

The Alpine Club of Canada

Gazette

le club alpin du Canada

Good old days in the St. Elias Range

Throwback:

Toronto Section takes on the highest unclimbed mountain in North America

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On the cover: 'Le Celabatiere,' Paul Geddes climbing the summit ridge towards Pinnacle Peak. Photo by Bill McKenzie. Story page 18.

Cheyenne Ozinjà ʒihá from the Stoney Nation at Athabasca Glacier as part of the Rockies Repeat film production. Story page 12.



Exploring, sharing and building community

The ACC is a lot of things to a lot of people. For most, the club is a vehicle to learn, explore and give back. We do this through our climbing (in all of its variations), through creating mountain culture, by acting as stewards of the environment and by building communities.

We didn't plan it this way, but collectively the articles in this issue of the ACC Gazette make a beautiful argument for that description of our club.

In his story about the Toronto Section's three trips to the St. Elias Mountains in the 1990s (page 18), frequent Gazette contributor Paul Geddes describes the experience of climbing in this wild range. You would expect that the highest unclimbed peaks on the continent would be a significant draw for mountaineers and it's an amazing comment on both the determination of these members and on the vastness of our Canadian wilderness that the Slaggards area hasn't even been visited since the Toronto Section was there in 1997.

Bearing Witness to Disappearing Glaciers (page 12) is the story of a team

of artists following in the century-old footsteps of artist Catharine Whyte and recording the effects of climate change on the glaciers and the landscape with their paintbrushes. The story is the intersection of so much of what the ACC is about, including immersing ourselves in alpine wilderness areas, creating mountain art and embodying environmental stewardship.

Mountains of Relief (page 24) is an inspiring story of ACC members who are working on a way to provide improved indoor cooking options to the people of Nepal after the earthquakes of 2015. They created an NGO and are using their mountain knowledge and connections to make real changes for a community on the other side of the world.

Stew Moss' profile of the club's Southern Alberta Section (page 26) and the Back Page story on Girls on Ice Canada are both examples of annual ACC events where our members share their craft and their time (and in the case of the SA Section, their hot dogs) with people new to mountain sports, inspiring and welcoming the next generation of members.

The exploration of our country, the promotion of science, the cultivation of art and the education of others while preserving the natural beauties of these wild places are all ideas that were written into our constitution in 1906.

Our world looks different today than it did even a year ago, but what hasn't changed is our members' desire to explore, share and contribute. We continue to be inspired by them.

One last note and a thank you: Will Hotopf and the Montréal Section have helped us out with the translation of this letter from the editor into French. We're a national club and while the majority of our members are English speakers, we strive to represent both official languages in our writing. We know we have a long way to go but we're working on it. Watch for more French content on ACC channels including the Gazette in the future.

— Keith Haberl

Explorer, partager et bâtir une communauté

Le club alpin du Canada (CAC) signifie bien des choses pour bien des gens. Pour la plupart, le club est un moyen d'apprendre, d'explorer et de contribuer. Nous faisons ceci grâce à l'escalade (dans toutes ses variantes), en créant une culture de montagne, en agissant en tant que gardiens de l'environnement et en construisant des communautés.

Nous n'avions pas prévu cela, mais l'ensemble des articles dans ce numéro de la Gazette du CAC constituent un bel argument pour cette description de notre club.

Paul Geddes, collaborateur fréquent de la Gazette, décrit son expérience d'escalade de la chaîne Saint-Élie dans les années 1990 (page 18) dans son article sur les trois voyages de la section de Toronto. On pourrait s'attendre à ce que les plus hauts sommets non escaladés du continent constituent un attrait important pour les alpinistes, mais la région de Slaggards n'a pas été visitée depuis 1997 quand la section de Toronto y était. C'est un commentaire étonnant, tant sur la détermination de ces membres que sur l'immensité de notre nature sauvage canadienne.

« Bearing Witness to Disappearing Glaciers » (page 12) est l'histoire d'une équipe d'artistes suivant les traces centenaires de l'artiste Catharine Whyte et enregistrant avec leurs pinceaux les effets du changement climatique sur les glaciers et le paysage. L'histoire se situe à l'intersection entre plusieurs aspects fondamentaux du CAC, notamment l'immersion dans les zones alpines sauvages, la création d'art de montagne et la gestion de l'environnement.

« Mountains of Relief » (page 24) est l'histoire inspirante des membres du CAC qui travaillent avec les habitants du Népal pour leur offrir des meilleures options de cuisson intérieure après les tremblements de terre de 2015. Ils ont créé une ONG et utilisent leur connaissance des montagnes et leurs contacts pour réellement changer la vie d'une communauté à l'autre bout du monde.

Le profil de Stew Moss de la section du sud de l'Alberta du CAC (page 26) et l'article en dernière page de Girls on Ice Canada sont deux exemples d'événements annuels du ACC où nos membres partagent leur métier et leur temps (et dans le cas de la section du sud de l'Alberta, leurs

hot-dogs) avec des gens qui découvrent les sports de montagne, accueillant ainsi la prochaine génération de membres.

L'exploration de notre pays, la préservation de la beauté naturelle de ces lieux sauvages et la promotion de la science, l'art et l'éducation des citoyens sont toutes des notions qui ont été inscrites dans notre constitution en 1906.

Le monde a beaucoup changé dans la dernière année, mais ce qui reste constant chez nos membres est le désir d'explorer, de partager et de contribuer. Ils continuent à nous inspirer.

Une dernière note et un merci : la section de Montréal nous a aidé à traduire cette lettre de l'éditeur en français. Nous sommes un club national et bien que la majorité de nos membres soient anglophones, nous nous engageons à représenter les deux langues officielles dans nos communications. Nous savons que nous avons encore beaucoup de chemin à faire, mais nous y travaillons. A l'avenir, surveillez les chaînes du CAC, y compris la Gazette, pour trouver davantage de contenu en français.

— Keith Haberl



Freya Hik and David Hik

Freya Hik is a life-long climber, skier and mountaineer, and is currently conducting research on the application of conducting polymers to design a steerable catheter for neurovascular surgery for her masters in biomedical engineering at UBC. David Hik has spent 30 years studying ecology and sustainability in mountain environments in Canada and around the world. He is co-editor of the ACC State of the Mountains Report, and co-instructor of Mountains 101.



Emily Beaudoin

Canmore/Revelstoke-based artist Emily Beaudoin has always been deeply inspired by the mountains. Working in ink and watercolour, she heads into the mountains on human-powered painting adventures. The way she sees it, people will only fight to protect the wild places they have a connection to, and if her art inspires even one person to go outside, she'll be a happy camper. You can find Emily and her work on Instagram @emily.beaudoin or online at emilybeaudoin.com



Stew Moss

Born in 1991, I grew up in Calgary where my dad took me up the classic Rockies scrambles. As a teenager I started scrambling on my own and in 2015 I began paragliding which showed me I still had much to learn about being in the mountains. In 2017 I started climbing and ski touring and joined the Southern Alberta Section of the ACC. In 2018 I started ice climbing and in 2019 I took the position of Chairperson for the SAACC.



Paul Geddes

Paul Geddes is a Life Member who has served on numerous ACC committees - currently he is chair of the Huts Committee responsible for the Vancouver Section's Tantalus and Jim Haberl huts. His passion is climbing, skiing and paddling in remote locations. Paul enjoys writing as well as maintaining a mountaineering archive and library. Paul was awarded the Silver Rope for Leadership Award in 2004 and the Distinguished Service Award in 2014.



Lawren Hall

Lawren Hall was born and raised in Calgary. She is currently in her final year at University of Calgary where she is studying Communications. Her love of nature and hikes through the wilderness have inspired her media projects, which led her to work with Girls on Ice Canada for a course project. She reflects on this project on this issue's Back Page.

Nominate a Volunteer

Every year, the members of The Alpine Club of Canada's Awards Committee volunteer their time to sift through numerous nominations to determine the recipients of the club's Volunteer Awards.

Nominations are now open for outstanding Alpine Club of Canada volunteers. The following awards recognize and celebrate ACC volunteers for their contributions to the club and its members:

- A.O. Wheeler Legacy Award
- Honorary Membership
- President's Award
- Silver Rope for Leadership Award
- Distinguished Service Award
- Don Forest Service Award
- Eric Brooks Leader Award

For details on how to nominate a volunteer and nomination forms, visit alpineclubofcanada.ca/awards or call the ACC National Office at (403) 678-3200 ext. 222 to receive the information by mail.

Deadline for nominations is December 31.

Nommez un bénévole

Chaque année, les membres du Comité des prix du Club Alpin du Canada consacrent de leur temps libre à passer au crible de nombreuses nominations pour déterminer les lauréats des Prix de bénévolat du club.

Les candidatures sont maintenant ouvertes pour les bénévoles exceptionnels du Club Alpin du Canada. Les prix suivants reconnaissent et célèbrent les bénévoles du CAC pour leurs contributions au club et à ses membres :

- Prix A.O. Wheeler Legacy
- Membre honoraire
- Prix du président
- Prix Silver Rope du leadership
- Prix de service Don Forest
- Prix pour le service remarquable
- Prix leader Eric Brooks

Pour plus de détails sur les formulaires de candidature et la façon de nommer un bénévole, visitez alpineclubofcanada.ca/awards ou appelez le Bureau national du CAC au (403) 678-3200 ext. 222 pour recevoir l'information par la poste.

La date de tombée des candidatures est le 31 décembre.

ACC announces pro deals for members at The North Face

The Alpine Club of Canada is very pleased to announce a new gear discount benefit for all ACC members.

ACC members can receive two discount codes (one for 50% off apparel and one for 40% off equipment) which are valid for shopping at The North Face Canada online. Yup, you read that right - nearly half off TNF goods for being an ACC member!

It works like this: ACC members fill in an application on the TNF pro site (www.thenorthfacepro.com) and TNF will reply with the two discount codes. Each code is valid for one shopping session (up to \$1,000 CDN) and reduces the final cost of your purchase by that amount. Active ACC members can re-apply for new codes each year.

You'll need your ACC membership number to apply, and you can find that by logging into your ACC account. Also note that you'll need to apply using the same name and email address on file on your ACC membership.

For detailed instructions, go to our website: alpineclubofcanada.ca/benefits



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EP and Abbot Hut Prints by Zessel Designs to benefit Alpine Club

Kate Zessel, a Whistler B.C. artist, has produced two prints of iconic Alpine Club huts—Abbot Pass and Elizabeth Parker.

Kate draws inspiration from the surroundings that she calls home. Originally from Vancouver, she spent her free moments growing up in the mountains, skiing and biking. Putting pen to paper allowed her to capture moments of her adventures and transform them into visual pieces.

You can find her unique blend of intricate line work, patterns, and nature on her social platforms and throughout the outdoor industry. She has created

graphics for different ski and snowboard brands, as well as large scale murals for ski resorts and retail spaces.

Capturing a full mountain scene, animal, or shape within a complete image is her way of recounting one of her backcountry adventures. She hopes her art will connect with your memories of being in nature and resonate with the feeling of being completely immersed in the wilderness.

Kate will be contributing 25% of each print sold to The Alpine Club of Canada. To purchase, visit Kate's website: www.zessel.com.

ACC Grants Program

With contributions from many generous donors, The Alpine Club of Canada has established funds to support mountaineering related projects and initiatives. The deadline for submission of grant applications is January 31, 2021. Grant recipients will be announced mid-March.

The Jen Higgins Grant promotes creative and energetic alpine related outdoor pursuits by young women. These projects should demonstrate initiative, creativity, energy and resourcefulness with an emphasis on self-propelled wilderness travel and should provide value and interest to the community.

The Environment Grant provides support for projects that contribute to the protection and preservation of alpine flora and fauna in their natural habitat. The focus of the grant is wilderness conservation.

The Jim Colpitts Grant encourages young climbers between the ages of 17 and 24 to participate in mountain related courses and programs such as wilderness first aid, avalanche training, rock/crevasse rescue and mountain leadership training.

For info and application forms visit alpineclubofcanada.ca/grants or call the ACC National Office at 403-678-3200 ext. 222.



We've got you covered!

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Visit alpineclubofcanada.ca/insurance



GMC 2021 Photo Contest

Prizes courtesy of Mountain Hardwear

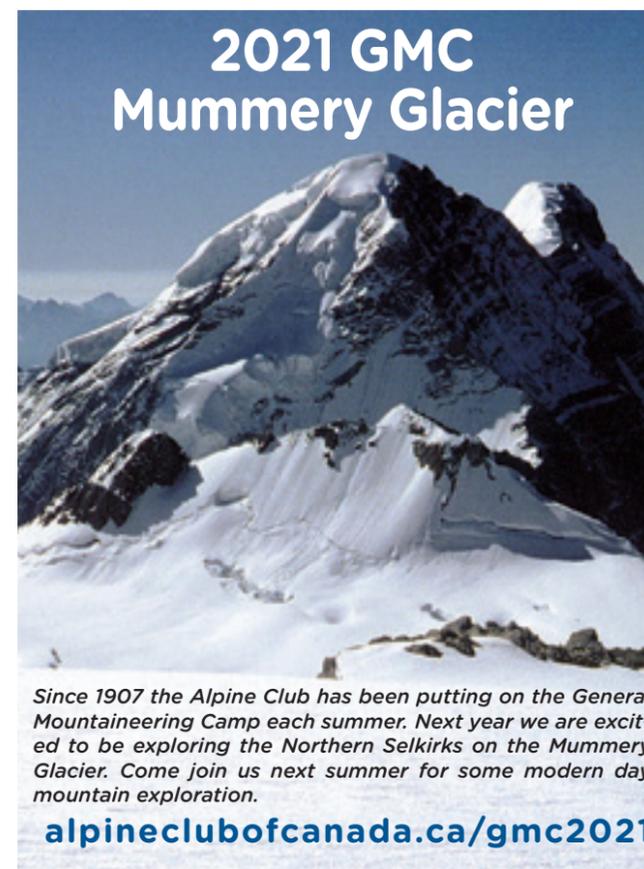
1. Tent
2. Sleeping bag
3. Pack

All 2021 GMC participants eligible to win.

Space still available for Mt Mummery GMC!

www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/gmc2021

2021 GMC Mummery Glacier



Since 1907 the Alpine Club has been putting on the General Mountaineering Camp each summer. Next year we are excited to be exploring the Northern Selkirks on the Mummery Glacier. Come join us next summer for some modern day mountain exploration.

alpineclubofcanada.ca/gmc2021

Trips organised and led by Dan Mazur, with 12 successful Everest expeditions, 3 successful K2 expeditions and many others. High altitude rescues: Roman Giutashvili from Everest, Gary Ball from K2, Lincoln Hall from Everest, and Rick Allen from Broad Peak.

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- Sept-Oct '21 - Manaslu, Cho Oyu, Shishapangma.
- Oct-Nov '21 - 7000m Peaks! Ama Dablam, Baruntse.

Trekking Peaks: Mera Peak, Island Peak, Lobuche Peak - Everest Glacier School, Everest Base Camp Trek.

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BEARING WITNESS TO DISAPPEARING GLACIERS

AN ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Story by Emily Beaudoin
Photos by Viktoria North



Previous page: Artists Emily Beaudoin and Kerry Langlois plein air painting at Victoria Lake.

This page: Artist Cheyenne Ozinjâ Šihâ from the Stoney Nation painting in the land of her ancestors at the Athabasca Glacier.

My early morning yawn turned into a smile when I saw the collection of art supplies, packs, and camera gear piled in the Lake O'Hara parking lot. I jumped out of my car, shouldered my pack of watercolours and joined the rest of the artist team as we prepared to head up to the Elizabeth Parker Hut for a plein air painting trip.

We were there to film *Rockies Repeat*, a documentary following our collective of Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists as we return to sites where Catharine Whyte painted a century ago within the traditional territories of the Ktunaxa Nation, Secwépemc First Nations, Treaty 6, 7 and 8 Nations, and Regions 3 and 4 of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

By retracing these steps, we are bearing witness to the effects of climate change in the Rockies while grappling with the legacy of early landscape paintings that portrayed mountain landscapes as “pristine wilderness” while excluding over 10,000 years of Indigenous relations with the land.

We arrived at the hut in a haze of smoke. The forest fires blazing in California were making themselves known even here, in this land of sparkling glacial lakes and soaring peaks. We set off towards Lake Oesa, coughing as we climbed. When we reached the lake, my stomach roiled with the familiar feelings of excitement, inspiration and the knowledge that I would soon be so absorbed in painting that I would fail to notice the weather, my hunger, or the numbness of my chilly fingertips.

As we painted, we grasped just how much the glaciers had receded. I gazed up at the ice above me, veiled by the smoke, but still unmistakably diminished in size as compared to the glaciers once painted by Catharine. Will the next generations experience the Rockies as I have, swathed in huge sheets of ice? Or will the peaks sit naked under the ever warming atmosphere? There was a lump in my throat as I added the final strokes to my piece, and a heaviness settled onto me as we started to head back to the hut.

There was an odd feeling in the air that night as we gathered around the table, enveloped in the haze. It had been an amazing day but a sobering reminder of the changing climate. We discussed our duty as artists to record the events of the world we live in the intersection of science, art, history, and culture.

It was a wonderful and heartbreaking trip, and I am grateful to still be able to experience these places. We will continue to film and explore these issues over the next year, and I hope that our work will help in some small way to preserve them for generations to come. ~ACC

PHOTO INSIDER: Find more images from this story at www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/gazette

>>> Follow our journey where culture meets conservation on our website (rockiesrepeatfilm.com) or on Instagram and Facebook @Rockies.Repeat



Hazy hiking toward Lake Oesa.

Kerry Langlois, Emily Beaudoin and Kayla Eykelboom.



Painting by Kayla Eykelboom.



Elizabeth Parker Hut.



ACC BACKCOUNTRY HUTS

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FOR WINTER

Enjoy an exclusive hut stay with your friends and family at one of our backcountry huts this winter.

Having responsible fun...

This winter it's more important than ever to recreate, spend time with our friends and family and to connect with Canada's wild places.

ACC backcountry huts are available to use for your winter adventures. We've made some changes to ensure our guests have a healthy stay:

- All hut bookings are exclusive
- Bookings are made in structured 2, 3 or 6 night stays
- Available dates follow a rolling 90-day timeline
- Hut capacities have been reduced

50% off all hut stays between Nov 1 and Dec 13, 2020!



The highest unclimbed mountain in North America

Throwback:
Toronto Section
takes on the
St. Elias Range
in the 1990s

by Paul Geddes

The view from 3,570m, looking at the route up and down the summit of Pinnacle Peak. Photo by Bill McKenzie.

Like many active people self-isolating from the madding world of 2020, my mind recently got to reminiscing of a more carefree time when we purposely sought out big spaces with few faces – not with the intention of distancing from others, but to explore lesser-known regions.

In the 1990s, I had the opportunity to travel to the St. Elias Mountains, Canada’s greatest mountain range on three ACC Toronto Section camps. We got to climb new routes, ski tour on some of the longest glaciers on the planet and twice summit the highest unclimbed peak on the continent. Thirty years ago this spring, as a climbing leader and member of the organizing committee for the Toronto Section camps headed up by Roger Wallis, I was planning my first trip to Canada’s North.

This part of the Yukon is big country, encompassing the highest mountains in Canada. The magnificent Mt. Logan (5,959m) is often spotted in the distance and you’re travelling on some of the longest glaciers in the world. The Hubbard Glacier at 125 km is longer than any in the Himalayas.

This year, a group from the ACC Vancouver Island Section were hoping to fly in and set up a basecamp on the Donjek Glacier. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, Kluane National Park & Reserve announced that the Park is Covid-closed for 2020. Imagine 22,000 sq. km with no people!

But it’s not like there are many people in the park in normal years anyway. Kluane Park Warden Andrew Lawrence reported in the 1998 Canadian Alpine Journal that 1992 was a record year with 186 climbers taking part in expeditions. 1997 was a more typical year with 38 expeditions for a total of 137 people in the park.

I’ve learned a lot since beginning the planning of the first Toronto Section camp thirty years ago. Notably, our second trip, to the Donjek Glacier in 1992, gave us the knowledge of the area needed to organize the 2006 ACC Centennial Camp in our club’s 100th year. My first recommendation for someone planning a trip to the area would be to build a fixed location basecamp in order to enhance creature comforts. A group kitchen tent allows for sumptuous meals – a much preferred alternative to individual tent isolation and freeze dried food. If you want to know the best stove for this kind of trip, or how to make 25 gallons of water a day without using fuel or how to build the perfect loo on the glacier, just ask.

Below are some of my recollections of adventuring in this amazing mountaineering destination on those formative trips in the 1990s with the Toronto Section. Each of these camps was set in a spectacular location with many options for unclimbed peaks and day-long ski tours.

The most advanced way for electronic text communication was by fax machine, and in the field there were no satellite phones or GPS.

But let us first recall that in 1990 the most advanced way for electronic text communication was by fax machine, and in the field there were no satellite phones or GPS – we marked our waypoints with bamboo wands and flagging tape. In fact in 1990 we did not have any means of communicating with the outside world during our two week camp. Thankfully this situation improved in later years and today in addition to GPS capabilities, you would have one or two satellite phones at camp.

For a general idea of what to expect in the St. Elias Mountains read - A Pilots View of the St. Elias, by Andy Williams in the 1982 CAJ. If you’re interested in the history of the St. Elias Mountains, I encourage you to read Roger’s article in the 1992 CAJ.





The ten members of the first ACC Toronto Section camp to the St. Elias Mountains, with Pinnacle Peak in the back. Photo by Bill McKenzie.

1990 - Kaskawulsh Glacier

Central fixed base camp at 2,620m in upper basin of south arm. Access by helicopter via Haines Junction, YT.

>>> Team: (ranging in age from 34 to 74 years): Paul Geddes, Gordon Gruber, Don Hamilton, Yan Huckendubler, Wally Joyce, Bill McKenzie, Glynis Peters, Joe Propopiak, Roger Wallis and Mary Whitley.

The 1990 Toronto Section camp ran for 16 days on the Kaskawulsh Glacier with a team of 10. This area was first seen and photographed from the air in 1935 by Bradford Washburn.

One highlight of this camp for me was climbing Pinnacle Peak (3,714m), a near perfect triangle peak which had only had two previous American parties stand on its summit, the first in 1965 and then a second in 1974. On our summit day we departed camp at 11:30 pm as a group of seven on three ropes. A few days earlier we had scouted a route through the maze of crevasses towards the W col.

Heading out on this familiar ground, my climbing partner Bill McKenzie and I were soon far ahead breaking a trail traversing below the NW face. Though the weather and visibility were not

perfect we arrived at the W col in good time. In the early morning light we could make out Mount Vancouver in the far distance.

The slopes above were too steep for ski travel so we stashed our skis for our return. What lay before us was a long complex route. We carried a supply of wands that we used to mark hazards so we could spot them on our descent. We switched leads and I was glad when Bill took over on the long snow ramp in the middle section of the ridge – the snow was knee-deep and breaking trail was exhausting. Higher up, the terrain became more complex with crevasses attempting to bar our route. The final obstacle below the summit was a 50-foot ice face that forced us out towards the SW face and more exposure than we were comfortable with. Placing an ice screw to clip the rope into calmed our nerves, and we belayed around the edge of the ice and up onto the summit block. Bill and I had the small summit perch to ourselves to enjoy while the others worked their way up the ridge.

The ACC Toronto Section was the third party to ascend Pinnacle Peak, repeating the W ridge route from the W col, ours being the first Canadian ascent of the mountain.

During the two-week camp our group summited 12 other peaks, of which five were first recorded ascents and seven were by new routes. We carried heavy cameras and took lots of photographs on film!

1992 - Upper Donjek Glacier

Central base camp at 2,800m. Access by air in fixed-wing wheel/ski helio-courier via Kluane Lake, YT.

>>> Team: Paul Geddes, Don Hamilton, Willa Harasym, Yan Huckendubler, Wally Joyce, Mark McDermott, Bill McKenzie, Gary Norton, Glynis Peters, Joe Piccininni, Rob Rick, Ted Rosen and Roger Wallis.

In 1992 I was one of 13 Toronto Section members who spent 16 bluebird days and cold clear nights on the Upper Donjek Glacier. Combined, the team climbed a total of 17 peaks, 14 of them being first recorded ascents and the other three by new routes. Our team enjoyed excellent technical mountaineering during the third, fourth and fifth ascents of both Mt. Badham (3,670m) – via both the N ridge and the unclimbed E face – and Donjek Mt. (3,580m) by the unclimbed NW ridge.

A typical climbing day involved leaving camp on skis between 3:00 am and 4:00 am in temperatures between -5C to -10C. We would typically stash our skis as the slopes steepened and don crampons for the climb to the summit. It was important to return to camp by noon hour to avoid potential avalanches. Linking turns, the ski descent to camp on sun-softened corn snow was usually safe and quick without the need to be roped

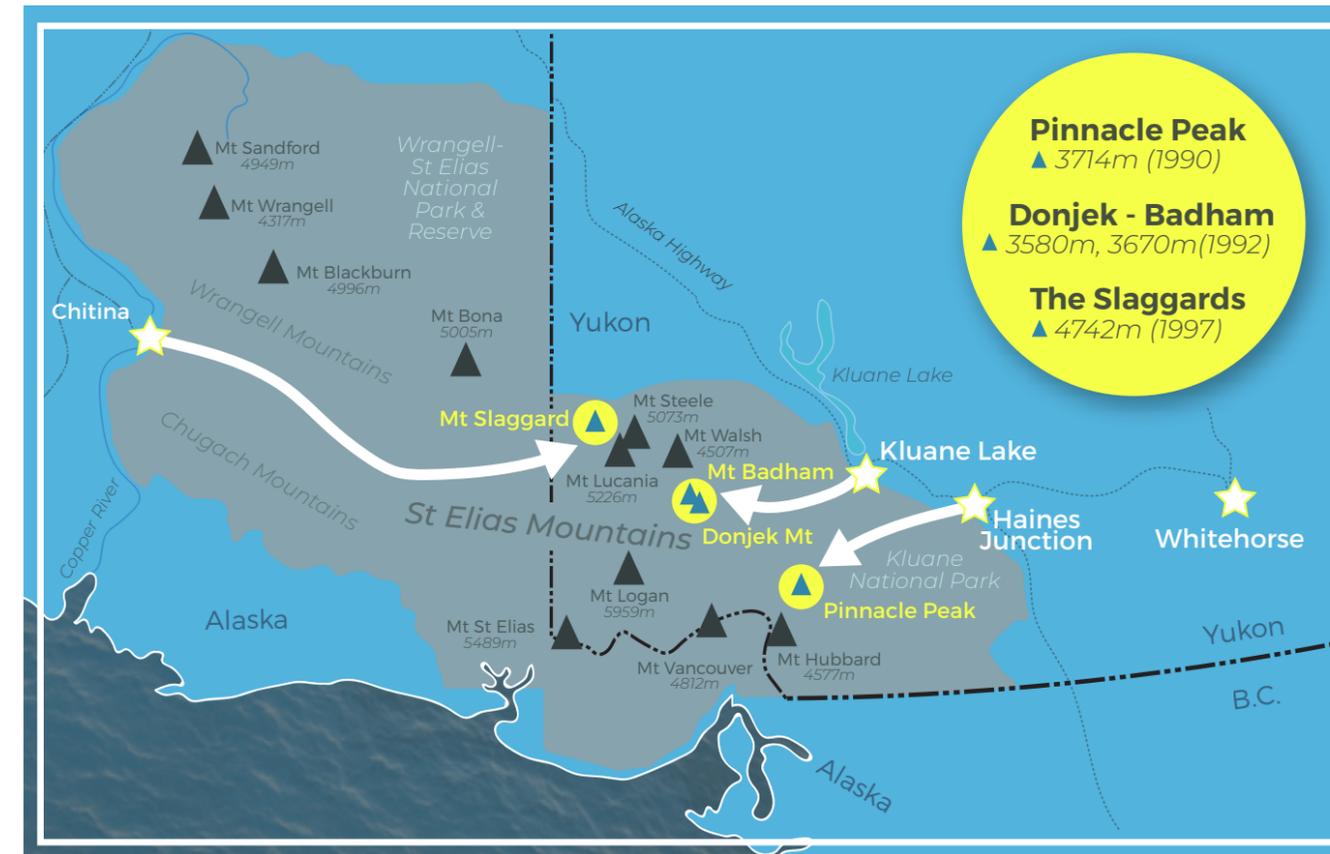


Roger climbing a step on the NW ridge of Donjek. Photo: Bill McKenzie.

together. Warm afternoons were spent lounging in camp listening to avalanches in the distance.

The St. Elias mountain environment is totally encased in white snow and ice, with blue sky and black rock the only other colours you see. Nothing lives or grows there. The normal mountain scents are absent. When you finally fly out from the glaciers at the end of the trip you really appreciate the sounds and sights of birds and the smell of vegetation back at the airfield.

For more on Donjek '92, see Roger's article in the 1993 CAJ.





1.



3.

1997 - Anderson Glacier

On a plateau above the SE Arm. A central base camp was established at 3,535m. Access by Beaver aircraft via 40-minute round trip flight from Chitina, AK.

>>> Team: Dave Britnell, Paul Geddes, Norm Greene Willa Harasym, Martin LeRoux, Mark McDermott, Bill McKenzie, Tony Marshall, Joe Piccininni, Roger Wallis.

In 1997 our team of 10 Toronto Section members spent 17 days on the Anderson Glacier. Ours was the first party to land at this site and in the 23 years since no party has returned. Since “9/11” flying from Alaska across the Yukon border into the park has been closed and access to this remote destination from within Canada is problematic.

We were proud to accomplish the first ascents of three previously unclimbed 4,000m peaks during this camp. South Slaggard (4,370m), then the highest unclimbed peak in North America, was ascended via the east face by two parties and by the north ridge by a third, all 10 members summiting. West Slaggard I (4,290m), then being the next highest unclimbed peak in North America, was ascended by the east face by all 10 members of our team in three rope parties. Southeast Slaggard (4,207m), then the sixth highest unclimbed peak, was traversed on skis by seven of us, ascending the NW face and descending the N ridge. An unsuccessful attempt was made on the ninth highest peak in Canada, Mt. Slaggard (4,742m), via a new route by Martin and Norm.

During this camp we scouted a route towards West Slaggard II (4,210m), but we had to retreat leaving this snow covered peak unclimbed as the four feet of new snow that had fallen since we arrived rendered the peak out of condition for climbing. With the park closed for the 2020 climbing season, West Slaggard II will remain for a little longer “the highest unclimbed mountain in North America.”

By selecting challenging but not too dangerous objectives and keeping our egos in check, no serious accidents occurred on any of the trips and we all remained friends. Over these three camps we spent a total of 528 person days on the glaciers climbing 36 peaks of which 25 were first ascents and 11 were by new routes. Though the maps are good, it remains difficult to research a climbing destination within the St. Elias Mountains, as even today there is no reliable printed guidebook to the area.

After the trips with the Toronto Section in the 1990s, I returned another six times for other exciting experiences in the St. Elias Mountains. Readers who would like to know more about these trips, or climbers researching their own expeditions are directed to the Photo Insiders article on Aspects, the ACC blog. ~ACC

Find resources and more photos related to this story at: www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/gazette

Captions, facing page:

1. Paul approaching ice cliff below the summit of Pinnacle Peak. Photo by Bill McKenzie.

2. Paul climbing the final pitch to the summit of West Slaggard I. The Anderson Glacier winding its way towards Alaska in the distance. Photo by Bill McKenzie.

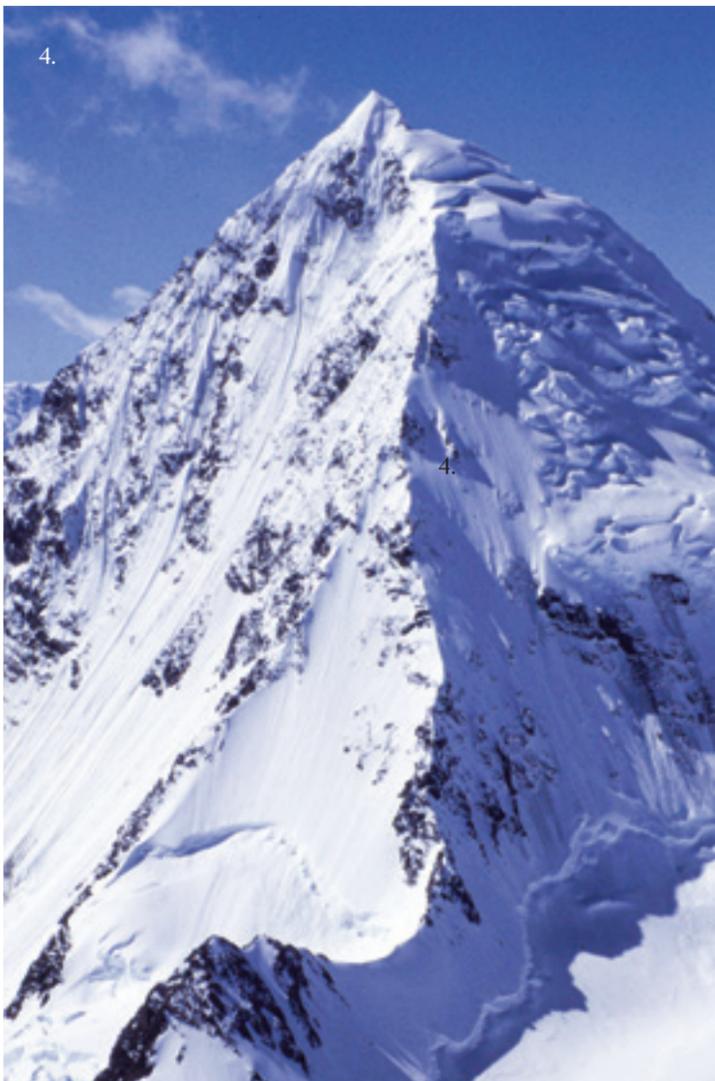
3. Paul and Roger at the Kaskawulsh camp's water works, using the sun's energy to melt snow for all their water needs. Photo by Bill McKenzie.

4. Pinnacle Peak, the E ridge is the left skyline; the N face is in full sunshine; the N ridge divides sun from shadow; the upper W ridge is the right skyline. Photo by Roger Wallis.

5. West Slaggard I, 4,290m (centre of photo) was climbed on our second attempt. The route went through the barrier of seracs and up the upper east face in sunlight. West Slaggard II, 4,210m, is the peak to the left. The route from our camp was abandoned before reaching the east face snow slopes which connect to the summit ridge. It therefore remains – “the highest unclimbed mountain in North America.”



2.



4.



5.



Roger and Paul on summit of Pinnacle Peak at 3,690m with Mt. Logan (left) and Mt. St. Elias (centre) in the distance. Photo by Bill McKenzie.”

Mountains of Relief:

Designing Improved Cook Stoves in Nepal

by Freya Hik and David Hik

New technology has made the high mountains of Nepal more accessible for mountaineering and trekking, and the Mt Everest region alone usually attracts over 30,000 visitors each year. But for the majority of Nepal's population, basic infrastructure that most Canadians take for granted doesn't exist.

More than a third of the population (over 10 million people) live in the hilly and mountainous regions of the country, outside of the main urban centres. Many of these communities were devastated by two large (magnitude 7.8 and 7.3) earthquakes in spring 2015. Approximately 9,000 people were killed, 4 million were left homeless, and 33,000 school classrooms were destroyed.

A bold idea takes shape

Longtime ACC member Sherrill Meropoulos is a Jasper (AB) local, who has spent thirty years working for Parks Canada in many roles, most recently as the Jasper Indigenous Liaison Officer. A year before the earthquakes, Sherrill had been trekking in Nepal, falling in love with the country and the people so it was a shock to receive news of the widespread devastation from the earthquakes and learn that the family she stayed with in Langtang village had been killed.

Compelled to help provide relief, Sherrill combined forces with other Jasper residents, including Raj Ghimire, who was born and raised in Nepal. They established a new Nepalese NGO, Mountains of Relief (MoR), to identify and support projects that could provide short and long-term social and economic benefits for Nepalese villages. MoR initially raised money to provide immediate financial relief along with food and clothing to over 150 families affected by the earthquakes.

They also supported the reconstruction of the Shree Seti Devi School in Lisakhani, Ramechhap District that had collapsed in the earthquakes, and helped create a gravity-fed water system for school and community use.

The next big challenge

Many remote communities in Nepal do not have access to reliable sources of electricity or natural gas, and the majority of the population (~77%) relies on biomass fuels – mostly wood – to meet their daily cooking and heating needs.

Prolonged smoke exposure and the demand for wood has many adverse consequences on both human health and the local environment. According to Ryan Allen, a professor of environmental health in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University, household air pollution – air pollution from burning unprocessed fuels for cooking – is an enormous public health problem that doesn't get the attention it deserves. Household air pollution, which can be thousands of times higher than typical outdoor pollution levels, contributes to heart disease, strokes, chronic lung disease, respiratory infections, diabetes, and cataracts. Globally, household air pollution is responsible for over 1.5 million deaths and nearly 2.5% of the total disease burden annually.

Women and children are disproportionately affected by the consequences of cooking indoors with wood. In Nepal, women are primarily responsible for domestic chores. They spend hours near the fire inhaling the smoke that blackens the walls of their home, with their young children often nearby.

Traditional cooking and wood gathering are also having severe environmental consequences as a result of deforestation and incomplete carbon combustion. Fuelwood supplies 80% of Nepal's total energy consumption, and over 15 million tonnes of woodfuel are consumed annually. The high demand for wood is contributing to increasing forest degradation, loss of biodiversity, increased risk of landslides, and lowland flooding caused by soil erosion. In high-altitude areas, forests grow slowly, and people need more fuel for cooking and heating because of the cold climate. As wood collection becomes more time consuming and more difficult, food processing also becomes more challenging.

Members of these mountain communities recognize the hazards, but often lack the resources to change their traditional cooking practises.

Mountains of Relief's response

Growing up in Nepal, Raj has first experience with the serious issues surrounding indoor air pollution. In June 2020, Mountains of Relief began work on an energy exchange stove pilot project to deploy energy-efficient cook stoves to rural communities in Nepal. Raj and Sherrill teamed up with two engineers from Edmonton (Mike Nicol-Seto and Connor Spear) and us (Freya and David), to begin working on this project. Our goals are to examine why previous efforts haven't been successful, and then to work closely with community members to improve the design of culturally appropriate and affordable cook stoves that are more efficient than those traditionally in



Traditional Nepalese cookstove, or chulo. Photo supplied by Freya Hik.

use. This will reduce the amount of wood needed for fuel and mitigate the severe health hazards associated with prolonged exposure to smoke inhalation.

MoR is presently working with several communities in Nepal to develop solutions for impoverished families who cannot afford cleaner fuels such as liquid petroleum gas. The best solution that's been identified so far to provide long-term benefits may be to reduce exposure to smoke by improving the efficiency and design of existing stoves that continue to meet the cultural and basic needs of the people using them. For example, well designed chimneys and smoke hoods to reduce air pollution may provide affordable and effective first steps. Research has already shown that the efficiency of traditional wood fuel stoves used by the majority of people can be improved, however the introduction of improved stoves has not yet received wide acceptance. Barriers to adoption include poor performance and complicated set-up and maintenance. And according to Raj, "A lot of people still think the modern stove will have less heat and food is less flavourful."

The MoR pilot project is taking place in the villages of Shikhar Ambote and Kushadevi, located in the hilly Kavreplanchok District of central Nepal. These villages were chosen because they are near to where MoR's ground team, Suresh Sapkota and Arun Bohara, grew up in Nepal and still live with their families. Suresh and Arun are able to work directly with com-

munity members and families to ensure the project will meet their needs.

This pilot project will initially focus on helping about 100 families. Engineers on the team are currently evaluating options for modifying current traditional stoves and developing improved cook stove designs. The pandemic has limited access to communities, but MoR's goal is to provide stoves to families by spring 2021, and then, with guidance from Suresh and Arun, to assess next steps.

How you can help

Access to clean cooking methods is a global issue that is solvable but needs immediate attention. In addition, COVID-19 has severely impacted rural Nepalese villages (over 106,000 cases by mid-October) and made providing relief and assistance very difficult. Mountains of Relief has also set up an emergency response program to help feed struggling families in partnership with Red Hat (based in Vancouver) and the Banepa Boys Club (based in Nepal). . ~ACC

Learn how you can make a difference by supporting Mountains of Relief at:

<https://www.mountainsofrelief.org>

Despite its reputation for loose limestone, the Canadian Rockies has a lot of really good rock climbing: trad, sport, alpine rock – Sisyphus Summits on Ha Ling Peak in Canmore is the longest limestone sport climb north of Mexico. Unfortunately for those of us in Southern Alberta, very little of that high quality limestone crops up in our corner of the province. The rock down here leans heavily toward the stereotype of chossy, with a few unimpressive single pitch crags or boulders, portable handholds and a few gems here and there. It's quite the contrast to another type of climbing we enjoy: ice.

Ice Climbing in Southern Alberta

by Stew Moss
Photos by Vince Varga

Topping the list of best things the Canadian Rockies has to offer is its world-class ice climbing. And unlike rock, Southern Alberta has its fair share of icefalls, springs and seeps. Put simply, ice climbing is the best climbing in our neighbourhood, although it can be remote.

The history of ice climbing in the Southern Alberta area goes back at least to the 1970s when Yvon Chouinard, Juris Krizanons and others, explored the area, putting up local classics like Blue Angel, Quick and Dirty, Expert's Choice. They paved the way for locals like Brian Cusak and Chris Goble to discover the next generation of the Waterton classics that to this day attract a small fraction of the attention that routes on the Icefields Parkway or in the Ghost Wilderness do.

With the number of climbs and quality of ice, it makes sense then that the biggest draw for the Southern Alberta Section of the ACC, and our section's signature event is all about the ice. Held each year on the Family Day weekend in February, the Ice Fest is a one-day event when our section comes together to celebrate our club, ice climbing and being in the mountains in the wintertime. Started by local legends Chris Goble and Blair Piggot in 2002, with the intention of growing an ice climbing community in the area, Ice Fest has become a popular tradition.

The Ice Fest typically sets up for the day in the amphitheatre of Quick & Dirty where we have access to WI3+ ice and a number of mixed lines. Q&D is the perfect spot for this event: the grades and length are perfect, there's lots of space away from falling ice and the approach is 10 minutes up the hill from the car. At least it used to be: the Kenow fire that

swept through Waterton in the summer of 2017 burned much of the area and the Akamina Parkway remains closed in winter due to the danger of falling trees and erosion.

One unique aspect of ice climbing in Southern Alberta is the microclimate. Periods of warm winds often break up the periods of cold during the winter months affecting the more susceptible (south facing, lower elevation) climbs. Our Ice Fest two years ago almost didn't happen due to the warm weather. Then last year it was -25 at the Waterton townsite but participants were rewarded with a sunny -10 day with no wind. Usually if the winds don't affect the quality of your climb they might just add an extra essence of alpine to the day.

It's great that the majority of those attending Ice Fest are total beginners who have never climbed ice before. The requirement is to show up dressed warmly and wearing boots that will accept crampons and the experienced section members take care of the rest. In 2020, like in years past, we set up top ropes and brought along extra harnesses, hardware and helmets. We did some teaching, belaying and encouraging. We cooked up burgers and dogs on portable BBQ and sipped hot chocolate in the snow.

It's very satisfying to see these people take part in an Ice Fest event and then come back, start rock climbing and scrambling and become contributing members of our section. It's really special to be able to watch the community grow, it's hard to keep up with it all. ~ACC

PHOTO INSIDER: Find more images from this story at www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/gazette



MHW Trango tent at 2019 Westfall Glacier GMC. Photo by Paul Zizka

Our members probably recognize that Mountain Hardwear is an ACC corporate partner and they perhaps understand that they're associated with our annual General Mountaineering Camp, but they might not know much beyond that.

MHW and the GMC

If there is one piece of gear that is associated most strongly with the camping part of the GMC, it would be the MHW Trango tent. For almost two decades, every participant, guide, and camp staff member who has attended our summer camp has slept in a Trango. The tents are set up in June and stay up for the entire summer in what can sometimes be extreme mountain conditions. The Trango is the workhorse tent we need and the partnership deal with Mountain Hardwear allows us to keep the cost of the camp down.

Our GMC sponsor has also been very generous with prizeing for our annual camp photo contest. For the Mt. Mummery GMC next summer, camp

participants once again will have the chance to win a tent, a sleeping bag and a pack. Watch the GMC website and ACC social channels as we get closer to the summer for how you can submit your photos to win high-end MHW gear.

MHW and Logan Ice

The ACC is taking part in a major climate science expedition to Mt. Logan beginning next summer. The team will, among other things, collect glacier ice cores from the summit plateau, re-measure the elevation of the summit and sub-summits and re-photograph historic images over a century-scale. All

The ACC works closely with a number of outdoor equipment manufacturers that share our goals and that help us to fulfill our mandate. This section profiles an ACC partner, what they do for the club and what it means to our members.

of this is for the purpose of advancing knowledge about climate change in Canada's highest mountains. (See www.LoganIce.ca for more info).

MHW has stepped up in a big way for Logan Ice, providing tents and gear for the team. Mt. Logan can be harsh but the science is important and MHW is helping us make it happen.

Summit Bid auction

If you've scrolled or bid on the lots on our annual online Summit Bid charity auction, you'll have seen MHW featured prominently. Mountain Hardwear never declines donating their gear for ACC causes including the ACC Environment Fund. Along with our other sponsors, MHW has helped us raise over \$100,000 in the past three years alone.

We thank Mountain Hardwear for all the ways that they help the ACC thrive.

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Girls On Ice Canada Inspires Student to Publish Zine*

Inspiring Girls Expeditions grew from an outing in 1999, when founders Michele Koppes and Erin Pettit took a team of five girls up the south fork of Minnesota's Cascade River. Bushwacking their way to view the South Cascade Glacier, the team spent a week camping on the glacier moraine, exploring crevasses, and identifying local fauna. They worked together to test their brains through scientific hypotheses and their physical capabilities by scaling the mountainous environment. Most importantly, they learned from each other's stories and built a strong camaraderie, working together to push their comfort zone and grow.

Today, eight expeditions exist across the United States, Canada and Switzerland—on ice, on water, on rock and in icy fjords. Girls on Ice Canada is run through The Alpine Club of Canada in a joint project between the club and Inspiring Girls Expeditions. Lawren Hall, a student at the University of Calgary, has documented the growth of Inspiring Girls Expeditions and Girls on Ice Canada in an artistic zine.

"From its inception in 1999 and beyond, Inspiring Girls Expedition has been about growth, both for the program itself as it continues to expand its types of expeditions across the globe and the women involved in it," Lawren explained.

"The raison d'être of working with Ellie Bash to create a zine for this organization was not only to explore these advancements and showcase how these expeditions have impacted the women involved with the program by inspiring them to create long-lasting memories and friendships, but to also work to encourage readers to take up that same level of interest in following their own aspirations."

Through her own illustrations, memorable photographs, and art projects from past participants, Lawren gives a sneak-peek into "12 Days in the Wilderness" with the Girls on Ice Canada expeditions. She captures aspects of the program from skill development to natural camaraderie and reflects on quotes from the IGE (Inspiring Girls Expeditions) alumni.

For a link to Lawren's zine and more info on Girls on Ice Canada, go to www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/gazette.

** A zine is a non-commercial magazine that is often homemade, allowing for some customizable spunk!*

Girls on Ice Canada is run annually by the ACC. The deadline for beginning an application is January 31 each year. You can learn more about Girls on Ice Canada at www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/goic.

Illustration by Lawren Hall



A playful exploratory mission that turned into a multipitch endeavour and rappelling into the dark. Jasmin Caton framing her love for the Kootenays on a formation she calls the Jumbo Arch. Steve Ogle © 2020 Patagonia, Inc.

patagonia

Tonje Kvivik of "The Blondes"
Fernie, B.C.



Freeride Collection
Women's Team Kit

Photo: Monterosso