hišimýawił [here](#)

Island Bushwhacker Annual

Janelle Curtis
bushwhacker@accvi.ca

Leadership Points

KT Shum
leadership@accvi.ca

Island Bushwhacker Newsletter

Janelle Curtis
newsletter@accvi.ca

Schedule

Karun Thanjuvar
schedule@accvi.ca

If you're a trip leader who wants to put a trip on the [schedule](#), email Karun at schedule@accvi.ca

Membership

Josh Slatkoff
membership@accvi.ca

If you're a trip leader who wants to check if the people coming on your trips are members, email Josh at membership@accvi.ca

Library and Archives

Tom Hall (Library/Archives)
librarian@accvi.ca

Summer Camp

Liz Williams
summercamps@accvi.ca

Equipment

Mike Hubbard
gear@accvi.ca

Kids and Youth Program

Derek Sou
kidsandyouth@accvi.ca

Website

Jane Maduke
Evan Devault
webmaster@accvi.ca

Members at Large

Graham Smith
Dylan Gothard



ACCVI Coordinators

Education

Iain Sou

education@accvi.ca

Member at large, and Education

Dylan Gothard

education@accvi.ca

Equipment Rentals

If you live on the south island:

Erich Schellhammer

gear@accvi.ca

If you live on the north island:

Valerie Wootton

Lindsay Elms

gear.north@accvi.ca

Evening Events and Slideshows

Neil Han (Technology)

David Suttill (Hospitality)

events@accvi.ca

Comox Lake Gate Key Custodian

Valerie Wootton

comoxlakegate@accvi.ca

Hišimýawił

Colleen Kasting (Treasurer)

Gary Croome (Access)

Peter Gilbert (Committee Member)

Keith Battersby (Committee Member)

Chris Ruttan (Construction)

huts@accvi.ca

Memorial Fund

Geoff Bennett

funds@accvi.ca

First Nations Liaison

Geoff Bennett

liaison@accvi.ca

Library, Archives, and History

Lindsay Elms (History)

history@accvi.ca

Trailrider Programme Coordinator

Caroline Tansley

trailrider@accvi.ca





From the Front Cover:

Accessing the island alpine isn't always a walk in the park.

Photo by Megan Walter

Thank you to this month's contributors:

Barb Baker, Geoff Bennett, Catrin Brown, Gary Croome, Janelle Curtis, Carol Doering, Lindsay Elms, Paul Erickson, Christine Fordham, Julie Henderson, Mike Hubbard, Rick Hudson, Rowan Laver, David Lemon, George Lum, Bianca Parcher, Shaun Peck, Mary Sanseverino, KT Shum, George Smekal, Derek Sou, Peggy Taylor, Megan Walter, Laurence White, Liz Williams, Ken Wong, and Cedric Zala.

Well done everyone!

