

Island Bushwhacker

Volume 48 | Issue 4 | Winter 2020



Peggy Taylor looking south from Victoria Peak. Photo by Linnea Hansen

ACC VANCOUVER ISLAND SECTION

Social Events

The club is now hosting virtual slide shows on the Zoom platform. These presentations can be viewed by people from up-Island and the Gulf Islands, so we may continue to offer virtual slide shows even when in-person slide shows resume.

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.

www.alpineclubofcanada.ca

Email: info@alpineclubofcanada.ca; Tel: (403)-678-3200; Address: P.O. Box 8040, Canmore, AB, T1W 2T8

Annual Membership Dues

Single \$53 Family \$75 Youth (19 and under) \$38

The Island Bushwhacker Newsletter is published in March, June, September, and December. In other months, the **High Points Bulletin** summarizes events and key announcements for the section.

Newsletter editor: Janelle Curtis

High Points editor: Anya Reid

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

Details of upcoming slideshows are on page 3.

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. Thank you for contributing to our community in this important way!

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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 email addresses for mailouts.

Upcoming Virtual Slideshows

Thursday 17 December at 7pm

Finn Steiner: "A season in Antarctica"

Thursday 7 January at 7pm

*Ken Wylie: "La Traviata Fatal Avalanche: Human Factor Causes and Key Lessons
For Risk Management"*

Mark the date and time. Zoom login details will be sent by email nearer the time.

We look forward to "seeing" you there!

Memorial Fund Youth Grants

By Geoff Bennett

If you are under 30 or 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 ACCVI website and apply before January 31, 2021.

Since it started in 2009 the Memorial Fund has disbursed \$8,875 to 11 different youth groups in the alpine. Two more grants were awarded in 2020 but the pandemic has delayed both projects.

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. This more than doubles the impact of your donation.

The fund currently earns about 4% from high quality bonds issued by real estate investment trusts. The more capital we have in the fund, the more interest we earn, and the more we can offer our youth. The fund has recently received a generous donation from one of our members. Please join that person in support of our youth program by making a donation before the end of the year.

For further information, see the Donations section of the "Memorial Fund/Youth Grants" page [here](#) or contact geoff.bennett@shaw.ca.



Mariner Mountain in sight, from the north shoulder of Mount Tom Taylor, during a Memorial Fund Youth Grant winner's first winter ascents of Mount Tom Taylor and Mariner Mountain. Photo by Evan Devault



Upcoming Trips

Full information for all trips is located online on the [ACCVI Trip Schedule](#). We anticipate changes to our events as the situation with the coronavirus pandemic develops. 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.

Thank you for contributing to our community in this important way!

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 of 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.



DID YOU KNOW ...

Your ACC membership includes a bi-weekly “Dispatch” email newsletter, which is full of tons of interesting things.

The latest e-edition offered virtual, Winter Workshop Wednesdays, cool job offers advice on being “Good Neighbours to the Critters.” It also included virtual workshops by Y2Y (the Yellowstone to Yukon wildlife corridor) and much more...

To receive “Dispatch” by email, go to the Alpine Club of Canada web page, sign into “My Profile,” then go to Communications, Preferences, and edit “YES” to ACC Dispatch Newsletter.

Banff Mountain Film Festival

By Laura Darling



In past years, a sold-out audience gathered together in the UVic Farquhar Auditorium for an evening's entertainment – the best films from the mountain film festival. This year, the festival World Tour has gone virtual!

Purchase film programs through the ACCVI affiliate link!!

Two film programs, both about two hours long, are now available for purchase to view. Stream videos to your device through Vimeo. Single programs, USD\$15, are available to view for 3 days; a bundle of two programs, USD\$28, is available for 14 days; re-watch as much as you want!

Make your purchase through the ACCVI unique affiliate link: <https://filmfest.banffcentre.ca/?campaign=WT-151882>

Purchases of film programs through the ACCVI affiliate link contribute to the ACCVI through a revenue sharing model.

We need your help to make our participation in the World Tour successful!!

The mountain film festival has been a significant source funds for the ACCVI programs and initiatives. We took on the 2020 virtual World Tour to generate income for the club in the absence of an in-person event at UVic. We need your help to get the word out – to get as many people as possible to use our ACCVI affiliate link to purchase film programs. We want to attract individuals and groups that would be interested in the epic journeys, monumental adventures, scenic locations, and cultural exploration portrayed in these films. Please spread the word via your favourite social medium - Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, good old email, whatever!! Imagine the revenue we could generate if each member convinced two (maybe three! maybe four!) of their friends to buy a program! Buy one for yourself and send gifts to friends and family!!

Want some details?

ACCVI Events webpage: <https://accvi.ca/events/banff-mountain-film-festival-going-virtual-for-2020/>

There are two programs available now: AMBER and ONYX

ACCVI Facebook post, with program descriptions:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/accvi/permalink/3787337334644592/>

Link to AMBER promo teaser, one minute, on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/483183213/ab4db72f9a>

Link to ONYX promo teaser, one minute, on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/483183335/018eee13a5>

Questions to Laura at: bmff@accvi.ca

Executive Episodes:

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

Back in early spring, I remember reading an article about responses to the pandemic, titled “The Hammer and the Dance”. As it turned out, that was a pretty good description of ACCVI life for most of this year - after the ‘hammer’ of the spring, we were happy to ‘dance’ through the summer in terms of being able to get out in small groups. Recently of course, we’ve had to return to a bit of a hammer with the cancellation of trips and closure of Hišim’yawił. This was not what any of us wanted to happen, but let’s hope it will enable us to get back to dance mode by the time the snow flies in earnest. All fingers and toes crossed for that.

Despite our punctuated trip schedule and limitations on in-person events, things have been humming along nicely in the community with several new initiatives and events. Here is a summary of some of the good things that have been happening:

i) Backcountry access agreement

We were happy to report in September that we have signed an access agreement with Mosaic (the forest management company for most of the Island’s privately owned land), which gives us 24/7 access to Comox Lake Main. A key part of the agreement is our insurance through ACC national which is only valid during scheduled club trips. The steps to follow for trip leaders who wish to use this access agreement are fully set out on our website: <https://accvi.ca/access-agreement-with-mosaic-for-comox-lake-main/>

We are delighted to have this new opportunity for leaders to organise multi-day trips into the east side of Strathcona Park and backcountry areas from the west side of Comox Lake. It opens up a lot!



Photo by Catrin Brown from Backroad Mapbook 5th Ed.

Many thanks to Barb Baker, whose ongoing efforts helped to forge this agreement, and to Val Wootton, who is the custodian of the key, radios and paper work in Courtenay.

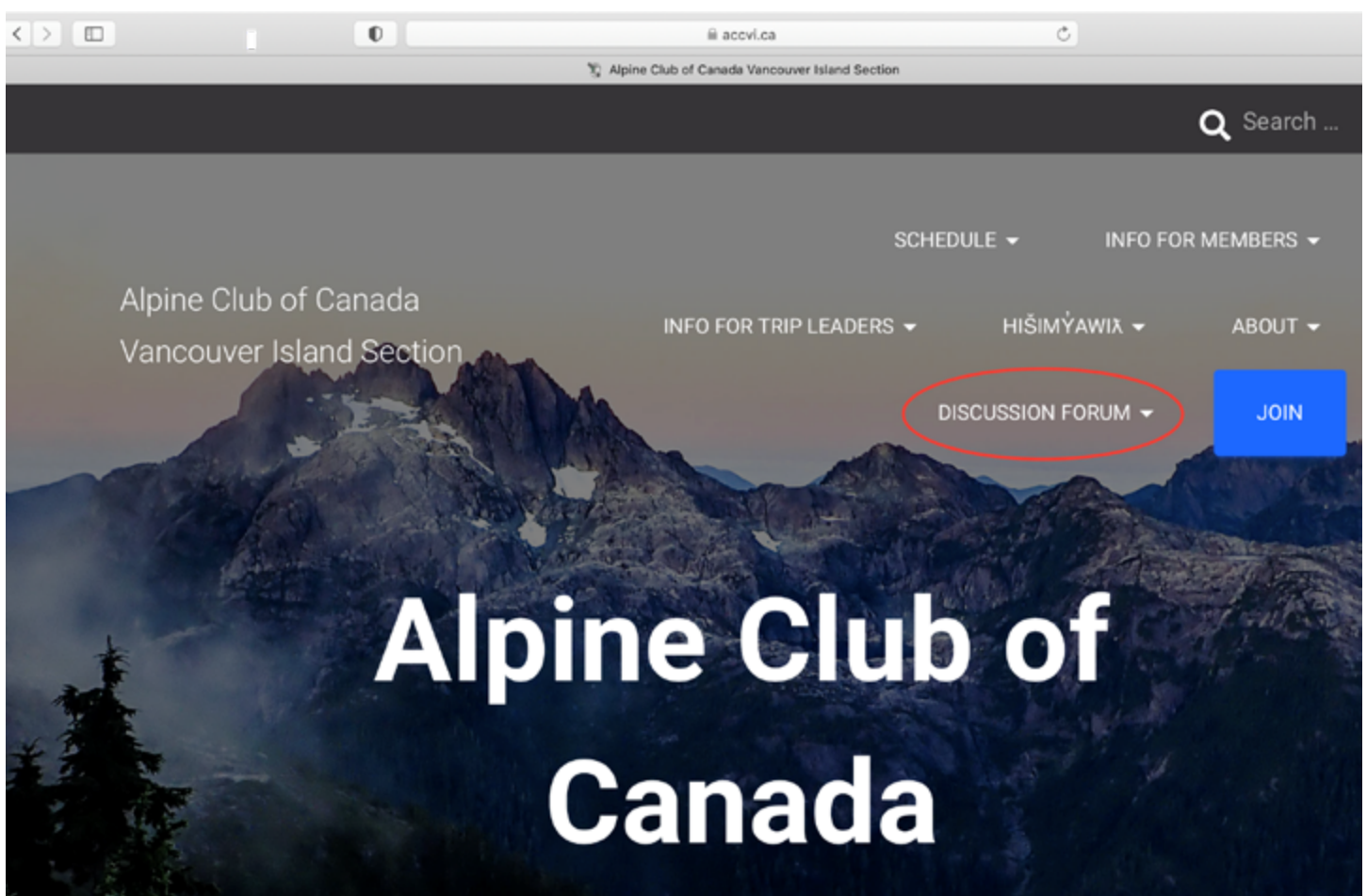
ii) Trip leaders meeting

In early October we had a well-attended open Zoom meeting for trip leaders past, present and future. It was a chance to discuss some of the aspects of leading trips in the time of Covid-19, go over the terms of the Comox Lake Main access agreement, and introduce our new discussion forum, Discourse. See below.

Trip leaders are our essential workers, and we always encourage members to step up and lead for us. Please contact schedule@accvi.ca and/or check the website <https://accvi.ca/trip-leaders/> for more information and support. Incentives for trip leaders include our leader recognition program (see page 21) and our education course subsidies <https://accvi.ca/trip-leaders/course-subsidies/>. What's not to like?!

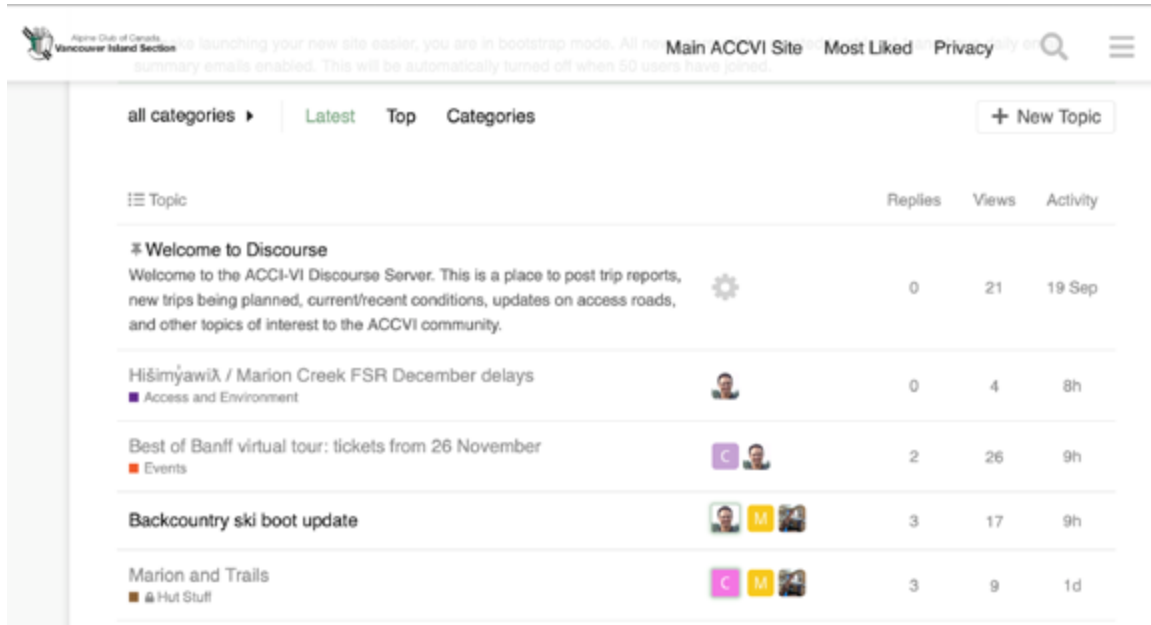
iii) Discourse: our new discussion forum

Over the last couple of months, members have been starting to use our new online sharing platform. I encourage you to check it out by clicking on the new button on our homepage here:

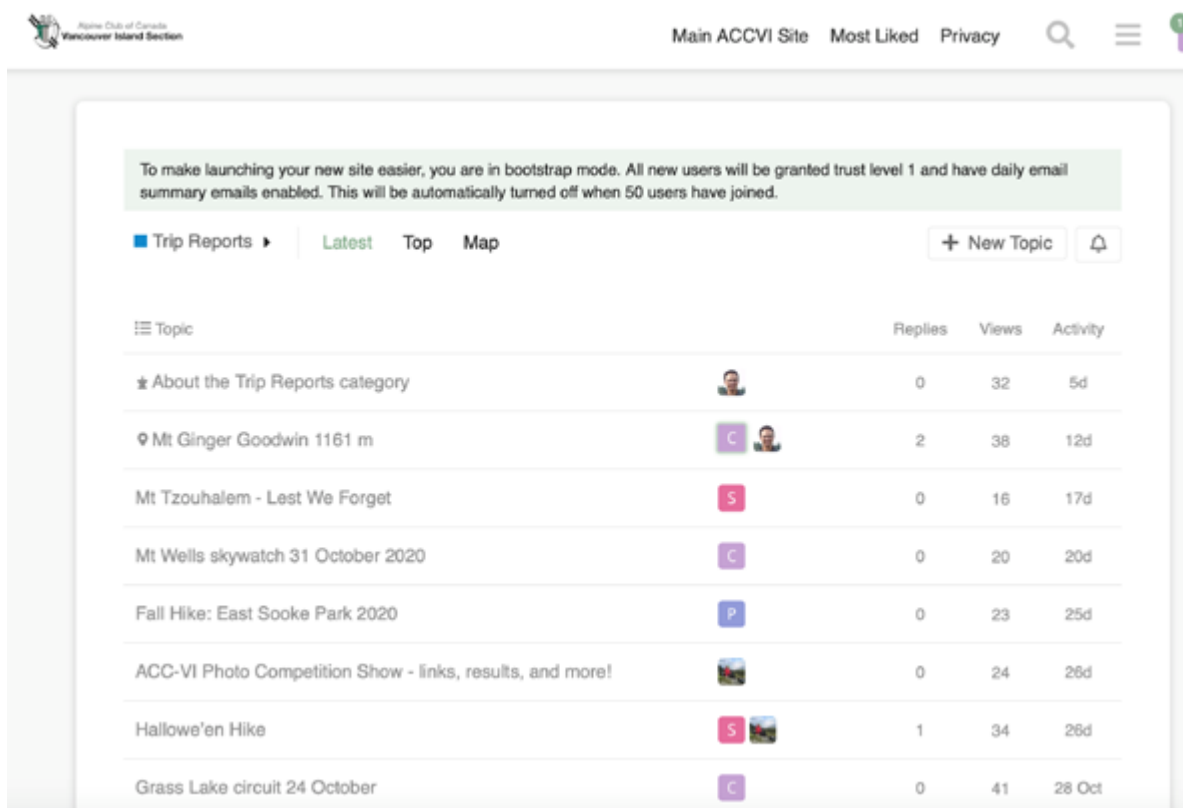


or by going to: <https://discourse.accvi.ca>

You will find a clean interface, uncluttered by ads, and with the capacity to organise messages into categories and topics very conveniently. You only have to log in the first time before posting on the site, much like social media sites.



When you select 'Trip Reports', for example, you will see the list with the most recent on top:



One nice feature is that you can sign up to get alerts by email on any or all topics as you choose. I've put together a little "how-to" guide for this on page 30.

Our thanks to Neil Ernst who identified this need in our community and then did the work to bring it to us. This forum is open to anyone who chooses to take part, though we can also use it for a specific purpose by creating a private group e.g. hut committee. Please play around with the functionalities and give us any feedback and ideas of how you would like to see this develop.

iv) Slide shows

I've had happy messages after our online slide shows which have become a monthly staple. We've been getting close to 50 logins per show, which likely means that about 80 people have been attending. Many thanks to all the speakers who have entertained us so richly, and to Neil Han for hosting the Zoom platform.

This was our line-up for the fall:

17 September Sandy Briggs: *"The Geri-Arctics Ellesmere Island Expedition 2019 & Kayaking on Great Slave Lake"*

15 October Mary Sanseverino: *"Mountain Legacy Project"*

19 November Nadja Steiner: *"Lizzie Lake area - a peak into the Stein Valley"*

And coming up we have:

17 December Finn Steiner: *"A season in Antarctica"*

7 January Ken Wylie: *"La Traviata Fatal Avalanche: Human Factor Causes and Key Lessons for Risk Management"*



As has been noted, these slide shows help to keep us connected across the Island and beyond. In October many members took advantage of an invitation from ACC-Vancouver to hear John Baldwin's talk "A life in the Wild", which he had given as patron of the Guides Ball in Banff in 2019. John, known as King of the Coast Mountains, inspired the audience - all 600 of us on Zoom - with his unique stories and stunning photos of a life well spent.

v) Photo contest

The quality of the photographs was terrific, the crowd was huge, and Mary Sanseverino as host and problem-solver-in-chief was mind-blowingly competent and good-humoured. In short, another great evening. Congratulations to the winners, who have now each received a \$50.00 gift voucher from Valhalla Pure.

Summer Activity: Linnea Hansen

Winter Activity: Rudy Brugger

Mountain Scenery: Martin Hofmann

Vancouver Island: Finn Battersby

Nature: Rob Macdonald

Humour: Jenny Feick

The photos are all up on our website: <https://accvi.ca/about/photos/>

The move from trophies to gift cards this year was well received, but has left us with one question:



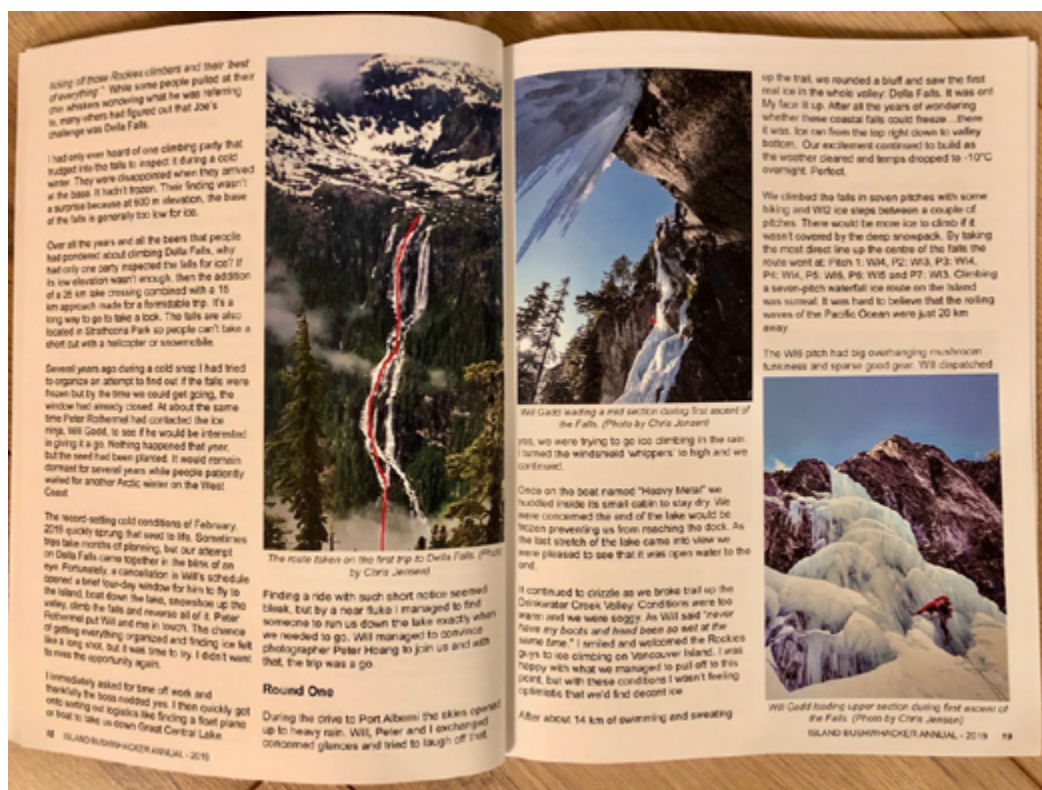
A trophy for every category. Photo by Catrin Brown

Island Bushwhacker Annual 2020

For the next month we will have at least as little daylight as we have now. Putting it another way, our evenings will be at least as long as they are now. What better use of that time than to reflect on mountain experiences this year by putting together trip reports, photographs or other creative products (poetry, cartoons, art...) to share in our annual journal? Our Island Bushwhacker Annual editor, Rob Macdonald, will be delighted to hear from you with your submissions as soon as possible at bushwhacker@accvi.ca. With the hiatus in trips this year, perhaps this is also the time to write up those adventures that you never quite got round to in previous years.

Please follow the guidelines for submission on our website <https://accvi.ca/programs/island-bushwhacker-archives/submissions/>

And, by the way, I still have a limited number of print copies of the 2019 Annual in full colour - which we can mail to you on receipt of \$15. Hurry while stocks last.



The new normal - IBA 2019 in full colour. Photo by Catrin Brown

Donations from ACCVI to Vancouver Island organisations

It's the time of year when we again consider how to allocate the money we set aside in our budget to support organisations whose mission is aligned with our own. We are aware that many groups like this are facing financial challenges this year, so it is likely that our support will be more important than ever.

Last year, the executive chose to support local groups with an environmental and advocacy focus. The list of organisations we supported is:

- Vancouver Island Trail Association
- Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia
- Vancouver Island Avalanche Bulletin
- Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery Foundation
- Ancient Forest Alliance
- Strathcona Wilderness Institute
- South Island Climbers Association
- ACC Canadian Alpine Journal

More information with links to each organisation is on our website: <https://accvi.ca/programs/organisations-we-support/>

We would love to hear your views on this, and ideas for different organisations we might consider supporting this year. Please let me know before our next executive meeting on 7 December.

Money matters

Frankly I've never paid too much attention to our revenue from membership dues or our financial bottom line, quietly confident that both continue to be healthy. But I've never been in 2020 before. The fact is that while our financial house is in good order, thanks to excellent stewardship over many years and treasurers, we are facing unknowns for 2021 with the anticipated significant drop in revenue from BMFF. Laura Darling is working hard to help mitigate this shortfall with her thorough organisation and promotion of the virtual tour this year - please see page 6 - and buy as many tickets as you can. Another way in which you can help us financially is by keeping your membership up to date - thank you. We realise that people's finances are affected in different ways this year, but if you are considering recipients for charitable donations, please consider ACCVI.

The bottom line in real terms is that we very much hope we will have the funds to run our full slate of activities next year.

"Rick Eppler IQs" Awards

Congratulations to Tyler Maclachlan who completed his climbs of the nine Island Qualifier summits in 2019 - it just took us a little longer than usual to connect and present his award. And, as previously mentioned, Barry Hansen completed his quest this summer - he was presented with his award by Peggy Taylor in Nanaimo in September. Congratulations and climb on both!

More information about the Island Qualifier peaks and the Rick Eppler Award, with an updated list of recipients is on our website: <https://accvi.ca/programs/the-island-qualifiers/>



Happy recipients: Tyler Maclachlan (left, photo by Tyler) and Barry Hansen (right with Peggy Taylor, photo by Linnea Hansen).

Mark the date: Annual General Meeting 2021

Our AGM for 2021 will be held online at 7.00 pm on 3 February 2021. All members in good standing are welcome to attend and to vote. While this year we will obviously not be able to spend a full weekend together with associated activities at Mt Washington (as we have done for the last 8 years), this will still be an opportunity for us to come together and hear what the various members of the executive have been doing over the last year, and vote in a new executive committee. More details will be shared nearer the time.

Executive events

The ACCVI executive met on 19 October 2020 and 7 December 2020. Please send me any items you would like the committee to discuss. Minutes of all meetings are posted on the website: <https://accvi.ca/about/meeting-agendas-and-minutes/>

Wishing everyone happy winter days. Let it snow!



See you back here for the spring newsletter in early March.

Happy trails

Catrin

chair@accvi.ca

Historical Photos of ACCVI Members

By Albert Hestler



Albert Hestler skiing on a 1993 trip to Mt. Brandywine led by Murrough O'Brien. Photographer unknown.



Albert Hestler climbing on a 1993 trip to Rainbow Mountain led by Mike Hubbard. Photographer unknown.



Albert Hestler having a good time on a 1993 trip to Cream Lake led by Viggo and Judith Holm. Photographer unknown.



Gerta Smythe roped up for a 1988 trip to Overlord led by Albert Hestler. Photograph by Albert Hestler.



Getting Ready on 1994 trip to Castle Towers in Garibaldi Park led by Viggo and Judith Holm. Photographer unknown.



On the summit of Golden Hinde in Strathcona Park on a 1983 traverse led by Brian Money. Photographer unknown.



Relaxation at Valhalla Lodge while Brian Money and Albert Hestler make music during a 2002 trip. Photographer unknown.



Celebration of Albert Hestler's 65th birthday on 1998 trip to Mount Albert Edward in Strathcona Park led by Jack Fisher. Photographer unknown.

TO ALL MEMBERS – Nominations for ACCVI’s Executive Committee

By Mike Hubbard

Would you like to be more involved in the running of our section?

I am once again the nominating committee for the new executive to be elected at our AGM to be held remotely on February 3rd 2021. I

f you are interested in running for any position or know of someone who is please let me know at jmhubbard@telus.net or give me a call at 250 888 8370.

We are particularly interested in filling the following positions:

Webmaster

Education Coordinator

Trip Leadership and Mentorship Coordinator

South Island Gear Manager



Recommendations on books and films about nature, wildlife, or mountaineering

Summarized by Janelle Curtis

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

Pam Olson recommended that people look at back issues of the **Canadian Alpine Journal**. And she means back to the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s. <http://library.alpineclubofcanada.ca/> Search for routes and peaks on Vancouver Island. Find out how the first ascent parties got to some of the areas. Sometimes they had to climb trees to see if they could figure out where they were. Those people were tough, resourceful, resilient, and fearless.

Finn Steiner recommended **Wayfinding: The Science and Mystery of how Humans Navigate the World** by M.R O'Connor. This book dives deep into the how and why of humanity's journey to modern navigation, and is a must read for any scholars of wilderness theory!

Peggy Taylor noted that she very rarely has time to read books, but had the pleasure of seeing **Sharon Wood** speak in February in Nelson during a book tour for her new biography "**Rising**". I of course had to buy a copy and finally got around to reading it in September. The book is an incredibly riveting tale of the 1986 Canadian Everest Expedition and her experiences both during the trip leading up to her summiting the iconic peak and flashbacks of events in her life that were pivotal to forming who she is and how she came to be a mountaineer and on this specific expedition. How Everest has defined her life is the really interesting part of the book and her candid, honest style is compelling and incredibly interesting. It is a wonderful and absorbing read that I highly recommend as it has so many levels to appreciate.

Here is a link to the new 5-part series about the **North Shore Search and Rescue** team:

<https://www.knowledge.ca/program/search-and-rescue-north-shore>



Here is a link to **Avalanche Canada's** free weekly webinar series on avalanche safety: www.avalanche.ca

Gerald Graham recently posted this message on the ACCVI Facebook page: "Hi, folks! Here's a link to a Playlist of videos I put together of our Section's **TrailRider** outings over the years: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8DAD4DBC5A15D02F> The Section contributed \$2000 towards the purchase of the TrailRider back in 2009, with members also contributing. I started the program in 2006. Jeff Ward and Catrin Brown have also had a hand at running it. It has been very capably run by Caroline Tansley for several years now."



ACCVI Section TrailRider outing, Mt. Finlayson, July 5, 2006. The late Nairne McInnis is in the TrailRider. Her late father, Ian, is to her left. To his right are Gerry Graham (Trip Leader), and sherpas Shawn Daniels and Mike Hubbard. Photographer unknown.

Submission of articles to ACCVI's Island Bushwhacker Annual 2020

Reports from all trips and mountain experiences of the year are welcome: from near and far, solo or group, section trip or privately organized etc. Please consider sharing your stories, and e-mail your submission to: bushwhacker@accvi.ca. Submissions for the 2020 Island Bushwhacker Annual must be sent to the editor: bushwhacker@accvi.ca. by 31 January 2021.

Submissions should be a single document with uniform Font Size of 12. Please include ALL of the following:

- Title, Date(s) of event, Author, and list of names of participants and leader
- Body of Text (with indicated insertion points for images; can provide subtitle sections if appropriate).
- List of figure captions with photo credits
- Attached figures as jpegs with as high resolution as possible. jpeg file names should be clearly referenced to the list of captions.
- Please note that this is an Alpine Club journal and as such all submissions should reference an alpine setting for self-propelled endeavour.
- Refer to past editions of the Annual to see how the text is organised.
- 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.

Many thanks, we look forward to receiving your article(s)!

Portrait View: Education

By Alois Schonenberger

I didn't know what I was getting into when I began to get involved in the ACCVI Education Portfolio in 2016 alongside Colin Mann, but it has been extremely rewarding and I'm pleased to fill you in on the position of Education Coordinator. And yes, spoiler alert, there's going to be an ad for "help wanted" before the end of this article.

Our outdoors pursuits are built on a foundation of skills and experience. I'm sure that no matter our interests, we all share the challenge and delight of learning new skills in the outdoors. Education Coordinators thus play a central role for the section, as they organize offerings appropriate for the interests, skills, and goals of our members. These have included introductory courses and workshops (rock climbing, steep snow skills, winter camping, backcountry skiing), backcountry cooking seminars, and technical courses (crevasse rescue, first aid).

Educational ACC offerings might be courses taught by certified instructors, workshops led by volunteer leaders, or are sometimes a blend of the two. While the Education Coordinators certainly do not lead all of the workshops, many of the sections's regular education offerings have been reliant on our facilitation, leadership, or organization. As many of the section's trip leaders can attest, it often seems like the majority of the work in leading a trip is done before you leave home for the trailhead, and this is certainly true for our courses and workshops. And since many people sign up for the ACC to take advantage of our educational offerings, this position is often the first point of contact for new members with many questions about the ACC!



Monitoring as someone practices new rappel skills. Photographer unknown.

The courses we offer dovetail nicely with ACCVI's course subsidy program for those who pursue education and then volunteer to lead club trips. I've had the pleasure of introducing new members to our club who may have only signed up for an introductory climbing course, but who were leading club trips of their own a year or two later. ACCVI's Education program really does feed into our club trips, and helps to keep our membership engaged, safe, and growing their confidence and experience in the backcountry.

While I wouldn't have classified myself as a highly technical mountaineer - or even a terribly strong climber - acting as the Education Coordinator has given me the opportunity to assist highly qualified ACMG instructors and keep my core skills fresh. Introducing people to pursuits I love, and giving them the fundamental skills to advance their own interests in a safe manner, has been an immensely rewarding experience.

Colin Mann stepped down last year, and I'll be stepping down from this role at the end of this year, as my wife and I are expecting to welcome a new ACCVI member to our family very soon! Iain Sou has volunteered for the position, but I myself couldn't have done it without sharing the load with Colin Mann, and I think the role would benefit from more co-coordinators. There is a lot of potential in what the section can offer - the club's education offerings are limited only by the creativity and energy of those in the coordinator role. Please give this volunteer opportunity some thought, and feel free to contact me if you're interested or have further questions.

It's been a pleasure to serve our membership and I'm grateful for the wonderful memories, friendships, and new skills that I've gleaned along the way.

- Alois

education@accvi.ca

Access and Environment

By Barb Baker

ACCVI Access & Environment Report Dec 1, 2020

Comox Lake Access agreement with Mosaic Forest Management...please see description & instructions for use of this agreement on ACCVI website under Info For Trip Leaders here: <https://accvi.ca/access-agreement-with-mosaic-for-comox-lake-main/>. This access requires the use of radios & keys for that gate. All the information & equipment has been collated & set up at a Cumberland location and is working as planned.

Marion Main FSR will have upgrade work 7am-4pm 7 days per week this month with heavy equipment. Please limit travel & expect delays.

Concerns have been voiced about the high use of Cobalt Lake Trail to 5040 Peak. Damage to the trail and toileting issues have been reported to RSTBC Recreation Sites & Trails.



ACCVI's "LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION CONTEST" IS ALIVE AND WELL IN THIS CRAZY COVID YEAR



LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION CONTEST UPDATE

Thank you to trip leaders and virtual presenters who have been actively trying to keep our trip schedule and events calendar full. After this current "COVID pause, to help flatten the curve" there will be more time to lead some ACCVI social distance hikes and ski tours and potentially win a cool prize in 2021.

Details about ACCVI's Leadership Recognition contest can be found at <https://accvi.ca/trip-leaders/leader-recognition-program/>. Pandemic protocols apply. See more details at <https://accvi.ca/covid-19/>. If you have any question, just email leaderpoints@accvi.ca.

For trip points to count:

1. Add a trip to the schedule.
2. Send you waiver to the librarian@accvi.ca.
3. If your trip cancels please post that on schedule or email leaderpoints@accvi.ca so you get the ½ point.

Points to November 29 for this weird COVID year:

Martin Hofmann (10.5), Janelle Curtis (8), Peter Morgan (8), Scott Collins (6), Catrin Brown (6), Alois Schonenberger (6), Peter Gilbert (5), Kelsie Warmer (5), Christine Fordham (4), Jes Scott (3), Erika Ellefsen (3), Peggy Taylor (2.5), Iian Sou (2.5), Derek Sou (2), Shawn Hedges (1.5), Keith Battersby (1.5), Greg Rowe (1.5), Gary Croome (1.5), Josh Slatkoff (1), Tak Ogasawara (1), Roger Taylor (1), Kristen Walsh (1), Mary Sanseverino (1), Nadja Steiner (1), Laura Darling (1), Vivian Addison (0.5) Brianna Cook-Coates (0.5), Jeff Beddoes (0.5), Elizabeth Williams (0.5), Brian Parsons (0.5), Karun Thanjavur (0.5), Lenka Visnovska (0.5), Lindsay Elms (0.5), Robie Macdonald (0.5), Mike Knippel (0.5), Colin Mann (0.5), Sandy Briggs (0.5)

Landscape View: The Vancouver Island Avalanche Centre: Local Purveyors of Mountain Stoke and Avalanche Bulletins get dynamic to source vital funding

By Ryan Shelly

Since 2006 the Vancouver Island Avalanche Centre Society (VIACS) has been promoting avalanche safety through community outreach events and via its public avalanche bulletin. The avalanche bulletin is published 3 times a week and is monitored by a paid/on call Avalanche Forecaster 7 days/week all winter long from December through to April. The avalanche forecast team is composed of several core Avalanche professionals who spend their living working as guides, avalanche technicians and program managers in the “avalanche patch” and they all also happen to call Vancouver Island home.



Public Bulletin Exemplar

avalanche safety on Vancouver Island. The board has been tireless in conjuring up objectives and products that could help raise funds all the while promoting the winter vibe within Vancouver Island’s backcountry community.

This year, VIACS has opted to produce stickers, caps and masks to help motivate keen mountain folk to support the bulletin in order to ensure VIACS can meet its financial sustainability goals. Without VIACS, recreating public would have no resource whereby they could make reasonably safe decisions when opting to travel into backcountry winter conditions. It is VIACS’s hope that the public will continue to consult the bulletin this winter and consider giving back with a few bucks all the while donning some new gear whether it’s

Traditionally, over the past 14 years, VIACS has helped kick off winter on Vancouver Island by holding a number of community-based avalanche fundraisers from Victoria, Nanaimo, the Comox Valley and to the Northern end of the Island.

This year though, the fundraising scene has pushed VIACS to “think out of the box.” Community events and social gatherings have long been our mainstay for promoting avalanche safety all the while raising funds to cover our operational costs. Although VIACS is a registered society in the province of BC, it does nonetheless pay forecasters for their services. Insurance and travel expenses also factor into VIACS’ annual operational expenses. Without its talented and motivated board members, the avalanche centre would have faltered a long time ago. The reality is the current board members feel a shared duty to care for public



VIACS volunteer sells raffle tickets at Mt Cain Backcountry Fest in Feb 2020

a flashy new sticker for the lift line, the up-track or to cover up a cracked hood on your mountain sled. The board at VIACS want to ensure that you have an opportunity to “send” it in the backcountry and return home safely at the end of the day.



Megan Burns, a VIACS board member, getting some "me time" on a classic vancouver island descent

In addition to the non-traditional revenue streams, VIACS is also opting for a “voting membership model,” which it hopes will help further bring together a community of caring backcountry-minded folk.

Looking ahead to 2021, VIACS will be “going public in a sense” as they will create a voting-based membership program. Participating members will be able to vote on the direction of the Society and help shape the focus and goals of the program. The current board is composed of 10 highly motivated and giving individuals who donate a great deal of time to stimulate fundraising opportunities. VIACS hopes to continue to rely on its board, forecasters and its new voting membership to guide the avalanche bulletin program into the 21st century. Operational expenses such as insurance, forecaster pay, and basic travel expenses can add up quickly. We are hopeful that as we move toward a Voting Membership we will be able to access several vital provincial grants which could help to sustain our public safety program. We have lost many important volunteers over the years as the program is quite demanding. At this time, without financial support from Avalanche Canada or the province of British Columbia, we remain sustained by caring individuals and we recognize that in order to remain sustainable over the long term, we

need to be able to spend more time focusing on the “end product” which is avalanche forecasting and data collection initiatives, and less time worrying about where the next cheque will come from.

Having said that, as we look back over the past 16 years, VIACS and its board are honoured to have shared many great memories with Van Islanders in the backcountry and during community events. This winter, all signs indicate that the backcountry will be a popular place for people looking to break free from new social guidelines and break the winter blues with a “pow shot or two.” Please be sure to consult the Avalanche Bulletin prior to heading out and make sure you and your group are all carrying complete sets of avalanche equipment.



If you can spare a few bucks, please consider donating to VIACS at Islandavalanchebulletin.com or contact us if you would like to be added to the list of voting members for 2021!



Ski Tour group finds island of safety in avalanche terrain on Vancouver Island

Lizzie Lake and an Old Man's Memories

By Albert Hestler

Hello Nadja, I have watched your show (as I said I would) and enjoyed it very much. I wanted to call you afterwards, have a wee chat and say thank you, but I am still one of those senior computer stumblers who has difficulties with operating these modern gadgets – so I muffed it. The reason why I wanted to have this chat was primarily because it brought up many happy memories about two trips which I had done to the Lizzie Lake area in the past. Here then is the written version of these two trips, plus some additional stories connected with them.

The first time was in 1980 – good grief, already 40 years ago – with the Vancouver Section of the Alpine Club. I had been invited to join them on a flight from Squamish to the hut at Lake Lovelywater in the Tantalus Range and a trek down the south side of the range toward the pulp mill and former company town of Woodfibre on the west side of upper Howe Sound. At that time there still was regular free ferry service to a point on H'way 99 opposite Shannon Falls, just 4 km south of Squamish. It sounded very enticing, especially as I had only joined the Alpine Club the year before and was raring to start exploring the BC wilderness. Unfortu-



Albert near Lizzie Lake in 1980. Photographer unknown.



Paranorama. Photo by Albert Hestler.

nately, the flight was cancelled because of bad weather. After debating what to do instead, we agreed to hike to the hut up the Lizzie Lake trail – why? Nobody had brought a tent. The hut was unexpectedly small, so we had no choice but to snuggle close and sleep on every available flat spot, on or above the floor. It was very crowded indeed, so that under today's call for distancing we could righteously be accused of having committed a 'mortal sin'. At least we stayed dry. The next day was clear and we had a great hike to the upper regions, with spectacular views from prominent lookout points.



Lizzie Lake Hut. Photo by Albert Hestler.

The next trip to Lizzie Lake was a 3-day tour in 1993 with the VI section, led by Viggo and Judith Holm. We put up our tents on a small lake and explored the surrounding area on various outings from there, the furthest point being the ledge from which we could overlook Tundra Lake. I don't recall which peaks we climbed, but in my humble opinion reaching a summit is often just a statistical record - and certainly a beautiful setting for the activity and joy of having done it together with other aficionados, many of them good friends. Back at the camp, the most memorable event was after supper when we were sitting around a campfire and talking. Then Gerta Smythe

started to play German tunes on her recorder, and pretty soon everybody got up and we started square dancing and yodelling by the light of the moon. (I only hope that the animals didn't complain too much about us noisy humans.) Later on things calmed down and we sang folksongs from many countries, all of them covering the whole range of human emotions, but lastly making us feel one with nature and ready to crawl into our sleeping bags and fall asleep. That I have never forgotten.

The question may arise what is the connection or importance of my mentioning



Albert Hestler and Viggo Holm at Lizzie Lake Hut. Photographer unknown.



Camp on the lake. Photo by Albert Hestler.

that my first trip to Lizzie Lake was with the Vancouver Section of the ACC. Well, I had signed up with the National Office in Canmore to go on a trip described as "Selected Ski Tours in the Rockies" a few months earlier in April 1980. It intrigued me very much because it was the first time that the Main Club was allowing members to use cross-country skis, i.e. vintage skis with bear trap bindings. It was also the introduction to the slowly developing telemark technique of skiing. We stayed several nights in the Canmore Club House, the Elizabeth Parker Hut (12km ski-in), the

Mosquito Creek Youth Hostel and finally Lake Louise Hostel. We made daily trips and visited many beautiful places, such as McArthur Pass in Lake O'Hara, Bow Lake, Molar Pass (7750'), Paradise Valley, Moraine Lake and others. Most of the participants came from Vancouver. A few weeks later they called a get-together in Vancouver, which I attended, and that's when they invited me to join them on the trip to the Tantalus Range.

I also met a couple there who expressed an interest to go on a canoe trip on the Bowron Lake Circuit with their two children. As I had been going on annual holiday trips further afield with my two



Albert Hestler climbing to get good views. Photographer unknown.



Hiking and exploring the area. Photo by Albert Hestler.

children, practically since they were born, I grabbed this opportunity and we made the necessary arrangements to go in August that year. Unfortunately, the other couple had to cancel shortly before the departure date, but our foursome - a good friend of mine, who had also expressed an interest, and Johanna (13) and Andreas (10) - paddled the whole circuit in an 18' aluminum canoe in 10 days. Of course, we also visited Barkerville and other historical sites enroute. It was a great adventure in all respects. And again, another unexpected event occurred on this trip, namely ...

On the last day of our canoe trip across the Bowron Lake, we took a break at a small



Tundra Lake. Photo by Albert Hestler.

suddenly exclaimed excitedly: “you are Dina” (my nickname in school, pronounced ‘Deenah’, after my little Wiener dog, our class mascot). It turned out that she was the younger sister of a classmate of mine in the after-war years 1945-49 in Giengen/Brenz (my hometown). Wow! Because they had also been fugitives from a German-speaking settlement in Yugoslavia (formerly Austria), our dialects didn’t match, though Gerti knew that I had emigrated to Canada and something suddenly clicked. But the place, the date, the time of day – it is still the most extra-ordinary meeting that I ever experienced. They visited us afterwards in Victoria, and I have stayed and hiked with them whenever I have visited Germany – the last time in 2019.

When re-living these stories in my mind, it becomes very clear that the interconnecting web of location, action, and people has been a continuous factor in turning these trips into enriching memorable experiences. How else could these events have happened without loving the great Outdoors, sharing the same activities, and meeting equally interested new people. Travelers in the mountains require a special degree of trust ... your life may depend on them. That creates strong bonds and – going back to my teenage years – has often led to life-long friendships.

Things are certainly different right now in our fight against this invisible beastie, the coronavirus, which I perceive as a messenger or warning shot from Mother Nature to change our destructive ways. It has certainly pointed out the importance of going out into nature to maintain our physical, mental, and spiritual health, and the importance of social connection and co-operation with our families, friends, communities, and the world. Nadja’s pictures showed how Lizzie Lake area is such a beautiful and still unspoiled natural environment, and accessible only a few hours’ drive away from the metropolis of Vancouver. It was adventure that initially attracted me to come to Canada in 1955, following one year after my brother, but it was the access to wilderness that persuaded me to make it my new home. During the first 14 years in Toronto, it was largely canoeing on lakes and rivers as a member of the Canadian Youth Hostels Association which opened a whole new world for me. When we moved to British Columbia in 1969 (largely for the benefit of our children) it was the geographic variety and the multiple opportunities to access these areas – by land or by water, in summer and in winter – which confirmed my opinion that we are living in one of the most beautiful corners of the world. I think that we can all be grateful for living here, especially on Vancouver Island.

No question, we all are missing the personal contact with friends and hugs with grandparents or grandchildren, but these electronic communications via phone, e-mail, and zoom are valuable bridges to see us through until the light at the end of the tunnel is shining again in all its glory. I am certainly looking forward to it. My hope and best wishes are that we can meet each other again next summer in the mountains – at least at the annual BBQ at Mike and Colleens’s.



Prosit! Photographer unknown.

Return of the Whistlepig

By Adam Taylor, [Marmot Recovery Foundation](#)

Editor's note: We are aiming to include an article from one of the organizations supported by ACCVI. You can see ACCVI's page about the marmots at <https://accvi.ca/programs/vancouver-island-marmot/> You can also learn more about the organizations ACCVI supports [here](#).

If you are lucky, the sound you will hear as you hike through the sub-alpine meadow will be like that of a Varied Thrush or referee whistle, only sharper and shriller. This whistle is often the first sign to a hiker that there are marmots in the area. If you are only a little bit lucky, it might be the last sign you get too, as the marmots escape to the safety of their underground burrows. Even this brief interaction should be considered special though. It's not everyday to get you get to hear one of the rarest animals in the world.

There are only about 200 Vancouver Island Marmots living in the wild. All of them live in the sub-alpine and alpine of their name-sake Island – the only endemic mammal species in British Columbia. Even this small number is a conservation success story, as their population dropped to fewer than 30 wild marmots in 2003. At that dire time the marmots had been reduced to a handful of colonies in the Nanaimo Lakes region, and one isolated colony on the ski hill at Mount Washington Alpine Resort.



Onslo2 and pups at Haley Lake in August 2020. Photo by Chloe Swabey

Today, the Vancouver Island Marmot has been re-introduced to wilderness areas in Strathcona and Clayoquot Plateau Provincial Parks as well as popular hiking destination Mount Arrowsmith. While most colonies are small and fragile, there have been encouraging signs that the marmots are learning to survive and thrive in their historic habitats. In Strathcona Park, dispersing marmots have naturally established at least two new colonies. At Mount Arrowsmith, marmots have colonized a number of pocket habitats, expanding one small colony into a more resilient network of sub-colonies.

As the marmot population grows, so does the importance of citizen science in understanding and monitoring the species. Thankfully, the marmot population is large enough that the Marmot Recovery Foundation's small field team does not have the capacity to intensely monitor every colony and explore all the new potential sites. In recent years, reports from hikers have helped us learn important information about the marmot's expansion back into historic habitat. One report led to confirming a new colony in Strathcona Park and another revealed the dramatic growth of the colony at Mount Arrowsmith. This year, photos from a hiker in Strathcona revealed pups we had not yet seen. And in the Nanaimo Lakes region, we still have a mystery to figure out. A hiker took photos of an adult marmot at an historic colony site, and one we

thought unoccupied. Then when our field crew followed up, there was no sign of marmots! We will need to do more investigation next summer to determine what's going on at that site.

Recognizing a Vancouver Island Marmot can be a challenge, especially if you are not expecting to see them! They are about the size of a large house cat, with a stocky build, a chocolate brown coat, and a white nose and stomach. The most similar animals in Vancouver Island's sub-alpine are weasels, the Pacific Marten. Marten are longer, skinnier, and faster than marmots, however, and run with a slinky-like undulation.

Marmots are often spotted lounging on top of a rock, log, or stump; anywhere that gives them a good view and the ability to spot predators moving nearby. Any photos and notes about the marmot's location or behavior are very helpful. We do mean "any" too – blurry and remote photos are still useful! If you get too close, you may hear that whistle that earned them the "whistlepig" moniker, or see the marmot run away or stand up straight on its hind legs. These are signs that the marmot is concerned, and we'd ask that you consider stopping or backing away at that point to avoid disturbing the animal any further.

Your best chance of seeing a marmot is still at established colonies, and Mount Washington and Mount Arrowsmith are by far the largest. But there are clusters of small colonies on or near popular sub-alpine routes in Strathcona Provincial Park too. This is particularly true of the areas around Marble Meadows and the Wheaton Hut as well as Mount Albert Edward and vicinity.

And if you see a marmot somewhere else, please tell us! We've had reports of travelling marmots in some of the oddest spots - the beach in front of the Bamfield Marine Science Centre stands out as particularly unexpected!

With ongoing recovery efforts, our goal is that one day it will not be so rare to hear or spot a marmot. Contributions, like the one made by ACCVI, directly support our work to recover this species, and ensure that it has a secure future in the wild and high places of our Island.



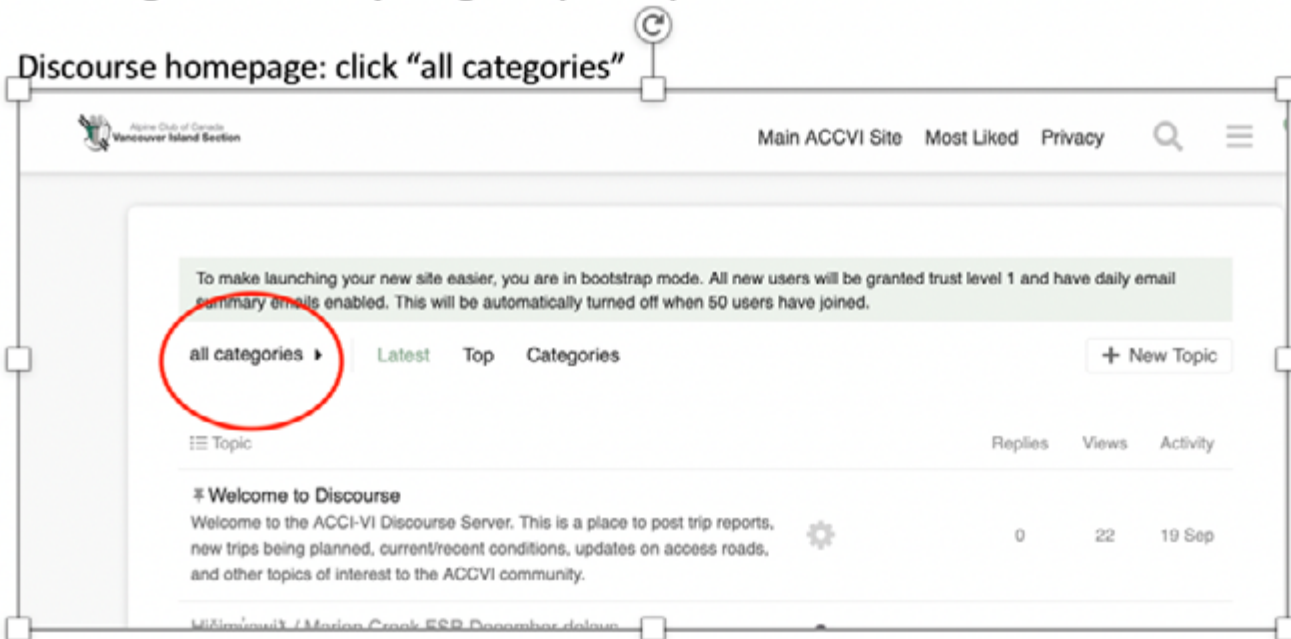
Willow. Photo by T. Wood

How-to-Discourse quick guide - a few hints

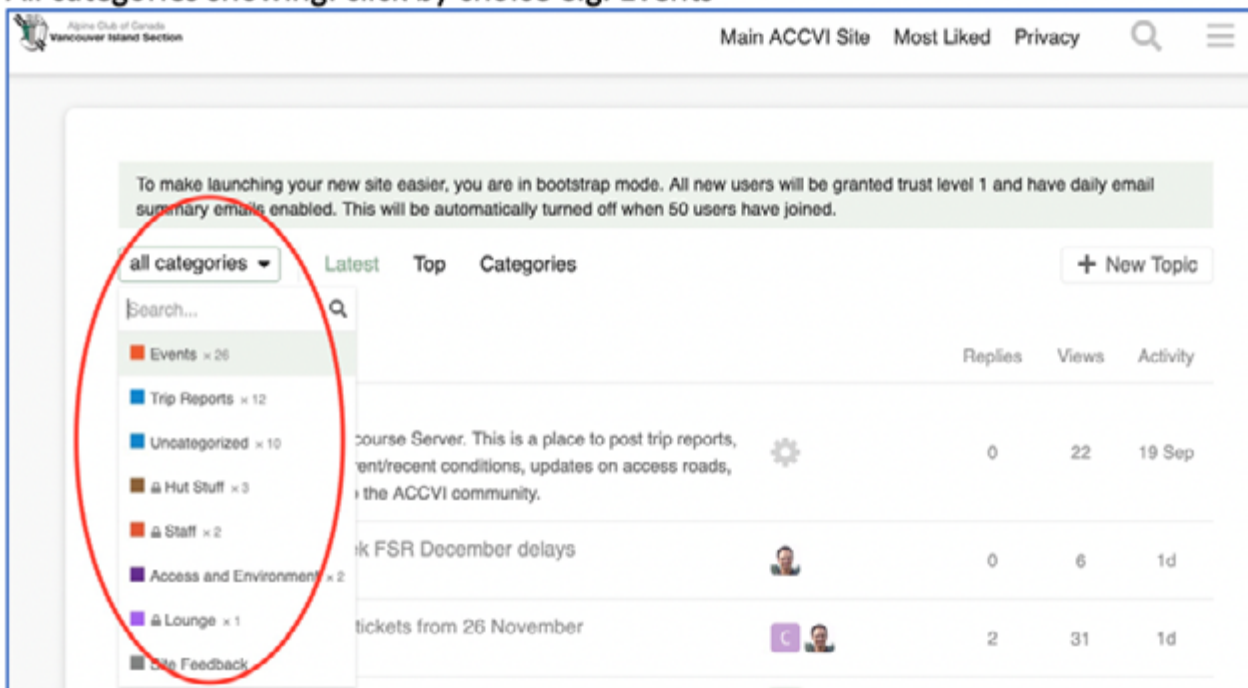
Log on to <https://discourse.accvi.ca> or <https://accvi.ca> > Discussion forum

i. Viewing information by categories (folders)

Discourse homepage: click "all categories"

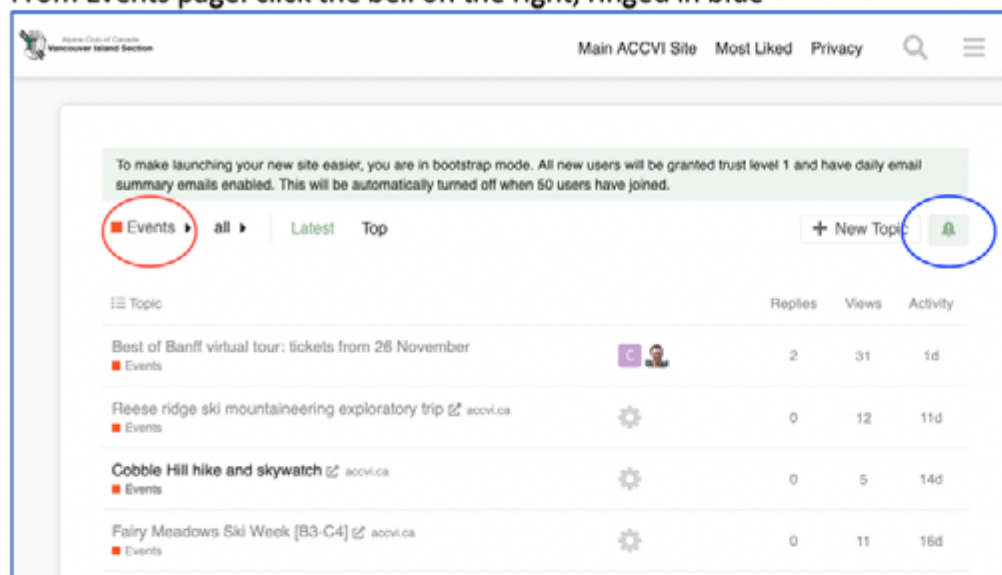


All categories showing: click by choice e.g. Events

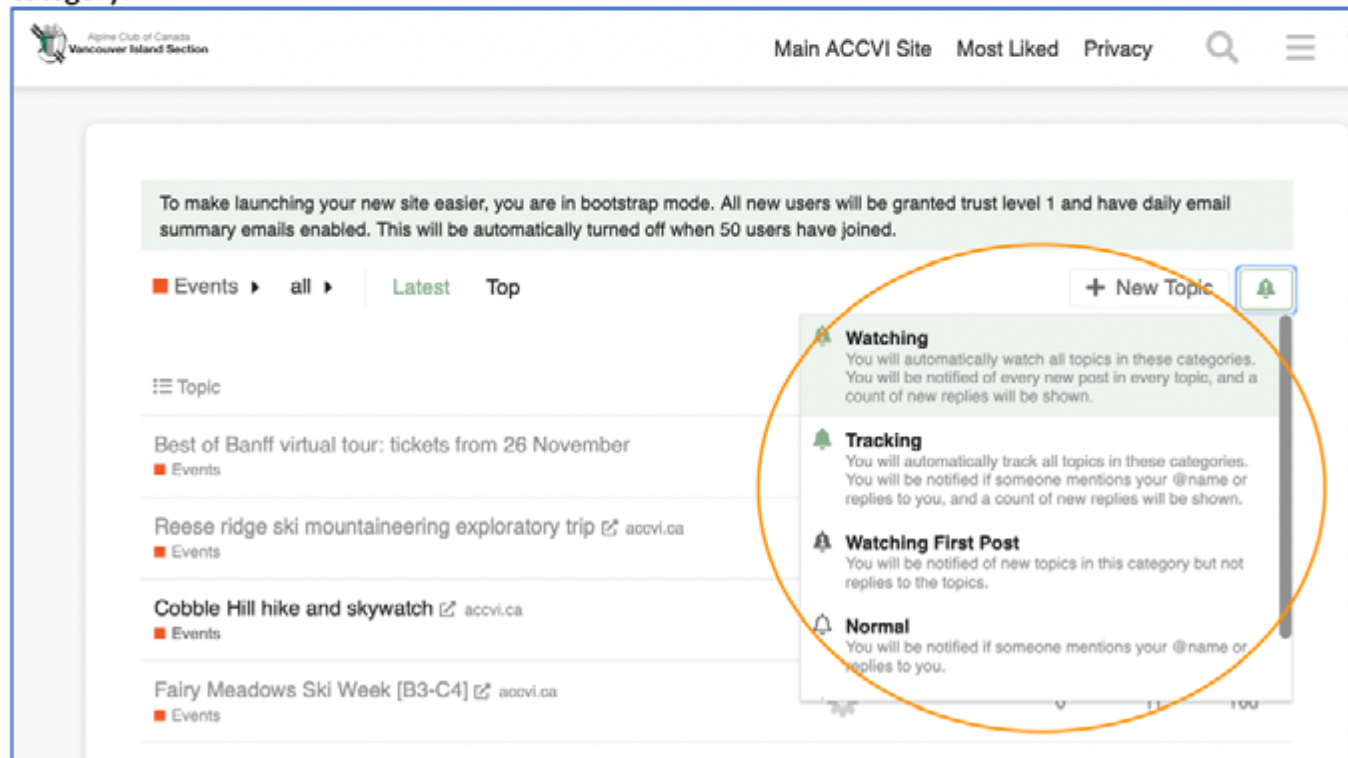


ii. Subscribing for alerts - sent by email - for chosen categories

From Events page: click the bell on the right, ringed in blue



Drop down menu of options appears, the 5th option 'Muting' appears when you scroll down with the grey bar. In this example 'Watching' is selected so I will be notified of every new post in the Events category.



You can select different preferences for different categories by following the same steps above. Enjoy!

ACCVI 2020 Photo Competition Results

By Mary Sanseverino

Great news – the 2020 ACCVI Photo Competition Show is online and ready for your viewing pleasure!

On October 29, the night of the show, Zoom was not as cooperative as it could have been (or, maybe yours truly was just expecting more than the platform could deliver) - but, 56 of us "made the summit bid". Actually, it was probably more than that, as a number of the connections had multiple people viewing.

Technical issues aside, the photos were **OUTSTANDING!** Our section has some gifted photographers. It was a real treat to see what people have been up to over the past year.

And, one of the upsides to all this Zooming - people from across the whole Section (and even as far as New Brunswick) were able to participate. It was so much fun to see all of you, and to welcome newcomers to the Alpine Club of Canada - Vancouver Island Section!

So, without further ado - here are the links you've all been waiting for - all the photos, all the winners, and all the honourable mentions: <https://accvi.ca/about/photos/>



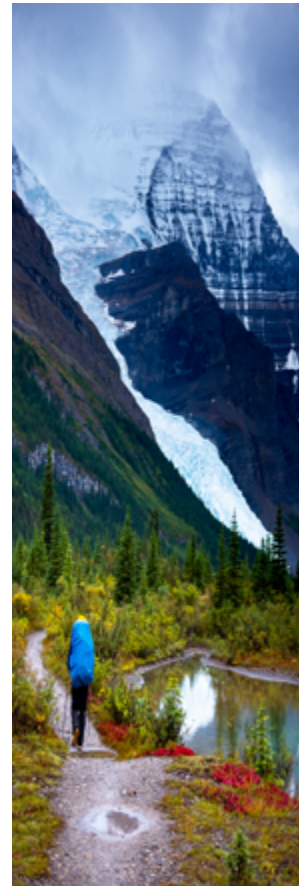
Winner - Summer Activity

Looking south from Victoria Peak by Linnea Hansen



Honourable Mention - Summer Activity

Larke La by Martin Hoffman



Honourable Mention - Summer Activity

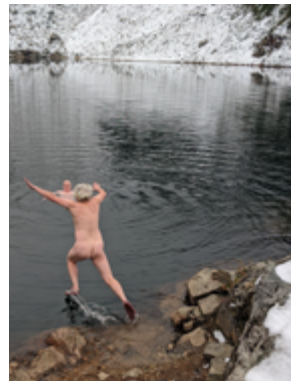
*Mt Robson guards the Great Divide Trail terminus
by Brian Norwick*



Winner - Winter Activity
Ian Brown near Duffy Lake
 by Rudy Brugger



Honourable Mention - Winter Activity
Joffre Sun by David Fishwick



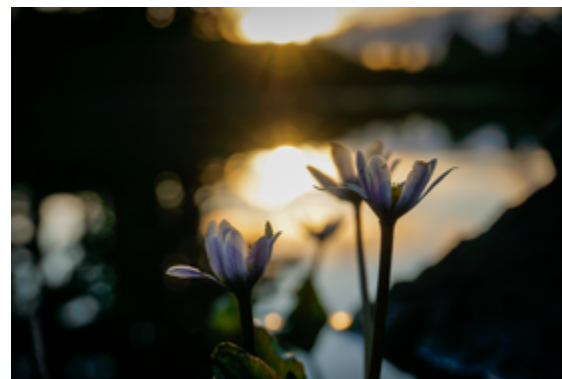
Honourable Mention - Winter Activity
Cold Cobalt Swimming as Winter Arrives by Lisa Spellacy



Winner - Nature
Mountain coyote
 By Rob Macdonald



Honourable Mention - Nature
Whoo by Christine Fordham



Honourable Mention - Nature
Flowers at Sunset on Flower Ridge by Jessica MacNeil-Mah



Winner - Humour
Do not walk on rocks in Canmore!
 By Jenny Feick



Honourable Mention - Humour
Forest Zombie on Tzouhalem
 By Dave Suttill



Honourable Mention - Humour
Picture Perfect on the Howse Flood Plain
 By BrianNorwick



Winner - Vancouver Island
Triple peak from Hišimýawił
 By Finn Battersby



Honourable Mention - Vancouver Island
Mt Alava - Peter Lake
 By Rob Macdonald



Honourable Mention - Vancouver Island
5040 Sunset Welcome Party
 By Lauren Attorp



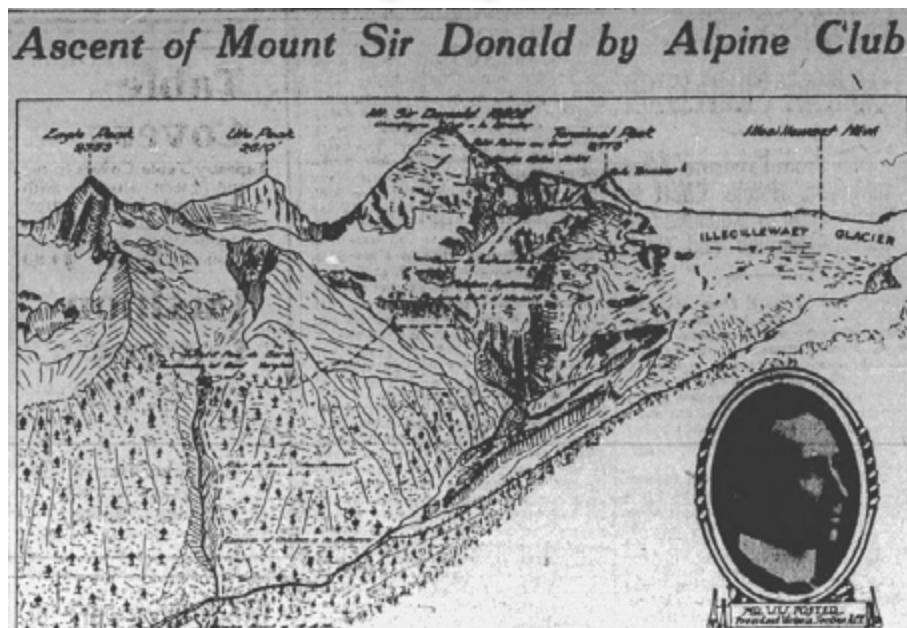
Winner - Mountain Scenery
Peak 6863
By Martin Hofmann



Honourable Mention - Mountain Scenery
Cabin View
By Deon Towle

Wanted - does anyone have an original one of these menu cards?

By Lindsay Elms



March 27, 1913, Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada annual banquet.

The menu card was a work of art and very distinctive. The idea originated from Mr. William W. Foster (ACCVI chair), and was artistically collaborated by Mrs. G.P. Napier, by whom each card was painted in watercolors. The route of the diners through the various courses, it will be noted, is identically that followed by the first conquerors of Mount Sir Donald, in the Selkirks, by Messrs. Huber and Suizer, in 1890. More than this it will be noted that the start is made (as is requisite in all Alpine Club ascents) at 4 a.m., a first rest-halt for light refreshment being made at the first prescribed halt in the Sir Donald climb. The fish brings the climbers to the origin of the Illecillewaet River, and the entrees to the verglas—the binder between the ice and the native rock. Then on, over the scree to the massif, and on and on and up and up, until the crown of the monarch is gained, and duly honored in the champagne cup, a short halt being appropriately called ere the descent and dispersal for coffee at Terminal Peak. The menu is adorned with the Alpine Club colors, and with strict official correctness, inscribed with punctilious exactitude “Route Map No. 2” (this being the second annual pre-gathering of the club)—Empress Edition.

ACCVI History 1928

By Lindsay Elms



1928

ACCVI executive: Chairman - Arthur Wheeler; Secretary - Mrs. Healy-Kerr; Treasurer - Gordon Cameron; Outings Committee - Claude Harrison

February 11 – Talk about an expedition to Glacier Bay given by Mr. J.P. Forde.

February 25 – Club trip to Sooke River canyon.

March 2 – Talk titled “In Camp with the Alpine Club” given by Col. William Foster.

March 10 – Club walking tour starting from Sooke Hotel.

March 27 – Annual club dinner at Empress Hotel with an illustrated talk by the French Consul from Vancouver M. Paul Suzor about big game hunting in B.C. and other travels.

April 9 – Club trip to Mt. Matheson area.

April 24 – Club meeting at the home of Sara Spencer with an illustrated talk by Clinton Wood on Forbidden Plateau.

May 5 – Annual club picnic at Mr. and Mrs. James White’s Summer camp at “Killarney” in Saanich. Trip up Mount Work.

May 12 – Half-day trip to Bear Hill.

May 11 and 12 – Two-day club trip to Leech River.

June 9 – Club general meeting at the Belvedere Hotel. Members to discuss purchasing 149 acres in Sooke Hills.

July 28 – Club trip to the Sooke Park.

August 20 to 30 – Annual camp to Forbidden Plateau. A joint trip with Comox Mountaineering Club.

September 22 – Club trip to Buck Hill.

October 6 – Club trip to Mt. Braden.

October 20 – Club trip to Mt. Finlayson.

October 20 – Club trip to Mt. Douglas and talk by South African guest Dr. J.H. Jones.

October 24 – Talk by Claude Harrison for Tourist and Trade group and Alpine Club members.

November 24 – Club trip to Shield’s and Grass Lake.

Section members who attended the ACC annual camp at the Lake of the Hanging Glacier: Arthur Wheeler, Frederick W. Godsall, Mrs. B.A. Godsall (nee Finlinson), Irene Bastow Hudson

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Saturday January 28, 1928, p. 8.

GLACIER BAY LECTURE

Mr. J.P. Forde, district engineer of public works and past president of the Alpine Club of Canada will give an illustrated lecture to the Sidney Board of Trade at the Sidney Auditorium on Saturday, February 11. As Mr. Forde's subject is to be his expedition to Glacier Bay, the Board of Trade is extending an invitation to all the members of the Alpine Club to hear the lecture, which will begin at 8 o'clock, concluding at 10.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Sunday February 12, 1928, p. 2.

ALPINE CLUB MEET AT SIDNEY HALL

Mr. J.P. Forde, Dominion Government District Engineer, Gives Interesting Address

A description of the coast country around Glacier Bay and of some other parts of the Northerly Pacific coast were given before an audience at Sidney last evening by Mr. J.P. Forde, district engineer for the Dominion Government.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the Sidney Board of Trade, with about forty members of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada in the audience.

After the meeting at the Board of Trade Hall the Alpine Club section of the audience repaired to the home of the president and Mrs. Wheeler for a short business session, during which Dr. Bell, of Vancouver, chairman of the Alpine Club of Canada, gave a short address, reminding members of the forthcoming Summer camp in the Rockies. Mr. C. [Claude] L. Harrison also reported plans for some of the sectional outings the first of the new year to be on February 25 in the Sooke country.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Sunday February 26, 1928, p. 2.



Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Sunday February 26, 1928, p. 7.

ALPINE CLUB EXCURSION

An excursion was held yesterday [Saturday February 25] under the auspices of the local Alpine Club branch to Sooke District. One party left on the morning train of the C.N.R. in charge of Mr. C. [Claude] L. Harrison while the afternoon party was directed by Mr. G. [George] E. Winkler. The Harrison party visited the Sooke River canyons, and had some interesting experience of rope work. All met later at the Sooke Hotel, where an excellent dinner was served, the dinner being followed by a dance. Among those in attendance were mayor and Mrs. J. Carl Pondary, and Mr. and Mrs. A. [Arthur] O. Wheeler, of Sidney.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Thursday March 1, 1928, p. 9.

ALPINE CLUB CAMP

“In Camp with the Alpine Club” is the subject of the illustrated lantern lecture to be given tomorrow night at the Empress Hotel by Colonel W. [William] W. Foster, a former president of the Alpine Club of Canada and one of the party which scaled Mount Logan two years ago.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Saturday March 3, 1928, p. 6.

SPLENDOR OF THE ROCKIES TOLD

COL. FOSTER HOLDS ALPINIST ENTHRALLED WITH BEAUTIFUL SCENES

Victoria Alpine Club Given Illustrated Address on Rocky Mountain Expeditions

Glistening peaks, lakes of amethyst blue, emerald green and many other hues, mountain flowers and mosses, purple heather, white grass, snow lilies, rugged moraines, flinty spires, cloudy summits and luxuriant valleys, tumbling waters, cataracts, glacial streams and prodigious glaciers were only a few of the many beautiful scenes flashed upon the screen, and which were admired by the large audience that heard Colonel W. [William] W. Foster, for some years was the president of the Canadian Alpine Club when he lectured on “Camps of the Alpine Club of Canada,” at a meeting of the Victoria Alpine Club, held at the Empress Hotel ballroom last night [Friday March 2].

In his opening remarks, Colonel Foster told the audience what the Canadian Alpine Club had done to preserve the natural scenery of this country. The organization had sponsored the Canadian National Parks Association, which was now doing excellent work in conserving natural parks.

The speaker first conducted his audience, through the medium of slides and verbal description, to Banff by the new road through the Columbia River Pass, Sinclair Pass, and Kootenay River. The scenes along the route were magnificent. The coloring of the slides appeared to be extravagant, but the speaker said that one hardly dared to tint the pictures in their natural color, so varied and brilliant were the hues in rock formation, flowers, lakes, streams and glaciers.

The expedition into Assiniboine and to Mount Logan kept the audience enthralled. Slides showing Alpinists climbing treacherous slopes, hanging on the verge of precipices and chasms, stirred all.

That beautiful white mass, towering above all the other rugged peaks of the Rockies, Mount Robson, was shown and described from all angles. Colonel Foster took his listeners on a climb up Mount Robson. Scene after scene of beauty and massive splendor passed before their eyes, and each succeeding view seemed more beautiful than the last.

To go into detail of the many Alpine camps and climbs would enthrall too long a story, but it is sufficient to say that the speaker satisfied the layman as to why “those crazy people climbed mountains.”

He spoke of the expedition planned by the Canadian Alpine Club this Summer to the mountain at the head of Bute Inlet, which has been discovered to be even higher than Mount Robson, which formerly was considered the highest in Canada. The scenes shown on the screen gave some concept of the magnificent beauty of that country, and what was in store for those Alpinists who might participate in the climb.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Wednesday March 7, 1928, p. 1.

OFFICIALS HEAR CASE FOR PARK

Mountaineers Meet C.P.R. Officials During Visit To Comox District Regarding Forbidden Plateau VALUATION WILL BE MADE OF LANDS

A deputation from the interests associated in the effort to secure a national park in the Forbidden Plateau, west of Courtenay, met Mr. Grant Hall, first vice-president, and Mr. D.C. Coleman, second vice-president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, on Monday evening at Union Bay, travelling with a party north for the purpose of laying before the C.P.R. executives the argument for setting aside the property for public purpose.

They explained that they were making representations to the Dominion Government with regard to the proposed reserve on Vancouver Island, which might involve the alienation of lands belonging to the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway.

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed the deputation, which represented the British Columbia division of the Alpine Club, the Courtenay Mountaineering Club and the Courtenay-Comox Board of trade, that the deputation should furnish the company with the exact description of the lands required, after which an examination would be made of them on behalf of the company, and the committee would be advised as the valuation placed on the property, which is said to have valuable timber upon it.

Mr. Grant Hall and Mr. Coleman had a pleasant journey over the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway system, and during the brief stay at Port Alberni they inspected the site of the assembly wharf on the waterfront. They spent Monday night in Cumberland, and came straight through from Courtenay during the morning. Last evening, they left on the night steamer for Vancouver.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Friday March 9, 1928, p. 11.

TRYING BRIDLE PATH

Mr. C. [Claude] L. Harrison, who had been invited to inspect some of the recently constructed bridle paths in the Sooke district, is arranging a walking trip to start from the Sooke Hotel tomorrow morning [March 10] at 10:30 o'clock, and any members of the Alpine Club who would care to join the outing are invited to do so provided they arrange their own transportation and luncheon provisions.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Sunday March 11, 1928, p. 4.

Letters to the Editor

MYSTERY MOUNTAIN

Sir – There is more trouble about Mount Mystery. You rightly went for the local representatives in British Columbia of the Geographical Board of Canada for deciding to call it Mount Waddington.

My latest information—and this is first hand—is that the Geographic Board of Canada, sitting in Ottawa, has decided to call it Mount Dawson, to perpetuate the memory of the well-known Canadian geologist. I learn further that the Alpine Club of London and the Royal geographic Society are adhering to the name “Mystery.” We shall have to fight to keep the name “Mystery.”

JOHN BENSLEY THORNHILL, Hotel Vancouver, Vancouver, BC., March 9, 1928.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Thursday March 15, 1928, p. 13.

MOUNTAINEERING DELEGATE CHOSEN

President of the Courtenay and District Club Will Attend Parks Association Convention

Courtenay, March 14 – Among the matters discussed at a meeting of the executive of the Courtenay and District Mountaineering Club on Monday night, was that of sending a delegate to the annual meeting of the National Parks

Association, to be held in Vancouver on March 23. Mr. C. [Clinton] S. Wood, the president of the club, will attend the convention. An invitation had been received by Mr. Wood from Mr. A. [Arthur] O. Wheeler of the Alpine Club to attend a meeting held in Victoria, when the matter of a joint Summer camp is to be discussed, and the matter will be further considered. It is hoped the National History Society will see its way to share in the proposed Summer camp to be held on the "Forbidden Plateau," adjacent to Courtenay. An invitation is being extended to *Professor [John] Davidson**, of the University of British Columbia, president of the society. As soon as the disappearance of the snow on Quartz Creek Mountain [Mount Becher] makes it possible, a start will be made of a permanent log cabin at a point on this mountain within comparatively easy reach of the summit of Mount Albert Edward.

* John Davidson (1878-1970) was born in Aberdeen, Scotland and graduated from Gordon's College. As botany assistant and later curator of the Botany Museum at the University of Aberdeen from 1893 to 1911 he developed significant skills in plant classification and general biology. In 1911, he was appointed as British Columbia's first Provincial Botanist. Davidson established Canada's first botanical garden at Essondale's Colony Farm near New Westminster. In 1916, the 25,000 plants were transferred to the new Point Grey site of University of British Columbia and the garden continued to develop under his supervision. Davidson joined the UBC faculty in 1917 as an instructor of Botany and remained at the university until his retirement in 1945. He was founder and, until 1937, president of the Vancouver Natural History Society.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Tuesday March 20, 1928, p. 15.

TALKING ON PARKS

All members of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada are invited to hear the lecture which will be given this evening at the Chamber of Commerce by Mr. J.C. Campbell, publicity officer of the Parks Branch of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa. Mr. Campbell has some movie pictures of the last Summer's Alpine Club camp in the Rockies, which will interest members here. The lecture will begin at 8 o'clock.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Wednesday March 21, 1928, p. 1.

INVESTIGATES AT COURTENAY

NATIONAL PARKS BOARD GOES NORTH FOR THE WEEK-END

Mr. J.C. Campbell to Report on Possibility of Reserving Forbidden Plateau for Public

Mr. J.C. Campbell, director of publicity of the Parks Board of the Dominion Government, who is now in the city, visited Courtenay on Sunday staying over Monday morning to investigate the possibility of the establishment of a national park embracing the Forbidden Plateau area from the standpoint of the Federal Government.

This was a result of interviews on Friday and Saturday in Victoria between Mr. Cory, Deputy Minister of the Interior, from Ottawa, and Mr. Claude Harrison, chairman of the outing committee of the Alpine Club of British Columbia, and Mr. C. [Clinton] S. Wood, president of the Courtenay Mountaineering Club.

On Monday morning Mr. Campbell addressed a representative gathering in the City Hall at Courtenay of businessmen, including members of the Board of Trade and the Courtenay Mountaineering Club. While there Mr. Campbell acquired much first hand knowledge of the Forbidden Plateau taking away with him many photographs taken within this magnificent area. The organizations at Courtenay are feeling confident, if the present negotiations with the C.P.R. terminate satisfactorily, that a national park on the Forbidden Plateau will soon be a fact.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Wednesday March 21, 1928, p. 4.

ALPINISTS VIEW PARK PICTURES

Scenes in Canadian National Parks Are Placed on Screen at Chamber of Commerce

Scenes of surprising beauty and grandeur were shown to a large audience of members of the Vancouver Island

section of the Alpine Club of Canada in moving pictures screened by Mr. J.C. Campbell, director of publicity for the National Parks Branch, Department of Interior at the Chamber of Commerce last night (March 20).

The moving pictures depicted scenes in various parks of the Dominion, including Jasper and Mount Robson and Banff. One of the most interesting films showed animal life in New Brunswick. Deer, moose and birds were taken in remarkable "close-ups." Another film of outstanding interest was photographed from an airplane in flight over the Rocky Mountains.

Mr. Campbell made a short address on the subject of national parks and their preservation and on the development of the tourist business. He was tendered cordial thanks by Mr. A. [Arthur] O. Wheeler, president of the local Alpine Club.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Wednesday March 28, 1928, p. 5.

ALPINE CLUB AT ANNUAL DINNER

Vancouver Island Section Rallies, Fifty Strong, on Twenty-Second Anniversary of Organization

Fifty members of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada and their friends gathered at the Empress Hotel last evening [Tuesday March 27] for the annual club dinner. In addition to listening to interesting addresses by the president, Mr. A. [Arthur] O. Wheeler; the Hon. J. [John] D. MacLean, Premier of British Columbia, and M. Paul Suzor, French Consul at Vancouver and eminent big game hunter and Alpinist, the members were presented by Mr. Claude Harrison, programme convener, with a survey of plans for the outdoor activities for the coming Spring and Summer months. These were heard with enthusiasm. The programme begins with an all-day outing on April 9, in the Mount Matheson district, and concludes with a ten-day camp in August at the Forbidden Plateau in the Comox District. A number of other interesting outings, include the annual picnic at the Summer camp of Mr. and Mrs. J [James] White at Killarney Lake; a two-day outing in the Leech River country on May 11 and 12, a day-and-night camp over new trails in Sooke district early in July. Addressing the Vancouver Island section as honorary president of the Alpine Club of Canada, Mr. Wheeler, following his custom since the organization of the club, brought greetings on the occasion of the twenty-second anniversary of the organization. His message was a resume as well as a forecast, and among the incidents of the past year specially commented on was the discovery of the exact altitude of Mystery Mountain [Mount Waddington] now definitely fixed at 13,200 feet, higher than Mount Robson, hitherto regarded as the highest mountain in the Canadian Rockies. Expressing the hope that Mr. and Mrs. Don Munday, who have shown great perseverance in their efforts to attain the summit, would meet with success, Mr. Wheeler nevertheless thought it would be necessary to organize a strong party with bases for supplies, as done by the Mt. Logan expedition, in order to carry out the feat satisfactorily.

Members were reminded of the forthcoming 1928 annual camp of the Alpine Club in the Rockies, at the Lake of the Hanging Glaciers. In his survey of the year the president referred to the regrettable accidents which accounted for the death of two well-known guides, [Malcolm] Geddes, on Mount Lefroy, and [Fred] Slark, on Mount Redoubt, and to the death of an old member, Mr. A. [Alfred] L. Mumm, of the English club, who had on more than one occasion been in camp with the Canadian Alpine Club in the Rockies.

CLIMBING AND HUNTING

Responding to the toast of "Our Guest," a distinguished big game hunter and Alpinist M. Suzor French Consul in Vancouver, entertained the gathering after dinner with a vividly interesting talk on the Andes, Portuguese East Africa and Northern British Columbia. Lantern slides, operated by Mr. Wheeler, furnished a splendid series of pictures by way of illustration, those of the Andes being exceptional. The trip, taken in 1906, took him into a little-frequented part of Ecuador and Chile, one of the special feats which he attempted, without success, being the ascent of Mount Chimborazo, over 21,000 feet high, a peak climbed by Edward Whymper, a Britisher. To the Alpinist the speaker held out the lure of two virgin peaks within forty miles of Quito, a special attraction of the country to the climber being the absence of mosquitoes from the upland. Among the numerous slides shown, one of the dor-

mant volcanos, Pichincha [15,500 ft], on the slopes of which Quito itself is built, was one of the most interesting. Its crater is 2,400 feet deep.

A series of big-game pictures from Portuguese East Africa was followed by a few slides recording a hunting trip in the Cassiar and Cariboo districts of British Columbia, and, more recently, in the Sooke district, Vancouver Island brought the lecture to a close. On motion of the president, Mr. Wheeler, a very cordial resolution of thanks was passed to M. Suzor for coming from Vancouver to lecture to the society.

The dinner arrangements were admirable. The committee in charge was, Mr. R. [Robert] D. McCaw (convenor), Miss Colwell, Miss [Sara] Spencer, Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Healy-Kerr, Mr. Wheeler, Mr. [Kenneth] Chadwick and Mr. [Gordon] Cameron. Daffodils were effective decoration of the table, this detail being in charge of Mrs. Wheeler, Miss Spencer and Miss Colwell. Mrs. McCaw, accompanied at the piano by Mr. McCaw, added to the pleasure of the evening with two delightful vocal solos.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Tuesday April 24, 1928, p. 7.

FORBIDDEN PLATEAU

Miss Sara Spencer has very kindly lent her home, 930 Moss Street, for a meeting tonight of the Victoria section of the Alpine Club of Canada, when Mr. [Clinton] Wood, of Comox, chairman of the Mountaineering Club, will give an address on "The Forbidden Plateau." A series of lantern views of the area will be introduced for illustration. The meeting which will be open to members and friends of the club, will begin at 8 o'clock.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Wednesday April 25, 1928, p. 9.

FORBIDDEN PLATEAU VIVIDLY DESCRIBED

Chairman of Comox Mountaineering Club Addresses Local Alpine Club Members

In anticipation of the ten days' camp which the Victoria section of the Alpine Club of Canada intends holding at the "Forbidden Plateau," in the Comox country, some time during August, Mr. C. [Clinton] Wood, chairman of the Comox Mountaineering Club, last evening entertained the members of the local organization with a description of the area. The meeting took place at the home of Miss Sara Spencer, Moss Street, to whom a cordial vote of thanks, accompanied by the singing of "She's a Jolly Good Fellow," was passed on a motion of Mr. A. [Arthur] O. Wheeler, president of the Alpine Club. Warm appreciation of Mr. Wood's address was also expressed, the subject being splendidly illustrated with lantern slides and photographs of the country described.

DESCRIBES TRIP

To give his matter practical value, Mr. Wood, with the aid of a map, described a trip which he and two companions took through the Forbidden Plateau country last summer. Starting from Comox with pack horses they had entered the area via Mount Becher, some views of which were shown. From the summit of this mountain a wonderful panorama opened up, among some of the points visible being Seymour Narrows, the Coast range on the Mainland, Mount Waddington (Mystery Mountain), Texada Island, Mount Arrowsmith, Mount Baker, the entrance to Vancouver Harbor, the Nine Peaks, the mountains of Strathcona Park, a long range of permanently snowclad, unnamed mountains on the west, between 6,000 and 7,000 feet in altitude; and Mount Albert Edward and Alexandra Peak.

The country around Mount Becher was pictured as dotted with hundreds of lakes, nestling among hills sparsely covered with trees or treeless. Open, parklike country lay between Becher and Mount Albert Edward to the West, this area offering ideal camp sites. Scenically, Mount Albert Edward was in the form of a gigantic crater with the north side blown out, the narrow rim dropping sheer on both sides, ornamented with "red" snow. A curious formation, resembling a colossal stairway, gave an interesting and picturesque appearance.

PARADISE VALLEY

Alexandra Peak and glacier were described as offering attractions to the climber. Exploring Oyster River his party had come down at one place to what they christened Paradise Valley, because of its beauty and charm. A spot ap-

parently never hitherto invaded by man, they had found deer even at midday feeding quietly, so unacquainted with huntsmen that they showed no alarm and had allowed visitors to approach within 50 feet. One of the photographic views endorsed this interpretation of the district, showing ptarmigan on the snow, unstartled, within a few feet of the three mountaineers.

In moving the vote of thanks to Mr. Wood, Mr. Wheeler recalled an expedition to Strathcona Park, under the auspices in 1912, his memory of which made him ready to endorse all that the speaker had said about the fascination of this section of Vancouver Island from the alpinist's standpoint.

Reported in the *Victoria Daily Times* Tuesday May 1, 1928.

FORBIDDEN PLATEAU, LAND OF ROMANCE MYSTERY HAUNTS IDEAL PARK AREA OF ISLAND INTERIOR

Scenic Marvel Thrills Travelers in Region of High Mountains and Mists

Wonderful Panorama From Mount Albert Edward, 7,000-Foot Giant of Proposed Park Lands; Game Abounds in Paradise Shunned by Indians; Rugged Island Territory

Vancouver Island wants a playground! The people of Victoria and the farther northern towns have long been urging a great reservation land, beautiful, rugged, typical of the inland wilds, to be preserved for future generations, to be used as a haunt for summer recreation seekers, to be a memorial to the pioneers of the early days. They have asked that this playground be kept as a Dominion Government Park, and, in seeking, they have found the most desirable area. It is the Forbidden Plateau.

The Forbidden Plateau and adjacent mountain country is precisely what is required for park purposes. It is surrounded with legend and romance. It is wild, unspoiled and a marvel of scenic splendor.

The eastern boundary of the Strathcona Park, which is not a Federal reserve, and probably never will be, meets and comprises, in its central portions, the western boundary of the Forbidden Plateau park area. The latter, the suggested park, lies wholly within the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway belt. It is grant land. The northern boundary required takes in a portion of the famous Buttle Lake. Four or five miles of this sheet of water lie in the E. & N. land belt. The general trend of the northern boundary will be true east.

The eastern boundary of the park would run in a southerly direction to Comox Lake, taking in two or three miles of the shoreline of this body of water. Thence, it would run south and west to meet the east boundary of Strathcona Park again. Thus, would be formed the southern line.

EASY WAY IN

Through the Forbidden Plateau lands lies the most feasible route into the mountains of Strathcona Park. There is a good trail from the town of Bevan, which winds for twelve or fourteen miles up to the plateau itself, doing a climb of something like 4,000 feet. There, at the foot of great Mount Albert Edward, the trail ends on the Forbidden Plateau. There is no mountain on Vancouver Island which has so wonderful a view from its peak as has Albert Edward – great, snow-girt sentinel, rearing 7,000 feet high above the clouds. There is only one mountain which is higher, and that is the mighty Victoria Peak, nearly 7,500 feet, just outside the northern boundary of the Strathcona Park, at the headwaters of the White River, a tributary of the Salmon, which runs to the sea through the valley of the same name and has the town of Sayward at its mouth.

PERPETUAL SNOW

Albert Edward is under a mantle of perpetual snow. In the hottest years its easterly side is always white with the garment of Winter.

While it is high, it seems to be particularly favored in that there is seldom fog here to shut out the amazing view. July and August are the clearest months. From its summit there is a long ribbon of blue to be discerned to the eastward, the Straits of Georgia, dotted with its islands, and behind that again the hills north of Vancouver. Actually, on the clearest days, Vancouver itself is visible – the smoke of the city marking its location. In the far distance looms

the white-topped Coast range. To the west is the Pacific Ocean and, north and northwest, the mountains of Strathcona Park.

Nor is it difficult for the average climber to reach the peak from which these scenes are stretched before him, a mighty panorama painted in soft tones by the wizard hand of nature. It is by the arete, or backbone of the mountains that the ascent is made.

RED WITH SNOW

The back slope of Albert Edward is red snow. It sounds preposterous, but it is so. Sometimes this remarkable growth appears in the mountains of British Columbia, but on Albert Edward it is common. It is something of a mystery to all but the students of nature. As a matter of fact, the phenomenon is a sort of vegetable growth, blood-red in color, and cover great patches of the mountain snow.

Travelers there have mistaken these red blotches for the scene of some wilderness carnage. A party once asked if it had seen the red snow, declared that they had not, but that they had come across a place where it appeared a great number of animals had been killed, for the snow was covered with blood. This was the red snow.

DOTTED WITH LAKES

The top of the plateau itself, at the base of Albert Edward, is a unique alpine area. It is dotted by more than twenty lakes, some of them a mile in length, the habitation of great numbers of Canada geese and a variety of bird life. The goose is exceptionally tame there, and will allow persons to approach within twenty feet or less of it. The ptarmigan are there in hundreds, feeding on the berries of the juniper. Deer, too, are numerous.

The lakes are the headwaters of the Oyster River, the Cruikshank River, Brown's River and several smaller streams. From the plateau, as far as the eye can see, stretches a sea of bell heather, purple, yellow and white, with patches of hare's tail and other alpine plants in endless variety and profusion. The pine trees grow in queer, gnarled, gnomish shapes, stunted and dark, their crazy limbs giving the whole area a grotesqueness. The junipers are dwarfed as well.

LOVELY SCENERY

The view from the plateau, aside from its own beauty, is wonderful. Its height and its proximity to the sea are sufficient to give a magnificent view of the Strait of Georgia, the islands northward and the mountains of the Mainland.

The trail leading into Forbidden Plateau is another picturesque feature of the country, winding past the mighty waterfall of Brown's River and innumerable potholes, through woodland and valley, a delight to every traveler who passes over it.

For fourteen miles, approximately, this trail moves into the park land. It was built by men of the district, unassisted, unencouraged, their only ambition being to reach the Forbidden Plateau and allow others the opportunity thus afforded of viewing its matchless beauty.

SUPERSTITION

The Forbidden Plateau derives its name from ancient Indian legend and superstition. It was known to the Indians and looked upon with a sort of awe. The suspicion seems to have been that it was forbidden land, probably haunted by spirits of the dead. Perhaps the red snow had something to do with its isolation, or the shapes of the grotesque trees at twilight. In any event, Indians shunned it like a plague.

In consequence, animals and birds found it a haven of refuge when hunted and driven from the lower hills. That is why they swarm about the place in abundance. The Forbidden Plateau is a sort of birdland paradise. By honorable understanding hunters never go there, never disturb the complete peace and tranquility of the mountain lakes and heather slopes.

Towering above the valley lands, Mount Albert Edward stands in all his glory. Albert Edward is the king of the surrounding country, but close beside him looms the great bulk of Castle Mountain, difficult of ascent, buttressed with great bluffs from which it takes its name, and Alexandra Peak, 6,500 feet in height. Both are interesting climbs and will provide objects of entertainment for the Alpine Club of Victoria when that organization camps on the Forbidden Plateau this summer with the Courtenay and Comox Mountaineering Club.

ONLY GLACIER

Toward the southern portion of the Forbidden Plateau, and towards the eastern boundary of Strathcona Park, lies Comox Glacier, the only one on Vancouver Island. Strangely enough, it is visible from the decks of all northbound steamers traveling to Skagway, and the nearby hillside is marked by a gigantic cross of snow, long an object of comment. The glacier was once extensive, reaching, in centuries past, to a point close to Comox Lake. At the present time, it ends about six or seven miles from the west end of this lake.

The Alpine Club and others with it, will go into the plateau with a long pack train from Bevan. Arrangements are already under way to establish a large camp in the park area. There will be a number of visitors from the Mainland on this expedition and a big section of the party will be from Island points.

NO TIMBER

The timber in the Forbidden Plateau country is utterly valueless from a commercial standpoint. Except on the lower reaches of the Cruikshank and Oyster Rivers, and in the vicinity of Dove Creek and Brown's River, there is nothing merchantable. The area required for park purposes does not include any timber stands. The beauty of the location will not be marred in the slightest by the removal of every stick of merchantable timber in its vicinity, since the plateau is so high that it is destitute of valuable trees. There is only the ghost-like, gnarled and picturesque pines and junipers, which might well be the spirit trees of dead forests.

Realizing the great value of this park area, particularly since it adjoins Strathcona Park and affords a comparatively easy way into the peaks of the great stretch of mountain country, strenuous efforts have been made of late to acquire this portion of the E. & N. Railway belt for Dominion park purposes. If it is acquired, a road to the plateau would be constructed in place of the trail existing, in all probability.

Grant Hall, vice-president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, has intimated his agreement to the plan. W.W. Cory, Deputy Minister of the Interior, has also signified that he is willing to see the Forbidden plateau lands a Government park. T.D. Pattullo of the British Columbia Cabinet has been interviewed and, from his words, hope is entertained that before long the land in question may be acquired.

LAND OF MARVELS

Vancouver Island's whole mid-section, including the plateau lands and the great stretch of the Strathcona Park, wherein lies the long sheet of trout-filled waters known as Buttle lake and the headwaters of the Campbell River, is a country full of natural marvels. Travelers to these parts never forget the majesty of Buttle Lake and the grandeur of the shore scenery.

The lake lies in a setting of mountains, forest-girt, blue and tranquil at times, ruffled by winter storms or tinted by the banners of the morning or of sunset. The lake winds through promontories, wooded like the mountainsides above them, or is bordered by great, raw-rock cliffs, with clinging, precariously-rooted plants and shrubs. There are bays and sheltered nooks along this shore where the deer come down to drink, and their footprints leave the shore dotted where they ran in hundreds. For this lake country abounds with game, safe from the arms of the hunters, who must stop at the park boundaries.

The tourists or holiday-makers who reaches Buttle Lake is infrequent. Only occasionally do parties go further than Forbes Landing or Upper Campbell Lake, where the Sutherland brothers are the guides and master fishermen of the district.

STARVATION DIET

There is a quaint story told of two young men who went into that rough country not very long ago and whose expedition almost ended in tragedy. But they laugh about it now and recall with expressions of rapture the glories of the place. They took the trail from Upper Campbell Lake and left the Sutherland cabins with the expectation that one of the Sutherland boys would bring their supplies, their food, over the trail. But there was a misunderstanding. The food did not come for several days.

Since the young travelers expected it momentarily, they went on up Buttle Lake in a dugout canoe and returned one

blistering hot afternoon, completely out of grub, but with the prospect of a raid upon their provisions, which they expected from down the trail. The provisions had not come. A long paddle back up the lake took them to the hospitality of a lakeshore dweller. But the next day, when their provisions were still lacking, their pride kept them suffering in silence. Besides, they had to take back the dugout canoe to the owner. They were faced with two alternatives: to wait for their provisions or to cut short their excursion and head out along the trail to Upper Campbell Lake. They chose the first – and starved.

BUT THEY LIKED IT

“If it had not been for a bent pin and home-made fly, and the education of those Campbell River trout, we might have starved,” said one of them. As it was they subsisted on fish and hope for several days. When at last, they were feeling the need of further nourishment, they took to the trail in disgust ... and met the Sutherland ponies with their provisions half a mile out of their lakeshore camp.

Buttle Lake, with all its tributary streams is the source of the roaring Campbell River, chilled by the mountain water from melting snow and ice-capped peaks, is one of the gems of this upper Island interior. Beside it lies the Forbidden Plateau country, steeped in Indian tradition and legend, mysterious, silent, haunted ... a land of blood-red snow, where trees are stunted and flowers carpet the ground for acres without a break. It is a land of contrast and of, consequently, greater appeal and charm.

It is a land which, once visited, can never be forgotten. It throws a spell of magic, but there are things that happen in it, legends of its past, that can be woven into a nightmarish freak of fact and fancy.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Sunday May 6, 1928, p. 20.

ALPINE CLUB HAS ANNUAL PICNIC

Forty-Five Members Guests at Killarney of Mr. and Mrs. White – Climb Work

The Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada yesterday [May 5] demonstrated several years' cumulative appreciation by responding in unprecedented numbers to Mr. and Mrs. James White's annual invitation to their Summer camp at "Killarney," in the Saanich District. Forty-five members, after a day of diverse mountaineering or hiking excursions in the district, rallied round the hospitable board prepared by the hosts and their daughter, and expressed their gratitude by presenting a big picture of Mount Assiniboine as an addition to the fine collection of mountain scenes which Mr. and Mrs. White already possess.

The presentation was made by the club president, Mr. A. [Arthur] O. Wheeler, following an address in which he made eloquent tribute to the generous spirit shown by Mr. and Mrs. White in throwing their camp open each Spring to the society's members. The little ceremony was followed by three resounding cheers and a tiger for the host and hostess and the singing of "For They Are Jolly Good Fellows." Mr. White made a happy little speech expressing thanks for the gift. A second presentation during the evening was to the club secretary, Mrs. Healy-Kerr, to whom an ebony cane, suitably engraved, was given in appreciation of her indefatigable efforts on behalf of the club. Mr. Gordon Cameron, the club treasurer, made the speech of thanks, and the presentation was made by Mr. Claude Harrison, convenor of the outings committee, this ceremony taking place after supper, when the members were assembled round a roaring campfire. Three cheers and a tiger were added for the recipient in this instance also.

PROGRAMME SUCCESS

The days programme was one of the most successful of the year. Leaving the city by motor at 9 o'clock, sixteen members an hour later started their day's climb from Lake Killarney. Led in two groups by Messrs. C.L. Harrison and [William] Dougan, the expedition made an almost complete circle of Mount Work before ascending, the route being via Heals Lake, Durrance Lake (where a halt was made for luncheon), Fourth and Third Lakes. The final ascent was begun from Third Lake on the west side of the mountain and the summit was reached about 4 o'clock, under ideal conditions, with a magnificent view in all directions. During the fifteen-minute halt for tea a record of the climb was made with the signatures of the members, and inserted in the cairn with the records of the previous years' ascents already there.

A second party of four, led by Mr. Lindley Crease, left Killarney camp at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The two groups returned about the same time to camp, joining the hiking party of twenty which, under Mr. Gordon Cameron's leadership, walked over to Heals Lake during the afternoon. Botanists with the expedition collected assiduously, some eighteen or twenty different varieties of flora being found on the mountain during the day. Valerian, trilliums, saxifrages, mimulus, Collinsia, and orchids were found in profusion almost to the summit, which is over 1,400 feet.

PROGRAMME SUCCESS

Camp Killarney's generous hospitality was on an even more lavish scale than usual, the customary piece de resistance, Cameronian pie, holding the place of honor on the menu. The great table, spread beneath a canvas fly right on the shores of the lake, was beautifully decorated with bowls of wildflowers, the mysterious beauty of the forest enhanced by Japanese lanterns suspended among the woods, and the final chapter of the evening's enjoyments, the rally and sing-song round a roaring camp fire, was full of jollity.

Among the important matters of business discussed were the forthcoming Leech Falls and Forbidden Plateau camps. Mr. Claude Harrison, as convener of outings, sent out a questionnaire concerning the date of the former, this resulting in a vote favoring May 24, 25 and 26. The expedition, consequently, will take place at that time, the ten days' camp at Forbidden Plateau will be late in July, the exact time to be announced later.

President A.O. Wheeler, who with Mrs. Wheeler is leaving in a few days' time for Banff to spend the Summer, called for a final round of applause on behalf of the host and hostess before the gathering dispersed.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Tuesday May 8, 1928, p. 12.

ALPINE CLUB MEETING

There will be a half-day excursion of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada on Saturday [May 12]. Members will meet at Bastion Square at 2 p.m., to go to Bear Hill. After the excursion they will return to the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. [Claude] L. Harrison, Uplands, for tea. Those intending to join the outing should communicate at once with the secretary, 6490L, in order to arrange transportation.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Sunday May 27, 1928, p. 11.

PLATEAU TO BE SCENE OF CAMP

Members of Alpine Club Make Plans For Outing

Site Selected on Mount Beecher for Log Cabin With Suitable Accomodation

Courtenay, May 26. – Matters pertaining to the proposed Summer camp on the Forbidden Plateau were up for discussion at Friday night's meeting of the Mountaineering Club. In answer to an application for permission to hold the camp and to erect a cabin near the top of Mount Beecher [Becher], the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway land agent wrote granting the request.

Members of the Victoria section of the Alpine Club of Canada having been asked to co-operate in the camp, correspondence has been exchanged with Mr. C. [Claude] L. Harrison concerning details of tents and other equipment. Mr. Harrison also promised to send a memorandum of equipment for each club. The date of the camp, after some discussion, was set for Wednesday, July 18, the day of the departure for the main camp from Bevan to Saturday, July 28. This would give the Victoria and Vancouver members of the camp an opportunity of reaching their homes by the end of the month.

The packing of the equipment in and out of the plateau was discussed and the question of securing the necessary number of pack ponies and pack saddles considered. It was decided to advertise for tenders for this work, to include fifteen horses for two weeks. Tenders will be received by the camp committee.

The chairman of the cabin committee reported that in company with several members of the club he had recently been up Mount Beecher, where a most beautiful site has been selected for the cabin. Running water was at hand, a wonderful view of the whole valley was obtainable and a suitable gulch available for the storage of food. Work on the

cabin should be taken in hand at once so that the logs for the construction could be hauled in over the snow before it melts. A rough sketch of a log cabin containing a clubroom 10 by 15 feet, and two rooms for ladies and men respectively, each 12 by 15, was displayed, and contract for its construction given to Mr. Warren, at a maximum cost of \$225. Mr. Ben Hughes, who took a party of scouts to the top of Mount Beecher on the 24th, reported that the snow was going very rapidly.

Reported in *The Time Colonist* Tuesday June 5, 1928, p. 13.

MAKES ASCENT OF ARROWSMITH

Old Country Visitor First To Make Climb This Year

Mr. J.A. Parker Goes Up Mountain Twice During Stopover—Delighted With Scenery

CAMERON LAKE, June 4 – The first ascent of Mount Arrowsmith this year was made by Mr. J.A. Parker, B.Sc., M. Inst. C.E., ex-chief engineer Great North of Scotland Railway.

Mr. Parker was accompanied by Mr. W. Stone, of Cameron Lake, who was so delighted with the climb that he went up a second time, but not quite so far as on the first occasion. He expressed himself as being highly delighted with the mountain and the district. The views obtained from the summit, of the Pacific and Mount Baker district were marvellous. Mr. Parker is no novice at the game, having scaled all the mountains over 3,000 feet of the British Isles, save two, and done a great deal of climbing in the Swiss Alps and Pyrenees. Mount Arrowsmith, he said, compared with the latter.

Mr. Parker is a member of the English Alpine Club and president of three others, including the Cairngorm. He is loud in praise of the Canadian Pacific round-the-world cruise, which he is now enjoying.

Others not so fortunate in their day on account of the weather are Messrs. Norman Yarrow and Hew Patterson of Victoria, who climbed the second peak last Sunday [June 2]. These gentlemen, however, are determined they will climb again when conditions are more favorable.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Sunday June 10, 1928, p. 1 & 2.

ALPINE CLUB BUYS HUT SITE

Decision Reached Last Night to Purchase 149 Acres of Recently-Reserved Park Land in Sooke

PROVINCE WILL CONSTRUCT TRAIL

The Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada took an important step last night [June 9] in deciding to purchase outright from the Provincial Government 149 Acres of the recently-set-aside Sooke district park of 1,600 acres.

The decision was reached at a general meeting of the club held at the Belvedere Hotel, Sooke harbor, following a dinner attended by about fifty of the members and their friends who had spent the day climbing and hiking in the district. Mr. Gordon Cameron occupied the chair and put the proposal to the meeting after Mr. Claude Harrison, convenor of the club outings, who has carried through the negotiations with the Government up to their present stage, had given a description of the area for the benefit of those who had been unable to accompany the party which he had conducted earlier in the day to the proposed club property. The members were unanimously in favor of possession of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada a choice camp site adjacent to some of the best terrain in the southern part of the Island. Mr. Harrison and Mr. Cameron were delegated to proceed at once with the work of drawing up the necessary deed of trust.

A second announcement which was heard with much enthusiasm by the members was to the effect that the Government had undertaken with the proceeds of the purchase money paid by the Alpine Club to proceed at once with the construction of a trail from the C.N. Railway to the proposed site of the Alpine Club hut within their own park.

The newly-purchased Alpine Club area of 149 acres lies to the north of the C.N. Railway and about three miles

from the present road terminal on the north side of the Sooke River. The trail which has already been blazed, crosses the Sooke pipeline, and the Sooke Hotel management has undertaken to keep the path in good shape once it is constructed. The club grounds form a wedge-shaped triangle in the west side of the Government park of 1,600 acres, and they enclose part of both Grass Lake and Shield's Lake, which are among the beauty spots of the district. Mt. Shepherd, the Ragged Range, Empress Mount, and other interesting climbs are within easy distance. The C.N. Railway has engaged to put a flag station at the point where the trail crosses the line once the club hut is constructed.

While the club hut will be open at all times to members without charge, except for prolonged holiday uses, the privilege of use will be made available to the general public as well under special conditions.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Saturday June 16, 1928, p. 7.

ALPINE CLUB EXPLORES LOVEL SOOKE DISTRICT

Members of Vancouver Island Section Enjoy Three Days' at Leechtown and Leech Falls and Visit Area Recently Purchased

The recent activities of the Alpine Club, Vancouver Island Section, have brought into prominence the possibilities of the Sooke District as a Mecca for tourists and holiday seekers.

A few weeks ago the club organized a three-day hike to Leechtown, and Leech Falls, and more recently took a large party up to the roof of the Sooke Hills, in which region the Vancouver Island Section has recently secured 149 acres. On each occasion a trail was blazed along the ridge of the hills which will make the task of other lovers of the wilds less arduous.

Other agencies also have been operating to throw open the magnificent scenery of the district to a wider circle. The first of these is the Canadian National Railway, which runs through the district at a convenient point, and the second is the enterprise of the popular manager of the Belvedere Hotel. Mr. Robillard has cut a number of trails for horse-lovers which lead right into the heart of the hills.

Photographs procured from members of the Alpine Club disclose that the Sooke District can hardly be surpassed for rugged mountains, delightful rivers and brooks, lovely lakes and stately timber. Not all of these can be reproduced, but the three which accompany this article may be accepted as typical of them all. Shield's Lake, on the shores of which the Vancouver Island Section of the Alpine Club will shortly erect a hut, lies at an elevation of 1,500 feet above sea level, and is surrounded by mountains which for wild grandeur challenge the best that the world can boast.

TO STOCK LAKE

Alongside the proposed hut the lake is easily twenty feet or more in depth. A ledge of rock projects over the water conveniently placed for boaters and bathers. At the present moment there are no fish in the lake, but the Alpine Club has arranged to stock it with trout and preserve the waters for fly fishing exclusively. Once introduced the trout will flourish exceedingly for the conditions are stated to be ideal. It is expected that trout will grow to a large size and will attain a weight of four to five pounds. From the time the Alpine Club hut is ready for use there will unquestionably be a constant flow of tourists into Sooke through Victoria. Hitherto facilities for ingress and egress have been lacking, and there has been no stopping place in the hills. With these essentials supplied the Sooke district will come into its own.

The second picture shows one of the recent climbing party standing on a bluff which overlooks the grand valley of the Leech below the falls. The scenery at this point baffles description. There is nothing in the Rockies to surpass it. The valley is a yawning chasm hundreds of feet deep between ranges of hills which stretch all the way to the coast. On the day the Alpine Club visited the spot there was an eagle circling at great altitude against a cloudless sky. That lone bird of great size and rugged strength seemed to typify as nothing else could the wildness, the loneliness and the grandeur of the surroundings at Leech Falls.

RIVER IN REPOSE

The third picture is a scene above the Leech Falls where the river is almost in repose as it passed gently through a glen resembling the numerous so-called fairy glens of Wales. The Alpine party spent several hours at this point enjoying

lunch and drinking in the natural beauties of the spot. It is difficult to realize that the Leech Falls are only some seven or eight miles from Leechtown station on the C.N.R., and are thus accessible to all who enjoy a stiff walk and a good lunch. The trail should be still further cleared and in places the gully crossings could be improved with advantage.

Two further factors which tribute greatly to the prospects of Sooke district are the recent action of the provincial Government in dedicating 1,500 acres in the heart of the hills as a mountain park, and the announcement concerning the West Coast Road. The park area has been well selected for its scenic attractions and will be administered by commissioners whose only object will be to protect the interests of the public. The park, of course, will be a game preserve. There are already hundreds of deer in the vicinity. Protection will enable them to flourish as never before. There is an endless charm attaching to wild animals and birds when unafraid of man and it is therefore expected that Sooke Mountain Park will attract visitors from all parts.



Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Wednesday July 11, 1928, p. 13.

FORBIDDEN PLATEAU BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY

Mr. Claude Harrison Returns From Reconnaissance Trip to Site of Alpine Club camp in Comox

Tremendously enthusiastic over the prospects of the Forbidden Plateau camp to be held from July 20 to 30. Mr. Claude Harrison returned to the city on Sunday evening from a week's reconnaissance trip in the Mount Albert Edward country, Comox district. As announced a few days ago, Mr. Harrison will take charge of the camp, which has been organized under the joint auspices of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada and the Courtenay and Comox Mountaineering Club. Accompanying him on his recent trip were three members of the latter organization, which is giving conspicuous assistance in blazing the trail and getting the camp supplies.

"The site which we have chosen for our main camp is a superb one, and commands a wonderful view of the surrounding mountains and valleys," stated Mr. Harrison on his return. He gave a sketch of the layout of the main camp. At an altitude of 3,300 feet, it will snuggle against the east slope of Mount Albert Edward, furnishing a good base of

operations for all the climbing to be done during the six days the camp is in session. Camping equipment is being sent in this week, to be in readiness for the party of forty or fifty which is to leave Comox next Tuesday or Wednesday. There will be some eight or nine tents in all—the headquarters tent, which will be in charge of Mr. Harrison, and which will hold all the camp necessities in the way of first aid equipment, etc.; the visiting men's tent, two Comox club tents, two Vancouver Island section tents, a visiting ladies' tent and a big canvas fly which will be used as a mess tent and cook house combined. Nearby a site for the camp fire has been set aside. Two streams run through the camp site, furnishing good water supply both for drinking and bathing purposes.

TWO DAYS JOURNEY

The camp is two days' journey from Comox, Mr. Harrison states. The Comox Mountaineering Club has undertaken to make an advance party which will take care of the first night's camp en route to Mount Becher (3,900 feet). This camp, of course, will be of a purely temporary character, and will be broken early the morning of the second day out in order to give plenty of time to make the main camp by the evening of the second day. A few saddle ponies will be available for emergencies on this trip in. The trail is stated to be in splendid condition, and Mr. Harrison pays great tribute to the Comox and Courtenay Mountaineering Club for the splendid type of hut which they have erected at Mount Becher.

"It is quite unique, standing on a prominent point from which there is a magnificent view; at night one can look across and quite easily see the lights of Powell River," he states. A cataract of fresh water pours over the rocks nearby, and in front of the hut lies a pretty little natural lake which is being drained and the bottom cleaned out before it is converted into a bathing pool some seven or eight feet in depth and 150 feet long. This is where the expedition will stop on the first night out (Friday night).

An early start will be made on Saturday morning. In a very short time, following the new zig-zag trail which has been mapped, the party will be 200 feet above the cabin; immediately afterwards the trail drops again, and for several miles the path will be down grade most of the way.

AFFORDS GOOD VIEW

Mount Albert Edward Pass affords the first good view of the Mount Albert Edward country with its surrounding fine peaks—The Castle, Mount Alexandra, Unnamed Mountain, Mount Washington, which lies eastward, and Dome Glacier [Comox Glacier]. Before the main camp is reached on Saturday evening the climbers will have traversed some beautiful country hardly hitherto invaded by man, past ancient beaver dams and through great plateaus covered with heather and mountain flowers. A stop will be made at Goose Lake for luncheon. In the afternoon the Forbidden Plateau will be crossed, and Panther Lake passed.

The main camp lies near two newly-discovered lakes, on the shores of one, christened Lake Beautiful by the party which has just been exploring the country.

Mr. Harrison and his companions spent two or three days last week charting routes in order that time would not be unnecessarily wasted during the period of the camp in exploring ways to the tops of the mountains. There is splendid rock climbing all through this district, it is reported. The rock is of solid formation, and, in the case of Castle Mountain, is very rugged and sharp, quite unlike that of Mount Albert Edward, the arete to which is very easy. Geologically the country is very interesting, and numerous specimens of fossilized crustaceans were brought out by members of the party last week.

The chief fauna of the district are deer and ptarmigan, both of which are plentiful and very tame owing to the fact that the country is never hunted over. Every kind of Alpine flower seems to flourish, and all the mountain plateaus are beautiful just now with heather, phlox, wallflower, Alpine crocus and other blossoms.

Those who have never seen red snow will have a novel experience during the forthcoming camp, as the reconnaissance party reports that there is plenty of this still on the higher slopes.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Wednesday July 18, 1928, p. 3.

ALPINE CLUB LEAVES FOR NORTH FRIDAY

Ten Victoria members of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada are leaving on Friday for the Forbidden Plateau, Comox District, for the first annual camp. This party, in personal charge of Mr. C. [Claude] L. Harrison, will proceed direct to Mount Beecher [Becher] Cabin, eight miles from Comox, making camp there Friday night, and on the following morning beginning the twelve-mile journey required to reach Lake Beautiful Camp, at the foot of Mount Albert Edward. This will be the headquarters for the subsequent six days, and from here all the main climbs will start.

The Victoria members who are joining the expedition are Mr. and Mrs. C.L. Harrison, Miss [Rena] Jones, Miss Bogue, Miss K. [Katherine] Wollaston, Miss W. Wollaston, and Messrs. W. [William] H. Dougan, K. [Kenneth] M. Chadwick, Gordon Cameron and Dick Todd. But additional to those will be a party of between twenty and thirty from the Courtenay and Comox Mountaineering Club, who will precede the Victoria contingent into the Mount Beecher cabin, preparing camp for the Victoria visitors' arrival on Friday.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Wednesday July 25, 1928, p. 8.

ALPINE CLUB WILL VISIT SOOKE PARK

Under the auspices of the Victoria section of the Alpine Club of Canada, a party will leave the city at 9 o'clock next Saturday morning [July 28] to visit the site of the new club's hut in the Alpine Club section of the Sooke Park. Captain [William] Everall will lead the party in the absence of the outing guide, Mr. C. [Claude] L. Harrison, who has taken charge of the Albert Edward expedition. Members and friends who join the expedition are requested to provide their own luncheon and tea provisions with the exception of the actual tea. The party will assemble at Fort and Quadra Streets a few minutes before 9 o'clock in the morning, and it is the intention to return to town before dark.

Reported in *The Daily Colonist* Thursday July 26, 1928, p. 6.

LOCAL CLIMBERS SCALE MT. ALBERT EDWARD AND CASTLE

Number of Large Bucks Are Seen Playing on the Snowfields and Many Ptarmigan Are Encountered—View Is Impressive

LAKE BEAUTIFUL CAMP, Mt. Albert Edward, Monday—At the bonfire rally on Saturday night a message was read from Mr. A. [Arthur] O. Wheeler, president of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada, extending good wishes to the Forbidden Plateau expedition. The message was received with applause, and Mr. C. [Claude] L. Harrison, who heads the camp, was requested to send a reply to the president, thanking him for his kindly wishes, and expressing regret at his inability to be present at the camp.

At this first bonfire a camp committee was struck, consisting of Dr. [Frank] Moore, Mr. C. [Clinton] S. Wood, Mr. W. [William] H. Dougan and Mr. K. [Kenneth] M. Chadwick with Mr. C.L. Harrison, manager of the camp, presiding.

The remainder of the bonfire meeting was devoted to discussion of the following day's programme. The first move was to Mount Albert Edward, the second to Mount Albert Edward also, with a camp at the tree-line, some 5,800 or 6,000 feet, with the object in view of trying to scale Castle Mountain [now Castlecrag Mountain]. This later up to that time was unscaled. This has now been done, the peak proved formidable, but was made by members of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club and members of the Courtenay and Comox Mountaineering Club with this party.

LEFT ON SUNDAY

The first and second parties left on Sunday morning, some twenty strong, carrying sleeping equipment and food for two days. The two parties reached the top of Mount Albert after a long, grinding climb, in a blazing sun. Miss Nancy Wollaston was the first of the ladies to reach the top, but the whole party was very close together. All names were inserted on the paper record kept in the base of the cairn, in a metal can. The two parties then returned, the first party to the main camp at Lake Beautiful, and the second party consisted of Miss [Alfreda] Berkeley, of Departure Bay, her father [Cyril], Miss [Rena] Jones, Mr. W.H. Dougan, Mr. K.M. Chadwick, Dick Todd and Mr. C.L. Harrison (all members of the

Alpine Club of Canada), and Mr. [Ben] Hughes and *Mr. S. [Sid] Williams**, of Courtenay.

The location of the tree-line camp was at 6,000 feet, in sight of the base camp. Miss Berkeley showed her skill in making flap jacks, while others prepared tea. From the tree-line camp a bonfire glowed, and a signal was sent to base camp, which was at once replied to. From the tree-line camp not only were the lights of Powell River plainly visible, but the lights of Port Alberni as well.

The morning start for the Castle was made after a breakfast cooked in the first light of dawn. The sunrise was beautiful, showing clearly Mystery Mountain [Mount Waddington], Mount Baker and Mount Arrowsmith. The way to Castle Mountain led over a long circuitous route along a saddle to the range running between Mount Albert Edward and the Castle. Care had to be used for some time on the snow, as the slight frost during the night gave it an icy glaze after the thaw of the previous day. While climbing from the Saddle to the range, large numbers of big bucks were seen roaming and playing on the snowfields, and many ptarmigan went to and fro, some with several chicks. The route taken finally led to the back of the Castle, up which the ascent was made.

CASTLE SCALED

The party arrived together at the top and erected a cairn, placing a record in a sealed metal container, in the base of the cairn. The precipitous face of the Castle was now viewed from a different angle, showing a sheer drop of tremendous depth. At one place a cleft some two feet wide, which the party crossed, showed a depth of about 2,000 feet. The Castle, heretofore unclimbed, had been conquered after a lapse of some five or six hours from the tree-line camp. A smoke signal was sent to the main camp, and was replied to by heliograph [a device by which sunlight is reflected in flashes from a movable mirror] by those watching.

THE RETURN TRIP

The return trip had its anxious moments. It was decided to return from the Castle summit direct to the camp at Lake Beautiful via a route heretofore seemingly impossible, and doubtless the reason why the Castle has remained unconquered.

The descent from the Castle was naturally an anxious one. A chimney was eventually found, this leading down to the southeast. Here the party descended with the aid of the rope, thence down some 800 feet to a glissade and a snowfield below. The chimney was the only way, for to the southeast lay the Valley of the Cruikshank, entailing some 2,000 feet of cliff work. A route was finally found between the Cruikshank Valley and the ridge from the castle, running northerly.

As the party advanced along a sloping open hillside, a large black bear reared up between Mr. Harrison and Mr. Williams, who were then engaged in locating the route and the remainder of the party. The bear stood still, with his head and shoulders clear, and finally bolted between the leader of the party and those following, in plain open view. The cameras unfortunately had been all put into a pack, and so no photo was obtained.

The route finally taken passed a large unnamed lake [Moat Lake] lying between the Castle and Mount Albert Edward. The unnamed lake, a most beautiful one of fair size, was at least three-quarters of a mile long, and about the same width. At the south outlet, a pothole, about twenty feet wide, was discovered by Mr. Hughes. This pothole has no connection with the river out of the lake, being an old one above the present water-level and of considerable depth and diameter.

The entry to the camp was made amid cheers from the main body, who, from the base camp, through glasses, had seen the members of the party scaling the summit of the Castle. After a cheery meal served at 8:30 p.m., there was a bonfire, but the climbers turned in early to rest after their long day's grind.

*Frederick Sidney Williams (1908-1991) was born in New Westminster, B. C., on October 14, 1908. He moved to the Comox Valley with his family in 1921 and his teacher at the time, Bill Stubbs, got Williams interested in acting and later went on to direct Sid's first play. As a businessman Williams co-owned the Ski-Tak Hut when it first opened on Forbidden Plateau and he also owned Searle's Shoes for a time on 5th Street in downtown Courtenay. He served as a Cour-

tenay Alderman from 1942 to 1964 and also served on the board of the Courtenay Recreation Association (CRA) and was involved with many community projects. However, it was William's ability to make people laugh and his incredible contribution to the theatre in the Comox Valley that he will be best remembered for, although, most people probably remember "Sid" as an actor. Throughout his life he performed countless roles, including guest appearances on the television program *The Beachcombers*. Undoubtedly, Sid Williams' most famous character was that of Century Sam, an old prospector who came back to life in 1958 and toured the province to celebrate British Columbia's centenary. Williams took Century Sam (and other characters) on tour with the Barkerville Players for fourteen seasons. In 1967 he did a nationwide tour for Canada's centennial celebrations. Among his many accolades, the most notable are being made Freeman of the City of Courtenay in 1968; the Eric Hamber award in 1963 for his outstanding contribution in the field of theatre and the Order of Canada for his irrepressible humour and service to others in 1984. However, Williams also loved the outdoors and made many trips into the mountains surrounding Courtenay and into Strathcona Provincial Park. In the summer of 1935, he attempted an ascent of the Roosters Comb (Golden Hinde) with another local mountaineer W. A. [Adrian] B. Paul. At the time it was believed that the Roosters Comb was unclimbed. Although they got close, they unfortunately ran out of time. With knowledge of the route Williams again decided to make another attempt in July 1936 with Geoffrey Capes and the young teenager Roger Schjelderup. Unfortunately, when they arrived at the base camp for the Roosters Comb they found that the surveyor Norman Stewart and his assistant Dan Harris had made the ascent that day, however, neither parties realized that Einar Anderson had assisted W. W. Urquhart and W. R. Kent to the summit while they surveyed and photographed the park during the summers of 1913 and 1914. Williams, Capes and Schjelderup believed they had made the second ascent but history now records theirs as the third. Another of Williams' passions was the lure of precious metals. In the summer of 1946, Sid Williams and Jimmy Aston searched for the telltale signs of colour in the rocks of the Forbidden Plateau. Near Strata Mountain they found a favourable gold vein and the next year built a cabin (Sid's Cabin) as their base for further investigations. Unfortunately, it never made them rich but the cabin is still there today. Sid Williams passed away in Courtenay on September 26, 1991. To further honour Sid Williams, Courtenay's Civic Theatre was named after him in 1991, while in the mountains of Strathcona Provincial Park near the Comox Glacier is Century Sam Lake.

Reported in *The Comox Argus* Thursday July 26, 1928. p.

SCALE VIRGIN PEAK ON PLATEAU

B.C. Alpine Club In Camp On The Forbidden Plateau – A Wonderful New Country

Climbing a peak that has never been climbed before and the naming of lakes and peaks have been unknown save to trappers and prospectors, have been some of the outstanding achievements of the Courtenay and Vancouver Island sections of the B.C. Alpine club from their camp in Forbidden Plateau. Between twenty and thirty members are encamped on two lakes that had never previously been named and are not officially named today. There are scores of such lakes in the Forbidden Plateau and members are finding them daily in their ramble.

For weeks Mr. C. [Clinton] S. Wood, the indefatigable president of the Courtenay Comox Mountaineering club, has been preparing for this camp, which will spread the fame of the Forbidden Plateau far and wide. It was largely through his zeal and energy that Mr. C. [Claude] L. Harrison, president of the Victoria section of the club, went into the plateau. He was so enthused that he readily agreed to have their summer camp there this year. It is a new thing for Courtenay and needed a great deal of planning and arranging. Mr. Wood has been greatly assisted by Ald. [William] Douglas who still knows how to throw the diamond hitch and pack horses as well as ride them. Dr. [Frank] Moore and other members of the club have also rendered valuable assistance. It is no light matter to put everything that twenty or thirty people will want on pack horses and take it over a mountain range and a trail to a newly established camp, but it was done without many hitches.

The club has the good luck to get Mrs. Sutherland to go up to the camp to act as cook, and they have all been congratulating themselves since. Everyone knows that Mrs. Sutherland can cook and cater, but under circumstances

that would have sent the ordinary male cook down the trail the second night out she carried on with a smile.

FIRST CAMP AT MOUNT BEECHER

The party from Victoria, Nanaimo and Courtenay, came up by bus and train on Friday night and immediately drove out to Bevan where pack horses had proceeded them to camp at Mount Beecher [Becher], alias Quartz Creek. Mr. C.L. Harrison, of Victoria was the leader of the party. He combines enthusiasm with expert knowledge of climbing and a gift for leadership that makes him ideal for the camp. Moreover, he is an enthusiastic supporter of the claims of the Forbidden Plateau.

The party finally got away from Bevan at about half past five, travelling light. There is no introduction to the trail; it rears up and hits you in the face without any preliminary and in the blistering sun the first mile of the logged-off area is a good test. There into the cool woods and upwards some riding, some being towed with a "life line" from a horn of the saddle, some distaining from any aid but their own feet.

THE PARTY

The party were ladies: Mrs. C.L. Harrison, Miss Bogue of Victoria: the Misses Katherine and Nancy Wollaston of Victoria, Miss [Rena] Jones of Victoria, Mrs. [Edith] and Miss [Alfreda] Berkeley of Departure Bay, Nanaimo, Mrs. W.A.B. Paul, Mrs. C. [Mary] S. Wood; and Messrs. C. [Cyril] Berkeley, W.A. [Adrian] B. Paul, K. [Kenneth] W. Chadwick of Victoria, W. [William] H. Dougan of Victoria, Mr. C.L. Harrison and Dick Todd; Courtenay was represented by Messrs. C.S. Wood, and Ben Hughes. They found awaiting them at Camp Beecher Dr. Moore, Sid Williams and the Bridges brothers and Mr. Warren who had been doing the freighting. Very soon Mrs. Wood, assisted by Mrs. Paul, was making a fragrant meal on a fire which Dr. Moore and Sid Williams had started, and it was not long before everyone turned in for the early start next morning.

PLEASANT OPEN COUNTRY

Breakfast and saddling and packing, and over the top and down the trail to Goose lake and the Forbidden Plateau. It was cool under the big trees. There was a very early stop at Goose Lake and then over the pleasant rolling and open country between Goose lake and Panther Lake seeing the big mountains for the first time to the west. At Panther Lake were Farmiere and his gang, who had been cutting the trail through. Then in good time to the camp, where Mrs. Sutherland was ready for the party on the rock ridge between the two lakes. Here, too, was *Mr. Eugene Croteau**, invaluable in lending a hand at anything. Mr. Croteau knows the conditions in any high elevation camp, having lived in the Kootenays, and he was seldom stuck in an emergency.

THE CAMP FIRE PLANS

Round the camp fire that night Mr. Harrison laid down some of the things required of a good mountaineer. He said he had planned to let everyone rest after their strenuous day getting into camp, but the weather was unusually fine and the big peaks so free from mist or cloud that he thought would be tempting providence if they did not attempt to climb the next day. Accordingly, two climbs were arranged, one for the giant of the Forbidden Plateau, Mount Albert Edward, and the other for the Castle Mountain which has never been climbed before.

WARM WATER BATHING

So next morning, after a bathe in the warm and pellucid water of the lake, the party streamed out of camp en route for the two objectives. All of them worked forward to Albert Edward first, pack horses going as far as the foot of the rim of the first big wall. In fact, they went a little farther and Nellie, who was a little indisposed, decided that it was altogether too much for any sensible horse and began to roll down hill, packs and all, until she brought up against a tree. It rained packs for a few minutes. Then the humans had to shoulder their own burdens up the slope through the trees and a steep little chimney (which was roped) into a different world, a world of shining little ponds and twisted, gnomish trees and finally the snow. Here right on the timber line, Mr. C.S. Wood established the Castle camp for the Castle Mountain explorers.

Those who climbed to the cairn at the top of Mount Albert Edward were Mr. and Mrs. C.L. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. C.S. Wood and [their son] Stuart, Mr. and Mrs. C. Berkeley and Miss Alfreda Berkeley, Mr. [Arthur] and Mrs. [Alice] Leigh-

ton, Mr. and Mrs. W.A.B. Paul, Mr. Ben Hughes, Mr. Sid Williams, Mr. Eugene Croteau, Mr. H.E. Wallis, Dr. Moore, Miss Rena Jones, Miss Bogue, Miss Nancy Wollaston, Mr. W.H. Dougan, Mr. K.M. Chadwick and Dick Todd.

HARD, HARD WORK

Up and up in the hot sun, over bare rock and snow. It was quite easy climbing but it was hard, hard work and some of the party were inclined to agree with Dr. Moore just before he reached the top that “climbing was just one form of insanity.” However, it was a different story when he got there.

A SAFE MOUNTAIN

There are a few mountains so high and yet so safe to climb as Mount Albert Edward. In the most unlikely places, in the clefts of rocks, grew gay Alpine blooms. Notable for its delicious perfume is the wall flower, a delicate yellow and dainty. Mauve flowers set in in emerald pin-cushion, is the sylene acaulis and many others. In small depressions in the great cornice of snow that tops the mile long arete leading to the top can be seen a faint pinkish color which changes on the surface being disturbed to a vivid pink—the rare red snow. One noted scientist is going to make the trip to the top to see this phenomenon. Mr. Sid Williams, with the agility of a chamois, was at the top first, and the honor of being the first woman to reach the top went to Miss Nancy Wollaston of Victoria. It was a magnificent panorama on the top.

A WONDERFUL PANORAMA

To the east the Comox valley bordered the Gulf of Georgia but everywhere else as far as the eye could travel in the brilliant sunshine, north, south and west heaved up great peaks, few of which have been scaled and named. Here is a great and comparatively unknown world. Gradual and regular as was the ascent from the south, the front face of the great mountain falls two or three thousand feet, sheer to Buttle Lake. Across the Gulf of Georgia arose the serrated skyline of the Coast Range, and to the north towering head and shoulders above them all—Mystery Mountain which the Munday's [Don and Phyllis] had just succeeded in scaling after two failures. From this height there is no doubt about the right of the great mountain to supremacy. To the south Mount Baker shimmered in the heat haze. After signing names and putting them in the bottle, the little party descended, making excellent time.

At the tree line they left ten stalwarts, who were to attempt Castle Mountain on the morrow. Mayor [John] McKenzie and Ald. Douglas came into camp on Monday night and on Tuesday morning went on to Mount Albert Edward. From Mount Albert Edward they descended into Strathcona Park and explored Ralph River. They believe that it will be quite possible to get into the park with a pack train from this side.

Late arrivals at the camp will be Miss Sara Spencer who is coming up from Victoria with two other ladies tonight, and Mr. Lindley Crease and party of nine who are also coming up from Victoria late this week. Next week. The Castle Climb.

*Eugene Croteau (1862 - 1952) was born in 1862 in the county of Levin in Quebec and went to school at St. Nicholas. As a teenager he moved out to Victoria where his father had business connections. He had a letter of introduction to A. B. Graham a wholesale liquor merchant and he suggested Croteau learn English. While studying he found work with the Vancouver Wine Company where he learned about wine and cigars that were sold to the local saloons. In 1894, he managed the prestigious Guichon Hotel. There he met such famous personalities as Sir John Thompson, Sir Wilfred Laurier, Henri Bourassa, Sir Charles Tupper and Sir Richard McBride. In 1939, Courtenay's Ruth Masters who was nineteen years old at the time, worked for the season cooking at Eugene Croteau's camp. Earning \$15 a month including tent and board, Ruth worked from the middle of July to the middle of September. A typical breakfast was Canadian flapjacks and bread, lunch consisted of sandwiches and supper was tinned meat and vegetables. A packtrain of horses operated initially by Jack Murray and later John Ward supplied Croteau with his food and guests twice a week and the clients usually stayed up to a week at the camp. The following year Sue Mouat (nee Wood) took the job as cook for Croteau as Ruth went overseas to do her part for the war effort. Charges were modest: in 1935 the cost was \$3.75 including meals and linen on the bed. The cost for saddle horses was \$2.50 per day and packing rates for baggage was five cents

per pound. Most of the guests were British Columbians, however, occasionally there would be an international guest staying, some from as far away as Africa and Scotland. Croteau's camp consisted of the main cabin and six tents with wooden floors for the guests. At the time Ruth Masters was working at the camp. Preston L. Tait, was the guide leading trips up to Mount Albert Edward, Castlecrag, Mount Jutland, Mount Regan, Mount Washington and Alexandra Peak. Tait joined Croteau in 1937 to help run the camp and to guide trips. He was a well-known photographer, a member of the Alpine Club of Canada, an editor for the B.C. Mountaineer and an organizer for the B.C. Mountaineering Club. Although the ascent of Mount Albert Edward was the most popular destination another popular round trip was from Croteau Lake to Circle (Circlet) Lake, down to Sims and Divers Lake and then up the draw between Strata Mountain and Mount Allan Brooks and back to Croteau Lake. Often Ruth led some of the easier trips up Mount Elma (named after Courtenay's Mayor Theed Pearses' wife Elma) and over to Moat and Circle Lake and the Cruikshank Lookout. It was the arrival of one of the packtrains that announced to both the guests and staff that war had been proclaimed in Europe. In the first year of operations nearly two hundred people had stayed and passed through his camp and by the end of 1932 that figure rose to well over two hundred. Although the numbers dropped off after Clinton Wood built the Forbidden Plateau Lodge in 1934 and the camps at Mariwood and McKenzie Lakes that also offered guiding services, he continued offering his services through to 1942. In that year John Ward who maintained the trail and had the packhorses moved away and Eugene took on the charge of trail work and bringing up the packhorses, however, Eugene who was already eighty found the work too arduous. Although after seven trips the camp was stocked Eugene decided not to operate the camp himself but left the place open for use by those who had already booked. It was hard for him to leave behind over a decade's work but more disappointing was the thought of not waking up every morning to the spectacular scenery that abounded during those summers on the plateau. Eugene Croteau lived his remaining years out at his place at Croteau Beach and passed away in April, 1952, at the age of ninety. As the newspaper stated: "Mr. Eugene Croteau came to the end of the trail."

Reported in *The Comox Argus* August 2, 1928.

CASTLE MOUNTAIN IS PICTURESQUE

Mountaineers Find Many Wonders on Forbidden Plateau

It was down to bare essentials at the Tree Line camp after the Mount Albert Edward party had passed through. Taking stock of the food, it was found that there was plenty of flapjack flour, sugar and tea and butter—fare good enough for mountaineers. Dead wood of the dwarf juniper made a fine blaze on which to cook flapjacks, bacon and tea. Later a fine camp fire was built at the top of the escarpment overlooking the Forbidden Plateau at an elevation of 5,500 feet. As usual with the dusk came a chill wind out of the north, but the thick mat of the little trees made a wonderful wind-break at the back and in front was the great blaze. Below was the little cluster of tents at Camp Beautiful, where a single flare announced the arrival of the Mount Albert Edward camp home: to the east the cluster of lights showed Powell River and to the south west, pricked out on the skyline, were the lights of Alberni. Heather under the junipers made a wonderful spring mattress, and round the camp fire the leader of the little band revealed a store of wood and Indian lore.

THE CASTLE PARTY

The Castle Mountain party were Miss Alfreda Berkeley and Miss Rena Jones, and Messrs. C. [Claude] L. Harrison, W. [William] H. Dougan, Ben Hughes, Sid Williams, K. [Kenneth] M. Chadwick, C. [Cyril] J. Berkeley* and Dick Todd [and W.A.B. Paul]. Not even a bear disturbed the dreams of the party that night.

Everything was left at the tree line for the assault of Castle Mountain. In a preliminary survey, Mr. Harrison had decided that an attack on the mountain was not practicable from the camp side; if approached at all it must be by the long saddle, the continuation of the range from Mount Albert Edward, and his judgement proved to be absolutely correct. The little party edged over the rock and snow of the saddle, gradually climbing higher and higher. At the foot of the castle there came into view that most entrancing sheet of water, which the party decided to call Moat Lake since it

was at the foot of Castle Mountain. Its turquoise-blue coloring is as deep as Lake Louise.

SNOW PACKS BROUGH RELIEF

As the morning wore on the sun was blistering hot on the bare rock, and snow blindness would probably have resulted without the dark glasses with which all were equipped. Deer were plentiful and unafraid, and little herds of them stringing across the snow made a fine picture. Ptarmigan and their chicks were a common feature. The tremendous heat of the sun was greatly relieved by snow-packs. Most climbers hold that the eating of snow makes for weakness and fever, but it is a tremendous temptation when climbing under such a sun with never a stir of a breeze. By the direction of Mr. Harrison, a handful of snow would be placed on the head under a hat and it was great relief. From the main saddle a way was easily found by a knife-edge arete to the Castle. From the distance it had appeared that the saddle continued uninterrupted to the snow fields of the Dome, but on nearer view this proved to be a delusion—two great valleys would have to be descended and climbed. Up and up the narrow ridge of rock to the mountain top, with Sidney Williams in the lead, and all at once the little party was there and another virgin peak had been conquered.

A PICTURESQUE CLIMB

In every way the Castle is picturesque and spectacular. The main peak stands up stark and with a tremendous drop to the valley below. It is cleft into two unequal fragments by a chasm of a foot or two wide only. The party at the camp had evidently been watching for us, for almost at once we were at the top regular flashes heliographed with a mirror [heliograph] began to come from away below. The signal was answered with a fire of heather plainly to be seen by the watchers. Then to the building of the cairn and recording the names of the party who made the ascent of the fine peak. While the view from the top was not as extensive as from Mount Albert Edward, it was at least as beautiful.

DOWN A CHIMNEY

With a natural desire not to go over the same ground twice, Mr. Harrison conferred with Mr. Dougan and set out in the hope of finding a way down from the back of the mountain. A narrow and precipitous saddle was followed out. After a little climbing a chimney down to a long scree and a snow field was found, a drop of about 600 feet in all. Each one of the party was roped and let down the first and most precipitous portion of the climb separately, then there was the long traverse down the scree and finally a glissade on the snow.

At the foot of the snow slide one entered abruptly into a fairyland of green pastures and flowing streams, and tree-dotted glens and valleys. Down one of them a black bear lumbered at a surprising rate of speed and there was evidence of game in plenty. There were no trails but none were needed; it was open country and easy going. Our way took us through the tree tops of the dense growth bordering Moat Lake. Fed by snows of the Castle, which towers at its head, the Moat Lake is like one of Maxfield Parish's engravings out of the Arabian Nights. Its green waters are evidently very deep and it must be a mile long. Its rocky shores are densely clothed with trees and a number of islands are scattered in its brilliant waters. The pioneer party was in too much of a hurry to get back to camp to explore this unknown and most fascinating lake, but several of its members promised themselves that they would come back this way again before they broke camp. The way home from Moat Lake was through pleasant upland pastures and clucking mountain streams, hastening to the valley of the North Cruikshank. The pioneer who first named Castle Mountain had an accurate perception. From this side its resemblance to a medieval keep of some predatory baron is most close and remarkable. And so home to an excellent supper.

On Tuesday the whole camp rested after strenuous days, and the remainder of the time in camp was spent in excursions. One of the most interesting of these was to an unnamed hill not far from the camp, which had attracted attention by reason of its striation. It was hoped to find some interesting fossils and rock exposures but in these respects it was not very interesting. What was interesting, however, was the trench-like depression at the top of the mountain. These very closely resemble trenchers, so closely indeed, that the mountain has been called Trench Mountain [Strata Mountain]. Another very interesting and more strenuous trip was to Mount Washington, a familiar feature of the Comox Valley. Having in mind a former expedition to this peak, the party were watching for a large expanse of meadow land and this they found. The climb from this side of the hill was much more precipitous than from the Comox Valley, but

the view from the top was worth it. Also, the botanist among the party found a new gentian, sky blue in color and acres and acres of them.

A DIFFICULT TRIP

The road into moat lake was thoroughly blazed and the lake explored, the party having lunch on one of its islands under the shadow of Castle Mountain. On the day that the main party went to Mount Washington, Messrs. Paul, Berkeley and Williams planned a trip down the valley of the North Cruikshank river. They found the going very difficult, the slopes being precipitous and the undergrowth thick and tangled. Their objective was the broad expanse of upland seen from the Castle on the right bank of the Cruikshank, but above it several thousand feet. In the late afternoon they climbed up the slope a little way and had then to decide whether they should turn back or sleep out. They decided to cut down the rations and stay out all night, and proceeded on their way. Right in the way of their climb they came upon a most beautiful waterfall cascading down from the hanging glaciers to the river. It is quite probable that all this country has never been travelled by man before. There is certainly no sign of and as it is difficult of access and holds no lure for anyone but a mountaineer, it is quite possible that the little party were the first human beings to enter on this slope. There is quite a wide area of small lakes [Carey Lakes], and dwarfish trees with patches of snow. The party slept out that night without blankets, keeping up the fire they had lit.

The party enjoyed wonderful weather all the time they were in, and this is remarkable since at the altitude of the camp it is so often cloudy. Later comers including Miss [Sara] Spencer and party and Mr. Gordon Cameron and party of Victoria were not so fortunate and their view of castle Mountain and its vicinity was limited by mist and clouds. Mayor [John] McKenzie and Ald. [William] Douglas carried out some explorations separately, which may lead to interesting developments next year. They climbed Castle Mountain and other spots, and Mr. Douglas got some very fine photographs.

THE RETURN HOME

The party moved out from their camp, which they had grown to know and like so well, on Sunday and came straight through to Courtenay, a long hike. They stayed in Courtenay that night and on Monday went out to the fossil beds on the Puntledge River, where some good specimens of ammonites were found.

PICNIC AT KYE BAY

At night they were the guests at a picnic at Kye Bay, where Mrs. Sutherland and Mrs. [Mary] Wood served an excellent supper. After supper a big camp fire was lit on the shore and the Misses Moore and Elsie MacLagan gave a number of graceful dances and tuneful songs in the pavilion. Dr. [Frank] Moore was also prevailed to sing and did so acceptably, and Sidney Williams showed what an excellent mime and comedian he is. Later around the camp fire Mr. C.L. Harrison expressed his thanks for the great hospitality the party from Victoria and Nanaimo had received and how delighted they were with the plateau, and Mr. C. [Clinton] S. Wood and Mr. P. L. [Leo] Anderson [president of the Courtenay-Cox Board of Trade] briefly replied. The party left on Tuesday morning for home.

*Cyril J. Berkeley (1878-1973) was born in London, England on December 2, 1878. As an undergraduate at London University, Cyril met Edith Dunnington (1875-1963), who was also an undergraduate, and in February 1902 they were married. That year they moved to Bihar, India, where Cyril obtained a posting as Imperial Bacteriologist studying the culture and processing of indigo. In 1914, they moved to Canada where they farmed for two years near Vernon. They both taught at the University of British Columbia, and in 1919 they settled in Nanaimo where they both worked at the Biological Station. Following Edith's lead, they became world authorities on the classification of marine polychaete worms and deeply respected members of the station's scientific community. They wrote 34 papers together, and Edith published an additional 12 in her own name. Many organisms have been named after them. In recognition of their achievements Cyril was granted an LLD by the University of Victoria in 1968. Both were enthusiastic gardeners, collecting rhododendron species and developing new species of irises. Their daughter Alfreda Berkeley Needler (1903-1973)

also became a zoologist as did Alfreda's daughter Mary Needler Arai (1932–2017). In July 1929, Cyril and Alfreda joined Ben Hughes, Adrian Paul, Arthur Leighton and Geoffrey Capes, and made the second recorded ascent of the Comox Glacier.

Reported in *The Time Colonist* Tuesday September 11, 1928, p. 3.

CLIMBERS VISIT NEW CAMP SITE

Small Party of Vancouver Island Alpine Club Goes Over New Sooke Trail

Six members of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada visited the camp park at Sooke on Sunday. The party left Victoria at 5:30 a.m. arriving at the Sooke Road terminus an hour later. The ascent of the recently-opened Government trail was started about 6:45, under Mr. C. [Claude] L. Harrison's leadership and the hut site at the lake was reached by 9 o'clock. Here a fire was made and breakfast enjoyed alfresco fashion, the hikers spending the rest of the day looking over the ground. The lake waters are warm, and some of the members went in for a swim before the party started back to Sooke.

One of the special objects of the expedition was to secure photographs for the purpose of making lantern slides to be used in connection with a public meeting under Alpine Club auspices in the near future, when the story of the Forbidden Plateau camp will be told by Mr. Harrison.

Reported in *The Time Colonist* Tuesday September 11, 1928, p. 24.

ALPINE CLUB HAS PLEASANT OUTING

Dr. Irene Bastow Hudson and Mr. Hudson Entertain Members at Country Home

Dr. Irene Bastow Hudson and Mr. Hudson were hosts to the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada on Sunday afternoon, entertaining about thirty of the members at their country home in the Sooke district. Those who arrived in the early part of the afternoon made a short excursion into the hills, returning in time for tea, which was served in the garden.

At the meeting which followed plans for the club's Winter programme were discussed, and it was decided to hold one other excursion this month. This will be on Saturday, September 22, to Buck Hill near Seventeen-Mile House, and will be under Rev. Robert Connell's leadership.

The sentiment of the members was almost unanimously in favor of making the club's future work something in the nature of a training for the difficult climbs which are set in connection with the main Alpine Club camps in the Rockies or such as those experienced in connection with the recent Forbidden Plateau camp. Rock work and rope work will, consequently be sought.

The meeting also discussed a proposal to hold a public meeting under Alpine Club auspices, at which slides would be shown of the Forbidden Plateau country and the new club site at Sooke. Mr. Harrison reported that the trail to the latter was now complete, and all in excellent conditions with the exception of the last half-mile or so. The opening of the beautiful Sooke country tapped by this trail, constructed by the Government, was highly commended, and the hope was expressed that the public at large would appreciate what an asset the area would be if the natural life and beauty were preserved and protected in the same sense as in the big national parks of the country.

Before the members dispersed a very hearty vote of thanks was extended to Mr. and Dr. Hudson for their generous hospitality.

Reported in *The Time Colonist* Thursday September 20, 1928, p. 7.

ALPINE OUTING

The expedition which the Alpine Club (Victoria section) is making on Saturday to Buck Hill, will leave the Vancouver Island Coach Lines Depot, Broughton Street, at 10 a.m. Members joining the expedition are advised to take their own provisions, sufficient both for luncheon and tea. As there is no water at the top of the hill, those requiring drink should

provide themselves with this.

Reported in *The Times Colonist* Sunday September 23, 1928, p. 9.

DO ARROWSMITH IN SINGLE DAY

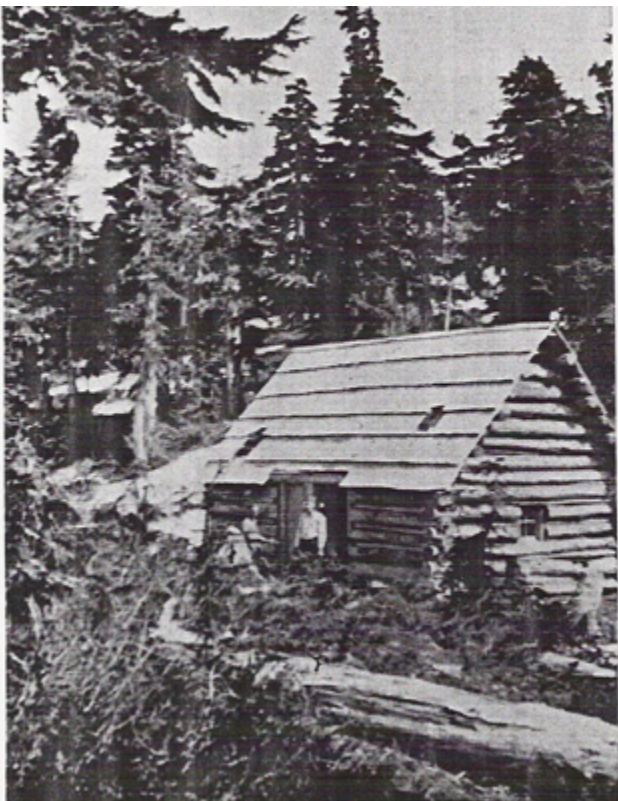
Four Victoria Boys Ascend and Descend 5,958 Feet in Fifteen Hours

The recent accomplishment of four Victoria boys in climbing to the summit of Mount Arrowsmith and back in a single day has excited the envy of many who have been defeated in the attempt by bad weather or other unfortunate circumstances.

The party, composed of Messrs. Charlie Fraser, of the Quadra Investment, Limited; Peter Millman, of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory staff, and Jack Speck and Cyril Wightman, of the Colonist business office, made the climb to the summit and back to their base at Cameron Lake in less than fifteen hours without mishap, and ideal weather which permitted them to get a magnificent view from the top.

Leaving Victoria by motor at 2:10 p.m., on Saturday they had their worst experience in the early stages of the trip when they discovered, on reaching Duncan, that they had left their provisions behind. This was not too difficult to remedy, however, and after a short halt for restocking purposes, they proceeded on their way, at 5:45 reaching Nanaimo, where they had supper, and at 7:45 making Cameron Lake.

Here, at the auto camp, they put up for the night, turning in early in preparation for the early start to be made in the morning. Not all of them slept too soundly to enjoy the beauty of the moonrise over the lake. At 4 a.m. they were up, experiencing a slight delay by having to recook their meal because the table upset in the middle of breakfast. The start up the trail was begun at 6:25 a.m. The first several miles of easy going had the usual fault of monotony where the view is cut off by tall timber and enclosing hills. The cabin was reached at 9:45, with a simultaneous opening of the gorgeous panorama which a clear day discloses at this point. A big fire near Horne Lake was noted from here, where a three-quarters of an hour halt was made.



The Hump [Mount Cokely] (5,000 ft.) was reached at 11:40 a.m. Here a fine view of Arrowsmith Range was seen. There was some snow here, and the climbers ate their lunch.

At 12:45 they started down the Hump, beginning the most difficult and interesting part of the ascent. Although it was early in September no fresh snow had come to cover the peaks, and it was only in the lower spots, where the sun and wind had not sufficiently penetrated to dissolve the last Winter's fall, that they found snow. Two of the party ventured a swim in Ice Lake, but found the water very cold.

The route taken involved the crossing of about six minor peaks before the true summit was reached. The third peak from the last was found difficult to negotiate without a rope, and the last peak, almost perpendicular, proved the worst of the climb.

Millman reached the summit first, and from the cairn (5,958 ft.) took a picture at 2:55 p.m. The old rope, which had been commented upon by several previous climbers, probably put there by some benevolently-minded person in years gone by, is still swinging from the top of Arrowsmith, but the boys did not use it as they thought it might be frayed in unsuspected places and

unsafe. The view from the actual summit was slightly marred by haze. Eastward there was a fine prospect, but a lot of

mist lay westward. Two eagles circled over the peak, and it was very hot.

The summit was left at 3:10. The descent at first was fraught with difficulties, and it took the boys more than two hours to get back to the Hump, just about exactly the time it had taken them to go from the Hump to the summit. From this point the descent was rapid. The cabin was reached at 6:15, by which time they were beginning to feel the effects of their arduous day. A short stop for refreshments and then the trail once more, arriving at Cameron Lake at 9:15 p.m. Coffee and soup were made before turning in "dog tired" for the night. Next morning at 10:30, thoroughly refreshed after a swim in the lake, the boys started back to Victoria, which they reached in leisurely stages late in the afternoon.

Reported in *The Time Colonist* Tuesday October 2, 1928, p. 15.

SUMMER CAMP MUCH ENJOYED

Thirty-one Participate in Outing On Forbidden Plateau Interesting Reports Handed in at Meeting of Courtenay Mountaineering Club

COURTENAY, Oct. 1 – At the meeting of the Courtenay Mountaineering Club on Thursday night (September 28), in the city hall, some interesting reports were turned in. The club's president, Mr. C. [Stuart] S. Wood, gave some interesting particulars of the ten-day Summer camp on the Forbidden Plateau, commenced in July. Thirty-one campers had participated in a most enjoyable time under almost ideal weather conditions. Of this number fifteen of the campers were visitors from Victoria and five from Nanaimo, all of whom were members of the Alpine Club. The camp had been quite successful from every point of view, and it had been found possible to make the finances break even. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. C. [Claude] L. Harrison, of Victoria, who was in charge of the camp, for his donation of cutlery and crockery for the club's cabin on Mount Beecher [Becher]. Mrs. A.E. Sutherland was also accorded a vote of thanks for her assistance and for practicing the culinary art under difficult conditions at camp.

Mr. William Douglas, the club's vice-president, gave an interesting report on the construction of the cabin, the heavy work of which had been done. Under his supervision the cabin committee is forming a bee to finish the cabin so that it may be available for Winter sports. At present it is roofed with shakes and a stove has been set up, but windows and a door have to be provided and the log walls chinked up. During the ten-days' camp the mountains to be climbed included Albert Edward, Castle Mountain and Mount Washington. The honor of being the first woman to climb Mount Albert Edward went to Miss Nancy Wollaston, of Victoria, and the honor of being the first woman to reach the Forbidden Plateau goes to Mrs. C.S. Wood. Several new members were added, including Mr. Dobson, of the Royal bank staff, formerly an active member of the Vancouver Mountaineering Club; Miss Allen, of the Courtenay High School staff, who is a keen student of natural history, and Mr. Roland Aston.

Mr. Harrison, who has over one hundred good lantern slides of photographs taken in the charming area of the plateau, has already shown the slides in Victoria, and it is expected that he will show them in Courtenay in the near future. It is probable that next Summer a camp of considerable proportions will be seen on the plateau, which may include the Natural History Society of British Columbia, the British Columbia Mountaineering Club and a strong contingent of the Courtenay and Comox Mountaineering Club.

Reported in *The Time Colonist* Tuesday October 2, 1928, p. 17.

ALPINE CLUB PLAN OCTOBER OUTINGS

Expedition to Mount Braden and Mt. Finlayson To Take Place—Programme Arranged

The Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada will have two October outings, the first on Saturday, October 6, to Mt. Braden; the second, on Saturday October 20, to Mt. Finlayson. The Mt. Braden expedition will leave town at 10 a.m., and will be an easy walk; the Finlayson expedition will leave the city at 9 a.m. and will separate into two parties, one climbing the mountain and the other taking a less strenuous trip in the district. Mr. C. [Claude] L. Harrison will

lead the former. Intending climbers are reminded that the rules laid down for dress and equipment must be observed. Members will carry the usual luncheon provisions, except that tea will be provided.

In addition to these outdoor events the club in co-operation with the Tourist and Trade group of the Chamber of Commerce will have an evening meeting on Wednesday October 24, when Mr. C.L. Harrison will show pictures of the Forbidden Plateau camp and of the Sooke Valley camp held earlier in the Summer. Admission to this evening entertainment will be by invitation, and members of the Alpine Club who wish to attend should send their names to Mrs. Kerr, phone 6490L, so that seats may be reserved. Invitations are being sent to all the service and tourist clubs and to the Victoria and Oak Bay High Schools.

Reported in *The Comox Argus* Thursday October 4, 1928.

FORBIDDEN PLATEAU AS GAME RESERVE

Comox Mountaineering Club Think It Should Be Set Aside

The Comox and District Mountaineering club went on record at its meeting on Thursday night as desiring that the Forbidden Plateau area should be kept as a game reserve. It was pointed out that there was a trail in there over which horses could be taken now, and it was quite a temptation for hunters to go and destroy the wild life which existed in there so abundantly. The suggestion came from Mr. Claude Harrison of Victoria.

Mr. William Douglas turned in a report on the hut on Mount Beecher. There was still owing \$180 on its erection but it was covered by a note. It was resolved to have a bee soon in order to complete the shingling of the cabin and finishing of it so that it will be habitable for parties that wish to spend the night there during the winter.

Mr. C. [Clinton] S. Wood had on a view a very remarkable collection of views and pictures of the Forbidden Plateau most of them taken by himself. In finish and artistry, they would do credit to a much larger playground than the Forbidden Plateau. He reported that the camp had been an outstanding success, and after all accounts had been paid there had only been a deficit of \$11.40. Thirty-one members had registered and many peaks had been climbed. A vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Sutherland and others who had worked so wholeheartedly to make the camp the success it was. Mr. Wood said he had reaped a great deal of experience from the camp, which he was sure would be invaluable in the future.

There was some talk of creating a junior section for the club, but this was left over until it was discovered what the boys thought about it themselves.

Reported in *The Time Colonist* Sunday October 21, 1928, p. 6.

ALPINE CLUB HOLDS SATURDAY OUTING

Dr. J.H. Jones, South African Visitor, Entertains Members With Description of Basutoland

Thirty members of the Victoria section of the Alpine Club participated in the outing to Mount Douglas yesterday [October 20] afternoon. After making the little climb the expedition went to Hamsterley Lakeside [on Elk Lake] for tea, where Dr. J.H. Jones, a former resident of South Africa who is leaving for England next week after a several months' visit with relatives here, gave an informal description of climbing in the Drakensberg Mountains with the Natal Mountaineering Club.

The Drakensberg Mountains separate Natal, Basutoland and Orange Free State, and provide sites for the itinerant camps of the Alpine Club. Dr. Jones gave a vivid description of the rugged, precipitous, and arid character of the mountains, which rise to an altitude of 11,200 feet in places. On the Natal side there is an almost perpendicular drop in places; the "tourist route" is from the Natal side, but the more strenuous from the Free State side, and on the occasion described by Dr. Jones the Alpine Club used the latter to reach their annual camp. The first day was occupied in reaching the camp, the next day in making the ascent of four or five thousand feet, part of the route taking them over the "high road" into Basutoland, a way for pack ponies only.

The description of the view over Natal from the plateau found at the top of the mountain was interesting, Dr. Jones drawing comparisons between the arid scenery of South Africa and the heavily timbered country of British Columbia. The lecturette concluded with an amusing short story illustrating the fondness of Natal mountain cattle for garments left by campers to dry after “wash day” in camp.

Mr. C. [Claude] Harrison acted as chairman, and expressed the cordial thanks of the audience, coupling with the expression of sincere good wishes to their guest in his forthcoming travels.

Reported in *The Time Colonist* Wednesday October 24, 1928, p. 12.

MR. C.L. HARRISON TO TALK TONIGHT

Will Give Illustrated Address on “The Forbidden Plateau” in the Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Claude L. Harrison will give an illustrated lecture on “The Forbidden Plateau” tonight at 8:30 in the Chamber of Commerce auditorium. The gathering will be held under the auspices of the Tourist Trade Group of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce and the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada.

Mr. Harrison was in charge of the joint camp of the Alpine Club and the Courtenay and Comox District Mountaineering Club on the Forbidden Plateau in Comox District on July 1, and obtained a large collection of interesting pictures, which will be shown on the screen this evening.

The lecturer will also discourse on the newly created Sooke Mountain Park at Sooke, and some beautiful views of this territory will be shown.

Reported in *The Time Colonist* Tuesday November 20, 1928, p. 5.

ALPINE CLUB TO CLIMB ON SATURDAY

An Alpine Club outing has been arranged for Saturday next. There will be two expeditions leaving the city at 8:45 from Eve’s garage, Fort and Quadra, to go into the Alpine Club campsite at Sooke; second, leaving from the same place at 1:45 in the afternoon, to make a shorter expedition in the Sooke River district. Both parties will meet at the Belvedere Hotel, Sooke, at 6 o’clock, for dinner. Those joining the earlier party must take luncheon provisions, and observe the regulations about climbing dress and equipment. Friends of members who wish to do so may join the dinner party, but everyone attending is requested to notify the secretary (phone 6490), by midday Thursday, in order that the catering may be arranged for.

Reported in *The Time Colonist* Friday November 23, 1928, p. 20.

GIVES LECTURE ON THE PLATEAU

Address By Mr. Claude Harrison Enjoyed At Courtenay

Value of Forbidden Plateau Area as Asset to Country Well Shown by Speaker

COURTENAY, Nov. 22 – The Native Sons lodgeroom was not large enough to comfortably accommodate those who went to hear Mr. Claude Harrison’s address on the “Forbidden Plateau” on Tuesday night [November 20].

The speaker was introduced by Mr. P.L. [Leo] Anderson, who played a high tribute to the work of Mr. C. [Clinton] S. Wood, president of the Courtenay Mountaineering Club, in obtaining publicity for the district, and to Mr. Harrison for his untiring efforts to secure the motion pictures of the wonderful mountain scenery close to Courtenay.

In a most enthusiastic manner, Mr. Harrison outlined the possibilities and advantages of the “Forbidden Plateau,” during which many excellent lantern slides were exhibited by Mr. Wood, showing the nature of the area. These pictures included photographs of the Summer camp on Mount Beecher [Becher], and a number of those in the hall were able to recognize themselves in the pictures. Comparing the mountains here with those near Victoria, Mr. Harrison clearly showed what great value the wonderful scenery is to Courtenay for publicity purposes. Our so-called useless mountains are in reality our best means of advertising, he said. He had a sound foundation for saying this, because the Alpine Club, with headquarters in London, is very interested in the plateau.

COSMOPOLITAN MEMBERSHIP

Nearly all the countries in the world were represented by members of the club, some of whom participated in the camp last July. These members had been very deeply impressed with the grandeur of the scenery, which was truly Alpine, and the possibilities of world publicity were simply enormous. The only thing necessary was to invite the various clubs to come and see the plateau. They would certainly come, and the only thing they would take away with them was the most favorable impression of the mountains, which they would pass on to their friends, who in turn would visit the area. This was a very desirable class of visitor, and should, he thought, be encouraged.

He made a strong plea for the retention of the standing timber and with the aid of pictures graphically showed how the removal of the timber completely devastates the scenery, proving the trees to be of more value standing than felled.

He urged the people of this district to keep trying to get the area reserved as a notion park, declaring that the plateau, with its miles of white and purple heather and fine mountain peaks, has possibilities far beyond the fondest conjecture. The secretary of the Canadian Alpine Club was going to visit most of the large centres of Europe, and a great deal of very valuable publicity will thus be given absolutely free. All this was largely due to the past efforts of Mr. Wood, he said.

The conditions in Strathcona Park, he said, were not satisfactory, as all the timber had been sold by the Government. The moment the logs were cut out it would present a sorry sight and it would be done for.

He also mentioned the Kye Bay beach and sands, saying that he had been hoping against hope that this beautiful beach would be set aside for the people, as it would be a very big asset to the district.

MOTION PICTURES

Motion picture of the Summer camp and the ascent of Mount Albert Edward and Castle Mountain followed. Bathing from a rubber boat in Lake Beautiful was depicted and the pictures gave a very good idea of the general nature of the beautiful scenery of the Forbidden Plateau.

Mr. William Douglas ably voted thanks of the audience for Mr. Harrison's visit. This was seconded by Mr. Theed Pearse, and the spectators warmly showed their approval. A dance followed and an enjoyable supper was served.

Reported in *The Time Colonist* Sunday November 25, 1928, p. 15.

ALPINE CLUB AT NEW PARK AREA

Expedition Yesterday Inspected Site of Club Hut at Shield's Lake, Sooke District

The site on Shield's Lake of the Victoria section of the Alpine Club of Canada clubhouse, to be built before next Summer, was the objective of fifteen members of the local organization who went out to the Sooke district yesterday morning [November 24]. The morning expedition was led by Mr. Claude Harrison over the recently completed Government trail, which goes over the summit of Long Mountain, 1,750 feet. Shield's Lake was reached about 1 o'clock by the main party, which bivouacked on the shores for luncheon; a smaller group led by Mr. Gordon Cameron, made a detour and went over to Grass lake, which is also to be partly included in the Victoria section of the Alpine Club park. Both parties returned to the head of the Sooke River road in time to meet a second expedition which left the city early in the afternoon for a shorter hike in the district, and the whole party gathered at the belvedere Hotel for dinner.

This was in the nature of a farewell to the secretary, Mrs. Healy Kerr, who is leaving today for an extended visit to Europe, during which she will spend some time both in London and Paris. Mr. A. [Arthur] O. Wheeler, president of the club, who presiding as chairman of the dinner proceedings, extended the best wishes of the members for a very pleasant voyage and holiday, and on behalf of the club Captain Everall made a small presentation which he hoped would "carry sweet memories of Victoria into the Alps.

An innovation was introduced by Mr. Lindley Crease, who read from Younghusband's "Epic of Mt. Everest" the account of Odell's attempt to find Mallory and his companion, lost on the expedition of 1924. This proved a novel and popular idea, and Mr. Crease was heartily thanked by the chairman. The evening concluded with dancing and cards.

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From the Front Cover:

Peggy Taylor looking south from Victoria Peak.

Photo by Linnea Hansen

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