

Island Bushwhacker

Volume 51 | Issue 4 | Winter 2023



Dolomite Daze by Joisan Fairwell

ACC VANCOUVER ISLAND SECTION

Social Events

The club hosts monthly slide shows at the Swan Lake nature sanctuary in Victoria and offers these as streamed in-person events so that members who cannot attend in person can also be involved.

Web Information

Web site: www.accvi.ca

Webmaster: webmaster@accvi.ca

Executive Meeting Minutes

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

National ACC Office

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

www.alpineclubofcanada.ca

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

Annual Membership Dues

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

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

Newsletter Editor: Janelle Curtis

High Points Editor: **Vacant**

We encourage submissions of items of interest to our membership, including articles and photos in months when the newsletter is published. Please email your submissions to newsletter@accvi.ca by the 25th day of the previous month.

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

Our Motto

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

[ACCVI Christmas Social Gathering](#) Join us on 14 December from 7-10pm at the Swan Lake Nature House in Saanich. New members feel free to drop in to chat with like minded existing members about hiking, skiing, 5040 hut, travel etc etc. If up Island people can make it down here to the big city we'll certainly appreciate catching up with you!

Bonus feature: Dave Fishwick will get us into the winter mode with his experiences: metaphorical or physical it's called the *Ups & Downs of Island Skiing*.

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Reminder to Members:

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

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

Upcoming Trips

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

Event Schedule

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

Dates	Trip/Event
14 December	ACCVI Christmas Social Gathering
23 December	Solstice hike: Mt Brule and Mt Manuel Quimper
20-27 January	Campbell Icefields ski week

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

Mountain Education

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

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

Dates	Education Workshop / Session
5 December	Introduction to Ski Touring - Part 1
9-10 December	Introduction to Ski Touring - Part 2
12 December	ACC webinar "Introduction to Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue"
6-7 January	Avalanche Skills Training – 1 (AST-1)

Courses are open to ACC members in good standing only. You are welcome to join the section if you would like to enroll in one or more of ACCVI's courses.

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

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

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

Notes from the Chair

By David Lemon

Snow is arriving at higher elevations, so it is time to prepare for winter activities. The schedule has courses and workshops on avalanche safety, ski-touring, and glacier travel over the next few weeks to help learn new skills or refresh existing ones for safe winter travel in the mountains. Thanks to our education coordinator, Deniz Aydin, for organizing these programs!

Check the schedule for trips and other activities and consider putting on a trip if you are able; there is always room for more.

We have enjoyed an excellent set of monthly slide shows this fall, ably hosted by Gordon Kyle, with more of the same to come in the New Year. The annual photo contest, organized by Mary Sanseverino, once again was filled with wonderful photos from club activities. Congratulations to the winners. The entries can be seen on the section website [here](#).

Looking ahead, don't forget to book your tickets for the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival January 28th at the UVic Farquhar Auditorium, as this usually sells out and tickets are going fast. In the summer, we are hoping to hold a 2024 fly-in camp; see the article *ACCVI Summer Camps: Looking Forward* on pages 6-7 in this newsletter for where this stands.

The Section annual general meeting will be coming up in February (the date will be finalized soon). Elections will be held for the executive, so anyone interested in serving, please contact a member of the current executive.

A call for volunteer Executive Members and Coordinators

Summer Camp Coordinator

There is an opportunity to reinstate a Summer Camp Committee!

The ACCVI needs 3-5 members to carry out all the organizing of the helicopter fly-in summer camps.

Much of the policy and guidance documentation and processes are already in place and the past Summer Camp Committee members are very willing to pass on their expertise!

Other volunteer opportunities

Please see pages 22 and 23 of this newsletter for **vacant** roles on the list of ACCVI Executive Committee and Coordinators.

If any of these positions interest you, contact our ACCVI chair, David Lemon, at chair@accvi.ca.

The Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival

By Laura Darling

Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour 2023/24 is again live at the Farquhar Auditorium at the University of Victoria (UVic), 7:00 pm January 28th, 2024!

Get your tickets now for an unforgettable cinematic journey!



View a selection of the most thrilling, awe-inspiring, and heart-pounding films from the 2023/24 Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour. Discover epic journeys, monumental adventures, and scenic locations that will take your breath away. Be transported to the heart of these incredible landscapes and the minds of the adventurers who conquer them. Join us for a program of unforgettable stories of courage, perseverance, and the indomitable spirit of the great outdoors.

Tickets are \$32.50 and are available at the UVic Ticket Office, online and by phone:
Jamie Cassels Centre B103; <http://www.uvic.ca/farquhar/>; and 250-721-8480

Further details at: <https://accvi.ca/events/banff-centre-mountain-film-festival-world-tour-2023-24/>

Contact: bmff@accvi.ca

‘Tis the season for gift-giving – event tickets make the perfect gift for family and friends!



ACCVI Summer Camps: Looking Forward

By the ACCVI Executive

Following a decade of hosting successful summer camps at a variety of alpine locations, ACCVI planned a helicopter fly-in summer camp at Bendor Mountain north of Pemberton in July and August 2023. After considerable deliberation and consideration of members' wishes and environmental impacts, members of the ACCVI executive made the difficult decision to cancel plans for Bendor Mountain. One of the key reasons was because of a strong concern about our camp's potential impacts on wildlife in that region expressed by Tsal'ah First Nation.

An alternative location for the summer camp was proposed at Athelney Pass northwest of Pemberton. In the end, the executive made the tough decision to cancel summer camp in 2023 because we were informed we needed to obtain a provincial land-use permit for our camp and did not have sufficient time to obtain one. We had not realized that because of the scale and duration of our summer camp on crown land, the *Land Act* requires this permit. All registered summer camp participants were reimbursed.



Night summer camp. (Photo by Bianca Parcher)

Summer camp 2024

With advice from organizers of the General Mountaineering Camp run by ACC National, and direction from provincial staff at Front Counter BC, ACCVI is working to acquire a provincial land use permit to hold the ACCVI summer camp at Athelney Pass for three or four weeks from mid-July to mid-August 2024.

[FrontCounter BC](#) is responsible for adjudicating and authorizing activities on Crown land, through a process of assessment and referral through various government business areas. The review process for a permit of this nature addresses factors such as: planned activity and duration; plans for waste management (garbage and sanitary); water use and fire prevention; management of environmental impacts to fish and wildlife habitat, vegetation, soils, and riparian areas; and engagement with First Nations.

In October, [Front Counter BC](#) began their review of our application, and some additional information was required to satisfy their eligibility requirements. Fingers are crossed that we meet those requirements, that

further information requests about the camp will be simple, and that the land use permit will be granted in time to hold Summer Camp 2024 at Athelney Pass. Updates will be provided as information about our application becomes available.

The Athelney Pass area is approximately 62 km Northwest of Pemberton. ACCVI hosted a summer camp at Athelney Pass in 2011. Those who were there in 2011 give it rave reviews - fabulous scenery, exciting and challenging mountaineering objectives, many routes to summits and ridges, and expanses of wildflower slopes.

Volunteers are needed to organize Summer Camp

The Summer Camp Committee often divides responsibilities according to interests or skills.

Responsibilities include: organizing helicopter flights; receiving registration and fees; organizing equipment and purchasing expendable materials; care and storage of equipment in club space; renting trailer and radios; tracking permit application; and communication with club executive.

Skills needed: no need to be a mountaineering expert, just need event planning skills! Effective communication and teamwork are essential.

If you'd like to volunteer to be a member of the Summer Camp committee, or have questions about Summer Camp, please contact David Lemon at chair@accvi.ca

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National News

By Christine Fortham - ACCVI National Representative

Your membership in ACC and trip waivers

It is possible that your club membership may have lapsed without you realizing it, as the new system at National ACC is not yet fully reliable. If you are not sure, please check to see if your membership is current. Quick reminder of the benefits of membership here: <https://accvi.ca/join/>

Trip leaders, please continue to collect paper waivers for your trips, even if participants have signed the electronic one. The electronic waiver system will need a year so that everyone will have signed on membership renewal. We will send a "rejoiceful note" once that is accomplished, and we can then rely on the electronic waivers. Thanks all for your patience on this.

State of the Mountains Report

Here is ***some Good Reading to Kick off Winter***: the latest issue of the *State of the Mountains Report*:
<https://www.stateofthemountains.ca/>

The 2024 Remillard GMC is on!

ACC National announced the location of the 2024 GMC at the end of August and since then we've been sorting out all of the details. We're very excited to let you know that registration is now open and we're beginning the process of welcoming our members to camp next summer.

We're also thrilled to announce that this year's camp will include a couple of new options, including some shorter weeks and an Independent Camp. We hope you get a chance to experience the beauty and excitement of the Remillard GMC.

Learn more here: <https://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/2024-remillard-general-mountaineering-camp/>

2024 Remillard General Mountaineering Camp

6-day and 8-day weeks

We're offering a couple of weeks of slightly different durations and costs. Week 1 and Week 5 are 6-days duration, while Weeks 2, 3 and 4 will be the same as previous years: 8-days duration. The 6-day weeks will allow guests a bit more flexibility to attend camp around busy schedules, and come in slightly cheaper than the normal 8-day weeks. The 8-day week (Saturday to Saturday) is the standard week we've been offering for some years.

Note: all of our weeks involve two travel days where our guests flying in overlap with our guests flying out.

Independent Camp

It's not technically part of the GMC, but the 2024 Remillard Independent Camp is also new for 2024. We're welcoming to our basecamp independent climbers (those who DO NOT wish to be guided) for a week prior to the start of the GMC. Participants get the full use of our camp - including helicopter flights in and out, all camp facilities (sleeping tents, dining tent, tea tent, outhouses and showers), along with all meals prepared by our chefs. We're able to offer this at a lower price than our GMC weeks because there will be no guides in camp for that week. This is perfect for climbers wanting to explore this remote area, but who don't want to be in a guided party.

The Independent Camp is a new thing for us. We're very keen on it this year partly because we've had requests for this from some of our members and past GMC guests, and partly because the access, the terrain and the routes in the Remillard area really suit this type of outing.

Even if you're not planning on going, we'd be keen to hear what you think of an Independent Camp prior to the start of the GMC. Feel free to email us anytime at info@alpineclubofcanada.ca.



Access and Environment

By Barb Baker

MOSAIC GATES <https://www.mosaicforests.com/access>

Cottonwood access... working out details. May be ready to go with the renewed 2024 Mosaic Land Use permit. This area is not contiguous but can be added on to the Comox Valley/Ash Valley permits for what will be limited to weekend use. Recent report is that the road is in good condition to 600m with extensive logging.

155 Main NW Bay Camp... this gate is newly opened on weekends giving access to Mount Moriarity and Mount Arrowsmith from the northeast.

Chemainus Main 4km... If anyone has anything to report on the 22km gate please let me know at access@accvi.ca. Is it locked or broken open? Mosaic has not responded.

OTHER

Arrowsmith Massif Park Judges' Route...report of severe deterioration of the top part of this trail, which was rebuilt by the club with RDN support 7/8 yrs ago. If anyone has recent photos of the problem area just below the summit please forward to me at access@accvi.ca. My plan is to compile verbal reports in an appeal to RDN to help improve this situation in the future.

There is intensive traffic on the park trails as soon as gates are open after closures with up to 20 vehicles at the trail heads.

Marion FSR is reportedly in rough shape. South Island Natural Resource District has taken over management of this road from BCTS. Their engineers have assessed and improvements will be coming according to RSTBC. No date.



*Almost at Mackenzie Lake.
(Photo by Janelle Curtis)*

TRIP LEADERS

It's been awhile but we'd like to check in with you to see if there are ways we can support you in offering trips, workshops or other events for our ACCVI membership. We really appreciate your contributions in the past and look forward to your future offerings.

It may be useful for you to be reminded of the privileges available only to trip leaders as part of organising a scheduled trip:

1. Advance bookings at Hišimýawił on 5040 Peak

The public have access to a 3-month window for making reservations at the hut (e.g., on 20 November you can book any dates only up to 20 February etc.) - but when you are making a booking for a club trip, you can book up to a year in advance. Just be sure to post the trip on the schedule once the booking is finalised. So now could be a really good time to start planning mid-winter or spring hut trips. Info: <https://accvi.ca/5040-peak-hut/hut-bookings/> Contact: hutbooking@accvi.ca

2. Use of the access keys for Comox Lake Main and Ash Valley

Through our permit arrangement with Mosaic, trip leaders can access a key for the gates at Comox Lake and Ash Main, 24/7. These entrance points open up lots of opportunity for trips into the east and south sides of Strathcona Park and destinations from the west side of Comox Lake. Full details of how to take advantage of this are on our website: <https://accvi.ca/access-agreement-for-comox-lake-main/> We hope to add to this offering soon with a key for weekend access to Cottonwood Main off Cowichan Lake. Watch this space!

3. Booking an ACC National hut

When booking a national ACC hut (and there are nearly 30 of them), you can place the booking up to 12 months in advance without the need to pay for the booking until 30 days ahead of the trip. This means you can consider booking a trip now for next summer or fall.

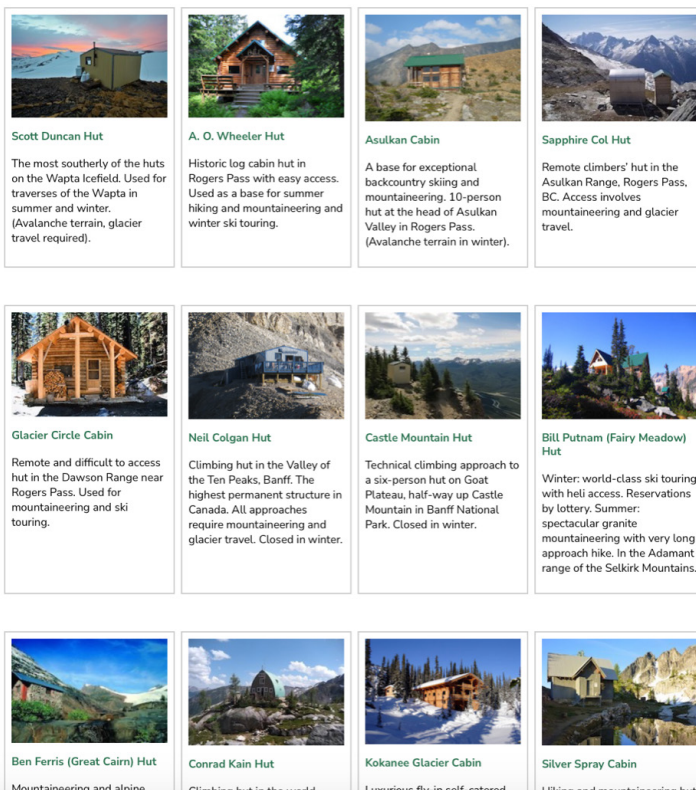
Also, remember that you can reclaim the cost of 75% of a relevant course in return for leading two trips. Details are here:

<https://accvi.ca/trip-leaders/course-subsidies/>

Deal!

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any queries or ideas – we love to hear from you. And many thanks for helping our members to get out there!

Catrin, Jane, Christine, Deniz, Karun
ACC VI Education and Leadership Committee



ACCVI's 2023 Photo Competition Winners and Honourable Mentions

Activity in Summer



*Winner:
Spectrum Range
(by Catrin Brown)*



*Honourable Mention:
Dolomite Daze
(by Joisan Fairwell)*

Activity in Winter



*Winner:
Climbing Ravenhorn Mackenzie Range
(by Barry Hansen)*



*Honourable Mention:
Snowshoeing Mt Brooks
(by Eva Gnech)*

Humour



*Winner (tied):
Oops
(by David Fishwick)*



*Winner (tied):
Contemplation at Balu Pass
(by Mike Hubbard)*

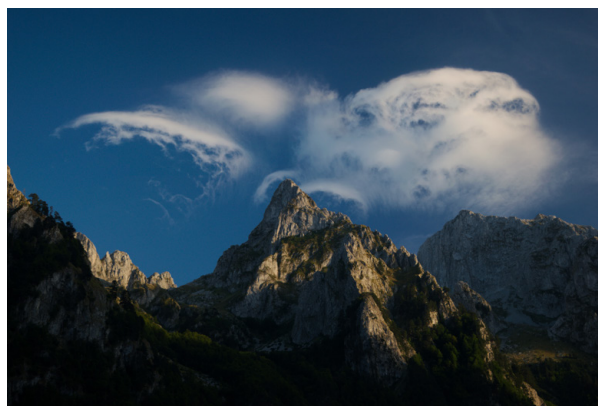


*Honourable Mention:
VanIsle Ski Touring
(by Keith Battersby)*

Mountain Scenery



*Winner:
Larch Madness
(by Chris Neate)*



*Honourable Mention:
Clouds over Karanfil in Grebaje Valley, Montenegro
(by Martin Hofmann)*

Nature



Winner:



*Honourable Mention:
A Swiss Bear
(by Joisan Fairwell)*

Vancouver Island



*Winner:
5040 At Sunrise
(by Eva Gnech)*

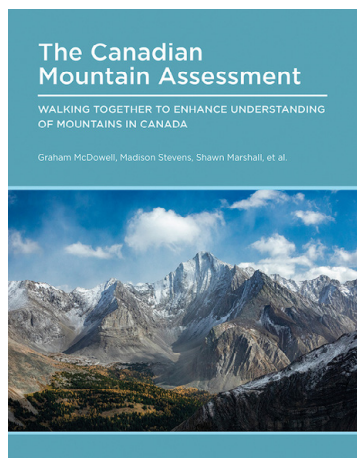


*Honourable Mention:
Triple Beauty
(by Catrin Brown)*

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

Compiled by Janelle Curtis

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



From Mary Sanseverino: I've just had a look at a very interesting and timely book - *The Canadian Mountain Assessment: Walking Together to Enhance Understanding of Mountains in Canada*. It has an impressive list of knowledge-creators and sharers. It's a first-of-its-kind look at what we know, do not know, and need to know about mountain systems in Canada. As folks engaged with the mountains I'm sure you'll find lots of food for thought in this wide-ranging look at all things mountains in Canada.

I suspect some will find a few of the ideas presented here challenging - I know I did. But, the respectful manner in which different ways of knowing the mountains is braided together really got me thinking about mountains systems (that I thought I knew so well!) in a different way.

The book is free to download, or you can order a copy. Here's the link: https://ucp.manifoldapp.org/projects/9781773855103?fbclid=IwAR27KkIqg5OE_IItCTIIRyPz448jJEXVSnCcfOK_-y3Slkx74uDRu7JA0GI

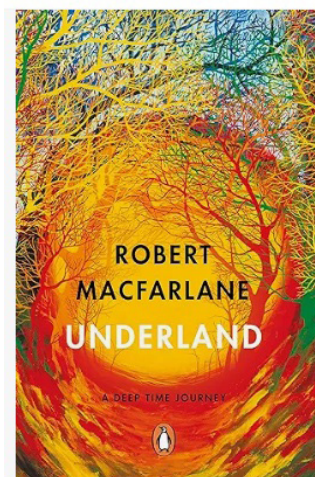
From Mary Sanseverino:

Underland: A Deep Time Journey by Robert MacFarlane.

It might seem counter-intuitive that I would learn about the outside of mountains, glaciers, and landscapes by spending any time with a book that takes me deep inside and under them. But, MacFarlane has shown me the error of my ways! His book *Underland* is a deep dive (pun intended) into the bones of the earth. It is full of adventure, geology, philosophy, and eloquent, evocative nature writing. The stories about his own experience spelunking in various places, getting into a glacier via a moulin, and out of difficult spots makes my heart beat a bit faster. At 496 pages it is something of a behemoth, but I was and am happy to spend time with MacFarlane - you may be too.

Review in *The Guardian*:

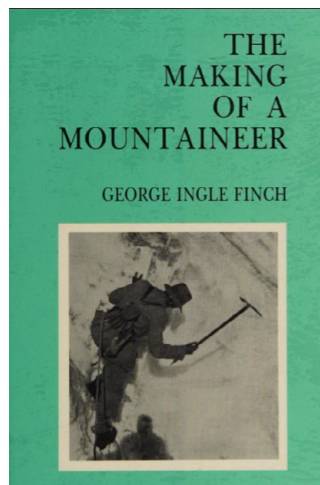
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/may/08/underland-by-robert-macfarlane-review>



From Barb Baker:

Barb describes the documentary *Buried: The 1982 Alpine Meadows Avalanche* as gripping at tragic.

Watch it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4NpOIJ_O-I



From Sandy Briggs (posted on the ACCVI Facebook page on 22 November 2023):

George Ingle Finch, *The Making of a Mountaineer* (1924), Chapter II, *Climbing in Corsica* (March-April 1909)

I have just finished reading this book, which I will call a classic. Finch was certainly a very skilled and accomplished mountaineer, but some of his tales and the photos that accompany them are quite scary, and there were close calls. Over a hundred years ago they just tied the old rope around their waist - no harness of any kind. No wonder the leader (usually) did not fall. Finch also had a bit of attitude about some things, such as rock climbing. One example is his calling the ascent of the Dent du Requin in the Chamonix Aiguilles "hopelessly dull and monotonous". (Hey, I wouldn't know, as I haven't been there.)

I learned only this morning (or at least rediscovered this morning) that Finch was a chemist, that he set an altitude record on Everest in 1922 that stood for about 30 years, and that he had some friction with the British climbing establishment, later becoming President of the Alpine Club in spite of that.

Portrait View: ACCVI Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival coordinator

By Laura Darling

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

It was January 2020, the club was looking for someone new to help organize an on-going, successful club activity held annually in November, and I said “sure, I’ll do that - sounds like an easy task to take on, everything is in place, it will run itself”. Well, I was in for a surprise!!

The event of interest was the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour, a local screening of a selection of the best films from the Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival held annually in Banff in October – November. Led by a number of volunteer coordinators, ACCVI had hosted this screening event for several years, and raised funds for club activities and programs.

You guessed it, COVID-19 entered the scene, and regular activities like gathering in theatres ended suddenly. But the Banff Centre proved to be creative and nimble, and quickly changed from offering films for

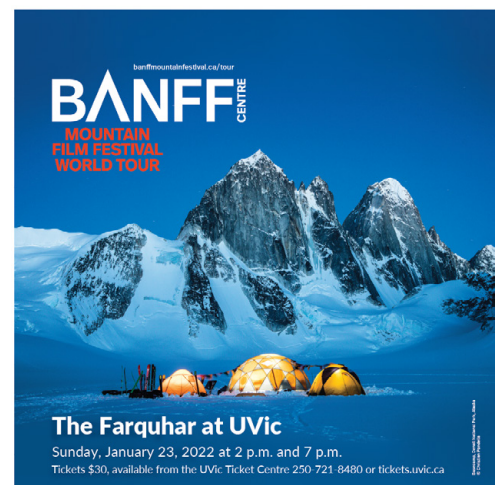
screenings by local hosts to offering a virtual World Tour. Local hosts like ACCVI were given the opportunity to be affiliates of the Centre, to serve as local promoters of video programs available for home viewing for a reasonable fee, from which the club would get a small cut. Starting in November 2020, viewers could purchase film programs to view through our affiliate web link to support our club and enjoy the “Best of Banff” from the comfort of their own home.



So, I took on the challenge of the new COVID-19 reality and jumped into promoting video program offerings. But let’s be clear – I am not an event planner, promoter or social media user, so all of this was new to me. I learned a lot!!

And then, by the fall of 2021, though the pandemic was still active, the wheels of commerce needed to keep spinning. Theatres were able to host events but were variably under orders from Health Authorities to impose constraints on the audience like mandatory masking and social distancing, and theatre capacities were limited significantly. The Banff Centre was offering local hosts to continue promotion of on-line video viewing, and/or in-person screenings.

With support of the ACCVI Executive, an in-person, live screening of a program of videos was scheduled at our regular venue, The Farquhar at University of Victoria, for the end of January 2022. And



with great relief, help with promotion of the event came along – Joanna Verano offered her assistance. But the COVID-19 situation was complicated by a new strain of the virus, and the show was postponed until April 3rd. Theatre capacity was set at 50%, but both Banff Centre and The Farquhar were flexible in scheduling and their pricing for screening the event, and though reduced from previous years' revenue, the screening proved successful and gave us hope that the pandemic was not going to stop events like ours.



Last year's screening, in January 2023, was a great success – primarily due to the eager, creative, innovative, and determined promotion by Joanna Verano and Allison Caughy. Four local sponsors offered door prizes, in addition to prizes offered by the Festival Presenting Partners and the ACCVI. The lobby held a selection of displays by non-profit organizations, and we had a full house and an appreciative audience. Last year's event might be characterized as typical of pre-COVID-19 film festival screenings hosted by ACCVI. And, with Joanna leading promotions again this year, we hope to replicate that success at our January 2024 screening.



And what does it take to be the BCMFF Coordinator? The job description might include: some skills organizing an event; flexibility and an ability to respond to a changing environment; working with a small team of eager people with varied skills, interests, time and creativity; effective communication skills to foster respect and trust with Banff Centre staff, venue managers, ACCVI Executive, and the organizing team; and an ability to juggle multiple project threads simultaneously.

I have learned a lot from this volunteer position – and I heartily recommend that every member consider taking on a role where they think they can contribute to the club, either to continue an existing activity, reinvent an event or to develop a new club program. You can make a difference!!

ACCVI History - Cathedral Grove

By Lindsay Elms

Editor's note: Lindsay Elms posted about this ACCVI history on the [ACCVI Facebook Page](#) on 19 November 2023.

How many of us in the ACCVI knew of the involvement of our executive in 1936 to save Cathedral Grove on Cameron Lake?

Plan Action To Save Grove

Government To Study Course To Preserve Cameron Lake Timber, Delegation Told

Reported in *The Victoria Daily Times* on Wednesday January 29, 1936, pages 1 and 2.

The battle of several years standing to save the fine stand of scenic timber at Cameron Lake, known as Cathedral Grove, from being felled by logging operations was renewed before Honorable Wells Gray, Minister of Lands, to-day by a delegation representing the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada. Claude L. Harrison, president of the Island branch, Charles Whitney-Griffiths, Major Colin H. Rutherford, Captain O. Cox, William H. Dougan and Fred Maurice, composed the delegation. They said they received a sympathetic hearing from the minister who promised to take the matter up with the cabinet right away. "What astounds us most," said Mr. Harrison, "was the apparently small effort that has been previously to save this valuable scenic timber. The government, the delegation was told, had been unable to get any assurances from the owners of the timber, which is a crown grant that it would not be cut." The alpinists discussed with the minister a suggested line of action for the government to save the stand. Either negotiations should be commenced for an exchange of other timber limits in the province, or the company would be asked to set a price on the grove with a view to possible purchase.



This fir tree in Cathedral Grove is about two metres in diameter. (Photo by Barb Baker)

Natural Asset

The Alpine Club's resolution was presented by Mr. Whitney-Griffiths. It stressed the value of the grove as a natural asset and urged the government "to take immediate steps they know to be necessary to have this grove brought under their control, so that it may remain permanently unspoiled for all time for the enjoyment of not only ourselves but all people from all parts of the world." Mr. Whitney-Griffiths said: "The loss of this grove to the tourist trade alone cannot be estimated and it is true Vancouver Island cannot well afford to lose this valuable attraction to visitors, as it is a big drawing card. No government in office can escape censure for neglecting to protect the public interests where this can be done without adding to the heavy financial burden. No other grove of timber in British Columbia has been so well advertised and a deep love and pride is aroused in all Canadians who visit this forest."



West Coast Park

The delegation also presented a resolution urging the government to interest itself in the establishment of a national park on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. Mr. Gray, they said, promised to go fully into this proposal and indicated it would probably be the subject of negotiations with Ottawa this spring. The proposed park would be along the West Coast south of the Alberni Canal, to Port Renfrew, stated to contain “beautiful sandy beaches, picturesque rock formation and magnificent timber.” The larger part of the area is crown lands, it was said.



(Photos by Barb Baker)

Comparative photos show Comox Glacier recession of last 10 years

Dear editor,

“Gobsmackingly Bananas” is how one climate scientist described the global September 2023 temperature rise, which hit a new record by an enormous margin.

The tropical Pacific Ocean is also switching from the climate event known as La Nina to an El Nino climate event, which will bring an even hotter and drier climate over the next couple of years to B.C., further depleting our water resources, and our stores of ice and snow.

This year's photo of the Comox Glacier shows new rock is exposed all along the central right side, and that the glacier continues to melt rapidly.

We will be down to just a few patches of remaining ice in the near future.

The Comox Glacier is a visual “Canary in a Coal Mine,” and it is a good indication of how greatly reduced the overall snowpack is these days.

Furthermore, the entire snowpack in mountain valleys, plateaus, and meadows between the Comox Glacier and Mt. Albert Edward is melting earlier each spring.

This loss of snowpack means a large amount of runoff water will no longer be available to replenish our streams and rivers through the summer, nor will it enter long-term storage in the aquifer.

We will be more dependent on rainfall for most of the year, rainfall which is becoming less and less reliable.

Having a heavy accumulation of ice and



Comparative photos of the Comox Glacier taken from the identical location on Sept. 28, 2013 (top) and Oct. 6, 2023 show the vast recession of the past 10 years. The lower bowl is now all but gone, and the glacier no longer covers the crest of the mountain. Photos by Fred Fern

snow in the backcountry was like having an insurance policy.

We have made multiple claims on this insurance policy, especially last year in the fall when the Comox Glacier and a few patches of snow kept the Puntledge River flowing. In the future, we must learn to live without this insurance policy, and change our behaviour accordingly.

Finishing up photographing the glacier, I panned my camera to the right. I saw urban creep beginning on the Forbidden

Plateau, and I was reminded of all the new building projects in the Valley and whether we will have water for all these new resource users. Whatever we do, we must not repeat past mistakes.

In the end, there is a limit to our water resources, and those resources are getting smaller every year. We are exceeding that limit. Water conservation is of supreme importance.

Fred Fern,
Merville

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





***From the Front Cover:
Dolomite Daze.
Photo by Joisan Fairwell***

Thank you to this month's contributors:

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Well done everyone!

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