The Kokanee Glacier Alpine Campaign

by Wayne Stetski, Kootenay District

The Kokanee Glacier Alpine Campaign began with broken dreams: Jack and James Steed, Leslie Causley, John Carter, Scott Bradley, Mary Cowan, Dr. Robert Driscoll, Geoffrey Liedal, Patrick von Blumen, Lise Nicola, Michel Trudeau – all were pursuing their dreams of experiencing the incredible winter beauty of Kokanee Glacier Park when their lives tragically were cut short.

As with the others who died, the death of Michel on November 13, 1998 deeply saddened us all. Michel was a son for Pierre and Margaret, a brother for Justin and Sasha, a friend to those who knew him. He was also a Trudeau, a household name for Canadians from several generations. Friends of the Trudeau family and Canadians with a deep respect for who they are, expressed a strong desire to show they shared in the family’s loss. They wanted to do something in memory of Michel.

It was Roger Tierney, Kootenay District Recreation Officer, who first approached me about asking the Trudeau family to help us raise money to build a new public cabin for Kokanee Glacier Park. Ask them we did, and in June of 1999 a letter arrived from the Trudeau law office in Montreal signed on behalf of the family by Sasha. In part this letter said:

"Through the tragic loss of Michel last year the Trudeau family has become spiritually linked to Kokanee Glacier Park. It is a place of phenomenal beauty, a place to be guarded and to be shared. It is with trust in the guardianship of this mountain wilderness by BC Parks that the Trudeau family lends its support to the initiative of developing the park’s backcountry facilities by building a new hut."

And so the Kokanee Glacier Alpine Campaign dream was born. But dreams are more meaningful when they are shared and so we began the search for partners. Bill Bryce and the Friends of West Kootenay Parks, a long established non-profit Society, were the first on board, offering to look after receiving money and issuing tax receipts. Groups like the Kootenay Mountaineering Club, the Timberframe Guild, the Alpine Club of Canada and local Nelson recreationalists helped with the conceptual design for the new cabin. Mary Krupa and Lynne Berard of Morningstar Enterprises were selected as our fundraisers. With the assistance of the Trudeau family an amazing mix of local, provincial and national celebrities agreed to be Honorary Patrons of the campaign, and the Trudeau family, under Justin’s leadership, agreed to be Honorary Chairpersons.

A committee of Canada’s senators and business leaders was established to oversee the corporate fundraising. The committee worked long hours for no pay to help realize a dream. That dream went beyond building a new public cabin for park users to (continued on page 2)
VISIONS is produced six times per year by BC Parks, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks to maintain commitment to quality service and stewardship and to encourage innovation by everyone directly involved or interested in BC Parks.

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Articles from readers are welcome. Deadline for material in the next issue is May 1, 2001.

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Letters

December 31, 2000

BC Parks
Kootenay District
Wasa Lake, BC

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of a group of seven happy cyclists who graced the Wasa Lake campground with their presence from July 16–July 20, I am writing to commend you on your wonderful campground and your superb employees.

We sincerely enjoyed our experience in your campground. We are particularly grateful to the Parks Facility Operator, Ken Arndt (Kendal Enterprises Ltd.), and his lively, informative and helpful crew. Although we did our best to totally confuse Ken with our constantly changing bookings, he maintained his sense of humour and was more than graciously accommodating with our changing requests.

Again, thank you for the wonderful experience – we are looking forward to returning!

Yours sincerely,

Kathi Hughes
Prince George, BC

(The Kokanee Glacier... continued from page 1)

include the restoration of the 105-year-old Slocan Chief cabin to an interpretive centre and to raise national awareness about avalanche risk and backcountry safety.

The list of partners grew. Local singer/songwriter Bree Rael wrote and composed a song in memory of Michel and artist Les Weisbrich created a magnificent painting of the venerable Slocan Chief Cabin. The Canadian Avalanche Association threw their support behind the campaign. The Province of British Columbia’s Environment Youth Team provided student interns Corinne Kinash, Brooke Dawson and Anne Stacey to help out and to organize a magnificent weekend celebration with the help of Mayor Exner and the Nelson City Councillors, Sandi Gilfillan and the people and businesses of Nelson.

If you wish to be part of this most worthwhile project please call the Kootenay District at (250) 422-4200 or go to www.kokanee-glacier.org on the web.

Fairbanks Architects of Nelson took on the design of the new cabin and Hamill Creek Timberwrights of Meadow Creek, BC the task of building it once fundraising is completed.

KBS radio, CTV, the Globe and Mail, the Corus Radio network, the Bank of Montreal and Mountain Equipment Co-op came on board to help promote winter backcountry safety and to create opportunities for all Canadians to share in the dream. One by one the many visionaries who help make up this great country linked arms to span the nation. And they in turn are now irrevocably linked to Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park.

If you wish to be part of this most worthwhile project please call the Kootenay District at (250) 422-4200 or go to www.kokanee-glacier.org on the web.

2 VISIONS April 2001
Russian Relations

by Rick Heathman, Prince George District

It isn’t often that someone offers to send you half way around the earth, immerse you in a foreign culture, and take you sight seeing ... but that’s exactly what happened to me last fall. The McGregor Model Forest (MMF) Association asked me to go to the Russian Far East to advise them with preparations for a new National Park as part of a Canadian International Economic Development Agreement (CIDA) project.

A few years back, MMF was successful in “twinning” with Gassinski Model Forest, near Khabarovsk. A condition of the CIDA agreement is the establishment of a large protected area. This has now been achieved with the recent decree of Anyiski National Park – a huge area in the Amur River valley north of Khabarovsk.

The new park is situated on the northern transition zone between Chinese and Siberian ecology. While on a similar latitude to Vancouver, it has 95% humidity in summer and cold dry winters. It encompasses 426,000 hectares of flat lying marshes and wooded hillsides. It is bounded on two sides by 160 kilometers of road and contains most of the drainages of two relatively untouched rivers. It was not glaciated and has a mixed forest with amazing diversity. Of note, the area is home to the Siberian tiger, Amur leopards, sun bears, musk deer, “elks” (moose with skinny antlers) and red deer. The trees shed nuts, the pigs eat the nuts, the tigers eat the pigs ... you get the picture. Aquatic species include Taimen (huge predatory salmonids), chum salmon, grayling and trout. Japanese cranes and fish eagle owls also make the park their home. Large parts of the park have been selectively harvested in the past, and the park also includes a small community. The park is the traditional home of native Siberian Nanai and Udeghe people who are still quite dependent on it for survival.

Russia has a 225-year history of forest management dating back to Peter the Great, so they have very knowledgeable foresters. During the past 70 years of communism, a good looking house to the average Russian was a six-to-eight story concrete apartment building. Wooden houses were viewed as inferior so there has been little domestic demand for lumber. With no demand, few mills materialized. With few machines to feed the small timber economy is largely about the sale of raw logs. They have had their own boiled-down version of a forest practices code since the 1960s and they do not allow clear cutting or steep-slope logging, but they have permitted extensive selective over-the-snow skidder logging. The result is that they have a very large, unbroken forest canopy with extensive tote-road access that has had stream impacts and enabled heavy hunting pressure. While timber production is low, they have made extensive use of non-wood forest products and this has generated an associated knowledge base. They commonly use many of the plants for food and medicinal purposes. They also have a tremendous opportunity to preserve relatively intact ecosystems.

The concept of a national park is relatively new to this part of Russia, so their staff will need to be trained to bring them up to speed. Some funding is still available from CIDA and it is anticipated that selected staff from BC Parks and Russia may travel for short training exchanges, based on Russian needs. The new park recently passed a major milestone when it was decreed by the Russian Governor of Khabarovsk Krai on January 10, 2001. Management planning will be their next major step. Technical training of Russian Forest Service staff will progress over the next several years, but they are not exactly starting

(continued on page 4)
from scratch. They are very aware of species diversity issues and already have an extensive system of “zapovedniks” or forest reserves. There is little doubt we could learn a lot from them about traditional uses. Their need is to understand tourism-related park use.

The Russian program is moving slowly at present due to elections and re-organizations (on their side!). However, as they start to get their staff in place, expect more activity to occur. I’ll keep you posted!

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**What are Protected Areas Worth?**

*by Rick Kool, Victoria*

We are always putting a dollar value on nature. We might say that a hectare of forest is worth so many dollars in standing wood, or a given body of water might produce so much value in fish harvested. We have calculated the value of nature as a tourist attraction: in BC studies indicated provincial parks are said to contribute over $450 million annually to provincial GDP through tourism-related spending.

Both of these methods involve the human use or exploitation of nature. Nature produces goods like water, fish or wood, and we can put a dollar figure to the value of the goods.

But there are other ways to calculate the value of nature. While we don’t often think about it, nature has a real and demonstrable value just as it “sits” there, doing what it always has done, and would continue to do into the future, if it were simply allowed to exist as it is.

What nature does, usually without us being aware of it, is provide us a wide – a staggeringly wide – array of “services”. There is a service industry in nature, a natural industry that is often invisible.

Why does BC have a multimillion dollar fruit industry? Because there are bees and other insects around that pollinate fruits. Why does BC have a multimillion dollar fishery? Because there are streams and rivers for salmon to spawn in, and estuaries for their juveniles to mature in. Why

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1 We will use Canadian dollars in this discussion.
ecosystem services. Economists often talk about “return on investment” as a way of making decisions: usually, one wants to have as quick a return on one’s investment as possible. The total budget for protected areas in BC from both provincial and federal governments is roughly $70 million. That is, collectively we put in $70 million to manage and protect these areas, and those areas gives us from $4–12 billion of services in return. The rate of return on investment? Less than one week! In one week, the provinces’ protected areas provide more than the yearly budget of the agencies charged with their care.

Most of those involved in conservation don’t really like putting a dollar value on nature, preferring to consider only its intrinsic values. But we live in a world where dollar-values speak loudly. Protected areas are not, as critics might profess, places removed from economic activity. Protected areas are intensely involved in providing goods and services so valuable that there is not enough money generated in the provincial economy each year to buy those services, assuming that they could be bought. Investments in parks are good ones.

Here are things a few of this year’s participant’s said:

■ “E-Teams are such a great resource,” said Marren Hague, 22, who responded to “Ask a Marine Scientist” questions on the Bamfield Marine Station’s Web site. She had completed a marine biology degree at the University of British Columbia in the fall. “It’s a great way for people my age to get jobs in their field, which is usually very hard to do.”

■ “Working on the E-Team has been one of the highlights of my life so far,” said Alvin Walkus Jr., 21, now working for the Gwa’sala’Nakwaxda’xw First Nation. In the summer he studied Grey whales north of Port Hardy with the Coastal Ecosystems Research Foundation. He said he was particularly glad to learn to read a chart, work a compass and use a Global Positioning System. “That’s how I got my treaty research job.”

■ “I’ve learned a lot about the operation of the fish hatchery, what it takes to run it, and what it does for the province,” said Salem Collins, 20, who worked with Myert Corps Inc. to enhance fish habitat on Lower Mainland rivers. “I’ve really enjoyed working with the E-Team. If I could, I’d like to do it again.”

■ “The experience definitely wouldn’t have happened if it wasn’t for the E-Team,” said Patrick McGuiness, a 21-year-old student at Simon Fraser University who helped Southam Consulting in Nelson develop and promote the Wetlandkeepers program. “I’d really like to do something in this field. I’d like to work for a non-profit organization.”

Thank you to all the participants, sponsors and partners who made the 2000/2001 E-Team a success.

E-Teams Make a Difference

by Andrew MacLeod, E-Team Communications

As the BC Parks Environment Youth Team nears the end of the 2000/2001 program year, its success can be measured in many ways.

For starters, the E-Team created 1,491 jobs in the year, surpassing its target of 1,370 by a significant margin. By entering partnerships with organizations as diverse as BC Hydro, the federal government, the Osoyoos Desert Society and the Heiltsuk Nation, the E-Team used its $9.25-million budget to leverage a further $5.5-million to employ youth in environmental jobs.

While creating these opportunities, the province gained a legacy of bridges, trails, wildlife studies, habitat restoration and environmental education, both in and out of parks. In many cases, work is being done that wouldn’t happen any other way.

Harder to measure, is the difference the E-Team made in the lives of the young people who held the jobs. Employing people when they are between 16 and 24 years old, the E-Team often reaches people at a point in their lives when they are thinking about their future. Gaining experience, skills and confidence is essential.

Scott Menzies, Neil Mossie (company owner), Chris Dodds, Serina Stevens, Travis Fleming and Leila Piasecki stand on the bridge they built over Holt Creek in Cowichan River Provincial Park while on an E-Team crew with Mossie Environment Services. Their supervisor, Ed Lovegrove, is not pictured.
The Strathcona District has received an inspirational gift from talented and renowned artist, Richard Krentz. Richard has developed an emblem for the district in recognition of the staff’s contribution to park stewardship and as a reminder that our decisions may and can impact on a broad diversity of life. Richard’s emblem will be used for employee recognition and possibly on gifts to honor volunteers. The emblem is not intended to replace BC Parks official “TV screen logo” or “uniform flash” which are synonymous with BC Parks.

A note from the Artist – Richard Krentz
I have created this emblem for BC Parks, Strathcona District, as a gift and reminder to staff that they have been given the important responsibility of stewardship over park lands. This responsibility should not be taken lightly, as natural life cycles often depend on the care we provide and decisions we make. The complexity and diversity of life is symbolized through each of the emblem’s components:

Eagle – The great protector who sees and protects all creation.
Bear – The strength of the earth who supplies us with all our physical needs.
Whale – The medium of travel who guides us on our journey through life.

Circle of Life – is depicted by the form of the emblem as it encompasses the eagle, bear and whale.

About the Artist
Richard Krentz is a Coast Salish artist of the Shi’sha’lth (Sechelt) Nation who was raised on British Columbia’s beautiful Sunshine Coast and now resides near Campbell River. The artist’s style reflects a strong faith in his Creator. Whether the images Richard creates are applied to wood, paper or precious metals, they portray qualities of hope, joy, peace and love. Richard’s work is enjoyed in private and corporate collections throughout the world.

If you would like to learn more about the artist and his work, please visit his website at: www.krentz.com

Innocents in Ottawa

There is nothing like walking out of an airplane, after a mild Victoria winter, into a crisp -18°C Ottawa morning. With the hair in my nostrils instantly frozen solid, I stood in line for a taxi, waiting to join up with Chris Tunnoch (Extension Officer, Lower Mainland District) at the Parks Canada Ecological Integrity (EI) “train the trainer” course.

Parks Canada and BC Parks are the two lead agencies in Canada working on making Ecological Integrity the basic organizing framework for the management of protected areas. Since both agencies have been putting together training programs, and since BC Parks has been delivering its training since January, Parks Canada invited us to send two participants to both observe and contribute to their training program.

Chris and I were chosen to represent the 19 BC Parks EI trainers at the Ottawa training session.

Basically, the two agencies have taken somewhat different approaches to educating their staff about the concepts rolled up in the EI framework. BC Parks took a group of subject-matter specialists and gave them the freedom to design their own workshops. Those workshops were to be delivered during nine, week-long training programs. All staff, from “top to bottom”, are to be involved as participants in the workshops. And we mixed up (but did not confuse) staff, so that each workshop had a mix of job descriptions and geographical distributions included.

Parks Canada is using a different model, whereby local trainers will be offering four three-hour workshops to their colleagues and associates. These 130 or so trainers had either volunteered or were volunteered, and had come to Ottawa from all over the country to learn how to deliver the training program that all Parks Canada staff were required to take. The trainers were staff from all parts of the organization, and would be responsible for delivering the entire four-module program regardless of their background knowledge. It was the program to train these trainers that Chris and I attended.

At lunch on the first day, Chris and I had 30 minutes to make a brief verbal presentation to the trainers, outlining what BC Parks was doing around EI training. What came out of that meeting was a very strong request for more detail from us, and a chance for the Parks Canada folks to see some of what we were offering to our staff. So that evening, Chris and I

(continued on page 7)
spent a few hours together taking bits and pieces from all the BC Parks presentations, putting them together into one 30-minute PowerPoint presentation. But to our surprise, the computer we were given to do this on was a “French” computer, with all the PowerPoint menus in French! As neither of us are particularly facile en française, this added a bit of stress to the endeavour, but BC Parks people are nothing if not adaptable and we accomplished our goal tout suite.

The next day at 8 a.m., we had a standing-room-only audience to see what we had been doing here west (for the most part) of the Rockies. There was a tremendous interest in our presentation! I was receiving ridiculous offers – bottles of screech, bottles of scotch – from people wanting to buy the CD with all of our presentations on it. We did not succumb: BC Parks' staff are also resolute! We also were besieged by Parks Canada staff wanting to come to BC for our five-day training program.

Saturday morning, we had another request to deliver the slide show to those who hadn't seen it. Chris and I went back to work, adding to and modifying the show, and again at lunch we delivered a presentation of the work of the BC Parks EI design and development team.

And then, near the end of the workshop on Saturday afternoon, we were asked if we would again be willing to meet after the formal workshop was finished. Chris and I ended spending two more hours with 20–30 people in a hotel room, with computer and projector, talking about the BC Parks EI workshop and showing more of the various presentations.

It wasn’t all work, though. Chris and I had the privilege of engaging in a classic Canadian experience – skating on the Rideau Canal and eating deep-fried beaver tails. Meeting Parks Canada staff from all over the country, from sea to sea to sea, reminds us of the vast scale of this country and the quality of people who choose to work in parks. We were both unprepared for the degree of interest shown in the work of BC Parks’ staff. I think it fair to say that we were both, at that point, very proud to be associated with an organization that has put such a serious effort into helping all its staff come to an understanding of what it means to use an ecologically-based framework for thinking about park management. And I was happy to be able to bring the passion and commitment that all BC Parks employees have, to share with our associates in Parks Canada.

Co-operating at a whole new level, the BC Conservation Officer Service and BC Parks have stepped up backcountry enforcement patrols in the Muskwa-Kechika management area.

The first co-operative patrol occurred last year during the summer of 2000. The patrol, conducted on horseback, commenced on July 26 and concluded on September 10. In total, the patrol took 46 days and enforcement and compliance checks were conducted in the Tetsa, Chisca, Tochodi, Kluachesi, Gatho, Besa, Redfern, Nevis, and Sikanni watersheds.

The pack train consisted of 12 horses expertly wrangled by Herb and Brenen Leake – locals from the Pink Mountain area. The patrol was performed in five stages and at the end of each stage, staff changes were made and supplies were replenished. Members of the Conservation Officer team arrived from several parts of the province – Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Valemount and Prince George. Rob Honeyman, BC Parks Area Supervisor for the North Peace Area, and Chris Hotson, a Backcountry Ranger from the Liard Area, took part in two of the stages. These stages traversed the 665,709-hectare Northern Rocky Mountains Provincial Park.

Overall, the patrol was a huge success. Many contacts were made and hunting checks were done on both resident and non-resident hunters. More co-operative enforcement patrols will occur within the Muskwa-Kechika management area this year. This increased presence will help ensure that the areas special features, fish and wildlife resources and sensational recreation opportunities are protected and managed for all to enjoy.
BC Parks Wooden Broom Bonspiel

Thanks to everyone who helped put together a very successful 25th anniversary Wooden Broom Bonspiel for BC Parks! Special thanks goes out to our sponsors: Parks Environmental Groundskeeper Ltd., Canadian Mountain Holidays Inc., Bufo Inc. and North Okanagan Cross Country Ski Club for making this a successful event. Through a variety of additional fundraising, such as 50/50 draws and entry fees, everyone who participated went home with prizes including an anniversary travel mug and souvenir pin. Every district in the province was represented on the prize table, and most were represented on the ice. The participants are too numerous to list, but include park staff from many districts who have come for years, the BC Lands group and their significant others, those who came for the first time including Wendy Byrnes and Ray Peterson, some who haven’t come for a long time including Cheryl Noble who found a few days between international events and did some welcomed impromptu coaching, those who work with other organizations, or who have moved to other organizations such as Wally Eamer and Scott Benton, and of course retirees, such as Tom Moore, Merv Honey and Ron Kerr, who looked enviably relaxed.

The bonspiel is not only a great way to meet with old friends, but it can be a memorable family event as well. Scott Benton wrote to the committee: “...The kids had an especially good time and treasure the mugs they received. They are already scheming for next year so you have been successful at converting another three to curling. You never know you might even get a Parkie or two out of the lot ...”

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CAMPGROUND RESERVATION SERVICE

Thanks to the Discover Camping™ Campground Reservation Service, visitors to many of BC’s campgrounds are now better able to plan their vacations and avoid line-ups.

Sixty-eight of the most popular provincial parks and Pacific Rim National Park Reserve (Green Point campground) now accept campsite reservations. This year Sunset View campground at Green Lake Provincial Park has been added to the service.

The Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks has updated its definition of a provincial park camping party to make it easier to understand and more equitable. Under the new definition: “A camping party consists of: one to four persons (16 years of age or older); a maximum of eight people, including children (15 years of age and younger); one vehicle and trailer (either one but not both may be an RV). A second vehicle (non-RV) may be allowed on site for an additional nightly charge of half the campsite fee. Note that any additional fees for second vehicles at provincial parks must be paid in cash on arrival at the campground.”

From March 1 to September 15, you can make a reservation online at www.discovercamping.ca, or call the Call Centre at 1-800-689-9025 (689-9025 in Greater Vancouver). Reservation Agents are available from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and Statutory Holidays (Pacific Time).

Reservations can be made up to three months in advance and two days prior to your arrival date (Birkenhead Lake, Liard River Hotsprings, Loveland Bay, Stamp River and Strathcona [Buttle Lake] are five days prior to your arrival date).

The reservation service fee is $6.42 per night to a maximum of $19.26 for three or more nights (includes 7% GST), per campsite. The campsite fee must also be paid at the time of booking using MasterCard or VISA. Note that any additional fees for second vehicles (see BC Parks camping party definition above) must be paid in cash on arrival at the campground.

For more information, visit our web site at www.discovercamping.ca

The Winning Team: Monty Downs, Betsy Terpsma, John Palmeter and Sandi Sinclair.

Kerr’s Curling: Ron and Debby Kerr.