

SOLIDIFYING OUR PRIORITIES

Annual Report 2022

The Alpine Club of Canada | Le club alpin du Canada



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Climbers work their way up Mary's Peak at the 2022 International Basin General Mountaineering Camp. Photo Amy Liu

Right: Ottawa Section anchor Clinic, Rockfest, September, 2018.





Message from the President

If I could choose one word to summarize our last year as an organization, it would be CHANGE. I don't recall a time in recent decades where the club went through this much change.

Transitioning out of the pandemic put both human and financial stress on the club. This was really the year for a fresh start. It also made us aware of the fragility of our organization. It forced us to look at our core, our foundation and ask some tough questions. With important changes in the leadership of the club over the course of the year, both at the operational and governance level, we were driven to undergo tremendous reflection and make some difficult but important decisions. We saw it as an opportunity to question what we do and consider new possibilities.

From the stakeholder consultation process last spring, the board reviewed input and worked with the team in the office to analyze key trends and internal factors impacting our organization and to develop a vision and plan that reflected stakeholder needs. We realized that having a deeper understanding of sections' unique history and background, their opportunities and challenges would guide our

decision making. We have worked to develop more effective communication so we can better support their endeavors and share best practices between sections. This was a year of planning and the start of modernizing our structure, processes, and systems so we can build a more resilient, adaptable, and nimble organization that can operate in today's reality and better serve our members.

Change may be daunting and challenging but it is ultimately positive. Navigating this change is like starting a big climb. Thankfully, we can count on each other and our forebearers and I am grateful for the legacy of the ACC and our incredibly engaged community of amazing volunteers, members, staff, donors and key partners. It is with unwavering inspiration that we continue along into a new era.

Isabelle Daigneault

President

Left: Rebecca, Emma, Hanan and Gwen on the shoulder of Mt. Rhonda. Photo Sylvia Forest.

Inset: Isabelle Daigneault. Photo Peter Hoang.

Message du président

Si je devais choisir un mot pour résumer notre dernière année en tant qu'organisation, ce serait CHANGEMENT. Je ne me souviens pas d'une époque, au cours des dernières décennies, où le club a connu autant de changements.

La sortie de la pandémie a mis le club à rude épreuve, tant sur le plan humain que financier. C'était vraiment l'année d'un nouveau départ. Elle nous a également fait prendre conscience de la fragilité de notre organisation. Elle nous a obligés à nous pencher sur notre cœur, nos fondations et à nous poser des questions difficiles. Les changements importants intervenus dans la direction du club au cours de l'année, tant au niveau opérationnel qu'au niveau de la gouvernance, nous ont amenés à mener une réflexion approfondie et à prendre des décisions difficiles mais importantes. Nous y avons vu l'occasion de remettre en question ce que nous faisons et d'envisager de nouvelles possibilités.

À la suite du processus de consultation des parties prenantes au printemps dernier, le conseil d'administration a examiné les contributions et a travaillé avec l'équipe du bureau pour analyser les principales tendances et les facteurs internes ayant un impact sur nos activités.

Nous nous sommes rendu compte qu'une meilleure compréhension de l'histoire et du contexte uniques des sections, de leurs opportunités et de leurs défis nous aiderait à prendre des décisions. Nous avons réalisé qu'une meilleure compréhension de l'histoire et des antécédents uniques des sections, de leurs opportunités et de leurs défis guiderait notre

prise de décision. Nous nous sommes efforcés de développer des

Nous avons également mis l'accent sur la communication afin de mieux soutenir leurs efforts et de partager les meilleures pratiques entre les sections. Cette année a été une année de planification et le début de la modernisation de notre structure, de nos processus et de nos systèmes afin que nous puissions construire une organisation plus résiliente, plus adaptable et plus souple, capable de fonctionner dans la réalité d'aujourd'hui et de mieux servir nos membres.

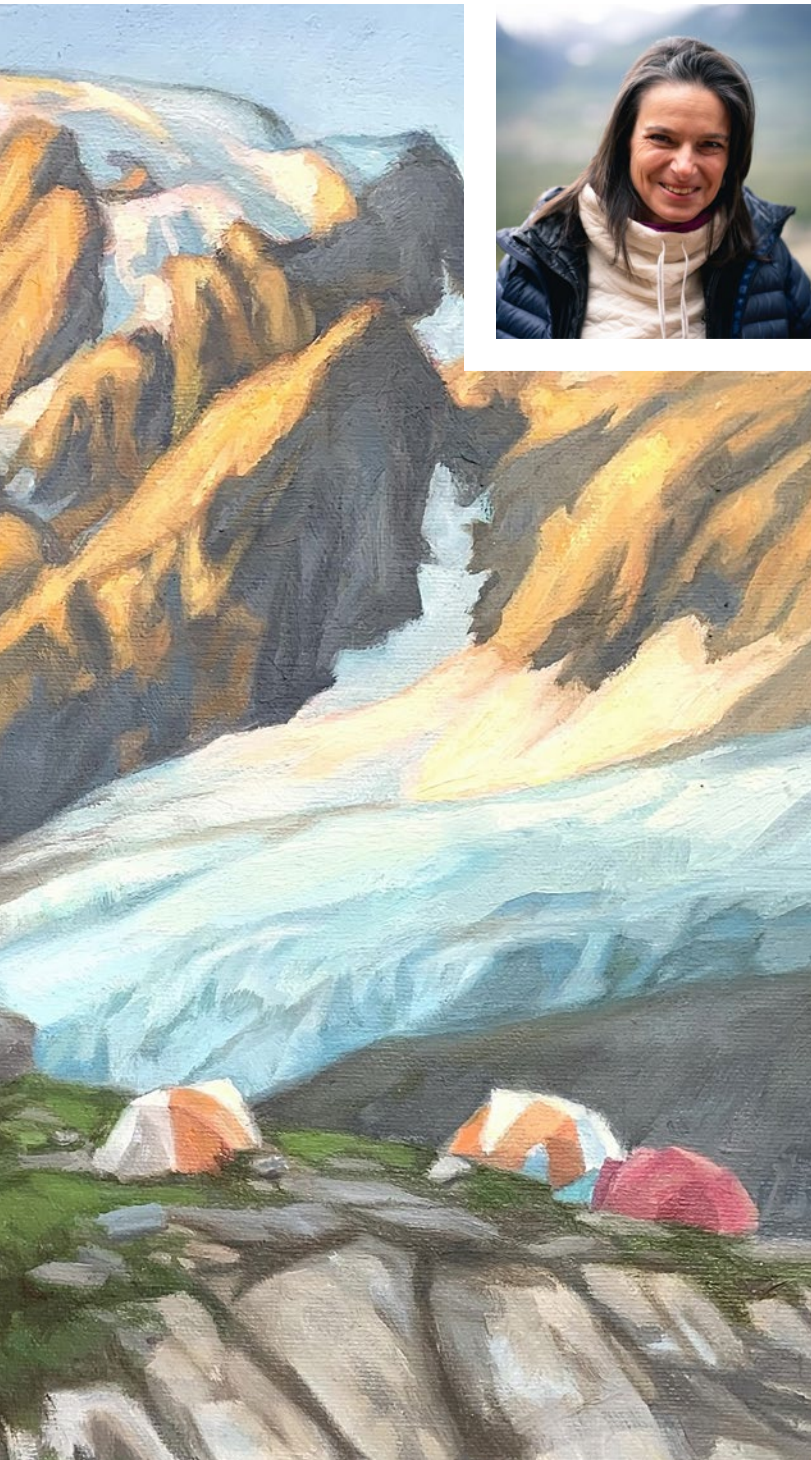
Le changement peut être décourageant et difficile, mais il est en fin de compte positif. Naviguer dans ce changement, c'est comme entamer une grande ascension. Heureusement, nous pouvons compter les uns sur les autres et sur nos prédécesseurs, et je suis reconnaissante de l'héritage du CAC et de notre communauté incroyablement engagée de bénévoles, de membres, de personnel, de donateurs et de partenaires clés. C'est avec une inspiration inébranlable que nous entrons dans une nouvelle ère.

Isabelle Daigneault



President





Message from the Executive Director

This annual report marks my one-year anniversary with The Alpine Club of Canada. It's been a whirlwind; I don't believe we've left a single stone unturned. I am grateful to my team for their hard work, our board for their support, and our members, our sections, and all of our volunteers for their energy and commitment. It has been a humbling experience to witness all that the club does, and an honour to serve it.

Our fiscal 2022 was characterised by a gradual return to normal operations. Our membership recovered to pre-pandemic levels, and we were able to welcome guests back to our hostel and backcountry huts from late spring onwards. The election of our new President, Isabelle Daigneault, combined with my appointment as Executive Director, created momentum and we launched various initiatives to reconnect with our members and modernize our operations. Following a club-wide engagement process to redefine our vision and mission, the board approved a three-year strategic plan focused on better serving our members and sections, safety, diversity and inclusion, and the development of an environmental strategy.

We ran our annual General Mountaineering Camp at International Basin in the Carbonate Range of the Purcell Mountains and our Girls on Ice program offered three tuition-free educational expeditions based on science, the outdoors and art.

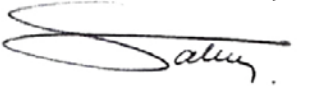
After a two-year suspension, we held our annual Mountain Guides' Ball at The Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity and were thrilled to gather the ACC and ACMG (Association of Canadian Mountain Guides) communities together again. We also hosted the UIAA General Assembly in Banff. The three-day conference was successful and allowed members from across the world to reconnect in person after two years of virtual meetings.

We published the 5th edition of the State of the Mountains report, a commitment by the ACC to provide accessible, current, and accurate information about the forces that affect Canadian mountain places, ecosystems, and communities.

The Alpine Club of Canada is pursuing its transformation in 2023 with new initiatives to work more closely with our sections and members and launch a wide-ranging digital transition so we can better serve our community going forward. While continuing to host our flagship General Mountaineering Camp and most popular camps and courses, we are relaunching international expeditions. Through club-wide training, we aim to ensure that safety, equity, diversity, and inclusion are at the forefront of everything we do. Finally, our environmental strategy should help steer us through complex trade-offs between access and the environment.

We will be developing our system of backcountry huts with new projects, renovations, and plans to roll out renewable energy systems to improve safety and reduce our environmental footprint. We are thrilled to be working with the ACMG, Charlie Locke, and the Lake Louise Ski Area on a replacement hut in the vicinity of the former Abbot Pass Refuge Cabin.

We want to thank and celebrate all the volunteers who support our organization in so many ways, we couldn't do it without them.

Carine Salvy

Executive Director

Left: Mount Mummery, Artists' Week, 2021. Painting by Patti Dymant.

Inset: Carine Salvy. Photo Peter Hoang.

Message du directeur général

Ce rapport annuel marque mon premier anniversaire au sein du Club Alpin du Canada. Ce fut une année intense et mouvementée ; aucun effort n'a été épargné pour explorer toutes les pistes d'évolution possible. Je suis reconnaissant à mon équipe pour son travail acharné, à notre conseil d'administration pour son soutien, et à nos membres, nos sections et tous nos bénévoles pour leur énergie et leur engagement. Ce fut une leçon d'humilité que d'être témoin de tout ce que fait le club, et un honneur de le servir.

L'exercice 2022 a été caractérisé par un retour progressif à la normale. Le nombre de nos membres retrouve petit à petit le niveau d'avant la pandémie et nous avons pu accueillir à nouveau des clients dans notre auberge et nos refuges d'arrière-pays à partir de la fin du printemps. L'élection de notre nouvelle présidente, Isabelle Daigneault, combinée à ma nomination au poste de directeur général, a créé une belle dynamique et nous avons lancé diverses initiatives pour renouer avec nos membres et moderniser nos opérations. À la suite d'un processus d'engagement à l'échelle du club visant à redéfinir notre vision et notre mission, le conseil d'administration a approuvé un plan stratégique triennal axé sur l'amélioration des services aux membres et aux sections, la sécurité, la diversité et l'inclusion, ainsi que l'élaboration d'une stratégie environnementale.

Nous avons organisé notre camp annuel d'alpinisme général à International Basin, dans la chaîne Carbonate des monts Purcell, et notre programme Girls on Ice a proposé trois expéditions éducatives gratuites basées sur la science, les activités de plein air et l'art.

Après une suspension de deux ans, nous avons organisé notre bal annuel des guides de montagne au Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity et nous avons été ravis de réunir à nouveau les communautés du CAC et de l'ACMG (Association des guides de montagne canadiens). Nous avons également accueilli l'assemblée générale de l'UIAA à Banff. Cette conférence de trois jours a été couronnée de succès et a permis aux membres du monde entier de se retrouver en personne après deux années de réunions virtuelles.

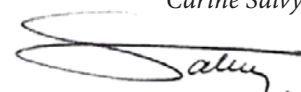
Nous avons publié la 5e édition du rapport sur l'état des montagnes, un engagement du CAC à fournir des informations accessibles, actuelles et précises sur les forces qui affectent les lieux, les écosystèmes et les communautés des montagnes canadiennes.

Le Club Alpin du Canada poursuit sa transformation en 2023 avec de nouvelles initiatives pour travailler plus étroitement avec nos sections et nos membres et lancer une transition numérique de grande envergure afin de mieux servir notre communauté à l'avenir. Tout en continuant d'organiser notre camp d'alpinisme général phare et les camps et formations les plus populaires, nous relançons les expéditions internationales. Grâce à une formation à l'échelle du club, nous voulons nous assurer que la sécurité, l'équité, la diversité et l'inclusion sont au premier plan de tout ce que nous faisons. Enfin, notre stratégie environnementale devrait nous aider à trouver des compromis complexes entre l'accès et l'environnement.

Nous allons développer notre réseau de refuges dans l'arrière-pays avec de nouveaux projets, des rénovations et des plans pour déployer des systèmes d'énergie renouvelable afin d'améliorer la sécurité et de réduire notre empreinte environnementale. Nous sommes ravis de travailler avec l'ACMG, Charlie Locke et la station de ski de Lake Louise afin de construire un nouveau refuge à proximité de l'ancien refuge du col Abbot.

Nous tenons à remercier et à célébrer tous les bénévoles qui soutiennent notre organisation de multiples façons ; nous ne pourrions pas le faire sans eux.

Carine Salvy



Directrice générale



Membership and Services

Membership

- ▶ For 2022, ACC membership recovered substantially from the reduced numbers of 2020 and 2021. Increased activities, outings and camps at local sections, and access to ACC huts are seen as the most significant drivers of the recovery. During the previous two years, ACC huts were largely limited to exclusive bookings that required only one ACC membership to reserve.
- ▶ 2022 membership numbers increased throughout the year and the year closed with the club having over 12,000 members.

Events

- ▶ The 2022 Mountain Guides Ball was held in October in Banff for the first time since 2019. The previous two MGBs had been cancelled due to the COVID pandemic.
- ▶ At the MGB, and along with the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides, the club celebrated longtime guide and ACC Leadership Course stalwart Cyril Shokoples. Three years of Mountain Guides received their pins at the event.
- ▶ The club's participation in the Banff Mountain Film Festival was similar to 2019 and prior years, with awards presented on stage and gatherings at the festival's Mountain Marketplace.
- ▶ The ACC hosted the UIAA General Assembly in Banff and welcomed participants from 112 delegates from 34 different countries. The event was held at the Banff Centre, and many participants were able to attend the Banff Festivals as well as the club's Mountain Guides Ball.
- ▶ The Summit Bid charity auction contributed over \$20,000 to the club's Leadership Development Fund, which will be used to subsidize future leadership courses for the club's volunteer leaders.

Volunteers

- ▶ Volunteers remain the backbone of the ACC, dedicating countless hours across Canada leading outings and trips, organizing the business of our 24 sections and making our club stronger.
- ▶ The club honored 14 members with volunteer awards in 2022 for their service to the club. Nine individuals from five different ACC sections were awarded the Don Forest Service Award. One member was awarded the

Eric Brooks Leader Award. Three ACC members were recognized with the Distinguished Service Award. One member was awarded the Silver Rope for Leadership.

Environment and Access

- ▶ The fifth edition of the State of the Mountains Report was published in October 2022 in both English and French. The report is a summary of accessible, current and accurate information about the forces that are influencing Canadian mountain places, ecosystems and communities.
- ▶ As with the 2021 report, copies were mailed to ACC members packaged with the fall issue of the Gazette magazine. The report is available for free download in French and English on the State of the Mountains website.

Grants

- ▶ Jen Higgins Grant for Young Women: \$2,000 was awarded to Jennifer Tu, Kirsti Oja, Chelsea Darrach, Taylor Adolphe and Cassie Ayoungman for Mount Wotzke trip. \$3,000 was awarded to Megan O'Brien, Julie Van de Valk, Camilla Loughlin and Caroline Jung for the Monarch-Ha'ltzuk Traverse. \$3,000 was awarded to Gabriella Clark and Katie Reeder for Columbia Icefields mountaineering trip.
- ▶ Jim Colpitts Scholarship: \$515 was awarded to Tanner Lesh for an Adventure Medic course. \$500 was awarded to Sophie Lalonde-Bester for an AST2 course.
- ▶ Karl Nagy Award: William Hotopf of the Montreal Section attended the 2022 General Mountaineering Camp as recipient of the Karl Nagy Award (value: \$2,625).
- ▶ Philippe Delesalle Grant: In 2022, this fund supported a collaborative program between the ACC and Spirit North that welcomed five Indigenous youth into the world of climbing in the Bow Valley.
- ▶ John Lauchlan Memorial Award: The JLA is a cash and mentorship award designed to assist Canadian Climbers and is administered in partnership with the ACC. The ACC wishes to congratulate Jacob Cook, Bronwyn Hodgins, Angela Vanwiemeersch, Zack Goldberg-Poch, Jaron Pham and Kelsey Watts for their Greenland expedition, and Ripley Boulianne and Mateo Esposito for their Patagonia expedition. Both teams were awarded \$5,000 by the JLA.

Environment and Access

State of the Mountains Report

The fifth annual State of the Mountains Report was published in 2022

This annual report highlights the changes in Canada's alpine environment by compiling and sharing the best available knowledge about our mountains from coast to coast to coast.

As with past years, contributed stories included knowledge highlights on people and mountains, life in the mountains and physical mountains.

The 2022 issue of the report was printed in both English and French, and the English version was mailed along with the fall issue of the ACC Gazette magazine to ACC member subscribers.

The full report, in pdf format was made available for free download in both languages on the State of the Mountains Report website. All of the stories from the 2022 edition were also published in blog format on stateofthemountains.ca and all were promoted through the ACC's newsletters and social media channels throughout the year which continued to bring awareness and visibility to the report.

Environment Grants

- ▶ \$2,000 was awarded to Karson Sudlow for his project studying the effects of glacier loss on alpine stream ecosystems in the Canadian Rockies, and how rapid glacier loss will impact the diversity and function of algal communities.
- ▶ \$5,000 was awarded to Gregory Gransden to assist him in the production of a documentary film aimed at bringing awareness to the campaign to create a new provincial park in the Mt. Waddington, Whitemantle Range or the Homathko Icefield area.
- ▶ \$4,700 was awarded to Lauren Bosch for the Play Clean Go project to establish boot brush stations and signage to protect sensitive ecosystems in the Revelstoke area.



Above: Research assistant Simonne Tremblay collecting aquatic insects from Emerald glacier stream, above Emerald Lake, Yoho National Park. Simonne is using a kicknet to collect. Photo Karson Sudlow.

Below: North Buttress of Outpost Peak. Jen Higgins Grant winner trip. Photo Brooklyn Rushton.

State of the Mountains Report Highlights



Collaboration

Sustainable Banff

by Corrie Dimanno

Like most municipalities in Canada, Banff is grappling with how to prevent and prepare for the impacts of a warming world. And the future's looking bright in Banff. Because together, the community, the Town of Banff, Parks Canada, and Banff & Lake Louise Tourism, are developing a sustainability-focused ten-year Tourism Master Plan for the destination.



Climate

A Path to Recovery: The Berg Lake Trail Flood at Mt Robson

by Natasha Ewing

Since its creation in 1913, Mount Robson Provincial Park has developed into one of the province's flagship parks. In the summer of 2021, the combination of heat, meltwater, and excessive precipitation conspired to create the perfect storm, and it resulted in one of the most the significant flood events to have occurred on Berg Lake Trail, the trail accessing Mount Robson.



Community

Gitksan and Secwépemc Resilience to Climate Change

by Janna Wale

British Columbia is blessed with an abundance of glaciers, Indigenous communities in British Columbia (BC) hold deep relationships with their Lands, and are being disproportionately affected by climate change. Community climate resilience is an emergent body of work that examines select indicators to create an overall picture of climate resilience in human communities.

Removal of Abbot Pass Hut

Photo: Peter Hoang

“The State of the Mountains Report celebrates its fifth publication this year! Overall, the report has now included some sixty articles covering a wide diversity of topics related to the state of mountains in Canada. In this issue, we have also tried to highlight Indigenous perspectives about mountains, and the need for the co-production of knowledge, which, at its foundation, begins with mutual respect, dialogue, and exchange.”





Left: Canmore Clubhouse. Photo LCR Photography.

Centre: Conrad Kain Hut. Photo Kristy Davison.

Right: CPR Cabin at Shadow Lake Lodge. Photo Peter Hoang.

Facilities

The facilities portfolio adjusted back toward pre-COVID policies during 2022, returning to policies, capacities and reservation levels similar to those seen in previous years.

- ▶ The club operated backcountry facilities with exclusive bookings through June, 2022. From June through October, huts were operated as either exclusive booking, dormitory-style (by-the-bed bookings) or as a hybrid of the two. Parks and provincial guidelines, the preferences of members, and facilities revenues were all considerations in hut policies.
- ▶ The Canmore Clubhouse relaxed COVID restrictions as provincial regulations allowed, returning services to previous service levels.
- ▶ Shadow Lake Lodge was opened on weekends during the winter months for the second year.

- ▶ The club completed a review of the power systems at Shadow Lake Lodge to determine a path forward for increasing the use of renewable energy systems. Work will continue with the goal of expanding the existing solar array and replacing the battery bank to reduce the carbon footprint and improve the reliability of the power systems.
- ▶ After conducting a detailed analysis of potential operation and the physical development requirements of Twin Falls Tea House, the ACC decided that the operation of the facility, per the requirements of the license was not a good fit for the ACC. We made the decision to surrender the license of occupation back to Parks Canada.
- ▶ In June, the Abbot Pass Hut was dismantled and removed by Parks Canada. The hut stood at the pass for 100 years and had been operated by the ACC since 1985. It had been closed since the summer of 2016 due to climate-change-induced slope erosion.

- ▶ The project for a new hut at Robson Pass (Mt. Robson Provincial Park) remained on hold while BC Parks rebuilds the access trails into the park that were wiped out during the flooding of 2021.
- ▶ The sewage treatment system at the Kokanee Glacier Cabin was brought into compliance with current environmental requirements by the addition of new operating procedures and facility modifications. Capacity was increased from 8 to 13 guests in time for the winter ski season.
- ▶ Project scoping and estimating was completed for renewable power systems at five ACC huts, including a hybrid micro hydro/solar system at the Conrad Kain Hut in the Bugaboos.
- ▶ Designs were completed for a new structure that will replace the aging and under-sized Castle Mountain Hut.



Adventures

The Adventures portfolio recovered from the restrictions of the COVID pandemic incrementally over the course of two ACC fiscal years. During 2022, the club's trips and courses returned to very near normal, with the quantity of outings and participants resembling pre-pandemic years. For 2022, the club was able to include 487 individuals on 51 separate outings, including six weeks of the General Mountaineering Camp (GMC).

- ▶ The club ran 33 skills courses, including instructional courses for avalanche skills, introductory ski mountaineering, ice climbing (winter season) and rock climbing, and intro to mountaineering (summer season).
- ▶ Winter outings included skills courses as well as hut-based ski trips. The 2022-year saw a return to the full breadth of camp offerings, including hut-based ski trips, which were not offered during 2021 due to COVID restrictions.
- ▶ Two winter and one summer camp were run for Women and non-binary participants. The winter camps included an intro to backcountry skiing and a spring ski camp. The summer saw a very successful mountaineering and climbing camp on the Icefields Parkway based at the Wilcox Campground. The camp was focused on leadership roles in climbing.
- ▶ The first Indigenous Youth Climbing and Trekking Camp, in partnership with Spirit North, and supported by the club's Philippe Delesalle Grant, was held in the summer.
- ▶ Wheeler Hut was the location of 2022's BIWOC powder skiing camp – an intro to backcountry skiing. The camp filled with six participants.
- ▶ The 2022 edition of the GMC was held in International Basin for six weeks plus an artists week. The camp was very well attended with most weeks being sold out. Once again, many of the images featured in this annual report were submitted to the GMC photo contest by participants. During the teardown week of the GMC, staff completed some reclamation work on an abandoned mining prospect in the area. Rusted rails and old metal parts were flown out by camp staff.
- ▶ The club's Shadow Lake Lodge became a venue for club outings in 2022 with an artists retreat in June and two fall hiking courses in September. All of the courses were well attended and successful.
- ▶ In August, the club ran a Sapphire Col Hut Traverse camp, the first time the club has utilized this remote hut for a climbing camp.
- ▶ The club's 55+ camp was successful again with a return to Campbell Icefields and the Little Yoho Valley.
- ▶ The Summer Leadership Course, run on week 5 of the GMC was a success, attended by 10 volunteer trip leaders from sections across Canada. The Winter Leadership Course was scheduled, then postponed due to COVID restrictions in January.

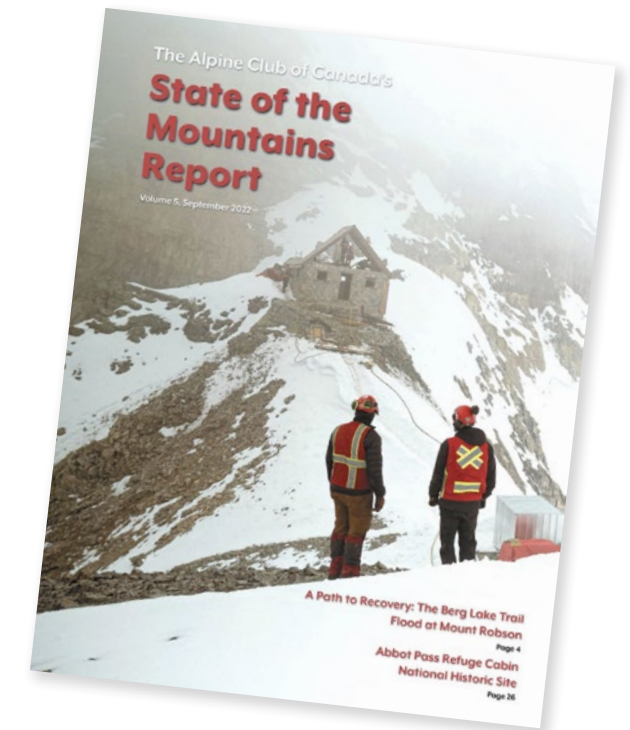
Left: Ryan Pierce on No Secant Thoughts, The Geometry Wall. Swift Current, NL. Photo Greg Locke.

Mountain Culture

The ACC celebrates the club's relevance to Canadian culture through the presentation of literature, art, history, heritage and mountain-related science.

- ▶ **CAJ:** The Canadian Alpine Journal's volume 105 was published in July and mailed to subscribers in Canada and around the world. In addition to reports on ascents of note from around the country, the issue contains feature stories of first ascents in the St. Elias Mountains, a science expedition to Mt. Logan, Canada's highest peak, new alpine rock climbing routes in the Kitimat Range of the Coast Mountains, and a photo essay on ice climbing.
- ▶ **Gazette:** The club's member magazine was published three times during 2022, including issues coinciding with the summer publication of the CAJ and the Banff Mountain Film and Book Festivals in the fall. Feature articles through the year included stories on mountaineering on Vancouver Island, the state of the Montreal's Keene Farm, and the state of the Peyto Glacier in the Rockies.
- ▶ **Section Features:** In each issue, the Gazette magazine includes an article highlighting one of the club's local sections. Profiled in 2022 were the Newfoundland & Labrador, Squamish and Ottawa Sections.
- ▶ **State of the Mountains Report:** This report continues to be published annually and the 2022 edition was published in both English and French. Individual stories from the report were published periodically on the State of the Mountains blog, allowing the club to promote important science stories across all of the ACC's marketing channels throughout the year. Complete reports are available for free for download at stateofthemountains.ca.

- ▶ **Summit Series:** Learning on High, the story of longtime ACC guide and Leadership Development Course instructor Cyril Shokoples was published in October of 2022 for the club's Mountain Guides Ball. The Summit Series, which commemorates the contributions of the Patron of the Ball, had not been published since 2019.
- ▶ **ACC blogs and newsletters:** Through the year, the club continued to tell the ACC story through blog posts, email newsletters and on social media. The GMC Outpost, an email newsletter specifically for participants and those curious about the club's annual summer camp, was launched in March of 2022. The ACC community continues to grow and engage through these channels.
- ▶ **History:** The ACC contracted Chic Scott in 2020 to write a comprehensive history of the club. In 2022, stories about the ongoing project appeared in the spring and fall issues of the Gazette, and a fundraising campaign was launched to make the recent archival history of the club more accessible to members and the public.



Operations

- ▶ Fiscal Year 2022 saw a number of important staff positions filled with new faces. The club welcomed Carine Salvy as the new Executive Director in May, and other staff were hired in the administration, facilities maintenance, hostel and front desk departments.
- ▶ The club continued to receive a small wage subsidy and took advantage of the Canada Summer Jobs grant program in 2022. Shadow Lake Lodge summer staff, seasonal maintenance staff and the front desk departments all benefited from this program.
- ▶ An external human resources consulting group was hired to assist in all our HR needs.
- ▶ Shadow Lake Lodge hired a permanent lodge manager in the summer of 2022 to improve lodge operations and guest services.
- ▶ The club began overhaul of all internal staff policies and procedures moving towards a new Employee Handbook
- ▶ The club began the planning for the replacement of all IT systems used for membership management, program sign ups, donations, hut bookings, merchandise sales and finance. This work continues.

Rope teams cross a glacier in International Basin at the 2022 General Mountaineering Camp. Photo Gretchen Petra



Finances

Every year gets a label. For the last two, it was the “pandemic year” and I see this one as being the year of “change.” The club survived the pandemic intact and ready to take on the future. 2022 brought on more changes than we anticipated but the club has managed through. A new president, a new ED, and a new set of challenges combined to make a very interesting year for us all.

Financially we were in a good position coming out of the pandemic years and we are still in good stead through the change year. While our investment portfolio suffered a downturn when inflation and interest rates moved, our operations picked up substantially as members and guests returned to our facilities and programs.

The next few years will see more change and our finances will be key to making things happen for the club and its members.

Highlights of 2022:

Our core revenue areas have returned to a more acceptable pre-pandemic level with membership revenue increasing year-on-year by 31%, Shadow Lake Lodge revenue was up 35%, facilities (huts and Clubhouse) increased substantially by 49%, and our activities revenue jumped by 50%. These revenue gains were offset by the expected increase in expenses most notably human resources related costs, insurance increases and costs related to change management. Overall, we finished the year with an operating surplus of \$176K.

Our investment portfolio did not fare well in 2022. The market downturn that came in the second quarter of the year

hit us fairly hard and the eventual recovery did not happen until after our fiscal year end in October. Overall, our investments recorded an unrealized loss of \$757K, which was offset by donations and a large contribution early in the year. The endowment fund was up 9% net for the year while the balance of our designated funds, after donations and disbursements, were flat year-on-year. One other major change in our investment portfolio was the move from Russell Group to Richardson GMP as our fund manager at the end of our fiscal year. With this move we will see better investment alignment with the club’s overall objectives.

The club did receive a final payment from the Government of Canada under the wage subsidy program of \$194k. This payment was again much appreciated, and it should be recognized that without the CEWS program in prior years, the club would have struggled far more than it did. As things tend to do, our operations were able to sustain the club as this program wound down.

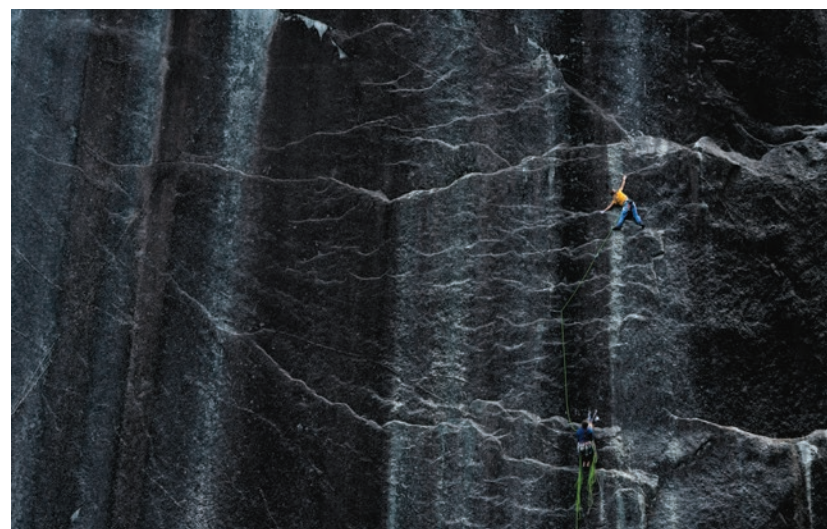
The club was able to undergo some substantial capital spending in 2022. The major outlay was a new water and septic system at the Clubhouse. While not nearly as sexy as a new hut, the installation of the new system will be appreciated by anyone who has seen what happens when the old system failed. Overall capital spend was just over \$500K on this and other projects.

As we move into the next years, we are confident our finances will be able to provide for the club’s strategic goals and to ensure delivery of services today and in the future.

Adam Burrell leading a review of spotting techniques in variable terrain. Photo Peter Hoang.

Middle: Plein air painting by Patti Dymant at the 2022 GMC.

Bottom: Emilie Pellerin on The Opal, Squamish’s famous 12d. Photo Peter Hoang.



Corporate Sponsors

The Alpine Club of Canada works closely with a number of outdoor equipment manufacturers and media partners that share our goals and who help us to fulfill our mandate. We thank them for supporting all that we do and helping us to deliver the best possible value to our membership.



ARC'TERYX



YETI



CAMP



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Lewis Loader on High Anxiety in Red Head Cove, NL. Photo Greg Locke.

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NATIONAL OFFICE

The Alpine Club of Canada /
Le Club alpin du Canada
P.O. Box 8040, 201 Indian Flats Road
Canmore, Alberta T1W 2T8

Phone: (403) 678-3200

E-mail: info@alpineclubofcanada.ca

Website: www.alpineclubofcanada.ca



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Sitting on a ledge in great company, Week 2 of the 2022 GMC. Photo Aurore Kurc.