

BCMC



BC Mountaineering Club

For over 100 years we've been fuelled by passionate
volunteers who've kept BCMC vibrant and exciting



If I had never touched a mountain....

Could I imagine
Lacing up my boots
Strapping on my crampons
The knots
And the soft, crisp crunch
Of my axe in firm snow

Laying in the quiet of my
bedroom
Eyes closed
Could I climb them all
If I'd never been there?

As the clock spins
In the silence of the night
I hear the wind
Bending over rock and
ridge

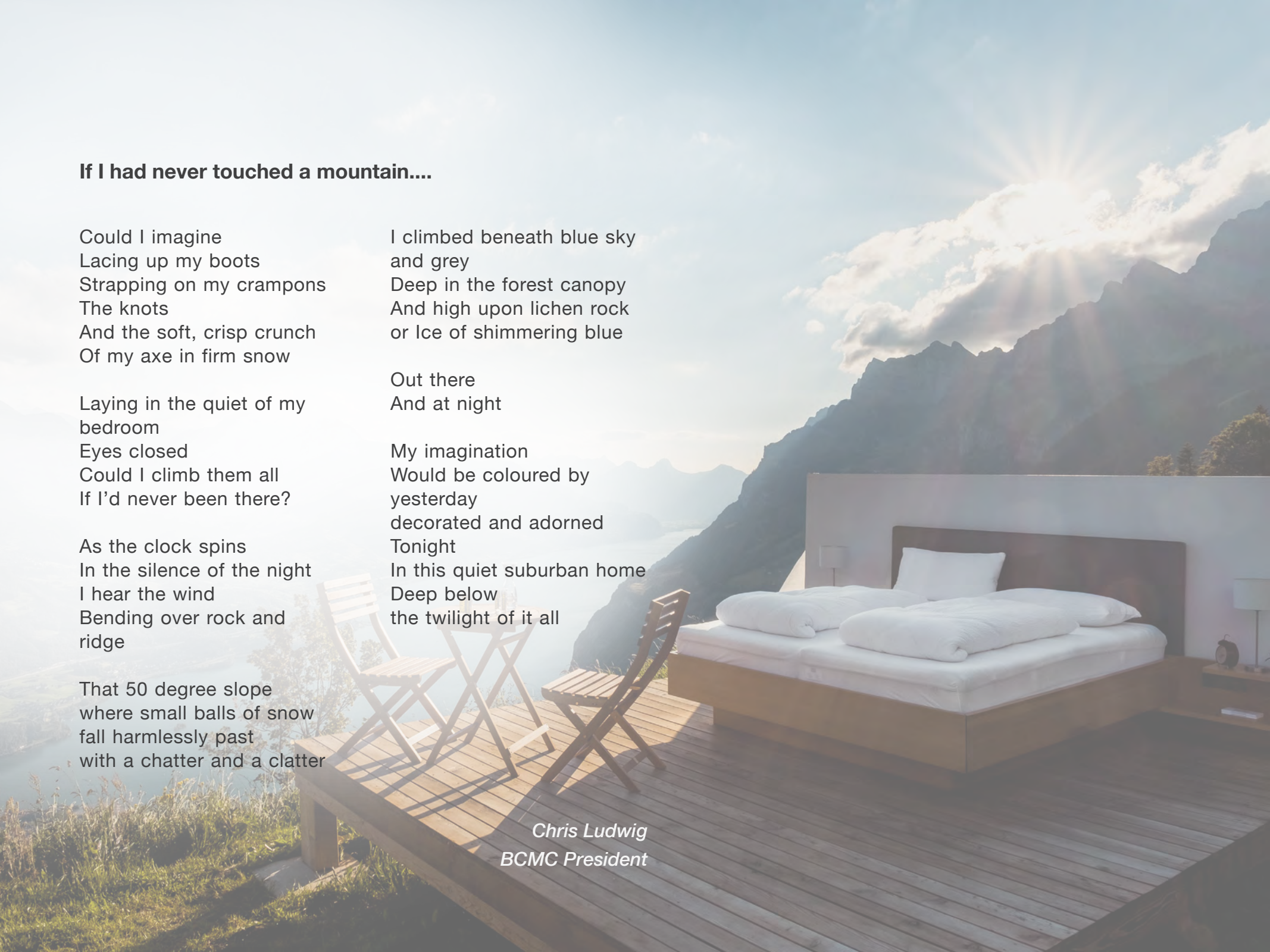
That 50 degree slope
where small balls of snow
fall harmlessly past
with a chatter and a clatter

I climbed beneath blue sky
and grey
Deep in the forest canopy
And high upon lichen rock
or Ice of shimmering blue

Out there
And at night

My imagination
Would be coloured by
yesterday
decorated and adorned
Tonight
In this quiet suburban home
Deep below
the twilight of it all

*Chris Ludwig
BCMC President*



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Featured Member

The Spiel :

I started hiking in my teens, mostly with my father around my hometown, Vancouver Island. Took a decade off, recently joined BCMC and it all escalated from there.

I made lots of friends at BCMC on my hikes. But pretty soon they were doing cool stuff and I wanted to know what the fun was all about.

I started taking mountaineering seriously when I got accepted for Winifred Swatschek's Intro to Mountaineering Course - a 3-week, very intense program. I've since done a couple of glacier trips and then tried backcountry skiing last year. Absolutely loved it. So much so, when I snapped my skis last week, a little bit of my heart snapped as well.

What's your Best Horror story :

Weekend of Intro to Mountaineering, on our way to Motel 66 (Mount Joffre), we needed to camp overnight and we arrived later than expected. A storm was coming but we underestimated how swiftly we would be enveloped in. The wind was blowing without mercy and we were losing light very fast.

8 instructors and 15 students, side by side. No clue what we were doing. But we did it. There was not a choice to attend to our exhaustion or our thoughts. Just Build. Build Snow Kitchen. Build Snow walls. Etcetera. It was my first winter camping. I will never forget that.



David Egan

Volunteer Coordinator for BCMC

Featured

Member

David Egan (Continued)

Lessons Learned :

Skills are important but it all comes down to Tolerance.
Accept the situation, surpass it and then you go build some more tolerance.

How do you prepare yourself before a trip?

Research. Research. Research and a healthy breakfast.
Hey oh, off I go to the path less travelled.

Favourite Trip Snack :

Reese's pieces, full fat and protein but mostly I enjoy them.
So much so, I can offer you a tip here - head to the baking section - much much cheaper.

What's the least favourite part of your trip :

Driving home. Worst Part. I just want to be home.

Any tips for aspiring mountaineers :

Learn as much as you can
Don't be afraid to ask others for help.

Best Advice Received:

So many great advice but mostly
Be calm, Don't panic. Be calm.

Let us keep an eye out for that mug "Keep Calm and Mountain on" for David.

Welcome New Members

November 2020 - January 2021

Click on the month to see our new members!

Would you like to be featured in our publication?

Reach out to us at info@bcmc.ca

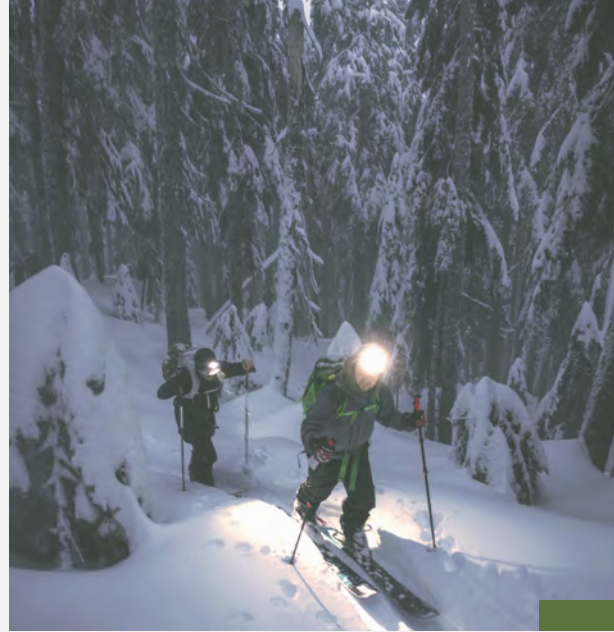
We are always looking forward to getting to know our fantastic members

Season Highlights

Trip Snapshots

Carolyn Steingard, BCMC Member

First time ice climber @Royal Canadian Kilted Yaksmen WI3 located on the Northwest corner of Thar Peak.



Zac Hoffman, Director Crux

The North Shore Student Special - Ski tour at sunrise, at my desk doing homework by 10:30 am”

Photo Credit @Geoff Hewat



Paul Kubik, BCMC Cabins & Trails, Backcountry Advocacy

Ripping the slide path up July Creek @July Mountain

Missy McIntosh, Director Beyond the Break

Cross country skiing with Mini Missy (7 months) @Cypress Mountain



Pirabalini, BCMC Editor

Hike Hair, Couldn't Care
@Crooked Falls



Dan Chalmers, Avid Hiker

"Got Wolf"
@Squamish



Cindy Huang, BCMC Editor

Beautiful kind of cold, snowshoeing @Hollyburn Mountain



Upcoming Trips

January-February 2021

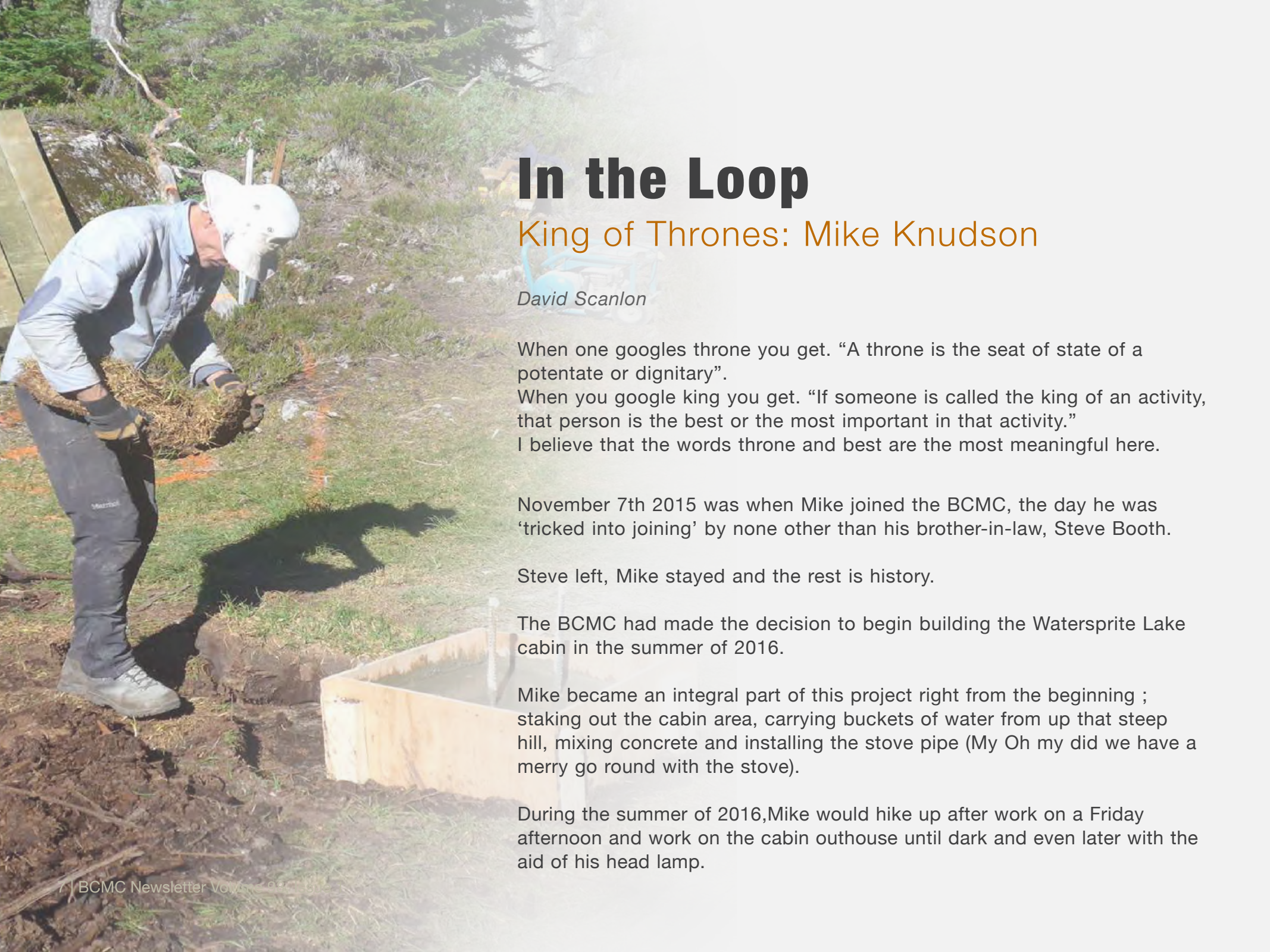
Jan

- 26 ● How to Organize a BCMC Trip (Offering 16) - Instructional Program
- 29 ● Thar Pk N Ski Line - Backcountry Skiing
- 29 ● Phelix Creek Area 4 Days - Backcountry Skiing

Feb

- 06 ● Ledge(ling) couloir - Backcountry Skiing
- 06 ● Intro to Ice Climbing - Whistler 2 Days - Guided Instruction
- 07 ● Blackcomb classics - Whistler 2 Days - Backcountry Skiing
- 09 ● Outdoor Photography; Announcing winners of Video Contest
- 13 ● Winter Crevasse Rescue & Glacier Travel 2 Days- Guided Instruction
- 20 ● AST-1 Avalanche Skills Training 2 Days - Guided Instruction
- 20 ● Ski Mountaineering - Guided Instruction

[MORE INFO >](#)



In the Loop

King of Thrones: Mike Knudson

David Scanlon

When one googles throne you get. “A throne is the seat of state of a potentate or dignitary”.

When you google king you get. “If someone is called the king of an activity, that person is the best or the most important in that activity.”

I believe that the words throne and best are the most meaningful here.

November 7th 2015 was when Mike joined the BCMC, the day he was ‘tricked into joining’ by none other than his brother-in-law, Steve Booth.

Steve left, Mike stayed and the rest is history.

The BCMC had made the decision to begin building the Watersprite Lake cabin in the summer of 2016.

Mike became an integral part of this project right from the beginning ; staking out the cabin area, carrying buckets of water from up that steep hill, mixing concrete and installing the stove pipe (My Oh my did we have a merry go round with the stove).

During the summer of 2016, Mike would hike up after work on a Friday afternoon and work on the cabin outhouse until dark and even later with the aid of his head lamp.



I remember on Saturday mornings ,I would wake up about 6 AM and be ever so quiet so as not to wake up Mike, unaware that he has already been up since 5AM and was already working on “his” outhouse” in the dark by his trustee headlamp.

He would work all day Saturday and all day Sunday then hike out in the dark. His work ethic was unbelievable.

I honestly cannot remember how Mike became to be the outhouse builder but as time went by the Watersprite cabin outhouse became his to own, the-go-to guy for upgrades and of course the cleaning of all 4 outhouses.

Shovelling out the ‘waste’ into barrels and then flown out to be emptied.

So here we are today,the BCMC owes Mike a huge debt of gratitude for what he has done, what he is still doing, and hopefully continues to do in the future.

There will come a time that Mike will retire (we all hope that it will not be any time soon) and I would have to pose the inevitable question,

“Who would take over for him when he leaves?”

Regardless.

Here is my thanks and hats off to our very own,
“King of Thrones” Mike Knudson.

On behalf of the BCMC,Thank you Mike.





In the Loop

Winter 2020 -2021

Grouse Grizzlies,Grinder & Coola, are thanking everyone's wishes for their 20th birthday.

These bears are not siblings but they were rescued at a similar time. Grinder & Coola birthdays (January 22nd) may not be officially correct but the bears don't seem to mind celebrating their '20th' this year.

Avalanche Canada has launched an interactive tutorial Avy Savvy with a goal to prepare you on your first forays into winter backcountry recreation, to provide a solid foundationfor AST 1 course or simply to freshen up on your avalanche awareness knowledge. <https://avysavvy.avalanche.ca/>

In the Community

VIMFF 2021 Online

FEBRUARY 19 - 28

BCMC has been a proud affiliate of VIMFF (Vancouver International Mountain film festival) since the very beginning.

VIMFF celebrates the outdoor adventure community and the mountain culture through film, photography and presentations.

Vimff runs an annual international 10-day festival, this year on February 19 2021- February 28 2021.

Click [here](#) to attend VIMFF with BCMC Member Promo Code



*"Los Tres Amigos Juntos" Volunteering at the 2020 VIMFF
Susanne Postil. David Scanlon. Terry Wong*

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a rock climber in a grey long-sleeved shirt and a white helmet with a red and black design, climbing a steep, light-colored rock face. The climber is positioned in the lower-left quadrant. Above them, another climber in a blue shirt and yellow helmet is visible. The rock face is textured with various cracks and ledges. The top right of the image shows a snowy or light-colored rock area. The overall scene is a high-altitude climbing environment.

In the Community

Behind the Scenes

We often forget the person behind-the-scenes when watching films.

That 'close-up' shot did not come out of nowhere.

That nowhere did not come out of ideal working conditions of documenting the journey.

Rain.Snow.In the air,dangling with equipment.

Remote.No Convenience Store for those quick coffees breaks.

Those documentaries did not come out of nowhere

So, thank-you to the behind- the- sceners.

Crux

Patagonia

That's where this trio's circle intertwined, their workplace Patagonia. And that's where this story and friendship flourishes with Zac Hoffman(Director),Casey Dubois (Director) and Harvey (protagonist).

Advocating for Mental Health Awareness is a personal mission for Casey and Zac. Burning that midnight oil to make it through this hyper competitive world. To find balance within one, is the key isn't it?

"We were blessed growing up in sports. Anytime we needed an outlet, we hit the mountains," Zac continues,

"So putting the love of filming, mountains and mental health advocacy became the pursuit of this project."

Blood,sweat and tears.
We had many hiccups.COVID did not help.

Harvey struggled a lot.

The isolation.

Separation from a soul's sanctuary can be bleak when one is on the road to recovery.

The sanctuary being with the mountains.

An uneasy scene flashes, "this is going to be ok", as Harvey traces a credit card across his lip.



Behind the Scenes

Harvey Wright

A Big guy. Big Beard. And a Lot of tattoos.
Zac says “very intimidating and I was very nervous when I had my first sit-down with him.”
But Harvey is just this beautiful soul who is super real. He wears his heart on his sleeve.
Baring his vulnerabilities in front the duo and trusting to be filmed as he is.
His portrayal of emotions is what pushed Casey and Zac to get closer.

Climb just as hard as Harvey.
Climb just as high as Harvey. Those ‘close-up shots’.
“It was quite humbling to be able to tell his story,” as Zac reflects.

Blood. Sweat and tears.
But no harm came to any filming equipments. Well at least not on this project.
“Casey did drop a lens once on another expedition,” Zac piped up.

VIMFF 2021 Online

Crux | Canada

BCMC Promo Code



In the Footsteps of our Ancestors



Nicholas Castel (Director) & Erinn Drage (Director, Producer) worked at Parks Canada.

They both have a background in Environmental Science.

Filming was his passion ; Hiking was her forte.

“The rest was Happenstance”,as Nicholas puts it elegantly.

Whilst exploring Canada’s many national parks, they (Erinn & Nicholas) happen to show up in a small town, on a quest to learn more about the community through the residents and elders.

The founder of the Canol Youth Leadership Hike and Dene National Chief, Norman Yakeleya, happen to hear that 2 visitors are on the lookout for filming a documentary.

“Happenstance”.

Not much is known about the Canol Heritage Trail except it is noted as one of the difficult hikes in Canada.

The history of the trail is rich, deep-rooted and one cannot get enough information online except in conversations with the Sahtú Dene elders.

Indigenous history has been set aside in favour of highlighting the western explorers in Canada.

However when venturing into the Canol Heritage Trail, the Shúhtagot’ıne mountains does not offer preferential treatment, “No matter the age/race/gender, the trail levelled a playing field for all of us,”explained Nicholas.

Behind the Scenes

A common ground.

“As our journey continued, we needed to set our differences aside and we learned to rely on each other for support on this very challenging journey .”

At night, they would gather and all agreed tiredly that fire was good ,hot meal was good.

A common appreciation for this luxury shared amongst each individual.

“We all appreciated the same thing and we were one.”

Documenting ‘In the Footsteps of our Ancestors’ was all about bridging communications and trust amongst cultures. If we respect the knowledge passed down from our elders, acknowledge the different histories, accept and respect the land - we can be whole lot further on sustainability. This is the powerful message you will catch once you see a glimpse of ‘In the Footsteps of our Ancestors’.

VIMFF 2021 Online

In the Footsteps of our Ancestors | Canada

BCMC Promo Code





Wall of Shadows

Through time differences and the crackling sounds of facebook messenger, a soft and the most patient voice addressed this behind-the-scenes interview

And as you get to know the director, you'll catch glimpses of her foundation on her character.

Eliza Kubarska ,director of Wall of Shadows, adamant about bringing awareness to the exploitation of tourism.

The equation of the first world wants vs third world needs.

Everyone wants to cross off their 'bucket list'.

At what cost?

The tragic accident in 2014 on top of Mt.Everest that resulted in an ice avalanche killing 16 Sherpas in the process, still stirs resentment amongst the families.

A mere \$400 dollars were compensated to the mourning families.

"The 'westerners' climb these mountains and instantly get fame and prosperous opportunities, all the while the Sherpas climb back down (numerous times)only to return to their huts and warm themselves up next to the fire. How is this right?" questions Eliza.

The director was immediately drawn to the other side of the story.

The untold side of the Sherpas.

The people in the shadows.

Behind the Scenes

Mountains are regarded as holy in Nepal, where the Gods reside.
But tourism trumps an entire set of belief systems.
And cold, hard cash still corners oneself into going against their core values.

“But I am hopeful for the future. There was a recent climb to K2 and it was done during the winter for the very first time. Every media coverage highlighted each individual who took part in this journey, acknowledging accordingly (climbers and sherpas). This is a very empowering moment.”

It’s a bit of a controversial topic - this film puts us (audience) in the hot-seat.

Travel is very ingrained in our ‘western’ culture.

“I hope with this film, you’ll be more mindful and respectful of all the people you encounter when travelling”, Eliza concludes.

VIMFF 2021 Online

Wall of Shadows | Canada

[BCMC Promo Code](#)



Beyond the Break



Missy McIntosh, director of Beyond the Break, is always looking to film short documentaries on interesting people.

Now, everyone's interesting.

But Sam Danniels is somewhat spectacular.

Sam Danniels, an athlete, suffered a spinal injury from a mountain bike accident in 2005.

But that doesn't stop Sam from being with his true love everyday - sports.

At times sports require equipment and Sam doesn't have the luxury to get any equipment catered to him.

So he decides to build instead.

He starts by building his very own surfboard.

"It took us 2 years to complete the project and no it didn't take Sam 2 years to make a board!" as Missy laughs.

"Sam takes 3 days to complete a surfboard."

"The minute I met him," as Missy remembers, "I knew a 5 min documentary wouldn't do justice. He's someone incredible."

With all the many stalls while filming, the crew was gung ho on completing the project 'right' no matter the length of time.

"There we were shooting, getting up close and personal, trying to grasp the world's beauty through the way Sam sees it. "



Behind the Scenes

“I thought it would be weird to watch a movie about me “
Sam comments to Missy.
“Getting the thumbs up from Sam was deeply fulfilling.
I wouldn’t be able to tell his story right without my awesome
camera crew and my kick-ass editor Maxine Shewan.”
Missy is very thankful.

In Missy’s spare time, she loves hiking the Baden Powell trail.
Perhaps you’ll run into her and be able to pitch your story?
Perhaps.

VIMFF 2021 Online
Beyond the Break | Canada
[BCMC Promo Code](#)



FANTASTIC FINDS

Events & Membership Discounts

February

Making History in the Adirondack Mountains: The 46 Unsupported Thru-Hike | **SheJumps**

Women Who Explore - What's in Your First Aid Kit? | **Women Who Explore**

Hug a Tree & Survive | **BC AdventureSmart**

Calling Women In | Winter Sports Athletes | **SheJumps**

A Climate Conscious Mountaineering Medic - My Personal Viewpoint | **Jeremy Windsor**

Winter Wildlife - Adventuring in Coyote, Fox & Wolf Country | **Bear Safety & More Inc**

Snow Safety Education: Backcountry | **BC AdventureSmart**

OnTopic Lecture: Rocks: The Building Blocks of the Park | **Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation**

Calling Women In | Ski Patrol | **SheJumps**

24th Annual VIMFF Online | **VIMFF**

March

Laying Tracks | Winter Navigation: Using Topos to Identify Avalanche Terrain and Snowpack Development | **Northwest Avalanche Center**

Survive Outside Program | **BC AdventureSmart**

Snow Safety Education: Backcountry | **BC AdventureSmart**



Your Story

Matters

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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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