

Spirea Universal Access Trail Opens

by Jim Cuthbert, Lower Mainland District

Cathy McGregor, Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks, was on hand along with other officials to open the Spirea Universal Access Trail in Golden Ears Park on October 13, 1998. The Spirea Universal Access Trail was designed and built after consultation with potential user groups and includes easy access for almost everyone regardless of physical condition or cultural background. The one kilometre trail through a second growth western hemlock forest is fully accessible to wheelchairs, walkers and strollers and offers viewing areas and interpretive signs. These signs provide text and sound narration in English, French, German and Cantonese and feature three-dimensional sculptured brass models of plants and animals for the blind. Self-guiding trail brochures are also available in Japanese and Punjabi. The Spirea Universal Access Trail also features two large boardwalks and a bridge over interesting bogs, resting benches every 400 metres and a choice of two routes – a 350-metre loop and 800-metre loop. Gravel forms the base for the trail and supports a rock dust surface. Forest Renewal BC provided funding for the project's design, project management, interpretive media and construction. □



Forest Renewal BC vice-president Christine Lattey, Environment, Lands and Parks Minister Cathy McGregor, John Kanjer, member of the Ridge Meadows Advisory Committee on the Accessibility Issues and Chief Peter James, Katzie First Nations cut the ribbon to open the trail.



Skeena District Manager Hugh Markides (right) presents Mike Murtha with a plaque in recognition of his valuable contribution to the Tatshenshini-Alsek Park Memorandum of Understanding.

Mike Murtha Recognized

by Karla Stroet, E-Team Intern, Skeena District

On September 24, 1998, Mike Murtha, the Senior District Planner for the Prince George District, was recognized for his valuable contribution in
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Articles from readers are welcome. Deadline for material in the next issue is January 1, 1999.

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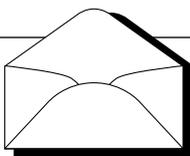
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Letters

I am enclosing a few pictures I thought were interesting. One is a grave of a mouse left on a camp pad in the park. This is still there. People are quite amused by it. Some Brownies camping in the park decorated the one of the toilet. They were from Kitimat. This was from Kleanza Provincial Park in the Skeena District. I have been the operator here for eleven years and find many times we meet some interesting people who are very impressed with the quality of BC Parks. Most comments I get are that they seek out the provincial parks because of the quality of service and the beauty of them. I am enclosing a picture of one feature of the park that proves this.

*Carol and Jim Glen
Terrace, BC*

(Editors note: Unfortunately space prevented us from including all of the photos Carol and Jim sent us.)



("Mike Murtha..." continued from page 1) assisting with the development and implementation of the Tatshenshini-Elsek Park Memorandum of Understanding. He was presented with a plaque signed by the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks, Cathy McGregor at this ceremony.

According to Ric Careless, Chair, BC Environmental Network Parks and Wilderness Caucus, 'Mike Murtha was the first person to recognize the preservation significance of the Tatshenshini. Because he alerted people such as Johnny Mikes (Canadian River Expeditions) and myself as to what was at risk, it's very much to his credit that the Tatshenshini is now a World Heritage Site, and the core of the largest complex of protected areas on the planet'.

At this ceremony, a letter was also delivered to Mike from the Tatshenshini-Elsek Management Board, consisting of Champagne Aishihik First Nations people and BC Parks representatives. The letter stated that Mike has played a vital role in the initiation and growth of the Tatshenshini-Elsek Park Management Board since its inception. His active

participation, dedication, and insight have enabled the Board to come to resolution in many important issues. His energy and talents in building consensus, seeking resolutions to many difficult issues and his unrelenting commitment to protected areas has been invaluable to the effective operation of the Board. As a result, the Board is now well positioned to meet the challenges before it including developing the management plan for this park.

Tatshenshini-Elsek Park is truly one of the most amazing protected areas in North America. The Board, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations people, and the Government of British Columbia greatly appreciate the immeasurable contribution Mike has made in the development of this Park.

With Mike's new responsibilities in the Prince George District, his term as a board member has passed on to Peter Levy, Skeena District Senior Planner.

BC Parks is proud to see one of our team members recognized for their significant contribution to this world class protected area system. □

Facilities in Provincial Parks – What is Needed?

by Alice MacGillivray, Victoria

There are many ways of looking at the question of what is needed and the potential effects of demographic trends. With few resources for new research, it is worth looking at what we already know.

One good source of information is the BC Parks visitor survey program, which has shed light on facility preferences in two ways:

First, visitors rank how important current facilities and services are to them and from these rankings, we can make informed inferences about visitors' preferences. Clean washrooms and a sense of security are consistently high-priority items compared, for example, with upkeep of roads. We hope to probe the security question more fully in future; visitors may think of trail design to minimize bear encounters, lighting to minimize vandalism, signs or other orientation media, or telephones for emergency use in campgrounds.

Second, over 15,000 visitors expressed preferences for future facilities and services over a three year period ending in 1995. Visitors were particularly interested in three types of facilities: trails for short walks, self-guided nature trails and visitor centres. In some cases there were significant differences in preference amongst different groups of respondents. For example, day users were more supportive of playgrounds than were campers or residents contacted through the householder survey.

A second existing source of information is the recreation trend report prepared for the Protected Areas Strategy by Ken Balmer of ReThink Group. This report includes many references to facility development and management, always in the context of particular trends and challenges. One example is the predicted growth of linear corridors – typically across jurisdictional

boundaries – and the associated need for facilities such as trails and campsites for kayakers. A second example is the rapid growth of nature appreciation. Facilities that often complement this trend include short trails with viewpoints, viewing towers or blinds and visitor centres.

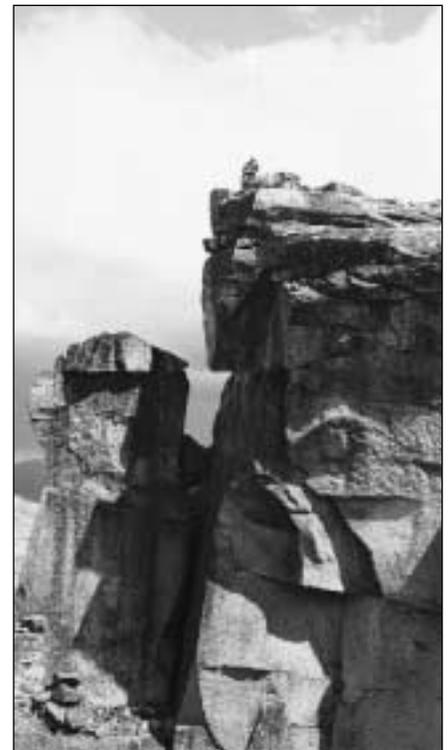
A third source of ideas is research work by other agencies. For example, Statistics Canada is predicting a number of travel trends associated with aging baby-boomers. Mature 21st century travellers will have “more education credentials than previous generations,” will boost the demand for short trails and golf courses, and will probably do less downhill skiing and cycling. Many will be interested in cultural heritage – which may complement the increased popularity of ethnotourism. Family camping may decrease while camping by retired couples and groups may increase. And, of course, as people age they are more likely to acquire disabilities. This is a significant consideration for the design of trails, building access and educational media.

These and many other sources of information form the backdrop for annual park planning and infrastructure planning initiatives taking place this year in BC Parks' districts. □



Spirea Universal Access Trail provides an example of a recently constructed park facility aimed at serving many users.

Tors and Lyall's Larch



Alpine meadows, picturesque lakes and spectacular rock forms make this protected area special.

Ladyslipper, Glacier and Pyramid Lakes beckon the park visitor. In summer, alpine flowers colour the emerald meadows with splashes of yellow and blue high above the Ashnola River Valley. Located 25 kilometres south of Hedley, this provincial park, established in 1968, has long been a destination for avid wilderness hikers. Wind, rain and ice have sculptured the exposed rock into fantastic forms in the park's core area. Over the years, people have dubbed the rock forms with striking names like “Smokey the Bear”, “Stone City” and “the Devil's Woodpile”. In 1976, this park was expanded bringing its area to 33,272 hectares. What is the name of this protected area? And can you explain what the geographical term “tor” means? (Answer on page 9). □



George Evanoff took this photo of the Kakwa Recreation Area.

George Evanoff 1932 – 1998

by Gail Ross, Prince George District

BC Parks has lost a true friend and advocate. On October 24, while on a backcountry hike, George Evanoff accidentally came upon a grizzly on a moose kill and was fatally attacked. A decision was made not to kill the grizzly – which would have been in keeping with George's wishes.

George had been involved with Kakwa Recreation Area since the early 1980s. In 1982 he participated in the first Caledonia Rambler Hiking Club trip to the area and later led four other Caledonia Rambler trips and last summer's highly successful Alpine Club of Canada Camp. George generously shared his photos of Kakwa with BC Parks – including his photo of Mt. Ida which graced the cover of the Northern BC Parks brochure.

In 1992 George, his son Craig, and Bonnie Hooge completed the first winter ascent of Mt. Sir Alexander. Five years later, he completed the first ascent of a new route on Mt. Ida. George was an avid outdoorsman and was an expert in avalanches, backcountry skiing and a host of other wilderness-related activities. He also ran a backcountry skiing operation in the McGregor Mountains.

George was not only committed to enjoying the wilderness, but also in planning for it. After participating in the Herrick Land and Resource Use Planning table for three years, George then directed his energies to the Prince George Land Resource Management Planning table. During the five years of meetings, George would always speak on behalf of Kakwa Recreation Area whenever the need arose. His quiet, yet powerful manner made him a very effective defender of Kakwa. George's friendship, knowledge and support of parks and protected areas will be deeply missed. □

Reservations about the Reservation Service

*by Shelley Blackstock,
Gabriola/Sunshine Coast District*

Another busy summer has gone by and some members of the public are still undecided about the reservation system.

Here at the Gabriola/Sunshine Coast District the majority of the calls are received from people who think they can make a reservation through me. I then give them yet another phone number they have to call. (It is toll-free after all!) Once I explain the system to them they seem more comfortable with it. Most people like the idea of being able to book in advance for their favorite campsites.

The people who dislike the system are the ones who have tried calling on an extremely busy day and the phone line is always busy and the circuits keep bumping them out. Frustrating I'm sure. But, once they get through most of their questions would be answered if they would take the time to listen to the entire message on the reservation system. Instead, they don't get a living body so they hang up and call our office and say that the system isn't working.

"Bring back the spontaneity of camping", "Bring back the old way" the critics cry. You know, when everybody circled around the campsite in their cars like sharks and when people would put lawnchairs on two sites and then keep them until their friends came. (That sounds like reserving to me!)

Each year the number of people familiar with the system is growing. The families who enjoy a hassle-free vacation in the parks makes for a lot of happy campers.

Hopefully next year will bring more campers who like to plan ahead and get their reservations early. □

Wild Africa – In the Shadow of Kilimanjaro

by Cheryl Livingstone-Leman, Prince George District

Elephants, giraffe, hyenas and even lions are part of everyday life when camping in remote parts of Tanzania. Last December my husband Dave and I travelled to East Africa to work as volunteers on a waterbird survey with the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania. With almost a year of planning behind us, our house rented, and leaves-without-pay granted by both our employers we headed off for a four-month adventure!

Tanzania is a country roughly the same size as British Columbia. There are, however, several differences. Tanzania is one of the poorest countries in the world with a population about the same size as Canada's. They have over 25% of their country in some form of Protected Area status. They have over 1100 species of birds (BC has roughly 450), and the greatest concentrations of large mammals left on the planet. Pretty impressive for a poor country!

Most of our time was spent travelling in Land Rovers identifying and counting waterbirds in order to locate key sites for wetland conservation. We were joined by 12 other volunteers from around the world. Our most significant finding was identifying 60,000 Abdim's storks in a remote area of northern Tanzania. This area is now being nominated as a protected area.

Needless to say there were many other adventures along the way: waking up at night to the sound of lions and hyenas not far from our tent and then finding their footprints through our camp in the morning, or having our Land Rover nearly fall into a 10-foot deep hole in the road caused by a washout, or standing on top of Mt. Kilimanjaro in a snow storm.

Dave and I also had an opportunity to share with the Africans some of our expertise from home. In a remote village on the shoulder of Mt. Kilimanjaro we conducted a school program about parks and conservation issues here in British Columbia. We also travelled to Zimbabwe where we did a slide show about BC Parks for Zimbabwe National Parks staff.

The time spent in Africa was truly amazing and I learned a great deal that I can apply to my work here with BC Parks.

Thanks to all those in BC Parks who helped to make it happen. □



Cheryl shares pictures of BC wildlife with Tanzanian school children.



Joan Ritchie, Volunteer Host Coordinator with Jerry the Moose and his best buddy, Jay.

A Thank You All Around!

by Marlene Graham, Volunteer Host Coordinator, Lower Mainland District

A volunteer recognition barbecue was held one evening in beautiful, historic Kilby Provincial Park. Jerry the Moose and his best buddy, Jay, made a surprise appearance, just in time to help Jim Cuthbert, Extension Officer, Rick Jessome, Area Supervisor and Steve Heggie, Acting Area Supervisor, present the Park Hosts, Volunteer Host Coordinators and a Park Steward, Certificates of Appreciation.

The Volunteer Host Coordinators Joan Ritchie and Marlene Graham presented a carved wooden plaque to Jim and Rick and their staff in recognition of all their efforts in making the volunteer program the success that it is. □

Another Side to the Story

by Don Roberts, Peace-Liard District

How often do we see our own users respond to a complaint about one of our Park Facility Operators, particularly when it is sent as a letter to the editor in the local newspaper.

The following is a rare example but one this district took note of, written in the *Alaska Highway News* on August 17 and September 2, 1998. Interesting how our Park Regulations are clear to many and only a few want to find fault with. □

ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS AUGUST 17, 1998

Park attendants were rude: camper

Recently, our family and friends went camping at the Charlie Lake Provincial Park.

We had a great time until Sunday afternoon (Aug. 16). At approximately 12:30 p.m., two park attendants (a male and a female) came by and told us, very rudely, that if we were not staying Sunday night then we should have left the campsite by noon. They then said that we'd have until 1 p.m. to vacate, or we'd have to pay an additional \$9.50 to stay longer.

Our large group had not yet finished lunch, and one family had two tents to pack up, which takes time.

When the attendants came back at 1 p.m., we were just in the process of finishing lunch. When they mentioned that they should charge us an additional night's fare, we said that we would be out by 3 p.m. as we were using the campsite as 'day use' for that day. They said that there was a different area for 'day use', and that it even mentioned on our receipt that we should have left by noon. They also said that they needed people to leave the sites so that they could clean them up before the next campers required them. We noted that the site across the road from ours was

vacated by 10 a.m. and as of 1 p.m. they hadn't yet cleaned it.

We also noted that when they came around to collect our money on Friday (Aug. 14), they didn't come until after suppertime. Finally we noted that there is a very prominent sign just inside the entrance to the Park which states: "ATTENTION NO PICNICKING IN CAMPSITE AFTER 3 P.M.". We had found out that these park attendants had also treated a few other campers with the same disregard.

We have camped in many Provincial Parks, and have stayed in our sites until after lunch on most occasions. We have never encountered a problem with this arrangement from any park staff. When we go camping, we are not loud, destructive or messy. We didn't appreciate being treated with such ignorance! Perhaps these attendants will see this letter and adjust their rude behaviour accordingly.

After all, they are representatives of our province, and to a greater extent, they represent us, as well; what a disgraceful way to treat our national and international guests!

Deborah Miedema

ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS SEPTEMBER 2, 1998

Camp attendants doing OK job; tardy campers a problem

To the family and friends who recently went camping at Charlie Lake Provincial Park.

I, too, have camped in many, many provincial parks and have yet to be disappointed with the behaviour of the park attendants, including the ones at Charlie Lake.

As you seem to have read, check-out time is high noon, regardless of how late you sleep in or how slow you are at packing up, the time is 12 p.m. for reasons that were explained to you.

I find it quite rude that you feel this time is insignificant to your group as you must dine for lunch and take your time packing up (you mention large group, so that means lots of helping

hands for this enormous task) two tents take 30 minutes when you don't know what you're doing. You noted the site across from yours was vacated by people who respect timelines, but was not yet cleaned by 1 p.m. Did you also take note of the 57 sites on hand along with the wood/garbage and washroom facilities that were being tended to?

You also complained that they didn't come around until after suppertime to collect. If you stayed in as many camp sites as you say you have you should have noticed this to be the most common and practical of times to collect. You continue to go on to say that you have a great habit of staying in your sites until after lunch on most occasions.

Well for us other campers and travellers pulling into these parks to find the right site to accommodate our needs (tent - 40-foot plus motorhome) we don't appreciate your inconsideration and ignorance toward us.

After all, you represent the people. What a disgrace if we all had such a lackadaisical lack of respect towards timelines. If you can't handle the schedule, stay home and stay there as long as you want.

As for the park attendants, keep up the good work. I apologize for the ignorant few.

Maurice Fredette

Accountability for Performance in BC Parks

by Donna Selbee, Victoria

Since 1995, the Office of the Auditor General and Deputy Ministers' Council of British Columbia have been working closely on government's Accountability for Performance Initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to increase public information about governments' activities from that of primarily reporting on compliance with spending authorities, to providing the information the public most wants to know – what their governments intend to achieve and why, and what they have actually achieved and how. All ministries are working to improve the performance of their programs by incorporating these elements into their management systems.

Ministries are developing ways to communicate to the public what they intend to achieve and what they have actually accomplished. The Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks has developed a Strategic Plan Framework which presents Ministry goals, key priorities, activities and performance measures related to these. Similarly, Parks Division has implemented a three-year business plan (1998/99 – 2000/01) to communicate our overall objectives and annual operational priorities.

In addition to communicating our objectives, it is important that we monitor the extent to which we are achieving these, and measure and report on both our successes and those areas requiring further improvement. Therefore, in conjunction with our objectives, agency-wide performance measures and targets are currently being developed. Some measures have been identified in the business plan, while others require further work to develop and finalize. These measures will be tracked over the years to ensure BC Parks is accountable for achieving its objectives, and similar to previous years, will be reported in the Ministry Annual Report.

Performance monitoring is also an important management tool. For example, tracking our performance measures will help establish trends. However, information from performance monitoring will not make decisions. Combined with the experience, training and judgement of managers and staff, it will build upon and supplement the information which we already have for decision-making purposes.

The government is committed to public accountability and using performance management as a key part of conducting its business. BC Parks' work on performance measures, in keeping with the Ministry's direction, reflects important progress to meet this commitment. Work in this area is challenging – performance measures should be simple, cost effective, and used as a tool for improvement.

If you have any questions or comments on accountability and performance management, please contact Sandra Sajko (250) 387-3979 or Donna Selbee (250) 387-4502 in Business, Research and Evaluation. We will continue to provide updates on this topic as work progresses. □



Rob Larocque Remembered

by Kirby Villeneuve,
Strathcona District

On Sunday, March 22, 1998 a rogue wave took the lives of two people offshore of Vargas Island Provincial Park on the west coast of Vancouver Island. All four occupants of a whale watching charter were thrown into the open water. They were all wearing floater suits, (good for about 20 minutes of immersion in these waters) the same type worn by our staff when we operate open vessels on the west coast.

The four people were: the guide and operator of the zodiac Rob Larocque, a man in his mid-twenties and resident of northern Vancouver Island; Kathleen Howes also from northern Vancouver Island; and a German couple. Unfortunately Rob and one of the Germans did not survive the two hours of immersion in the frigid waters.

The accident occurred on a fairly calm and sunny day with seven knot winds and two meter swells. The type of day most of us wouldn't think twice about heading out to visit our coastal marine parks. The group was returning from a perfect day of watching grey whales when the unexpected happened. While running in a following sea, two large waves hit them, the first of which was dealt with successfully. The second wave was much larger,

(continued on page 8) ►

("Rob Larocque..." continued from page 7)
quartering the vessel and causing the operator and passengers to be hurled into the open ocean.

Rob was well known to many of us. He worked a number of years for a whale watching company in the renowned Robson Bight area and his level of comfort in coastal waters and good boat handling skills were well recognized. Last winter he was enrolled in an eco-tourism course at the local college. Often during the spring he would visit me at our Port Hardy office, looking for maps and updates on our North Island Protected Areas.

I first met Rob in the winter of 1995 when I was working for Mt. Washington Resort. He came up to the ski area as a volunteer, assisting me with some snow study work. During that period Rob and I enjoyed a few days of backcountry skiing in the hills near Strathcona Park. Also that winter he was assisting our Black Creek office with a mapping project while getting some exposure to park management. This was all part of his practicum during his enrollment at Selkirk College.

The news of Rob's passing came as a great shock to other staff members and me. The accident occurred during a time when we were planning our summer patrols of the Protected Areas along the west coast. The only thing positive to come of this misfortune is the constant reminder that we must be prepared for the unexpected. One cannot simply walk away from a problem while operating in exposed waters. The importance of maintenance, pre-trip inspections, and especially regular well-being checks are paramount to our safety.

Rob's ambition was to be an entrepreneur in the eco-tourism sector. He was a vibrant and independent individual with an infectious sense of humour. Many people including myself will miss Rob and his boundless enthusiasm for outdoor recreation and beautiful settings. Good bye Rob, we'll miss you. □

Wells Gray's Wilderness Gateway Relay

by Dave Montgomery,
Thompson River District

It's a fun relay race if:

- It's so dark at the start you can't identify the competitors.
- You wonder what sort of masochist would do this for fun.
- A mountain bike section requires big legs, big lungs and a small brain.
- You have a chance of being chased by a bear.
- Your race injuries are not really life threatening.

Clearwater Lake at 6:00 a.m. is so dark that you can't see your own feet despite the fluorescent stripes of your \$150 Nikes. But 20 minutes later, the first "sports-persons" were off on leg one of the Wilderness Relay held in Wells Gray Park on September 19. Seven keen athletes – four runners and three mountain bikers – made up each of 16 teams, all dreaming of victory and the joy of humiliating the losers.

The seven sections led from Clearwater Lake back down a gravel road and along mainly type three trails (twisted ankles free – take as many as you like), to the relay point where the runner changed with a biker. The next leg, a big ring run 12 kilometres further down the road, climbed 150 metres to Helmcken Falls. Piece of cake, except that 90% of the elevation was in one hill. From the Falls, it was an easy run (only one 30 metre high hill near the end) to the ski Loppet trail-head. Here a biker took over for the next 18 kilometres. The ski trail is not much for elevation change but is quite brushy in parts. These brushy parts hide the occasional hole or rock. This is interesting because you can go pretty fast until the front wheel hits a hole or rock, stops instantly and then ... From the end of the ski trail the road climbs for four kilometres which creates a great opportunity to establish a comfortable pedal rhythm (just ignore that "I'm going to have a heart attack in the next ten seconds" stuff) and cruise past lesser mortals who just can't climb. At the top of Green Mountain (at last) a runner takes over and jogs a wimpy eight kilometre downhill back to the Clearwater River. Some of this run is down steep, loose switchbacks that require some stabilizing moves such as head dabs and palm braces. Fortunately the gravel trail surface hides most of the blood. Staying on gravel for 20 kilometres, the next leg then climbs 15 minutes up an old skid road before entering four kilometre of tight single track through heavy forest. This is all downhill and dead easy. Just ignore the branches lunging for your eyes, or the rocks, logs and roots that leap out in front of your wheels. Being able to relax just before impact is a good plan here. The relay finished with a straightforward eight kilometres run, featuring almost level ground, pretty good lumpy gravel and only one train. Generally, a fun event.

At least I thought it was fun. I offered to do the Loppet section but I was passed over because I don't have big legs or big lungs. When I tried to get some interest at the Thompson River District office, they all were "busy" and moved away from me as I had some communicable disease or something. What's wrong with these people? Don't they know pain and self-abuse can be fun? □



Dave Montgomery of BC Parks crosses the finish line on his leg of the Wilderness Gateway Relay.

Stewardship Research

A master's thesis project, currently being undertaken by University of Victoria geography graduate student Joanna Kafarowski, examines the relationship between BC Parks and park stewardship groups. As the project is being undertaken under the auspices of the University of Victoria, the published thesis will be academic in tone. However, Kafarowski designed the project with the specific goal of creating a document that will be of practical assistance to BC Parks and park stewardship groups. Kafarowski chose her thesis topic primarily as a result of conducting earlier research into resourcing within the BC and Ontario provincial park systems.

During this research, she determined that while the park estate in British Columbia increases and government monies dedicated to BC Parks dwindle, critical pressures are exerted on the protection of natural committed park stewardship groups. These groups have an intimate knowledge of a particular park and may be a significant asset to the park agency.

The project is based on the assumptions that park stewardship groups exist in order to benefit parks on a long-term basis and that a positive working relationship between the park agency and the park stewardship group can and should have a favourable impact on a park.

Due to be completed by June 1999, the goal of the thesis is to develop a model defining an effective working relationship between BC Parks and park stewardship groups. In order to develop this model, obstacles that prevent the relationship from functioning at optimal efficiency will be identified and strategies for removing these obstacles will be devised. It is hoped that the model will facilitate the sharing of common experiences and allow both agency and stewardship groups to gain from

and contribute to the relationship in a more meaningful and positive manner.

In order to explore this question, Kafarowski has interviewed selected park officers as well as executive members of the majority of park stewardship groups across the province. Questionnaires have also been sent out to the membership of many stewardship groups. All BC Parks districts are involved in this project, although particular emphasis is being placed on the relationship between the Thompson River District and the Friends of Wells Gray Park.

Fieldwork was conducted in Kamloops, Clearwater and Wells Gray Provincial Park during this past summer with the generous assistance of the Friends of Wells Gray and BC Parks. All BC Parks staff and volunteer stewardship group members participating in the project have been unfailingly courteous and the co-operation of all participants has been greatly appreciated.

Upon publication, a copy of the completed thesis will be provided for the BC Parks Library in Victoria, the Thompson River District and the Friends of Wells Gray. A summary of findings will also be made available for all BC Parks district offices and participating park stewardship groups. For further information, please contact Joanna Kafarowski at (250) 478-0400 or email jkafarow@uvic.ca □

*Answer (from page 3):
Cathedral Provincial Park.
A 'tor' is a geographical term
meaning an isolated mass of rock,
usually of granite, which has been
subject to considerable weathering,
and often assumes peculiar shapes.*

NAME THE PROTECTED AREA.

The Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology

by Roger Beardmore

The Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology (CMI) is a non-profit society established in 1996 to promote, facilitate and support cooperative interdisciplinary research centred on the Columbia River Basin of southeastern British Columbia. CMI seeks to collaborate, conduct research, and communicate knowledge on Columbia Mountain ecosystems to the public, educators and decision-makers. A volunteer Board of Directors manages the Institute. CMI's membership is comprised of government agencies, community agencies, academic institutions, private businesses, and members of the public.

CMI originally focussed on creating and increasing the network of people and agencies interested in conducting research and applying the results in land use and other decision-making processes. An annual researcher's workshop is held to provide a forum for exchange of ideas and information related to ongoing or planned research activities. Theme workshops and courses on topics such as climate change, DNA techniques and applications, and environmental impact of transportation corridors, are held to integrate ideas and promote balanced solutions to environmental, economic, and social issues that can benefit from the application of ecological research and communications. CMI is now attempting to communicate more widely with interest groups and the public – especially youth. A

(continued on page 10) ►

("The Columbia..." continued from page 9)

speaker's program creates an opportunity for the public to hear the latest information from renowned experts on a wide variety of research topics such as grizzly bears, glaciers, forest-dwelling bats, caribou, wolverine, and aquatic life.

CMI produces a newsletter twice a year, and provides a web-site with all the latest news and information for those on the internet. The Institute has its headquarters in Revelstoke, but is attempting to broaden its activities and increase its awareness in communities around the basin. Membership is encouraged from any individual, agency or institution with an interest in applied ecology and sustainable living. It's easy to become a member and it's a great way to join a growing network of people want to make a contribution and create a legacy for the future through the application and communication of ecological research.

If you want more information, please call (250) 837-9311, send us an e-mail at cmi@junction.net, or check out our web-site at www.cmaie.org □

Caption Contest!



Send in your caption for this photo of Park Management Committee's (PMC) Halloween Budget Discussion with 'Greg Koyl', Assistant Deputy Minister of Corporate Services Division.

First Prize is a T-shirt printed with the photo and winning caption!

Entries can be mailed to: Caption Contest, Visions, BC Parks, PO Box 9398, Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9M9 or e-mailed to: parkinfo@prkvictoria.elp.gov.bc.ca Put 'Caption Contest' in the subject line.

Deadline for entries is January 1, 1999.

Sliding Into BC Parks

by Kirstin French, E-Team Intern, Garibaldi/Sunshine Coast District

What better way to spend the summer than working for BC Parks? I'm sure many people have had that thought. Hi, my name is Kirstin and I am one of the lucky few who actually got to spend my summer as a BC Parks employee. In June I was hired through the Environment Youth Program as an Extension Intern at the Garibaldi/Sunshine Coast District Office. My main project as an Extension Intern was to create a slide inventory. My objectives were to organize the existing slide collection, downsize that collection, and develop a computer inventory of the collection.

In addition to my main project, I was given the opportunity to learn more about the parks in the

Garibaldi/Sunshine Coast District through a variety of field trips. One of these trips included a day in the proposed Spipyus Provincial Park, learning about marbled murrelets and their need to live in old growth forests near the ocean. Another awesome trip that I took part in was up Bute Inlet to see the Homathko Estuary, which was recently designated as a new park. Traveling up the Sunshine Coast enabled me to see many of the parks that I had encountered through a slide projector, and at the same time gave me the opportunity to learn about the complexity of managing our parks system by spending a few days working with parks staff.

When I wasn't out enjoying the

parks I was in the office working on my slide project. I began by going through the existing collection of about 7000 slides and picking out the best 3000. With a more selective, manageable collection, I then developed a method of keeping them organized. My next step was to create a computer inventory. I chose to use Microsoft Access to store the computer database, following the example of a slide inventory created for the Thompson River District. Because I had no experience with Access I found this part of the project quite challenging. I spent a few days reading a manual, using help files, watching tutorial videos, and pestering our Planning Officer, an

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("Sliding..." continued from page 10)

experience Access user. By doing these things I taught myself to use Access very effectively. By applying the techniques that I had learned I created a well organized inventory that enables the user to do searches, make queries, add new data, edit data, and delete old data in a very user friendly manner.

It was great while it lasted, but now the summer is over and once again I am unemployed. I'm sure that many of the slide collections around the province are in the same state of disarray that ours was at the beginning of the summer. So if you're looking for the right person to whip your slide collection into shape, give me a call at (604) 898-4811. Thanks to BC Parks and the Environment Youth Program for a summer of extensive learning, great experiences and fun! □

Little Andrews Bay – Celebration 1998

by Karla Stroet, E-Team Intern, Skeena District

The site transfer of Andrews Bay Provincial Park to its new location at Little Andrews Bay Marine Provincial Park was finally complete with an opening celebration on Saturday, August 8, 1998. Although the old site at Andrews Bay provided a boat launch and limited camping facilities, high annual costs for maintaining the dock and boat launch made it a less than ideal site. However, the new site at Little Andrews Bay includes eight new, private campsites, a twelve-sided information kiosk, and a new boat launch and dock sheltered by the bay. In addition, Little Andrews Bay

Park provides protection for Andrews Creek, one of several important spawning streams in the Ootsa Lake reservoir.

The relocation and development of Little Andrews Bay Marine Provincial Park would not have been possible without the generosity and support of the following agencies, corporate sponsors, and their staff: Alcan, BC Forest Service (Morice and Lakes Districts), Cheslatta Carrier Nation Resource Corp., Environment Youth Team (Skeena District), Forest Renewal BC, Fraser Lake Sawmills, Houston Forest Products, and NAASA Logging. In addition to these corporate sponsors, many volunteers and park staff worked long hours to complete the project. Thank you to all those involved on the completion of this transfer of site and the celebration on August 8.

The festivities at the celebration included a walking tour of the new campsite, information kiosk, and boat launch, a free barbecue for the public and invitees, informal speeches highlighted by a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and boat tours of the bay provided by the BC Parks'

Tweedsmuir Rangers. Approximately sixty people enjoyed the celebration, including BC Parks' staff, members of the community, the local media, members of the Houston council, the mayors from Burns Lake and Vanderhoof, representatives from the Morice and Lakes Forest Districts, and several people from local industries. The overall response to the event by the public was very positive, and many of the people who had used the old site were enthusiastic about the new boat launch and the new campsites.

Speeches were made by Bill Brinnen of Waterworld Management Services Ltd., Darryl McDunna of Alcan, and Barbara Gail, a representative of the area MP, Dick Harris. The local MLA, Bill Goodacre, made a speech on behalf of the Minister and he cut the ribbon. Ken Zimmer, the Extension Officer for BC Parks, Skeena District, was the master of ceremonies. The event was a great representation of the community, government, and industry coming together to celebrate and support the conservation and recreation values of BC Parks. □



Little Andrews Bay Marine Park opening celebrations.

You Work Where?

by Carol Burbee, E-Team Intern, Prince George District

"Yep, we work at BC Parks" is the enthusiastic response we give when some poor, unsuspecting soul asks us where we work! I'm Carol Burbee and my friend and 'partner in crime' is Shona Lawson. We're both currently finishing-up our E-Team Internships with BC Parks in Prince George.

I've been working as the Extension Assistant with Cheryl Livingstone-Leman since June of this year. I have to admit, after a tiring and unproductive job hunt following graduation I did not think my interview with BC Parks was the winner. For the interview I had to prepare an oral presentation, answer questions and write an exam. By the end I was so brain-dead I was sure they thought I was mad! But, to my surprise Marilynne Hann, our Human Resources Coordinator, called the following day to offer me the position. "Thank you" I cried, and off I went to the mall to reward myself!

In hindsight, it was a good thing the interview process was so tough; I've had a lot of varied assignments. I've learned new computer programs, coordinated special events, written newspaper articles and acted as the Volunteer Host Program Coordinator to name a few. The most memorable aspect of my work at Parks will be the friends I've made. Everyone here is 'cheering me on' as I embark on another job hunt - and I feel one step ahead of my peers after my work

experience here. I mean, who **doesn't** need an experienced volunteer coordinator these days!



Shona Lawson

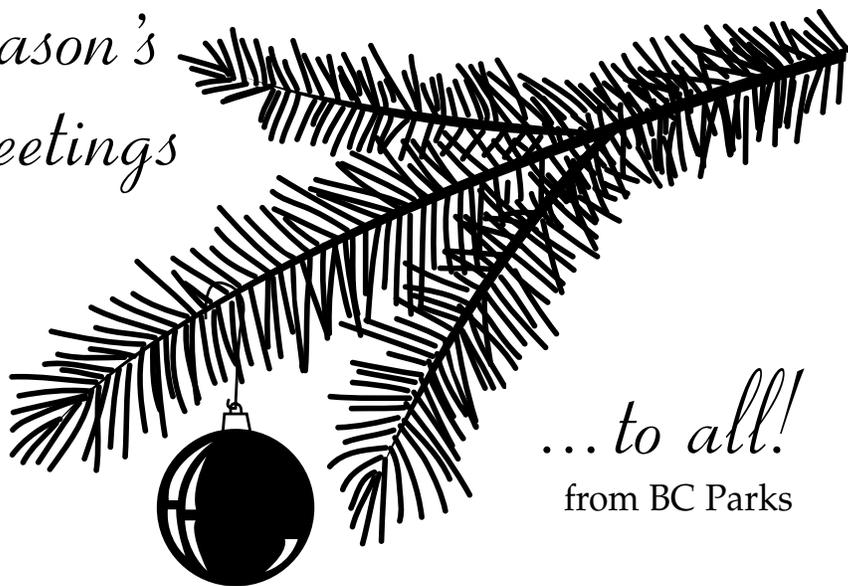
Shona had a longer trip to arrive at BC Parks in Prince George than I did. After finishing school in Idaho she returned home to Campbell River. She commuted to Prince George for an interview as the Mackenzie Land Resource Management Plan (LRMP) Assistant. Well, I thought my inter-

view was tough ... everyone in the office the day of her interview was whispering about "those poor kids". After her interview, Shona headed home to Vancouver Island only to return days later employed!

Working with Jamie Pardy and Gail Ross on the Mackenzie Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) has proven quite the learning experience. Shona is responsible for coordinating correspondence to the table members, preparing minutes, writing newsletters and acting as administrative support to a number of the sub-committees. Shona now has some great skills to add to her resume as she looks for another position. She hopes her refined organizational skills and experience working with public groups will be beneficial in her career in wildlife biology.

We'd both like to thank BC Parks and the Environment Youth Team for the opportunity to learn practical skills in the work place. The E-Team has played an important role in our transition from university to work and we hope the opportunity will be available next year for other young people. □

*Season's
Greetings*



... to all!
from BC Parks



Carol Burbee