

The Alpine Club of Canada

Gazette

le club alpin du Canada



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**By members,
for members**

Section stories
from across Canada



Vol. 40 | 2024

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IMAGE BY TED HESSER



Gazette

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On the cover: Climbers gain the Courthouse summit, led by guide Fred Amyot during the 2024 General Mountaineering Camp. Photo Alex Mackenzie

Right: Stunning views of Remillard Glacier following descent from Yardarm traverse. Guests led by guide Mike Adolph during the 2024 General Mountaineering Camp. Photo Alex Mackenzie



Connecting across the continent

Welcome to our new and improved member magazine! You'll notice that we've made some changes since the last issue of the Gazette, as the magazine is now an annual publication (as opposed to three smaller issues per year). We've packed a ton of goodness into this revamped format to include "in-their-own-words" insiders from our member sections across the country—stories from 19 of our club's 25 sections are featured in this issue!

While the ACC is a national club, the magic happens in our local sections. A heartfelt thank you to all of our contributors and to every club member and volunteer in our sections who make these events and activities, and so many others, possible each year.

These stories provide a glimpse into the local flavour that makes each section unique. Yet there's one thing that unites them all: when our members head into the hills, we go prepared for adventure and challenge, but what we often bring back are the connections and community we build along the way.

As always, we're keen to hear your thoughts about the Gazette: email us at gazette@alpineclubofcanada.ca any time. We're already looking forward to gathering more stories of routes, trips, and community from across the country for the next issue! — ACC

Mot du rédacteur en chef

Se connecter sur tout le continent

Bienvenue dans notre nouveau magazine amélioré destiné aux membres! Vous remarquerez les changements que nous avons faits depuis le dernier numéro de la Gazette, qui est désormais une publication annuelle (et non de trois plus petits numéros par année). Nous avons amassé un tas de bonnes choses dans ce nouveau format pour inclure des récits dans leurs propres mots des membres de nos sections à travers le pays. Ce numéro comprend des récits provenant de 19 des 25 sections de notre club!

Car si le CAC est un club national, c'est dans ses sections locales que la magie opère d'abord. Nous remercions de tout cœur tous nos contributeurs et chaque membre et bénévole de nos sections qui permettent à ces événements et ces activités, et plus encore, de se réaliser chaque année.

Ces récits donnent un aperçu de la saveur locale qui rend chaque section unique. Mais quelque chose les unit toutes : quand nos membres vont en montagne, ils s'attendent à l'aventure et aux défis, mais ce qu'ils rapportent en retour sont les liens et la communauté qui se sont formés en chemin.

Nous sommes comme toujours curieux de vous entendre au sujet de la Gazette: écrivez-nous en tout temps à gazette@alpineclubofcanada.ca. Nous avons déjà hâte d'assembler d'autres récits de voyages, d'itinéraires et de communautés à travers le pays pour notre prochain numéro.

Guide Geoff Osler belays from the Courthouse col with support from the GMC's unofficial mascot, "pinky."
Photo Alex Mackenzie

Are you (or do you know) an aspiring or seasoned storyteller at your club who would like to shine a light on your section? Reach out!

Êtes-vous (ou connaissez-vous) dans votre club un raconteur aspirant ou chevronné qui aimerait porter l'attention sur votre section pour nos lecteurs à travers le pays? Contactez-nous! Gazette@alpineclubofcanada.ca

Join us at the first annual

SUMMIT SHAKER

October 26, 2024

Mt Norquay, Banff



the Summit Bid

Place your bids on Canada's best mountain gear, art and experiences!

Support renewable projects through the ACC Facilities Fund and land yourself some fresh goodies thanks to our generous donors and partners.

Bidding opens the week of October 21st, and winners will be announced the night of the brand new, first annual Summit Shaker party on Saturday, October 26th.

This year, the ACC's portion of the proceeds will be directed to our Facilities Fund. This fund allows us to make renovations and upgrades to our hut system, as we continue to improve and apply new renewable energy systems to our huts.

Check out the auction items and place your bids on the Summit Bid website at summitbid.alpineclubofcanada.ca beginning on October 21st.

Hosted by:



ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA
CLUB ALPIN DU CANADA

What's up at the huts?

Renewable power, a brand new hut, and more

At home in the mountains

The ACC has been at home in the backcountry for more than 100 years, stewarding the largest network of backcountry huts in North America.

We maintain and operate more than 30 facilities: from family-friendly huts in alpine meadows to backcountry powder paradises, to remote climbers' refuges. These huts require annual and ongoing maintenance and upgrades, and over the past few years, the ACC has dedicated our people and resources to providing renewable sources of power at many of our huts.

Read on for an overview of just some of the improvements you can expect to enjoy on your next hut trip!

2024 upgrades

- Renovation of the **Bell Cabin at the Canmore Clubhouse**: new bathrooms, kitchen, flooring, window casings, and HVAC system.
- Upgrades at **Shadow Lake Lodge**: cabins painted, new 5100 propane tanks, additional 2,000 watts of solar power, and other utility upgrades. Two furnaces also installed in cabins.
- The outhouse was rebuilt at the **Conrad Kain Hut** and a Starlink was added for Applebee Campground custodians.
- Exterior work was completed at **Glacier Circle Cabin**, including new chinking and paint.
- New flooring, stainless steel counters and sinks, and new mattresses were installed at the **Neil Colgan Hut**. Interior and exterior were also painted.
- **Fairy Meadow Hut** saw renovation of the sauna, installation of new lights, charging ports, and hood fans. Additional counter and cabinets added to the kitchen.
- A breezeway addition was added to the **Cameron Lake Cabin**.

NEW IMPROVED +

Castle Mountain Hut

The Castle Mountain Hut, erected in 1967, is slated to be replaced in Spring 2025. The new hut will be more spacious, sleep eight people, and be moved slightly further back from the edge of the cliff. The new hut is scheduled to open for summer, 2025.

Hut Resources

The ACC website has lots of handy resources for hut users heading out on their first or their thirty-first hut trip. There are instructional videos (how to light a fire, how to deal with grey water, etc), packing lists, etiquette, FAQs and more.

See alpineclubofcanada.ca/hut-resources

Canmore Alpine Hostel

The Canmore Alpine Hostel (at the ACC Clubhouse) is a unique accommodation destination steeped in mountain culture. Check out our hostel rooms and private cabins, as well as our space for group bookings and weddings.

Canmorealpinehostel.ca

Let's celebrate the work we do and the places we love. Join the ACC & ACMG to honor another year of mountain culture and adventure.

Tickets include:

- Entrance fee
- Belly-filling dinner
- One drink ticket
- Free shuttle to and from the event
- Games, presentations, and fireside chats
- Draw and auction prizes
- Live band and dancing
- A Summit Shaker BUFF
- A Summit Shaker sticker
- Drink samples from Wildlife Distillery

Everyone welcome! Get your tickets here:



Learn more at:

alpineclubofcanada.ca/summit-shaker-2024



View the 2024 HUT GUIDE

For a quick overview of your hut options:

alpineclubofcanada.ca/hut-resources



HUTS Member benefits

ACC members can reserve huts up to 180 days in advance, but ACC sections can reserve huts up to **one year in advance** (for full-hut bookings). If you'd like to plan a full-hut trip, contact your local section:

alpineclubofcanada.ca/community



Join us for the 2025 Hatteras GMC

Since 1906 the ACC has hosted a General Mountaineering Camp (GMC) each summer. In 2025, we are excited to be exploring from a base in the Hatteras Group in the Purcells of British Columbia.

Explore the Hatteras Group with us!

- A week-long mountaineering experience tailored to your preferences and goals.
- Connection to the ACC community and unforgettable memories.
- A purpose-built basecamp accessed by helicopter.
- All of your meals prepared by on-site cooks.

Register and learn more at:

alpineclubofcanada.ca/adventures-gmc-2025

GEAR Member benefits

Thanks to our partnership with The North Face, all members receive 50% off apparel and 40% off TNF gear. Spend up to \$2,000, twice a year!

Sign up for your pro deal at:
thenorthfacepro.com/pro



We want to fund your next adventure!

The club annually provides over \$10,000 to members through our grants program. Have a great adventure or environmental project in mind? Don't miss the end of January deadline!

Apply at:

alpineclubofcanada.ca/acc-grants



Celebrating our people

Volunteers are the heart and soul of our club: let's show them some love! Nominate a legend from your section by December 31, 2024.

Nominate a volunteer:

alpineclubofcanada.ca/volunteer-awards

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YETI BUILT FOR THE WILD.

Call for Nominations: Alpine Club of Canada Board of Directors Election 2025

The Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) is seeking nominations for three positions on our Board of Directors for the upcoming 2025 election. Each year, three of the nine positions on the Board are elected for three-year terms. Following the results of the 2024 election announced at the club's Annual General Meeting in May, we are now preparing for the 2025 election.

Positions Available for Election in 2025:

- President
- Secretary
- Vice-President for Activities

This is an excellent opportunity to deepen your involvement with the ACC and contribute to the strategic direction of the club. We are looking for qualified individuals who are passionate about the ACC's mission and eager to make a difference.

Alpine Club of Canada Nomination Committee

How to apply:

Interested members should review the application requirements on the ACC website and complete the online application process by **October 31, 2024**.

Get involved, make a difference, and help shape the future of The Alpine Club of Canada!

Appel à candidatures au conseil d'administration du Club alpin du Canada de 2025

Le Club alpin du Canada (CAC) recherche des candidatures pour trois postes au sein de son conseil d'administration pour la prochaine élection de 2025. Chaque année, trois des neuf postes du conseil sont élus pour des périodes de trois ans. À la suite des résultats de l'élection de 2024 annoncée au cours de l'assemblée générale annuelle du club en mai, nous préparons à présent les élections de 2025.

Les postes disponibles pour l'élection de 2025 sont :

- Président
- Secrétaire
- Vice-Président aux activités

Il s'agit d'une excellente occasion d'approfondir votre implication dans le CAC et de participer à sa direction stratégique. Nous sommes en quête de personnes compétentes, passionnées par la mission du CAC et désireuses de faire une différence.

Le conseil d'administration du Club alpin du Canada

Comment s'inscrire :

Les membres intéressés doivent prendre connaissance des conditions de candidature sur le site Web du CAC et avoir complété leur inscription en ligne **le 31 octobre 2024**.

Impliquez-vous, changez les choses et aidez à former l'avenir du Club alpin du Canada!



[alpineclubofcanada.ca/
call-for-nominations-acc-board-of-
directors-election-2025](https://alpineclubofcanada.ca/call-for-nominations-acc-board-of-directors-election-2025)

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2024 ACC AWARDS

HERITAGE AWARDS



Every year, the ACC celebrates members who have been with the club for 25, 35 and 50 years. We present these members an official lapel pin along with an official certificate (for 25 and 35 year members) or a wall plaque (for 50 year members).

Since 2023, 51 members have reached the 25-year milestone, 10 members have reached the 35-year mark, and 3 have become members of the 50-year Heritage Club!

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO OUR NEW HERITAGE CLUB MEMBERS LISTED BELOW.

50 YEARS

Gouin Barford
Liz Fricke
Tony Fricke

35 YEARS

Paul Bechard
Christine Edworthy
Ron Goodson
Valerie Kerr
Greg Osborne
Susan Rogerson
Michael Teekens
Bruce Veidt
Darrell Vercammen
Laura Wardlaw

25 YEARS

Susan Andrew
Barbara Baker
Irene Balutis
Ken Baxter
Alexandre Beaupré
Katharine Bill
Jim Bourgeois
Shana Boyd
Steven Boyd
Nick Buda
Jennifer Chikoski
Sheldon Clare
Chris Clark
Patrick Clarke
Aaron Cosbey
Todd Craig
David Cross

Henry Czenczek
Daniel Dufresne
Monica Durigon
Andre Fabbri
Sarah Fabbri
Sim Galloway
Rachel Gauk
Philippe Gauthier
Peter Holton
Terri Hunter
Garth Irwin
Kathy Kalinowsky
Doug Latimer
David Lee
Gordon Lindenberg
Suzanne MacLean
Lorraine McCormack

Gabrielle Meszaros
Pierre Moisan
Jackie O'Reilly
Grant Pearce
David Potkins
Chris Power
Lynn Rainboth
Doug Rennie
Jane Gahan Rennie
Michael Ross
Peter Shipton
Sandy Fransham
Tess Sansom
Lucy Stad
Ginette Traversy
Arnie Wilson

2024 ACC GRANT RECIPIENTS

With contributions from many generous donors, The Alpine Club of Canada has established funds to support mountaineering-related projects and initiatives. Support is provided in the form of annual cash grants and scholarships to individuals and groups who are judged as best meeting the selection criteria. Each year the ACC grants over \$15,000 through the grants listed below.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO OUR GRANT RECIPIENTS.

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR 2025 GRANTS WILL BE JANUARY 31, 2025.

JEN HIGGINS GRANT FOR YOUNG WOMEN

This 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.

Gabriella Clark and Amelia Caddy

Alpine First Female Ascents in the Selkirks: \$1,500

The three objectives of this project are: first free ascent and first female ascent of South Face, East Ridge of The Stickle; first ascent of North Ridge of Blackfriar East; and first ascent of North Ridge of Blackfriar West in the Selkirk Range of British Columbia.

Jasper Pankratz and Flavie Cardinal

Canadian Women in Northern Argentina: \$4,500

This group ventured into the largely underexplored granite walls of Turbio Valley in northern Argentina. Deep within this valley are large and vegetated Yosemite-like walls (Mariposa Valley) adjacent to sharp alpine granite spires (The Piritas). Their primary goals were to put up new routes on these walls as an all-female team, repeat some previously-climbed routes, and positively impact other young female climbers trying to push their climbing to the next level.

JIM COLPITTS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The financial costs of learning, developing and certifying mountaineering skills can be substantial, particularly for young people. Through the Jim Colpitts Memorial Scholarship, we aim to help out with those financial costs.

Flavie Cardinal

ACMG rock guide course: \$475

The rock guide course prepares student for a career in the technical rock guiding industry. It is a 9-day field-based training course that will take place in Canmore, AB. Flavie is 21 years old and living in Golden, BC. She is highly motivated to achieve her goal of becoming an ACMG guide and this grant is part of the first step towards achieving it.

Nyahoch Tut

Yamnuska Rock Climbing Level 3 Multi-Pitch Climbing: \$475

As an aspiring ACMG rock climbing guide and current outdoor hiking leader, this course will assist in Nyahoch's career goals, and instill a greater sense of confidence, independence, leadership, and responsibility.

KARL NAGY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established in 2001 to assist aspiring guides and volunteer leaders with skills development.

Tereza Turecka

GMC Spot: \$2,995

Tereza is working for Parks Canada Visitor Safety while chasing her dream of becoming the first Czech/Canadian female IFMGA guide. Through offering courses, she hopes to encourage other women to enter the outdoors and become more empowered through adventuring in the mountains. The knowledge and experience she gains at the GMC will contribute to her goal of entering the ACMG mountain guide stream.

JOHN LAUCLAN MEMORIAL AWARD

The John Lauchlan Memorial Award is a cash and mentorship award designed to assist Canadian climbers. The award exists to perpetuate the bold and adventurous spirit which John Lauchlan exemplified in his climbing exploits. Specifically, the award strives to promote the development of Canadian alpinists through the support of worthy expeditions and mountainous adventures in Canada and abroad. More information is available at JohnLauchlanAward.com. The ACC assists with the award administration.

Annual deadline to apply: January 30.

Tom Schindfessel

Huantsán Sur : \$5,000

The southeast face of Huantsán, second-highest summit in Peru's Cordillera Blanca, remains unclimbed and appears to offer some great mixed climbing opportunities on an aesthetic face. The west face of Ranrapalca, has seen only one ascent, and the high-quality granite of this peak makes for an appealing objective for a light and fast first-ascent and fly.

How to apply



Receive financial support for your mountain projects and initiatives!

Apply by December 31st, 2024
alpineclubofcanada.ca/grants

ACC ENVIRONMENT GRANT

The purpose of the grant is to provide support that contributes to the protection and preservation of mountain and climbing environments, including the preservation of alpine flora and fauna in their natural habitat.

Living Lakes Canada

High Elevation Monitoring Project: \$5,000

The data collected through the HE Monitoring Program will support climate modelling, watershed management solutions, adaptation strategies and decision-makers within the Canadian portion of the Columbia Basin, home to roughly 178,800 residents. The study areas will initially benefit three regional communities in the West Kootenays; New Denver, Silverton and Kaslo before providing information that can be extrapolated to infer more expansive insights across the wider Columbia Basin.

Hanna Davidson and a Research group working with the Alberta Mycological Society

Polyozellus in the Canadian Rockies: \$960

The project involves hiking to alpine elevations to determine the alpine range of an under-researched fungus, Polyozellus, which is edible and holds medicinal properties. This fungus has only been characterized from the coastal regions of Canada, and collections hold very few records of the fungus in alpine regions, and none at all in the Rockies, although it seems clear that the habitat is ideal. The project will take place from late July to early Sept of 2024, the fruiting season, and it will serve to characterize the biodiversity in this region, specifically for Polyozellus sp. which have never been searched for in Canada's Rockies.

VOLUNTEER AWARDS

The ACC Volunteer Awards recognize those members who have made significant contributions in furthering the aims and goals of the club and Canadian mountaineering in general. This year, please join us in recognizing the outstanding volunteers mentioned below.

DON FOREST SERVICE AWARD

Recipients of the Don Forest Service Award have contributed significant service to the club or a section over a minimum period of one to five years, such as:

- Joining a committee/project of the club or a section
- Contributing to a large ACC undertaking
- Furthering the activities of the club or a section

Uri Naprstek – Columbia Mountains

Luc Raymond – Montreal

Jacques Chevalier – Montreal

Leigh Freeman – Montreal

Mandana Amiri – Vancouver

Laura Darling – Vancouver

Lucas Stone – Edmonton

Mark Nielson – Great Plains

Josée Lavoie – Manitoba

Trisha Burch – St. Boniface

Duncan McColl – Edmonton

ERIC BROOKS LEADER AWARD

Members who have demonstrated a strong, consistent commitment to learn and apply technical and leadership skills in mountaineering or ski mountaineering on club or section-organized activities for a minimum of 1-5 years.

Jonathan Wolf – Edmonton

Sabrina Heywood – Great Plains

A.O. WHEELER LEGACY AWARD

The A.O. Wheeler Legacy Award is the highest honour given by the ACC to its members. It is awarded for outstanding and varied contributions to The Alpine Club of Canada over many years. This award includes Life Membership in the ACC.

Neil Bosch – Edmonton

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Members who have contributed outstanding service to the club or a section over a period exceeding five years:

- On a committee/project of the club or a section
- Providing leadership for a large undertaking or contributing towards the activities of the club or a section
- Been awarded the Don Forest Service Award prior to consideration for this award

Calvin Klatt – Ottawa & Toronto

Frank Spears – Prince George

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Honorary Membership is the highest recognition we offer for contributions to Canadian mountaineering and includes a life membership. It is presented to individuals with a strong and sustained commitment to the Canadian mountain environment and Canadian mountaineering.

Sylvia Forest - 2024 Summit Shaker patron



Volunteers are the heart and soul of our club. Season to season, day in and day out for over a century, volunteers run the sections, write articles, lead trips, protect the alpine environment and demonstrate their commitment to the club. Every season, and in every part of Canada, volunteer trip leaders take enthusiastic groups and new members on climbing, hiking and skiing outings. They are skilled, dedicated, giving and tireless. Without them there is simply no ACC.

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Photo by Jordan Manoukian



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alpineclubofcanada.ca/adventures

By Members, For Members

In 25 local sections across Canada, all year round, members of the ACC climb, ski, hike, go to the gym, clean up crags, build trails and gather for social events. From St. John's to Vancouver Island to the Yukon, thousands of club outings are run by volunteers each year.

What follows on these pages are stories of our club's members, in their own words, about an aspect of their section that is special to them. The settings for these stories range from big

mountains to short problems to firesides. They are proudly told by new members and old-timers, in English and in French. There are stories of climbing above glaciers, crash pads, lakes, forests, ice, and desert; in the high summer, deep winter, and all the cold-finger shoulder seasons in between.

Enjoy this snapshot of the many stories of the sections of The Alpine Club of Canada from coast to coast to coast. — ACC



BOULDER NIGHT

by Lara Witt and Tyler Fountain

After lying dormant during the COVID19 pandemic, the Newfoundland and Labrador section of the ACC experienced a revitalization throughout 2023. The fresh, keen executive members organized a plethora of incredible events during the active seasons, notably an outdoor climbing mentorship program for youth and two roped climbing festivals at popular NL crags which saw record-breaking attendance. After polling members to assess what types of events were of further interest, the harness-clad executives were surprised by the response: the community was raring for opportunities to get out bouldering.

Boulder Night, a weekly evening outdoor bouldering session for ACC members, was initiated by Section Representative Madison Bailey. These events welcomed a diverse community of mixed beginner and veteran climbers, creating an environment where beginners are invited to take their first vertical steps while learning from seasoned pebble wrestlers. These events also enabled members of the community to become familiar with many of the popular bouldering areas and contribute to first ascents in newer locations that are currently in the process of being developed, in big part thanks to long-time community member and local legend Nick Collins (Uncle Nick).

Newfoundland and Labrador are beautiful during the short summer months, but these rapidly surrender to a long, grey, wet, and windy shoulder season. Climbers in NL often find opportunities to get outside year-round, regardless of conditions. The tenacity of the NL climbing community was demonstrated during our first boulder night session, when climbers showed up stoked and ready to send at an overhanging ocean-side crag amidst drizzling rain and seeping problems. No big deal, several veterans to NL bouldering brought extra chalk and towels for drying off holds and wiping the slime off one's shoes before taking down projects. As the temperatures dipped with the progression of the evening, spirits soared while attendees enjoyed swapping beta, sharing snacks, snapping pictures in the floodlights, and building relationships.

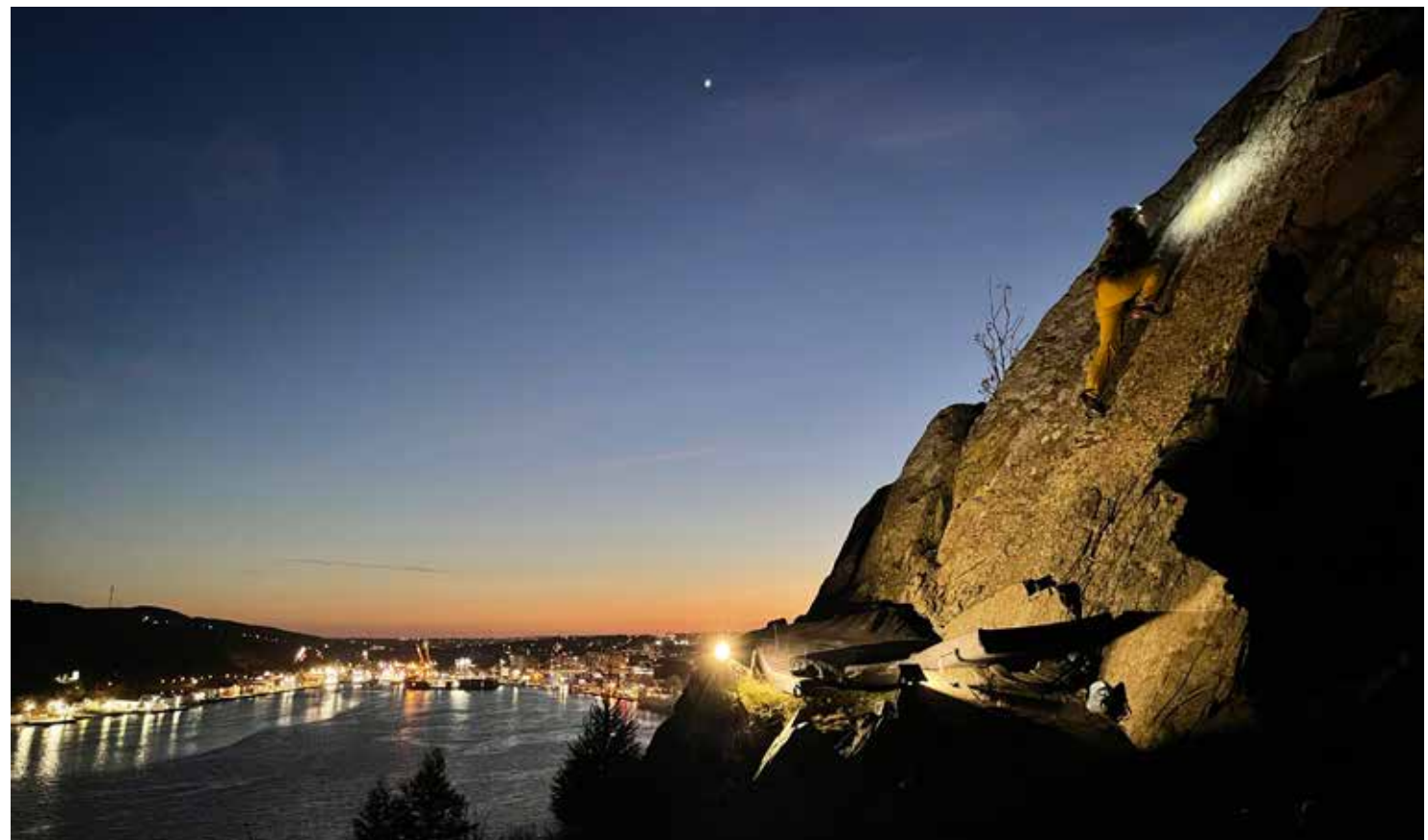
Top, this page: From left Remy Ouellet, Uncle Nick, and Lara Witt warm their fingers on a chilly November evening between burns.

Bottom, this page: Uncle Nick relaxes by the camp stove under his recently developed (and tarped) boulder in Portugal Cove-St. Philip's.

Top, facing page: Uncle Nick crushing at the Vacation Boulders. Remy Ouellet in the background.

Bottom, facing page: Lara Witt topping out at Signal Hill overlooking St. John's Harbour.

Photos Tyler Fountain.



Advertisements for Boulder Night always included the stipulation that, if the weather were to be too unruly, we would instead meet at The Cove, our local bouldering gym. However, Boulder Night always went ahead, outdoors, in all types of exciting, inclement weather. During autumn, as rain pounded the Avalon Peninsula, the Boulder Night trip leaders set up tarps on various problems to keep them dry, making everyone feel like they were projecting the famous 9A Finnish boulder problem Burden of Dreams. When temperatures dropped into the negatives, they were facetiously labeled “send temps” and attendees would gather around the portable wood stove between climbs. The wood stove was our very own NL version of the fingertip fan, keeping the fingertips perfused and rubber sticky (aid?).

In mid-December, the East Avalon was covered in a thick blanket of snow and brittle sheets of ice. After one frigid session where the wind nearly ripped the tarp off the boulder we were huddled beneath, we decided to end boulder nights for the season lest we have to start bringing our ice tools, crampons, and a fifth layer of pants.

As the seasons changed in NL, boulderers across the Avalon emerged from their winter training retreats, eager to test themselves and tear their winter-softened fingertips on the jagged crimps and gritty slopers of our outdoor boulders. And once again, our Boulder Nights provided our members with an adventurous, supportive, and stoke-heavy space for everyone to enjoy the incredible and unique climbing that The Rock has to offer. — ACC

L'AVENTURE DES SOIRÉES AVENTURES

par Emma Glorioso-Deraiche

Tout a commencé par une idée un peu folle pendant la traversée du Rockwall l'été dernier. Que pouvait faire la section de Montréal pour se revitaliser, retrouver la communauté et se trouver une distinction et un revenu autre que Keene Farm? C'est souvent sur un sentier que je réfléchis le mieux; l'immensité du spectacle devant moi libère mes pensées.

Je construis le projet rapidement dans ma tête : créer une série d'événements où des aventuriers viendraient raconter leurs expéditions et leurs aventures. On appellerait ça les Soirées Aventures. Je voulais que ces soirées soient intimes afin que les membres puissent avoir une activité sociale qui leur permettrait de rêver en partageant un verre.

Encore fallait-il trouver un espace pour tenir une série d'événements! Nos sections sont des OBNL et nous avons peu de moyens pour défrayer les coûts d'une salle, surtout de manière récurrente. C'est en effectuant plusieurs recherches, courriels et appels que j'ai pu trouver le Brouhaha, un bar qui nous prêterait une salle gratuitement, compte tenu du statut de notre organisme. Il fallait dès lors trouver le premier aventurier qui voudrait faire une présentation. Il m'a été facile d'écrire à Samuel Lalande Markon, aventurier québécois, pour lui lancer le projet. Il a acquiescé rapidement, désirant nous faire l'épopée de son expédition Transboréale, et une fois le projet entériné par l'exécutif, notre première édition débutait.

Le succès de cette première soirée a conquis nos membres, en plus de faire découvrir le Club alpin à des non-membres. Nous avons reçu de nouvelles inscriptions à la section de Montréal depuis et de fidèles adeptes de ces soirées qui les attendent avec impatience. Comme l'a dit un de nos membres, ces soirées travaillent à changer l'opinion tenace que nous serions un club anglophone et un peu guindé. De la Dempster Highway au Kilimandjaro, de l'Antarctique au Cap Wolstenholme, en vélo, à pied ou en ski, ces aventuriers nous amènent vers des contrées que nous osons à peine rêver.

Nous faisons rayonner le Québec et le talent de nos aventuriers. Je croyais qu'il serait ardu de trouver des conférenciers, surtout sans le budget pour les payer à leur plein tarif. Pourtant, le projet les stimule et ils répondent avec enthousiasme. Caroline Côté, aventurière, expéditrice et réalisatrice a rapidement accepté l'offre, exprimant qu'il manquait des soirées comme celles-ci au Québec. C'est avec simplicité, humilité et fierté qu'elle nous a offert, le temps d'une soirée, un moment d'évasion; d'Hercules Inlet au pôle Sud en ski.

S'asseoir avec un aventurier, discuter de l'équipement qu'il utilise, demander des conseils pour une expédition similaire et trinquer aux exploits et aux folies mutuelles, voilà à quoi répondent ces soirées. — CAC



Photo Marie-France l'Écuyer

THE SOIRÉES AVENTURES ADVENTURE

by Emma Glorioso-Deraiche

It all began last summer with a crazy idea while crossing the Rockwall. What could the Montreal Section do to revitalize itself, to reconnect with the community and to find distinction and income beyond Keene Farm? Being on a trail helps me think; the immensity of the landscape before me frees my thoughts.

The project started taking shape in my head: to create a series of events where adventurers would come and share their adventures and experiences. We'd call them "Soirées Aventures." I wanted these Adventure Evenings to be intimate so that members could enjoy a social activity that would allow them to dream while sharing a drink.

But we still had to find a place to hold our events! The Montreal Section is a non-profit and we don't have the means to cover the costs of hall rentals, especially on a recurring basis. After much research, many emails and phone calls, I was able to find Le Brouhaha, a bar that would let us have a room for free, given our non-profit status.

The next step was to find the first adventurer willing to present. I wrote to Samuel Lalande Markon, a Quebec adventurer, and told him about the project. Wanting to share his epic trans-boreal expedition, he quickly agreed, and once the executive committee approved the project, our first Adventure Evening began.

The success of this first evening won over our members and introduced them to some newcomers. We've had a number of new registrations for the Montreal Section since then, and many loyal followers who look forward to our meetings. As one of our members put it, these evenings help change the persistent opinion that we are a stiff, English-only club. From the Dempster Highway to Kilimanjaro, Antarctica to Cape Wolstenholme, by bike, on foot or on skis, these adventurers take us to lands we could hardly dream of.

We promote Quebec and the talent of our adventurers. I thought it would be hard to find speakers, especially without the budget to pay them their full fee. But the project is stimulating, and they respond with tremendous enthusiasm. Caroline Côté, an adventurer and a filmmaker, was quick to accept the offer, expressing her belief that evenings like these in Quebec were past due. With simplicity, humility and pride, she presented us with an evening of escapism, a story of skiing from Hercules Inlet to the South Pole.

To sit back with an adventurer and discuss the equipment they use, asking for advice about similar expeditions, and to raise a toast to each other's exploits and follies, that's what these evenings are all about. — ACC

LA PETITE HISTOIRE DE LA PAROI D'ESCALADE LONESTAR

par Nancy Roy Malo et Sébastien Déry

La découverte, automne 2022, Notre-Dame de Bonsecours, Québec. Ce petit chemin boisé, nous l'avions emprunté des dizaines de fois cet été-là, afin de travailler sur un petit site un peu plus loin.

Ce jour-là, alors que les arbres perdaient leurs couleurs en même temps que leur parure, nous revenions, fourbus mais heureux, d'une journée de travail particulièrement productive. Rien ne laissait présager une telle découverte mais alors qu'il se tournait vers moi, Sébastien remarqua un éclat de pierre grise entre les troncs quasi dégarnis qui bordaient le fossé. En grand passionné qu'il est, il me dit :

Nancy! Je pense que j'ai vu de la roche, on va voir de plus près?

Oui, allons-y!

Dis-je un peu à contre-cœur, mettant de côté l'idée de la douche chaude qui m'attendait. Il ne fallut pas marcher longtemps pour se retrouver nez à nez avec une dalle magnifique, d'une trentaine de mètres de hauteur, juste assez pentue pour être accessible à tous et suffisamment fissurée pour être grimpée en escalade traditionnelle.

S'en suivit toutes sortes de démarches afin de trouver du financement pour nous procurer le matériel nécessaire et des centaines d'heures de travail à créer, nettoyer et équiper les voies, les zones d'assurages et les sentiers.

Sont nées de ce travail de belles collaborations, notamment avec la section Outaouais qui a permis des activités telles que l'ouverture officielle de Lonestar, le tout premier site d'escalade naturel dans la Petite-Nation qui a eu lieu le 14 mai 2023 ainsi



Ci dessous: Sébastien (à gauche, en casque jaune) distribue l'équipement aux participants du Jour de la découverte. Nancy est à l'arrière-plan, près du panneau.

À droite: Le Jour de la découverte fut un grand succès auprès des familles avec jeunes enfants.

Photos Francois Bessette

que la journée d'initiation du 27 avril 2024 où les membres du Club alpin du Canada, section Outaouais, ont organisé une journée « découverte de l'escalade ». Grâce au dévouement des membres, 120 personnes ont pu découvrir les valeurs du club et notre passion pour l'escalade et le plein air.

Évidemment, nous avons été choyés de recevoir l'aide de Bernard, Frédérick, Victor, Graeme, Dominique, Geneviève et Nicolas afin de nettoyer les voies avec nous.

La création du **GOFUND.ME** (<https://gofund.me/53a86de2>) nous a également permis d'équiper le site avec des scellements durables à l'époxy ainsi que des anneaux de rappel sur chacune des voies. A ce jour, 69 généreux donateurs nous ont permis d'amasser \$5040 et le tout est réinvesti intégralement dans l'achat du matériel de paroi fixe dans notre région. — CAC



THE LAUNCH OF THE LONESTAR CLIMBING WALL

By Nancy Roy Malo and Sébastien Déry

We had walked this little wooden path near Notre-Dame de Bonsecours, QB dozens of times that summer on our way to work on another small site a bit further beyond.

In the autumn of 2022, as the trees were losing their colour as well as their finery, we were returning, exhausted but happy, from a particularly productive day's work when Sébastien made an unexpected discovery. As he was turning towards me, he noticed a sliver of grey stone amongst the almost-bald tree trunks lining the ditch. Ever the enthusiast, he said "Nancy! I think I've seen some rock, shall we take a closer look?"

I followed somewhat reluctantly (my hot shower would have to wait). After a short walk we faced a magnificent slab, some 30 metres high, just steep enough to be accessible to all abilities and cracked enough for traditional climbing.

Facing page: Sébastien (left, yellow helmet) distributes the equipment to the participants of the Discovery Day. Nancy is in the background near the sign.

This page: Discovery Day was very popular with families with young children.

Photos Francois Bessette

We began to fundraise for the necessary equipment and recruit volunteers for the hundreds of hours of work that would be required to create, clean and equip the routes, belay areas, and trails. We were blessed to have the help of Bernard, Frédérick, Victor, Graeme, Dominique, Geneviève and Nicolas who cleaned the routes with us.

Great collaborations came from this work, especially with the Outaouais Section, which has enabled activities such as the official opening of Lonestar, as well as a "Discovery Day."

When it was officially opened on May 14, 2023, Lonestar became the very first trad climbing site in the Petite-Nation region. For Discovery Day, April 27, 2024, members of the Outaouais Section hosted 120 people of all ages who were introduced to the club's values and passion for climbing and the outdoors.

A **GoFundMe** site (<https://gofund.me/53a86de2>) also enabled us to equip the site with durable epoxy seals and rappel rings on every route. To this day, 69 generous donors helped us raise \$5,040, all of which is being reinvested in the purchase of fixed-wall equipment in our region. — ACC

A MONTH IN THE LIFE

ACC OTTAWA RECOGNIZES OUR VOLUNTEER TRIP LEADERS

By Bill Barrett

There aren't any big mountains around Ottawa but there are many places for our members to climb, scramble, hike and ski. Our section event calendar is busy, and we are proud of the committed volunteers who lead the activities for our members; last year there were 157 days with ACC Ottawa activities! Here is a look at what the section got up to over the course of one month in the spring of 2024.

On May 23 and 24, our climbing coordinators Eric Armstrong and Andrew Robbins organized two beginner days to give a chance for 20, mainly gym climbers to move their skills outdoors. That same weekend, Andy Adler took a small group on a hike on the Great Range Trail in the Adirondacks and a dozen members headed to the Adirondacks for a weekend of trad multi-pitch climbing organized by Graeme Knight. That weekend was followed up by a Monday evening indoor climbing session. Lori Stratyckuk is at Altitude Gym every week and she organizes the dozen or more members who show up.

The next weekend saw a busy Sunday: Emma Lindsey and Sam Hem led a day of bouldering at Otter Pond, Calabogie, Nicole Forder and Doug Fleck organized a day of multi-pitch trad at Lac Tucker, a freshly opened crag an hour north of the city, and Geoff Roulet led a hike in Frontenac Park. The next day, 15 of us showed up for Monday evening gym climbing; and Tuesday was our Volunteer Appreciation evening—more on that below.

On Wednesday, June 12, section members were invited to a presentation by Pat Morrow hosted by the Austrian Embassy and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society where Pat recounted the life of Austrian Canadian alpine guide Conrad Kain. On June 16, ten members climbed at Bowman, a crag an hour north of Ottawa, and on June 23 another group of ten enjoyed climbing at



Above: Pitchhoff Cliff, Adirondacks trad weekend. Photo Nicole Forder

Top right: Monday night gym crew. Photo Lori Stratyckuk

Bottom right: Lac Tucker trad day. Photo Chieko Hashimoto



Montagne d'Argent, a climbing area near Mont Tremblant. Shoutout to Qudoos Chaudry who organized both of these climbing days.

Hike-A-Palooza, one of our biggest annual events, took place June 21 to 23. Thirty members braved a rainy forecast and headed to ACC Montreal's Keene Farm for a weekend of hiking and scrambling in the Adirondack Mountains. Saturday evening, we gathered for a chili supper and campfire. Thanks to Grant Blanchard for organizing.

ACC Ottawa's version of Bon Echo 101 took place the final weekend of June. This weekend pairs up experienced leaders with members who want to try out multi-pitch trad climbing. People camp at the ACC Toronto campground and are ferried to their climbs on the section's boat. The cliff rises 100 metres above Mazinaw Lake and gives members their first experience with significant exposure and run-out climbing. Thanks to Andrew Pohran for organizing. On Saturday, members also headed out for a day of multi-pitch climbing at Calabogie's Skywalk cliff.

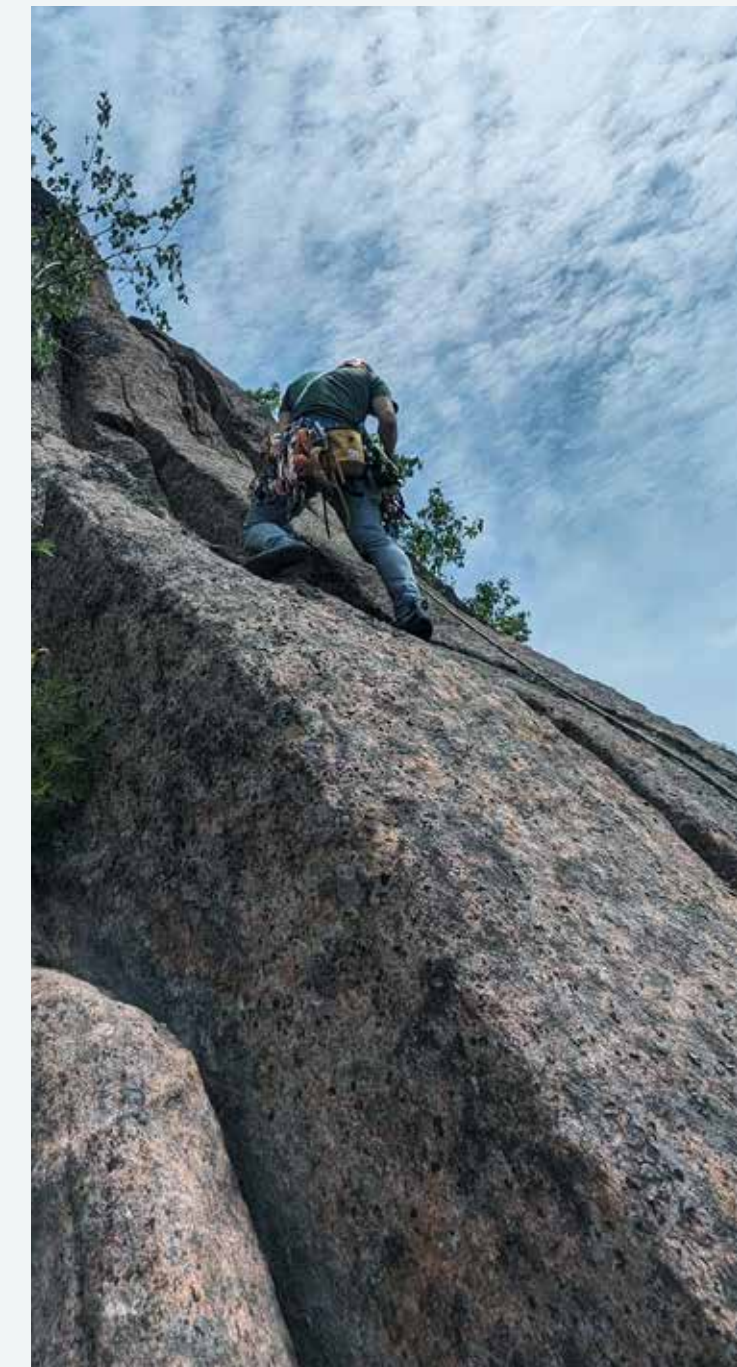
Wow! A lot of stuff for Ottawa Section members to do—and none of this can happen without our volunteers.

The Volunteer Appreciation evening—organized by social coordinators Cynthia Modjeski and Elfrieda Bock—was held on June 4 for our volunteers that make all this happen. It was good to come together and express our gratitude, share some laughs and plant some seeds for future trips with ACC Ottawa friends. We invited 40 section volunteers who led trips in 2023, including many who had organized multiple trips or longer events.

We also had the opportunity to acknowledge Calvin Klatt's

years of volunteering with the ACC as well as his recent honour of receiving the ACC's Distinguished Service Award. Calvin has served on the leadership teams of both Ottawa and Toronto sections over the past 30 years. Among other things, Calvin hosts socials, serves as a Bon Echo hut custodian, and has organized trips, including several to Nepal.

The Ottawa Section began offering adventures in 1949 and the spirit of volunteer leadership lives on today. A glimpse into our events calendar gives you an idea why it is a great community to be a part of! — ACC



THERE IS CLIMBING, AND THERE IS BON ECHO CLIMBING

by Danielle Beaton and Mark Hurst



For those who do not know, Bon Echo Rock, the “Canadian Gibraltar”, is a sheer 100-metre granite face rising from the depths of Lake Mazinaw in Southern Ontario. It was first climbed by a quartet from The Alpine Club of Canada in the Fall of 1956 in a feat that was witnessed by local cottagers who, no doubt, were awed and baffled in equal measure by the spectacle.

From that day to the present, the route these climbers opened, Birthday Ridge, is the traditional first route – a rite of passage – for new Bon Echo climbers. First timers also discover everything that the ACC Toronto Section has to offer: a hut with camping and cooking; a sauna by the lakeshore; boat hop-on, hop-off delivery along the cliff; and a sociable and supportive atmosphere as newbies experience the cliff for the first time.

A long-standing tradition of the Toronto Section is the Bon Echo 101 weekend, when climbers who are new to trad climbing are chaperoned by experienced climbers who introduce them to this beautiful area. This year’s event was held June 2nd and 3rd, with the week’s hut custodian Rob Leblanc teaming up 26 participants with 13 experienced climbers.

As Tanya Gradyuk says, “Climbing at Bon Echo is an adventure right from the beginning, starting at the public dock where you meet the custodian for pickup, then cruise past the impressive cliff face before arriving at the ACC hut to set up camp and get ready for a weekend of trad climbing.”

Josefina Vera put it best after her climbing partner, Nicolas Hormazabal, led his first trad route: “Climbing at Bon Echo was breathtaking, with the cliff rising straight out of the lake, varied routes, and excellent rock quality. We were absolutely stoked! The beautiful setting, quality time with other climbers, and completion of our first trad multi-pitch made it unforgettable. The achievement and the realization that we could safely access such places, thanks to the ACC and their mentors, has created so many new climbing possibilities.”

Of the 120 routes described in the guidebook, more than 30 of them are popular classics, ranging in difficulty from 5.0 to 5.11. Which brings up something that all newbies come to learn no matter what their climbing experience; the route grades here are ever so slightly sandbagged, so take care when looking for something fun and challenging.

Above, left: Cynthia Chung negotiates the notorious Step Across on Front of the Pinnacle. Photo Mark Hurst.

Above, right: Rob LeBlanc ferries climbers to their next adventure. Photo Mark Hurst.

Irrespective of whether a route is “5.easy” or “5.hard”, they are all “5.fun”, as Owen O’Neill discovered after his first ever lead on Birthday Ridge was followed by several more. “It felt like climbing into the unknown, hoping - sometimes pleading - that I would find a gear placement within the next 10 feet. Sometimes I was able to, and sometimes, much to my dismay, I had to keep marching upwards, hoping for the best.” He decided that, as rope gun, the ratio of fear-to-stoke was a helpful guide for his decision making.

Having been sport climbing for years, Lisa Knight experienced the 101 as “an adventure summer camp for adults”, forming instant friendships while testing herself on “long routes with sweet traverses and polish-free granite, before returning for swimming, sauna, beers and a campfire back at the hut”.

By the end of the weekend, this year’s set of initiates found that a new world of climbing had been opened for them. Along the way, they also learned to do as their mentors do: use two ropes, wear a helmet, carry lots of gear, and enjoy the winding routes on rock features offering exposure and interesting movement over the same holds used by those first four climbers decades before.

At the end of the weekend, you hop on the boat again for a return trip to the dock. On-route, while admiring the beauty, a thought arises: farewell till next time.

Join us in 2025 for the next Bon Echo 101 weekend... — ACC

EXPERIENCE THROUGH KNOWLEDGE & OPPORTUNITY

Words and photos by Frank Pianka

Thunder Bay Section Representative

The enthusiasm of a group of students from the outdoor recreation program at Lakehead University during the late seventies eventually led to what would become the Thunder Bay Section of the ACC. Along the way, hundreds of beginners have explored climbing with the TBAY Section and our list of alumni includes

Sean Isaac, guidebook author, climbing guide and current editor of the Canadian Alpine Journal; Bryce Brown, and Scott Kress who are both Mt. Everest summiters; Jaret Slip, who would go on to found the club's section in the Yukon; and Toby Harper who has served on the club's national board of directors.

It became evident that what our section was best at was creating opportunities for members to share knowledge and build their experience base, so we adopted the motto "Experience through Knowledge and Opportunity."

Through the years, beginning climbers have had access to club gear for both rock and ice climbing, as well as volunteer leaders who organize events and run them in a way that puts safety above everything else.

Having a few professional educators in our core group of leaders has undoubtedly helped sustain the section. It's hard to stop a keen teacher from organizing more struc-

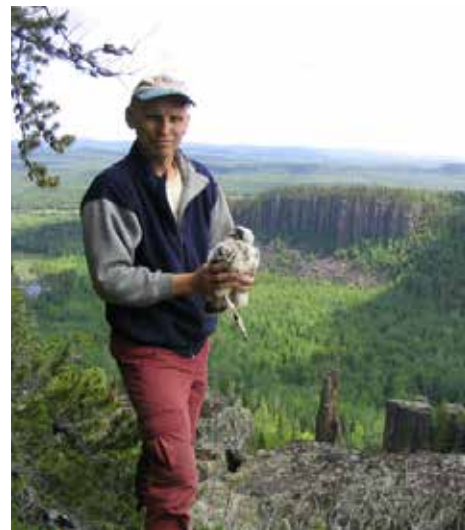
tured classroom courses or workshops and our members have benefited from courses such as Field Physics, Land Navigation, Aid/Sport/Trad Climbing, Bolting Technology, and more. Where specialists are appropriate, we've brought them in to teach High Angle Rescue, Wilderness First Aid, and Leadership.

As is likely the case with other ACC sections, our challenge over the years has been the retention of these leaders, and the development of the next generation of leaders to mentor the next crop of newbies.

A unique experience with the Thunder Bay Section, and a learning opportunity that

We are excited about working with a new generation of volunteer leaders who can build on our work.

many have described as one of the best of their lives, was our section's participation in "Project Peregrine." A joint effort involving our section, The Thunder Bay Field Naturalists, the Lakehead University faculty of Outdoor Recreation, and Parks and Tourism, the project ran for twenty-one years for two weeks at the end of June.



Above: Biologist Brian Ratcliff with just banded peregrine falcon chick and classic rock climb, "Dorion Tower" in the background.

Top right: Leo Tardiff ready to feed Thunder Bay Section beginner ice climbing clinic participants at Eagle Canyon Ice Park.

Middle right: Diane McNicol joined the Thunder Bay Section and learned the ropes so she could fulfill her dream of standing atop Dorion Tower.

Bottom right: Intermediate ice climbing overnighter at "The Royal Windsor Lodge," (lol) Orient Bay.



Our members worked with biologists to set up high-angle access and rappel cliffs to retrieve Peregrine falcon chicks from their aeries so the chicks could be banded, and samples could be collected from nests. The chicks were, of course, returned to their nests. This was always an exhilarating experience, and over the span of the project, more than five hundred chicks were banded.



If there is one thing that has sustained the Thunder Bay Section over the years and allowed us to maintain a cache of equipment, run events and courses with little or no cost to members, invest in leader development, and support the aims and objectives of the ACC, it has been our hosting of the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour. When this began a few decades ago, we suggested that other ACC sections follow our lead and there's little doubt that this decision, despite the work involved, is one of the best our section has ever made.

We are excited about working with a new generation of volunteer leaders who can build on our work, as we begin to pass the torches in Thunder Bay. — ACC



A TALE OF TWO SECTIONS: MANITOBA & SAINT BONIFACE

Photos and story by Ray Hope



In the heart of Winnipeg, two ACC sections have cultivated a vibrant climbing community, each with its unique heritage and offerings. The Manitoba Section, established in 1906 alongside the ACC itself, has long been a pillar of the mountaineering and climbing scene. Over the decades, it has organized countless trips to the mountains and local crags, offering outdoor climbing, hiking, skiing, and mountaineering adventures. One of its most celebrated events is the annual Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour, attracting over 2,000 attendees.

Meanwhile, the Saint Boniface Section joined the ACC in the 1990s. This section has its roots in travelling to French-speaking communities around Winnipeg and introducing them to climbing with a portable wall. Over time, the section upgraded to a permanent 60-foot tower in Saint Boniface. Equipped with gym climbing holds in summer, and with an emphasis on 'gym to crag' that's unique from other climbing gyms in the area, and then transformed into a Grade 4-5 ice climbing structure in winter, the tower has become a local landmark.

Despite their distinct histories, these two sections share a common passion for climbing, particularly ice climbing. Collaborative ice climbing trips to destinations like Sandstone, Minnesota, and Thunder Bay have forged a strong bond between the sections. However, their most significant joint venture is the annual ice festival held in Laclu, Ontario.





Previous page: 2024 IceFest participants.

Facing page, top: Toilet paper exchange—testing our walking stick prowess.

Middle left: Delicious homemade chili on the fire.

Middle: Paul Monney gets the lake water flowing—let the icing begin!

Middle right: Ashton Beaupré creates waterfall works of art!

Bottom: Trisha Burch launches the day's activities.

This page: Erica Veenstra and Kasia Dyszy prove two heads are better than one.



The story of this festival begins with Paul Monney, an industrious climber with a vision. Recognizing the scarcity of natural ice climbing near Winnipeg, Paul conceived the idea of "farming" ice on a cliff in Northwestern Ontario. He enlisted the help of his friend Ashton Beaupré and a few others, setting their sights on a north-facing rock face known as South Cliff at Gooseneck Lake. This cliff, once popular for rock climbing, had fallen into disuse, making it an ideal candidate for their project.

Each winter, Paul and his team would haul gear and tents to the cliff, camping in harsh conditions as they pumped water from the lake to the top to create the ice formations. The early years were grueling, with little external support as the team honed their ice farming techniques. Despite the hardships, their efforts were not in vain. They were not only forming ice but also building a legacy within the climbing community.

After several hard winters of trial and error farming ice, Paul acquired a cabin on Laclu. From his new vantage point, he noticed another promising cliff across the lake. A short 15-minute walk across the frozen lake led to what would become the main and pillar cliffs. The latter, with its natural overhangs, allowed the team to create stunning ice pillars. These new ice formations quickly became a focal point for local climbers and an attraction for the community, who would stop by to watch the climbers in action.

In 2021, the Manitoba and Saint Boniface sections of the ACC decided to collaborate with Paul Monney to host an ice festival at Laclu. The Laclu IceFest has since grown in popularity, drawing over 25 participants each year. The most recent event even featured a winter survival clinic hosted by Mountain Equipment Company (MEC), adding another layer of excitement and learning for attendees.

This family-friendly festival is more than just a climbing event; it's a celebration of community and the shared love for the outdoors. Climbers from both sections come together to challenge themselves on the ice, share stories around the campfire, and forge lasting friendships. Some participants choose to brave the winter cold and camp on the ice overnight, adding an extra layer of adventure and camaraderie. The success of the festival is a testament to the power of collaboration and to the spirit of adventure that defines the ACC.



As the festival continues to grow, it promises to become a cornerstone event for climbers in the region. The story of its inception and growth serves as an inspiration to climbers and adventurers everywhere, reminding us that with passion, creativity, and collaboration, even the most ambitious dreams can become reality. These two sections are not just shaping ice; they are shaping the future of climbing in Winnipeg and beyond. Event organizers Ray and Jackie Hope, Trisha Burch and Charles Roy look forward to continuing growing the event and to inspiring others to take on leadership roles within this incredible community. — ACC



ENGAGING FAMILIES IN MOUNTAIN PURSUITS

THE GREAT PLAINS SECTION 2024 FAMILY TRIP

by Jennifer Arends, family trip parent, participant, and leader

How do we provide opportunities for families in a young and growing section? How do we instill in our children a love for the mountains?

These are some of the questions that led the Great Plains Section (GPS) of The Alpine Club of Canada to embark on its first family climbing trip in July 2024.

The GPS, based in Regina and serving members in southern Saskatchewan, is a growing community of approximately 120 members. Historically focused on adult climbing trips, we are working to diversify our offerings considering the unique needs of our “flatlander” members.

Out of this introspection, an idea was born: to organize a family-focused climbing trip that would get our kids outdoors on real rock while simultaneously giving parents an opportunity to climb within a community of families.

The response to the idea was strong and swift: ten different family units (including 13 children ranging in age from nine months to 14 years) convened near Nordegg, AB for two days of climbing and adventuring in the David Thompson Corridor. Climbing in the area is well protected, of moderate grade, and very accessible to children, and the David Thompson Climbing Association does a beautiful job of maintaining routes and producing its climbing guidebooks.

We stayed together at a provincial group campsite, complete with a cooking shelter, communal fire pit, toilets, wide open green spaces, and nearby campground store and drinking water. The site was in close proximity to Fish Lake, which provided swimming and paddling opportunities. The location was ideal, providing comfort and flexibility for our families.

Top: Olivia (9), Fiona (9), Zoe (5), and Malcolm (11) cooling off in Fish Lake after a day of climbing. Photo Marusha Orthner

Middle: Eliza (4), Olivia (9), and Zoe (5) heroically carrying the ropes for their parents. Photo Mike Orthner

Bottom: Trip leader Justin setting up a nice little crack climb for the kids. Photo Casey Marshall

Far right: Scarlett (12) showing the grownups how it's done. Photo Casey Marshall

The group divided in half on climbing days, with one larger group of older children and three leaders selecting crags with longer approaches, and a second group of younger children and two leaders choosing a combination of child- and parent-appropriate climbs. All children over the age of four climbed, and the wee ones had opportunities to play and nap while their parents enjoyed the rare opportunity to don a harness. The groups had longer days at the crags than we anticipated, a testament to how much fun everyone was having. For most of the children, it was their first time climbing outside.

At the end of our Saturday climbing day, we gathered for a group meal, and the kids enjoyed an evening of rock painting and play. Our weather was excellent, and many participants chose hot Sunday afternoon to cool off in Fish Lake.

Trip participant Marusha, whose husband and two children accompanied her, explained that “Climbing with experienced group leaders gave the girls (me included) a sense of security and safety and boosted their confidence in their climbing abilities. This trip has sparked a love of outdoor climbing in our girls. I hope we can keep this family trip going for many, many more years.”

Trip participant Olivia, age 9, reflected that her “favourite part of climbing was when I sent that really tall one. It took a while and lots of courage, but in the end, I am happy I did it.”

“I also liked just hanging out with kids my age, and kind of learning from them,” she added.

Our kids came back from their climbing days with Rockies dirt under their fingernails, serving as a reminder of the feats they accomplished and the beautiful places they experienced. We hope our families created memories and left pieces of their hearts somewhere near Abraham Lake. — ACC



“Come forth into the light of things, Let Nature be your teacher.”

— From “The Tables Turned,” by William Wordsworth

Edmonton

AN OVERNIGHT SUCCESS DECADES IN THE MAKING

EDMONTON RALLIES BEHIND ICE COMP

By The Edmonton Section

In 2024, the ACC's Edmonton Section took what had been a community event at a local artificial ice climbing wall and turned it into one of the premier winter climbing competitions in the world. "YEG ICE" had been held at the Edmonton Ski Club for a few years prior to 2024 and was, in comparison, a small event, run by volunteers, to introduce locals to ice climbing. For 2024, the event was moved to the Ice District at Rogers Place arena to make it bigger, and to include a full-scale, UIAA-sanctioned ice climbing competition.

The first internationally sanctioned event that a city holds is typically smaller, something like a Continental Cup which is a big deal but one that would attract mostly local climbers. But with the UIAA supporting whatever Edmonton wanted to commit to, they decided to put on the World Championship – the final event of the two-year tour and the biggest ice climbing competition in the world.

Community comes together

The idea for a world class ice wall and competition in Edmonton had been imagined in the early 2000s and the 2024 event had been in some level of planning for four or five years. Many of the original planning team, and a huge number of ACC members, climbers, and regular Edmontonians worked with the new team to bring their modern icy vision to reality.

Sanctioning was granted in July of 2023, and funding finalized by late October, which made the timeline to pull the event together crazily compressed. Explore Edmonton, the local DMA, supplied funding to make the event possible and local sponsors and businesses jumped onboard. Climbing gyms donated bolts, wall volumes and other equipment.

More than 250 volunteer shifts in 22 roles were filled, with recruiting and figuring out what all the jobs would be happening si-



Above: A competitor in the lead ice climbing competition.

Top: The YEG ICE wall at the Ice District outside of Rogers Place arena.

Middle: Competitors hug during the competition.

Bottom: The Korean team at the UIAA Ice Climbing World Championships, Edmonton, February, 2024.

Bottom right: Competitors climb in the speed climbing event.



multaneously. Instagram pulled in most of the recruits, including many who wanted to give back after learning to ice climb at previous YEG ICE festivals. Many were ACC members, some were not. Some were signed up through the fence of the dog park next door.

Having climbing walls and good ice is essential and this provided some of the most stressful times. The ice walls were designed and built by professionals, but the engineers were changed three times. The design of the walls continued well into January for a mid-February competition. The weather was too warm for making ice, followed by the temperature dropping to -40. A non-essential water use ban followed a city pump failure. Shifts making ice continued through the nights.

Belayers were trained in the days before the big competition, with team Canada ice climbers acting as guinea pigs for practice. During the comp, volunteer jobs included crowd control, isolation monitors, escorts, medical staff, camera operators, timers, and a behind the wall stuck tool poking guy.

Beyond the competition and wall building, volunteers managed the snow biking, firepits, and the family side of the event. Some roles were filled and trained five minutes before they were needed. That the whole thing just worked is a testament to the vision and tenacity of an entire community.

YEG ICE is happening again in February, 2025 and we're looking forward to another great celebration of winter community and climbing. Look us up at www.yegice.ca. — ACC



MULTI-GENERATIONAL WEEKEND AT LAKE O'HARA

For three nights in June of 2024, the Calgary Section ran a Multi-Generational Family Camp at the club's Elizabeth Parker Hut at Lake O'Hara in Yoho National Park. Franziska Web, an exchange student from Germany and a member of the section during her stay in Canada, was chosen to attend in the lottery system run by the section for the few spots in the hut. Here, she recounts the highlights of her trip to EP with club members, young and experienced.

by Franziska Mai

The Alpine Club went to Elizabeth Parker Hut at Lake O'Hara from the 23rd to the 25th of June, 2024 with a multi-generational group.

For me as a German exchange student who was staying in Canada for five months, it was very exciting because it was a multi-generational event, so it was interesting for me to meet the different generations of ACC members from Canada.

The first time I heard about the trip was in March when we got the news that we're one of the lucky few who got chosen to go. It was something I was excited about during my whole stay in Canada.

At the bus stop of the Parks Canada bus to Lake O'Hara we met the kids and older folks in the group. Then we got all our stuff in the cabin and met a few more people. Everyone was very nice and friendly.

My family went on a hike to Linda Lake on the first day. It was raining very heavily but it was so beautiful that we didn't really mind. We also had the chance to see a late-season avalanche coming off the peaks. When we got back to the hut, dinner was ready, and it was very good. We played a few games of charades which was funny with all the different generations we had in the cabin. We had kids as young as two, teenagers like me, and all ages up to 77 years old. It was fun getting to know each other.

The next morning, we woke up to a good smell of pancakes and hash browns being cooked in the kitchen. On that day our group would be making dinner, so we prepared it in the morning and had a lot of fun. There were several generations cooking the meal, which was interesting, and us teenagers learned some tricks from the more skilled ones.

In the afternoon we went on another beautiful hike which had a lot of snow. After the hike, my sister and me decided to jump in the very cold lake which was very refreshing. When we came back it was very nice to see that everybody was hanging out together in front of the cabin sharing things from the day. The little ones explained how they were fishing and how they built their hooks. The older folks were telling stories about their grandchildren falling asleep in the middle of the path.

That evening we celebrated the 70th birthday of one person in our group, which was exciting because of all the generations celebrating. We learned a new card game and all of us played for the whole evening.

It was a very fun three days. Each generation learned a lot from the others, and we all had a lot of fun. — ACC



Above: Multi-generational group shot in front of the hut.

Right: Birthday celebration for Annette St. Cyr (middle).

Behind: Inside Elizabeth Parker Hut. Photo courtesy of Pebbleshoo.

Southern Alberta

AN ALPINE ADVENTURE EXTRAVAGANZA

Photos and story by Eva Boehringer

In the summer of 2022, after two years of COVID-19-induced isolation, a group of adventurous souls gathered at stunning Lake O'Hara in Yoho National Park for the Southern Alberta Section's first summer camp since 2019. Based out of the charming Elizabeth Parker Hut and Wiwaxy Cabin, this self-guided, self-catered escapade turned out to be an unforgettable blend of camaraderie, technical training, and breathtaking natural beauty.

Our journey began with a bus ride from the parking lot to the drop-off point, followed by a 10-minute walk to haul our gear to the huts. The anticipation was palpable as we approached our accommodations, ready to immerse ourselves in six days of alpine magic.

The EP Hut became our cozy haven for the week, equipped with a propane stove and oven. While we brought our own camp stoves and pot sets to avoid kitchen congestion, there were plenty of dishes for everyone. With everyone responsible for their own meals, the hut buzzed with the delightful aromas of various culinary creations.

To make sure everyone was well-prepared for the challenges, we had hired two ACMG guides from Cloud Nine Guiding to provide a refresher on essential alpine skills. Over two days, some of our team practiced rope rescue, others focused on movement through alpine terrain, while yet another group navigated steep snow terrain. This hands-on training proved invaluable, boosting our confidence for the self-guided trips we would do for the remainder of the trip.

Each day presented a smorgasbord of adventure options, from serene hikes to exhilarating scrambles and technical climbs. Despite the high snow



Top left: Mt Huber and Lake O'Hara views from Mt Schaffer.

Top right: Summiting Mt Schaffer.

Bottom left: Elizabeth Parker Hut.



levels that were left over after a cold, wet spring, our volunteer leaders crafted a variety of trips catering to different skill levels and interests.

Among the notable alpine climbs the team attempted was Wiwaxy Peak, a challenging climb that tested the participants mettle and ultimately led them to turn around before reaching the top. A summit that was climbed successfully despite the difficult conditions was Yukness Peak, which provided breathtaking views of the surrounding terrain. Scramblers also took on Mt. Schaffer and Park Mountain, both of which offered a blend of excitement and triumph, navigating their exposed rocky sections and steep snow ascents.

The scrambles demanded a mix of agility and grit, but the views from the summits made every effort worthwhile.

For those who preferred less technical routes, the hiking options were no less spectacular. Yukness Ledges, and the Lake Oesa, McArthur Lake, and Linda Lake trails provided a kaleidoscope of landscapes.

Snow was a constant companion on our adventures, although not as much as we had originally feared. The guided instruction on the first days of camp, and the volunteer-led trips were instrumental in helping participants get comfortable with various skills, turning the snowy conditions into an exhilarating feature rather than a hindrance.

With 20 participants attending, our camp was a sold-out success. The huts echoed with laughter as we recounted our daily adventures. In the end, the 2022 Summer Camp at Lake O'Hara was more than just a trip—it was a celebration of nature, skill, and friendship. Here's to more mountain escapades and the enduring magic of the great outdoors! — ACC

Rocky Mountain

LEADERSHIP, CAMPS & ADVENTURES FOR ALL

by Laurie Harvey

I've valued and appreciated my Rocky Mountain Section (RMS) membership for decades. Over the years with the section, I've enjoyed countless nights in huts and days on the trails with this like-minded but very diverse ACC community. But what I find most outstanding about the section is the wide selection of adventurous outings that members have access to, year-round.

Adventures in the mountains require trip leaders who have the proper training and then a plan to create trips and put those leaders to use for the benefit of our members. The RMS being able to offer the slate of adventures that it does is largely due to the dedication of three amazing volunteers.

The RMS takes the training of its members and volunteers very seriously. So far this year, our Training Chair Richard Berry has coordinated 11 training courses, covering everything from first aid to avalanche skills training to rock and ice climbing. To support our volunteer trip leaders, the section offers these courses at discounted pricing and has so far this year invested over \$1,500 in our leaders.

Our section's Trip Leader Chair is Michael Persson, who is responsible for vetting and encouraging the RMS Volunteer Trip Leaders to lead trips so the section can offer as many fun and exciting trips to our members as possible. Our events calendar hosts everything from day hikes to climbs up the highest peaks in the area. If our section members want to do something that is not on the calendar, they can reach out to the section and we'll find someone to lead the trip.



Top left: Air time on a section ski trip at Vista Lodge in the Esplanade Range.

Middle left: Section members pose in front of Broad Peak and K2, Pakistan.

Bottom left: A casual stroll across a glacier near Kulusuk, Greenland.

Below: Sunrise and sunset at the same time, Greenland.

Photos Steve Fedyna

Steve Fedyna is the section's Camp Chair and is an organizational genius who works closely with a skilled and passionate team to bring our section fabulous opportunities through summer and winter camps. The camps all have a formula: knowledgeable and organized camp managers, strong communication, and a process and structure that encourages safety, respect and camaraderie. It certainly helps that there is a vast network of lodges in the area to choose from for potential camps.

In 2024, the section hosted four full ski camps, with a variety of terrain for beginner through to expert skiers. We also host an annual summer camp, often held at the club's Stanley Mitchell and Elizabeth Parker Huts. We offered several shorter hut-based trips this year, including ones based at the Asulkan, Elk Lakes, and Peyto Huts.

We think of Steve as a "Stan-cation" expert for his skills in organizing trips to mountainous countries in central Asia. In summer 2024, the section is going on a high altitude trek in the Fann and Pamir Mountains of Tajikistan.

Finally, we LOVE to have fun off the mountain too. Our Social Chairs Laurie Harvey and Claire Dionne have coordinated six socials, which range from a presentation of the RMS trip to Greenland, to Birds of the Bow Valley and beyond, and an annual RMS BBQ, which is always a fun night out with good food, good friends, and great entertainment.

Keep an eye on the RM Section events calendar at accrockymtn.ca and consider joining a great group of friends or soon-to-be-friends for an adventure of a lifetime.

— ACC

The camps all have a formula: knowledgeable and organized camp managers, strong communication, and a process and structure that encourages safety, respect and camaraderie.

GRAND TOUR AT FAIRY MEADOW

Photos and story by Peter Amann

There have been many fine adventures with the Jasper/Hinton Section but thinking back to a favorite, I would have to say the 1998 ski trip to Fairy Meadow, where our new group from Jasper really melded.

Several members of my regular team (the “Charlie group”) signed up immediately, as well as a few new folks from Hinton, some of our section executive, a bunch of Jasper/Hinton locals, and a few others from all over North America.

Andy Allenbach came on board as our cook for the week. Andy ran the finest restaurant in Jasper (Andy’s Bistro) and was a true Swiss who could cook great and ski hard. Andy could ski all day, walk in the door and in 30 minutes have a table set that would make everyone say “Wow!” My good friend Cyril Shokoples joined to help me with the guiding.

We were a real mix of skiers: some hard-core powder gangsters, some strong intermediate skiers, some quiet folks, and everything in between. The common bond was the desire to ski in the mountains, drink some good wine and beer, and have some fun with friends old and new. All these objectives were overwhelmingly achieved.

We flew in on March 7, 1998, and the energy was high. Andy got his food organized, the boom box was unpacked, and the playlist engaged.

We skied great lines. On the second day we headed up towards Friendship Col and scrambled to within 30 metres of Sentinel Peak. Another day involved a nice line down from near Quadrant Spire.

Charlie James—for whom the Charlie Group is named—and Tom Kvanbeck would prepare well in advance of all of our trips with unique gifts found over the year, often items from stores that you needed to be of legal age to get into, and where you looked over your shoulder before walking in. Charlie would package these up each afternoon and then stage FedEx deliveries to specific people.

*Left: Heading to Friendship Col.
Middle: Cyril snacking.
Right: Group shot.
Bottom: Sentinel summit block.*



By the end of the week, we all had new outfits, hats, and other authentic items.

And we skied some more. A great tour up towards Austerity Peak gave us excellent turns—real mountain skiing. Another day we skied to Pioneer Peak where we had nineteen people on the summit at once. Maybe a record? Who cares...it was fun. We skied peaks and glaciers and tree runs below the hut. And we were never late for the sauna and happy hour.

The one thing I remember most, and one of the highlights of my entire career—even after more than 25 years—was a moment on the last night where we all formed a human train. We climbed over tables, chairs, stairs, each of us pounding on some kind of kitchen implement, in tune perfectly with the music, and then it stopped. We all knew something really great had just happened, and we laughed in awe realizing what we had all been a part of.

The most important goal of any trip, more than the skiing and the adventure, is to get a group of people to come together and to form a single unit, contributing and helping each other and the group. On this

alone, the trip was a huge success and as I sit here in the summer of 2024 writing this story, I am fondly remembering everyone from this trip and how they all contributed during the week.

But it’s also hard looking back because some members I haven’t seen in several years, and all the Jasper folks are evacuees from town right now, many of whom have lost their homes and or businesses over the last few weeks due to the Jasper wildfire. We never know what the future holds.

I’m hoping that everyone from this trip gets a chance to read this story, to think back to simpler times sharing the camaraderie, the mountains, and great times—a grand tour and a fine life experience that was brought together through the ACC, the Jasper/Hinton Section, and by those who came out to play.

Thanks to: Charlie James, Dick Kvanbeck, David Hanna, Mary Krupa, Garnet Clark, Deb Hammer, Roy Preshaw, Deb Speden, Dwayne Wacko, Chuck Samuels, Doug Savoie, Bruno Tassone, Rick Gould, Tom Kvanbeck, Dave Pors, Andy Allenbach, Cyril Shokoples, and the two others whose names I’ve missed. — ACC

Columbia Mountains

EXPLORING THE NORTHERN SELKIRKS

In August 2023, a small group from the Columbia Mountains Section traveled by helicopter to explore one of the less-accessible areas in the North Selkirks. The following is a report from trip leader, Ben Clark.

We left town early in the morning from the Glacier Helicopters hangar travelling up Lake Revelstoke to our destination: a murky green puddle on a high rib at about 2,000 metres elevation, under the walls of Carnes Tower. Below our camp, the rib dropped away a few hundred metres to the floor of the broad valley and McKinnon Creek.

We originally planned to climb Phogg Peak—a smaller, 2,700 metre mountain tucked away in the notch between Carnes Peak and Carnes Tower—on our second day, but had significantly overestimated how difficult this would be. Instead, we climbed it almost by accident on our first afternoon. The scrambling was easy, aside from a few small steps which we crossed one at a



Left, facing page: Participants (LtoR top row) Jessie Booker, Jenna Thompson, Keshia Blake, (LtoR bottom row) Hilary Schrama, and Ben Clark at the toe of the Carnes Glacier before flying back to town.

Right, facing page: Trip leader, Ben Clark at the edge of the Carnes Glacier.

Top, this page: Overlooking camp on the edge of Carnes Peak.

Bottom, this page: The crew heading down Carnes Glacier after a successful summit of Phogg Peak on day one.

Photos Hilary Schrama



time. The summit, right at the nexus of Carnes Glacier, Phogg Glacier, and Abyss Glacier, was wild and awe-inspiring. Predictably, glacier conditions were rugged. We walked about two kilometres across the Carnes Glacier to get to Phogg Peak and only crossed about 80 metres of firn. Despite the relatively flat, concave topography under the glacier, it was still wildly cracked; I suspect (as an armchair-glaciologist) that this might be because the large volume of water running beneath the glacier, brought on by a long, hot summer, is accelerating its downhill travel.

Our scramble on the South Ridge of Carnes Peak the second day was both easy and stunningly beautiful. We wove between marble moraines and hanging meadows with breathtaking drops on either side. We also found some deep caves with sculpted walls that we estimated to be very, very deep (based on our highly scientific process of dropping pebbles into them and listening to them ricochet deeper and deeper for what felt like forever). Looking across the glacier at the huge west face of Carnes Tower and down at the jumbled serac field below was equally impressive. We turned back at the first big gendarme just below 2,700m.

Unlike most of the climbing around Revelstoke, Carnes Peak, Phogg Peak, and Carnes Tower are all part of the Badshot Formation which is mostly dolomitic marble rather than quartzite. I'd never climbed on marble before this trip, and since it's a bit uncommon, I think it's worth a little description. The marble was pretty compact, and cracks (even for pitons) were sparse. Lots of holds would wiggle and release fine dust when pulled—even some of the larger ones—so everything had to be evaluated with extra caution. Where it wasn't weathered, the friction was like velcro, to the point that most of us had small perforations in our hands and clothes after a day of scrambling. Notably, we didn't see any natural rockfall during all three days, with the exception of a bit of gravel released by melting snow.

The whole area felt unique and special: a mix of the huge and imposing grey walls of the Rockies, but with our inter-mountain climate and flora. The Carnes Glacier was uniquely beautiful too: having carved itself into a deep channel through the marble at its toe and undercut the bottoms of a few of the tallest walls above it.

Ben Clark

*ACC Columbia Mountains Section Leader
and Section Activities Director*

FROM A DOG WALK TO THE MOUNTAIN TOPS

A REFLECTIVE LOOK AT YEAR ONE WITH THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA OKANAGAN SECTION

by Gary Athans

A few years ago, I was walking my dog through the Johns Family Nature Conservancy south of Kelowna, a park that contains a number of well-known crags. At the time I didn't know much about rock climbing and when I spotted a group of climbers on the rock, I asked them what was involved. It was an ACC Okanagan Section outing and they suggested that if I took a basic belay course that I could join them every Wednesday and see for myself. I did just that and I have since fallen in love with rock climbing and have never looked back. I am gaining more experience with every outing and meeting great people who have taught me a lot. I've since ventured out to many more of the climbing areas in the southern Okanagan including the incredible Skaha Bluffs.

I was drawn in to the ACC by rock climbing, but quickly found out that the club was about a lot more than that. During the summer of 2023, I had the opportunity to join a section trip to the Elizabeth Parker Hut at Lake O'Hara in Yoho National Park. I almost declined, thinking I would do it another time, but then I heard how difficult it is to get a booking at the hut—or at Lake O'Hara in any way—and jumped at the chance. I'm now so glad that I went as it was one of the most amazing trips I have done in my life. During the week that we were there, many of the experienced climbers and hikers summited some of the peaks in the area and we all enjoyed epic day-long hikes. I come from a background of

ski racing—in Banff as well as on some of the biggest mountains in Europe—and I was truly blown away at what we have right here in Canada. I am so appreciative that my involvement with the club has allowed me to experience this and I definitely plan on participating in more mountaineering trips in the future.

I'm also looking forward to the winter and joining in with the club to do some backcountry skiing trips. I spent most of my life going downhill, as a ski racer on the World Cup circuit with the Canadian and Olympic ski team but these days it's all about skiing uphill and getting some days in the snow with my dog.

I have now joined the OK Section board, and I have been enjoying fostering new members as they join our club. Another very exciting development for me is that my two sons have joined in on some rock climbing sessions and are becoming quite accomplished. ACC activities have become a great way for us to experience family time in the outdoors.

I want to give a big shout out to all those experienced Alpine Club members that have guided me through this journey to experience the joy of climbing and mountaineering, it's been a fantastic and spiritual experience, full of amazing days in the mountains. — ACC

Top left: Gary on belay with son Marcus up top on one of Kelowna's classic climbs, "Lonely Boy" at Lonely Crags. A bucket list Father's Day climbing success.

Bottom left: Apollo helping set up top rope anchor at Wonder Bar Crag.

Right: Johns Family Crags. Climbing with Royce Blackstock, making up "scenic route" at Secret Laboratory Crag.

Photos Gary Athans



BOULDERING CONNECTIONS

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER IN ONE OF THE WEST COAST'S MOST ASTOUNDING PLAYGROUNDS

Maya fights through the crux on Heartbreak Hotel (V2) with Lachie spotting.

by Tyson Bell, photos by John Newberry

It's 8:00 am on a Saturday in Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish)—the Grand Wall is yet to be touched by the sun, Átl'ka7sem (Howe Sound) sparkles turquoise awaiting afternoon winds and, luckily, there are still some empty spots in the Chief parking lot.

Nine members of the ACC Squamish Section unload crash pads and ready themselves for the arduous 3-minute hike into the renowned Grand Wall Boulders. Despite the notoriety of the boulders, this is our club's inaugural bouldering session and it's all thanks to Sharif and Eugene, who sowed the seeds of stoke that prompted the rest of us to leave our harnesses at home this morning. Our rectangular procession follows Eugene into the forest, and we soon find ourselves in the Titanic Boulder area.

I second guess my life choices momentarily as I look up at the boulder and consider what it would be like to fall from the top of it. But just then, Sharif reminds us of the crash pads that Climb On!, our local climbing shop, loaned to the club free-of-charge for today's event. Soon it looks like this huge piece of granite has been transformed into an indoor gym, with pads blanketing the ground, erasing sharp rocks and gnarly roots from our memories. And with that, we're ready to send!

The social differences between bouldering and cragging are immediately clear—the bubbles around belayer and climber don't exist here. Rather, we all rotate fluidly through a multitude of roles: stoked cheerleader, stoked climber, stoked spotter, stoked photographer, stoked person chilling in their puffy, etc. Whether I'm enjoying a V0 or flailing on a V3 (bouldering is hard!), I feel excited, energized and comfortable as a part of the group. No one is chomping at the bit to move on to harder problems or judging our abilities. We're all just happy to be out climbing on a Saturday morning in Squamish.

Founded in 2019, the Squamish Section of the ACC is still growing and defining itself and its values. A product of these efforts is reflected in our freshly minted mission statement:

“To sustainably foster an inclusive community through mountain recreation, education, and stewardship.”

The word “community” comes up repeatedly in answer to the frequently-posed question, “so what brings you to the ACC?” In a mountain town like Skwxwú7mesh, it's not difficult to find a climbing partner for a day—one only need hang around the Chief Campground or post in the Squamish Partner Finder Facebook Group. This is undoubtedly a great thing, but for those of us



Tyson makes an attempt on Heartbreak Hotel (V2) while the rest of the crew spots and provides moral support.



Team encouragement: Yiyuan pulls hard with (left to right) Shannon, Tyson, Sharif and Lachie willing him onwards.

looking for climbing partnerships that will span years (dare I say friendships), the ACC is well-positioned to be a safe common ground, a meeting place, and an anchoring point in our otherwise hectic lives.

Some of us boulder til our skin surrenders to the granite, others are more mature and stop earlier. In either case, we all file back out of the forest to the now sunny parking lot together, pointing out intriguing problems for next time. Reflecting on the ingredients for such a successful day—motivated trip leaders, happy climbers, supportive spotters, world class rock to climb, crash pads supplied by a local shop—I am proud to be part of a club that places such a high level of importance on bringing people together to enjoy recreating and supporting each other in one of nature's truly astounding playgrounds. — ACC

KIDS AND YOUTH HUT TRIP TO HIŠIMYAWIŁ

Story and photos by Neil Ernst

Over the weekend of July 21-23, 2023, four families from the ACC Vancouver Island Section headed up to Hišimyawil—the section’s hut on 5040 Peak for a Kids and Youth Trip. Our group included members from age five to... we’ll say “more mature” ages. The group consisted of myself with my sons Elliott and Kieran; a two-family contingent from Hornby Island—Meredith and Andrew with sons Olin and Killian, and Ian and Jules with kids Beckett and Opal; and Sonia and Sofia from Saltspring Island. This trip was five-year-old Sofia’s sixth trip up to the hut, which, as anyone who has climbed the 700 steep metres up to Cobalt Lake Trail will agree, is pretty impressive. We were lucky to also have Nadja Steiner join us as the hut steward.

Our hike started with our group meeting at the Marion Main turnoff and arranging a carpool for the drive up the forest service road to the trailhead. The road was in rough shape at the 4-kilometre and 8-kilometre sections, although our Subarus managed with some careful driving. At the trailhead, our group shouldered packs of varying weights and set off up the trail to the hut. On our way, we navigated a few rock-climbing sections and enjoyed a swim in Cobalt Lake. After arriving at the hut, we spent the rest of the day running around outside, playing games like Catan, Uno, and Crazy Eights. The kitchen was the site of a delicate dance as each family cooked up a tasty meal while trying to accommodate the other families with stove time, utensils, and counter space. Meals included “space food lasagna,” beans and rice, and vegetarian noodles.

The next morning the weather was overcast with heavy fog—what we thought of as “mountainous”—but we donned rain gear and emergency ponchos, and headed out with our sights set on the summit of 5040 Peak. Our confidence was rewarded with a timely

break in the clouds just as we all reached the summit, enabling sporadic views of Triple Peak and Nahmint Mountain. I was going to boldly claim an unofficial record of the “lowest average party-age on 5040 Peak” but Sonia mentioned that in 2022 she reached the summit of the mountain with a party that consisted of kids aged four, five, five and six, along with five adults, beating our hopeful record.

After our time on the summit, some of us then traversed across to the little bump south of 5040 Peak, where we practiced our glissading skills before returning to the hut for dinner and dessert.

The kitchen was the site of a delicate dance as each family cooked up a tasty meal... Meals included “space food lasagna,” beans and rice, and vegetarian noodles.

Our group headed back down to the cars after a morning of cleaning and packing on the third day. A less eventful drive back down the FSR to the highway and some fond farewells concluded the trip. It was wonderful so see the club’s younger members do so well on this hike, and of course it is great to have such a wonderful location for our adventures. — ACC



CHÙZHAAN NÀ KWAYE

by John Serjeantson

Chair, Yukon Section

Chùzhaan Nà Kwaye—pronounced roughly how it appears—is the Southern Tutchone phrase for “playing outdoors.” We might call what we do “rock climbing” or “ski touring,” but playing outdoors is something through which both Indigenous peoples and settler Canadians can connect. And of all the beautiful parts of this country, there is perhaps nowhere this is more evident than in the Yukon.

The Yukon enjoys a vast array of outdoor recreational opportunities, from big mountains and glaciers to many great crags. It also has the highest density of self-governing First Nations in the country with 11 of 14 Yukon First Nations having land claims and self-government agreements that together provide a complex landscape of land-use governance that recreationists in the territory consider, respect, and navigate. There are very few other places in the country where you will find such a diverse mix of people, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, practicing their activities on the land, side-by-side.

Yukoners of all backgrounds have deep connections with their local landscape, both for recreation and subsistence, and this connection should not be taken for granted. In 2021, in response to the Yukon First Nations’ Declaration of Climate Emergency, 13 Yukon and Transboundary First Nations youth began the process of developing a Yukon First Nations Climate Vision and Action Plan.

It is now known as the “Reconnection Vision” and it posits that the root cause of many of the various crises we face as a society today, including climate change, is actually rooted in our disconnection—from the land, from nature, from people, from culture. This is not a novel concept: for centuries the ontology associated with many Indigenous peoples globally, known as “animism,” has been recognized as antithetical to typical colonial worldviews that position humans and their creations as distinct from, or superior to, nature. And in this regard, the Reconnection Vision is a modern articulation of this idea, delivered in a distinctly Indigenous way.

These ideas are explored more fully at the beautiful website www.reconnection.vision and those who wish to learn more about this topic are highly encouraged to check it out.

As much as both groups spend time outdoors connecting with the land, there was a historically problematic gap in the ACC Yukon Section’s relationship with First Nations in the territory. The reasons for this might include the fact that many of our recreational activities are not traditionally practiced by First Nations Peoples. We wondered if there was perhaps an opportunity to strengthen our connections here—to both share and clarify the ACC’s motivations (which often had us unknowingly following the fundamental values laid down in the Reconnection Vision)—as well as to deepen our own understanding of the land.

Furthermore, with the territory’s population growing rapidly, and some friction already showing from some recreational use of First Nations’ land, it was clear that there was a benefit to being proactive in our relationships with the local First Nations.

So, in the spirit of learning and reciprocity, in June of 2023 the Yukon Section collaborated with Ta’an Kwäch’än Council (TKC) and the Yukon First Nations Education Directorate (YFNED) to provide rock climbing instructional days for the TKC summer youth camp. Supported by funding through Lotteries Yukon for new youth-sized gear, we delivered four days of rock climbing programming at crags scattered throughout TKC’s land. The section demonstrated our efforts at mitigating our impact as recreationists and showed how our community enjoys connecting with the land. And the Reconnection Vision is showing us how we can do this more intentionally and respectfully.

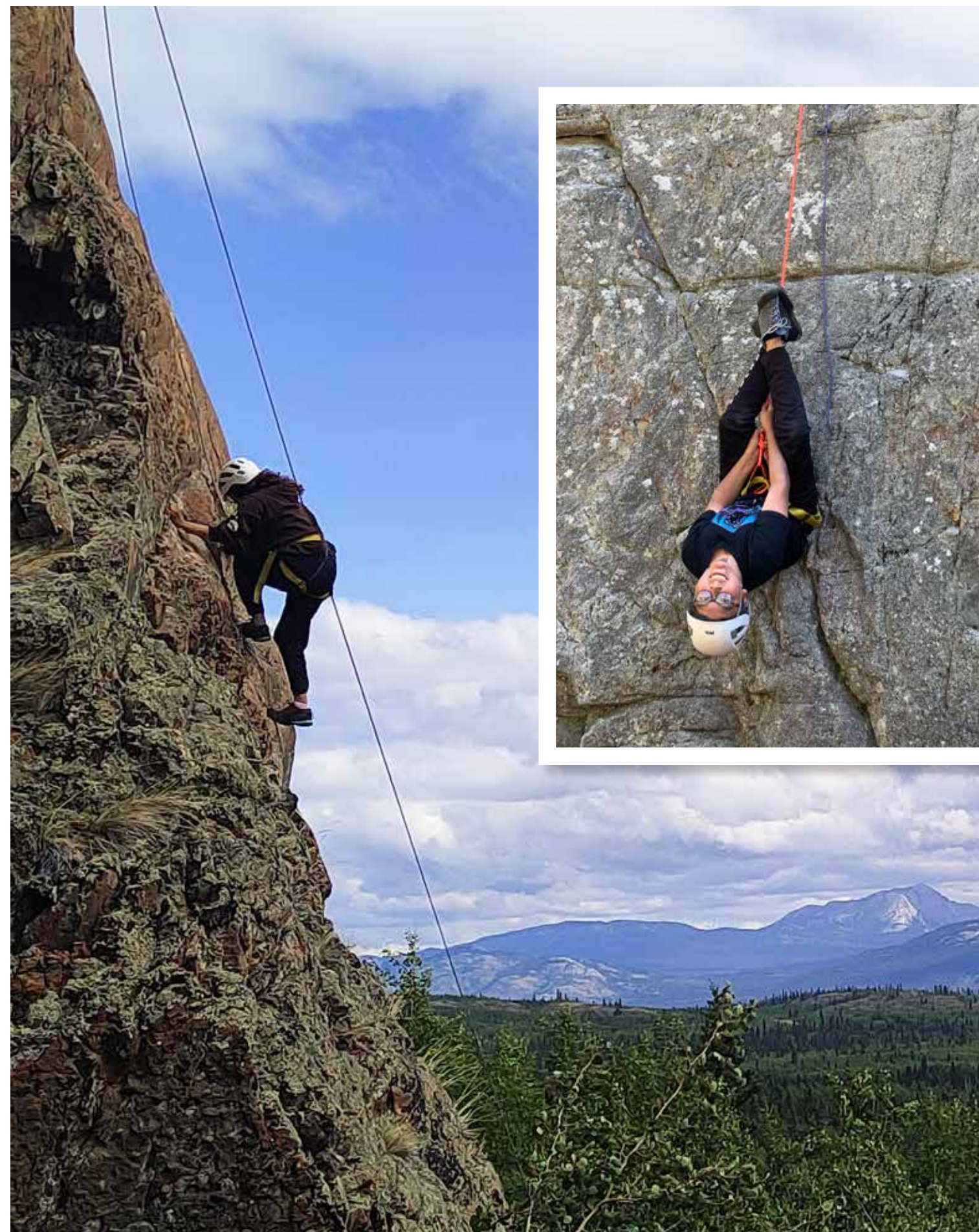
This is just the beginning of our path toward an in-depth relationship between the ACC and the local First Nations—one based on respect for each other and for the land. We look forward to spending more time Chùzhaan Nà Kwaye, together. — ACC

Front: Hanging out at Rock Gardens on the traditional territory of Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta’an Kwäch’än Council.

Photo Benjamin Monkman, TKC Youth Outreach and Support Worker

Back: Climbing at Crag Ex, located on Ta’an Kwäch’än Council settlement land looking out over the famous Lake Laberge.

Photo John Serjeantson



WINNERS OF THE

2024 ACC Photo Contest

Earlier this year, we hosted a photo contest calling for images that portray the beauty of the spaces where we play, and the passion that our members have for these environments.

The contest was open to all ACC members, providing them with a chance to win some sweet prizes from the ACC and The North Face.

Categories included: Flora & Fauna, Landscape, Action & Adventure, and Other.

Read on for the winners of each category, their prizes, runners-up, and honourable mentions!

LANDSCAPE

Winner: Anthony Dearden

Prize: The North Face Wasatch 20F/-7C Sleeping Bag

About the image: “Alpine lake seen descending from Ossa Mountain.”

Our thoughts: Anthony’s photo presents us with a gorgeous mountain scene that mixes arid rocky terrain with wispy clouds, a spot of flora to show life, all wrapped around a turquoise alpine lake. There are several elements, but it doesn’t feel too busy and left us yearning to head out into the mountains.



LANDSCAPE

Runners-up

Left: Jessica Milum

About the image: “Taken at Hakatere Conservation Park, New Zealand.”

Below: Shota Ida

About the image: “Coffee with this view. Most likely the most scenic cup of coffee I’ve ever had. A group of us woke up before the sun at Fairy Meadows to sit together at the top of the practice slope and watch the sun rise while we all drank coffee.”



ACTION & ADVENTURE

Winner: Shota Ida

Prize: The North Face Assault 3 FUTURELIGHT™ Tent

About the image: “Last to leave the hut sometimes has its perks. The group on their way up to ski the 7 steps after a warm breakfast and a few too many cups of coffee.”

Our thoughts: Shota’s skiing photo is a modest display of our space in the hills when we’re out having fun. The colours, light, texture, and scene are simple but gorgeous – nature’s effortless display. The uptrack is almost a literal visual of our impact and journey through the natural space. We love how this photo makes us feel!



FLORA & FAUNA

Winner: Aurore Kurc

Prize: The North Face Wawona Fuzzy Blanket and ACC Swag Pack

About the image: “The picture was taken during the 2023 Chess Group GMC. After a first day that was quite hazy we woke up to dark threatening skies and rain. Our guide decided to cancel most summit pushes after hearing deep rumbles and thunder, to keep us safe. Instead, we donned our rain gear,

packed some snacks, and went to explore the meadows below camp. And the gloomy day turned into discovering a little slice of paradise!”

Our thoughts: We live on a special planet that has so much natural beauty — sometimes it’s easy to get carried away with all the big peaks. This photo from Aurore reverses the focus, letting the peaks take the background while a variety of tiny (but resilient) alpine flowers take center stage. Perhaps the photo is also a little poetic given the context as well — sometimes we need to slow down to see the special things right at our feet.



ACTION & ADVENTURE

Runners-up

Top: Christopher Candela

About the image: “On the summit ridge of Mount Lefroy.”

Right: Lada Kvasnicka

About the image: “Exploring a massive, well-hidden ice cave at the toe of Snowdome Glacier.”





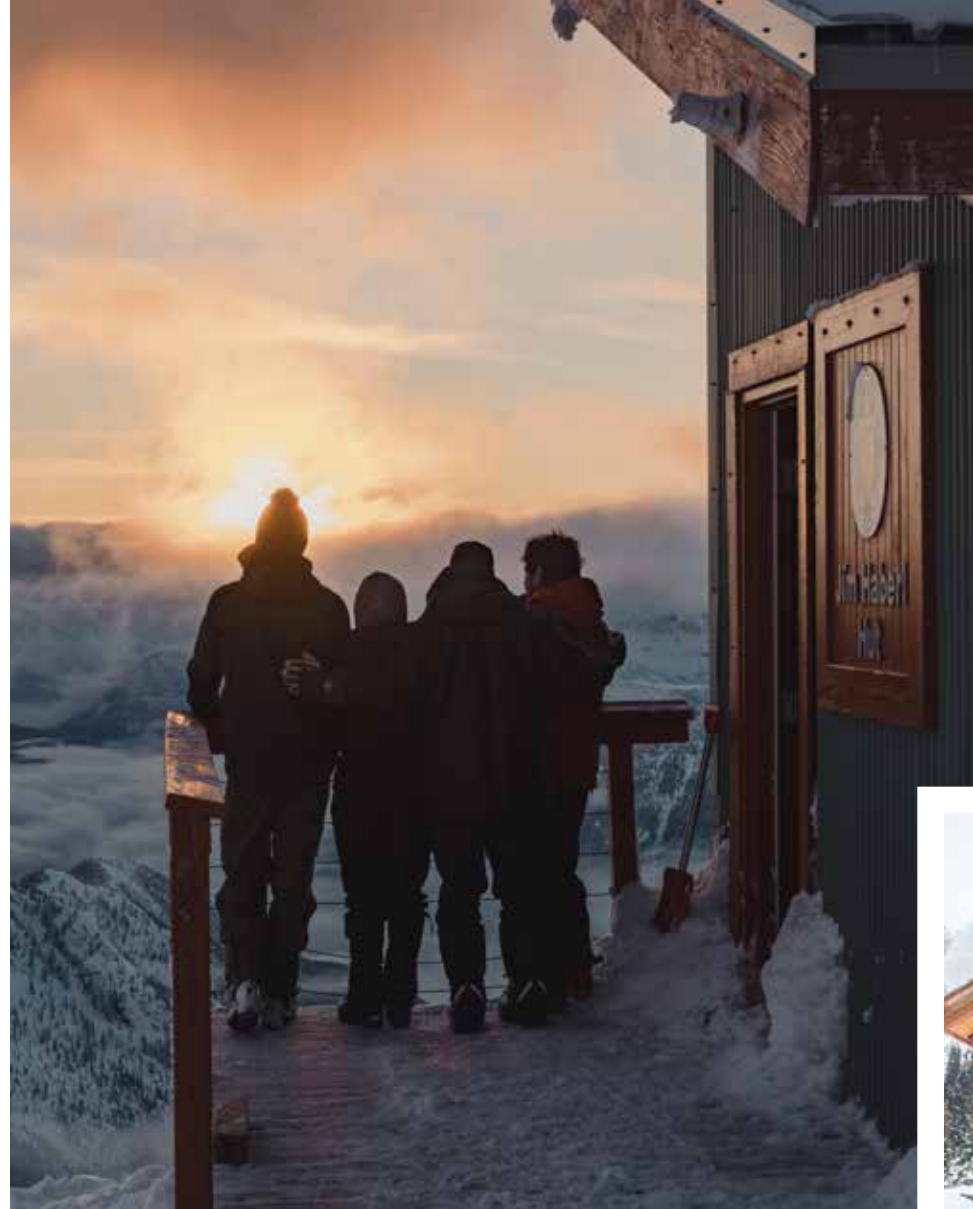
FLORA & FAUNA Runners-up

Right: Jim Everard

Title: “Forests at Risk.”

Below: Emma Gloriso-Deraiche

Title: “Hervé sur Allan.”



OTHER

Winner: Michael Kennedy

Prize: The North Face Cobra 65L Backpack

About the image: “Sunset Silhouette at the Jim Haberl Hut”

Our thoughts: This one’s all about a feeling I think we can all recognize – being in the hills with your closest people, admiring the space you shared during the day, and winding it all down in a backcountry hut...the best!



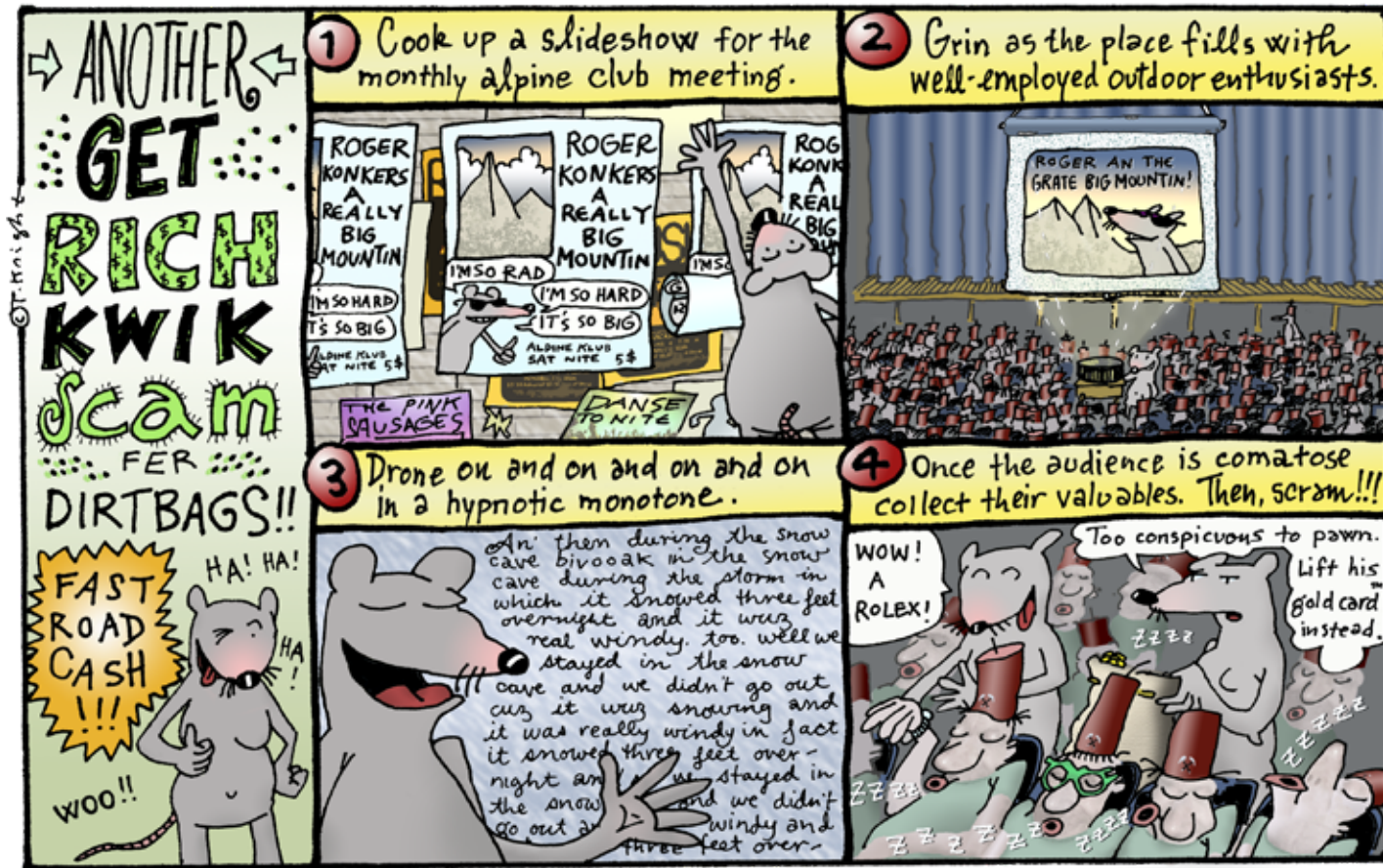
OTHER: Runners-up

Above, right: James Hague

Title: “Backcountry bliss at Elizabeth Parker Hut.”

Left: Photo + Illustration by Bryan Peters and Cecelia Leddy

About the image: “‘The Climb’: Arguably the best rock climbers in the world, mountain goats, featured in the epic slopes of the Bugaboos.”



Tami Knight

Tami Knight has been drawing mischief-filled cartoons like this one since the glaciers were much larger. Her book, "Secret Plans Vol. III" is a gathering together of a little of her writing and several hundred of her 'toons drawn over the past forty-plus years. This is being published by Tellwell publishing and will be available early in the new year.



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PHOTOGRAPHY: DANIEL HUG

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