



BCMC

BC Mountaineering Club

Newsletter

2020 Volume 1



*this and cover image
by John Sproule*

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SUBMISSIONS

We want you to write for us! Any submitted news, events, trip reports, letters relevant to the BCMC will be published unless the club executive decides otherwise.

For photos, high resolution is much appreciated. Submitted material may be edited for clarity or brevity, or for consistency with club policies. Opinions and comments expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the BCMC.

SUBMIT YOUR CONTENT

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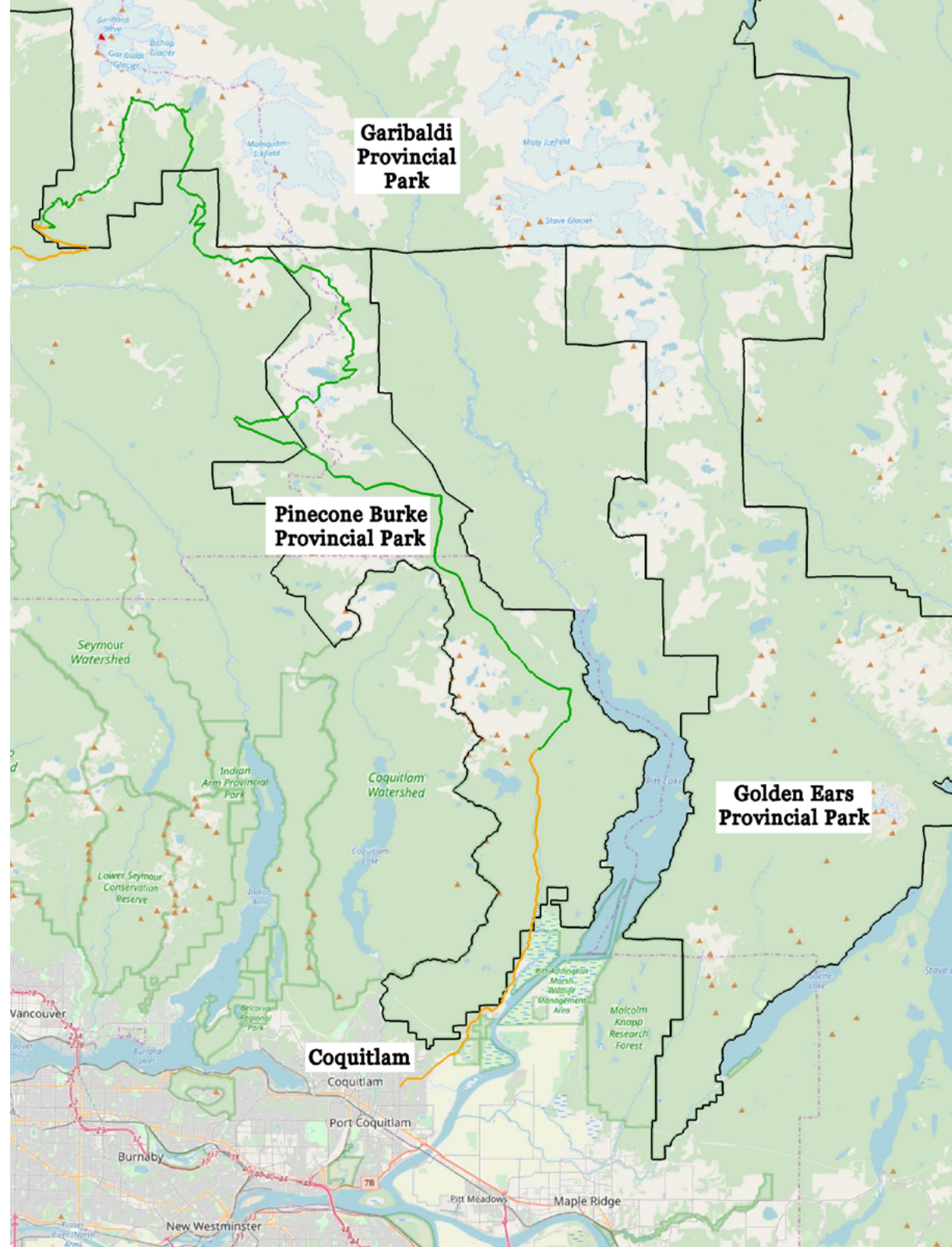
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COQUITLAM TO SQUAMISH HIKING TRAIL

WRITTEN BY PAUL KUBIK

As part of longer range planning, it is highly desirable that a long distance hiking route between Coquitlam and Squamish be considered. The Opal Cone trail proposed in the Garibaldi Park southwestern amendment would be a key trail as there is no other trail connecting Pinecone Burke Provincial Park to Squamish. A Coquitlam to Squamish hiking trail should offer hiking and mountaineering access to Meslilloet Mountain, the Five Fingers group of peaks and access to the ridgeline towards Peneplain Peak. Further north, Pinecone Peak, Mount Gillespie and their connecting ridges to Crawford Peak all offer challenging and spectacular side trips from the proposed hiking route. There is the option



to place backcountry huts at strategic locations to facilitate long traverses or as bases for winter ski touring.

Metro Vancouver is currently planning for public access to Widgeon Marsh reserve in the three to five year time-frame. This would open up public access to the southern end of Pinecone Burke Provincial Park. Concurrently, BC Parks is preparing a draft management plan for Pinecone Burke. Together with the Garibaldi Park southwestern amendment, it means that approximately 75

kilometers as the crow flies of provincial park land in southern British Columbia next to an urban metropolis is in a planning process. Currently, Widgeon Lake is difficult to reach. Park access could be improved by coordination with Metro Vancouver. Parking or public transportation near to Widgeon Marsh or Widgeon Lake is really a necessity. From Widgeon Lake, the Fools Gold trail has fallen into disuse from lack of maintenance. Improved access would enable trail work parties to make improvements or reroute the trail, as required. The Fools Gold trail ends south of Mount Gillespie but the B.C. Mountaineering Club is proposing that an alpine trail continue north to Crawford Peak. It would connect with the Watersprite Lake trail. The proposed Opal Cone trail would connect Watersprite Lake to Squamish through Elfin Lakes.

[MORE INFO BACKCOUNTRYBC.CA/
COQUITLAM-SQUAMISH-HIKING-TRAIL](https://backcountrybc.ca/coquitlam-squamish-hiking-trail)



Looking south over Widgeon Marsh. Coquitlam in the distance. Burke Mountain in Pinecone Burke Provincial Park on the right.

BCMC BANQUET 2019

WRITTEN BY DAVID SCANLON

It would have been back in 2018 when our club president at the time, Wilson Edgar, had the idea of having a club banquet. The idea was to call it a Legends and Legacy Banquet to honour those past club members who had done so very much over the past 112 years to make the club into what it is today. A banquet committee was formed and the planning began. Firstly, some background if I may. Back in 2003 I made a mistake at an executive meeting in saying that with the 100 year centenary of the club coming up, a club banquet should be

held to celebrate that momentous event. The executive threw it right back at me saying "great idea, go ahead and do it."

Mistake number 1: never make a suggestion because it will most likely come back to bite you in the you know where! That banquet took just over 4 years in the planning. The banquet did however turn out to be a great success. The Grouse nest Lupine room was sold

out with 185 guests and additional people on a waiting list.

The original plan for this 2019 Legends and Legacy Banquet was to have a banquet again only on a smaller scale. We started



out aiming to sell 124 tickets on Grouse Mountain again in the Lupin room, the same place as in 2007. Yours truly has the attitude, that if you don't ask you don't get. So I asked the people at Grouse if



in consideration of the resort's long history with the club would they consider giving the BCMC a discount. Surprisingly, they gave us a 20% discount. Thank you Grouse Mountain.

The committee started meeting in early 2019, which turned out to be way earlier than was necessary. Yes, the room at Grouse did need to be booked early, and yes, a main speaker was to be sought out as well. Most other arrangements could have been done later on. The work involved with the 2007 banquet was still on my mind, in that it took so long to arrange and I was in the mind set that we needed that much time again. Wrong! After the first meeting or so there wasn't really much to do until we neared the actual date. And I believe that was why some committee people

started dropping out. There were a hard core few that stayed on and without them the banquet would not have turned out as well as it did. We have to thank them for all they did.

The room was booked and the next thing was to get a speaker. Then the idea came up to think about collaborating with VIMFF on this somehow. We came up with the idea that VIMFF and the BCMC would share a premier speaker. VIMFF would have an event the Friday before our banquet, and that speaker would then stay over and serve as the speaker for our banquet. A great idea. We tried to get Yvon Chouinard but he was unavailable. Anders Ourom said that he personally knew a Jim Donini, a well known American climber. Our next option was to ask Jim Donini if

he could come. We contacted Jim and it turned out that he was available. Jim had worked in Seattle, climbed in Squamish for some years, and knew the area well. He was very eager to come. Working together with the VIMFF people, this all came together very well. Jim and his wife came, had a great time, gave a great presentation, which all turned out very well.

Onward. The committee met again and had the fun task of putting together the menu. Grouse has quite a selection of food to choose from and we were getting hungry just thinking about what we were going to get to eat.

A difficulty arose. When some back and forth talks were had regarding: how were tickets to be made? What would they look like? What would be the content?

Who would print them? etc, etc, etc. Again yours truly had an idea. Getting them printed turned out to be a small challenge as a couple of printing places were difficult to deal with in terms of what we wanted. Then there was the cost, which was a real eye opener as the price for the tickets was looking to be way more costly than originally thought. An idea. One of the clubs long time members was the owner



of Gastown Printers and had in the past done a lot of the printing for the club. So we approached Gastown Printers and shared with them what the club needed for the banquet tickets and they came up with great ideas as to how to put the whole package together. They were fantastic to deal with. Again, I asked a question of them. It turned out that the owner was not involved in the day to day operations of the shop anymore so he was unavailable to speak with, so I asked Teresa, our contact there, to please call the owner to please bring him up to speed on what the club was needing, and ask if we could get a discount on our order. And once again it came about that the club got another 20% discount. Thank you Gastown printers and owner, Jan-Paul Shason.

With the last 2007 banquet being such an overwhelming success, we were expecting and hoping that this one would be the same. Ticket sales started out well, then stalled with only a few selling every few days. With the date getting closer and closer, we decided to change the venue to a smaller room. The Timber room at Grouse is smaller, more intimate and just what was needed. It was also a more cost effective venue for the club.

On the date of our event we planners arrived early to set things up before our guests started to arrive. The evening went very well, Jim spoke at length on past exploits, new friends were made, old acquaintances were renewed, and the food was fantastic! Cudos to the chefs at Grouse.

So, the 2019 BCMC banquet is done and done. A success? Jim Donini and wife Angela came and renewed some past acquaintances and had a great time. Those who attended also had a great time and really enjoyed the food and hearing Jim Donini speak. In that regard it was a success. Did we get the response we expected? No. Lessons learned? Yes. Will the club have another? Anyone want to volunteer? I sincerely hope so.

CLUB UPDATES

WRITTEN BY DAVID SCANLON

WATERSPRITE LAKE TRAIL

Did you know? The busiest day to date for the Watersprite Lake trail was a Saturday in 2019 with 165 hikers and 68 cars lined up along the road at the trail-head. There have been more than 1000 people booking the Watersprite Lake cabin each year, and according to the trail counter, about 5000 hikers in total use the trail. This extraordinary level of public use has been accomplished and facilitated through the dedicated hard work of club volunteers. As the summer of 2020 nears there will again be club work party events scheduled. Please come along and help keep the facilities up and functioning. There are now not one, not two, not three, but four outhouses built to accommodate the huge numbers of people using the area. A new separation toilet was built at the trailhead last summer.

A new route has been established from the cabin straight up to Demon ridge, and this coming summer we aim to extend it to the summit of Demon peak; linking up with the present trail coming up from the

parking lot. This will give hikers a circle route up the regular trail, then back down over Demon peak. The club also has permission to put in a route up towards Dreadnought Peak which will hopefully get done this summer as well. There is a plan in the works to change the designation of the Watersprite lake area and we are looking forward to seeing what that may look like when or if it comes about. All of this work has been done by your cabins and trails chair person Paul Kubik, the cabin and trails committee, and his dedicated group of volunteers. Want to help? Watch for future events on the BCMC trip schedule events scheduled and come along and be a part of the fun!

SPEARHEAD HUTS SOCIETY

David Hughes (a past BCMC president) and I have been representing you on the Spearhead Huts Society (SHS) for these past 11 years. David Hughes served as the BCMC SHS Director until his resignation two years ago. On March 19 2020 the SHS had its AGM whereby I was elected as the new chair of the SHS. Prior to this AGM I was informed that the long time serving Chairperson of the SHS Jayson Faulkner stepped down

at the meeting. Not much else changed, as all other Directors are staying on, only in different positions.

There are two major advantages for you as BCMC members resulting from the clubs participating in the SHS. BCMC members are entitled to a discount to book and stay in the hut; \$30 instead of \$45 a night for the general public. BCMC members also enjoy 90 days advanced booking instead of 60 days advance booking for the general public. From my point of view, most important of all, you and I as members of the BCMC remain members and owners of this world class project; a first of its kind in Canada. All of the money raised to fund the SHS Has been raised through donations and grants. Equally as impressive, 56 of over the 100 contractors and businesses have given their time and/or products free of charge; a testament of how much the outdoor community in the province of BC believes in this project.

HOLLYBURN CABIN

With the permission of the BCMC Board of Directors I have been working towards obtaining a cabin on Hollyburn Mountain for the BCMC and its membership. I have been working with Matthew MacKinnon

and Dan Hanagear from the District of West Vancouver as well as Andrew Gitt, president of Hollyburn Ridge Association to try and make this happen.

I have been informed that this proposal is to be considered on the District Of West Vancouver's city council agenda in the coming months. The specific cabin in question is named the Norman Deacon Cabin and I have personally seen the cabin; an older but structurally sound cabin.

Would it not be fantastic if the BCMC membership could come visit and sleep overnight at a new BCMC Hollyburn Ridge Clubhouse.



When the Norman Deacon Cabin comes before the District of West Vancouver City Council, there is a proposed one or two day visitor inspection process, after which bids will be accepted. Yes, nothing concrete yet, but this looks to be very promising for the BCMC, and the club has the full support of Hollyburn Ridge Association and Matthew Mackinnon.

TRIP TO MOUNTAIN LAKE AREA



IMAGES BY PAUL KUBIK



DECKER MOUNTAIN TRIP



IMAGES BY JOHN SPROULE



WATERSPRITE LAKE



IMAGES BY JOHN SPROULE



How's your isolation going? We'd love to hear about all the ridiculous things you've come up with to pass the time.

**SUBMIT YOUR STORIES AND PICTURES TO
EDITOR@BCMC.CA**