

# ADVERSITY AND ADAPTATION

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Annual Report 2020

The Alpine Club of Canada | Le Club alpin du Canada





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*Normally the ACC Annual Report would showcase many of the amazing photographs taken by our members and trip participants during the preceding year. However, 2020 was by no means a normal year. Because we've only a few images from 2020 activities, this year the Annual Report features some of our favorite images from past years. We look forward to seeing all your 2021 images next year.*

*Cover: 2017 GMC. Photo Thierry Levenq*

*Left: GMC 2011. Photo Thierry Levenq*

*Right: GMC 2018. Photo Ray Hope*

Le Club alpin du Canada





## Message from the President

IN THE MOUNTAINS you can get severe weather. Some storms are wicked enough that stopping is not an option and the best you can do is zip up, shield your face from the wind and keep putting one foot in front of the other. Or white knuckle the steering wheel and drive on through the blizzard hoping for the best. We've all been there so I know you understand. As it was for many organizations, that was 2020 for The Alpine Club of Canada.

Fiscal 2020 started in the fall of 2019 with so much hope and promise. The ACC was moving forward with ambitious plans in every portfolio. Our board, staff and our membership had come off a tremendous year in 2019. Our profile nationally had grown significantly in recent years and we were looking forward to sharing the ideals and activities of the ACC with more and more Canadians. Six months later things could not have looked any more different.

The ACC was founded in 1906 and in the early decades our club persevered through the Spanish Flu pandemic, two World Wars and the Great Depression. However, the scope and reach of the ACC was much different then. We now have 25 local sections, 35 backcountry huts and 16 thousand members. This is a much larger vessel and pivoting takes more time and resources. Of course, stopping was not an option. We needed to hold fast on the wheel and keep driving. So, we did.

One of the biggest challenges was that the road was not a straight line, but continued to change. Difficult decisions needed to be made and remade and the rules of engagement were changing on

2017 GMC. Photo Thierry Levenq

a continual basis. Through all of this we made decisions with one motivation: what was best for our club and for our members.

I am not sure how history will remember this period, how we will describe this time to our children and grandchildren in decades to come. But there is one theme that I'm confident will stand out and that is that during this pandemic people came together to defeat a silent but deadly enemy. Part of the story that I hope is also told is the personal sacrifice that was made by so many people. I'm thinking firstly of the health care professionals and the front-line workers who risked their own personal safety so that we could all move forward.

The ACC will have its own version of this story and we will remember the sacrifices that were made to keep us moving forward through the storm. So, what I really want to pass along is a heartfelt "thank you." To the ACC staff, executive, section leadership, board of directors and to you, our members, for banding together to help us through.

I hope we will never again see the day where we are forced to cancel the General Mountaineering Camp or the Mountain Guides Ball. The ACC has such a proud and storied past. We will also have a proud and storied future. This storm too shall pass. The clouds will part. And we will see you once again in some place beautiful.

*Neil Bosch, Edmonton Section*

## Message du président

EN MONTAGNE, on rencontre parfois des climats extrêmes. Certaines tempêtes sont si mauvaises que s'arrêter est hors de question et que le mieux à faire est de protéger son corps et son visage du vent et continuer d'avancer, un pas devant l'autre. Ou s'accrocher au volant et traverser le blizzard en espérant pour le mieux. Comme nous y sommes tous passés, vous comprendrez sûrement. Comme avec beaucoup d'organisations, c'est à ces conditions qu'a ressemblé l'an 2020 pour le Club alpin du Canada.

L'année fiscale 2020 commençait en automne 2019 avec tellement de promesses et d'espoir. Le CAC progressait avec des projets ambitieux dans tous les domaines. Notre conseil d'administration, notre personnel et nos membres sortaient d'une année 2019 remarquable. Notre profil national avait crû de façon substantielle ces dernières années et nous étions impatients de partager les valeurs et les activités du CAC auprès d'un nombre croissant de Canadiens. Six mois plus tard, les choses avaient changé du tout au tout.

La fondation du CAC remonte à 1906 et pendant ses premières décennies d'existence, le club a survécu à la Grippe espagnole, aux deux Guerres mondiales et la grande dépression. Mais la portée et l'étendue du CAC étaient différentes. Le Club compte maintenant 25 sections locales, 35 refuges en arrière-pays et 16,000 membres. C'est un navire beaucoup plus grand que nous pilotons : le faire pivoter demande plus de temps et de ressources. Nous arrêter, bien sûr, n'était pas une option. Il fallait s'accrocher à la barre et continuer d'avancer, et c'est ce que nous avons fait.

L'un des plus grands défis était que la voie n'était pas droite et continuait de changer. Des décisions difficiles ont dû être prises et refaites pendant que les règles

de l'engagement ne cessaient de changer. À travers tout cela, nous avons pris des décisions avec pour seul objectif ce qui était le mieux pour notre club et nos membres.

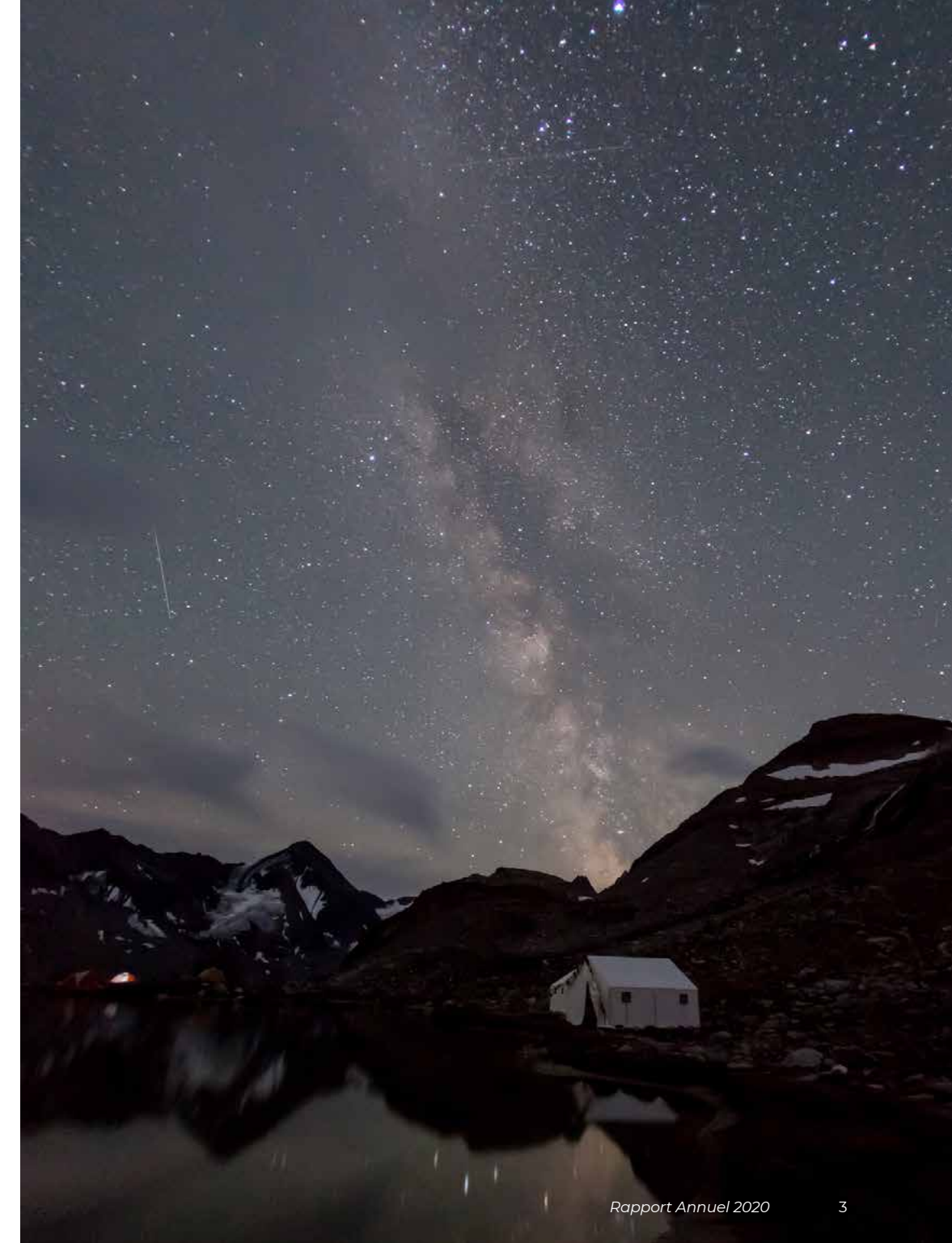
Je me demande comment l'Histoire retiendra cette période, et comment nous la raconterons à nos enfants et nos petits enfants dans les décennies à venir. Mais je crois qu'un sujet se démarquera, et c'est comment les gens se sont rassemblés pendant cette pandémie pour vaincre un ennemi silencieux et mortel. L'un des aspects de l'histoire qui, je l'espère, sera raconté est celui du sacrifice personnel que tant de gens ont fait. Je pense d'abord aux professionnels de la santé et aux intervenants de première ligne qui ont mis leur sécurité personnelle en jeu pour que nous puissions tous continuer d'avancer.

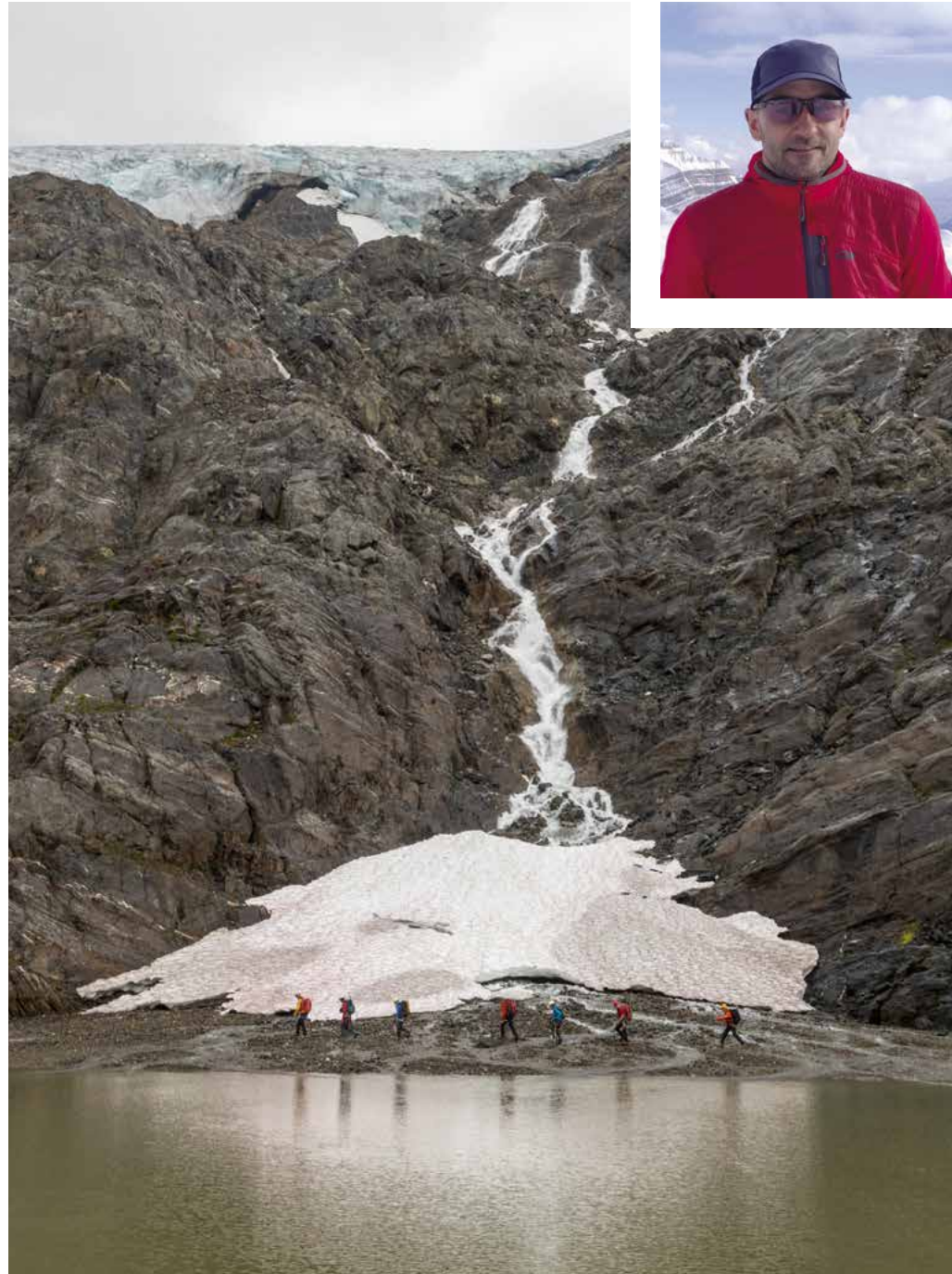
Le CAC aura sa propre version de cette histoire et nous nous souviendrons des sacrifices qui furent faits pour que nous avancions à travers la tempête. Aussi, ce que je veux transmettre de tout cœur est : merci. Au personnel du CAC, à sa direction, à la direction des sections, au conseil d'administration ainsi qu'à vous, nos membres, merci de vous être rassemblés pour nous aider à travers cette tourmente.

J'espère que le jour où nous avons dû annuler notre Camp général d'alpinisme ou notre Bal des guides de montagne ne se répètera jamais. Le CAC a un passé si fier et riche en histoires : notre futur sera fier et riche en histoires lui aussi. Cette tempête finira par passer. Les nuages s'écartèreront. Et nous vous verrons encore quelque part où c'est beau.

*Neil Bosch, section Edmonton*

GMC 2015. Photo Zoltan Kenwell





## Message from the Executive Director

THANK YOU.

What more can one say? Thank you for your support. Thank you for your membership. Thank you for reading this annual report, which shows your interest in the wellbeing of our Club. 2020, the year that was, cannot be put into words. There are simply too many stories to tell, too many experiences to relay, and in some cases too much tragedy to process. However, where words fall short, the inspiring actions of our members have filled the void.

Aside from their pursuits as mountain enthusiasts, many of our members are also health care workers, front line service providers, and emergency responders. To you especially I say thank you.

As you read through this synthesis of the ACC in 2020 I hope you'll see, beneath the surface, the efforts and actions of both staff and volunteers in keeping the Club healthy and relevant to our community. I encourage you to pause and think about how fortunate the ACC is to have a foundation from which to interact with each other, a foundation that can be relied on for some sense of normalcy amid the chaos and difficulties.

However, the ACC has certainly not been immune to the realities of the past year and admittedly our resources have been stretched thin. April 2020 was a low point in my time with the ACC as uncertainty swirled across a multitude of industries and sectors. We let staff go. We lost good volunteers. We closed huts and cancelled trips,

GMC 2018. Photo Paul Zizka

including the GMC for the first time in our 114-year history. The social element – the very essence of the Club – was diminishing.

Yet to my amazement and absolute elation people found other ways to connect and keep the ACC moving forward. The ebb and flow in government restrictions may not have meant a straight path forward - it was more like an S-pattern really - but it was forward motion nonetheless. The actions of countless people buoyed our collective psyche. We pivoted and got creative on a number of fronts as things like pub nights moved online. Art and literature took on a whole new relevance as a connection to the mountains in place of belays and snow pits. We as a Club, in fact we as a country, adapted to the harsh reality of this new paradigm and came together in support of each other.

It's been a truly remarkable year and while I am not saddened to see it in the rear view mirror, I am comforted by the lessons that it has provided: lessons in compassion and optimism, resilience and levity, hope and friendship. We have seen all of these things in the actions of many. It has been a reaffirming year for sure.

Thank you, all.

*Lawrence White*

## Message du directeur général

MERCI.

Quoi dire de plus? Merci pour votre soutien. Merci d'être membres. Merci de lire ce rapport annuel, qui prouve votre intérêt envers le bien-être de notre Club. Ce qu'a été l'année 2020 est difficile à mettre en mots. Il y a trop d'histoires à raconter, trop d'expériences à faire circuler, et dans certains cas trop de drames à affronter. Cependant, là où les mots manquent, les gestes inspirants de nos membres comblent le vide.

En dehors de leurs activités de passionnés de la montagne, plusieurs de nos membres travaillent dans le domaine de la santé, comme prestataires de services de première ligne et comme intervenants d'urgence. À eux je dis particulièrement merci.

Alors que vous lirez cette synthèse du CAC pour 2020, j'espère que vous verrez, sous la surface, les efforts et les gestes du personnel et des bénévoles pour préserver la santé du Club et sa pertinence dans nos communautés. Je vous encourage à réfléchir à la chance qu'a le CAC de disposer d'une base à partir de laquelle nous pouvons interagir, une base sur laquelle on peut compter pour garder un certain sentiment de normalité au milieu du chaos et des difficultés.

Le CAC n'a certainement pas été à l'abri des réalités de l'année dernière et il est vrai que nos ressources ont été durement éprouvées. Le mois d'avril 2020 fut un moment critique dans ma carrière au sein du CAC tandis que l'incertitude touchait une multitude d'industries et de secteurs. Des employés furent licenciés. De bons bénévoles sont partis. Nous avons dû fermer des refuges et annuler des expéditions, ainsi que

notre camp général d'alpinisme pour la première fois en 114 ans. L'élément social, qui est l'essence même du Club, diminuait.

Or à mon grand étonnement et pour ma grande joie, les gens ont trouvé d'autres moyens pour rester en contact et faire progresser le CAC. Le flux et le reflux des restrictions gouvernementales n'ont pas forcément permis d'avancer en ligne droite. Le chemin aura été plutôt sinueux, mais il aura continué d'aller de l'avant. Les actions d'innombrables personnes nous ont permis collectivement de garder le moral. Nous avons pivoté et été créatifs sur plusieurs fronts alors que des événements comme les soirées au pub se sont déplacés en ligne. L'art et la littérature se sont révélés importants pour rester en contact avec la montagne, faute de relais et de fosses à neige. En tant que Club, en tant que pays en fait, nous nous sommes adaptés aux réalités de ce nouveau paradigme et nous nous sommes retrouvés pour nous soutenir.

Ce fut une année tout à fait remarquable, et si c'est sans regret que je l'observe à partir d'un rétroviseur, je suis rassuré par les leçons qu'elle nous a apprises : des leçons de compassion et d'optimisme, de résilience et de légèreté, d'espérance et d'amitié, comme les gestes de beaucoup nous ont permis de le voir. Cette année aura certainement été une année de réaffirmation.

Merci à toutes et à tous.

*Lawrence White*

2018 GMC, Photo Paul Zizka



## Membership and Services

### Membership

- Membership numbers in 2020 declined sharply due to the lack of activities and the reduction of other member benefits that were offered during the year.
- Section membership declined nearly 50% with some sections being hit harder than others.

### Events

- The 2020 Mountain Guides Ball, to have been held at the Banff Centre and in partnership with the Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival, was cancelled. The Ball is planned to resume in 2021.

### Volunteers

- Volunteers continued to play a major role for the club at our sections as local activities were suspended and meetings, training and social events moved online.
- Twelve Volunteer Awards will be given to ACC members for 2020: seven Don Forest Service Awards, three Eric Brooks Leader Awards, one Distinguished Service Award and one Honorary Membership. The recipients will be announced at the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

### Environment and Access

- The third edition of the State of the Mountains Report was published.
- Environment grants were awarded to Y2Y and the Logan Ice expedition. (see following spread for details).

### Grants

- Jen Higgins Grant: \$3,000 was awarded to Bree Kullman for a trip to explore the Bighorn Backcountry. \$3,200 was awarded to Rebecca Frei and Judith Westwood for climbing in the Olympic Range. Both trips have been postponed due to COVID and may be altered.
- Jim Colpitts Scholarship: \$364 was awarded to Kelly Hurley for glacier travel and crevasse rescue training.
- Karl Nagy Award: Meghan Buisson was awarded a spot on the General Mountaineering Camp for guide training. This has been postponed to 2021.

### Two new grants were announced in 2020

- The Philippe Delesalle Grant was created through a donation, to make mountain experiences accessible to disadvantaged youth. Three spots on the Bugaboos Teens Climbing Camp will be awarded annually to youth facing significant barriers to outdoor recreation.
- The Mountain Muskox Mentorship peer support group was established to assist those who have experienced mountain trauma. A support network of community members and professional clinicians is funded by this grant.

Photo Thierry Levenq





Waterton Wildflowers, Canadian Rockies from the 2020 State of the Mountains Report. Photo Celestine Aerden



## Environment and Access

### State of the Mountains Report

The State of the Mountains Report continues to be published annually, providing a snapshot of current knowledge and understanding of the changing state of Canadian mountain environments, alpine ecosystems and human communities.

- This year, due to COVID, the publication date (typically early summer) was bumped back to the fall. The 2020 report was our largest report to date at 54 pages (vs 42 and 46 in the past two years).
- We produced an English version of the SOTM in 2020, but did not complete the French version of the report in order to save on printing costs. Some of the French articles are available to read digitally.



We created a new website at [stateofthemountains.ca](http://stateofthemountains.ca), where all issues of the report are now available free for download, and where stories can be read individually, in both English and French, in blog format.

Publishing individual articles in blog format has allowed us to promote and share stories from the SOTM throughout the year across our channels, in newsletters and on social media, which has helped to bring awareness and visibility to the report.

The website also features highlights and links to mentions of the SOTM in the news, and a page that encourages feedback and submissions for next year's report.

### Environment Grants

- \$4,000** was awarded to the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) to develop and deliver workshops for winter recreationists, helping people to understand how to minimize their impacts while recreating in winter time. The resulting project called "Wildlife Wise" rolled out over the winter of 2020-21 and involved a series of well-attended online webinars, and a coordinated social media campaign that targeted specific at-risk areas in BC.
- \$1500** was awarded to Zac Robinson for a Mt Logan science-based trip that's was postponed to 2021. The Mount Logan Ice Expedition 2020-2021 is a multidisciplinary scientific initiative that seeks to preserve, celebrate, and advance knowledge about climate and change on Canada's highest peak. The mountain's height, its sheer mass, its high northern latitude, and its proximate coastal position all make the mountain a unique and important case study for what climate scientists have now termed "elevational-dependent warming" – that is, a region of high elevation that is experiencing warming significantly faster than the global average. At this writing of the 2021 Annual Report, the Logan team is at work on the mountain.



### Mount Logan Ice Expedition Organizing Partners



The Alpine Club of Canada

## State of the Mountains Report Highlights

### People

#### The Canadian Rockies Youth Summit: A New Voice in Mountain Conservation

by Ben Green, Lucas Braun, Alex Stratmoen and Destinee Doherty

In November 2019, 45 high school students representing 10 communities in and around the Canadian Rockies gathered for the first "Canadian Rockies Youth Summit" in Jasper National Park. The summit was designed, managed, and hosted by the students themselves. By connecting with experts, stakeholder groups and conservation organizations, they were able to identify and articulate a number of ways that the youth of Alberta and B.C. would like to be involved in the management and planning of our collective mountain places.



### Life

#### Mining the Mountains

by Erin K. Sexton, Christopher J. Sergeant, and Jonathan W. Moore

Scattered throughout the mountains of western Canada, often hidden behind locked gates at the end of gravel roads, are mines. While providing important jobs and resources, mines and their related infrastructure can also pose substantial environmental risks, especially when they're located in rugged mountain landscapes and in proximity to our headwaters. To address such challenges, mining in mountains relies upon marvels of engineering that push the limits of technology and infrastructure, and often raise difficult questions when it comes to our values as a society.

### Physical

#### Dark Frontiers: Exploring Western Canada's Underground

by John Pollack, Christian Stenner, and Dr. Chas Yonge

Modern mountaineers can view mountains and routes in broad daylight, but cave exploration remains a journey into unknown territory. While caving for sport remains a popular pastime in the roughly 1,800 catalogued western caves, Canada has a small and dedicated cadre of "project cavers" dedicated to exploration.



Le Club alpin du Canada

Joffre Peak landslide, May 2019. Photo Wilfried Braun.





## Facilities

Like most ACC portfolios, the outlook for facilities was optimistic early in the 2020 fiscal year and then had to adapt to the changes that COVID brought. It was clear that the shared accommodation model that had been in place for decades at ACC huts, wouldn't work during a pandemic. What followed was the biggest change to our booking model that we've ever made.

- In March, the club closed all facilities in our entire network of huts, as well as the Clubhouse hostel in Canmore. To re-open in June we cancelled all existing reservations (more than 26,000 overnights) and implemented exclusive bookings, a per-hut pricing model and a booking request system. We continued to adapt to the changing health orders of two provinces.
- Prior to summer bookings, we stocked up on bleach, outfitted our facilities with hand sanitizing stations, removed porous surfaces, and deep cleaned most of our huts. We implemented regular sanitizing between bookings at our busiest huts. We received many comments that our huts were the cleanest that they had ever been. There were no reported transmissions of COVID at any of our huts.
- ACC members also adapted with the challenges of 2020. Hut guests arranged their own groups for reservations and traveled with their cohorts according to provincial health orders.
- As a result of the reduced hut capacities, blocked off days for sanitizing and increased staff for hut cleaning, facilities revenue was down from 2019.
- It was decided that the exclusive booking model would be extended into the foreseeable future.

Other developments in facilities included:

- In December 2019, the ACC acquired Shadow Lake Lodge in Banff National Park and expanded our facilities portfolio into full-service backcountry accommodation for the first time.
- The Mt. Robson hut proposal, which had been in the works for several years received approval.
- Parks Canada continues to investigate the slope remediation at Abbot Pass.
- Facilities upgrades and capital projects were postponed due to the complexities of work parties, reduction in staffing, and intentionally curtailing all unnecessary spending.

Right: The crew clearing the site for the Mt Robson Hut.  
Photo Claire Levesque



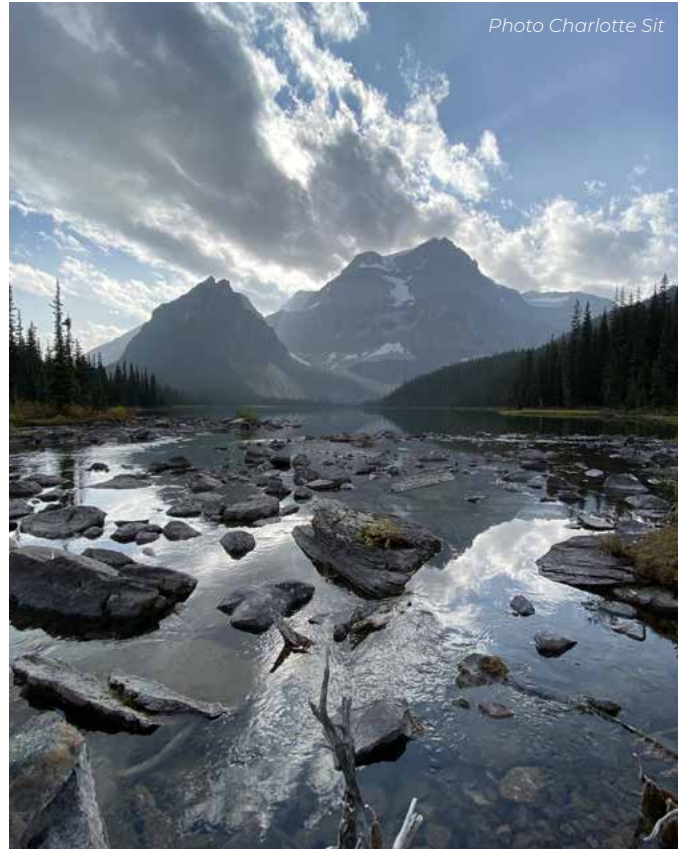


Photo Charlotte Sit

## Shadow Lake Lodge: The ACC expands into backcountry lodge accommodation

Early in the 2020 fiscal year, the ACC acquired the historic Shadow Lake Lodge in Banff National Park. The lodge had been operated by four generations of the Brewster family of Banff since 1938. Today, the Shadow Lake is a contemporary full-service lodge with 11 private accommodation cabins and catered meals.

By acquiring the lodge, the club was able to act on one of its long-term goals of expanding our backcountry facilities locations that are below tree line, relatively accessible and suited to both backcountry adventurers and younger family members.

This significant acquisition was made possible by a generous bequest from the late Arthur “Bud” Hall, a long-time supporter of The Alpine Club of Canada from Calgary.

*“The ACC’s mission and values align well with how we have developed and managed the lodge and we are confident that under the ACC’s stewardship, Shadow Lake Lodge will continue to be a sought-after back country experience.” – Alison Brewster*



Photo Lauren Madronich

### Our first Shadow Lake summer

Our first summer operating a full-service lodge in Banff’s backcountry was complicated by COVID travel restrictions that prevented many guests from visiting. Conversely, more local guests discovered that Shadow Lake, with private cabins, in-room dining options and endless fresh air and open trails, was the perfect way to get into the backcountry safely during the pandemic.

The ACC’s deep experience managing water, energy and waste in the backcountry has been invaluable to our new lodge operation and our existing relationships with Parks management in Banff enabled a seamless transition for our first season.

The ACC is committed to maintaining and growing the legacy of the Brewster-Niehaus family in environmental stewardship of the area as well as excellence in fully-catered backcountry hospitality. By the end of the summer, we had welcomed 937 guests to Shadow Lake Lodge, and employed 11 full-time staff on our service team.

### Looking ahead

Guests who have visited Shadow Lake Lodge in previous years may notice some subtle changes and improvements to the infrastructure.



Photo Paul Zizka

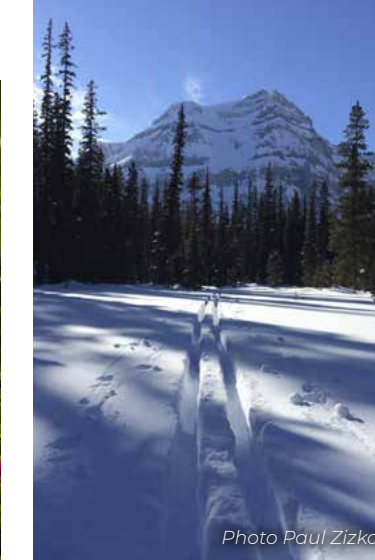


Photo Paul Zizka

*“The ACC is honoured to be able to continue to build upon the Brewster legacy in this area of Banff National Park. Diversifying the Club’s service offering to our members and the public is a natural step in the evolution of the ACC.” – Lawrence White, ACC Executive Director.*

Our plans for the future, some of which have already begun, include some reconfiguring of the layouts of the cabins to provide more space for guests and improve the in-cabin eating experience, as well as more infrastructure improvements.

By the end of our first summer, we had made the decision to offer weekend winter accommodation at the lodge as well and put procedures in place with a view to a 365-day operating model. Winter operations also allows the club to embrace a year-round stewardship of the trails in the Shadow Lake and Redearth Creek areas.

*“When the Club was approached about taking over Shadow Lake Lodge, our board of directors immediately realized this was a once-in-a-generation opportunity. Opportunities for operating such locations, especially within national parks, are extremely rare.” – Neil Bosch, ACC President*



Photo Paul Zizka





## Adventures

### Prior to COVID

ACC Adventures had a great start to the 2020 fiscal year with many camps and courses run successfully and exceptional feedback from our members.

Among the highlights were:

- Skills courses were run for ice climbing, backcountry skiing, splitboarding, avalanche skills and leadership training. A new course, Advanced Decision Making in Avalanche Terrain was offered for the first time and was well attended. Our skill development courses are part of the ACC's mandate to promote excellence in mountain skills and leadership.
- Ice climbing camps and courses took advantage of good early season conditions for teaching skills and climbing waterfalls in the Rockies.
- Backcountry skiing powder camps ran in great conditions at ACC huts in Rogers Pass and in the Selkirks.
- Our Amongst Himalayan Giants photo workshop was a great success with Pat Morrow trekking and teaching photography to club members in Nepal. A photo essay from the trip was included in the spring 2020 issue of the ACC Gazette.



- The Winter Leadership Course ran in a new format at the Fairy Meadow Hut in January with 10 participants from different ACC sections attending. Leadership courses allow volunteer trip leaders from across Canada to gain invaluable leadership skills in the mountains under the supervision of ACMG mountain guides.

### After COVID

Like many guiding and tour businesses, the ACC's Adventures portfolio was impacted heavily by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many courses and camps were cancelled at the end of the winter, including our popular Wapta traverses, ski mountaineering camps on the Columbia Icefields and our Women's Only ski camp.

- More camps and courses were cancelled in the summer months, including the Edziza and Spatsizi trekking camps, hiking, climbing and mountaineering camps, hut discovery camps and our 55+ camps.
- A difficult decision was made to postpone the Mt. Mummery General Mountaineering Camp to summer 2021. The GMC is an ACC tradition that dates back to 1907 and has been run every year since.

### Adapting to COVID

ACC Adventures adapted to the reality of gathering together for outdoor courses in the summer of 2020 and also to the new demand for instructional and local courses. With new COVID protocols in place for group activities, new courses and camps were offered in the Rockies and attended by ACC members from the local area. We are grateful to our members for adapting with us.

Highlights included:

- Hiking day camps were run for kids on a weekly basis over the summer
- Introductory mountaineering and climbing courses were very popular with members looking to build or refresh skills.
- Small groups took advantage of the spacious Bow Hut for mountaineering camps on the Wapta Icefield.
- All of our adapted summer camps and courses were run safely and without incidents.

*Far left: Wapta 2020  
Photos Kirsten Knechtel*

*Left: Fairy Meadow Winter Leadership Course  
Photo Pam Paylor*



*Wapta, August 2020. Photos Kirsten Knechtel*

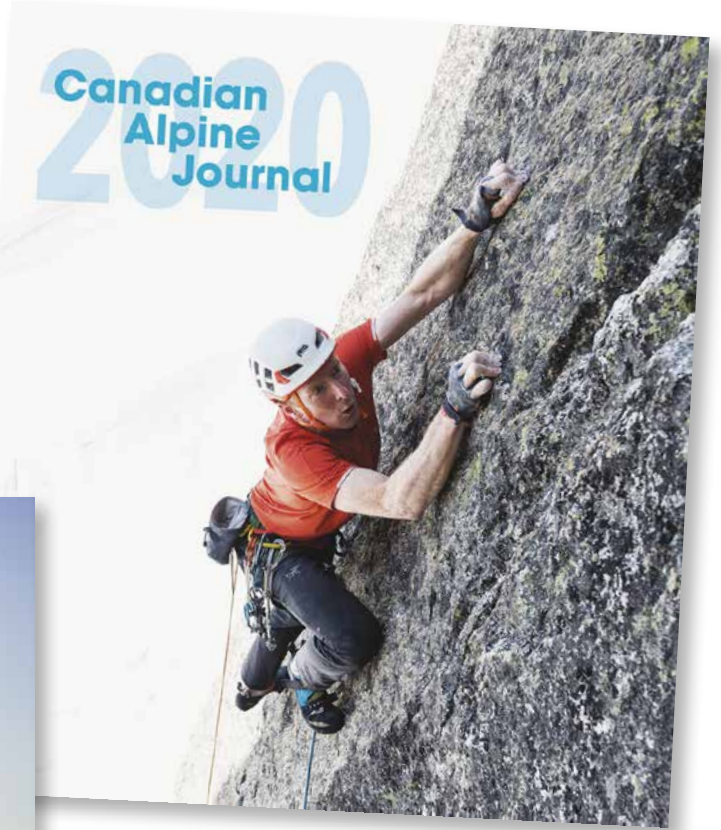
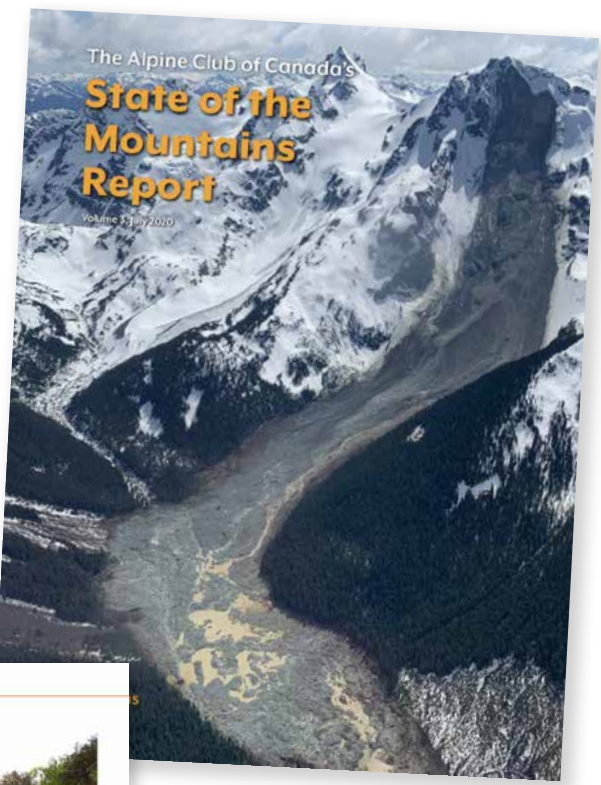


# Mountain Culture

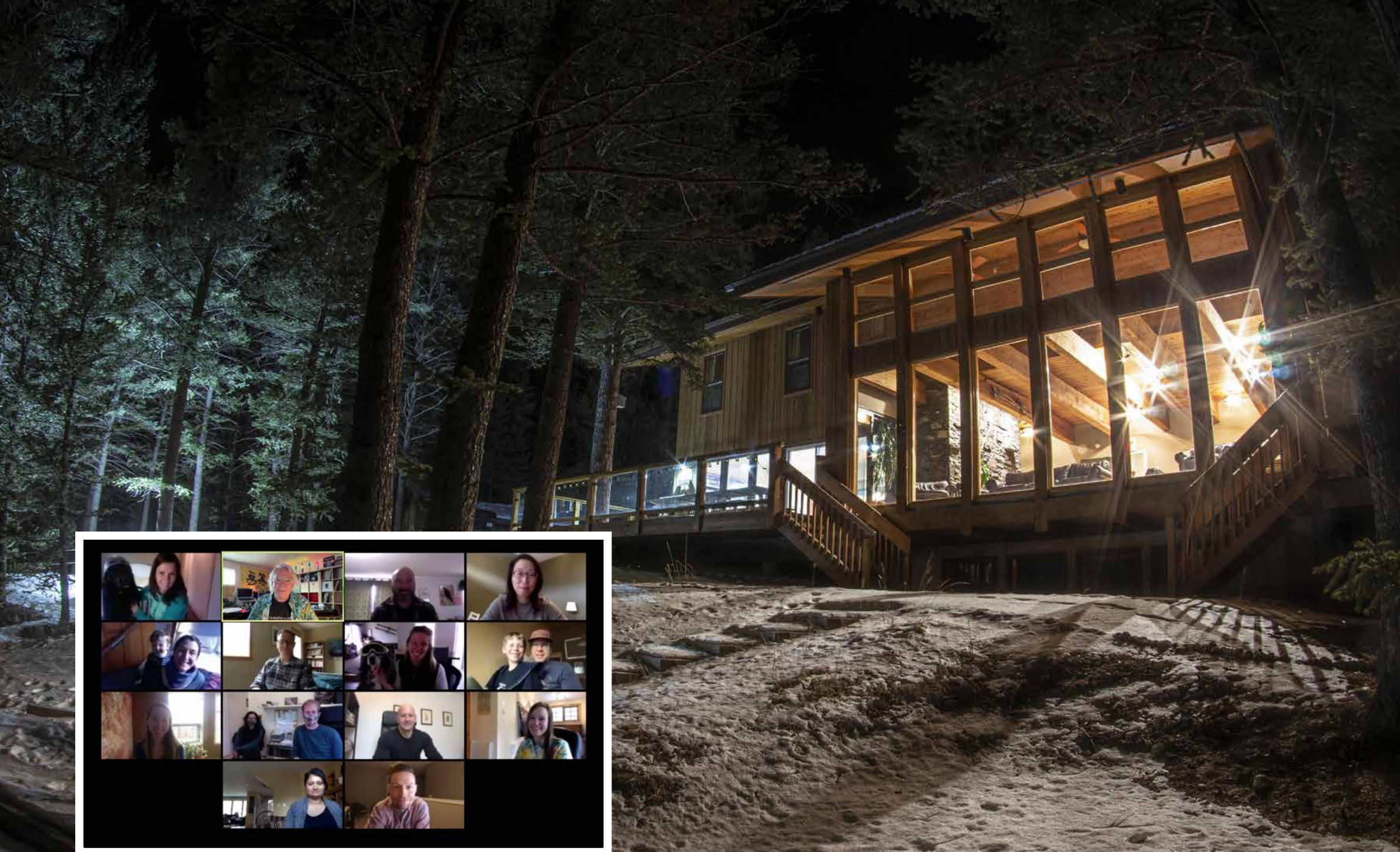
Our position as an expert source in Canadian mountain culture continues to be a focus and priority for the club. Because of COVID, we were unable to organize or attend many of our annual social events such as the Mountain Guides Ball and the Banff Mountain Film Festival. Instead, this year we directed our cultural efforts on reaching our community through publications.

- The Gazette enjoyed a redesign this year. We overhauled the look of the cover and the feature articles, as well as bringing photography more to the forefront. The result is a cleaner, more engaging message by and for our ACC community that highlights the stories and places our members care most about.
- The Summer 2020 issue of the Gazette is available in digital format only due to uncertainties in the club's finances as COVID hit in the spring.
- Section features: We have made a concerted effort to shine a spotlight on our Sections through the Gazette this year as well. The Gazette now includes a "Section Profile" in each issue. 2020 issues featured stories about the Montreal, Yukon, and Southern Alberta sections.

- The Canadian Alpine Journal (CAJ) which is typically published in the summer was postponed until the fall, due to uncertainties related to COVID. The delay did not affect the quality of the publication and it ranks up there as one of our most visually stunning issues to date.
- The State of the Mountains Report continues to be published annually, though this year due to COVID, the publication date was bumped back to the fall. The 2020 report was our largest report to date at 54 pages (vs 42 and 46 in the past two years) and it was produced in both English (print and digital) and a French (digital-only). A new website was launched at [stateofthemountains.ca](http://stateofthemountains.ca), where all issues of the report are now available free for download, and where stories can be read individually in blog format.
- Publishing individual articles in blog format has allowed us to promote and share stories from the SOTM throughout the year across our channels, in newsletters and on social media, which has helped to bring awareness and visibility to the report.



Though initially delayed, the 182 page 2020 Canadian Alpine Journal was printed and mailed to subscribers before the end of the year.



## Operations

### Human Resources

- The ACC office staff was reduced as a result of the reduction in revenues from the cancellation of hut bookings and camps and the change in the hut booking model.
- Pay decreases for all employees, along with government wage subsidies allowed the club to retain most of our staff.
- Beginning in March, the national office staff moved to working from home.
- Staff resources were redirected to support changes to multiple areas of operations through the year. All hands were on deck.
- Some of our facilities reservation and housekeeping staff were able to return to work at the Canmore Clubhouse as the hostel opened to small groups later in the summer.
- The club was able to offer employment to new staff in management and service positions at Shadow Lake Lodge as well as to hut custodian/cleaners through the summer of 2020.

### Publications

- The club prioritized the publication of the Gazette magazine, the Canadian Alpine Journal and the State of the Mountains Report as member services and as the continuation of our long-running contribution to mountain culture (see pages 16-17).
- News and announcements continued to be published in ACC newsletters and on social media channels and subscriber and follower rates continued to increase.
- The State of the Mountains Report received its own website and blog, where both popular and academic environmental articles were able to reach a new audience (see page 8).

*Left: The ACC National Office and Canmore Clubhouse by night. Photo Grey Man Images*

*Left (inset): The challenge of working from home meant the ACC staff met virtually through 2020.*

*Right: Service with a smile (under a mask) at Shadow Lake Lodge for summer 2020 guests. Photo Maya Fish*



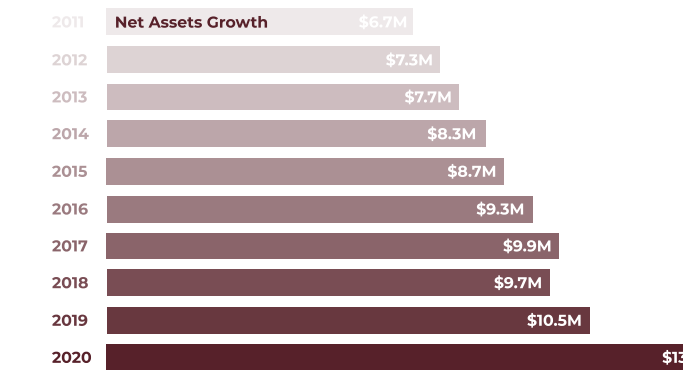
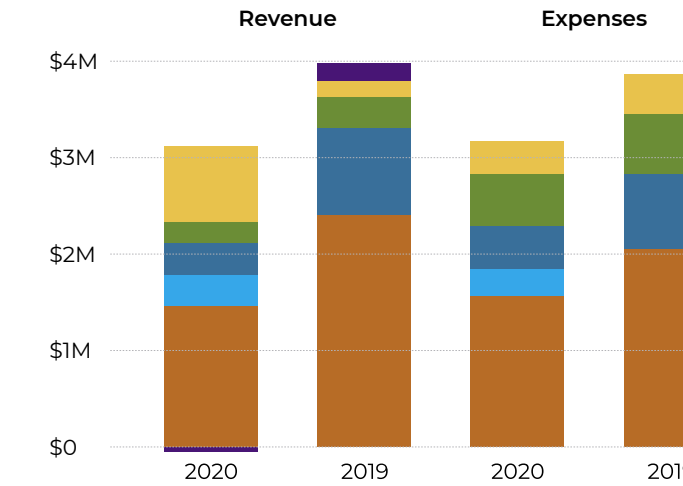


## Finances

The ACC's 2020 started with the usual optimism that comes with the beginning of another fiscal cycle. Unfortunately, that optimism quickly turned to the equivalent of financial triage as the COVID pandemic hit hard in early 2020. The ACC went from its typical growth model into a model of survival. Our staff and management should be commended for the difficult steps taken to ensure that the clubs is here to serve its members in the future.

Highlights and lowlights for 2020:

- Our major sources of revenues, facilities and programs, were down substantially. This was partially offset by increased revenue from Shadow Lake Lodge coming online as well as government subsidies (recorded as "other" in the income statement).
- Expense decreases came from staff reductions, pay decreases and spending freezes across all areas.
- Increase in net assets is reflective of Shadow Lake Lodge ownership and significant donations in 2020.
- Investment declines reflect a withdrawal of funds to pay for Shadow Lake Lodge and the swift detrimental effect of the COVID pandemic on global markets. Not reflected in the investment numbers is the equally swift recovery of investments later in calendar 2020.



Left: 2017 GMC.  
Photo Thierry Levenq

Le Club alpin du Canada

## Income Statement to October 31

REVENUE	2020	2019
Facilities	\$ 1,488,591	\$ 2,055,632
Shadow Lake Lodge	\$ 323,169	\$ 0
Activities	\$ 297,175	\$ 895,823
Membership	\$ 251,812	\$ 312,613
Other	\$ 751,931	\$ 179,537
Canadian Alpine Centre	\$ (34,110)	\$ 171,315
<b>Total</b>	\$ 3,078,568	\$ 3,974,163
EXPENSES		
Facilities	\$ 1,563,189	\$ 2,055,632
Shadow Lake Lodge	\$ 279,259	\$ 0
Activities	\$ 437,383	\$ 780,032
Membership	\$ 589,773	\$ 602,939
Other	\$ 347,664	\$ 436,686
<b>Total</b>	\$ 3,167,426	\$ 3,875,289
<b>Net Income</b>	\$ (88,858)	\$ 98,874

## Balance Sheet at October 31

ASSETS	2020	2019
Current Assets	\$ 2,045,328	\$ 509,683
Investments	\$ (1,050,002)	\$ 38,831
Canadian Alpine Centre	\$ 1,273,215	\$ 1,368,195
Capital Assets	\$ 4,210,166	\$ 2,584,195
<b>Total</b>	\$ 6,478,708	\$ 4,500,904
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities	\$ 1,632,230	\$ 1,328,301
Members' Equity	\$ 4,846,478	\$ 3,172,603
<b>Total</b>	\$ 6,478,708	\$ 4,500,904
Designated Funds	\$ 6,939,319	\$ 6,018,782



GMC 2012. Photo Robert Braun

## Donor Recognition

The Alpine Club of Canada is extremely grateful for the generosity of its members, friends and partners for their gifts of time, energy and funding.

The following pages list contributors for the 2020 fiscal year, which runs from Nov. 1, 2017 through Oct. 31, 2020. We would also like to thank all those donors who wish to remain anonymous.

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GMC 2018. Photo Paul Zizka





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