

Island Bushwhacker

Volume 47 | Issue 4 | Winter 2019/20



ACC-VI 2019 Photo Competition Winners
Details on pgs 22-26

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

Current Executive: accvi.ca/about/contact-us

Executive minutes: [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 quarterly publication of the Vancouver Island Section. **Newsletter Editor:** Janelle Curtis, 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, Jan 09, 2020. [Chilkoot Trail 2018](#)
Join Mike Knippel for an image-rich trip along the Chilkoot Trail. Mike will take us back to the glory days of this famous route when thousands used this trail to get to the 1896 - 99 Klondike Gold Rush.

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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, Jan 09. [Chilkoot Trail 2018 with Mike Knippel](#)

Mike and three mountaineering friends hiked the Chilkoot Trail in August 2018. Mike will present some historical perspectives on this famous route into the Yukon, used for many centuries by First Nations people as a trade route, but brought into the public view during the Klondike Gold Rush of 1896 -1899 when some 100,000 rushers would try their luck. Join us and Mike and learn a bit about this place of history and see some of his amazing imagery from the trip.

Friends and family are always welcome!

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. Everyone is always welcome! We look forward to seeing you there!

Upcoming Events

Friday, Dec 13. [ACC-VI South Island Christmas Party](#). Please RSVP to hall.pnw@shaw.ca by **MONDAY DECEMBER 9th** so we can cater accordingly.

7-9 Feb 2020. [ACC-VI AGM weekend at VI Mountain Centre, Mt Washington](#).

Spend the weekend up at Mt Washington enjoying your own activities or joining in any of the events posted on the schedule. The AGM will take place at 7.00 pm on Saturday February 8, preceded by a potluck dinner in the Vancouver Island Mountain Centre (VIMC) at 5.00 pm.

Accommodation is available at the VIMC for \$90.00 per person for both Friday and Saturday nights. Please contact Brianna Coates at cookcoatesb@gmail.com to add your name to the list. At that time you will receive an email with instructions on how to complete the e-transfer to secure your place. Brianna reports that all of the available spots are full, but a waitlist is being taken.

For details about accommodations at the Centre please visit their website

www.vimountaincentre.com



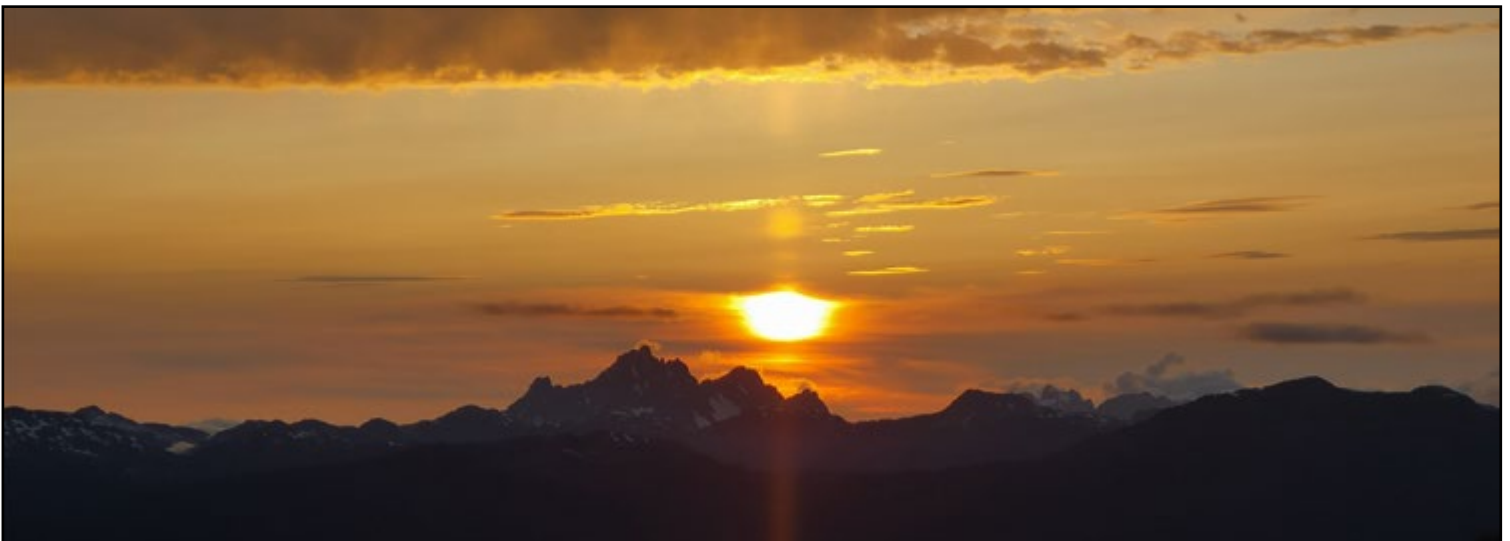
Upcoming Trips / Workshops / Events

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

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

Schedule

Date	Event
Nov 29, 2019 to Dec 01, 2019	Wilderness & Remote First Aid (FULL wait-list being taken)
Dec 13, 2019	ACC-VI South Island Christmas Party
Dec 14, 2019	Maple Bay forest/shoreline hike
Dec 21, 2019	Winter Solstice Hike
Jan 09, 2020	Slideshow: Chilkoot Trail 2018 - Mike Knippel
Jan 24, 2020 to Jan 27, 2020	Mt Cain Weekend in Blueberry Cabin
Feb 07, 2020 to Feb 09, 2020	Annual General Meeting at Mount Washington
Feb 08, 2020 to Feb 09, 2020	AST Level 1 (Now open to the Public)
Feb 08, 2020	The Search for Snow - at the AGM
Mar 07, 2020 to Mar 08, 2020	Intro to Winter Camping Workshop (Waitlist is full)
May 25, 2020 to Jun 05, 2020	St Elias Ski Camp (A2-D5)
Jun 12, 2020 to Jun 15, 2020	Mt. Rainier via Disappointment Cleaver



Golden Hinde sunset.

Photo by Peter Gilbert - one of the many stunning entries in the 2019 ACC-VI 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.

Keep your browser tuned to Education and Courses to see what is on offer:

<http://accvi.ca/programs/education/>

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



Cats Ears sunset.

Photo by [Chris Istace](#) - another of the amazing entries in the 2019 ACC-VI Photo Competition.

Executive Episodes: *A quick update of ACC life from the chair's chair.*

The last in a series

Mary Sanseverino, our ever-creative Bushwhacker Newsletter editor, informed us a while ago that she would be stepping down at the end of this year. So you are currently reading the final edition in this series - doubtless to become a collector's item! This digital newsletter, first conceived and developed by Cedric Zala about a decade ago, has become a vital component of our communication channels, helping to keep us connected and informed. Mary has added her own flair to the production over the last few years, and I know I speak for all her readers when I say her work has been richly enjoyed. We will miss you in this role Mary and thank you for your labour of love.

It is typical of Mary's generosity that she took it on herself to find and guide her successor. Actually her successors, as I am happy to announce that Janelle Curtis has agreed to take on the role of Newsletter editor, and Anya Reid will be producing the monthly 'High Points' bulletin. We look forward to working with both of you.

'Tis the season

Happily our section offers two Christmas parties to bring people together during this time. Many thanks to Matthew Lettington and the Gourlay family for respectively organizing and hosting the well-attended North Island mountaineers' party on 23 November, and to Lynne Moorhouse and Tom & Pam Hall likewise for the South Island party. This Victoria party will be happening on Friday 13 December, so there is still time to RSVP and attend. Do it now! Details have been sent to the membership by email.

Another successful BMFF

For more years than anyone can count, our section has been hosting the 'Best of the Banff Mountain Film Festival' in Victoria each November. Ably organized by Anna-Lena Steiner and Lise Gagnon, the event again drew a sell-out crowd last week. Very good news because as our major fund-raiser, this helps to ensure we can continue to offer our diverse programs - such as education subsidies, slideshows, youth bursaries etc. Many thanks to the organizers and to the volunteers, especially Derek and Iain Sou, for making this happen.

Hišimy'awił Hut

As we get close to completing the first full year of operation of our hut, there will no doubt be statistics to compile about the visitors. Here is one from our section: members who visited the hut in 2019 ranged in age from 6 weeks (Teslin, as celebrated in the last newsletter) to 86 years, Albert Hestler. Albert sent me this picture after his visit to the hut with Roger Potter in September. His comment: "It certainly is the most amazing hut, and the scenery is stunning (once you get there)."



Albert Hestler at the Hišimy'awił Hut

Albert has also donated a copy of his photo album “In the Alps - then and now” to the hut library - thanks Albert for sharing this extensive history.

The hut sub-committee is pleased to welcome Peter Gilbert as the Facilities Manager. Peter has an excellent understanding of the working of the hut through his engagement in the construction process, so we are delighted he has stepped up for this role. He comments that he is pretty happy with his new office space!

AGM 2020

As has been announced by email, our Annual General Meeting will take place at 7.00 pm on Saturday 8 February at the Vancouver Island Mountain Centre (VIMC) at Mt Washington. It will be preceded by a pot-luck dinner starting at 5 pm. Please consider this as a warm invitation to attend. Information about accommodation at VIMC for the weekend was also sent earlier - Brianna Coates cookcoatesb@gmail.com is the contact for this.

At the AGM we will be electing the ACC-VI executive for 2020. If you have interest in contributing to this lively group of volunteers or have questions about a particular role, please contact info@accvi.ca or speak with any of the current executive. Thank you for considering this.

Island Bushwhacker Annual 2019

As the year draws to an end, now is the time to write up those trip reports and other articles of interest from your adventures in 2019. Our IBA editor, Rob Macdonald, is standing by his inbox, so please keep it pinging for him. We will again publish a print version and full colour online version of the journal - more about those choices later. The deadline for submissions is 31 January 2020 - so get to it!

Executive Events

Our next executive meeting will be held on 11 December 2019. Minutes of all the meetings are available on our website.

Wishing you all peace and happiness over the Christmas season and into the New Year.

**Happy trails
Catrin Brown**

chair@accvi.ca



Martin Hofmann, Alcina De Oliveira, Catrin Brown & Erich Schellhammer at Larke La (5100+ m) on the Manaslu circuit, 18 November.

We reached the pass in the early morning after a spectacular hike by star and moonlight.

2019 GMC North Face Leadership Camp

By Peter Gilbert

On a sunny Saturday of August 3rd, 10 participants for The North Face Leadership Camp all gathered on a small patch of grass in the middle of the South Selkirk mountains. Earlier this year volunteer leaders from each section across Canada had applied to attend the camp, out of them, Iain Sou and myself were accepted from the Vancouver Island Section. We travelled from Victoria to Golden, joining a convoy of 10 other vehicles to drive down a muddy logging road to the staging area for the helicopter that would fly us and the other GMC participants into camp.

Rounding a ridge in the helicopter, the camp lay below us, a sea of orange and white dotted the landscape, and just a short hike away was the toe of the Westfall Glacier. A sweeping expanse of blue ice and snow, ringed with sharp ridges and peaks. Dispersed across the river was 20 or so 4 man Mountain Hardwear tents, our homes for the next week. There were also large canvas tents containing hot showers, tea tents, the kitchen, a mess tent, a gear storage and drying tent. The camp had everything, luxuries galore!



Looking down at camp in the small green section by the creek, with the Westfall Glacier center, and Ledges 3 on the left.



The view of Kitchen Envy (left peak) and Ledges 3 (snow capped right peak) from basecamp.

Throughout the week we had amazing weather, each day was sunny, without a cloud in sight, but luckily the breeze off the glaciers kept us cool. Cyril Shokoples, our mountaineering guru, shared some of his vast knowledge with our lucky group throughout the week. We covered short roping on rock, snow, and ice, V thread anchors for rappelling, trad anchors, and glacier travel. Along with countless other valuable skills. We were treated to an amazing first dinner consisting of delicious mushroom soup, barbecued chicken, potatoes, with fresh veggies, and for desert the chef's made us peach cobbler with whipped cream to boot! We never went hungry throughout the week, that's for sure!

On our second day I woke up at 5am, to the sun rising over Thumb Spire. After another amazing breakfast, The North Face crew set out for the day's objective, Hanover Peak. A short hike up the glacial moraines brought us to a tongue of snow where we roped up and practiced our short roping skills we learned the day before. Cresting the ridge we were treated to a sight I will never forget. Below us lay the ocean of the Wrong Glacier. Huge crevasse were scattered about our route below, some had snow bridges up to 3 meters wide. Blue ice poked its nose out of the snow everywhere, and to our left a massive ice fall was working its way down beside a cliff.



Looking back on our route though the Wrong Glacier. You can see rope team 2 ascending their way back up towards the crevasse.

Our group of 13 people split into 2 rope teams and started picking our way through this immense glacier. Matt, our instructor, was leading the way with a probe, attempting to find the thickest parts of the snow bridges to cross on. After we had descended through the crevasse mazes, across the bottom of the glacier and up the other side we got our first taste of short roping on rock. It seemed easy enough, but was challenging to wrap your mind around as it involved guiding your partner(s) though 4th class terrain with very specific instructions. Telling them where to sit, where to walk, guide them how to give me a belay off a horn, then hand belay them up through the section you just scrambled. When short roping, you must also keep your team calm, choose the right route, and watch the weather, all the while knowing that if either of you slip or fall it's quite possible you could both be going off the cliff. A daunting task that will take years of practice and mastery!



The view of Moby Dick peak (center) and it's amazing ridgeline from Hanover peak.

Our entire week followed a similar fashion; wake at 0500 for breakfast, leave camp by 0630 and spend the entire day in the mountains. Our group learned so much over the week that it was impossible to write it all down. We spent a day covering rock protection and rescue, one of my areas of interest. We learned how to build proper trad anchors, and that there is truly no such thing as an equalized anchor; one piece of gear will always take a little more force than the others simply due to how cordlet and knots stretch. The forces will never be equally split. Cyril, Matt, and Paul then taught us the slowly dying art of piton placement, and how to tell when one is fully set just by the sound it makes. Once again it was a full day in the sun. But we arrived back at camp with enough time for a swim in the

glacial lake beside camp. It was freezing cold with ice and snow floating in it; but Iain and I jumped in anyway, only to scramble out again seconds later... we didn't swim again the entire week.

Unfortunately my health took a dive during the turkey dinner on Thursday. I had been feeling tired and sore the last couple of evenings, and on Thursday I wasn't able to keep my dinner down. I spoke to the camp doctor, Heather, about my condition, and she thought I may have had a bit of heat stroke as well as dehydration. She recommended that I take the Friday to rest up and try to rehydrate myself. It was extremely hard to come to terms that I might not be able to join the NF crew on the last day, and for the coolest peak of all, Ledges 3. Somberly I packed my bag in hopes that I could get a miracle night's sleep, and would awake refreshed. Regrettably, when I woke the next morning, I felt the same as when I went to bed.

I informed Cyril and Matt of my condition and decision, returning to bed to try and sleep it off. With Friday spent napping in the hammock hanging in the tea tent, and making the all to frequent trips to the bathroom, I knew that despite my desire to push my body to its limits, I had made the correct call staying in camp. By that evening, I felt a little better, but still choose to have an early night. Shortly after crawling into bed the first and only storm of the week blew through. Lightning and thunder crashed around us and the wind whipped through the valley. At times it felt like the small 4 man tent I occupied was about to get flattened by the gusts of wind. When we woke the next morning all was calm again, but the valley was filled with the smell of burnt rock. Sadly, our week at the GMC had come to a close, and it was our day to fly out. We packed our bags, signed up for a flight and waited, soaking in the last views of the valley and our home for 8 days.

My story, however, does not end there. While driving out from the heli site we bumped into two other camp goers with a flat tire. Fortunately I had a patch kit and a small compressor. An hour or so later we rolled into Golden, swapped phone numbers and headed on our merry way... until Revelstoke. I got out of my van and the small pain I had in my side for the last 2 days flared up when I tried to walk to the bathroom. It felt like someone had taken a hot poker and lodged it inside my gut on the right side of my waist.



The happy smiling campers at the end of GMC week 5.

After calling my girlfriend (Kelsie), an RN at Royal Jubilee in Victoria, we decided I needed to go to the Revelstoke hospital. My driving partner Iain was able to get in touch with the vehicle we had helped on the logging road so he could get back in time for work on Monday, just in case this got worse. Well it did, the Revelstoke hospital determined that I might have appendicitis, but were not able to operate until they had more information. They gave me a choice of driving myself back to Victoria, or driving to Salmon Arm and getting a pre-booked CT scan done.

Iain had left at this point and was on his way back home, so I chose to stop in Salmon Arm and get the CT scan, and it was a good thing I did! The surgeon informed me at 10 pm that it was swollen and would need to be removed that night. At 2330 I hobbled myself into the operating room. A little scared I laid down on the table, went to sleep under the anesthetic, and proceed to have an organ removed. Far from my home, my friends, and my family. It was with good grace that Kelsie and my parents managed to get on the 3pm sailing on the Sunday, drive to Salmon Arm and escort me back home the following day. It would have been a very long drive without their support. We all have this little ticking time bomb inside of us, I'm just glad mine didn't burst while I was short roping with a team on top of Ledges 3 as I had been planning to the day before.

Coming full circle on Augerpoint Mountain

Story by Janelle Curtis

Photos by Rowan Laver

Editor's Note: Read about Janelle's recounting of the accident on [pg 11 of the Spring 2019 Newsletter](#)

I wanted to hike back to the site of my accident on Augerpoint Mountain even before I was released from the Victoria General Hospital in late November 2016. I was already starting to make plans to return with my dear partner, Rowan Laver, less than 6 months after I fell off that mountain. Having co-led an all women 'fun'draising hike along the Augerpoint Traverse in 2014 with Lenka Visnovska, I knew from experience that the terrain to Augerpoint Mountain would challenge me but was a relatively straightforward multi-day hike. I still had more bushwhacking to do, however, before I could even get to the trailhead, including learning how to walk all over again.

Rowan and I hiked up Jack's Trail near Buttle Lake on 1 July 2016 and got to the summit of Augerpoint Mountain the next morning about half an hour before I slipped on the way to Mount Mitchell. A little more than three years after my accident, from 15-20 September 2019, we hiked the Augerpoint Traverse, starting from Raven Lodge at Mount Washington. So, we were coming full circle on Augerpoint Mountain in a geographical sense. But going back to that area was also an essential part of our healing: it was important for us to reconnect with the site of my accident after everything that has transpired since then.

We expected that it would be more physically challenging for me but more emotionally challenging for Rowan. I don't remember even planning to go there, but Rowan has very vivid memories of my accident. He thought I was falling to my death. He still experiences flashbacks of me falling on steep terrain. By going back to Augerpoint Mountain, we were looking forward to a bit of closure on my accident and a way to honour the transition to new possibilities in our lives.

Hundreds of people have been involved in my rescue and recovery and we wanted them to be a part of our journey. So, we emailed our trip plan and shared our inReach tracking information with members of the Comox Valley Ground Search and Rescue and Campbell River Search and Rescue Society teams that helped bring us both out of the mountains safely on that fateful day. We also included members of our families, ACC-VI, the Island Mountain Ramblers, the Augerpoint Traverse 'fun'draisers, and many of the therapists I have had the great fortune of working with during the past few years.

We didn't know how we would feel when we went back to Augerpoint Mountain. Friends cautioned us that we might feel emotional, and many wondered if any memories of my accident would come back to me. I didn't expect any memories of my mountain mishap, but I wanted to see the spot where I slipped because Rowan and I are still surprised that this happened. So, we brought some of our climbing gear to rappel down to where I slipped and where I landed, just in case we were feeling up to it.

Our hike began with the lovely surprise of meeting Valerie Wootton at Raven Lodge and hiking with her to Lake Helen Mackenzie. She too survived her own serious mishap in the mountains a year after mine. But she was walking so well that we were having a hard time keeping up with her!

Val described how she sometimes hesitates when she is about to take a step with one leg and then

switches to the other one to make her move. I thought of her often on our traverse because I was doing the same thing, especially while descending Mount Albert Edward and Jack's Trail. I was thinking through each step to make sure that I didn't slip and fall again.

Val and I also talked about the primordial part of the brain that controls motor function. The challenges I now have with balance and speech are consistent with damage to that part of my brain—the cerebellum. I would not have been able to finish our traverse without my hiking poles to help keep me in balance.



At Raven Lodge with Val, just before setting off for Lake Helen Mackenzie.

It took us a bit more than six hours to get to Circlet Lake. I remembered the trail on the west side of Lake Helen Mackenzie to be much more challenging than it was. But it turned out well, especially with all the magical memories that kept surfacing of skiing and hiking in that part of Strathcona Park with friends over the years. After we hiked by the lake, we passed other hikers who noticed the helmet dangling from my backpack and asked us about our plans. Rowan hesitated and then replied: "It's a long story." It is a long story: recovering from my accident will be a lifelong endeavor.



Rowan and I on the summit of Mount Albert Edward enjoying the view with all of you.

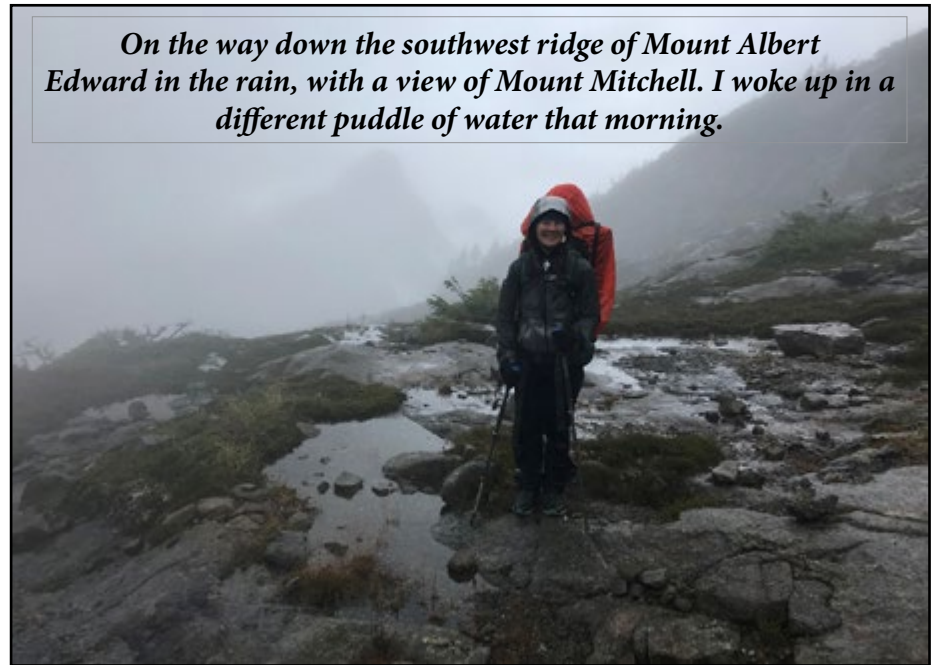
The next day, we hiked over the summit of Mount Albert Edward where we took in the views (ok, it was actually foggy) and enjoyed a light dusting of snow. We had both been there many times in all kinds of weather with friends and we were flooded with more delightful memories. It felt as though everyone was there with us on the summit. As we descended Mount Albert Edward's southwest slope, we could see Mount Mitchell and the cliff where I slipped. To make sure I stayed in balance, I scrambled down a few short sections of the trail on my bum and/or Rowan carried my backpack through them. We jokingly came to refer to my technique of scrambling on my bum as "bum-scootching." We made camp next to two tarns after about eight hours of hiking and scootching.

That night, a storm was upon us. The wind threatened to blow our tent down and it rained so heavily that I woke up in a puddle the next morning. It took us a while to get going after wringing out some of my gear. It continued to rain until we arrived at Ruth Masters Lake after another eight hours of hiking. The trek down the slope was more challenging than I remembered. We ended up pulling out our rope for a bit of scrambling over very wet rock. Then it stopped raining. As we hiked alongside the waterfall up to Ruth Masters Lake under a clearing sky, I began to weep tears of joy. I have such lovely

memories of being there with Lenka and the group of fundraisers and had wanted to go back for many years. Rowan and I even took photos of the lake an hour or two before my accident and talked about going back to camp there another time. And here we were, finally, after all those years!

Because my down sleeping bag was wet, I slept with most of my layers, including all my rain gear, and stayed relatively dry overnight. Fortunately, I had a set of hand warmers in my first aid kit, and we turned one of my Nalgene bottles into a hot water bottle. So, I was warm during the rest of our traverse despite the cooler autumn temperatures.

Our shortest day of hiking (six hours) was a hike from Ruth Masters Lake to Augerpoint Mountain and back. On the summit, we found the entry I wrote in the register on 2 July 2016: "Came up Jack's Trail for the Canada Day long weekend. Beautiful, sunny morning and fantastic views all around." I had also drawn a small heart next to our entry before we signed our names.

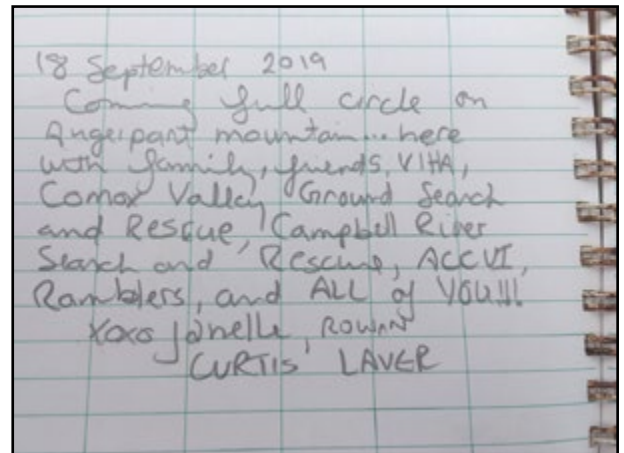


On the way down the southwest ridge of Mount Albert Edward in the rain, with a view of Mount Mitchell. I woke up in a different puddle of water that morning.



Enjoying a bit of a rest before gaining the summit of Augerpoint Mountain, this time with my new helmet.

I have no memories of that morning, and I felt very emotional when we read our entry. After signing the summit register again, we continued another hundred metres toward Mount Mitchell. That's where I stopped, but Rowan continued to where I slipped in 2016. It took him about twenty minutes to hike there, reconnect with the scene, and hike back, whereas it would have taken me a few hours to do the same. I felt that I didn't need to go there again. Rowan was glad that he went, in part because seeing the spot confirmed that I fell fifteen or twenty metres and then tumbled another eighty metres on the steep scree below. He felt unsettled by the technical nature of that part of the hike.



Our summit register entry on Augerpoint Mountain. Photo by Janelle Curtis.

The next day we carried on for another seven hours and set up camp by a tarn near the top of Jack's Trail. On the way to our last campsite, it surprised us to find a plastic bag of someone's trash that had been munched by critters. Why would someone leave their bag of garbage in such a picturesque alpine area for others to pack out?! I carried their garbage out of there.

We stopped at the place where we set up camp next to a gleaming tarn the night before my accident. While we were there, Rowan brought me to where we hung our food and where we ate our meals looking out over Jack Sharke Lake. He also described the sound of the helicopter when the Comox Valley Ground Search and Rescue team flew him to our camp so he could pack up our gear and bring it out of Strathcona Park. Rowan was glad to be there again.

The final day of our traverse took us over seven hours to hike down Jack's Trail to Buttle Lake while it had taken us just a few hours on our way back from climbing Syd Watts and Sid Williams Peaks in 2015. I "bum-scootched" down much of the section of slippery scree, a part of Jack's Trail that always makes me nervous. There were a few other sections of the trail where Rowan carried my backpack. When we finally arrived at the trailhead, it was a pleasure to walk on the side of the (flat) road back to our car at the Augerpoint Day Use Area. It was also lovely to wash up in Buttle Lake.

While we were on the beach, I had another emotional moment thinking about how I didn't know who I was and still had to relearn how to walk three years before. Yet, Rowan and I had just finished hiking the Augerpoint Traverse together. I've come such a long way in recovering from my accident, in part because of everyone's love and support over the years. Thank you!

I keep thinking about how physically and emotionally strong all of the 'fun'draisers were during our 2014 Augerpoint Traverse. There is no way that I could finish that hike in three days now, even with a rest day at Ruth Masters Lake. I told Rowan a few times that I thought coming full circle on Augerpoint Mountain would be my "last big hurrah" in the mountains. But Rowan feels that is unlikely, and maybe he's right.



As I finished writing the first draft of this article, I was texting with Matthew Lettington, who is the President of the Island Mountain Ramblers, about ideas for another beginner friendly all women hike in the mountains that I could co-lead in 2020. As an unknown author once wrote: "Sometimes life brings you full circle to a place you have been before just to show you how much you have grown."

Mount Mitchell in the background and the spot where I slipped in 2016 in the lower right corner.

News from National

Christine Fordham - National Representative

NEW LEADER MANUALS - the "[Summer Mountaineering Leader Field Handbook](#)" and the "[French Translation of the Top Rope Leader](#)" are now published. They are available from ACC National for a nominal price.

SUMMER 2019 CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC - has a story by Leslie Anthony with pictures by Paul Zizka of week 6 at the 2018 Hallam Glacier General Mountaineering Camp: "[Welcome to Climbing Camp](#)".

CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT (CISM). Used by search and rescue personnel, paramedics, first-responders, etc., CISM is a technique for the temporary, but active and supportive entry into the life of individuals or groups during periods of extreme distress. Read more about CISM, also known as "Emotional First Aid" at www.cismtraining.ca.



*Left: Heading up Mt. Arrowsmith
Right: On the Golden Hinde*

Photos by David Fishwick - more wonderful entries in the 2019 ACC-VI Photo Competition.

Memorial Fund Youth Grants

Geoff Bennett

If you are under 30 or if you lead children and youth on trips to the mountains, you may qualify for a \$1,000 grant to undertake alpine expeditions. Check out the “[Memorial Fund/Youth Grants](#)” page on the ACC-VI website and apply before January 31, 2020.

Since it started in 2009 the Fund has disbursed \$8,875 to 11 different youth groups in the alpine:

- 2010 - \$1,200 for the Brooks Peninsula Expedition (Gillian Nicol, Cory McGregor, Cody Gold, Derek Cronmiller)
- 2012 - \$250 for first ascents on the SW Buttress of Mount Arrowsmith (James Pierzchalski)
- 2013 - \$1,400 for a General Mountaineering Camp for youth at Mount Matchlee (Harry Steiner)
- 2013 - \$600 for a first ascent of North Needle Peak in the Great Bear Rainforest (Christina Service, Laura Grant, Vernon Brown)
- 2015 - \$925 for a study of weather conditions and climate change at 20 remote fire lookouts in the Rockies (Kristen Walsh)
- 2016 - \$1,500 to purchase climbing gear for a First Nations youth rock climbing camp near Ucluelet (Carlos Mack)
- 2018 – \$2,000 total:
 - \$700 for a Strathcona Park traverse including first winter ascents of Tom Taylor and Mariner (Evan DeVault)
 - \$600 for a S-N hike of the entire VI Spine Trail (Isobel Glover)
 - \$500 for a ski tour of Liberty Bell, Washington by the ACC-VI youth group (Derek Sou)
 - \$200 to purchase equipment for an expedition by Nanaimo Scouts to climb several major peaks in the UK (Andy Chapman-Coombs)
- 2019 - \$1,000 for a climb by the ACC-VI youth group of Mariner Mountain from Bedwell Sound (Derek Sou)

Donations to the Memorial Fund

The Memorial Fund welcomes donations in honour of mountaineers such as those whose lives are celebrated on the website. Donations are tax-deductible and are matched by the Vancouver Island Section. Please see the Donations section of the “[Memorial Fund/Youth Grants](#)” page and consider making a donation before the end of the year.

For additional information please contact geoff.bennett@shaw.ca.



*Newberry National Volcanic Monument: Lava Cast Forest.
Photo by Andrew Cripps - one many stunning entries in the 2019 ACC-VI Photo Competition.*

5040 Hut Renamed Hišimýawił

Oct 5th, 2019

Story and photos by Mike Hubbard

Following a suggestion made in February of 2019 by Chris Jensen to Geoff Bennett, Geoff in cooperation with Ricardo Manmohan of Tofino, the Director of the Ucluelet First Nation Warrior Youth Program, diplomatically liaised with the Ucluelet, Toquaht and Tla-o-qui-aht Nations and came up with an agreed new name for our 5040 Hut. The name was approved by the First Nations on September 23rd and by our executive on September 27th. It means “Gather Together” in the Barkley Sound dialect of the Ucluelet First Nation.

On Friday October 4th Colleen and I, together with my daughter Kyla and husband Will, drove up to the trail head on the Marion Main for a day trip to the naming ceremony scheduled for 2:30 on the Saturday. Despite torrential rain through Nanaimo and ominous clouds to the west the forecast was good for Saturday and we had a dry camp by the car and early start up the trail.

As we came out of the trees at Cobalt Lake we could see figures on the summit. When we arrived at the hut all was quiet apart from Chris Ruttan and Robert Ramsay working on finishing touches to the bannisters and Tristan Oliver and Alex Liotti preparing to film the event. Soon, however, the hikers arrived back from the mountain for lunch. When we went in to join them there were 5 youth Warriors from the Ucluelet, Toquaht and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations - Evan Touchie, Ethan Tom, Daniel Williams, Tyson Touchie, and Hayden Serchter - and 2 of our youth members, Evelyn Sou and Aila Gessinger, playing cards. I don't know what the game was but they were certainly having a lot of fun and it was wonderful to see the young people getting along so well together.

After a warm and comfortable lunch in the hut the weather brightened and we assembled outside on the rocks where Chris Jensen introduced the Warriors, who were there on behalf of their Elders, and they sang a Welcome song and a Victory Song with improvised drumming on a plastic pail which made a remarkably good drum. Whilst there were only a few of us adults there, Waylon McLeod and Mark McKenough from Tofino with the Warriors, Derek and Ian Sou, and Vanessa Barr with our youth, Chris and Robert, who actually stopped working for the ceremony, Colleen, me, Kyla and Will together with the film crew it was a moving ceremony and bodes well for the tremendous contribution our hut is providing to enable young and old to enjoy our Island Mountains.

I said a few words of welcome to the Warriors and thanks to the builders and presented the warriors with two books which Sandy Briggs had sent to me to be placed in the hut Library – his biographical “My Mountains – excerpts from a life in progress” and a photo book of his crossing of Greenland in 1977. Thanks Sandy for this contribution; the Hut is a great place to have them as the absence of internet coverage provides lots of time to browse.

I tried my best pronunciation of **Hišimýawił**, which is phonetically **Hi-SHIM-ya-witsh**, but from the laughs on the faces of the Warriors I don't think I did a very good job; it does require a bit of practice and blowing of air through the side of the teeth but I am sure we will all get used to it and enjoy gathering together at **Hišimýawił** for many years.

Photos from the Hišimýawił naming ceremony



Mountain mishaps on Vancouver Island and some advice ...

By Janelle Curtis

Editor's Note: This article, along with many others, can be found on the ACC-VI website's [Close Calls Collection](#) - a repository of lessons learned in the mountains. Check it out!

Accidents can happen to anyone in the backcountry, even to those who have a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience. Fortunately, our mountaineering community here on Vancouver Island is closely connected. We celebrate each other's successes (e.g. The Charles Turner Vancouver Island 6000'ers Award), learn from each other's experiences (see the Close Calls Collection on ACC-VI's website), and support others when a helping hand is needed.

This year, Lindsay Elms and I gave joint slide shows for the ACC-VI and Island Mountain Ramblers to let fellow mountaineers know more about the circumstances of accidents that affected us in the mountains during the past few years. We also shared some advice based on our experiences. During our slide shows, we described the objectives, climbs, accidents, injuries, use of satellite communication devices, and the valiant efforts of the Search and Rescue teams that helped us during those fateful days.



Wearing my helmet on the ridge leading to Augerpoint Mountain. Photo by Rowan Laver.

The accidents that affected us differed in many ways. My partner, Rowan Laver, and I were on our way to Mount Mitchell on 2 July 2016. On the ridge between Augerpoint Mountain and Mount Mitchell, I fell fifteen or twenty metres off a cliff and then tumbled about eighty metres on steep scree. My fall resulted in several fractures, including a broken ankle, two broken knees, and a broken hand. I also sustained a severe head injury which caused me to be in a coma for a few weeks. By coincidence, Lindsay and his partner, Val Wootton, were on the summit of Mount Mitchell and watched the helicopters involved in my rescue.

Almost a year later, on 29 June 2017, Lindsay, Val, and her daughter, Caitlin, were climbing The Triplets and The Pitchfork in the Haihte Range. Not far below the summit of The Pitchfork, Val broke her femur near her hip joint and fractured her L3 vertebra after a large chunk of snow randomly landed on her back and caused her to slip on the smooth rock and jam her leg between the rock and the overlying glacier.

Fortunately, everyone involved in those two mountain mishaps were well equipped for day trips on 4th and 5th class terrain including bringing the "Ten Essentials", using climbing gear, and having emergency satellite communication devices to initiate rescues.

After my accident around 9:30 a.m., Rowan deployed his inReach Satellite Communicator and my SPOT Gen3 GPS Messenger. Rowan was able to text with his emergency contact and the RCMP about the nature of our emergency and my rescue. A year later, Lindsay and Val deployed their SPOT beacon right after Val's accident, around 2:30 p.m.

Rowan and I were at the hospital in Comox within a few hours of my accident and then I was flown by BC Air Ambulance to the Victoria General Hospital around 3:30 p.m, six hours after accident. Unfortunately, Val's rescue took approximately eleven hours. Contact at the accident site was initially made by a RCMP helicopter at 7:45 p.m. Then a Campbell River Search and Rescue helicopter arrived an hour later. Finally, a nighttime lift by Comox's 442 Squadron brought Val safely out of the mountains.



Val and Caitlin on the summit of The Triplets in the Haighte Range. Photo by Lindsay Elms.



Lindsay (in the red circle) close to the site of Val's accident on the way back from summiting The Pitchfork. Photo by Caitlin O'Neill.

Based on our collective experiences, here are a few nuggets of advice that Lindsay and I shared during our joint slide shows:

- Leave a detailed trip plan, carry the “Ten Essentials”, and expect the unexpected.
- Use protective gear in 4th class terrain, even when there aren't overhead hazards. I wouldn't be here today if I wasn't wearing my helmet when I slipped on the way to Mount Mitchell.
- Carry a satellite emergency beacon, ideally one that allows for two-way communication. Rowan was providing details to the RCMP and Comox Valley Ground Search and Rescue team about my injuries within thirty minutes of my accident. By contrast, my SPOT device did not support two-way communication. So, my emergency contact was frantic with worry and didn't find out what happened until Rowan called her about seven hours later. Lindsay and Val's SPOT device eventually triggered a rescue for Val but because it did not allow two-way communication either, they were uncertain whether a rescue had been initiated and were unable to communicate with the outside world about the nature of their emergency.
- If your satellite beacon does not support two-way communication (e.g. with SPOT or SPOT Gen3), dedicate a pre-set message to one or more contacts as an emergency message. Your preset message

should inform them that there has been a serious emergency and ask them to call 911. Your device will send them the coordinates of where you are. Your contact(s) won't know the details of the emergency, but make sure that they have your trip plan and understand the importance of following up with 911 when they receive your pre-set message. The inReach also allows you to pre-set messages so that you can be a bit quicker to send one out.

- With a satellite beacon that supports two-way communication, be prepared to give details about the “three Ps and a D”: position, problem, people, and description.
- Send short bursts of text (e.g. name, age, scenario, injuries).
- Only use official names of features or mountains; avoid using local names.
- Provide details when you register your device and to your emergency contact(s), including information about allergies, medical condition(s), age, and experience.

As Barry Hansen noted after one of our slide shows: “We are enriched as a community when we share our stories with each other.” It is our hope that sharing our stories can inspire others to be more prepared for the unexpected. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments about this. And enjoy your time out there in the mountains!



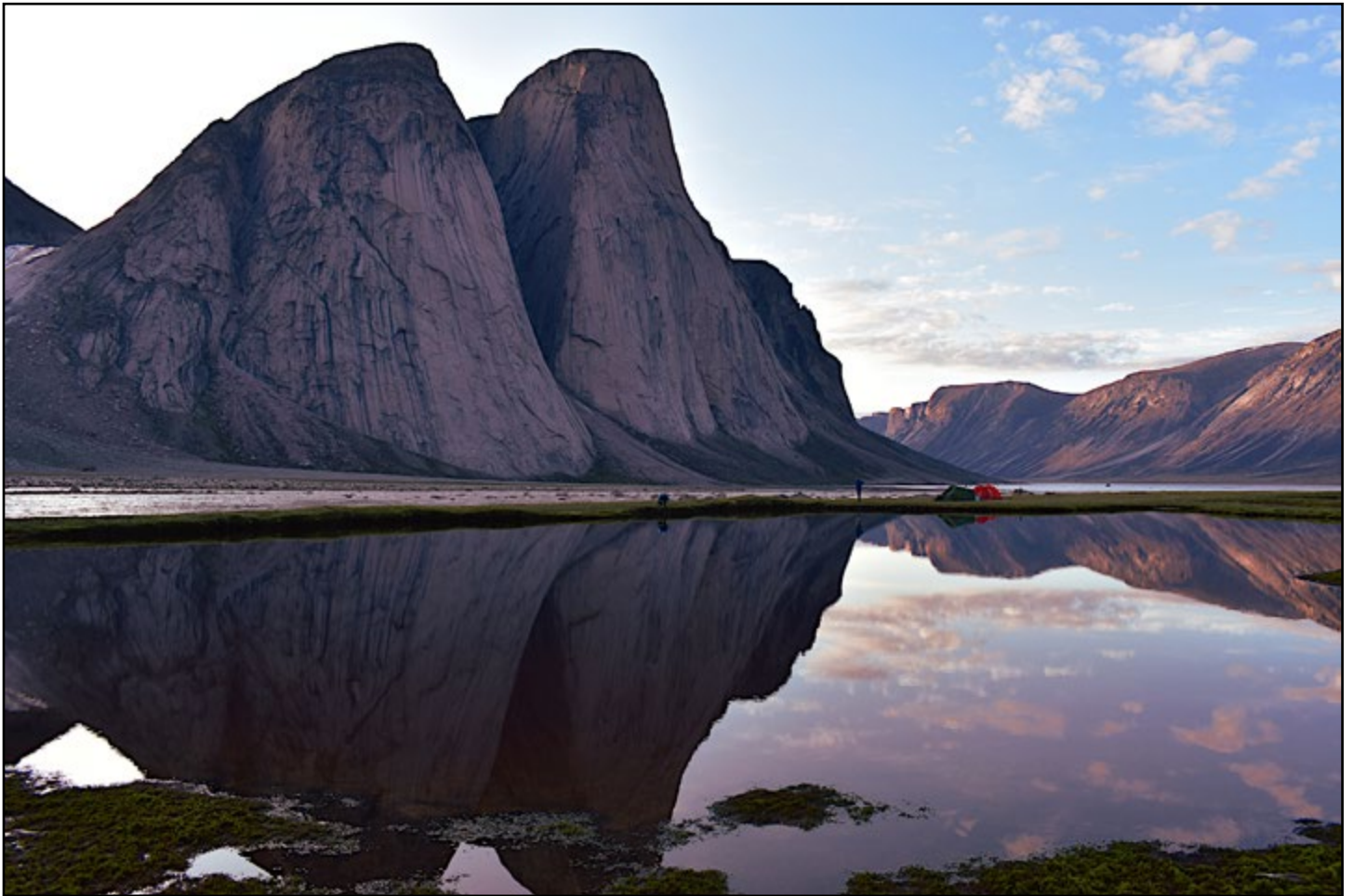
The tracking data from Rowan's inReach Satellite Communicator. This shows the tracks to where I slipped between Augerpoint Mountain and Mount Mitchell. Red shows the location of tracking data and messages after Rowan pressed the SOS button and where we camped the night before. After my rescue, the Comox Valley Ground Search and Rescue team kindly helped Rowan pack up our tent and other gear (hence the red dots where we camped). Also shown are tracks from some of our previous trips, including hikes to Marble Meadows, and to Syd Watts and Sid William Peaks.

2019 ACC-VI Annual Photo Competition

One of the features on the ACC-VI calendar is the Annual Photo Competition. Held in October, the competition judges images in six categories: Summer Activity; Winter Activity; Humour; Mountain Scenery; Nature; and Vancouver Island.

A huge thank-you to participants and organizers - especially Peggy Taylor, Jes Scott, Brian Parsons, Roger Taylor, and Dave Suttill for making the evening flow so well. The following pages present the winners and honourable mention recipients for each category. But all of the 2019 photos will soon be available for viewing on the ACC-VI website - watch for the link in a forthcoming High Points email bulletin.

*Summer Activity
Winner: Nadia Steiner
"Baffin Island"*



*Summer Activity, Honourable Mention (Tie):
 (Left) Hunter Lee, "Max Fischer climbing the Conuma Arch"
 (Right) Tom Roozendaal, "The Cain Route, Bugaboos"*



*Winter Activity
 Winner: (Left) Hunter Lee,
 "Dan McKean and Evan
 Devault climbing Newman-
 Foweraker on Mt. Arrowsmith"*



*Winter Activity
 Honourable Mention: (Above) Catrin
 Brown, "Climbing North Seaman"*

Humour
Winner: Nadia Steiner, "Lyle on Baffin"



Humour
Honourable Mention: Ken Wong, "Liquid sunshine at Mt. Myra"

Mountain Scenery
Winner: Robie MacDonald, "Thorsmork"



*Mountain Scenery, Honourable Mention (Tie):
(Left) Jarrett Levesque, "Mirren Lake"
(Right) Rick Hudson, "Limestone formation in the Italian Dolomites"*

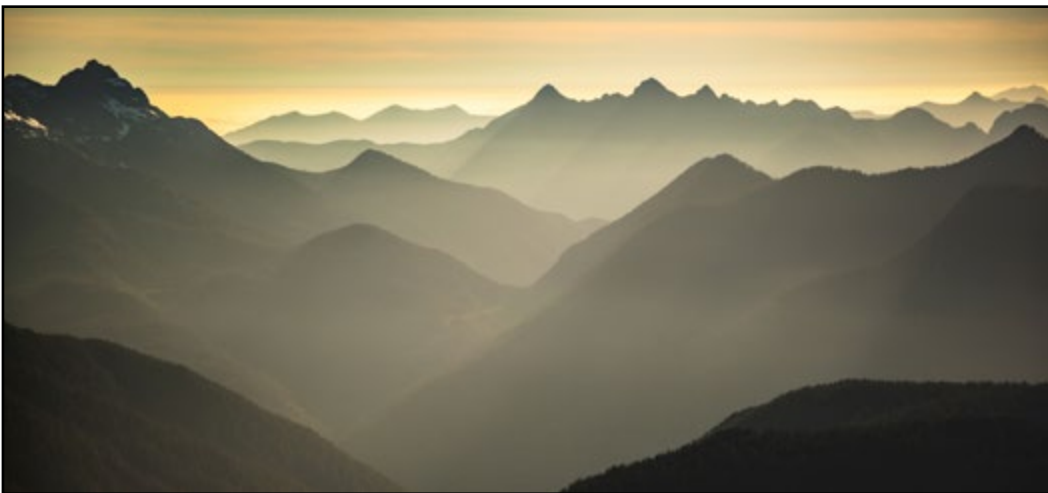


*Nature
Winner: Liz Williams, "Fungal snake"*



*Nature
Honourable Mention: Robie
Macdonald "Hermit's Ermines"*

*Vancouver Island
Winner: Elizabeth Robertson
"Clouds Disperse over Landslide Lake"*



*Vancouver Island
Honourable Mention:
Erica Ellefson
"5040 View"*

e-Trails: Mountain News and Stories

Peggy Taylor, our Slide Show Coordinator is looking to fill some slots in our upcoming Jan - June 2020 season. If you have trekked, backpacked, scrambled, hiked, climb/ice climbed, skied, snowshoed, cycled or done a cultural trip in the mountains and would be interested in sharing your experiences Peggy would like to hear from you! Also any other topics relating to the mountains (history, geology, glaciation, weather, human use of, survival in, etc.) are all welcome. Email Peggy at peggyhiking@gmail.com

Barb Baker (ACC-VI Access and Environment: access@accvi.ca) reports that [Mosaic access info now comes as an interactive map](#) with gates coloured red (closed) and green (open with hours). As well, AV Community Forests states that Br. 552 approach to Klitsa is drivable to the trail head!

Island Bushwhacker Annual 2019

Guideline for Submissions

It's never too early to get your stories in to Rob Macdonald - the editor of the Island Bushwhacker Annual!

Please ensure that all submissions use the following template:

- Title
- Date(s) of event
- Participants
- Text - submissions should generally be a maximum of approximately 1000 words
- Bold, italics etc are fine, but do not apply any special formatting for line spacing, fonts, tabs or titles. These will only need to be removed.
- Put insertion points for graphics e.g. < photo 1 >
- Submit photographs separately as JPEGs in the highest resolution possible.
- All photographs should have a caption and credit

Please note that this is an Alpine Club journal and as such all submissions should reference an alpine setting for self-propelled endeavour.

It is recommended that authors give an opportunity to people mentioned in the text or in photographs to check that they are comfortable with the content being published.

Send submissions to Rob Macdonald bushwhacker@accvi.ca

(Newsletter Editor's Note: There is both a Newsletter and an Annual. This is a call for submissions to the Annual. However, you can still send things to the Newsletter at newsletter@accvi.ca.)



This Editor's Last Note:

Just wanted to take a moment to say how much fun it has been these past years serving as your trusty Island Bushwhacker Newsletter editor. It's given me the opportunity to get to know so many of you through your stories and photos - an opportunity I KNOW you'll extend to Janelle Curtis - our new Newsletter editor!

You'll also be hearing from Anya Reid in a somewhat more abbreviated - but still very engaging - style. Anya will be bringing you the High Points email bulletin in the months without a Newsletter.

As for me - well, I hope more time in the mountains with Mike and our friends all across the Alpine Club of Canada is in my future - we will see!

As I always say *"If you're lucky enough to be in the mountains, you're lucky enough"*.

ttn
Mary

Thank you to this month's contributors:

***Barb Baker, Geoff Bennett, Catrin Brown, Andrew Cripps,
Erica Ellefson, Lindsay Elms, Janelle Curtis,
David Fishwick, Christine Fordham, Peter Gilbert, Mike
Hubbard, Rick Hudson, Chris Istace, Rowan Laver,
Hunter Lee, Jarrett Levesque, Rob Macdonald,
Elizabeth Robertson, Tom Roozendaal, Nadia Steiner,
Peggy Taylor, Liz Williams, and Ken Wong.***

Well done everyone!

