

Island Bushwhacker

Volume 51 | Issue 2 | Summer 2023



Martin Hofmann soaring at Hišimýawiľ.

Photo by Josh Slatkoff

ACC VANCOUVER ISLAND SECTION

Social Events

The club hosts monthly slide shows at the Swan Lake nature sanctuary in Victoria and offers these as streamed in-person events so that members who cannot attend in person 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: Currently Vacant

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

ACCVI has booked the [A. O. Wheeler Hut](#) in Rogers Pass for the week of August 13 – 20, and also the [Asulkan Cabin](#) for three days mid-week. To learn more about the [Wheeler Hut Camp 2023](#) see <https://accvi.ca/events/wheeler-hut-camp-2023/> There are still a few spaces available!

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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, 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
16-19 June	FULL – Mt. Rainier (4,394 m) via Disappointment Cleaver Route (D3)
11-13 July	All women, beginner-friendly Forbidden Plateau Traverse in Strathcona Park
16-23 July	Fly-in Summer Camp Week 1 - contact summercamps@accvi.ca for updated details
17 July to 5 August	Newfoundland Adventure Hike and Tour (B2)
21-23 July	Kids and Youth trip to Hišim'yawił hut (B1/2)
23-30 July	Fly-in Summer Camp Week 2 - contact summercamps@accvi.ca for updated details
30 July to 6 August	Fly-in Summer Camp Family Week 3 - contact summercamps@accvi.ca for updated details
6-13 August	Fly-in Summer Camp Week 4 - contact summercamps@accvi.ca for updated details
13-20 August	Wheeler Hut Camp 2023

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

The ACCVI Education Program exists to facilitate courses and workshops for members that will: prepare them to participate in ACCVI trips, assist them in pursuing their outdoor goals, and develop the skills required as ACCVI Trip Leaders.

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 snow in the mountains is rapidly melting and it's time to exchange ski gear for hiking and climbing boots and head out to enjoy the Island mountains. This summer there is a [hut-based camp in Rogers Pass at the Wheeler Hut](#) that at the time of writing still has some space available (details further on in this newsletter - see page 16 of this newsletter). This is a great opportunity to visit one of the birthplaces of Canadian mountaineering with several classic climbs and spectacular hiking.



The Wheeler Hut, site for the 2023 Hut-Based Summer Camp in Rogers Pass.

We are low however on shorter trips to the many great objectives on the Island, so please consider putting such trips on the schedule for this summer; it will also give you the opportunity to earn [leadership points](#) and the chance to win some great prizes (see page 14 of this newsletter and also see the [Leadership Recognition Program](#) under [Info for Trip Leaders](#) at www.accvi.ca).

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the section, and two of ours, Janelle Curtis and Derek Sou have been recognized with National Club awards for their outstanding service. Congratulations to both of them! See page 13 for more details.



Kids and youth having a good rope management and basic knot class with Derek. (Photo by Mark Benson)

There have been several excellent slide shows at Swan Lake these past few months; thanks to our able MC Gordon Kyle. If you have done a trip recently (or not so recently) that you'd like to share with the club, please email events@accvi.ca. There are lots of openings for the upcoming fall and winter.

There are still some vacancies on the section Executive and coordinators positions (listed at the end of the newsletter on pages 21 and 22) so if you are interested in any of them please let us know by sending a message to chair@accvi.ca.



Gil Parker 1937 - 2023

By Catrin Brown



It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Gil Parker on 29 April 2023. Gil's rich life was characterised by his unwavering interest in contributing to a better world, and he leaves an extraordinary legacy of turning vision into positive change. We were indeed fortunate that he invested so much of his time and talent in our section of the Alpine Club of Canada over five decades. It is no exaggeration to say that we owe much of what we enjoy today as a section to him.

In honour of his unique contribution, Gil was awarded the highest recognition given by the national club, 'Honorary Membership of the ACC' in 2018. The following summary is extracted from the nomination submitted for this award. Gil's response to the presentation of this award in May 2018 is given on page 8.



*Gil receiving news of his Honorary membership award,
May 2018. With Paul Erickson and Catrin Brown.
(Photo by Robie Macdonald)*

“Gil started his life-long interest in mountain exploration in the 1950s with climbs near Calgary and ascents of Mount Rundle. Shortly after moving to Vancouver Island in 1970, he became an active member of ACC-VI, leading and participating in many trips on the Island, throughout B.C. and elsewhere. He was instrumental in running climbing courses with fellow section member Dave Tansley through the YMCA in the early 1970s. His Canadian mountain ascents included Mount Lowell, Mount Parnassus, Mount Garibaldi, Mount Slesse, Mount Louie, Mount Victoria, Mount Andromeda and on Vancouver Island he climbed most of our “Island Qualifiers”, in addition to Rambler Peak, Mount Schoen, Alexandra Peak and many others. Gil attended the ACC summer camp at Fryatt Creek in the Rockies in 1972, and also several ACC ski mountaineering camps to Yoho, Adamant and Eremite Valleys. He also climbed in the Tellot Glacier area near Mount Waddington and attempted the unclimbed Mount Noel on the Stikine Icecap.



On Malaspina Ridge. Gil is second from right and Rick Eppler is on the right. (Photographer unknown)

A key aspect of Gil’s approach was his drive to share his passion and expertise through leadership and mentorship. Many younger people who developed into strong ACC leaders, credit Gil with their early introduction to mountaineering. He climbed Mount Olympus, Mount Rainier three times, Mount Hood, Glacier Peak, Mount Adams, South Sister, Lassen Peak and Mount Shasta, all in the company of fellow Island climbers. Between 1999 and 2004 with different back-packing partners, he completed 90% of the 4300 km Pacific Crest Trail. Gil’s ventures overseas included trekking in Mexico’s Copper Canyon, around Annapurna in Nepal, in the Western Garwhal in India and in Patagonia.

In the 1990s he organized three international ACC-VI trips to the former USSR. These combined his love of mountaineering with his interest in Russia and his knowledge of the Russian language, and helped to forge links between the Canadian and Russian mountaineering communities. In 1990, a trip to the Caucasus Mountains of Georgia for a party of ten ACC members from Vancouver Island led to summit climbs of Mount Kazbek and Mount Elbrus. In 1997, Gil arranged a trip to the Kamchatka peninsula where participants climbed Mount Zimina, Mount Gorelli and Mount Mutnovsky.

Perhaps Gil’s most outstanding work in promoting mountain activities was his conception and active pursuit of the *Vancouver Island Spine Trail*. Inspired by his time on the Pacific Crest Trail, Gil developed a vision of a similar long-distance trail on Vancouver Island from Victoria to Cape Scott, and founded the Vancouver Island Spine Trail Association. The project has been actively pursued since 2009, and is well on its way to completion, now known as the Vancouver Island Trail. As Gil originally envisioned, the route links existing trails with new sections, providing a back-country route passing close to many of the Island’s major peaks. Gil’s work included raising over \$100,000, planning route changes as practical considerations have necessitated, consulting with First Nations whose traditional lands are to be crossed, and negotiating access with private land owners.



Gil on left working on the Vancouver Island Trail with Terry. (Photographer unknown)



Work party lunch on the Vancouver Island Trail. Gil is on the right. (Photographer unknown)

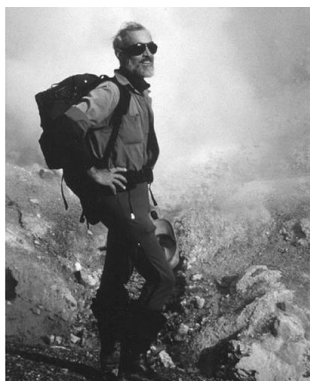
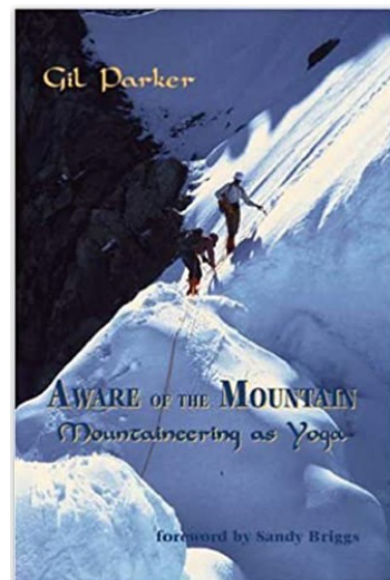
Gil served on the national club executive as Western Vice President from 1976 - 1980, including under the leadership of Don Forest. He served on the main club's Publication Committee, Huts Committee and Expeditions Committee, which included the time when Everest 82 was first proposed. Gil had strong connections with some of the prominent mountaineers of his generation, which he shared with the Island community through hosting social evenings and guest talks with Doug Scott and Pat Morrow.

Within the Vancouver Island section, Gil served on the executive as secretary/treasurer from 1973 - 1974, as Chair from 1975 - 1976 and as Past Chair from 1977 - 1978. During his tenure as Chair, he revitalized the section which had very small membership at the time. His execu-

tive committee worked with BC Parks and the ACC in trying to get funding for a hut in Strathcona Park, established the *Island Bushwhacker* as the section's newsletter, and supported the idea of developing a list of 'graduating climbs on the island' as a criterion for Senior Membership. This list today has developed into the well-established quest to achieve the "Rick Eppler IQ award" - a successful climb of all nine of the "Island Qualifier" peaks. In 2002 Gil received the Distinguished Service Award from the national ACC.

While Gil's training and career were largely in the field of engineering, his avocation was as a writer. Over the years he published regular articles on outdoor adventure, the mountains and climbers of Vancouver Island, as well as on energy and environmental issues. His writings appeared in *The Times Colonist* as well as in *Explore Magazine* and the *Island Bushwhacker*. He wrote several books with mountain themes, most notably "*Aware of the Mountain*" - *mountaineering as Yoga* in 2001, and "*Coast Mountain Men*" - *mountaineering stories from the West Coast* in 2007. In 2008 Gil edited the 10th edition of *Hiking Trails 3 - Northern Vancouver Island including Strathcona Park* for the Vancouver Island Trails Information Society.

Gil's professional activities included work as a structural engineer, pioneering work in solar projects at home and internationally, and starting a trading firm working in the former USSR. His many activities in community and international affairs were recognized with a civil engineering prize, a fellowship from the Rotary Club and an Honorary Citizenship from Victoria City. "



An obituary for Gil was given in the *Times Colonist* <https://www.legacy.com/ca/obituaries/timescolonist/name/gilbert-parker-obituary?id=51967775>

A memorial gathering will be held at Esquimalt Gorge Park Pavilion at 11.00 am on 29 June 2023.

A bit of History - Gil Parker Receiving ACC's Honorary Membership

*Editor's note: This is Gil Parker's response upon receiving the award "**Honorary Membership in the Alpine Club of Canada**" on 10 May 2018*

I would like to offer my thanks to those who did the hard work of research for this award. From my point of view, the events described have not been all hard work.

This award is really for persons in the Alpine Club of Canada, and the Vancouver Island Section of ACC, as many of the activities that are named in the nomination relate to the Island or Islanders. Some of these are:

- The Basic Mountaineering courses offered by the YM-YWCA in the 19'70s were taught jointly by Dave Tansley and me, with help from ACC'ers from Vancouver Section and Roger Neave from Nanaimo. (And Dave's wife, Cynthia, produced the VI Newsletter before we had the "Bushwhacker").*
- In the days before the Banff Mountain Festival, our Section raised funds by presenting speakers at various venues. I had the pleasure to host several, including Dougal Haston, Kurt Deimberger (who stayed with us 4 days; in a small boat we photographed Stellar sealions at Race Rocks), and Doug Scott (for several visits) who reciprocated later, inviting Bill Feyrer, and my partner, Joan Randall and me to his home in North England (while hiking in Yorkshire) and to a meeting of the "original" Alpine Club that evening with such luminaries as Sir Chris Bonington.*
- I was on ACC's National board for 4 years. One exceptional experience I had was to travel with Roger Neave and Phyllis Munday by car to Edmonton for a Board meeting. I absorbed a lot of history on that trip. Another historical experience for me was to be on the Expeditions Committee while the Everest '82 climb was being planned.*
- I was invited by Lado Gurchiani of Soviet Georgia to visit the Caucasus for 3 weeks in 1990. Most of our 11 member team climbed Kazbek, and Sandy Briggs led a smaller group to the summit of Elbrus. In 1997, I made a visit to Kamchatka Peninsula of Soviet Russia to climb some semiactive (and some rather active) volcanoes.*
- Starting in 2007, the concept and development work on the VI Spine Trail from Victoria to Cape Scott was implemented by a local board of directors, financially supported by individuals from the Island and significantly by the ACC-VI Section.*

Fortunately, honors presented from ACC result from activities of those who love the mountains, in other words "we were doing exactly what we wanted to do anyway."

So thank you to Catrin Brown and her assistants (at least Robie Macdonald and Paul Erickson) for the effort in putting together my nomination.



Access and Environment

By Barb Baker

Mosaic Gates

1. Summer opening hours 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on most weekend open gates.

Check the website: <https://www.mosaicforests.com/access>

2. Electronic remote unlocking of those gates which allow access to the public may not be open physically. Gates can be opened using the instructions at the gate & left open.

3. New temporary gate at Cameron 17 km, blocking access to Moriarity, Labour Day Lake and Minna's Ridge. This gate will be removed after harvesting beyond it is complete or when fire season is lifted. So probably into the fall.

4. Oyster Main. 2 km and 17 km gates are marked open. This road gives access to Alexandra and Adrain Peaks, Mount Mitchell and Pearl Lake, but the second gate was locked for a recent user. No explanation has been made; it was likely an error on someone's part. If anyone has time to check that gate, please let me know the outcome.

5. We hope to have limited access to Cottonwood Main later this summer. This road would give access to Landalt and El Capitan Peaks and Lomas Lake. Stay tuned.

Please contact me for access issues or comments at access@accvi.ca



*Glacier Water of Wedgemount Lake. (Photo by Joanna Verano)
Submitted to the ACCVI 2022 Photo Competition's Summer Activity Category*

Volunteers needed for the Strathcona Wilderness Institute

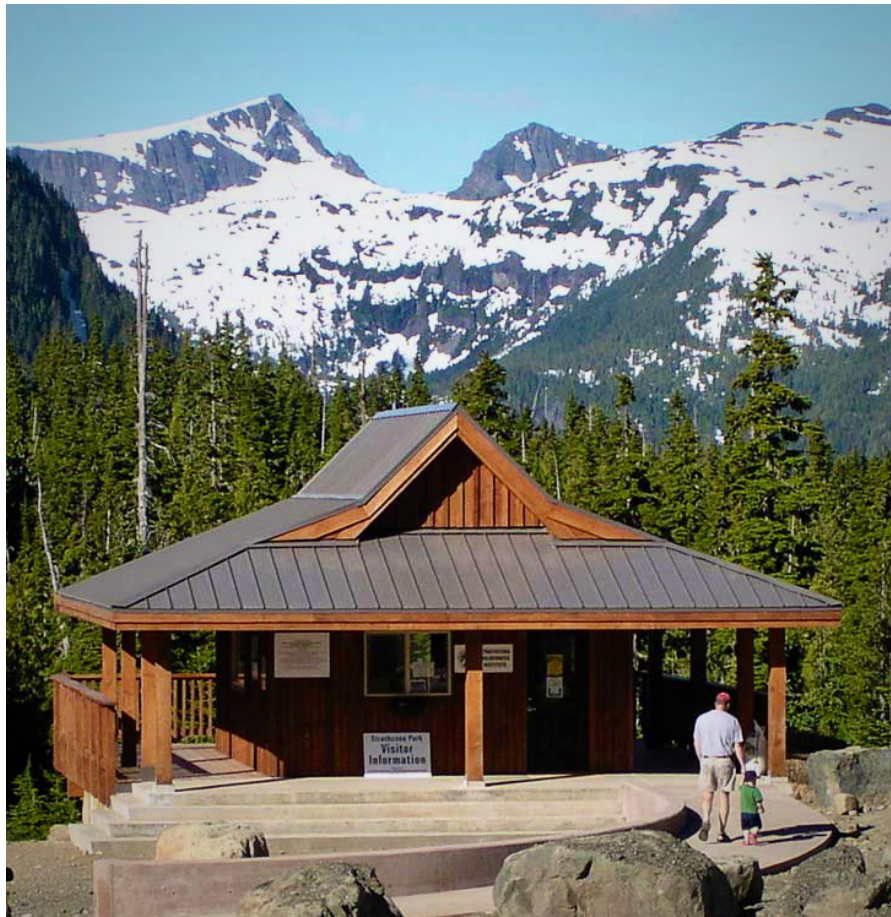
Calling all those who love Strathcona Provincial Park! Strathcona Wilderness Institute (SWI) is looking for volunteers to help run the Paradise Meadows Information Centre up on Mount. Washington. We are looking for volunteers to help out in the summer months once the snow has melted and hiking resumes in the park. The volunteers are mainly responsible for greeting the public, and providing information about the park and trails while promoting responsible use and stewardship of the park.

Volunteering can be as little or as much as you have time for! If you are interested in learning more about SWI and volunteering with us then please visit our website at www.strathconapark.org or contact coordinator.swi@gmail.com.

We would love to hear from you!

Thanks,

Jaron Piercy
SWI Volunteer Coordinator



2023 ACCVI Memorial Fund Youth Grants

By Geoff Bennett -ACCVI Funds Administrator

The executive recently approved two youth grants from the [ACCVI Memorial Fund \(https://accvi.ca/programs/memorial-fund-youth-grants/operation/\)](https://accvi.ca/programs/memorial-fund-youth-grants/operation/):

1. \$800 to Kyle Smith of the Ehattesaht First Nation to design and bolt a climbing route on a crag near Zeballos. An experienced climber will assist him. They hope in the future to invite ACCVI youth to go climbing in the area.



Ehatis Crag. (photo by Julia Simmerling)



Kyle. (photos by Randy Pearce)

2. \$200 to Kieran Ernst to purchase a backpack for the Camas Scouts, a scout troop in Victoria. This will allow some children to go backpacking, who otherwise might not be able to.



Camas Scouts, formerly known as 2nd Fort Victoria. In a recent scouting competition on Vancouver Island, these scouts came second overall and 1st in the skills competition. They are now focused on preparing for their backpacking trip.

[The Memorial Fund \(https://accvi.ca/programs/memorial-fund-youth-grants/operation/\)](https://accvi.ca/programs/memorial-fund-youth-grants/operation/) awards annual youth grants totaling \$1,000 to deserving applicants under the age of thirty. Since 2010, sixteen recipients have received grants to undertake a wide range of alpine projects and expeditions.

National News

By Christine Forhham - ACCVI National Representative

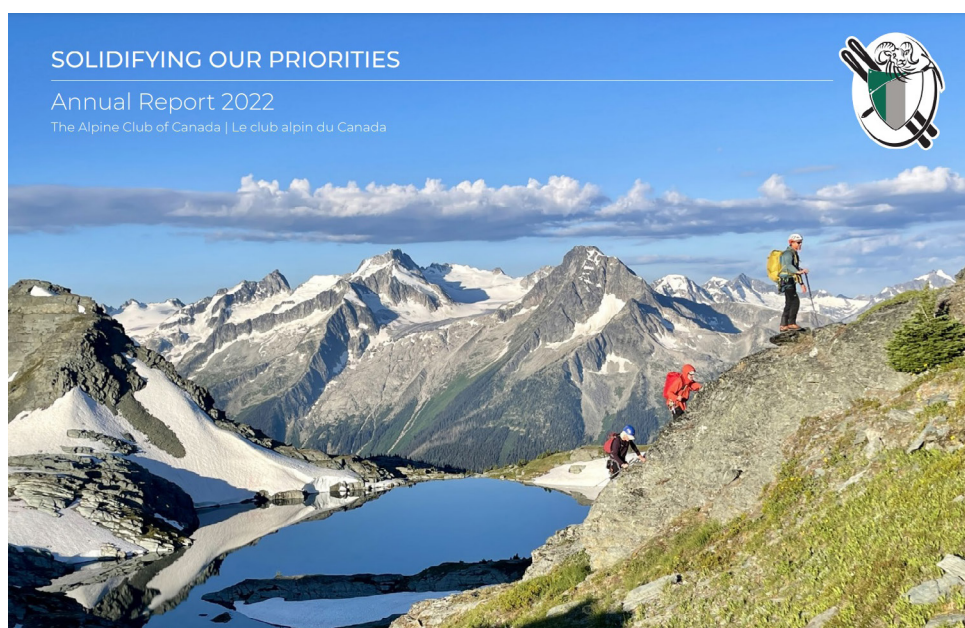
Having the honour of being your ACC National Representative, I have been representing our Vancouver Island section, as one of 23 other ACC sections across Canada, (Yup even Newfoundland has a section). At the recent meeting in May, a few key pieces were announced.

The biggest news is the long-awaited launching of the ACC's new membership database. Not to sexy a topic, but the exciting part of this is that it includes e-waivers. The next time you go to your membership profile to renew your membership, you will be asked to sign an e-waiver for trips for the year and sign the ACC's new Code of Conduct. This means that it will take about a year for everyone to have signed the e-waivers, and that trip leaders will need to have paper ones for some participants, until the year is done. After that, trip leaders, you will just have to check membership to see if a participant is a member and have the confidence that there is an e-waiver for that person.

Along with this, the club has updated and launched a new website. These changes are great, but as with all things tecky, there will likely be a few hiccups, so patience please. Any problems and issues when membership renewal, the helpful staff in Canmore can assist if you email them at membership@alpineclubofcanada.ca. They need to know the problems so they can fix the bugs.

Another newsworthy announcement, was that Mountain Equipment Company (MEC), announced the funding for Diversity Equity and Inclusion training for ACC volunteers and staff. MEC also funds the "girls on Ice" program and other environmental grants.

All section representatives attended the AGM for 2022 the weekend of 13 May. The Annual ACC report (good reading, nice photos) for 2022 can be read on the club's new website.



<https://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/acc-ar-2022-v3.pdf>

VOLUNTEER AWARD CONGRATULATIONS

At this recent Alpine Club of Canada AGM, two of our Vancouver Island volunteers were honoured with national ACC Awards.

Congratulations to our own Janelle Curtis, our tireless quarterly *Island Bushwhacker Newsletter* and *Island Bushwhacker Annual* Editor for receiving the ACC DON FOREST SERVICE AWARD. Many thanks to Janelle for her amazing contribution to our reading pleasure.



*A selection of Christine's delicious cookies to mark the occasion.
(photo by Janelle Curtis)*

Derek Sou, our amazing Kids and Youth Program Executive was awarded the ERIC BROOKS LEADER AWARD. Congratulations and thank you Derek for the priceless gift of adventure you have given these lucky young people.



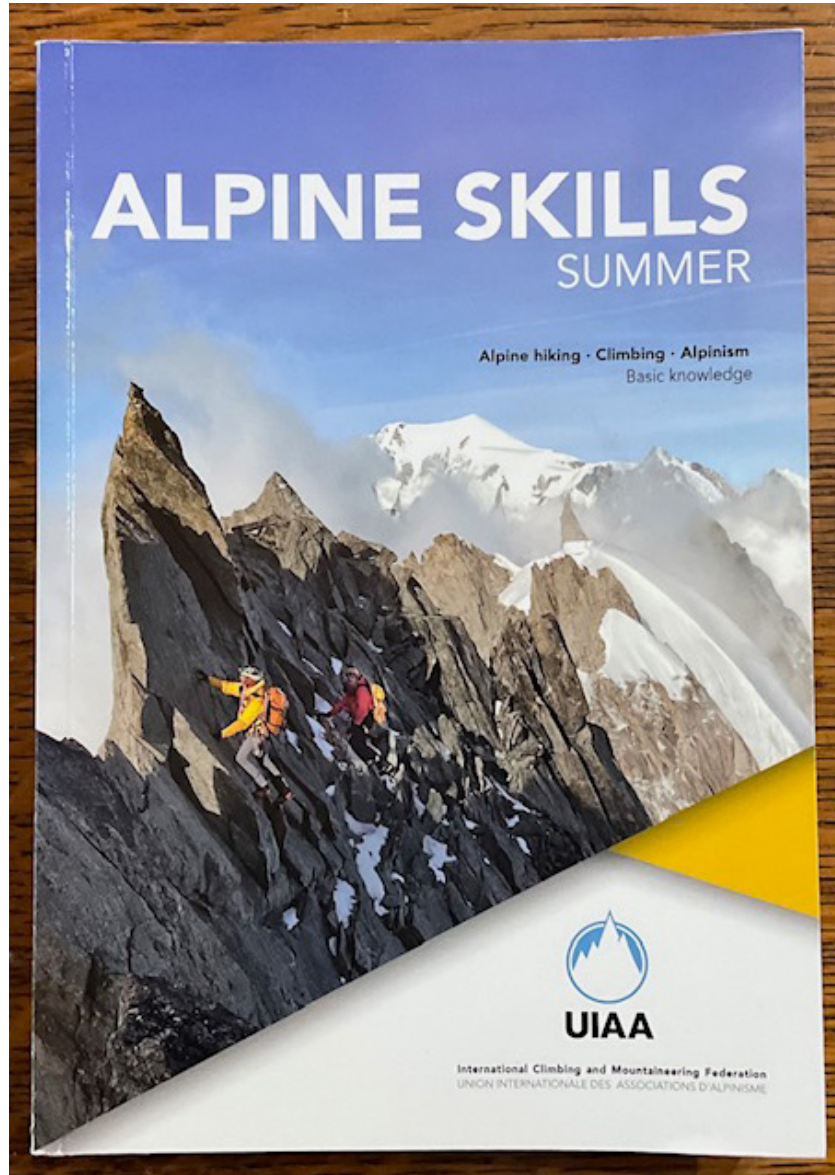
*Soprano Stoke.
(Photo by Tina Lynch)*

Both awards are in the new, gorgeous format of framed mountain artwork as the background, (not actually the iced cookies in the fun photo of Janelle's cookie hike). Both awards will be more formally presented at an upcoming ACC event.

TRIP LEADERS ALERT!

EARN the “Hot Off the Press” NEW - UIAA HANDBOOK.

ALPINE SKILLS - SUMMER
Alpine Hiking Climbing and Alpinism



How? you say?

Simply put a club trip or event on the ACCVI schedule, and after the trip runs, email Christine at natrep@accvi.ca and give her your address, and she will get a coveted copy to you. Co- Leaders get one too and as an added bonus, we have made this retroactive to May 1. But hurry there are only 24 copies and when they are gone, this great incentive to fill up our schedule, will be gone too.

A Celebration of the Life of Albert Hestler 1933-2022

Last summer our community suffered the loss of long-time club member, friend, and companion Albert Hestler. Together with his family, we would like to celebrate Albert's life and honour his rich contribution to our community with a gathering on

Thursday 15 June from 3 - 5 p.m. in Victoria.

Everyone who wishes to share in remembrances of Albert is welcome.

Please let us know if you plan to come as this will help with organisation. Light snacks will be served. Further details of the venue etc. will be sent to those who confirm attendance to chair@accvi.ca.

If you would like to send photos of adventures with Albert, we would be very happy to receive them and share them during the event.

Roger Taylor has kindly offered to collate these, so please upload them to

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UrOq3vJH19o7q7XXg8iSsHZ1iBg64tpK?usp=sharing> or email them to Roger at rptaylor67@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Catrin and David,
chair@accvi.ca



Albert Hestler on Poachers Peak. (Photo by Shaun Peck)

Wheeler Hut Camp August 13-20 Still Has Spaces

By Cedric Zala



Eagle and Uto Peaks and Mt. Sir Donald are some of the peaks in the area of the Wheeler Hut.

Our Section's hut-based summer camp at Rogers Pass still has some spaces available!

The camp will take place during August 13-20, and includes seven nights at the historic and comfortable Wheeler Hut. This hut is the only one of ACC's huts that is accessible by car, being just behind the Illecillewaet campground. Numerous hiking trails are available from the hut or nearby, which will take you through glorious terrain and offer spectacular views. Alpinists have a choice of several classic climbs in the area. As a bonus, members can spend at least one night in the Asulkan Cabin, perched high on a ridge at 2100 m overlooking the valley. The trip is self-catered as we will organize cooking groups, with each group taking care of one evening meal for the whole camp and then getting to enjoy an effortless dinner on the other six nights!

Registration is now open to all ACC members across Canada – the cost is \$550. If you are already registered or thinking of coming, please consider also inviting a friend along for the week – if they are not currently a member they need only join the ACC's Vancouver Island Section to qualify.

For more information, see our web page <https://accvi.ca/2023-wheeler-hut-camp/> and take a look through the Information Guide <https://accvi.ca/wp-content/uploads/ACCVI-2023-Wheeler-Hut-Camp-Information-Guide.pdf>. Or send an email to Cedric or Geoff at wheeler@accvi.ca.



The Asulkan Cabin, at 2100 m, on a ridge overlooked by Mount Sir Donald.



The Wheeler Hut, site for the 2023 Hut-Based Summer Camp in Rogers Pass.

Private Collection Donation to ACCVI

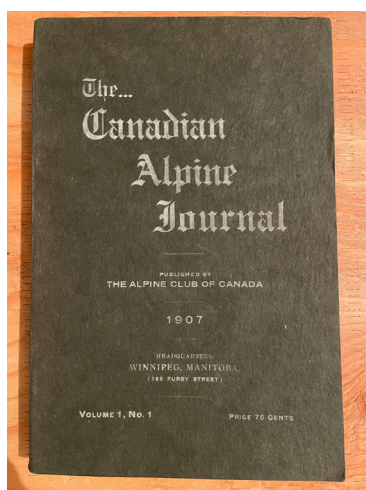
By Colleen Kasting

Editor's note: You can learn more about Joe Bajan and his contributions to mountaineering on Vancouver Island at http://www.beyondnootka.com/biographies/joe_bajan.html

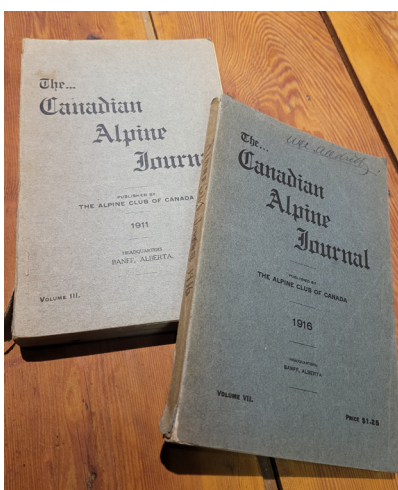
Joe Bajan, one of the earlier mountaineers on Vancouver Island donated to ACCVI, his almost-complete collection of *Canadian Alpine Journals* from 1906 to the present.

They will be added to our own ACCVI library collection and all those journals for which we have 2 copies, they will be taken up to the Hišim'yawił Hut on 5040 Mountain for people to read at their leisure.

We are missing just a few journals so if you have any of the following and are willing to part with them, please contact librarian@accvi.ca. The following are missing: **1914/15, 1920 and 1921/22**. OR, because any journal older than our oldest ACCVI member is probably well worn, if you have any journals from **1906 to 1933** that you want to pass along, we would be happy to take them.



*The first Canadian Alpine Journal in ACCVI's library.
(Photo by Caroline Lawrence)*



*Some of Mike Hubbard's Canadian Alpine Journals.
(Photo by Colleen Kasting)*



*The series of Canadian Alpine Journal in ACCVI's library.
(Photo by Caroline Lawrence)*

Joe started his earliest Vancouver Island mountaineering at a very early age climbing Mount Elkhorn. Since that time, he has done numerous ascents (including first ascents) from many sides of mountains such as Colonel Foster, Rambler, and Golden Hinde. He also climbed internationally in Europe, Afghanistan and South America. He will tell you his story in his own words in an upcoming issue of the *Island Bushwacker*.

Joe has decided that his mountain journals are best kept in the ACCVI archives. And of course, will be read and enjoyed by anyone staying up at Hišim'yawił.

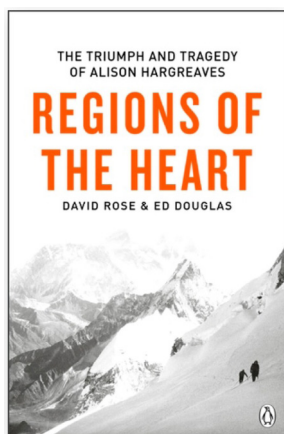
Because of the sheer weight of the journals, don't expect to see them until after the next helicopter lift.

Thank you Joe!

Recommendations: Books and films about nature, wildlife or mountaineering.

Compiled by Janelle Curtis

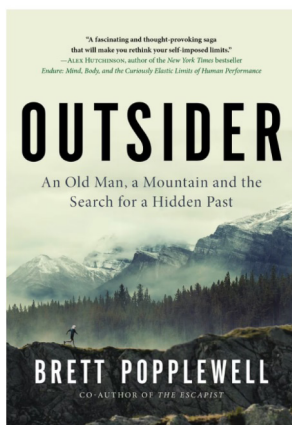
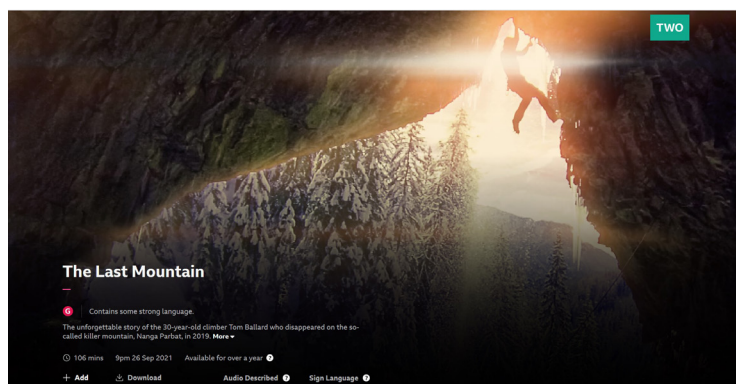
Members have a list of recommended films, books, and presentations. Here is what they suggested...



From Rachel Treloar: "A great read for those interested in how dominant notions of gender and motherhood come into play for world class mountaineers who are mothers. This beautifully written book portrays both Hargreaves' amazing accomplishments in the mountains and insights into tensions in her personal and family life, including the dynamics of her troubled relationship with her husband/coach. Amongst her many accomplishments, Hargreaves was the first woman to climb Everest alone without the aid of oxygen. Sadly, in 1995, she met a tragic end on K2, leaving behind two young children.

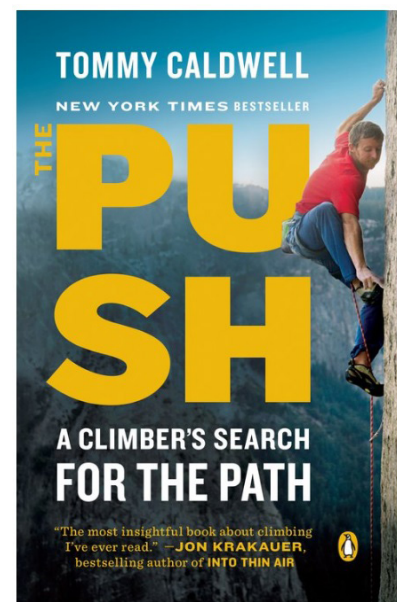
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Rachel Treloar also noted: While not in the book, her son Tom (who also went on to become a world class mountaineer) died on Nanga Parbat in 1999. I haven't yet seen it, but for anyone interested, see the BBC documentary, "The Last Mountain" at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00103ms>



One ACCVI Member shared: Outsider, An Old Man, A Mountain and the Search for a Hidden Past by Brett Popplewell, 2023.

Both Eryn Tombu and Barry Hansen recommended The Push by Tommy Caldwell. Barry says he loved it and Eryn said that she was guessing Barry would steal that recommendation because she just learnt Barry her book.

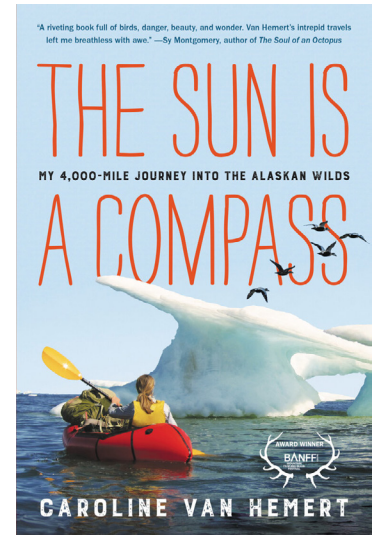
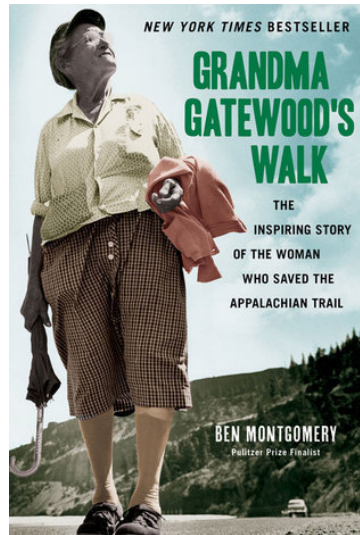


From Mark Rankin: My favourite winter documentary for winter climbing is called "The Alpinist". It's about a 23 year old Canadian who climbs unclimbed mountains around the world in the winter: <https://m.imdb.com/title/tt11790780>

Also From Mark Rankin: My favourite ski film is called "La Liste" and it's about a French skier and guide who climb and ski descend 15 of the steepest 4,000m+ mountains in the Alps. You can watch here: <https://www.redbull.com/ca-en/films/la-liste>

From Eryn Tombu: *Grandma Gatewood's Walk* by Ben Montgomery. If you haven't read it yet you should, a biography of a woman with 11 children and 23 grandchildren who, at 67 decided to hike the Appalachian trail in the 1950's when it was more a route than a trail. With not much equipment or even clothes and gear she travels the 2000 miles.

Also from Eryn Tombu: *The Sun is My Compass* by Caroline Van Hemert. A 4,000 mile journey north to the Alaskan wilderness by row boat, foot, ski, raft and canoe. An absolutely incredible journey in modern adventure (2012) from Seattle to the Arctic ocean.



Editor's note: The Sun is My Compass has been recommended to our ACCVI community before, so it's definitely going on my booklist!



The historic Abbot Pass Hut (Photo by P. Zizka)

Gerry Graham thought you may be interested in this article, if case you haven't seen it already: <https://www.fitzhugh.ca/abbot-pass-hut-to-be-replaced/>

From Annie Chalifour: Two women decided to attempt the North Cascades High Traverse, a route completed only once before in 28 days. Rugged terrain, heinous bushwacking and beautiful vista will remind the viewers of Vancouver Island alpine landscape. It is a story of careful preparation, strength, tenacity and complicity between the two women, who managed to complete the traverse in 6 days and 19h. Inspiring!



Pam Olsen forwarded this link to Gil Parker's obituary: <https://www.legacy.com/ca/obituaries/timescolonist/name/gilbert-parker-obituary?id=51967775>

Barb Baker thought you might like to watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR1maWrIYC4hpjmEzG37Rf-h9MKjwATWYZ-CKZfnwg-CYQTswVzLXlpfvl7E&v=3nOKWF-UdTg&feature=youtu.be>

Barb Baker recommended this article about Alex Honnold *The Strange Brain of the World's Greatest Solo Climber* <https://nautil.us/the-strange-brain-of-the-worlds-greatest-solo-climber-236051/>

Barb Baker also recommended podcast about Junko Tabei who in 1975 became the first woman to reach the summit of the world's highest mountain, Everest - *The first woman to climb Everest* article <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3cszh56>

Portrait View: ACCVI Secretary

By David Sutill

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.



Dave on Mount Hooper in 2016. (Photo by Roxanne Stedman)

I have been an Islander ever since moving to Victoria with my parents. The first realization that I could climb (i.e. scramble) real mountains came at the University of Victoria Outdoors Club. There I became lifelong friends with a few people who not only liked to hike and backpack, but also took their adventures to the mountains. Peaks like Rainier, Baker and Olympus became reachable. My skills in those early days were slowly acquired by going on trips. In the 1970s REI in Seattle was the go to place for hiking equipment, and going there was often combined with trips to the Cascade and Olympic mountains. There were also summer backpacking trips to the Canadian Rockies.

Until I retired in the summer of 2000, my exposure to the Alpine Club was limited to attendance at events they sponsored such as the Best of Banff Film Festival and the periodic presentations by mountaineers such as Doug Scott and Chris Bonington. At this point the only Island Mountains I had been to were Heather Mountain, Mount Arrowsmith and Comox Glacier. Since it was always my intent to explore more of Vancouver Island's mountains, this seemed like a good time to join

the Vancouver Island Section of the Alpine Club of Canada. So that I did, starting out with day trips in the Sooke Hills. It had been quite a while since I had done any "mountaineering", so I signed up for a club run Introduction to Mountaineering workshop. After that I felt comfortable signing up for various club trips to many of Vancouver Island's peaks. What really struck me about the Island was how spectacular it's hard to reach alpine areas were.

After 10 years of enjoying the benefits of membership in the Vancouver Island Section of the ACC, I felt it was time to give something back. So I took on the job of Club Secretary with the assurance that all it involved was taking notes at executive meetings by zoom once every six weeks or so. While that is basically so, it does require paying careful attention to what is being said all the while making notes. The hardest part of the job is transcribing those notes into an appropriate format reflecting the need for a permanent record of discussions and decisions. Once approved, the minutes are posted to the "Meeting Agendas and Minutes" part of the Club website under the "About Us" drop down on the main page (<https://accvi.ca/about/meeting-agendas-and-minutes/>). Overall, the job of secretary is a relatively easy one to step into. Doing so certainly gave me the appreciation for the behind the scenes work that keeps the club going.

ACCVI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair

David Lemon
chair@accvi.ca

Past Chair

Catrin Brown
pastchair@accvi.ca

Island Bushwhacker Newsletter

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newsletter@accvi.ca

Secretary

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Treasurer

Garth Stewart
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High Points Coordinator

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Hišimýawił

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More about Hišimýawił [here](#)

Equipment

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Island Bushwhacker Annual

Janelle Curtis
bushwhacker@accvi.ca

Kids and Youth Program

Derek Sou (**until August 2023**)
kidsandyouth@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

Website

Jane Maduke
Evan Devault
webmaster@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

Executive Member at Large

Deniz Naydin
Emily Port
Gordon Kyle

ACCVI Coordinators

Equipment Rentals

Climbing - if you live on the south island:

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If you live on the north island:

Valerie Wootton

Lindsay Elms

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Evening Events and Slideshows

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Sue Castle (Hospitality)

Gordon Kyle (MC)

Coordinator - vacant

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Valerie Wootton

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Ash Valley Gate Key Custodian

Barb Baker

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Hišimýawił

Colleen Kasting (Finance Officer)

Roanne English (Reservations)

EJ Hurst (Committee Member)

Keith Battersby (Committee Member)

Joanna Verano (Committee Member)

Davis Griggs (Committee Member)

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Geoff Bennett

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vacant

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Discussion Forum / Discourse Coordinator

Neil Ernst

Summer Camp Committee

Laura Darling

Jeff Beddoes

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Leadership Points

vacant

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Environment Committee

Please contact David Lemon at chair@accvi.ca if you are interested in helping to look at ways to minimize the club's environmental impact.





***From the Front Cover:
Martin Hofmann soaring at Hišimýawiľ.
Photo by Josh Slatkoff***

Thank you to this month's contributors:

Barb Baker, Barry Hansen, Geoff Bennett, Catrin Brown, Annie Chalifour, Gary Croome, Janelle Curtis, Dave Fishwick, Christine Fordham, Gerry Graham, Colleen Kasting, Caroline Lawrence, David Lemon, Tina Lynch, Pam Olsen, Robie MacDonald, Randy Pearce, Shaun Peck, Jaron Piercy, Mark Rankin, Josh Slatkoff, Julia Simmerling, Roxanne Stedman, David Suttill, Eryn Tombu, Rachel Treloar, Joanna Verano, and Cedric Zala.

Well done everyone!



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