

Kootenay Mountaineering Club - Executive 2017 Annual Reports

Introduction

This is a compilation of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club Executives' reports outlining the major activities undertaken in their portfolio in 2017. It is intended to inform the club membership as to major initiatives and work undertaken by Executive.

The reports will be presented at the 2017 AGM, at which time questions and discussion will be entertained.

Please bring questions and comments to the **2017 AGM** to be held:

When: **Friday, November 17**

Where: Adventure Hotel, 616 Vernon St., Nelson

Timing: 6-6:30 Socializing

6:30-7:30 Dinner

7:30 -8:30 AGM

a) PRESIDENT - Doug Clark

In preparing the 2017 President's report, I first reviewed my report from one year ago. It started with "...As 2016 draws to a close, it has been a wetter and cooler year than 2015, hopefully, boding well for the coming snow pack..." As we now know, the trend did continue. The winter weather was cold and the snowfall abundant, resulting in many happy, ruddy faces. At time of writing the 2017 annual report, the first major snowfall is hitting the lower valleys raising hopes of for a good ski season. Consequently, we are hoping the 2017 summer type weather trend does not continue into the winter. The hot, dry summer of 2017 resulted in an extreme fire season across the province with many families forced to flee their homes. While the Kootenays were spared having to deal with the larger and more serious fires that other communities endured, the resulting smoke from the many fires surrounding us forced curtailment of many outdoor activities.

2017 KMC Overview

- The KMC mountaineering courses continue to be well attended. We encourage members to obtain the skills that will help them enjoy and be safe in the back country.
- Members participating in the club's ski touring, hiking, scrambling and climbing trips continue to increase. Both Kokanee ski week and the annual hiking camps were full with waiting lists.
- Our membership grew to over 400 members for the first time. Executive is satisfied with the results and pleased to see members stepping up to volunteer to lead trips and take on hiking camp duties.
- The KMC requested that the Province re-establish permanent summer access to the western portion of Kokanee Glacier Park along the Enterprise Creek road. This

request was turned down. However, we will be putting the same request to the new provincial government in the hope that the local MLAs, now government members, will also support reopening this access.

- Jocelyn LaFace is stepping down from Exec as Membership Director. We thank her for her dedication to the KMC in taking on this assignment and for a job well done.
- Exec Secretary, Cindy Kozak-Campbell undertook to modify the KMC Constitution to meet the requirements of the new Societies Act, being done mainly to make the Province's over 20,000 Societies administration more manageable and in accord with the electronic age. The revision is tabled at this AGM for membership approval. KMC Exec decided to forego any major changes to the constitution and by-laws for now. Instead, major revisions, if any, will be considered over the coming year and submitted for approval at next year's AGM.

Setting aside Crown lands for non-commercial and non-mechanized recreational use

In 2016, KMC Executive requested the then Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources to set aside Crown lands for non-commercial and non-mechanized recreational use, as was successfully done in establishing the Rossland Range Recreation Site. Both the Rossland Range and the Kootenay Pass area are seeing increasing numbers of non-mechanized recreational users to the point where parking along the highways is over crowded and unsafe. The KMC asked that more of these designated areas be established before they are taken over by commercial and mechanized back country users. The Minister supported our request and to this end, Executive has been actively collaborating with **Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RST BC)** and local sledder clubs from Nelson and Beaver Valley. We have had several meetings to attempt to reach agreement on how best to manage winter back country use in the Bonnington Range so as to minimize conflicts between the various types of uses. Peter Jordan and I, in close consultation with Exec (and member Fred Thiessen), have been leading discussions on behalf of back country skiers. It now appears that an Agreement is close. Once it is ratified by the Province, the rules of engagement, including travel routes and areas of preferred usage will be posted. It is hoped that over time, education through the Province's support, sufficient signage and good will between the user groups will make the agreed upon arrangements work. If this arrangement is proven successful, Recreation Sites and trails BC will consider implementing similar agreements elsewhere in the region. Expect an announcement on the final Agreement and how this will shake out from the new KMC Executive later this year or early in 2018.

(Side Note: One of the possible outcomes of this arrangement could be reserving Lost Lake basin near Barrett Creek for non-motorized use and, perhaps if the club desires, eventual construction of a cabin in the basin for overnight use that could be maintained by a local group, similar to FoRRS (??))

The Bonnington Huts Future

i) The Bonnington Huts presented another challenge in 2017. Our prior Huts Director,

Graham Jamin, stepped down. In appreciation of their dedication over many years to the huts upkeep, KMC Exec awarded he and his wife, Jude, with lifetime free hut us-

age for the two of them. Exec then put out a request for interest from the membership in participating in maintenance of the Huts. The response from the membership was encouraging. At the same time, VP Sandra Fuller and I held discussions with the Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) to determine that group's interest in taking over a part, or all, of the huts upkeep. While the ACC is greatly interested in taking over the Huts in their entirety, Exec decided rather to engage those KMC members who stepped forward to see if the club could continue to properly maintain them. One of the key criteria, however, was that ongoing upkeep would have to be done as a **team** approach. Exec was not willing to continue to maintain the Huts if the entire workload fell onto one person.

Exec met with the KMC volunteers on a couple of occasions to discuss how to proceed. One of the volunteers, David Heyduck, stepped forward to take a lead role. David has since energetically organized a members group to take on maintenance and has connected with Graham Jamin, who re-enlisted to assist on a more limited basis. Under David's guidance, some hut repairs have been carried out and firewood stocked in readiness for the 2017/18 winter. To ensure effective communication between Exec and the Huts' work force, David was appointed as Acting-Cabins Director by Exec and will complete the current term which comes up for election at the 2018 AGM.

ii) Hut usage has exploded. The number of bookings has tripled over the past 10 years to where over 1,400 bunk-nights were booked in 2017. Most of the bookings are by BC residents, but users now come from all over Canada and the world. During the past winter, usage was so high that the firewood supply was depleted at all of the huts and additional wood had to be brought in, by helicopter to three of them. In light of the high demand and increasing maintenance costs, Exec and RST BC, which represents the Crown as Owner, approved increasing the hut fees to \$15/bunk/night, the first fee increase in many years. Since RST BC represents the Crown as the Owner of the Huts, all major decisions impacting the huts must be ratified by them.

As may be expected, the huts are starting to show their age. They were upgraded and built under direction of KMC member George Apel 20-30 years ago (see George's history of the Huts' building on the KMC website). To ensure the huts will continue to meet the needs of the club and other users well into the future, we met with RST BC to discuss developing a phased approach to undertake the necessary work to keep the huts in satisfactory condition for another 30 years. RST BC agreed to fund preparation of a conceptual level engineering assessment which will identify the work and potential costs to be incurred. WSA Engineering was retained to do a field inspection and prepare the conceptual study that will be presented to KMC Exec and RST BC for discussion and eventual decisions on moving ahead with needed work.

Exec is currently satisfied that the Bonnington Huts care and management is heading in the right direction. User demand and the KMC work load have increased and look like they will continue to increase. However, potential funding sources are available for major upgrades. Exec will assess over the next few years whether the KMC has the desire and the capability to continue to manage, maintain and undertake needed rehabilitation of the huts. If at some point, the club decides this task is too daunting or it no longer has the desire, then an option could be to approach the ACC to see if it is still willing to take over the Bonnington Huts.

Side Notes

- This past year saw the passing of Rick Thomas, a local avid photographer and outdoorsman, who made many friends in the club and posted many beautiful photographs on the Kootenay Mountaineering Club website of the Kootenay back country.
- The KMC was invited by Friends of the Rossland Range to attend the October 15th opening of the Booty Cabin near Strawberry Pass on highway 3B, which is designed to accommodate large groups including students on outdoor programs. Wording in their invitation to the KMC included the following:

“...The KMC has a high standing in the Friends of the Rossland Range Society (FoRRS) collective memory, as the first group to step forward in 2015 and commit to a new (Lepsoe Basin) cabin. This got matters rolling and this has not stopped....We are also pleased at how much the KMC is using the Rec Site with many different types of trips....Thanks again for the KMC support. Kim Deane, Director, FoRRS...”

- His annual Report for the Newspaper and Website portfolios do not fully show all that he did for the KMC. Exec wishes to express their appreciation to Tim Clinton for his dedication and tenacity in publishing the KMC Newspaper and using his magic wand to make our website sing.
- Peter Oostlander also juggles two portfolios. The club owes him much gratitude for his continued strong efforts for the club and committing to at least 10 years on Exec by agreeing to stand for re-election at this AGM.

Thank you from me

I wish to express my appreciation to all Exec and club members for their strong efforts in furthering the club's purposes of promoting conservation and developing fellowship in the mountains and many thanks to KMC members who contributed their efforts to leading club trips and hiking camp duties making for a successful 2017 season. I encourage all members to please contribute to the club's endeavours to whatever extent you have the time and interest. All efforts are appreciated and help make the KMC 'fun-to-be-part-of'.

This is my last annual report as KMC President. After 6 years on Exec, I am taking a break. On a personal note, one highlight that will remain with me is that, while many of the tasks that Exec took on were time consuming and some were daunting, members of Exec would always collaborate and pool their individual talents and experience with a 'been there, done that' attitude to get the job done. The KMC is fortunate in having such able and capable members at the Executive table.

I wish the new KMC Executive continued success in 2018.

See you out there,
Doug Clark

b) MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL - Peter Oostlander

During the past year the mountaineering school organized the following courses provided by Summit Mountain Guides (SMG), and Peter Oostlander.

Course	Provider	Participants
Introduction to Backcountry Skiing – Dec 2016 (over 2 days)	KMC	14
AST 1 on skis – Dec 2016	SMG	10
Refresher and Companion Rescue – Jan 2017	SMG	7
Intermediate Backcountry Ski trip – Jan 2017	KMC	8
AST1 on snowshoes – Jan 2017	SMG	8
Ice Axe & Crampon use, Movement skills & Rope – June 2017	SMG	7
Crevasse Rescue and Snow & Ice Anchors – June 2017	SMG	9
Introduction to Rock Climbing - Beginner program – June 2017	SMG	8
Introduction to Rock Climbing – Intermediate skills building – June 2017	SMG	5
TOTAL		76

In comparison, the previous year (Nov 2015– June 2016) we organized 13 courses with 122 participants.

For the upcoming winter season, we are repeating two backcountry ski trips for beginners and are offering the following Avalanche Skills Training (AST) courses:

- Introduction to Backcountry Skiing - Dec. 10
- Intermediate Backcountry Skiing - Jan. 20
- AST 1 - Dec. 16-17
- Companion Rescue & Refresher Course - Jan. 7
- Managing Avalanche Terrain - **NEW!** - Jan. 14
- AST 1 on snowshoes - Jan. 27-28
- AST 2 (various dates)

An on-line registration form for KMC courses was developed and was published to the web. Thank you Tim Clinton, KMC web master, for your great work on this! A change was made to course payments: we accept only interac e-transfers through your financial institution directly to our treasurer.

c) SUMMER TRIPS - Peter Oostlander

The "summer" schedule runs from April 1 – Oct 31. Despite the smoke due to wildfires, our trip attendance was still respectable, although the participation growth from year to year slowed down. This year's prize for most attendance goes to Ross Bates with 23 members on the McNally creek traverse, with the consolation prize for least attendance to Peter O with 3 members on the Old Glory ascent. There has been an increase in members signing up for trips and then cancelling at the last moment. This causes problems for organizers for trips that are popular, and where members are on stand-by that cannot be reached in time to take the place of participants that cancelled.

We introduced guidelines this year to pay carpool drivers that are doing us a huge favour, driving members to the trail head, at times over very rough roads where the vehicle takes a real beating. No feedback was received on these guidelines, so it is assumed the proposed rates found some traction in the club.

PROPOSED KMC guideline for payments to a car pool driver:

If you carpool with someone, remember to reimburse them for the carpooling costs at the end of the day.

We suggest \$20 per vehicle per hour of driving on paved roads, to be shared by driver and # of passengers and \$40 per vehicle per hour of driving on rough logging roads, to be shared by driver and # of passengers, and in adverse conditions, at the discretion of the driver.

If the trip is less than one hour, please pay your driver \$5 regardless.

It is not the trip leader's responsibility to arrange for your transportation to or from the meeting place.

Please put muddy hiking boots in a clean plastic bag and change into runners after the hike.

Sample fares per passenger						driver +		driver +		driver -	
				hrs	road	2 passengers		3 passengers		4 passengers	
Nelson/Castlegar/Trail to and from Kootenay Pass				2	paved	\$ 15		\$ 10		\$ 6	
Nelson to/from Nancy Greene Pass				2	paved	\$ 15		\$ 10		\$ 6	
Castlegar to/from Nancy Greene Pass				1	paved	\$ 7		\$ 5		\$ 4	
Mt Stanley				1	paved	\$ 33		\$ 20		\$ 20	
				2	rough						

Here is the 2017 summer trip and participation breakdown with comparisons to prior seasons:

Year	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Scheduled	103	100	75	96	94	82	64		
Cancelled	19	19	5	16	17	20	8		
Trips that went	84	81	70	80	77	62	58	68	46
T o t a l Participants	789	783	776	642	566	472	519		
Members	746	740	747	604	530	435			
Guests	43	43	29	38	36	37			

I would also like to extend a big thank you to the phone/email volunteers that helped out this year. They are: Chris Cowan, Phil Best, Sheila Sinkie, Peter Martyn, Mary Prothro, Marilyn Miller and P'nina Shames. Thank you Vicki Hart for checking the trip descriptions and difficulty grades. Thank you all trip organizers to make this year such a success!

Summit Register Program (Vicky Hart)

New register on Meadow Mt, placed by Terry Turner.

I did check on a number of summit registers on the following summits this summer:

Mt Mcquarrie is in good condition. Register placed in 2000.

Mt Retallack is in good condition. Only 3 entries since 2006!

Granite Knob's register needs to be replaced.

Mt Jardine is in good condition.

Ymir is in good condition.

Dominion is in good condition.

Sphinx is in good condition.

Grohman is in good condition.

Some of my contacts were up Sunset, John Carter, Outlook, Giegerich, Yuill all in good condition. **Mt Fennell and Grays** I was told, both need a register.

d) WINTER TRIPS - Phil Best

TARGET TRIPS	35
BOOKED TRIPS	61
ACTUAL TRIPS	50

	Booked	Actual	Members	Non Members
Cancelled	11			
Ski Tour	26	21	127	2
Snowshoe	20	16	148	6
X/C Ski	7	6	44	1
Hikes	2	1	14	2
Courses	5	5	54	0
Kokanee	1	1	14	1
	61	50	401	12

Average - 8.25 participants per trip (excluding Kokanee)
st

Maximum - 1st place - Leon Arishenkoff to Evening Ridge (Al Sinke Memorial) - 23

2nd place - Peter Oostlander to Grizzly Cabin - 18

3rd place - Bob McQueen to Mt Crowe - 16

The **2017/18 Winter Trip schedule** has been posted (thanks Peter O.). More scheduled trips would be welcome. Please step up and volunteer to help make this a successful winter for the club. Thank you.

e) EQUIPMENT and TRAILS - Chris Cowan

Lost Mountain Trail Upgrade. Happy to report that the trail, on which we collaborated with the Salmo Valley Trails Society, has now been completed, along the line we laid out in the spring, after exploring, marking, and snipping over the past couple of years and getting approval for the starting point from the Province. A big thanks to all the club members who helped with this project. A big 'thanks' especially is due to Lisa Tedesco of Salmo Valley Trails for her enthusiasm and energy getting the grants to make this trail a reality, and also to Randy Boardman and his hardworking trail crew working on that south facing slope in the heat of summer. Elevation gain to summit is 1100 metres, over 6 km. The signage has been done, and the Kiosk remains to be erected. Pending the granting of permission from MoTI, we'll do this in the spring. Quite a few people did the hike during the fall, and feedback has been good. The energy level required is similar to that doing the Old Glory trail. Trailhead is at the west avalanche gate about 10 km west of Kootenay Pass.

We welcome any ideas or suggestions from the membership for a similar project. A key feature would be convenience of access, and whether the trail would be well used.

Equipment. Stored at Chris's place. Available to the members for trail brushing and clearing. It's planned to buy a few more items in the near future, likely a Polaski or two, and some loppers.

Spring Time Access issues. FSR condition is always an issue in summer and particularly in spring when we don't know how much snow has melted off. The province maintains a web accessible spreadsheet which isn't always current. We tried a using a cloud based spreadsheet last year but it's hard to maintain and people don't know where it is, even if referenced from the KMC site. A lot of people were using the

“KMC” Facebook page to inquire about access. A dedicated access F/B group was created and referenced from the “KMC” page using a pinned post. This is working out quite well and we have 300 people using it now. It’s quite useful particularly since F/B has a search feature where you can put in your area of interest and find the most recent reference. Probably it won’t be needed much during the winter, but come spring there will be the usual round of inquiries about which FSRs and trails are open.

f) MEMBERSHIP - Jocelyn LaFace

KMC's membership numbers remain strong with the club's numbers exceeding 400 this year!

Individual Memberships: 227

Couple Memberships: 89

Total Members: 405 (based on 89 equating to 178 individual memberships)

My term as Membership Director is coming to an end and I will be passing the membership torch on at the upcoming AGM. The new membership year will begin on January 1, 2018 but renewals are accepted anytime after October 1, 2017 for the new year. When you complete your online registration, you will see that we have added an option to indicate your age range. It has been a few years since we have surveyed the membership and one of the common questions from individuals interested in the club are the age demographics. I hope this is the start of the Membership Director's role to gather more information about and from the membership to see if there are any changes in the demographics and needs. Our membership numbers continue to grow and members are enjoying the benefits of membership (trips, hiking and ski camps, socials, discounts) but are we missing anything? If you have ideas or suggestions, whether from new members, or from long-time members whose interests are changing, please let the new Membership Director know. With membership numbers continuing to grow year on year, it is important that we are engaging with the membership to ensure that our club is meeting members' needs as it expands and grows.

I have enjoyed my time as membership Director and I would like to thank the Executive Team. They put a lot of their time, energy and passion into these volunteer positions and the club continues to thrive under their direction. I would like to give a special recognition to Tim Clinton for all the behind the scenes work that he does to keep the membership system running smoothly and the improvement work he has done to automate so many tasks. Finally, a thanks to all the members who contribute by shar-

ing your passion for mountain culture by being a part of the KMC. I look forward to continuing to support the club as a member for years to come. See you in the mountains.

150 Summit Challenge Update

The objective of the KMC 150 Summit Challenge is to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday with KMC members combining efforts to climb 150 different Canadian mountains from January 1, 2017 until the end of 2017. There was a request to the Executive that the time period allotted for the task include the entire celebratory year. So, we extended the time from May 1 to January 1, 2018. We have almost reached the target. As of October 25th, we are at 112. Keep your entries coming in and hopefully we will reach the goal by year's end.

g) ENTERTAINMENT - Laurie Helyer

Our spring social was held at the Taghum hall on Friday May 26 and included a gear swap. It was a beautiful sunny evening and we all enjoyed the outside decks and beautiful views. There were 18 people in attendance and a few non members dropped in to see what was available for purchase. On offer were back packs and camping gear, walkie talkies, outdoor clothing, avi gear and other assorted fitness items. There were two \$100 gift certificates that were drawn at the end of the evening. Andre Schwartz won the Roam gift certificate and Leon Arishenkoff the Valhalla gift certificate. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Our fall social was held at the Kinaird Hall in Castlegar on Friday October 13th. Ken Holmes presented a very interesting presentation on climbing in the Mediterranean. It was enjoyed by all 31 people in attendance. We also enjoyed photos of hiking camps and year to date activities. Thanks to Tim Clinton for providing the photos.

As always, the events were well catered with potluck deserts and appies. Thanks to everyone for bringing such a great selection of delicious food. And thanks to all our members who attended.

[Our AGM will be held on Friday November 17th at the Adventure Hotel in Nelson.](#)

h) HIKING CAMP - Leon Arishenkoff (chair and treasurer of Hiking Camp committee)

What a year - from record snowfall to record heat and dryness! Initially there were concerns of there being too much snow for hiking camp and then we didn't know whether Forest Service Roads would be open for access to our staging area. In the end, all camps turned out to be successful with full complements of 20 people per camp and the Purcells did not disappoint. Many thanks to the leaders and cooks of each camp for keeping things in order and ensuring everyone had full bellies for good hiking.

A good portion of last year was spent in meetings with various people from within the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations as to whether we were legally required to have a permit/permission to hold our annual hiking camps. The Natural Resources Officer who issued us a warning ticket last year was relentless in her quest to have us receive a permit and have it registered with the Lands Branch of the Ministry. Her emails persisted during the time camps were held as well as post camps. At the time of this writing I have had Front Counter email her stating that in our conversations with the Ministry we were compliant by having the Permissions Policy with us as well as engaging the tenure holders. Going forward this issue could be a challenge for future camps.

For this year the cooks got a new double boiler, coffee percolator and a new stove that proved to be incredibly stable for the large pots of water. The equipment co-ordinator is doing various piping changes to the tent poles to provide better fits and we will have a new biffy that will provide more room.

Helicopter safety - despite having pretty good procedures written and receiving briefings from the pilots in regard to safety we continue to experience near misses and people disregarding instructions. Considering the law of probability it may just be a matter of time before we experience an accident; something that we do not want to happen! Prior to next years' camps there will be more on this issue.

The popularity of hiking camps continues to grow and we are experiencing larger wait lists with a corresponding increase in people having guaranteed spots for the following year. For 2018, thirteen people have guaranteed spots. So, the number of available

positions in the lottery continues to shrink. The KMC is growing and will probably continue to do so and there are a number of people that feel we should do away with resident boundary restrictions for inclusion in the lottery. The challenges for the Hiking Camp Committee (HCC) increase.

Financially, the HCC is in good shape as the financial statements show. We had superb service from Elbow River Helicopters and their invoice allowed us to stay in the black. The other quotes we received from helicopter companies would have put us in the red again despite raising the camp cost to \$550.00.

Peter McIver, one of our site selection co-ordinators is stepping off of the HCC and I thank him for his contributions over the past year. The remaining individual on site selection, Peter Wood, would gladly welcome another able hand. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Andrea Vowell (registrar), Jude Stralak (cooks and leaders), Wayne Hohn (equipment) and of course Peter Wood (site selection) for their time and efforts over the past year.

Despite having some younger participants in camps this year the overall average still tends to be 65 yrs +. This creates challenges; for one we have way more food left over, which Food Banks immensely appreciate, and secondly, we need younger participants to mentor and carry hiking camps forward. The HCC is receptive to ideas to reverse the current demographic trend.

Apart from that, we are all looking forward to another successful year - hopefully one with less 'red tape'.

i) CABINS - David Heyduck

I've always enjoyed braving the mountains everywhere I've lived, but it wasn't until a few years ago that the Bonningtons presented some unique challenges that ultimately led to my overwhelming admiration for this particular range. While at Grassy last year, I gained a new appreciation for the huts and the extensive efforts that have been afforded in years past. On that particular trip, we conquered a newly formed (ugly) mountain in the outhouse and skipped dinner to work up a sweat collecting just enough firewood for a single night. A broken maul and hand saw later, I vowed to get involved so I could give back. A couple of weeks ago, I was able to hang the maul back up in its place. It's an honor to join such an adventurous group at such an important time for the Bonnington Range.

Being new to the position, this year has been much about discovery and data collection. Understanding the past, the present and developing ideas about the future. I've learned a great deal and we've covered a lot of ground.

Huckleberry was the first to be serviced and we worked hard to stock the firewood areas under the porch and in the wood-shed until it was overflowing. We made repairs to the outhouse structure and a few inside the cabin. The usual cleaning and repair of lanterns and stoves, a few dishes and a pile of garbage and we were on our way out just before dark.

Copper was found to have a 4-legged inn-keeper with awful house manners. He was evicted and the place was shined up while I collected "just one more tree" 200' in front of the cabin. Suffice to say that was the most exhausting day of the entire season but we knew the wood was still easiest to collect without snow on the ground. We made foundational repairs to Copper and plans for more in the coming season.

Grassy at last, we met again. After rolling the quad several times, filling ruts in the trail and clearing brush with our helmets, I found the broken pieces to the maul from the season past and we cut up enough wood to raise the question of 'safety' around the height of our wood pile. We made repairs to the eaves, shifted the foundation blocks and re-levelled the support posts. The outhouse was modified, thus lowering

the previously mentioned (ugly) mountain to a reasonable elevation. We cleaned, stocked and repaired inside the cabin while we contemplated more permanent fixings for some of the structural members that are perpetually displaced season after season. We were finally able to descend at nightfall.

With very little time left before the snow fell, we made an attempt to heli firewood into Steed hut on Oct 13... *Friday, Oct 13...* We drove to the wood-lot due west of Steed, felled 18 trees and rigged them for heli-transport to the cabin. Our efforts were thwarted by poor weather and the heli returned to the hangar after being chased from the mountain by fast moving low cloud. It was a cold day around -10 with about 4" of snow on the ground.

On Oct 14th, we had planned to visit Steed and Copper with 2 local Engineers to perform a Ministry directed and funded assessment of each of the Bonnington Cabins. By 9am, we had clear skies and a strong team. 2 of the crew were dropped back in the wood lot while the Engineers and remaining huts crew were dropped at Steed to begin their work. We were able to complete 7 lifts from the woodlot to Steed before the weather grounded the Heli. 30 minutes later we were able to resume and complete all 16 lifts required to stock-pile enough wood for the next 3-5 years. It was a relief to accomplish so much all in a single day. Steed has never before seen this amount of wood on the porch or in the back yard.





Following the undertaking at Steed, I ventured back to Huckleberry on Oct 22 with the Engineer to perform the assessment there. The purpose of these assessments is to give KMC and the Ministry greater clarity on the condition of the cabins to assist in planning of major works to the cabins over the coming years. We made this trip by ATV - just barely; we found about 10" of snow at Huckleberry. The Engineer performed his work while I tested the stove, refreshed the cabin and cleared out again more trash.

On Oct 27th, we post-holed our way back into Grassy to complete the final Engineering assessment. With nearly 2' of snow at the cabin, the assessment was meticulously completed while I cleaned, fixed, and made lists for upcoming tasks. The completion of the hut assessments will produce vital information in determining works to be completed in the coming years.

Graham Jamin, having stepped down after many years of dedication to the Bonnington initiative, was ready to see someone else take care of the ATV, equipment and supplies required to keep the huts in good order. This year, KMC secured a lease agreement for space in Castlegar and all of the equipment was moved and organized into a central location.

Next year, projects that will need to be completed include (but not limited to):

- New roof on Huckleberry hut
- Concrete/steel foundation supports at Copper
- New stairs and select deck boards at Copper hut
- Heli firewood into Grassy
- Grassy hut guy wires and diagonal tension cable to front gable
- Grassy hut eave fascia replacement
- Roof assessment, draft sealing and stove pipe repairs at Steed
- Barrett Creek bridge crossing needs to be addressed

I have a wealth of ideas and dreams for the cabins, the trails and the experience of the Bonningtons moving forward. I'm excited to be able to work closely with the Club, the Ministry, the engineers and the dedicated volunteers to see some very interesting projects being developed and then come to reality over the upcoming seasons. See you out there!

j) SECRETARY - Cindy Kozak-Campbell

I've appreciated the opportunity this year to gain a better understanding of the many activities that KMC is involved with to advance our purposes. With the help of Tim, our webmaster, the Executive Agendas and Minutes are posted regularly on the 'mem-

ber's only' section of the KMC website. Our updated Society Annual Report was filed with the Province of BC, as required.

The Club's Constitution and Bylaws have been reviewed with the new requirements of the BC Societies Act. Three (3) Special Resolutions are proposed for member consideration at the AGM under new business that will align both documents with the new requirements.

k) CONSERVATION - Peter Jordan

It's been a quiet year for conservation issues in the Kootenays, thanks mainly to the apparent demise last year of the Jumbo Glacier Resort proposal.

During the year, there were 3 applications for commercial recreation tenures that might have been of interest to us:

- a proposal to build a chain of 3 huts in the Gold Range, SW of Revelstoke
- an application for guided snowmobile tours in the Catamount Glacier area (near the site of this year's hiking camp)
- a bizarre proposal from Snowwater Heli-Skiing to build a racetrack (yes, for race cars) near their lodge in the Bonnington Range.

The KMC submitted a letter to BC Lands about the third proposal (obviously negative). All these applications are presently in review by BC Lands.

Two new logging vs. watersheds have emerged in this region in the last year. KMC hasn't been involved or taken a position on either one, but they might be of interest to members. The Ymir watershed controversy has received a lot of attention in the local press. Less well known is an issue involving possible logging on the Argenta slope at the north end of Kootenay Lake, where residents are promoting the addition of the area to the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy.

Special Projects

The KMC received a grant of \$4,127 from Columbia Basin Trust, to install signage in the Hummingbird Pass area near the Whitewater ski hill, in the interests of improving safety for backcountry skiers. The project is now underway, with a kiosk presently under construction at the trailhead. Last winter we installed some warning signs in the Five Mile Creek valley where skiers sometimes get lost.

l) NEWSLETTER and ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS (formerly Website) - Tim Clinton

Newsletter

The newsletter is only as good as the articles submitted. Please keep them coming.

If you must use a word processor for your submission, please submit any pictures under a separate cover at full resolution because word processors seem to think that reducing the size of everything is the right thing to do. ... I'm talking to you, Microsoft Word! I need as much leeway as possible to crop/sharpen/adjust the pictures.

Website

- Requests for content welcome. Please write it.
- "Season in Progress" pictures always needed.
- Corrections and updates, please. (Especially exec directors overview of their area on the website)

There are no policy guidelines or standards for content in either the newsletter or the website. As editor, I get to be an editor to standards that I think are ok. Complaints may get listened to, so don't hold back.

m) **TREASURER - Ross Bates** Treasurer's report is attached.