



The Alpine Club of Canada

Gazette

le club alpin du Canada

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Submissions to the Gazette are welcome!
For submission guidelines email your
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David Foster

A long-time Ottawa Section member, David Foster also served on the ACC national board for 14 years. David and his wife Louise Proulx are avid hikers, cyclists and mountaineers who enjoy their outings with ACC friends from across Canada. Their favourite places include Lake O'Hara, the Dolomites and wherever the GMC is held.



Bill Barrett

Bill is currently the chair of the Ottawa Section. He has also served as both Hiking and Safety Coordinator. He leads hiking and climbing trips for the section and is currently organizing a trip to the Green Mountains of Vermont for the club. He is grateful for the friends he has connected with through the club and looks forward to the upcoming winter ice and ski season.



Brooklyn Rushton

Brooklyn Rushton is a passionate outdoor recreationalist and aspiring mountain guide living in Jasper, Alberta. She is passionate about exploring the natural world through adventure and connecting people to nature in a sustainable way. Outside of instructing, she is a PhD Student out of Wilfrid Laurier University focused on rethinking and reimagining nature-based tourism and outdoor recreation in Canada's protected areas and public lands in a complex, dynamic, and uncertain post-pandemic world.



Tami Knight

Tami Knight lives and works in Vancouver with her husband Phil and their very large and overly affectionate cat, Sweetheart. Knight sincerely wishes the world was a lot less crazy than it is.



Doug Latimer

Doug Latimer is the lead winter guide for the ACC. He is a ski and apprentice rock guide living in Canmore. Doug has been teaching and guiding for over 20 years. In an effort to support his guiding habit, Doug is also a partner in a video and multimedia production company, Shadow Light Productions.



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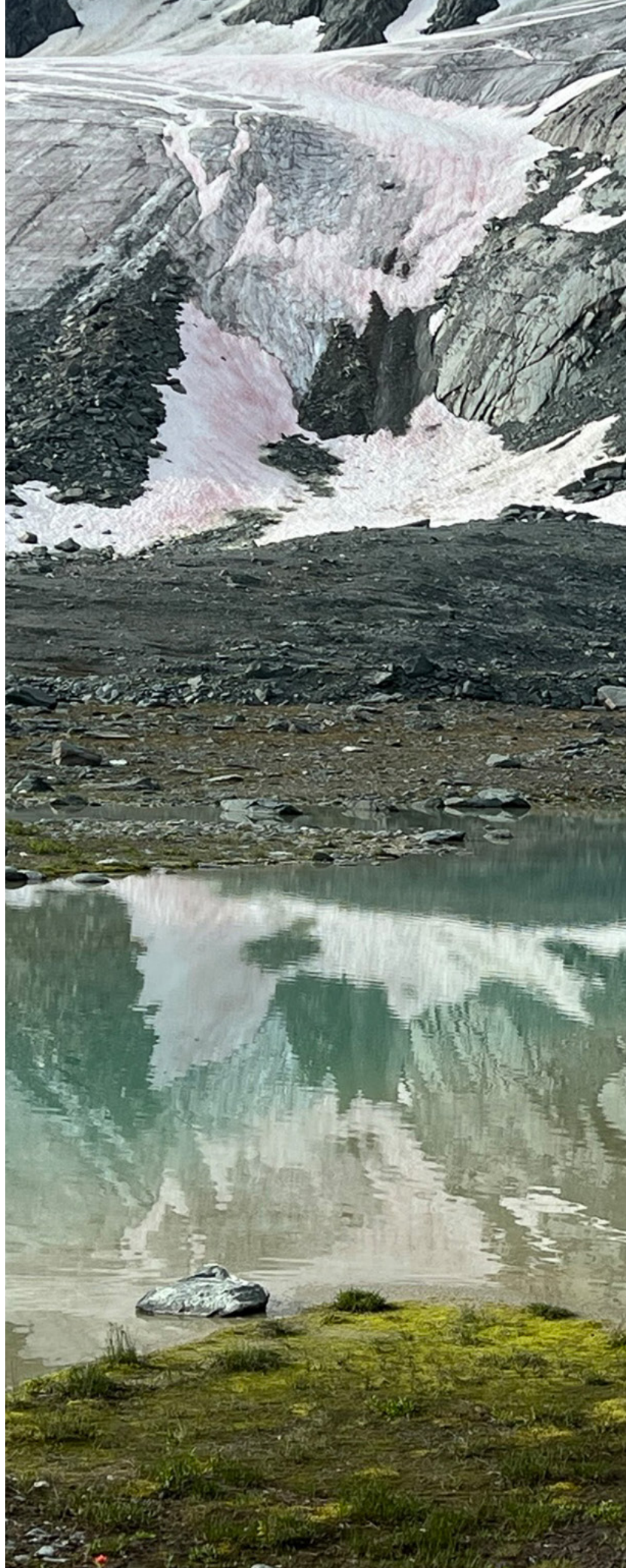
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Cover photo: Sitting on a ledge in great company, Week 2 of the 2022 GMC. Photo Aurore Kurc





Mount Sibbald Tarn, 2022 GMC Artists Week. Photo Melanie Macvoy



The ACC Gazette is our club's member magazine. We've said that often because this is how we (the editorial team) think of it while we're building it and it's what our members have told us they want in a club magazine.

Importantly, we're not in the same business as a *Gripped* or an *Outside*. Some of the content may seem similar sometimes but we're far more concerned about reflecting the values and the needs of our membership than we are about attracting readers.

The cover of our most recent issue (summer, 2022) featured a climber high on the Squamish Chief. The image fit nicely with our profile of the Squamish Section and it showed off some gorgeous high-end west coast rock. The one thing that the picture didn't feature was a helmet.

We received some comments about this, comments that told us that the prominent display of that photo on the cover of the Gazette was setting a bad example and going against the club's value of promoting mountain safety. Which got us to thinking.

On one hand, climbers put a high value on individualism. The freedom of doing what we want in the hills is a significant part of what attracted many of us to climbing in the first place. Our sport is a rich pageant and there are many games we can play with few rules imposed on us, and we really like it that way.

As a club, we value training and good judgment in our members, yes, but we also teach self-sufficiency and personal responsibility. Setting a policy like "climbers in all Gazette photos must have helmets" doesn't take into account the wildly different climbing situations, types of rock or grade. In addition, we all know that things that are dangerous for some people are not so dangerous for other people.

On the other hand, and mountain skills aside, we also believe strongly in the power of representation. The words we use, the actions we take and the photographs we select to represent our sport can all impact how others see their place in the world and affect their thoughts and actions. This is a different type of responsibility – recognizing our influence and seeing the world as something that extends beyond our own interests.

The bottom line is that the Gazette is a magazine that will represent the interests and the values of ACC members. We'd love to hear what you think, feel free to contact us any time at gazette@alpineclubofcanada.ca.

— Keith Haberl



Descending Horseman Spire. Guide: Kirsten Knechtel with Malachite Spire in the background, Week 2, 2022 GMC. Photo Rachael Roussin.

Descente de la flèche Horseman. Guide: Kirsten Knechtel, la flèche Malachite en arrière-plan, semaine 2, Camp général d'alpinisme 2022. Photo Rachael Roussin.

La Gazette du CAC est le magazine des membres de notre club. Nous l'avons dit souvent, car c'est ainsi que nous, l'équipe éditoriale, la voyons quand nous la préparons et que c'est ce que les membres nous ont dit de ce qu'ils voulaient dans le magazine d'un club.

Point important : nous ne sommes pas dans le même marché que *Gripped* ou *Outside*. Une partie du contenu peut y ressembler, mais nous nous soucions beaucoup plus de refléter les valeurs et les besoins de nos membres que d'attirer des lecteurs.

La page couverture de notre dernier numéro (été 2022) présentait une alpiniste en haut d'un itinéraire à Squamish. L'image convenait bien à notre portrait de la section de Squamish et mettait en valeur un exemple magnifique de rochers de haut niveau de la côte ouest. La seule chose que l'image ne contenait pas était un casque.

Nous avons reçu des commentaires à ce sujet, qui nous disaient que la mise en évidence de cette photo en couverture de la Gazette établissait un mauvais exemple qui allait à l'encontre de la valeur du club qui cherche à promouvoir la sécurité en montagne. Ce qui nous a donné à penser.

D'une part, les grimpeurs accordent une grande importance à l'individualisme. La liberté de faire ce que nous voulons dans les montagnes compte pour beaucoup dans ce qui y a attiré nombre d'entre nous dès le début. L'escalade est un spectacle riche où nous pouvons jouer plusieurs jeux dont peu de règles nous sont imposées, et nous l'aimons de cette manière.

En tant que club, nous valorisons la formation et le bon jugement de nos membres, certes, mais nous enseignons aussi l'autonomie et la responsabilité personnelle. Établir une politique qui voudrait que les grimpeurs dans toutes les photos de la Gazette doivent porter un casque ne tiendrait pas compte des différences étourdissantes parmi les situations d'escalade, les types de rochers et les niveaux de difficulté. De plus, nous savons tous que ce qui est dangereux pour certaines personnes ne l'est pas autant pour d'autres.

Mais d'autre part, et nonobstant les compétences en montagne, nous croyons aussi beaucoup aux pouvoirs de la représentation. Les mots que nous employons, les gestes que nous posons et les photographies que nous choisissons pour représenter notre sport peuvent tous avoir un impact sur la manière dont les autres voient leur place dans le monde et sur leurs pensées et leurs actes. C'est un genre différent de responsabilité que de reconnaître notre influence et de voir le monde comme allant au-delà de nos seuls champs d'intérêt.

La conclusion est que la Gazette est un magazine qui représentera les intérêts et les valeurs des membres du CAC. Nous aimerions savoir ce que vous pensez : n'hésitez pas de nous contacter en tout temps à gazette@alpineclubofcanada.ca.

— Keith Haberl

Help record the ACC's history

Donate to the Bev Bendell Library Fund

Donations to the Bev Bendell Library Fund in 2022 and 2023 will go towards hiring a professional archivist at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies who will support the archival of ACC materials and make possible the writing of the ACC's history, a major book project in the works by author Chic Scott.



You can learn more about Chic's history of the ACC book, including how to make a donation, on the ACC Aspects blog and in our Heritage feature on page 22:

<https://bit.ly/ACC-legacy-investment>

We're back – in yellow!

Our Happy Hours have been a huge hit over the years at the Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival. Started in 2015, the event has raised tens of thousands of dollars for ACC funds and causes, including our Environment and Greatest Needs funds. We've not run the event for the past two years because of Covid, and we've missed catching up with you at this special and fun time.

Well, we're back for 2022 with our partners MEC and YETI, as well as Tree Brewing Co. and Core Values Cider.

\$30 gets you a signature Festival YETI Rambler that includes a beer or cider as well as a chance to win great prizes. Join us!

Saturday, November 5

4:00 to 6:00pm

Kinnear Centre patio at the Banff Centre

Proceeds support the Whyte Museum archivist project through the Bev Bendell Library Fund.



Nominate a volunteer

Each year the ACC Awards Committee undertakes the task of sifting through numerous nominations to identify and acknowledge those deserving of The Alpine Club of Canada's Volunteer Awards.

Nominations are now open for exceptional ACC 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.

Support mountain leadership across Canada

We're full steam ahead with this year's ACC Summit Bid charity auction. Bid on Canada's best mountain gear, art and experiences from the comfort of your living room!

If you value the ACC's legacy of mountain leadership, our extensive hut system, and our advocacy for the protection of Canada's alpine environments, you can help us make this year's online auction our most successful event yet.

the Summit Bid

The auction will be open for bids the week of October 24th, with winners announced the night of this year's Mountain Guides Ball on October 28th, where the auction will also be held live in person.

This year, all proceeds will be directed to the ACC's Leadership Fund, providing financial support for volunteer section trip leaders across the country to attend programs that strengthen their leadership skills in both summer and winter mountain adventure settings.

Check out the auction items and place your bids on the Summit Bid website at summitbid.ca beginning on October 24th.



Island 6000 Update

Eryn Tombu-Haigh, Barry Hansen and Rich Priebe climbed their 53 peaks to complete all of the 6,000-foot peaks on Vancouver Island that was written about in the Spring 2022 Gazette.

Read the story online here: bit.ly/island-6000

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alpineclubofcanada.ca/insurance

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WELCOME TO SUMMITCLIMB

December '22, January, February '23: Christmas Trek, Island Peak, Aconcagua & Ojos Del Salado or Kilimanjaro Himalayan Giants of Nepal. Three Peaks for the price of one!

April - May '23: Everest Summit Climbs: Nepal or Tibet, Everest Camp 3 Training Climbs, Mount Lhotse, Everest's Sister. Also, Everest Glacier School & EBC Trek with leader Dan Mazur
12 Successful Everest expeditions

June-July-Aug '23: Gasherbrum 1 and 2, K2 Summit, 8,000m Training, Broad Peak, K2 Base Camp Trek, Pastore Trekking Peak (near K2).
Three-time K2 Leader Dan Mazur and Sherpas!

September '23: Manaslu

October/November '23: Baruntse - Mera Peak, Ama Dablam, Lobuche, Island Peak, Everest Base Camp and Remote Service Trek



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What an exciting six months it's been, reconnecting with friends and family, and getting back to what seems like normal life. The club ran all its programs this summer and occupancy at our huts was back to pre-pandemic levels.

Big changes brought about by a new President and a new Executive Director have brought what we hope are a fresh way of looking at the organization and a deep dive into the operations of the club. It is also an opportunity to question what we do and consider new possibilities.

From the visioning exercise last spring, the board reviewed all the stakeholders' input and worked with the team in the office to analyze key trends and internal factors impacting our organization. We defined our key strategic priorities for 2022-2025 by focusing on desired outcomes over the next three years:

- People across Canada find relevance and community in the club's offering through increased awareness.
- Sections' capacity is enhanced to serve the needs of their members locally.
- Members understand the club's purpose and are aware of what it offers locally and nationally.
- The club serves the needs of members throughout their life journey, in the practice of alpinism and its related activities.
- Our members (current, new and potential), volunteers and staff feel welcome, included, safe and treated equitably.
- The changing environment and sustainability are at the forefront of everything we do: our environmental values and programming strategy have been defined and are implemented.

We realize that these are ambitious goals that require a solid foundation, which has become an operational priority for this year. Over the coming months, we will reach out to sections to

better understand their unique history and background, their opportunities and challenges. We will develop more effective communication so we can better support their endeavors and share best practices between sections.

We aim to modernize our structure, processes, and systems so we can build a more resilient, adaptable, and nimble organization. We are developing a more collaborative work environment characterized by greater information sharing, empowerment, responsibility, and accountability. We are building shared processes for planning, budgeting, and operational management. This will enable us to look to the future with confidence.

Some of our key initiatives include a renewed focus on safety and inclusion. We are relaunching our health and safety program, updating our emergency response plans, and enforcing our Code of Conduct to enhance safety awareness within the club. We will be offering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training throughout the club in a bid to shift to a more welcoming, respectful, and inclusive culture.

We are also intent on developing a sustainability plan and taking steps to reduce our carbon footprint and ensuring we are good stewards of one of our key stakeholders: the environment. For starters, we plan to install renewable energy systems in our huts and relaunch our volunteer Hut Ambassador program to promote hut etiquette and responsible access to the mountains.

It's been an exciting six months, the beginning of what we hope will be a new era for the club to bring together and give voice to Canada's mountain community.

Isabelle Daigneault
President of The Alpine Club of Canada

Carine Salvy
Executive Director of The Alpine Club of Canada

Quelle intensité au cours des derniers 6 mois, à reprendre contact avec les amis et la famille, et retourner à ce qui semble une vie normale. Le Club a repris tous ses programmes cet été, et le taux d'occupation de nos refuges a retrouvé un niveau d'avant la pandémie.

L'arrivée d'une nouvelle présidente et d'une nouvelle directrice générale est l'occasion d'apporter des changements importants au Club par une revue de fond des opérations et de l'organisation. C'est également une opportunité de s'interroger sur ce que nous faisons et de réfléchir à de nouvelles possibilités.

A l'issue de l'exercice de revitalisation de la vision du club au printemps dernier, le conseil d'administration a évalué les commentaires des parties prenantes et travaillé avec l'équipe de gestion pour analyser les tendances clés et les facteurs internes qui touchent notre organisation. Nous avons établi nos priorités stratégiques pour 2022-2025 en nous concentrant sur les résultats souhaités pour ces trois prochaines années :

- Que les gens à travers le pays soient sensibilisés à l'offre du Club et que nos membres y trouvent pertinence accrue ainsi que l'esprit de communauté, tant au niveau local que national.
- Que les Sections aient une meilleure capacité à répondre aux besoins de leurs membres à l'échelle locale.
- Que le club serve les besoins des membres tout au long de leur itinéraire de vie par la pratique de l'alpinisme et des sports de montagne qui y sont regroupés.
- Que nos membres (actuels, nouveaux et éventuels), nos bénévoles et notre personnel se sentent bienvenus, inclus, en sécurité et traités équitablement.
- Que la durabilité et une compréhension croissante de notre environnement changeant soient à l'avant de tout ce que nous faisons, nos valeurs environnementales et notre stratégie de programmation étant définies et mises en pratique.

Nous comprenons que ces objectifs sont ambitieux et qu'ils demandent une base solide, une priorité opérationnelle pour cette année.

Au cours des prochains mois, nous travaillerons davantage de concert avec les Sections pour mieux comprendre leur histoire et leur contexte uniques, leurs opportunités et leurs défis. Nous développerons une communication plus efficace pour mieux soutenir leurs efforts et partager les meilleures pratiques entre les Sections.

Nous aspirons à moderniser notre structure, nos processus et nos systèmes afin de bâtir une organisation plus résiliente, adaptable et souple. Nous développons un environnement de travail plus collaboratif, caractérisé par un plus grand partage de l'information, une plus grande autonomie, une plus grande responsabilité et imputabilité. Nous développons des processus partagés pour la planification, le financement et la gestion opérationnelle, qui nous permettront d'envisager le futur avec confiance.

Certaines de nos initiatives clés comprennent une attention renouvelée pour la sécurité et l'inclusion. Nous relançons notre programme de santé et sécurité, nous mettons à jour nos plans d'intervention d'urgence, et renforçons notre Code de conduite pour améliorer la sensibilisation à la sécurité. Nous allons offrir des formations en diversité, en équité et en inclusion pour faire la transition vers une culture plus accueillante, respectueuse et inclusive au sein du club.

Nous avons aussi l'intention d'élaborer un plan de développement durable pour réduire notre empreinte carbone et assurer que nous sommes les bons gardiens de l'une de nos principales parties prenantes : l'environnement. Pour commencer, nous planifions d'installer dans nos refuges des systèmes d'énergies renouvelables et de relancer notre programme d'ambassadeurs bénévoles des refuges pour promouvoir l'étiquette dans les refuges et l'accès responsable aux montagnes.

Ces six derniers mois ont été passionnants, et le début de ce que nous espérons être une ère nouvelle pour le Club qui rassemblera et fera entendre la voix de la communauté des montagnards du Canada.

Isabelle Daigneault
Présidente du Club alpin du Canada

Carine Salvy
Directrice générale du Club alpin du Canada

Featuring this year's Distinguished Service Award winners



Paul Veneziano

Paul has been a member of the Montreal Section executive for over 20 years. As Section Treasurer he manages all the finances. Unique to the Montreal Section is the 105-acre property and cabin (Keene Farm) that they own in New York State. The Keene property adds a degree of complexity to the role of Treasurer requiring an understanding of out-of-country tax issues and filings as a non-profit. The property, a focal point of the Montreal Section activities, requires significant volunteer time to maintain. Paul has also taken on the role of Hut Manager. He oversees the annual budgeting process, plus the collection of hut and camping fees. He also serves the members by organizing and participating in the annual new member weekend, BBQ and Corvées (two work weekends).

Paul received the Don Forest Service Award in 2016.



Myrene Mollison

Myrene has been a member of the Saskatchewan Section for over twenty years. She initially joined the Section Executive in 2005 to gain experience as a member at large. She soon took on the role of Section Secretary and then added Section Treasurer. In 2019 Myrene ensured the responsible transition to a new Treasurer. During this time Myrene has been instrumental in hosting the Banff Mountain Film Festival in Saskatoon as a section fundraiser and for the past decade she has been the primary coordinator of the event, providing leadership to the festival committee. This successful fundraiser has allowed the section to provide funds for the development of section trip leaders and to purchase club gear.

Myrene received the Don Forest Service Award in 2014.



Catrin Brown

Catrin joined the ACC in 1994 and first joined the Vancouver Island Section Executive in 1996 as their Trip Scheduler. During 2012 & 2013 she served as the Section Secretary. Catrin has been the Chair of the Vancouver Island Section since 2016. Over the years Catrin has been an active trip leader and organized the annual ski camps in the Rockies and Selkirks. The section's new hut, *Hišim'yawiž* (Hi-SHIM-ya-wit), opened on the slopes of 5040 Peak in October 2018. This was a challenging project for the section to undertake and has been a huge success. During the building process the section facilitated discussions with the local First Nations. Catrin has also encouraged diversity in the section's membership. Her outstanding leadership as Section Chair has increased the section's membership numbers.

Catrin received the Don Forest Service Award in 2012.

Nominate a volunteer!

The ACC Volunteer Awards recognize the significant contributions members have made in furthering the goals of The Alpine Club of Canada. Show your appreciation by nominating a deserving member by this year's deadline, December 31, 2022. — ACC

<https://bit.ly/acc-nominate-a-volunteer>

Alpine Club of Canada

Winter Mountain Programs

We are excited to offer a roster packed with opportunities to try new sports, develop mountain skills, and travel to incredible, pristine locations. This year, we're also offering an international trip to Mount Chimborazo, Ecuador in January, which will be led by Helen Sovdat. **Sign up today!**

WINTER 22/23

International Trip (JANUARY 2023)

Mt Chimborazo, Peaks of Ecuador: Experience volcanic mountaineering with Helen Sovdat, ACMG guide

Courses

- Winter Crevasse Rescue Skills
- Advanced Winter Crevasse Rescue Skills
- AST 1 and AST 2 Courses
- Avalanche Basics Course*

**This new course takes the AST 1 and adds on the opportunity to head into avalanche terrain for an introductory day of backcountry skiing/splitboarding*

- Intro to Ice Climbing
- Intro to Mixed Climbing

Camps

- Early Season Ice
- Rogers Pass Powder (Wheeler and Asulkan offerings)
- Wapta Traverse
- Bow Yoho Traverse
- Columbia Icefield Ski Mountaineering
- Fairy Meadow
- 55+ Kokanee Cabin Ski Week
- Women and Non-Binary Ski Camp

SUMMER 23

Courses

- Learn to Climb Series (Sport, Trad Multipitch, Rock Rescue)
- Intro to Mountaineering (3 locations)
- Glacier Discovery (Bow-Peyto)
- Women and Non-binary Climbing Camp
- Hiking at Elizabeth Parker Hut

Shadow Lake Lodge

- Plein Air Artist's Camp at Shadow Lake Lodge
- Larch Hiking at Shadow Lake Lodge

Check out adventures.alpineclubofcanada.ca for more information on courses including dates and prices, cancellation policies and insurance.



Connecting About Change

Documenting the impacts of climate change in the Tonquin Valley with support from the Jen Higgins Grant for Young Women

by Brooklyn Rushton

Trip participants: Katie Reeder, Rikke Foss, Lauren Rychliski and Brooklyn Rushton

In late August, four of us set off to the mystical realm also known as the Tonquin Valley, on a trip partially funded by The Alpine Club of Canada's Jen Higgins Grant. On this all-women's trip, our purpose was building leadership skills in alpine terrain, empowering each other, and documenting the impacts of climate change in the Tonquin Valley. For those who do not know, this valley is one of Jasper National Park's gems; home to towering quartzite peaks, vast glaciers, turquoise lakes, and even mountain caribou. This area hosts countless alpine climbs, but it is remote and the presence of the surrounding peaks tells you to check your ego at the trailhead and approach the area with humility and respect.

Our trip began with an early start at the Astoria River trailhead, followed by an 18-kilometre trek with heavy overnight climbing packs. We were certainly happy to set our packs down at the historic Wates-Gibson Hut, seeing a glimpse of the Ramparts in the background.

After settling in, we did a scoping mission up Thunderbolt Peak, which is a beautiful third-class scramble on solid quartzite rock that gifts you with an amazing view over the Eremite Valley, an area now difficult to access by climbers after the bridge was washed out in recent years. With a short weather window and rain forecasted for later in the trip, we decided to save climbing Outpost and Memorial Peaks via the North Buttress route for our second day.

Outpost Peak towers over the Wates-Gibson Hut and is a great introduction to the climbing in the area. Knowing there was a possibility of rain coming in the later afternoon, we got an early start the next morning in an attempt to avoid getting stuck climbing slippery quartzite covered in black lichen. We headed out from the cabin and up the terminal moraine left behind after the recession of the Fraser Glacier. From the moraine, we gained a ridge with some fun scrambling before the climbing started. Our group alternated leads up the North Buttress and we were stoked on the climbing, views, and teamwork throughout the day. I mean, how could you really be upset with great friends, views, and climbing on a bluebird day?

Upon reaching the top of the North Buttress (Photo A), there was some great third-class scrambling standing between us and the summit of Outpost Peak. Stoked on reaching the summit, we had a quick celebration and signed the summit register, noting that the last group there had been some of our good friends from Jasper. From there, traversing to Memorial Peak required a bit of route finding, but we were blessed with solid pink quartzite stone on fourth-class terrain, which was certainly the most solid rock we climbed on all day! The descent down Memorial Peak was straightforward and is definitely the best way to descend from Outpost Peak. However, we were greeted with an incoming thunderstorm at the base of Memorial Peak, which prompted us to pick up the pace and get boogying back to the hut.

This first climbing day was great and really allowed us to come together as a team and recognize our strengths and weaknesses, all while having amazing views over the valley and down the Ramparts. Back at the cabin, we read some of the history of climbing in the area from a photo book in the hut and discovered that there was a historic route up the North Glacier of Outpost Peak (Photo B) that is no longer accessible due to rapid recession leaving behind a steep and unstable terminal moraine. As our team reflected on the fate of this glacier and historic climbing route, we got to thinking about the future of alpine climbing accessibility, asking ourselves what historic routes will not longer be feasible, accessible, or safe in the next 50 years? 30? 10?

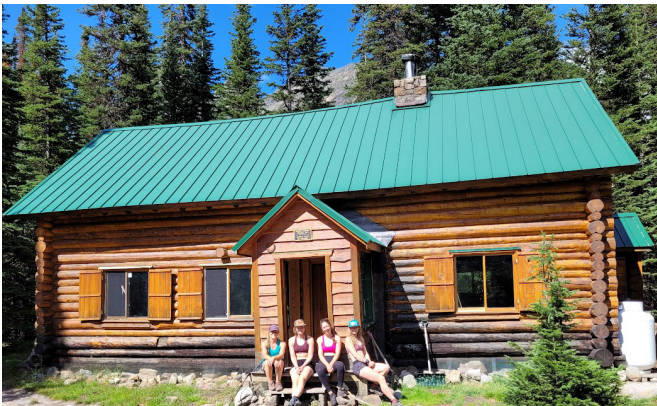
On our third day, climbing plans were limited by rain and low clouds that seemed to linger throughout the day. Listening to the mountains, we decided to stay off any technical rock terrain and headed to the South Ridge of McDonnell Peak, which is a third-class scramble requiring us to traverse across the Fraser Glacier. Walking up the moraine left behind by the glacier's recession, it was eye-opening to see how much the glacier has receded compared to historical photographs from the Mountain Legacy Project website and in the photo book in the hut. As we were walking up, we discussed how outdated mapping software is and decided to do some ground truthing on the extent of glacier recession compared to mapping software. The photo at



Photo A: North Buttress of Outpost Peak.



Photo B: Historic route up the North Glacier on Outpost Peak.



Group photo at Wates-Gibson Hut.



Rikke & Brooklyn at the “Toe of the Fraser Glacier”

the bottom of this page shows where our FatMap software indicates the toe of the glacier to be, compared to where the actual toe of the Fraser is (which was approximately 400m behind us).

The route up the South Ridge of McDonnell Peak over the Fraser Glacier proved to be a perfect objective for a rainy day. The ridge itself has amazing exposure and from the summit you can see the icefall behind the Ramparts, which was one of the most beautiful sights on the trip. From McDonnell, we had hopes to traverse over to Simon Peak, which is the tallest peak in the Ramparts, hoping for some more amazing views. However, once we reached the summit, Simon Peak became engulfed in a large low-lying cloud, almost as if the mountains were saying “not today, ladies.” We decided to listen and descend back to the hut.

The following day, we hiked out but first decided to scramble up Surprise Point to get one last view of the Ramparts (a highly recommended adventure close to the hut if you want to scope out terrain). Walking back to collect our heavy packs and make the trek out, we walked barefoot through this open meadow on spongy moss, all while following caribou tracks which really tied the trip together and made us feel very connected to the natural environment.

Overall, this was a trip that involved connecting with nature and each other, documenting change in the area, and gaining fundamental leadership skills in alpine terrain. We are all so thankful for The Alpine Club of Canada’s Jen Higgins Grant for empowering and providing opportunity for women in the mountains. Being surrounded by such strong, fiercely independent, and supportive women was inspiring for us all and gave us the opportunity to grow, learn, and evolve. On top of that, it was enlightening to document the impacts of climate change in an area that does not host many visitors each year. The change in some of the historic climbing routes and recession of the Fraser Glacier was dramatic and inspired us to come up with a call to action. We’d like to call on members of The Alpine Club of Canada to do the following:

When you are out on your next objective, expedition, or mission, open your mind and peripheries to connect with and document change in the area where you are recreating. Some good ways to approach that is to seek out historical photographs of the region, which can be found at your local museum, through personal networks, guidebooks, and the Mountain Legacy Project website, and take repeat photographs, reflecting on the differences you see. Additionally, look at the mapping software that you rely on for navigation, investigate where your map showcases glaciers to be, and take a photo of where the toe of the glacier is showcased on your map in real time—you will likely be astounded by the difference. Share this information with your personal, professional, and social networks to inspire those around you to do the same.

As recreationalists, we have a great responsibility to be advocates for Mother Earth and document what we see in areas that are often inaccessible to scientists and the general public. We hope that this story inspires you to recreate with a purpose, document change in your local environment, and advocate for change in our society to create a more sustainable and equitable future. —ACC

The Shifting Shape of Peyto Glacier

Will our children be able to ski the Wapta Traverse? It's not looking good.

by Doug Latimer

ACC Lead Winter Guide

Once upon a time in 1996, I first met the Peyto Glacier. I was a young man leading my friends across the classic Wapta Traverse. After a late start and a slow day, we reached the tiny research station above the glacier, as the winds picked up and snow came down. Young and invincible, I wanted to continue on to the Peter and Catharine Whyte (Peyto) Hut. My friends were a bit less confident of my abilities in a whiteout. Rachel (my then girlfriend, now spouse) discovered the attic was open and four people lying down could just fit inside. The day was over. We spent the night in a horizontal broom closet. As we approached the Peyto Glacier the next morning, we could see that it covered the valley floor. There was no place for a lake in this landscape.

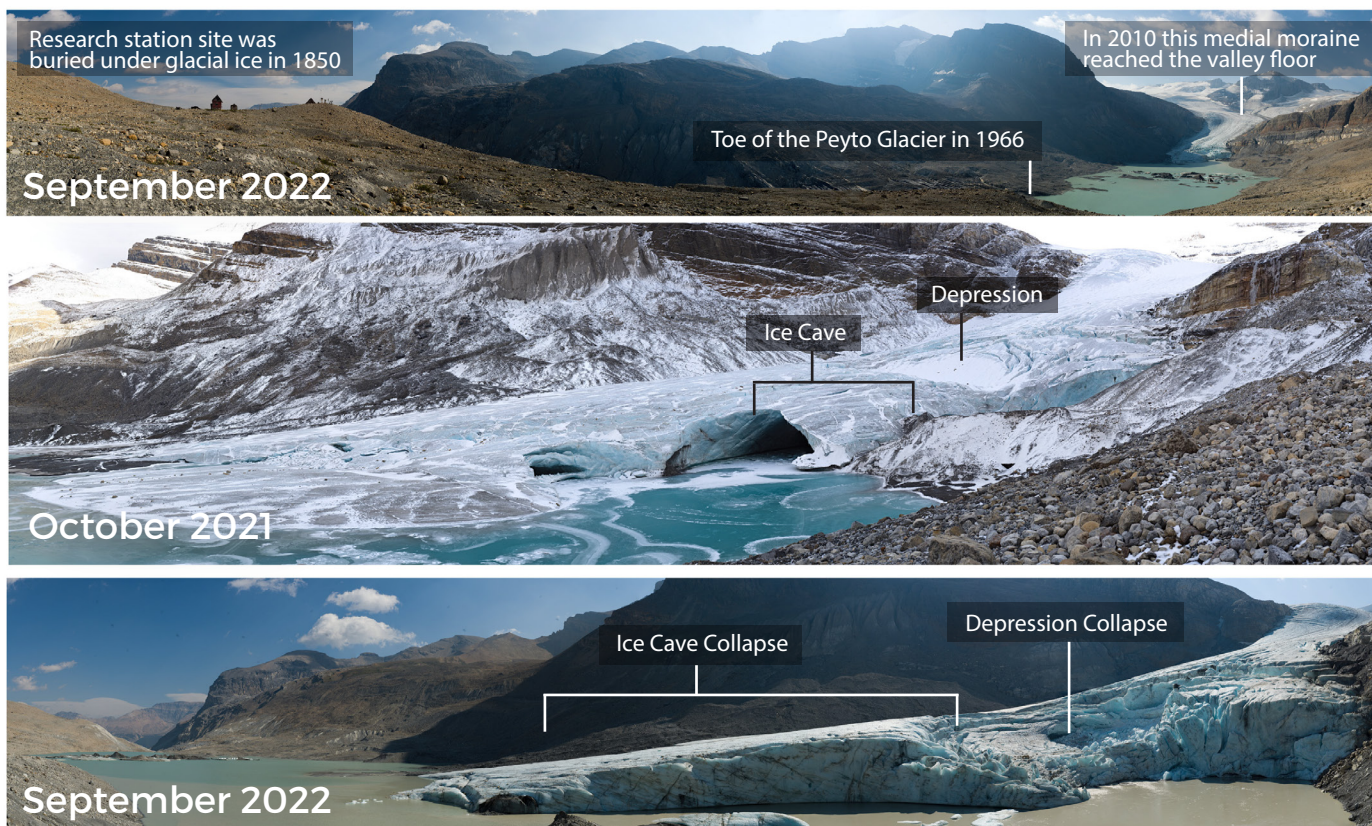
It would be some time before I skied on the glacier again, but once I became a guide I led groups from the Bow Hut to the Peyto Hut fairly regularly. On one occasion, and as is often the case on the Wapta, we had a bad weather day at the Peyto Hut, but I still had to entertain the guests. We decided to dig snow shelters in the wind rolls along the edge of the glacier. As I drove my shovel deeper into the snow it suddenly punched out a black hole. Further excavation revealed an ice cave. We anchored a hand line and descended into the darkness. The ice cave extended several hundred metres into the glacier before it was too distorted and deformed for us to continue.

Ice caves are formed by summer meltwater dissolving a subterranean drainage under the glacier. They are beautiful, but they also hollow out the glacier from the inside out. This ice cave must have been several kilometres long to reach the toe of the Peyto Glacier. After speaking with several guides it became apparent that the ice cave was at least 30 years old. One year I made a special trip to take my family, so they could see it too.

My first trip to the Peyto Glacier was in 1996 but it was 2010 before I returned to ski directly on it. I was leading a group of skiers down from the hut and the medial moraine in the skier's centre-left of the glacier made navigation easy in the poor light. As we descended, visibility improved but I became dizzy and disoriented. I knew exactly where I was, but the location made no sense to me. It took some time to realize that this was due to my vertical reference. Due to glacial recession, we were much deeper in the valley than my memory recalled or maps indicated. There should have been 100 metres of ice on top of me.

My family joined me again in the fall of 2021 when we hiked in to assess the condition of the glacier. There were reports that the glacier was no longer passable on foot. When we arrived, the valley glacier was essentially gone, replaced with a lake and a mass of icebergs that had recently calved off the dwindling Peyto Glacier. It wasn't the recession of the glacier due to surface melt that astonished us, it was the holes in the glacier. Massive amounts of ice had melted and washed away from beneath the surface of the glacier and it was collapsing on itself. A giant ice cave more than 10 metres in diameter was exposed at the base of the glacier. Behind it, open water and a huge depression from unsupported surface ice.

When my son and I returned in the fall of 2022, the ice cave and depression had collapsed. The traditional summer access is now gone. It may be possible to ascend up the south side of the glacier, but it will require crossing the lake or outlet stream at some point. Winter access will remain viable for the short term, but as the ice recedes, emerging cliff bands may block future winter access. There will not be a glacier for my son to show his children.



Beyond aesthetic and recreational opportunities, does it really matter if the glaciers disappear? They are a very minor source of water that flows down our mountain streams and rivers. Geologically speaking ice ages or glaciations are relatively rare in the history of the earth. When we do have glaciations, the ice is in a constant dance of advance and retreat. Around 6,000 years ago in an event known as the Holocene Climate Optimum, most of the world's glaciers and ice caps were smaller than today. During the Cryogenian Period (635-720 million years ago) it is widely believed that most of the earth was frozen solid, with a possible band of ice slush in the oceans at the equator. When we talk about climate, the only constant is change. And this is the key: change is normal, but the current rate of change is abnormal. Temperatures are rising at a rate that is much faster than we believe the earth has seen in the past.

As I mentioned, glaciers provide a fairly small percentage of the water flowing out from our mountains, but that water is released during the hottest days of summer and fall. Glaciers and icefields serve as reservoirs that buffer droughts and keep the rivers flowing out into the valleys and prairies when there's no rainfall or snow melt. The cities and farmland downstream depend on this flow to survive heat waves. Unfortunately, these vital glacial reserves are drying up at the same time that heat waves are becoming more frequent.

In 2005, my wife Rachel produced a documentary looking at receding glaciers and water scarcity. The story was screened at six film festivals and broadcast on CBC. Looking back seventeen years later, the only significant error in the piece was the timing: the consequences are arriving sooner than expected. Rachel has put the documentary online and it can be viewed on Youtube at http://youtu.be/j1-n_FHnFUo

When greenhouse gasses are released into the atmosphere, it does not instantly raise the temperature of the planet. Just like when we put a pot of cold water on a hot burner the water doesn't instantly boil, there is a lag. The lag for greenhouse gasses is believed to be around ten years. The current temperature that is melting our glaciers is the result of the emissions we released back in 2012. Even if we could magically stop emitting carbon dioxide and methane tomorrow, it would be 2032 before we see the full impact these emissions have had in raising the temperature of the planet. In the short term, we need to get out and love our glaciers, because this is a limited time offer. — ACC

La face changeante du glacier Peyto

Est-ce que nos enfants pourront skier la traversée de Wapta? Ça n'en a pas l'air.

par Doug Latimer

Guide d'hiver du CAC

Quelque part en 1996, j'ai rencontré le glacier Peyto. J'étais alors un jeune homme qui guidait ses amis le long de la classique traversée de Wapta. Après un lent commencement et une longue journée, nous avons atteint la petite station de recherche au-dessus du glacier, pendant que les vents reprenaient et que la neige tombait. Jeune et invincible, je voulais continuer jusqu'au refuge de Peter et Catharine Whyte (Peyto). Mes amis avaient moins confiance en mes habiletés dans ce voile blanc. Rachel (ma copine alors, mon épouse maintenant) réalisa que le grenier était ouvert et qu'il y avait assez de place pour y allonger quatre personnes. Nous passâmes la nuit dans ce placard à balais. Durant notre approche du glacier Peyto le lendemain, nous pouvions voir qu'il couvrait le fond de la vallée. Aucune place pour un lac dans ce paysage.

Il faudrait du temps pour que je skie de nouveau sur le glacier, mais quand je suis devenu guide j'ai dirigé des groupes, assez souvent, du refuge Bow au refuge Peyto. Une fois, comme ça arrive souvent sur la Wapta, la météo a été mauvaise au refuge Peyto, même si je devais continuer de divertir le groupe. Nous avons décidé de creuser des abris contre la neige dans les rouleaux de vent le long du bord du glacier. Pendant que je pelletais plus profondément dans le glacier, un trou noir a été découvert soudain. Une excavation plus poussée a révélé une grotte de glace. Nous nous sommes pris la main pour descendre dans l'obscurité. La grotte de glace s'étendait dans le glacier sur plusieurs centaines de mètres avant qu'elle soit trop tordue pour que l'on continue.

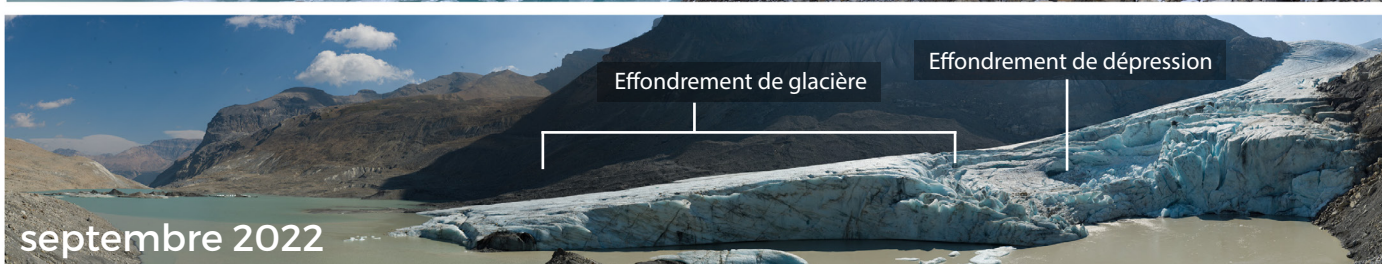
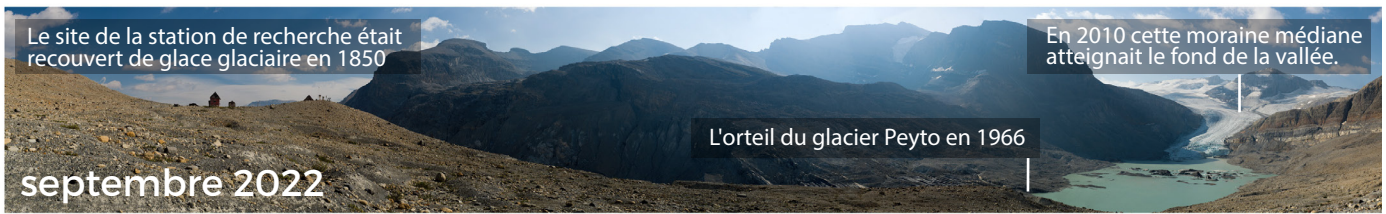
Les grottes de glace se forment avec de l'eau de fonte en été qui forme un écoulement souterrain sous le glacier. Elles sont splendides, mais elles vident également le glacier de l'intérieur. La longueur de cette grotte de glacier devait mesurer plusieurs kilomètres pour atteindre la pointe du glacier Peyto. Après avoir consulté plusieurs guides, il a paru que la grotte devait avoir au moins trente ans. J'ai fait une expédition avec ma famille une fois, pour qu'elle la voie aussi.

Ma première expédition au glacier Peyto datait de 1996, mais c'est en 2010 que je suis revenu y skier directement. Je dirigeais un groupe de skieurs à partir du refuge et la moraine médiane au centre gauche du glacier facilitait la navigation dans l'éclairage faible. Pendant notre descente, la visibilité s'améliorait mais mes sens se sont confus et étourdis. Je savais où j'étais, mais l'emplacement s'était transformé. Il a fallu du temps pour comprendre que c'était dû à ma référence verticale. À cause de la récession glaciaire, nous étions plus loin dans la vallée que ce qu'indiquait ma mémoire ou les cartes. J'aurais dû me trouver sous une centaine de mètres de glace.

Ma famille m'a rejoint encore en automne 2021, en randonnée pour évaluer l'état du glacier. La rumeur disait que le glacier n'était plus navigable à pied. À notre arrivée, le glacier de vallée avait essentiellement disparu, remplacé par un lac et une masse d'icebergs qui s'étaient récemment détachés du glacier en déclin. Ce n'était pas le recul du glacier dû à la fonte de surface qui nous a étonnés, mais les trous à l'intérieur de celui-ci. Des quantités massives de glace avaient fondu et s'étaient écoulées de sous la surface du glacier qui s'effondrait sur lui-même. Une grotte de glace de plus de dix mètres de diamètre béait à la base du glacier. Derrière elle, de l'eau libre et une vaste dépression due à de la glace de surface non soutenue.

Quand je suis retourné avec mon fils en automne 2022, la dépression et la grotte de glace s'étaient effondrées. L'accès habituel en été a maintenant disparu. Il peut être possible de monter la face sud du glacier, mais cela demandera de traverser le lac ou le canal de sortie tôt ou tard. L'accès hivernal restera viable à court terme, mais avec le recul de la glace, l'émergence de bandes de falaise pourra en bloquer l'accès dans le futur. Il n'y aura pas de glacier que mon fils pourra présenter à ses enfants.

Outre les occasions récréatives ou esthétiques, est-ce qu'il importe vraiment que les glaciers disparaissent? Cette source d'eau très mineure qui s'écoule le long de nos montagnes et rivières.



En termes géologiques les ères glaciaires ou de glaciation sont relativement rares dans l'histoire de la Terre. Quand il y a des glaciations, la glace est dans un constant mouvement d'avancée et de recul. Il y a quelque 6 000 ans au cours de ce qu'on appelle optimum climatique de l'Holocène, la plupart des glaciers et des calottes glaciaires de la planète étaient plus petits qu'aujourd'hui. Durant la période cryogénienne (d'il y a 635 à 720 millions d'années) on suppose couramment que presque toute la terre était gelée, avec un possible ruban de glace pâteuse dans les océans de l'équateur. Quand nous parlons du climat, la seule constante est son changement. Et telle est la clé : le changement est normal, mais son rythme actuel ne l'est pas. Les températures augmentent à un taux beaucoup plus rapide que ce que nous pensons que la Terre a connu par le passé.

Comme je l'ai dit, les glaciers fournissent un pourcentage assez minime de l'eau qui s'écoule de nos montagnes, mais cette eau se libère durant les jours les plus chauds de l'été et l'automne. Les glaciers et les champs de glace servent de réservoirs qui amortissent les sécheresses et permettent aux rivières de continuer de couler dans les vallées et les prairies quand il n'y a pas de pluie ou de fonte de neige. Les villes et les terres agricoles situées en aval dépendent de ce flux pour survivre aux vagues de chaleur. Malheureusement, ces réserves glaciaires s'assèchent à mesure que la fréquence des vagues de chaleur augmente.

En 2005, ma femme Rachel a produit un documentaire observant le recul des glaciers et la rareté de l'eau, présenté à six festivals et diffusé à la CBC. Dix-sept ans plus tard, la seule erreur dans cette œuvre était son rapport au temps : les conséquences adviennent plus tôt que prévu. Rachel a mis son documentaire en ligne, disponible sur Youtube : http://youtu.be/j1-n_FHnFUo

Quand les gaz à effet de serre sont libérés dans l'atmosphère, la température de la planète n'augmente pas instantanément. Comme lorsqu'on dépose un contenant rempli d'eau froide sur un brûleur chaud, l'eau ne bout pas sur le coup, il y a un délai. Le délai des gaz à effet de serre serait réputé être d'environ dix ans. La température qui fait fondre nos glaciers résulterait des émissions que nous aurions produites il y a 12 ans. Même si nous pouvions demain, par magie, cesser d'émettre du dioxyde de carbone et du méthane dans l'atmosphère, il faudrait attendre 2032 avant de constater l'impact qu'ont eu ces émissions dans le réchauffement de la planète.

Sur le court terme, il nous faut sortir et apprécier nos glaciers, car c'est une offre à durée limitée. — CAC

Help record the ACC's History

The ACC is fundraising to make its archival history more accessible to members and the public

In the spring 2022 issue of the ACC Gazette we introduced the story of the history of the ACC: a major book project that celebrated mountain writer Chic Scott is presently at work on for the ACC. The book will be the first comprehensive history of our club, from its founding in 1906 through to the present day. The book will detail the club's growth, the good times and the hard times; it will be the definitive story of the old times as well as the more current history.

The book will be a chronicle of the people, sections, huts, camps, expeditions, governance, volunteer award winners and more. This is a project to which all ACC members will feel a connection, and one to which we can all make a contribution.

This is a history that is still being played out, highlighted by the fact that when the project was begun, and when the spring Gazette was published, the ACC had never elected a woman as club President and today Isabelle Daigneault holds that position.

Our history in boxes

The main repository for our club's documentary heritage — our photographs, letters, meeting minutes, diaries, hut registers, summit registers and so much more — is the Archives and Special Collections at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies in Banff. In fact, at present, the ACC fond is one of the archive's largest

"It is absolutely imperative that all the unprocessed Alpine Club of Canada material is made available to me for my research for the ACC history book. In the letters, committee reports and financial statements, the story of how the club grew and evolved is told. Most of these papers have been acquired by the club since 1985, and this is an era when the club underwent dramatic change. If these papers are not processed and catalogued, then it will be almost impossible for me to find anything and my work will be much more difficult."

Chic Scott, Banff-based writer and Honorary Member

and most important collections, second only in size to the Peter and Catharine Whyte fond. And the collection is growing, fast.

The Whyte Museum now needs our help. All of the "old" ACC documents (before the 1980s) have been processed and catalogued and properly archived, which makes it searchable and useable for historians, including Chic. But the new material is just sitting in the Whyte's basement in many, many boxes. The material is secure and protected, of course, but because it remains unprocessed, it is not yet accessible to the researchers and writers who rely on such sources to tell our story to members, to Canadians, and to the world.

Fundraising Campaign

The ACC is raising funds to help expedite the process — for writers like Chic, and for members everywhere. The national office has kick-started a fund-raising campaign with a \$25,000 donation. But more is needed. You can help by giving today to the ACC's Bev Bendell Library Fund. Any donation, large or small, is appreciated, and will go a long way to making our legacy better known to future generations.

If you're as interested as we are in the buried secrets and untold stories of the ACC that will be unearthed, please consider donating. Thank you. — ACC



“Unlike the American Alpine Club, which has the Henry S. Hall Jr. Library at its Boulder headquarters, or the Alpine Club, in England, which has its own library and archive on site, the ACC does not have its own permanent place to protect and make available our national documentary heritage. For that, we rely primarily on a partnership with the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies.”

Zac Robinson
Vice President (Mountain Culture)
The Alpine Club of Canada



To make a donation, please go to:
alpineclubofcanada.ca/archive

There's an Alpine Club in Ottawa?

With over 400 members, the Ottawa Section is a unique jumping-off-point for eastern hiking, climbing, skiing and more

by Bill Barrett

Section Chair, Ottawa Section

and David Foster

Former VP Services, Ottawa Section

People ask, “Why an alpine club in Ottawa? Where are the mountains?” Yet for more than 400 members, the ACC Ottawa Section is their go-to group for outdoor activities.

Many members have come to the Ottawa region for a job or to study and they are looking for others who climb, ski, or hike. And while we don't have the alpine terrain of western or northern Canada, we do have many areas for great, easily-accessible adventures.

Within an hour of Ottawa, members are on ice or rock at Calabogie, or on a Gatineau Park backcountry trail to hike or ski. Within two hours you can climb at Montagne d'Argent, Lac Poisson Blanc or Val David in the Laurentians. To our west, good ice climbing can be found at Bancroft and Diamond Lake as well as multi-pitch rock routes at Bon Echo. Expanding the radius to four hours gets you to New Hampshire's White Mountains, Vermont's Green Mountains, the Adirondacks in New York State, and the Charlevoix region northeast of Quebec City.

This fall there are three weekend outings planned to the Adirondacks and one to Vermont. Hiking, climbing, and skiing in the east are accessible and on a scale that is doable for a wide range of members.

For some, membership is a step towards alpine activity in Western Canada. This past summer 15 Ottawa members enjoyed hiking at

1. Anchor clinic, Rockfest, September 2018.
// Clinique d'ancrage Rockfest, septembre 2018.
2. Instagram ACC-Ottawa style, Eagle's Nest, Calabogie, April 2022.
// Instagram façon CAC-Ottawa, Eagle's Nest, Calabogie, avril 2022.
3. Split Rock hike, Gatineau Park. Photo Darrel Newman.
// Randonnée au parc de la Gatineau. Photo Darrel Newman.

Lake O'Hara while staying at Elizabeth Parker Hut. Other section members spent time out west with friends they have made in the club. Building your skills in the east and then testing yourself in the more challenging Rockies is a goal of many members and one supported by a tradition of western section summer camps.

The Ottawa Section has been described as a hiking section, with many of our members looking for opportunities to trek in Gatineau Park and the eastern ranges nearby. But that is changing as many new members who are focused on climbing join the club. Many gym climbers join to access a section climbing outing or training day. We have a partnership with the University of Ottawa Climbing Club that sees their members welcomed into the section at no charge to take advantage of club activities on the local crags. The section has collaborated with the Southern Ontario Ice Festival, providing sponsorship money and inviting members to the next festival in February 2023. The section and members also support Crag Care, a volunteer group that maintains the popular Calabogie climbing area.

The climbing community is growing across Canada, and Ottawa is no exception. This year, three new crags have opened on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River. Climbers in the region are seeking out new experiences and building the sport.

A section exists to bring members together in a shared activity – to have fun and to learn from one another. In addition to supporting the wider climbing community the Ottawa Section organizes two group events each year; Hikeapalooza and Rockfest. On these weekends between 40 and 50 section friends, new and old, gather to hike and climb, to exchange stories, share a meal and a drink and continue traditions that began over 70 years ago.

Established in 1949, members of the Ottawa Section were instrumental in establishing rock climbing in our region in Gatineau Park and at Bon Echo. The 1970s and 1980s saw members extend their reach to the western mountains and the arctic, with notable expeditions to Ellesmere and Baffin Islands, and play a significant role in the ACC's Centennial Climbs in the Yukon. Renowned Ottawa members like Helmut Microys set the standard of the era and remain an inspiration to this day. More recent “uber-leaders” like Darrell Newman, who regularly lead 40+ hikes each year, keep the section strong and growing.

The Ottawa Section has a long history of volunteer commitment and this continues to the present as a new generation of climbers, hikers and skiers take people out on adventures both near and further away. Why join an ACC Section in eastern Canada? Come out and see! — ACC



Why join
an ACC
Section
in eastern
Canada?
Come out
and see!



Comment, il y a un Club alpin à Ottawa?

Avec plus de 400 membres, la section Ottawa est un tremplin unique pour se lancer dans la randonnée, la grimpe, le ski et plus encore

par Bill Barrett

Président de section, section Ottawa

et David Foster

anc. Vice-président aux services, section Ottawa

Les gens demandent : « pourquoi un club alpin à Ottawa? Où sont les montagnes? » Et pourtant, pour plus de 400 membres, la section Ottawa du CAC est leur groupe où se joindre pour faire du plein air.

Plusieurs membres sont venus dans la région d'Ottawa pour travailler ou étudier et sont à la recherche d'autres personnes qui grimpent, skient ou randonnent. Et même si nous n'avons pas le même relief alpin que l'Ouest ou le Nord canadien, nous avons malgré tout plusieurs endroits propices à des aventures à la fois formidables et accessibles.

À une heure de distance d'Ottawa, les membres peuvent se retrouver sur la glace ou la pierre à Calabogie, ou sur un sentier d'arrière-pays du parc de la Gatineau pour randonner ou skier. À deux heures de distance, vous pouvez faire de la grimpe à la Montagne d'Argent, au lac Poisson Blanc ou à Val-David dans les Laurentides. À l'ouest de chez nous, on peut trouver de la bonne escalade de glace à Bancroft et au lac Diamond ainsi que des itinéraires rocheux à plusieurs longueurs à Bon Écho. Élargir le rayon à quatre heures de distance vous mènera aux monts White du New Hampshire, aux monts Green du Vermont, aux Adirondacks dans l'état de New York, et la région de Charlevoix dans le nord-est de la ville de Québec.

Cet automne trois sorties de fin de semaine sont planifiées pour les Adirondacks et une autre au Vermont. La randonnée, la grimpe et le ski sont accessibles à l'Est et à une échelle réalisable pour un large éventail de membres.

Pour certains, adhérer au Club est un premier pas vers les activités alpines de l'Ouest canadien. L'été dernier, 15 membres d'Ottawa ont randonné au lac O'Hara en s'hébergeant au refuge Elizabeth Parker. D'autres membres de la section ont fait du plein air dans l'ouest du pays avec des amis qu'ils s'étaient faits au club. Développer ses habiletés dans l'est du pays pour se mettre à l'épreuve dans les Rocheuses, plus exigeantes, est un objectif pour beaucoup de membres et que soutient la tradition des camps d'été des sections de l'ouest.

La section Ottawa a été décrite comme une section de randonnée, où plusieurs de nos membres cherchent des occasions de faire du trek au parc de la Gatineau et dans les chaînes environnantes. Cette tendance change alors que beaucoup de nouveaux membres orientés vers l'escalade se joignent au club. Plusieurs grimpeurs en salle de sport rejoignent le club pour accéder à un jour d'entraînement ou une séance d'escalade à l'extérieur. Nous avons un partenariat avec le club d'escalade de l'Université d'Ottawa qui voit leurs membres accueillis dans la section sans frais pour profiter des activités du club dans les escarpements locaux. La section a collaboré avec le Southern Ontario Ice Festival, fournissant des fonds de parrainage et invitant les membres au prochain festival de février 2023. La section et les membres soutiennent également Crag Care, un groupe bénévole qui fait l'entretien de la populaire aire d'escalade de Calabogie.

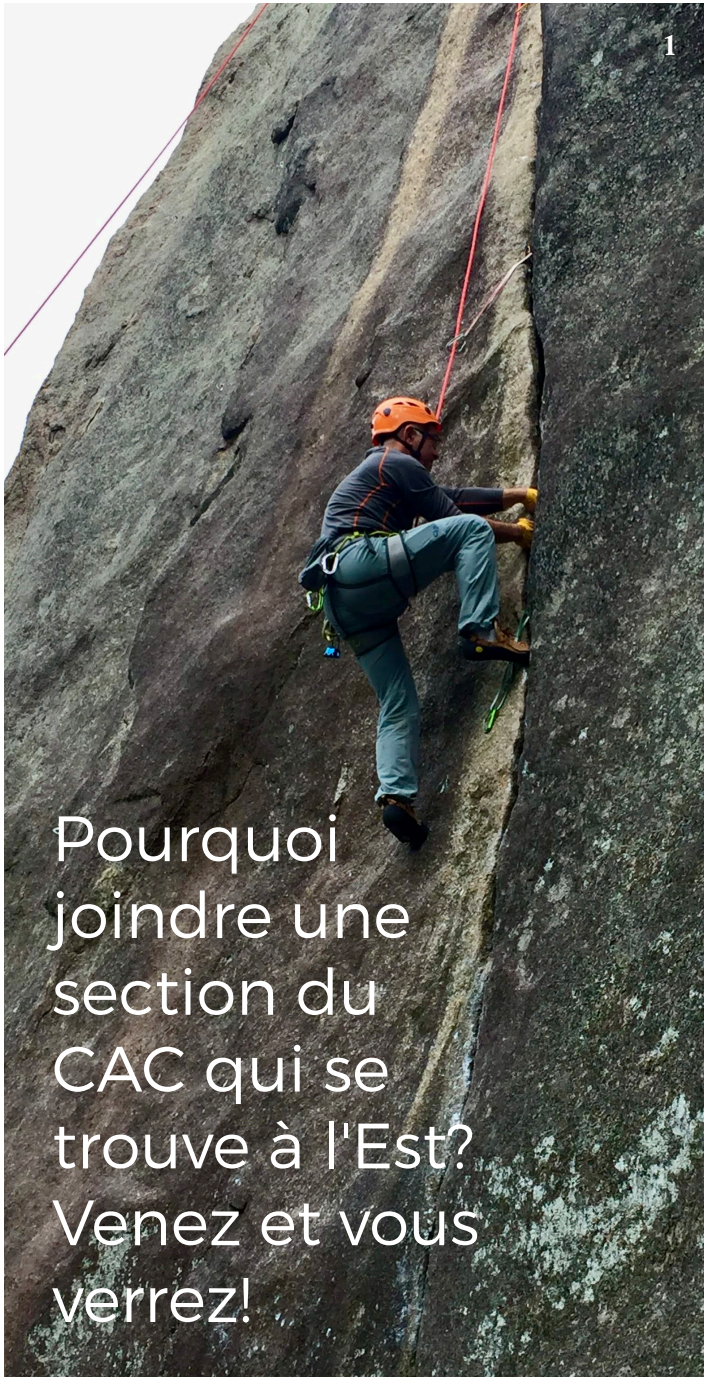
La communauté des grimpeurs est en croissance à travers le pays, et Ottawa ne fait pas exception. Cette année, trois nouveaux nez rocheux ont été ouverts du côté québécois de la rivière des Outaouais. À l'affût de nouvelles expériences, les grimpeurs de la région font progresser le sport.

Le but d'une section est de réunir ses membres autour d'une activité partagée — pour s'amuser et pour apprendre de tout un chacun. En plus de soutenir la communauté élargie des grimpeurs, la section Ottawa organise deux événements de groupe chaque année : Hikeapalooza et Rockfest. Lors de ces fins de semaine, entre 40 et 50 amis de sections, jeunes et moins jeunes, se rassemblent pour randonner et grimper, échanger des histoires, manger et boire ensemble et perpétuer des traditions qui ont commencé il y a 70 ans.

Créée en 1949, la section Ottawa et ses membres ont contribué à établir l'escalade de rochers dans notre région au parc de la Gatineau et à Bon Echo. Les années 1970 et 1980 ont vu des membres étendre leur champ d'action aux montagnes de l'ouest et de l'Arctique, dont de notables expéditions aux îles Ellesmere et Baffin, et jouer un rôle important dans les ascensions du centenaire du CAC au Yukon. Des membres renommés de la section Ottawa tels qu'Helmut Microys ont établi la norme de l'époque et demeurent des sources d'inspiration aujourd'hui. Des « super-meneurs » plus récents comme Darrell Newman, qui dirige régulièrement plus de 40 randonnées par année, assurent que la section reste forte et en croissance.

La section Ottawa a une longue histoire d'engagement bénévole, qui se poursuit jusqu'à présent alors qu'une nouvelle génération de grimpeurs, de randonneurs et de skieurs emmène les gens à l'extérieur dans des aventures à proximité ou bien plus éloignées. Pourquoi joindre une section du CAC qui se trouve à l'Est? Venez et vous verrez! — CAC

1. Clinique escalade de fissures, Rockfest, montagne d'Argent, sept 2018.
// Crack climbing clinic, Rockfest, Montagne d'Argent, Sept 2018.
2. Sentier Iceline, camp d'été, juillet 2019.
// Iceline Trail, Summer Camp, July 2019.
3. Père et fils, Giant Mountain, Adirondacks, août 2022.
// Father and son, Giant Mountain, Adirondacks, August 2022.



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Dismantling the Disaster in the Making

(Part 2 of 2)

by Doug Latimer

ACC Lead Winter Guide

Have you ever approached a problem multiple times using the same set of tools and/or procedures, only to fail consistently? I'd bet money that everyone who looks at their past will answer yes. People are stupid. The good news is that you came upon your stupidity honestly. Our brains were never designed to behave in the logical, structured manner we like to assume they are.

“Social scientists in the 1970s broadly accepted two ideas about human nature: first, people are generally rational, and their thinking is normally sound; second, emotions such as fear, affection, and hatred explain most of the occasions on which people depart from rationality.” This quote is from the book *Thinking Fast and Slow*, written by Nobel Laureate Daniel Kahneman. Kahneman is a behavioural psychologist, who along with Amos Tversky laid down a foundation of research that has been revolutionizing our understanding of how people think. Though you could probably read this in a few days or weeks, this book took me three years to read due to Kahneman's many references to other scientists and their research. I often stopped reading, followed up on the research he was citing and then moved on to a tangent of his work before returning to the book. It was a bit like an advent calendar, every day I read a page and received a new brain treat.

One of the first tangents in reading the book was Kahneman's reference to one of his idols, Paul Meehl and a book he wrote in 1954 titled *Clinical versus Statistical Prediction*. This is not something you will find in Oprah's book of the month club. In it, Meehl makes the argument that simple algorithms or checklists can outperform recognized experts with certain types of decision making. The book was scandalous for its time, and was quickly discredited by many “experts.” As time passed, the validity of Meehl's work was confirmed by study after study. My favourite study that supported the work involved looking at medical diagnoses. A group of radiologists were asked to explain what they looked for on an x-ray to determine if a patient had an ulcer or if they had stomach cancer. The radiologists all gave a series of indicators about the shape, size and texture of the lesions seen on the x-ray that might identify each condition. They were then given a series of x-rays and asked to make their diagnosis

of which condition they believed was present. Not only did they often fail to make the correct diagnosis, but the stack of x-rays contained multiple copies of the same x-ray. Radiologists often gave a different diagnosis for the same x-ray. However, when the indicators or clues of what to look for to identify an ulcer as opposed to stomach cancer were written up in a simple checklist, untrained volunteers outperformed the radiologists with just a simple piece of paper. Checklists have become standard in many professions today, including medicine. This methodology is also the birthplace of the Avaluator (AST 1) trip plans, and run lists (which are used by guides in mechanized skiing). These tools are not perfect, but they provide a structure that forces us to ask the right questions and guides us to an informed answer.

Another factor that impacts our decision making is energy. It turns out that our brains are very high maintenance. Every time we write a difficult test, learn new information, teach others, write another article for the ACC, navigate a complex route or situation, our brain is working in high gear. And just like muscles, the brain has limits to how long it can function under increased demand. In an effort to reduce the load on our brain, we develop shortcuts to help make decisions quickly, simply and with little mental effort, which saves brain power for when we may really need it. This is essential for our every day life: consider how we would manage to get out the door every morning if we had to analyze every piece of clothing and all possible combinations of shoes, socks, pants, shirts and jackets in the closet before getting dressed?

Here's an example in the form of a quick quiz: A bat and a ball cost \$1.10. If the bat costs a dollar more than the ball, how much is each item? If you answered \$1.00 for the bat and \$0.10 for the ball you are making a quick decision and taking a short cut. But with this answer the bat costs \$0.90 more than the ball. The correct answer is actually \$1.05 for the bat and \$0.05 for the ball. In hindsight, this is a simple question, but it took me a surprisingly long time to finally figure it out. It takes mental energy to solve this problem, and this is a much easier problem than determining if the snow bridge across a crevasse will hold your weight and what are the consequences if it fails? So we see that short cuts can be very useful, but we often use them when more intensive analysis should be applied.

As part of the AST 1 curriculum, instructors are required to teach a group of cognitive biases that may be linked to poor decision making. In theory this sounds like the Holy Grail to the problem of human errors. After three years of reading Kahneman's work and associated references I was certainly ready to believe this. My bubble was burst though when I had the chance to talk with Pascal Haegeli, an associate professor at Simon Fraser University. Pascal leads many of

the avalanche research projects in Canada and when asked for his thoughts on decision making, he quickly pointed out that being aware of these biases and short cuts does not make us any less susceptible to them.

"A beautiful theory killed by an incontrovertible fact." —Thomas Huxley

Fortunately, not all is lost. Many researchers including Daniel Kahneman have been able to distill many of the challenges regarding poor decision making down to over-confidence and the illusion of knowledge. We often assume we are more capable than we really are, or we think that we have information that we don't. Perhaps a more extreme variation of this phenomenon is the Dunning-Kruger Effect, named after the two researchers who described this behaviour (Read their publication called: "Unskilled and unaware of it: how difficulties in recognizing one's own incompetence lead to inflated self-assessments"). CBC radio also has a good web page that delves into the subject ("How ignorance makes us cocky," The Sunday Magazine).

Personally I found the Dunning-Kruger Effect to be a very enjoyable and sometimes humorous subject to investigate. It also hits very close to home and stands as a warning to us all.

Another flaw in our brains is selective attention, as described in this Youtube video called "The Monkey Business Illusion" at www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGQmdoK_ZfY

If you recall, this was your homework assignment from my last article in the Summer 2022 Gazette. Chances are good that you may have missed a few items in the video (I have not yet met anyone who observed every change in the video). I have experienced this effect on multiple occasions. Once, while guiding through a crevasse field I was so focused on finding a safe route that I failed to notice a size two avalanche releasing on a nearby face. Thankfully a second guide following my tracks had a much broader perspective of the situation and alerted me to the event. No one person can be relied upon to identify everything occurring in a complex environment.

This is just the tip of a giant human behaviour iceberg we are only beginning to understand. Expect everything I have described here to expand, change, and possibly be debunked in the future. We are at the beginning of a new road ahead.

In the meantime we will continue to travel in beautiful, risky and dangerous places. It is our responsibility to manage those dangers to the best of our abilities. To that end, here are the best tools I have found to help overcome the limitations of our brains:

- Use checklists. When used properly, tools like the Avaluator and trip plans can go a long way to addressing many of the shortcomings or biases in our brains.
- Everyone needs to have a voice in making decisions that affect their safety, and anyone can veto a decision. About a decade ago I started discussing the day with my clients, outlining the goals for the day, mentioning concerns I had and the reasons for my decision. The purpose was to give them the opportunity to assess my decision-making, add to the available information, and express any concerns they may have. The clients also had the right to veto my decisions. In the event of a conflict, we would default to the safer option. I believe that this practice has served everyone well.
- Whenever there is uncertainty or concern regarding a decision, all members of a group must be able to freely question and challenge the process. This is important as it is one of the few tools that can identify over confidence and the illusion of knowledge. My favourite word in this regard is "why." Why is it dangerous? Why is it safe? Based on the leader's answer, break down the information even further. If the information is solid, it will likely peel back like the layers in an onion, with information or knowledge supporting each layer behind the decision. If the answer quickly breaks down into vague generalities or elements of frustration and/or intimidation appear, then there may be problems.
- Share information with everyone in the group. Route information, weather, field observations, anything that may be of value to the group. When something arises that is a potential or unexpected threat, point it out; you may be the first to see it.
- Slow down the decision-making process. Take the time to analyze the situation. One exercise a group can do is to have half the group assess why this route is safe and the other half assess why it is dangerous.

These are fairly simple things, but they can make a significant difference in how we address and avoid hazards, threats, and increasing risk on any given trip. — ACC

Read Part 1 in the Summer 2022 issue of the Gazette.

Mountain Art

"On Aug 12, 2022, mountain guide Francisco (Pancho) Medina took Doug Sims, Leroy Hiller and myself (Amy Liu) to climb Mary Peak (2,699m). It was one of the "easy" projects for this year's mountaineering camp based at International Basin, and it was our last climbing day. The weather was a perfect summit day. Everyone knew we were leaving the next day so we took the climbing slowly, fully soaking in the scenery and warmth from the sunshine, and just being in the moment. Francisco led the way up and we enjoyed the view of all the peaks in the background that we had climbed during the week. We made the summit and celebrated. We all look forward to returning to the camp next year." — Amy Liu





HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE

2022 GMC Photo Contest

We're back from another year at the General Mountaineering Camp and we're excited to show you the winners of the much-anticipated photo contest! Mountain Hardwear has been a long-standing partner of ours and a committed supporter of our annual GMC Photo Contest, so we're excited to have their continued support.

Why's this photo contest such a big deal? Well, it's because the GMC is a big deal! It's a very special gathering of new (and old) friends in an environment we all treasure. We often hear of experiences from our participants that have had lasting impacts, but these stories rarely leave the bubble that is the GMC. This photo contest is an effort to show the joyous moments that have come about at our most prestigious camp. We hope you enjoy these photos and a big congratulations to our winners!

This year the camp took place at International Basin, and the following prizes are being awarded to the winners: first place receives a tent, second place receives a sleeping bag, and third place receives a backpack, all from Mountain Hardwear.

FIRST PLACE - AMY LIU

This photo encompassed our love for the GMC and the mountains. There's a clear view of a jagged skyline, glaciers, snow, the alpine pond and blooming flora – all staples of the locations we carefully choose to hold our GMC. The participants in their bright clothing accent the photo and add the human and “play” element to the alpine. As two participants scramble up with helmets, we get the idea that the terrain is technical, and if you look closely, the climber out front has a pretty bright smile, suggesting a beauty of a day. We love it!





SECOND PLACE - PATTI DYMENT

Above: "This was the most spectacular plein air location I have ever painted. The painting and others can be seen at the Canmore Museum, which is hosting an exhibition of my work until January 3, 2023." — Patti Dyment

What we enjoy doing most in the mountains can vary between audiences, but the unifying idea continues to be that they're beautiful and sacred places. This photo from our 2022 Artist-in-residence, Patti Dyment, so vividly displays another dimension to the GMC and another way to love the hills. We have a full array of a gorgeous alpine environment in the background, the tools of the trade in the foreground, and Patti's interpretation of everything around her front-and-centre. It's a piece that could not have been completed without some love. Beauty!



Right: "Pink watermelon algae snow taken at Mt. Sibbald." — Sunny Lai

This photo from Ben Parsons shows a bit of the grit behind climbing, and in our eyes, why we love it. Ben's using an editing style called "high dynamic range" which provides details to any edges and we think it works well here! Between some very layered up participants in this photo with their hoods up, a very attentive individual in the foreground, and an overcast sky, we get the idea that it's not easy going at the moment. While we like the rainbows and sunshine in the mountains, many of us also don't go climbing because it's necessarily easy, and we thought Ben's photo speaks to this. Nice one Ben!



THIRD PLACE - BEN PARSONS



Above: "Our guide Maarten and amateur leaders Isabelle and Nico led us up Battlement Mountain on July 8. Weather had been variable all week, but it really started to rain as we approached the summit. In this photo, the weather breaks momentarily as Maarten lead climbs up the crux before he belays the rest of the group up. Moments later, it started raining and snowing heavily. Despite the weather, everyone made it to the summit safely." — Ben Parsons

Left: "Morning coffee" — Judy Brown

"A Day At The Crag" by Tami Knight



Submit your ideas for the Back Page to gazette@alpineclubofcanada.ca

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