

## BC Parks @Rendezvous 2000.WOW

by Echo Oliver,  
Park Host and Host Coordinator,  
Garibaldi/Sunshine Coast District

*This special edition of VISIONS is a tribute and thanks to volunteers – those special people and groups who give so much to BC Parks. The idea of a special edition came about from another good idea: the Park Host Rendezvous. The Park Host Rendezvous was held this spring at Fintry Provincial Park. Hosted by BC Parks, it was a chance for all of our Park Hosts to gather together to share ideas, information and fun. By all accounts it was a great success!*

**WOW!!!** Wonderful location and superb food. Outstanding agenda with fabulous activities and workshops. Welcoming people, both staff and participants. **WOW!!!**

Thank you, BC Parks staff from Victoria Headquarters and in the districts for all the energy, time and effort.

Two years ago this was just a little idea that I brought back after attending a similar event in Oregon. My enjoyment of the Oregon State Park Host Rendezvous prompted me to promote the idea to my Extension Officer, Vicki Haberl, in hopes that something similar could happen here in BC. Never in my imagination could I have wished for a better outcome.

Nearly 60 rigs and over 130 hosts and families gathered for this event. Some of the participants traveled hundreds of kilometers. Some arrived a day or two early and planned to stay a day or two longer, just to enjoy the Okanagan. Every single person I spoke to said they were having a marvelous time and were really glad they had come.

**Rendezvous Roundup** was the western theme for the weekend, starting with Friday's **Circling the Wagons**, a wine and cheese hosted by Village Cheese Company and Gray Monk Cellars Winery. Opportunities abounded to meet fellow hosts and staff from parks where we volunteered to parks we had never heard of.

Saturday's agenda was jam packed with workshops and activities. Everyone who participated seemed to enjoy the opportunity to **Chew the Fat** and have his or her opinions heard and responded to. It will be most interesting to see how BC Parks applies the ideas put forth for improvements and changes to the host program province wide.

The nature and history walks conducted by the local park interpreters were fun and informative, and it was a treat to have a special tour with the Okanagan Historical Society of the octagonal barn, one of Fintry Park's cultural treasures.

Saturday afternoon's seminar on **The Latest Dirt on BC Parks** presented by Brandin Schultz gave us much to contemplate about BC Parks' changing focus from recreation to conservation. We all learned new terms such as *ecological integrity* and made me even more dedicated to talking to visitors in our parks



*Park Host, Joan Ritchie, receives her 15-year Volunteer Award presented by Denis O'Gorman, Assistant Deputy Minister (right) assisted by Jim Cuthbert, Extension Officer, Lower Mainland District (left).*

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Articles from readers are welcome. Deadline for material in the next issue is September 1, 2000.

**Editor**

*Nancy Chave*

**Contributors**

- Greg Betz*
- Drew Chapman*
- Katie Chow*
- Marlene Graham*
- Robert Gray*
- Vicki Haberl*
- Cheryl Livingstone-Leman*
- Fraser MacGillivray*
- Echo Oliver*
- Don Roberts*
- Chris Tunnoch*

**Minister**

*Joan Sawicki*

**Deputy Minster**

*Derek Thompson*

**Assistant Deputy Minister**

*Denis O'Gorman*

*("BC Parks...Rendezvous..." continued from page 1)*

about not using tree branches for hot dog roasting sticks, the importance of keeping fires small and staying on the trails when hiking. It seemed to me these were small ways I could personally apply what I had learned to my everyday experience.

Saturday evening's dinner catered by the O'Keefe Ranch Restaurant may have added a pound or two to many of us. Denis O'Gorman, Assistant Deputy Minister from the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks honoured us with words of thanks, and presented a plaque to Joan Ritchie of the Lower Mainland District for her 15 years of volunteer service. Joan's contribution and dedication to BC Parks is an inspiration.

My comment that there are only two kinds of music I don't like, country and western, was completely denigrated by the **Lasso the Moon Cowboy Show**. The combination of song, story, poetry and roping techniques made for an enjoyable evening. Those who received their official certificate of graduation from the Cowboy school are to be commended for being such good sports and participants.

Mother's Day breakfast, provided by the Elk's Club, was a perfect send off. With full bellies (and a Mother's Day carnation) we were ready to hit the road, or spend the day enjoying beautiful Fintry Park.

Generous free time for socializing also provided opportunities to connect with BC Parks staff and fellow hosts, to talk about mutual interests and the upcoming season, and to ask questions about parks in others areas. I think the sharing of information will have a positive effect on the Host Program, with hosts moving around the province, sharing their knowledge and experience in a variety of locations. I can't wait to try hosting in parks like Tweedsmuir, or Spatsizi, or Naikoon, or ...

As a volunteer host and host co-ordinator, I hope I speak for everyone who attended. Yes, BC Parks, we want to do this again, and again, and again. We appreciated every moment.

**Thank-you!** ☐



*Roseanne Van Ee gives Park Hosts an interpretive tour.*



*Wine and cheese hosted by Village Cheese Company and Gray Monk Cellars Winery.*



*Singing for their supper.*



*Mother's Day breakfast provided by the Elk's Club.*



*Cowboy Bob shows Denis O'Gorman the ropes.*



## Volunteers in BC Parks

*by Chris Tunnoch, Lower Mainland District*

In BC Parks we are fortunate to have a network of dedicated individuals and groups who assist us annually in fulfilling our stewardship role of protected areas throughout our vast province. These folks come to us in the form of campground hosts, Ecological Reserve wardens, Park Watch groups, school children and individuals of all ages.

So what exactly is a volunteer, and why should we be standing up and taking notice? In the broadest sense of a definition, volunteers are individuals who contribute their time and resources in a non-profit, non-wage action for the well being of their community and society at large. From a BC Parks standpoint, these are the folks who put the finishing

touches on everything our visitors have come to know and respect about our parks system. It's that extra smile in the campground for the family who can't find their way back to their campsite; the extra kilometer of trail that couldn't get cleared without help; the recording of a rare plant or bird species in an Ecological Reserve, or simply, the extra infusion of energy for that project that's been waiting to happen for a long time.

In November of 1997, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the year 2001 to be the International Year of the Volunteer (IYV). As the world enters the 21st century, it was felt that there needed to be some facilitation for the vital

contributions of volunteers and recognition of their achievements. The focus of IYV 2001 will be on the volunteer spirit within local communities whose efforts, no matter how large or small, contribute to the well being of society as a whole. In BC Parks, we already know this to be true!

In preparation for next year, we thought we'd take this opportunity to share some of the highlights and unique achievements of our volunteers. Without them, our parks system would lack some of the rich tapestry of human spirit that has helped us grow to where we are today. □

# A Special Addition to Monkman Park

by Don Roberts, Peace Liard District

Monkman Park has always been a special place for the community of Tumbler Ridge – it is a spectacular park in their backyard. However, as the coal mines are being closed, the area is challenged with how they can keep their community alive and prosperous.

BC Parks has been working with the Town Council and community, particularly with the Wolverine Nordic and Mountain Society, to promote Monkman Park as a special place for those living in Tumbler and as an attraction for tourism.

The Wolverine Nordic and Mountain Society is interested in becoming the “Friends of Monkman Park” and a formal working agreement is in the works. The Peace Liard District is pleased to acknowledge this Society and the tremendous work they have done, and continue to do, for Monkman Park. We are also pleased to say that the area described in the attached Tumbler Ridge newspaper article is now part of Monkman Park.

We look forward to an excellent ongoing working arrangement with groups such as the Wolverine Nordic and Mountain Society and the contribution they have made for one of BC’s most spectacular parks! □

## The Stone-Corral: An Exciting New Discovery in the Tumbler Ridge Area

with thanks to the *Community Connections*, Tumbler Ridge

One of the most exciting discoveries in recent years in the Tumbler Ridge area has been the Stone-Corral, situated just over two kilometers from Kinuseo Falls. It was explored for the first time in November 1990 by members of the Wolverine Nordic and Mountain Society (WNMS), after examination of aerial photos had identified it as an area potentially rich in caves. The explorers were amazed to find, in addition to a small new cave, vertical cliffs over 100 feet high encircling an unknown lakelet.

The tourist potential of this find was immediately realized, and over the winter a series of discussions ensued with BC Parks, as the area was just outside the Monkman Provincial Park, on Crown Land. The topography was recognized as being so steep as to preclude any logging, and the timber was regarded as unmerchantable, so that it was not difficult persuading all parties to change the boundary of the park to include this unique area. Formal proclamation of the new boundary will take place in the legislature in the fall.

When discovered, the lake was frozen and the area blanketed in snow, which left everyone concerned wondering all winter what it would look like after the thaw. On 17 May a whole expedition went to investigate: Rob Bressette of Ministry of Forests, four expert cavers from Prince George led by Bob Rutherford, resident archaeologist Lisa Challinor, all guided by members of WNMS (Wolverine, Nordic Mountain Society) and their kids.

None were disappointed. The exquisite Stone-Corral Lakelet is crystal clear, and possibly over 100 feet deep. The cavers want to return with Scuba gear to plumb its depths in search of underwater passages. The tiny Corral Cave has a few stalactites, a formation known as moonmilk on its ceiling, and a number of other interesting features, along with big icicles on its floor. The vertical cliffs that form the Stone-Corral are a rock-climber’s dream and offer

the best climbing in the whole Peace region. The view of the surrounding peaks and valleys from the natural platform at the top of the cliffs is breathtakingly beautiful. And a small second cave, soon named Porcupine Cave, was discovered. It is actually a tunnel between two sinkholes, offering a tight squeeze through a passage, with a central chamber in which it is possible to stand upright. Further archaeological work needs to be done in the area to investigate some initial clues. Limestone outcrops are everywhere, and further caves are likely to be found as the area is combed over.

Over the course of the last five years, over a dozen caves have been discovered in the Tumbler Ridge area. Up until now, none have been considered suitable for public access; they have been too remote, too dangerous, too confusing, or filled with fragile formations. Corral Cave is different. It is just 70 feet deep, a walk-in cave in which it is impossible to get lost. It has a high ceiling so that it is impossible to break the few formations that occur.

BC Parks and WNMS have therefore agreed to co-operate in building a trail to this remarkable natural feature, probably with the help of an E-team (thereby providing summer employment opportunities to TR residents). The route will be a fascinating one, and will be interpretive, focussing on karst topography and its features, such as the large resurgence spring at the base of the ridge that discharges its waters at a temperature of 8.5 degrees Celsius all year round.

In the long term, this project will immensely benefit local tourism, as it will offer visitors to Kinuseo Falls further recreational opportunities and encourage them to spend a few nights in the area. WNMS would like to thank BC Parks, Ministry of Forests and Canfor with their help so far in this project. Two other new trails are planned for construction this summer, and will be featured in subsequent editions.

# Rock Solid Stewardship

by Vicki Haberl, Garibaldi/Sunshine Coast District

Stawamus Chief stands like a sentinel at the entrance to Squamish on the Sea To Sky Highway between Vancouver and Whistler. The 700-metre high granite wall is an icon for the town of 15,000 residents, and it is a gem in the crown of new provincial parks.

The Squamish area has been popular with rock climbers for over forty years, with a significant increase in the number of climbers over the last decade. The climbing areas at Stawamus Chief, Shannon Falls and Murrin Parks are of regional, provincial and international significance. Already a popular recreation destination for both its rock climbing and hiking, the Chief gained official Class A designation in 1997.

By the time of its designation, a 17-member public advisory committee had volunteered more than 300 hours of time to develop the Stawamus Chief Management Plan. With representatives of different sectors of the community, the advisory committee helped to develop long-term management strategies and objectives for the park.

A new campground was built at the foot of the Chief designed specifically for the needs of rock climbers, hikers and cyclists with low impact, walk-in camping. Close to 10,000 campers used the new facilities last year. The Squamish Rock Climbers Association is operating the campground and providing visitor services in the park under a cooperative management agreement established by BC Parks. As a non-profit association, the Squamish Rock Climbers Association redirects any surplus revenues into park improvements.

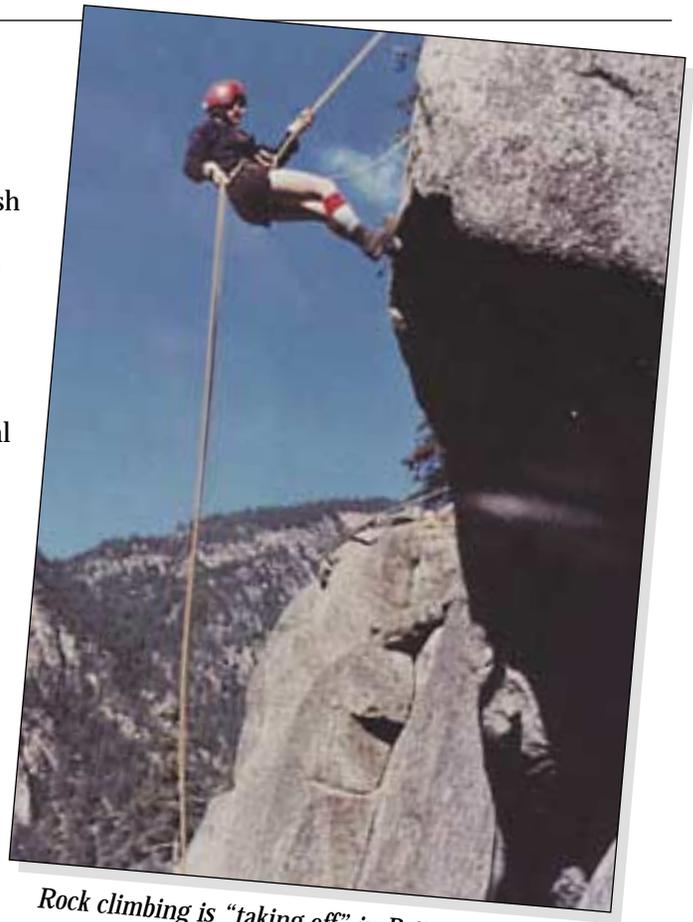
The management plan recognized rock climbing as a key recreational activity within the park, and set two objectives for climbing:

- to provide for a variety of climbing opportunities
- to minimize the impact of climbing on the environment

It further directed that issues arising from these two objectives be addressed through a rock climbing strategy. Over several months in 1999 a dedicated group of eleven rock climbers representing different segments of the climbing community worked together with Area Supervisor Tom Bell from the Garibaldi/Sunshine Coast District. The goal was to develop a strategy that would provide direction to BC Parks for managing rock climbing in a way that addresses climbers' needs while ensuring protection of the environment. The group discussed a wide range of topics, from trail development and climber access routes to fixed protection and bolting to the role of the climbing community in park stewardship. The result is BC Parks first Rock Climbing Strategy which covers Stawamus Chief, Shannon Falls and Murrin Provincial Parks.

The strategy makes a number of recommendations and identifies new initiatives. And there is more work to be done to accomplish the objectives of the management plan. With the number of park visitors at more than 200,000 annually, and the park's popularity increasing, it will continue to demand sound management. The ongoing support of volunteers is paramount to the future of this park. Given the extent of public involvement and the commitment of so many volunteers so far, it appears that the future of Stawamus Chief Park is on solid ground.

For a copy of the *Rock Climbing Strategy*, contact the Garibaldi District office at (250) 398-4414. □

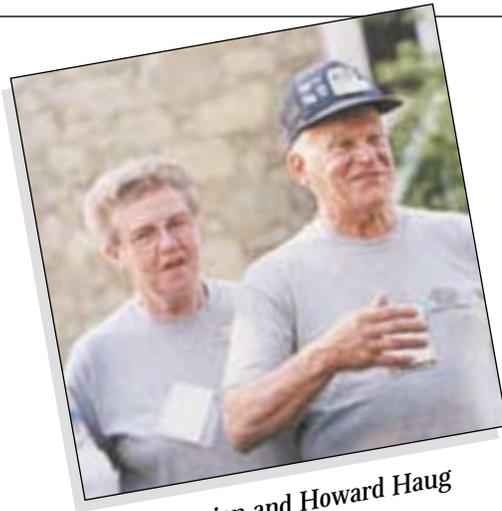


*Rock climbing is "taking off" in British Columbia.*

**BRITISH  
COLUMBIA  
PARKS  
VOLUNTEER**

# Some of Our Volunteer Hosts...

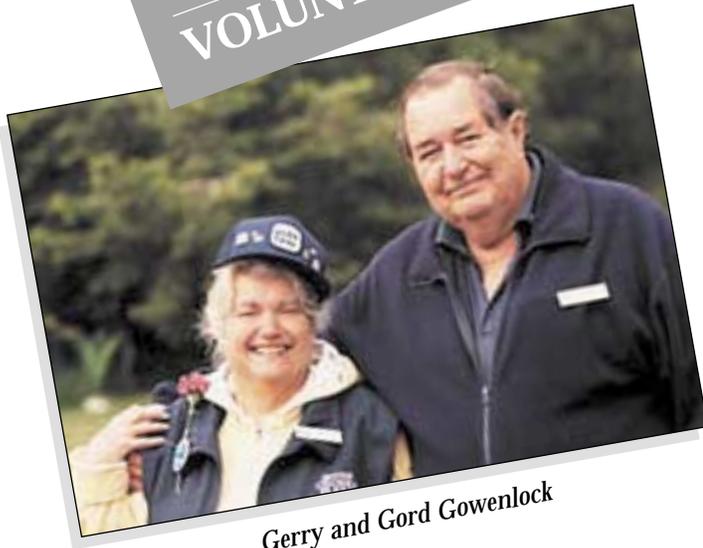
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COLUMBIA  
PARKS  
VOLUNTEER**



Marion and Howard Haug



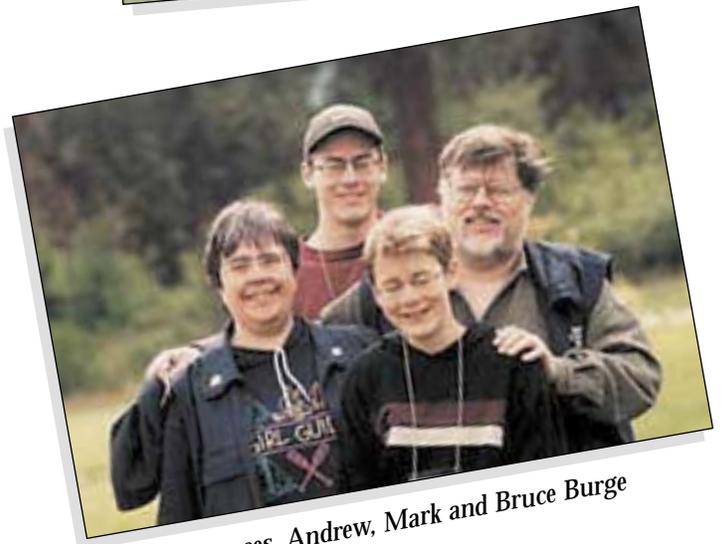
Henry and



Gerry and Gord Gowenlock



Doug and Nancy Konsmo  
with granddaughter Tara



Frances, Andrew, Mark and Bruce Burge



*Donna Harder*



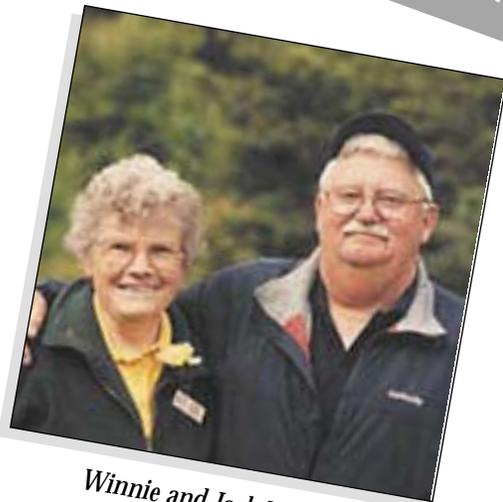
*Jennifer and Mike Cochran*



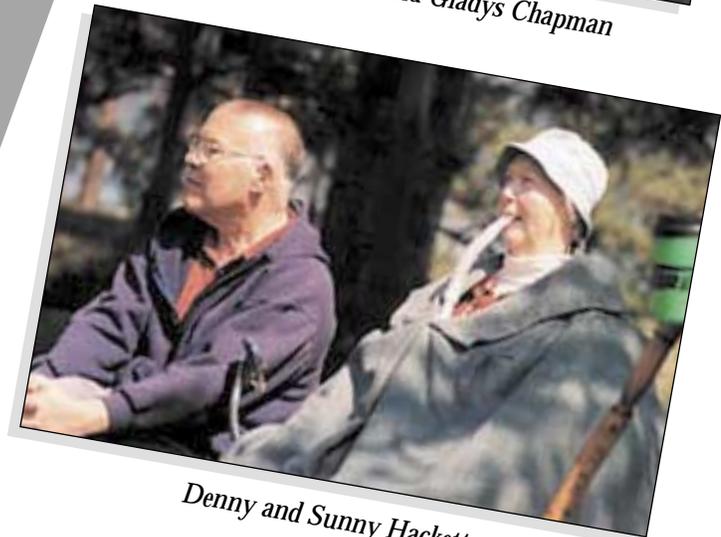
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*Don and Gladys Chapman*



*Winnie and Jack Morgan*



*Denny and Sunny Hackett*

**...at Rendezvous 2000**

# BRITISH COLUMBIA PARKS VOLUNTEER



## Community Partnership in the Okanagan

by Greg Betz, Okanagan District

In the fall of 1998, the Okanagan District initiated a pilot project called the *Catalogue of Opportunities*. The goal was to produce a 'gift catalogue' to identify "enhancement" projects throughout the district that could be privately sponsored.

The pilot project was recognized as part of the "Adaptive Service Delivery" initiative in the spring of 1999 and was funded to the amount of \$18,000. A catalogue and associated marketing plan was produced with the assistance of a private consultant. The focus of the catalogue was to present potential enhancement projects, volunteer opportunities, as well as to introduce a "Be a Friend of BC Parks Okanagan District" program.

The project has proven to be very challenging and, as a result of hard work by all staff and the consultant, also very rewarding. The district is currently doing a strategic evaluation to determine overall benefits and other keys to success. It generated in-kind contributions and pledges in excess of \$300,000 over the past year and several of the enhancement projects are ongoing. Cash donations have been minimal, however our *Friends* program has generated over \$2,000 to support various projects.

The most beneficial aspect of the pilot project is that staff has developed a new way of engaging the community. Staff has recognized that the business community, local community service clubs and individual volunteers want to get involved and the catalogue has helped provide a focus for that involvement. This pilot has evolved into a component of the Districts' extensive abilities and an excellent outreach tool. For more information contact BC Parks, Okanagan District Office at (250) 494-6500. □

## Humour in Uniform(a Park Host Uniform that is!)

by Marlene Graham, Volunteer Coordinator, East Lower Mainland District

### Fishing at Sasquatch Provincial Park

The Sasquatch Park Hosts were relaxing at their campsite enjoying a warm summer day when a hysterical lady arrived in tears. She had dropped her keys down the outhouse. The host was immediately handed a rake and flashlight by his wife and off he marched down the hill to save the day. When he arrived at the outhouse there was a long line-up of ladies, anxiously awaiting their turn. Truly a gentleman, the host lined up behind the ladies and waited patiently! Finally, it was his turn to "use" the outhouse. After a few minutes of fishing around with the rake, he was able to hand over the keys to a very thankful camper. This puts a whole new meaning to the word "fishing" in BC Parks.

### Studios Bears at Rolley Lake Provincial Park

Numerous frightened campers had appeared at the host site stating that they had seen a black bear in the campground. The hosts promptly informed the Park Facility Operator of each sighting. A few hours later a large barrel-type bear trap arrived at the park and was set up to catch the bear. Days went by with no sign of a bear. The host, realizing that there was a problem, went to investigate. In no time at all, he found that he was able to solve this dilemma. On the trap in very large letters were the words "DANGER - BEAR STAY AWAY", and that is exactly what the bear had done. The host chuckled to his wife and said, "Who says that bears can't read!" □



**BC Parks  
says "Thanks"  
to ALL our  
volunteers!**

# Newcastle Island Unveils Welcoming Poles

by Drew Chapman, South Vancouver Island District

Two Kwakiutl poles carved by a famous carver Mungo Martin had presided on Newcastle Island Provincial Marine Park for nearly 30 years. In 1994 these poles were returned to the Kwakiutl First Nation territory. During the park management process in 1995, it was recommended that new Coast Salish Welcoming Poles be erected.

On May 26, 2000 at Newcastle Island the two new Welcoming Poles were unveiled to an audience of 150 local community members, local MLA Dale Lovick, Mayor Gary Korpan and Snuneymuxw First Nation members. One pole faces Nanaimo Harbour and welcomes visitors from Nanaimo while the other pole faces the Strait of Georgia and welcomes visitors approaching from the water.



Newcastle Island Welcoming Pole (eagle and bear).

The carving of these two poles was commissioned by the Newcastle Island Society to recognize the history of the First Nation's people on Newcastle Island. The society, a local non-profit volunteer group, worked with the Area Supervisor to raise over \$40,000 and receive contributions from Weyerhaeuser

(formerly Macmillan Bloedel) of cash and two 5 metre by 1 metre cedar logs, and BC Hydro of a crane and crew to install the poles.

The Newcastle Island Society, under the direction of BC Parks, approached the Snuneymuxw First Nation chief and council to select a carver and the design that would represent the history of the local First Nation's people and welcome visitors to the island. Once the chief and council selected the carver and design, a presentation was made to the Newcastle Island Society and BC Parks for approval. The carver, Noel Brown, was selected by the elders for his skills and his ability to relay part of the Snuneymuxw First Nation history.

One pole has carvings of an eagle and a bear: "Eagles soaring and the presence of the bear along the river meant that the fish were coming to feed the people". The second pole has carvings of a beaver and a killer whale: "The beaver building its dam and sightings of the whale were also signs that the fish were coming to feed the people. The killer whale also would take the elders spirit and the beaver taught the people how to paddle".

The Newcastle Island Society's mandate is to "enhance and preserve the many historical and natural wonders and educate the visitors of these wonders on Newcastle Island". Over the last several years the Society has



Newcastle Island Welcoming Pole (beaver and killer whale).

rebuilt an old CPR bathhouse built for the cruise ship industry in the 1930s (\$6000); a seventy-year-old section of seawall (50 metres long by 1.75 metres high) that was protecting a significant midden on the island (\$17,000); a working replica of the original pulp stone cutter and installed it in the quarry (\$60,000); and installed a playground (\$27,000) in conjunction with the Nanaimo Gyro Club.

What's next for the society? At present they are looking at upgrading the interpretive signage on the island and supplying support funds to develop a large donor recognition plaque to be mounted on the pavilion which can be expanded to include future projects. □

## New Recruits in the Battle on Weeds

by Katie Chow, E-Team Intern, and Robert Gray, Okanagan District

Student, teachers and parents from West Boundary Elementary School and Greenwood Elementary School in the Boundary area took part in the Weed Day Program organized by Robert Gray, Area Supervisor for Okanagan District and Barb Cannon, Boundary Weed Coordinator. Over 150 dedicated volunteers ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 7 removed close to 600 pounds of knapweed and hound's tongue in Kettle River and Gladstone Provincial Park.

(continued on page 10) ►

*("New Recruits..." continued from page 9)*

The purpose of this program is to educate and promote awareness on the many noxious weeds in the Okanagan/Boundary area. Through this program, students were able to learn more about the weeds, why they are a threat to native species inhabiting the area, as well as precautions to help prevent the spread of these uninvited pests. Aside from the educational aspects of this program, students also had the opportunity to have fun, enjoy our park and get acquainted with our friend, Jerry the Moose.

The problems with weeds and weed control have always been a great concern for parks in the Southern Interior as we are constantly in search for more efficient and effective methods to stop the spread of these invasive plants without

damaging the environment and the native species. The technique of weed pulling is an ideal solution due to its environmentally friendly aspects. This method is an effective way of weed control without the introduction of chemicals, which could interfere with the natural ecosystem.

The Weed Day Program was a huge success, including plenty of hot dogs and drinks for everyone. It is our goal to encourage more schools to participate, as volunteers are invaluable to us in the fight to control these unwanted plants. □



**BRITISH  
COLUMBIA  
PARKS  
VOLUNTEER**

*BC Parks is fortunate to work with volunteers from all professions including pilots. The BC Floatplane Association combines its annual meeting with a "volunteer fly-in" day, where members have recently installed a new pit toilet near Widgeon Lake in Tweedsmuir Provincial Park.*

*- Debby Funk,  
BC Parks, Victoria*



## Work Experience Rewarding

*by Fraser MacGillivray*

I am a student at the South Island Distance Education School in Victoria. In order to fulfill the mandatory work experience high school graduation requirement, I have brought a BC Parks' manual online.

*Debby Funk gives Fraser comments on the manual's access and layout.*



The goal of my project was to "port" the manual to a format that could be accessed electronically. District team members found it difficult to access information quickly and easily in the paper version; the new on-line design improves access and provides many "links" using simple phrases to assist the user. A web contractor working for BC Parks determined that HTML would be the best tool to use to accomplish the conversion to a simple, usable and informative, electronically accessible format and that was used.

The initial reactions of staff in the headquarters office, including those who used to work in districts and visiting district staff, suggest that the project has been successful.

I think this volunteer project has been a great opportunity for me to work with computers on closer to a professional basis, put my formal and informal training in the HTML language to good use, and to get my resume started on the right foot. □

## OBITUARY:

### Mel Kinna

Mel Kinna, Park Host, was heart and soul to a group of devoted campers who returned year after year to Nu Chugh Beniz Campsite in Ts'yl-os Park. And he was a hero of our volunteer program.



*Martta and Mel Kinna*

His first visit to the area was back in the 1940s, hunting and fishing at the north end of Chilko Lake. His wife Martta, whom he met in 1965, describes their first impression of Nu Chugh Beniz: "When we saw the mountains, paddled our clipper canoe around Duff Island and experienced the Chilko wind, that was it, we had to come back." Mel and Martta brought up a combined family of eight children, taking them camping and sailing all around BC. After Mel retired from BC Hydro in 1989, he and Martta travelled further afield: the Yukon and across the US. But Chilko Lake, "the world's most beautiful place" always called them back.

By 1994, when the area became a park, they were spending all summer every year at the little campsite by the beach. BC Parks asked them if they were interested in volunteering. They agreed and became superb Park Hosts, happy to stay all summer in a remote spot with few amenities.

Mel was polite and articulate, well informed and always friendly. He befriended all the regulars and they became like an extended family. Parks staff were treated the same way. Nu Chugh Beniz is a "self-registration" campground; Mel never played the

"heavy", but with him and Martta there, everyone was glad to pay up. We received stacks of glowing comments about these hosts.

He and his Zodiac put in many hours on Chilko Lake, not just for his great love of fishing, but in devoting time to rescues and searches on its stormy and unpredictable waters.

Last summer, Mel and Martta hosted for the last time. We had

concerns, as Mel was seriously ill and needed special pressurized oxygen all day and night. For him it was no deterrent; he even apologized for a later start due to being in hospital.

Mel passed away in January. He is enormously missed by all the park staff and visitors who had come to know him over the years. □

## Sierra Club Volunteer Program on the Berg Lake Trail

*by Cheryl Livingstone-Leman,  
Prince George District*

Over the years many groups and individuals have come to Mount Robson Provincial Park to see the spectacular scenery and to hike the Berg Lake Trail. World famous, the trail offers an incredible backcountry hiking experience along with breathtaking views of glaciers, waterfalls, valleys, lakes and rivers in picturesque settings near Mount Robson itself.

The summer of 1999 saw the arrival of a group of people who came not only to "see", but also to "do". A number of people from various parts of the United States gathered to participate in a Sierra Club Service Trip Program to re-route part of the Berg Lake Trail and to build several foot bridges.

The Sierra Club is a volunteer group based in the US. Their program includes helping park organizations build trails, structures such as bridges and boardwalks, and re-vegetate sites. Service Trip participants generally pay a fee to join a service tour and are responsible for providing personal gear and their transportation to and from project sites. A typical service trip lasts ten days, with seven full days of work and three days off



*Members of the Sierra Club Service Trip Program work on the Berg Lake Trail.*

for recreation.

For the Berg Lake Trail project, BC Parks provided the materials and supplies; the Sierra Club Service Trip participants provided the people power, a group leader and a cook. The Mount Robson Park Rangers brought the two together with their supervisory and organizational skills and saw to it that members had a good experience both on and off the job.

A similar project will be run on the Berg Lake Trail in August, 2000. The Sierra Club's track record of being well organized and having a deep respect for the conservation mandate makes this a successful joint venture. Word has it that this year's group had already reached maximum capacity by early spring.

BC Parks is open to working with other groups and volunteers as well. The time and energy spent and accomplishments generated by volunteers goes well above and beyond what can normally get done by parks staff. □

## Park Host Chronicles

*Park Host Chronicles* is a small, 10-14 page newsletter for Park Hosts in the Garibaldi/Sunshine Coast and Lower Mainland Districts (LMD). It is written by Joan Ritchie (Volunteer Coordinator - West, LMD) and Marlene Graham, (Volunteer Coordinator - East, LMD). It is in its fourth year of publication and is published three times a year: June, July and August.

The *Park Host Chronicles* deals mainly with articles that a Park Host would find informative and interesting. Some of the articles are used as a teaching tool while others are just for fun. In each issue, the Host will find an article on how to deal with certain concerns that they may have. Examples would be: how to approach a campsite, working with the Park Facility Operators and helping an unhappy camper. There is a description of a local provincial park and a tourist destination; questions that they may have; hosting or camping tips; local history tidbits; and, of course, camping recipes. There is also a section where a Host and/or a BC Parks staff member are introduced.

Marlene is always looking for ideas to include in the newsletter. If you have one, or if you would like to receive a copy of the latest issue, please contact her through BC Parks' Cultus Lake Area Office at (604) 824-2300, or send her an email message at: [mgraham@wsi.ca](mailto:mgraham@wsi.ca) □

## Make Summer 2001 a Summer to Remember!

BC Parks is looking for interested people with self-contained camping units to spend next summer (or part of it) as a PARK HOST!

Volunteer Park Hosts are given a free campsite in exchange for some easy and enjoyable duties:

- greeting and assisting park visitors
- providing information about the park and its surroundings

You will need:

- your own RV or camper
- lots of enthusiasm and smiles
- willingness to live in a remote park for at least four weeks

The park host program is suited either to individuals, couples, or families; retired couples often find it an ideal way to combine a relaxing holiday with the pleasure of meeting and helping others.

These are some of the parks that have vacancies for Summer 2001:

- **Lakelse Lake Provincial Park** is located on Hwy 37 south between Terrace (25km) and Kitimat (40km). This is a busy park with 156 campsites, 3 separate beach areas, 3 shower buildings, interpretive programs, boating, fishing, swimming and picnicking, all situated within an old growth coastal rainforest. (Nearby Terrace and Kitimat boast some of the best salmon fishing waters in the world, and there is a wealth of First Nations culture here.)

The park host's site is private and separated from the campground in a shady area near the beach, complete with power and water hook-ups, and grey-water disposal, and a sani-station is located within the park.

For information contact Ken Zimmer (250) 847-7320 or email: [Ken.Zimmer@gems2.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ken.Zimmer@gems2.gov.bc.ca)

- **Ts'yl-os Provincial Park**, located southwest of Williams Lake

This is a remote location on the north end of scenic Chilko Lake accessible by dirt road. The site is rustic and does not provide hydro, sewer or water hookups, although nearby Chilko Lake Lodge may provide showers.

For information contact Kate Alexander (250) 398-4890 [Kate.Alexander@gems3.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kate.Alexander@gems3.gov.bc.ca)

- **Tweedsmuir (South) Provincial Park**, located off BC Hwy 20 in the dramatic Bella Coola Valley. A park host is required in the Arnarko campground of South Tweedsmuir Park. The host site does not offer hookups but there is a nearby sani-station/dump.

For information contact Kate Alexander (250) 398-4890 [Kate.Alexander@gems3.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kate.Alexander@gems3.gov.bc.ca)

For general information on volunteer opportunities in BC Parks contact Bill Shaw, BC Parks, (250) 387-4330 or by email at [William.Shaw@gems8.gov.bc.ca](mailto:William.Shaw@gems8.gov.bc.ca) □



## Talk About Dedication!

*Don and Gladys Chapman are "ON DUTY" in the snow in April at Sasquatch Provincial Park.*