

## Prescribed Fire in Provincial Parks

by Mona Holley, Victoria

In 1998 Judy Millar, Resource Officer for the Okanagan District, was successful in acquiring funding through the Skagit Environmental Endowment Fund for public education on prescribed fire. In the fall, Ember Research Services was contracted to produce a brochure to describe and depict the Prescribed Fire program of BC Parks.

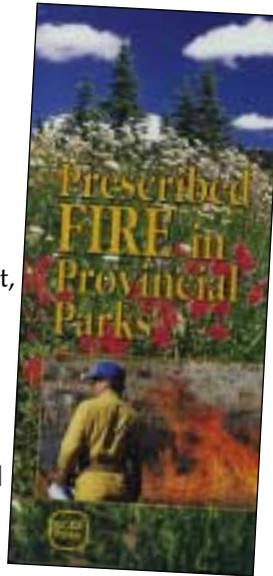
The new brochure depicts the challenges that protected area managers face with regard to our stewardship role in managing protected areas for the public of British Columbia. The Fire Ecology section briefly describes why we should have a prescribed fire program and the Prescribed Fire Management section relates the process that is presently in place to implement the program.

The brochure will assist in providing valuable information on prescribed fires to the public regarding prescribed fires in protected areas. During the planning for the Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park prescribed fire several questions were repeatedly asked and these are clearly answered within the brochure's Question and Answers section.

This publication will also complement the fire management plan currently being formulated for Skagit Valley Provincial Park, EC Manning Provincial Park and the Cascade Recreation Area.

The information contained in the brochure will be added to the BC Parks Web Site ([www.elp.gov.bc.ca/bcparks](http://www.elp.gov.bc.ca/bcparks)) to broaden our readership and further the process of educating

the public, staff and politicians regarding our responsibilities. It has been distributed to BC Environment, the BC Federation of Wildlife, BC Federation of Naturalists and libraries. □



## New Park – New Partnerships

by Mike Rowden and Pat Moulton,  
Thompson River District

Porcupine Meadows Park is symbolic of the new relationships BC Parks is building with stakeholder groups. This 1996 addition to the park system had been part of the Bonaparte-Tranquille Access Plan, which quite successfully zoned recreational activities in the area and established seasons of use that protect wildlife and their habitats. For years the Kamloops Snowmobile Association (KSA) had worked with Environment and Forests to maintain cabins and trails and monitor the approved season of snowmobile use in the wet meadow complexes of Porcupine Ridge. It was natural that the club continue a stewardship role when

a significant part of the area became a provincial park. Mike Rowden, Bonaparte Area Supervisor, recently wrote a Conservation/Recreation Stewardship Agreement with the KSA that formalized the club's role in protecting their recreational interests and the conservation values of the park.

New Years Eve 1998 was a vivid reminder of this healthy relationship. That brilliantly sunny early afternoon, brothers Paul and Mark Denhaam, 17 and 15, of Surrey left Wendego Lodge at Tranquille Lake on rented snowmobiles, unaccompanied, for their first-ever ride. In mid-afternoon they experienced a white-out blizzard that lasted only one hour but left them many miles from the lodge and completely disoriented in the many meadows of Porcupine Ridge, all of which look alike even to experienced riders of the Ridge. At the lodge, their concerned parents reported them overdue around 4:30 p.m.

(continued on page 2) ►

## Inside

Prescribed Fire in Provincial Parks .....	1
New Park – New Partnerships .....	1
Scarcity or Abundance? .....	2
Parks Profile .....	3
Staff Recognition Award Program .....	4
A Walk through Time .....	5
Congratulations Due .....	6
Kootenay Lake, Evening .....	7
Below the Highwater Mark .....	8
Name the Protected Area .....	9
Backcountry Recreation Impact Monitoring (BRIM) .....	9
French Student Volunteer .....	10
Camping Fees Raised in Provincial Parks .....	11
New Parks for 1999 .....	12



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Articles from readers are welcome. Deadline for material in the next issue is May 1, 1999.

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*(" New Park ..." continued from page 1)*

Coincidentally, several KSA members were staying in the Lodge's cabins. Wendego Lodge has become a traditional New Years Eve destination for many snowmobilers who appreciate the many marked trails and the fantastic powder riding in Porcupine Meadows Park, not to mention the wonderful hospitality of the Lodge owners, Norm and Flo Flynn. Led by George Dance, whose knowledge of the Ridge is phenomenal and who is experienced in search and rescue, seven riders including Darlene Dance, Mark Baker, Ed Mikalishen, Rob Ormerod, Cal Moulton and Thompson Plateau Area Supervisor, Pat Moulton commenced an initial search of known, marked trails. By 7:30 p.m. all trails had been scoured without success. The high-elevation meadows, where the whiteout and wind had obscured all traces of the day's tracks, were the only remaining possibility.

The RCMP was unable to confirm Search and Rescue (SAR) response capacity or timing, given that it was New Years Eve, so the search group went out again. To avoid losing searchers in the deep powder of the trackless meadows, the seven spread

out but stayed in touch with each other's headlights, sweeping the meadows for signs of light or movement, stopping periodically to shout and listen. The beauty of the still, moonlit meadows was lost on the searchers as they scanned the tree line intensely. As midnight neared, the fear of not finding the boys until morning weighed heavier.

Suddenly Rob Ormerod, KSA President, spotted two nearly buried black ArticCats and excitedly veered toward a dark figure scrambling out from under a tree. The boys had done the right things once they found themselves lost: near their sleds they had burrowed into the hollow under a huge spreading spruce, made themselves a bed of spruce-boughs and cuddled together in a cocoon of space blankets. Though slightly frostbitten and hypothermic, they were able to ride out after the searchers freed their stuck sleds. One can only imagine how their parents felt as they watched not seven but nine headlights sweep back down the trail to the Lodge at ten minutes after the New Year had begun!

Certainly a fulfilling and special way to spend New Years Eve, and a celebration of our new partnerships. □

## Scarcity or Abundance?

*by Alice MacGillivray, Victoria*

In a recent video-conference: "The Third Annual Worldwide Lessons in Leadership," author Stephen Covey (*7 Habits of Highly Effective People*) emphasized a lesson he considers very important. 'If leaders encourage a mindset of scarcity, people will become increasingly competitive. By contrast, a mindset of abundance fosters collaboration.'

It is very easy to think of ourselves in a world of scarcity; when you look at the trends and figures, it would be naive to argue otherwise. Right?

Perhaps not. I have had the privilege of spending time in every district office over the last two years, and the memories I took away focus on abundance (see "Congratulations Due" on page 6). Despite the pressures we are all experiencing, I believe that by almost any non-financial measure, we have a culture of abundance. □

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# Parks Profile

*This is another article in the Parks Profile series by Roger Norrish, Victoria*

*Last December Ches Lyons died suddenly while in Hawaii. He was 83 years old. Many of us who met Ches or worked with him remember a talented, kind man who maintained a keen interest in the natural world and human culture that shaped our modern society. What many people may not know, is that Ches Lyons was one of the original government people who formed the nucleus of what eventually became the BC Parks Branch.*

Most people are familiar with Ches Lyons the author, world traveler, educator, photographer and artist. But Ches also contributed immeasurably to the history and development of British Columbia's superb provincial parks system.

Ches, along with D.M. (Micky) Trew, Joe St. Pierre, Bob Boyd, Ole Johanson and Donald McMurchie formed the nucleus of the BC Parks Division in its formative years 1940 to 1946. Ches started work as a Forest Engineer in the BC Forest Service in 1940. At this time, the Forest Service became the government agency dedicated to managing provincial parks. Ches was one of only a few professional staff assigned specifically to the planning and management of provincial parks.

Ches Lyons made an immense contribution to the history and development of the provincial parks system. For example, Ches and D.M. Trew carried out several major reconnaissances of the larger provincial parks from 1943 to 1949. E.C. Manning, Wells Gray, Garibaldi, Kokanee Glacier, Mount Robson and Strathcona parks all came under the scrutiny of Lyons and Trew during these years.

During my research about Ches Lyons' career with the Parks Division of the Forest Service, I found the Tweedsmuir Park reconnaissance report the most interesting. D.M. Trew and Ches Lyons explored the park in 1944, using a variety of



*Ches Lyons circa 1954.*

travel methods. In the north portion of the park, they traversed by riverboat the spectacular, sometimes dangerous, always intriguing lake and river system known as the "Great Circle." For true wilderness adventure, the original Great Circle canoe route was unparalleled. Ches Lyons and Micky Trew documented this great wilderness travel corridor ten years before its destruction by the Alcan aluminum hydroelectric project.

In Central and South Tweedsmuir, Ches and Micky crossed the park by horseback and on foot. They documented the splendid wilderness of the Rainbow Mountains and the historic Mackenzie Trail. Added to this, both men identified the Caribou Mountain alpine, Turner Lake chain and Atnarko River Valley as areas to be considered for addition to Tweedsmuir Park.

Ches Lyons also accomplished several planning trips to northern British Columbia, the first Parks Division officer to do so. These included a major reconnaissance along the Alaska Highway in 1957. In addition, Ches evaluated the park and outdoor recreation potential of the Stuart Lake region (1954), Lakelse Lake Hotsprings (1955), Babine Lake (1956), and the Nations Lakes (1956).

From his research and recommendations, the Forest Service established numerous important recreation reserves for future consideration as provincial parks.

Two projects Ches Lyons completed during his career with the Forest Service Parks Division stand out as particularly unique. The first involved an intensive study of the administration of Garibaldi Park that at that time (1952) included Golden Ears Park. In this study, Ches provided an extremely valuable record of Garibaldi Park in the early years of its administration and made cogent recommendations for park ranger staff and facility improvements. The second project saw Yorke Edwards (BC Parks Division biologist) and Ches Lyons join forces in 1953 to evaluate the Battle Mountain area next to the southeast boundary of Wells Gray Park. This report was among the first that advocated park status for an area based on its conservation values including the protection of wildlife (caribou, grizzly bear, and moose) habitat and alpine meadows. This study placed conservation ahead of outdoor recreation.

Ches Lyons, D.M. Trew and the other men and women who made up the staff of BC Parks in those years of the 1940s and early 1950s provided a firm foundation which anchors the modern BC Protected Areas System. Their recommendations about planning and managing provincial parks helped establish sound future direction. Their legacy is one all of us who cherish British Columbia's provincial parks can be justly proud. □

*In the next issue of **VISIONS** we will have an article about Ches Lyons written by Bob Broadland. Bob worked with Ches Lyons and he'll give us another perspective of this great personality.*

# Staff Recognition Award Program

by Laverne Rooker and Marilynne Hann, Prince George District

On December 16, 1998 we held our first Award Ceremony for our Staff Recognition Program. This is a decentralized, three-level Recognition Program to give credit for a job well done, be it beyond or within an employee's job description or for actions taken that enhance and contribute to a more pleasant work environment.

It was really exciting to see so many nominations submitted, reflecting the need for such a program. A lot of great stuff is done around here and it's time to say, "Thanks!" We spend as much time, or more, with our co-workers as we do with our own families. It is important to staff health and well-being to be appreciated and recognized for the efforts put into their jobs and into the atmosphere in the office.

Through this program, peers and superiors recognize employees' excellent work. Recognition encourages innovation and risk-taking by employees and supports excellence. Recognition also fosters a sense of accomplishment and pride that comes from the acknowledgment of the employees' contribution to the workplace environment.

Careful planning, participation of the whole district team, and fun is the most important part of an effective awards program. Choosing just the right names for the three awards had all of our 'creative juices' flowing ... and Voila ...

**APPLAUSE, OVATION and OSCAR** were born!

## ■ APPLAUSE –

Social, Helping and Fun Award

**Objective:** Recognition of actions taken that enhance and contribute to a more pleasant work environment.

**Criteria:** For action and behavior that warrants recognition and contributes to a pleasant work environment.



Mark Fercho, Laverne Rooker, Geri Knickle, Cheryl Livingstone-Leman, Rick Roos  
First Award Ceremony – December 16, 1998.

## ■ OVATION – Recognition Award

**Objective:** Recognition of difficult work tasks completed exceptionally well, special projects, etc., within one's job description.

**Criteria:** For superior completion of regularly assigned work tasks in/for, eg. under tight time constraints; actions enhancing client service; special projects, etc. Accomplishment will be significant in scope and size.

## ■ OSCAR –

Special Recognition Award

**Objective:** To reward and encourage exceptional performance beyond the job description.

**Criteria:** Exceptional performance re: productivity, creativity, exceeding goals, on-going support to co-workers achieving win-win outcomes, confronting and resolving problems, risk-taking, and initiative.

In preparation for our first award ceremony, Marilynne and Laverne "shopped 'til they dropped" at the local \$ stores to create fun and thoughtful gifts. As you can all imagine, they hated that part! Discussions on wording, assembling and presentation of awards erupted many times into fits of laughter (another really healthy component of this team initiative). Their peers nominate all recipients of an award, and in most cases, the nominator presented the award. Everyone contributes in one way or another to

the success of an organization so the Committee encourages all staff to participate and to be liberal and affirmative with their nominations.

## Special thanks to:

- Rick Heathman** for the resurrection and his full support of this program
- Laverne Rooker** for her creativity in designing the certificate awards
- Cheryl Livingstone-Leman** for her way with words
- Marilynne Hann** for organizing the meetings, hounding people to be on the Committee and reminding staff to submit nominations
- Rick Rockwell and Wayne Van Velzen** for convincing everyone that this was (as Martha Stewart would say) – "a good thing!"

## Some quotes from staff:

- very gratifying to see peers getting recognized*
- keeping awards light makes this program fun*
- worked for me!*
- fun, low-cost, morale booster*

It is up to all of us to keep the program going. This is only the start of much, much more to come.

## Let's keep the program alive!

We challenge all other Districts to follow suit and implement a Staff Recognition Award Program!

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# A Walk through Time

by Sarah Joannis,  
South Vancouver Island District

It all started back in 1908 when Robert and Margaret Roe began their homestead at South Otter Bay on North Pender Island. They built a farmhouse, barn and wharf on their piece of property, the size of a square mile, and brought up their three sons George, Willie and Robert Jr. They raised milk cows, pigs, chickens, and sheep; used a workhorse for farming and grew a wonderful orchard.

The beginning of their next venture happened somewhat unintentionally. Robert Sr. built a cabin to accommodate visiting friends and family. It turned out to be so successful that he added more cabins and eventually turned it into **Roesland Summer Resort**.

The summer of 1926 was when Dave Davidson and his family first set foot on South Otter Bay, arriving on the CPR passenger ferry for their two-week vacation at the resort. Robert Sr. picked them up in a 30-foot motor launch, as he did for most of his guests, and escorted them from Port Washington to the resort. Dave can still recall his first impression of the Roesland property, "I found it truly magical and fell in love with the place." At the young age of six years old, he could not have imagined how, in time, the resort would significantly impact his life.

The resort's fifteen cabins were very basic with coal oil lamps, wood ranges, private outhouses, a bedroom and a living room. A common water tap was available and two carrying buckets were allotted to each cabin. It was a haven for the creative minds of children who would spend hours at the beach or exploring acres of trees and shrubs. Evening campfires were enjoyed by all. The Davidson family was hooked and returned for their vacation every July after that. In fact, most of the guests booked their

vacation at Roesland for the same time and same cabin each year. As time passed on, each summer became more and more like a family reunion.

Robert Roe Jr. (known as Bert) started running the resort as his parents spent more and more time at their winter home in Victoria. In 1928 Bert Roe married Irene Burnes and they built their own home on the property with a small store in the front. In 1939, Robert Roe Sr. died leaving the resort to Bert.

As Dave Davidson grew up he continued to visit Roesland, year after year. The only time he missed a visit was during the war. He introduced his fiancée, Florence Jack, to Roesland Resort during the summer of 1940 and they were married two years later. During their visits to Roesland, Dave and Florence became very close friends with Bert and Irene.

Hydro was introduced to North Pender in 1947 and Bert rebuilt most of the cabins with plumbing and electricity. As time passed, the farm and barn disappeared. Bert fell ill with cancer in 1969 and put the land up for sale. A potential buyer planned to cut down all the "messy" Arbutus trees and build a large house and road out on Roes Islet. Bert quickly turned down the sale and approached Dave and Florence to ask them for help in running the resort. He proposed the opportunity for them to take it over. Near the end of their holiday, Dave agreed to stay and help Bert and Irene

while Florence went back to their home in Kerrisdale.

In the fall of 1969 Bert died. Dave left his teaching job and by June 1970 he and Florence became permanent residents. Irene remained living on the property, but retired from working at the resort. The Davidsons built their own house and spent the next 21 years running Roesland Resort. Florence recalls "It was a full time job, but not a big money making venture. It was very affordable to rent the cabins, and in this day and age such a resort is quite an extravagant use of land". Dave and Florence retired Roesland Resort in 1991. Their concern for the future conservation of the property led them to sell and in 1996, the Roesland property became a protected area under the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy program. Dave and Florence have retained a lifetime-use lease and have a private tenancy on a one-acre parcel around their house.

Currently the only park facilities that exist are picnic tables and an outhouse. This summer an Environment Youth Team crew rebuilt an old footbridge to Roe Islet. Only the remnants of Roesland Resort remain with some of the cabins near collapse, though the newer ones still have power and are functioning. The orchard still produces apples and plums. An aura of happy times gone by and cherished memories still linger in the air of Roesland Resort – South Otter Bay Protected Area. □



*An aura of happy times gone by still linger in the air of Roesland Resort – South Otter Bay Protected Area.*

# Congratulations Due

by Alice MacGillivray, Victoria, with BC Parks Staff

Not long ago, the “levels of management” project was an idea. Now, it is much more.

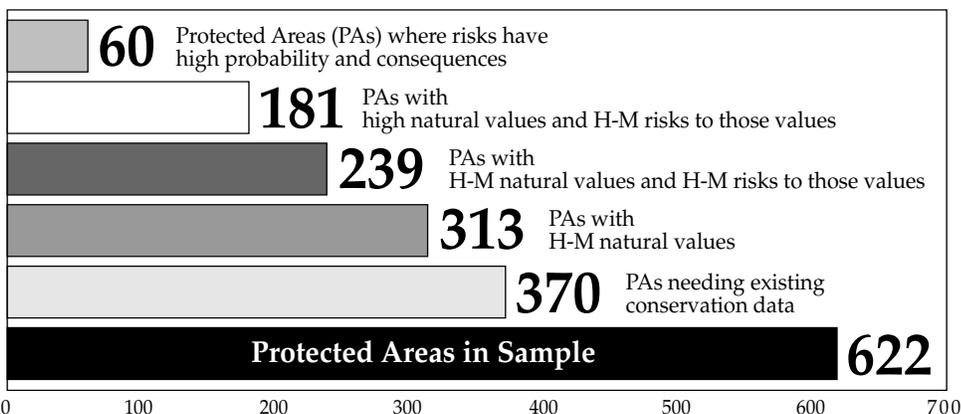
The project was initiated to help BC Parks’ staff manage each protected area – new or old – as part of a single system. Rather than investing management effort based on history, this tool helps us plan effort based on protected area values, risks and issues. Cabinet-approved Protected Areas Strategy policy made the planning work relatively easy: the framework to assess values had already been designed and reviewed by several ministries and public groups.

As a process, it replaces, and is often still called, the annual management planning (AMP) process. With apologies to those not mentioned, a provincial hybrid of the first day looks something like this:

A district team gathers around a table. The team includes operations, planning, resource, recreation and extension officers, one or more area supervisors, a finance and administration member, and I am there as a resource person. The district manager introduces the process, listing some of the benefits he has heard from other districts, such as:

- the rare opportunity to sit as a district team discussing specific protected areas
- improved input into the management cycle
- the replacement of a “create and defend” approach to writing AMPs, with a team approach which builds a shared understanding of each piece of land in a larger context
- the flow from values, risks and issues, through target-setting, to annual priorities
- the ability to focus on a shortened list of high-priority, achievable results in the final section of the document (targets provide general direction for future work)

## Sample Levels of Management Report: Setting Priorities for Acquiring Existing Information about Natural Values



*The levels of management database helps BC Parks’ staff invest effort based on significance of values, risks and issues.*

- the fact that the document is virtually completed during the working session and
- being able to “roll up” information to help headquarters staff, politicians, the public and others understand the scope and nature of system values, management gaps and priorities.

The district manager or facilitator ensures all staff members, no matter how busy, realize that their participation is essential for consensus, and for a good product.

Knowledge is shared. Andy MacDonald returns to Cariboo from Skeena to participate with the new area supervisors. Robin Draper posts recreation inventory and planning maps on the walls; Lynn Bremner displays planning table information sorted by area; Mark Fercho runs ad hoc GIS queries; Brandin Schultz, Karen MacDowell and others pull information from resource atlas projects. Wendy Byrnes hands out customized binders with key pages colour-coded and foundation task reports sorted by area. The entire Kootenay team radiates enthusiasm about the new challenges in their amalgamated district.

The template designed by Donna

Sheardown (Thompson River) and Tracy Skakun (Cariboo) is projected on the wall. (Donna’s projection idea seemed complex to some, but caught on with force in year two.) The area supervisor or planner provides a brief overview of the park, followed by a pooling of ideas, about values, risks and issues. A debate ensues. Donna enters draft text, instantly focusing the group’s attention on where the park fits in the provincial context. New information comes out – even though a park has been in the system for 30 years. In Strathcona District, Wendy Gibbons starts a glossary of biophysical terms new to her, looks them up in her evenings, and says “it’s given me an even greater appreciation of the parks our District manages: ones I visit or look forward to visiting. I know considerably more about the significance of special values, and sensitivity of the protected areas.” A “humorous quotes” flip chart is started in Skeena, to punctuate the hours of intense concentration.

Long-term targets are set for each protected area. A significant wilderness experience is threatened by increasing use. In one district, the plan is for more formalized facilities; in another for more research, another

*(continued on page 7) ►*

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*“Congratulations ...” continued from page 6)*

discusses their use of a permit to control use. Each set of targets reflects the district team’s judgment about how to protect and manage the key values, risks and issues.

The final step is drafting a list of annual priorities, coded to match the long-term targets. “How does that project fit with what we’ve discussed?” asks a team member. “It’s been on the AMP for years, but I don’t think it does fit anymore” is the reply. The group agrees and moves on.

An area supervisor approaches me in the hall saying “I had stopped preparing AMPs but I’m starting again – this makes sense.” Brian Carruthers comments that “the previous AMP process was long out-of-date and many staff felt the effort to develop the plans far outweighed the benefits. In this project, the needs of the agency and the desires of the districts came together, resulting in an effective, defensible management planning tool.”

Wendy Gibbons felt she got to know a lot more about the people in her district. “To participate in, and support, such a dedicated team was a very rewarding and valuable experience for me.”

Clerks bring me into a discussion about how much less behind-the-scenes work will be necessary. “It’s great to have the LAN – we have all the templates organized there by area. And another big change is we don’t have the ‘flaying of the area supervisor,’ with four or five redrafts and the frustrations of documents rotating through in-baskets.”

This project has truly been a team effort, beginning with half a dozen of us almost two years ago, to the whole organization. District managers and Denis O’Gorman defined needs. Bob Dalziel headed and supported our team, which included Brian Carruthers, Ron Routledge, Rik Simmons, Drew Carmichael, Jeanne Wutzke, Mona Holley, Rick Kool and Marty Roberts. “One of my clearest memories” says Mona “was working with Alice, Rik and Denis to finalize

criteria for natural and cultural heritage management. I found it very gratifying to come to a common understanding of how the levels would be determined.”

One of Wendy Byrnes’ clearest memories is of going through the process with the Nisga’a co-management board. “The process was very well-received, with the participants quickly grasping the approach, and easily agreeing on issues, values and risks. It made sense – a direct result of process direction.”

From a headquarters perspective, Mona believes this is “a great tool for providing district perspectives that can be reflected in program direction.” From a district standpoint, Brian states that “never before in the history of BC Parks, have we had such a consistent and logical approach to value identification and management priority-setting. Hats

off to all those staff who have made the process work.”

Is the project complete? Wendy Gibbons says she is looking forward to improvements in project list management next year. “If the Excel spreadsheet you and I fine-tuned for the projects could be included in the procedures, the district management team could review district priorities almost immediately following the sessions.” Donna Sheardown hits on one of the big missing pieces when I ask her “By the end of next year, what would you like to be able to do?” Without hesitation, she replies “Access information at: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks>, see the results of the AMP process and be able to produce reports as needed – directly from the internet site.” With that kind of pragmatic vision in our midst, it should be another exciting year. □

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## Kootenay Lake, Evening

*by Denis Donnelly*

Kootenay Lake lies in a fold of the hills  
like a great silver cat,  
sleeping on through the rough evening,  
the breeze ruffling its fur.

We have driven all day. Now, like a slick of stillness  
the evening spreads out around our campsite,  
sniffs the tent and cooking, then  
folds its weight and settles in the tree-shadows.

The miles slouch like scales. Soon, from the quiet  
a deeper quiet rises – the full moon,  
heavy with light, nudges past overlapping peaks  
and floats free into the clear night sky.

She has brushed the ridges of the low hills  
and her face is streaked with shadow.  
Small, dark wounds cling to her,  
carried up from the deep valleys where the wolves howl.

Tomorrow we will start home, west to the sea,  
following the moon, by then again under earth.  
But tonight, as the breeze freshens,  
over pale sand lit by the moon, we turn to sleep.

*Written from the Davis Creek campground at the north end of Kootenay Lake.  
Denis is married to Rebecca Bernson from our South Vancouver Island District.*

# Below the Highwater Mark

by Doug Biffard, Victoria

Back in January, Brandin Schultz and Chris Platz of Garibaldi/Sunshine Coast District called me to discuss a permit application they had received; something about an environmental awareness event for divers at Porteau Cove Park. Put diving, environment and parks together and you have my interest. Brandin and Chris explained that Ocean Quest Diving wanted to organize an event where divers would search and recover garbage from the seafloor. At first thought that seems a simple and laudable thing. But, marine life quickly turns many of the items that humans dump into the ocean into homes. We concluded that the divers would have to carefully inspect any of their discoveries for signs of maritime residents. We were pleased to learn that the diving association PADI had already developed guidelines for conducting an environmentally aware cleanup.

Not having participated in this type of diving activity before I quickly made up my mind to join in on the fun. The ferry gods willing, I arrived at Porteau Cove on the morning of the event. Greg and Deidre of Ocean



Quest and volunteers from the Underwater Council of BC (UCBC) had already setup displays and were bracing themselves against a cold northerly wind with hot chocolate and barbecued smokies. Greg did a good job of briefing about 50 divers on the purpose and procedures for

the dive. We then dressed into our gear and headed for the water.

Sinking below the waves I was surprised to view a brightly lit sandy seafloor through fairly clear water. My dive buddy signaled 'all's well' as we moved out into deeper water – the search was on! The most remarkable thing about this area of Porteau Cove is the number of dungeness crabs running around the bottom. Dungeness are the most sought after crabs for eating and generally not seen in great number by divers. Porteau is closed to the taking of any marine life. The abundance of large male crabs – some clutching smaller females in preparation for mating suggests, that the 'no take status' is working.

The first piece of refuse we encountered was a piece of metal tubing about 1 metre long and 10 cm in diameter. We noted small barnacles and seaweeds growing on the outer surface, a starfish, shrimp and small fish residing inside. The metal was streaming rust but we decided the tubing had value as a home for sealife. We continued on to recover

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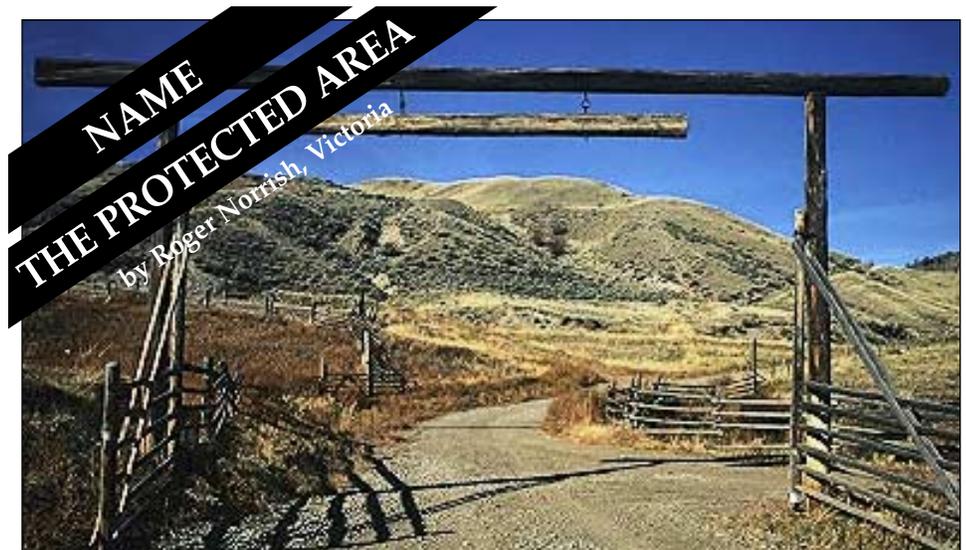


("...Highwater..." continued from page 8)

other garbage; rope, a golf ball, metal strapping and plastic fragments. Overall I was impressed by the lack of garbage in such a high use area. Encounters with fairly common but colourful marine life like seastars, anemones, crabs, shrimp, snails, and bottom dwelling fish made for an enjoyable underwater tour.

Upon return to the surface, recovered items were sorted and once more inspected. Divers were shown some of the marine life they overlooked in their enthusiasm to clean up the trash. Two small octopus, extremely good at hiding and a clump of seaweed, mistaken for a tangle of twine, were among the life returned to the sea.

Porteau Cove Park is one of 94 provincial parks and ecological reserves with marine area. Divers from all over Western Canada visit this park, making Porteau one of the most active dive sites in Canada. Thanks to the local diving community and staff at Garibaldi/Sunshine Coast District, Porteau Cove is one of a very few, established 'no take' marine protected areas. More information on the event is posted on the UCBC website (<http://www.ucbc.bc.ca/beach/cleanup.htm>). □



## Cowboys and Canyons

*Glacial landforms, grasses, Bighorn sheep, river canyons and ranching history define this protected area.*

The province of British Columbia recently negotiated the purchase of a historic ranch in the Cariboo. These lands, added to Crown lands lying adjacent to the ranch, now comprise a 24,368 hectare grasslands protected area about 60 kilometers south of Williams Lake. The Upper Fraser River Canyon forms the eastern boundary of this protected area. There is a deep incised river canyon on the north side and the protected area takes its name from this river. Cactus, bunchgrass and Douglas-fir trees cover this protected area's rolling landscape. BC Parks has just started a management plan process to provide long term direction for this special protected area. Can you name this protected area? And what was the name of the ranch that sold their interests to the province? (Answer on page 12). □

## Backcountry Recreation Impact Monitoring (BRIM)

*by Mona Holley, Victoria*

BC Parks has recognized for a long time the need to be able to monitor the impacts of recreational use, especially in backcountry areas. Throughout the years there have been many programs and projects that have been conducted for that reason. Awhile back in 1997 the resource officers and conservation headquarters staff realized that there were several methods being used and that the time had come to develop one single consistent format for monitoring impacts to campsites and trails in backcountry areas. A working group was formed to achieve this task with Brandin Schultz, Resource Officer,

Garibaldi-Sunshine District and Hans Roemer, Vegetation Ecologist, Headquarters doing the majority of the work.

The program that has been developed enables consistent assessment and documentation of changes caused by recreational use in natural environments of protected areas, outside of formally developed areas. The program monitors the most common impacts that are connected to camping and trail situations such as the percentage of bare soil area; the density/wear of the vegetation, tree damage, and exposure of tree roots.

The process involves defining campsite areas, trail sections or trail sampling points as permanent plots. Observation points must be the same from year to year to enable subsequent comparisons. Sketches and photo documentation are completed and standard forms are filled in. How often the area is assessed will be tailored to the rate of change that is expected, for example, annual monitoring should be carried out in frequently used camping situations, longer intervals are adequate where little change is expected.

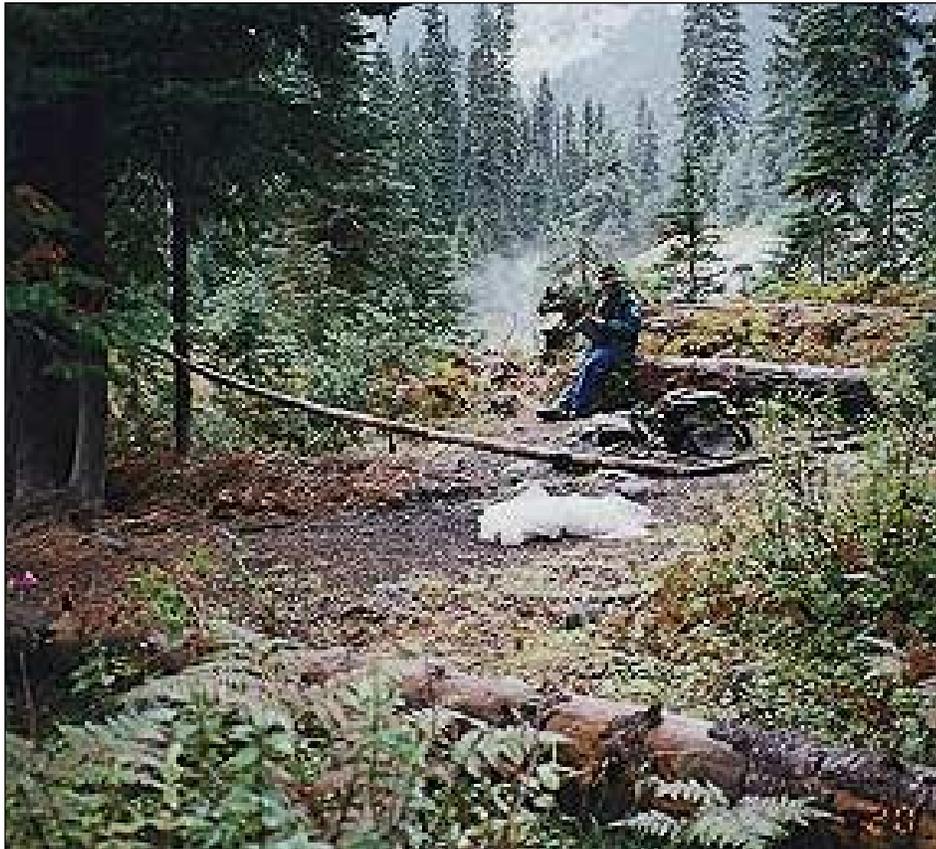
*(continued on page 10) ►*

("Backcountry..." continued from page 9)

The program has been well received throughout the province. Last summer was used for field testing of the program. It was implemented in the Cariboo District in Ts'yl-os, Itcha Ilgachuz provincial parks and Hakai Recreation Area to assist in determining recreation impacts to backcountry campsites and trails and to supplement backcountry user surveys in a number of sensitive areas where excessive recreation activities were occurring. Garibaldi-Sunshine District has also implemented the system in a number of locations in the district as "conservation projects" for rangers. The Kootenay District has also used the process for such projects as in the Dewar Creek Hotsprings campsite in Purcell Wilderness Conservancy.

This year the BRIM program will be fully implemented by districts across the province.

For more information on the BRIM program contact the district resource officer. □



*Backcountry Recreation Impact Monitoring (BRIM) study in Purcell Wilderness Conservancy.*

## French Student Volunteer

*by Anne Pellier*



*Anne Pellier*

As a student in a Rural Area Management College in France, I have to undertake a placement in a foreign country for a year.

My program is turned toward the management of environmental resources but is broader: we have courses of economics, law, tourism, development, agriculture, hydrography. The location of the Rural Area Management College is Annecy, in the French Alps, where we do many trips in the field. This school belongs to the University of Lyon 3. The program is four years long. We study in Lyon 3 the fourth year.

Before this program, I gained a degree after a two-year course in biology in the University of Orsay (Paris 11). It provided me with the opportunity to work in Vanoise National Park in France with a research plan about marmots population.

My project is a comparison between a Provincial Park and a National Park in Canada for this year. Mike Murtha helped me to obtain two placements as a volunteer, one with BC Parks and one with Banff National Park.

I started to work in the field in the Mount Robson Provincial Park for one month. I assisted both the park rangers and the park facility operator. I enjoyed the outside work there and discovered the Canadian environment through many hikes.

I work now in the BC Parks Office of Prince George with Mike Murtha on two management direction statements. This experience is just wonderful! It provides me with the opportunity to learn about the organization of BC Parks.

*(continued on page 11) ►*

("French Student Volunteer" continued from page 10)

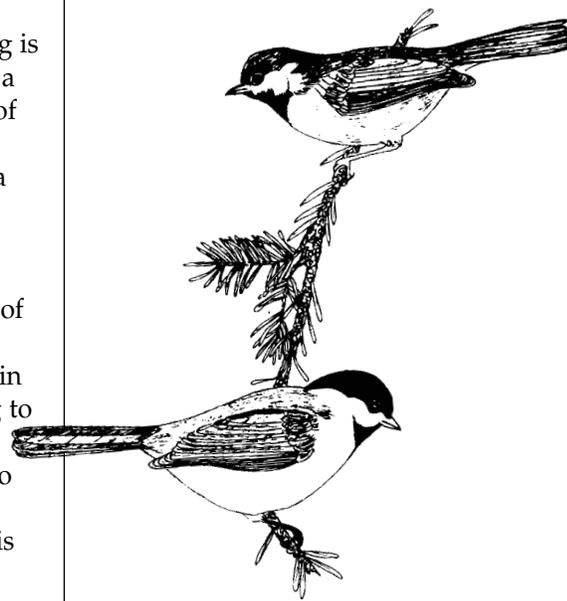
Many things, like the Land and Resources Management Plan, the Legacy Project and the ecosystem classification of BC were new for me and very interesting to know.

It is very different from the French Alps where I studied. The surrounding is not similar of course but mostly the way to consider the environment differ a lot. You are protecting the bear habitat while we discuss the reintroduction of the wolf with the farmers! The natural resources are not the same. I had to adapt to them but writing two direction management statements opens up a different management to my mind.

Furthermore, the consultation of the stakeholders is very good here. The activities are not the same in France but we always meet political problems which compromise the public consultation. So, I am acquiring a new vision of the environment and a new way of organization.

During my placement, I have given several presentations about the Alps in order to make this experience beneficial to Canadians. Likewise, I am trying to create an exchange of students between the University of Northern British Columbia and my university in France. I hope that BC Parks will continue to accept foreign volunteers: it could be advantageous for the both!

I would like to thank especially Mike Murtha and Wayne Van Velzen. This placement would not have been possible without them! Mike Murtha has helped me really for everything! I would like to thank all the staff of Prince George and of the Mount Robson Park who are so welcoming and have accepted my difficulties with the English language! □



## Camping Fees Raised in Provincial Parks

Frontcountry campgrounds, those accessible by car, have had their fees increased for the 1999 season. This is the first general fee increase since 1992. Backcountry camping fees were

also increased. A fee for sani-stations has been applied in more parks. There have also been new fees and fee adjustments in specific parks locations to reflect new facility

construction or the provision of a new service. All campground fees stay within the park system.

The 1999 fee changes bring BC Parks camping rates closer to the fee levels charged for private and national campgrounds and by other provincial park agencies. Comparing BC Parks highest fee to the rates of other park agencies across Canada, it is still below the other provinces. The top BC camping fee is \$18.50 with firewood included, while Alberta's top fee for similar services is \$20.00, firewood not included, and Ontario's fee is \$21.75, firewood not included.

Since the inception of the park system 88 years ago, government policy, supported by the public, has been that all residents should contribute to the cost of establishing, protecting and managing the park system through general tax revenue. Park users, however, are the primary

(continued on page 12) ►



("Camping Fees..." continued from page 11)  
 beneficiaries of the direct use of park opportunities and services. The income generated through their fees is used to help cover the direct costs of providing those services. User fees are related to the value of the service provided. A range of campground services are offered in provincial parks and these fee adjustments, which reflect the actual service level provided, will help to ensure that the type and level of service now provided are maintained.

Park users were first charged for some of the services they use when camping fees were initiated in 1968. With greater acceptance of the concept of user fees, camping fees were increased over the years and applied to an increasing number of campgrounds. Several new user fees were also added, for example a marine park docking fee was added in 1972 and a backcountry fee in 1973.

Several public surveys conducted by BC Parks and other jurisdictions confirm that the public generally accepts the concept of user fees as long as they are fair and affordable. For example, only 10% of respondents to a BC Parks survey did not support campground fees. In the same survey, support for the use of fees tended to be highest for programs related to provision of recreation services.

British Columbia offers recreational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts that are unsurpassed in quality and diversity. Provincial park users have come to expect a certain level of service. By introducing increased fees, BC Parks is working to maintain a level of service that is consistent with the public's expectations. □

**NAME THE PROTECTED AREA:**  
 Answer (from page 9):  
 Churn Creek Protected Area.  
 The Empire Valley Ranch sold their  
 property at Churn Creek to the  
 province.

# New Parks for 1999

## Discover Camping Reservation Service

by Debby Funk, Victoria

For many people camping in British Columbia is a favorite holiday activity. Last year, 58,000 reservations were made through the **Discover Camping Reservation Service**, an increase of about 10,000 more than in 1997 for a 20 percent increase in use.

This year, a total of 63 provincial parks and one national park will be listed on the reservation service.

New parks for 1999 include:

- Birkenhead Lake
- Elk Falls (Quinsam)
- Fillongley
- Gladstone (Texas Creek)
- Kettle River
- Lac la Hache
- Little Qualicum Falls
- Loveland Bay
- Mount Fernie
- Paarens Beach
- Premier Lake
- Smelt Bay
- Sproat Lake (Upper, Lower)
- Stamp River



Call the Discover Camping campground reservation service toll-free at **1-800-689-9025** (689-9025 in Greater Vancouver). Agents are available to take your reservation from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm Monday to Friday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Saturday and Sunday.

Reservations can be made up to three months in advance and two days prior to your arrival date. (Liard River Hot Springs and Birkenhead Lake can be made up to five days prior to your arrival date). Book early as many campgrounds fill up quickly. The earliest reservable arrival date is March 15 and the latest is September 15.

The maximum length of stay in provincial parks is 14 nights per park, per calendar year. Haynes Point is the exception with a maximum length of stay of seven days per calendar year. Limits will be posted in the park. **Note:** The limit at Pacific Rim National Park Reserve is seven nights in a 30-day window.

For more information about the campground reservation service and up-to-date information on how to make a reservation, check Discover Camping's website at [www.discovercamping.ca](http://www.discovercamping.ca).



**DISCOVER CAMPING**  
 CAMPGROUND RESERVATION SERVICE

**1-800-689-9025**

(689-9025 in Greater Vancouver)