BC Parks Supports Wild Sheep Study

by Kate Alexander, Cariboo District

Every year herds of California bighorn sheep migrate between the high alpine country of Marble Range Park to the steep cliffs and hoodoos of the Fraser River canyon of Edge Hills Park. Why? These ungulates need to eat! They follow the annual appearance of tender green shoots which grow earliest down in the warmth of the canyon. Here the sheep also find less winter snow and lots of the steep breaks they need for escape from predators like cougars. In the early summer they head for the hills as the snow melts. The sheep use the same route year after year.

Over the last fifty or so years local hunters and naturalists have noticed fewer of these sheep trails being used. It seems the sheep now travel only the more southern routes that lead from the Fraser River to the Marble Range. The routes are protected at each end in provincial parks but lead through an area with timber harvesting, a major hydro corridor, a public road and potential lime mining.

The conservation-minded Clinton and District Outdoor Sportsmen Association has spearheaded a three year study to determine exactly where the migration routes are that will assist in future land use planning decisions. The Ministry of Environment, Wildlife Division, provided some interesting new technology – Global Positioning System (GPS) data retention collars.

Ministry biologists, assisted by club members, fitted two sheep with collars in 1998 and again in 1999. Each collar collects GPS data from satellites every fifteen minutes, giving the sheep’s location. They also transmit radio signals so the collars can be relocated by helicopter after sheep migration. Rather than stress the animal a second time by re-capturing it to remove the collar, the biologists trigger a remote transmitter signal that makes the collar pop open and drop off the sheep’s neck. Then they land the helicopter, collect the collar and download the data.

This kind of work doesn’t come cheap. The volunteers of the Sportsmen Association have raised enough to pay for helicopter time. The collars were funded by the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited (Reno Chapter) and the Wild Sheep Society of BC. Other financial and advisory support has come from BC Parks and the Ministry of Environment.

Why is BC Parks involved? We have the vital role of conserving rare and endangered species and habitats within our parks. With many more new parks besides Marble Range and Edge Hills, our resources are stretched thin, so working closely with community groups is an excellent way to achieve conservation goals.

If you are interested in this or other conservation projects within BC Parks, call or write the Cariboo District office at BC Parks, 281 First Avenue North, Williams Lake, BC V2G 1Y7 (250) 398-4414.

Wildlife biologists Doug Jury and Sue Lemke adjust the collar for a captured and blindfolded ram. No sedatives were used.

PHOTO: DAVE EYER

Inside

Letters ..................................................2
North Tweedsmuir Provincial Park – An Ecosystem in Change .........................2
Name the Protected Area ...........................................3
Highlights of the BC Parks 1999 Omnibus Survey ..................4
Cowichan “Party Zone” Rehabilitated by Youth ..................................5
Local Groups Donate Interpretive Sign Package ...5
Land Acquisition: Behind the Scenes ...............6
Working Together to Make It Happen ..............7
Heavy Load Shared by Many Hands ..........8
How Things Get Done Up North ..............8
Wilderness Wedding Vows ..................9
Bringing Parks into the Classroom ..........9
E-Team Intern Catalogues Strathcona Resources ........................................10
Kwaday Dan Sinschi – “Long Ago Person Found” ................................11
Order of BC Call for Nominations ..........12
Goldstream Art Show Thank You ..........12
Letters

Dear Bill Shaw,

I’m nearly sure, that you don’t remember my application to volunteer for BC Provincial Parks. In the beginning of this year we had a correspondence and you always answered very quickly. Finally you gave me the address of Ida Cale. And the woman with “the big heart” made my dream come true. She gave me the opportunity to work for seven weeks as a volunteer in several Provincial Parks in BC this summer. So I was really lucky and I’ve had an extremely good and interesting time while working with rangers in Kokanee Glacier or the interpreters in Kokanee Creek Provincial Park.

And during this time I’ve had a lot of opportunities to work for the BC Parks. I have translated one brochure about Kokanee Salmons. Further I’ve written one brochure about “Wildlife Viewing” in Kokanee Creek Provincial Park. This second brochure is available in the English and German language. And I worked a couple of weeks with the rangers in the Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park. This time was a rather interesting and satisfying one for me. I was really deeply impressed, how much the rangers love their job. They acted during all these weeks very responsible and they worked hard. And not only for 8 hours a day. So I’m sure you can be very proud to have such rangers working in the BC Parks. I live in a big Park in the northeast of Germany in the surroundings of Berlin. It’s a “UNESCO Biosphere Reserve” and it’s called “Schorfheide-Chorin”. We have rangers as well. But not all of them are so highly motivated as the rangers I’ve met in the BC Parks!

Some other days I spent my time in and around the Visitor Centre of Kokanee Creek Provincial Park. The interpreter program was absolutely professional. Every day the interpreters organized perfect shows and walks for adults and children too. That’s an efficient way to connect learning with fun. I’ve seen seldom such good shows in Germany.

I hope I can help to introduce similar interpreter programs in the “Biosphere Reserve Schorfheide-Chorin”. So you see, I’ve had a full and varied program in “Beautiful BC”.

With kind regards,
Roland Schulz
Germany

(EDITOR’S NOTE: Due to space restrictions, this letter has been abbreviated.)

North Tweedsmuir Provincial Park – An Ecosystem in Change

by Lyle Gawalko, Skeena District

Forests live for a long time and generally change slowly except for changes caused by fire or logging. Ecologists, however, recognize that forests are dynamic ecosystems and sometimes experience rapid change over short time periods. North Tweedsmuir Provincial Park is currently experiencing a rapid ecosystem-changing event in the form of a mountain pine beetle attack.

Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) is a small insect that bores into the stems of mature lodgepole pine trees and lays it eggs. The eggs later hatch and larvae (the brood) eat the cambium of the tree, often killing the tree in the process. MPB is always endemic in lodgepole pine stands in small populations, however, when a series of warm winters favor brood

(Continued on page 3) ➤
While much is known about the lifecycle of the MPB insect, not much is known about the ecological effect of a MPB attack. To better understand the ecology of an attack, BC Parks Skeena District and the Canadian Forest Service have initiated studies that will monitor the park ecosystem. From these studies, it will be possible to model how ecological succession is proceeding and to predict what the future forest will be.

From an ecological perspective, MPB may not be a problem for the natural forests in North Tweedsmuir, but from an industrial perspective, it can be a big problem for the managed forests that surround the park. In recognition of forestry concerns, Skeena District is using special funding allocated to BC Parks for pine beetle management from the provincial forest health budget to fall and burn and patch burn MPB sites near the park boundaries. These treatments are derived cooperatively with the forest service to both reduce beetle populations and mimic the natural fire regime that normally accompanies a MPB infestation. The burns will also create a mosaic of structural diversity which will benefit the forest ecosystem. Funding from the budget will also be used to monitor the Tweedsmuir caribou herd for any response to the MPB infestation or the logging that will take place near the park boundaries.

The MPB infestation in Tweedsmuir is a natural ecosystem process and a lot of pine trees will be killed. History has shown, however, that the forest will fully recover after the attack and that the Tweedsmuir ecosystem will continue intact without human intervention, as it has for thousands of years. Monitoring the ecological effects of the MPB attack may give us a new perspective on this natural process and show that a MPB attack is just another way for a forest to renew itself.

River Mists and Fly Fishers
by Roger Norrish, Victoria

This protected area lies southeast of Port McNeill on North Vancouver Island. The Vancouver Island Land Use Plan recommended this protected area to government. Consequently, government designated the area as a 200 hectare Class A park on July 12, 1995. The park follows a river from which it receives its name. The river contains rapids and large pools that draw people to test their angling skills. If you visit this park in early autumn, you are likely to see fly fishers casting their lines over the swirling waters. When you hike the park's riverbank trails, the roar of the river will surprise you with its intensity. But you can also find places in the park where the only sounds you hear are the drip of water droplets from tree branches overhead or the soft flight of a wren in the undergrowth. Can you name this protected area? Fly-fishing is often considered a fine art in the sport of angling. Can you name a river that is internationally famous for fly-fishing and is also contained within a British Columbia provincial park? (Answers on page 12).
Highlights of the BC Parks 1999 Omnibus Survey

by Donna Selbee, Victoria

BC Parks periodically sponsors a telephone survey with a random sample of adult British Columbians from across the province to identify and monitor trends in areas of interest to the agency. This past year, from May 6–13, 1999, a total of 507\(^1\) telephone interviews were conducted as part of the MarkTrend’s monthly ConsumerScope omnibus\(^2\).

Two of several focuses of the 1999 survey were:

- To identify BC residents’ perspectives on the importance and benefits of having provincial parks.
- To gather information on BC residents’ use of provincial parks and future park use intentions.

Following are some highlights from the 1999 survey (where applicable, comparisons with past survey results are noted):

- **Having provincial parks is important to BC residents.** 9 in 10 survey respondents indicated that having provincial parks in British Columbia is “very” or “fairly” important to them personally (72% and 19% respectively). This finding is significantly higher than that noted in 1998 (86%), but on par with other survey results obtained since 1991.

- **BC residents feel that “the protection of the natural environment” is an important benefit of having provincial parks.** When residents were asked what benefits they feel they receive from having provincial parks, the benefit identified most often was “the protection of the natural environment” (32%), followed by: enjoy nature/the outdoors/natural beauty (30%); recreation areas/facilities (25%); to get away from the city/relax/enjoy quietness (24%); good for family/meeting people (18%) and; good for tourism (17%). When respondents were asked what the main benefit of having provincial parks in British Columbia is, the most often mentioned benefits were the six identified above, ranked in the same order.

- **Provincial parks are well used by provincial residents.** A full 90% of BC residents surveyed indicated they have used a provincial park at some time, while 51% indicated they had used a provincial park in 1998 (recent park users).

- **Day use/beach areas were the most popular type of park area used in 1998.** Of those using provincial parks in 1998, the largest percent of respondents indicated they had used a day use/beach area (85%), 64% had used a campground, 54% a wilderness area, 39% areas for skiing or winter activities and 32% marine parks. Since 1994, there has been a general increase in the percent of residents using wilderness and winter areas.

The survey findings demonstrate that there is significant, broad-based use of, and support for, provincial parks in BC. To ensure the long-term viability of the protected areas system, it is critical that BC Parks maintain and build upon BC residents’ use of provincial parks and their support of the provincial parks system.

For further information, contact Donna Selbee, Business Research and Evaluation Services (250) 387-4502.

---

\(^1\) On the total sample of 507, the maximum margin of error is 4.4% nineteen times out of twenty.

\(^2\) The term “omnibus” survey as used here refers to a survey where several sponsors purchase one or more questions on the same survey. These questions are on different topics and are all asked of a randomly selected sample of the adult population.
Cowichan “Party Zone” Rehabilitated by Youth

by Erv Newcombe, South Vancouver Island District

Twenty-three Saanich youth spent a November Saturday morning and afternoon getting their hands dirty helping to reclaim the once badly-abused Skutz Falls camping area along the Cowichan River.

The site is now a new campground developed cooperatively by Cowichan Tribes and BC Parks. Thirty vehicle-accessible campsites were added, with basic amenities, under the Campgrounds BC program. Construction of the campground was achieved by youth in E-team crews recruited from Cowichan Tribes and local communities. The Cowichan Lake Community Forest Cooperative was the executing agency for these E-teams.

The Saanich youth were part of the TOAD (Teen Outdoor Adventure Development) program sponsored by the municipality’s Recreation Centre. The group provides teens with the opportunity to try activities such as rock climbing, whitewater kayaking, river rafting, mountain biking, etc., while instilling responsible conservation ethics. They seek volunteer and paid work opportunities that can both give back to the environment and community, and also help fund their recreation activities. The group received a small honorarium for their efforts at Cowichan River Provincial Park.

The TOAD youth planted twelve native plant species and over 400 individual specimens at Skutz Falls. The species used were all local native plants historically resident on the site, including Cowichan’s popular fawn lilies. The group received a brief overview of the reclamation work in the area to date, the species they were about to plant, and the significance of their work that day. Then they had fun, got dirty and exceeded everyone’s expectations for quality and quantity of work. In the afternoon they removed Scotch Broome, a significant invasive plant species issue in the area, from another area of the park, and went for a short hike! Steve Meikle, the group leader, says “it was valuable for the youth to not only be involved in helping the environment, but the project also sparked some interest in employment possibilities”. The group is expected back in Cowichan River Provincial Park in the spring to hike the river trails, and enjoy the blooming results of their labour.

South Vancouver Island district would like to acknowledge the efforts of all those involved in this joint community rehabilitation project. We welcome other opportunities to work with our neighbours to restore the balance between recreation and conservation.

Local Groups Donate Interpretive Sign Package

by Drew Chapman, South Vancouver Island District

Drumbeg Provincial Park located on Gabriola Island has been the recent recipient of two new interpretive sign panels. Each panel, measuring 1.22 m x 1.53 m, provides the park visitor with a description of, and conservation messages for, both the Garry Oak forest ecosystem (the rarest ecosystem in Canada) and the marine intertidal zones found in the area and park.

The project started about two years ago when the Gabriola Island Teen Theatre Group approached the Heartlands Conservancy Society, a local organization, wanting to do some joint work on conservation. The teen theatre group had $2,000 to contribute from summer theatre productions and no direction or defined projects with which to proceed. Jointly they “hatched” the idea of doing something achievable for the community, like an interpretive sign, but still lacked an appropriate location.

Well, it so happened that BC Parks had some extremely faded information shelter signage at Drumbeg Provincial Park. The Area Supervisor had been receiving complaints about this signage for some time from members of the Heartlands Conservancy Society and the local tourism office. For every complaint he received, the Area Supervisor asked for donations to assist. At ongoing meetings to discuss the issue he would continually “bug them” (Area Supervisors can be a little pesty at times) to undertake or contribute to a project. So the Heartlands group figured “let’s get this guy off our back”. They agreed to do all the legwork for the teen

(Continued on page 6)
Local Groups…” continued from page 5

teatre group and involve the teens in the decision making.

The Heartlands Conservancy Society approached the Gabriola Island Parks and Recreation Commission and the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks (MELP) for funding contributions. They received donations of $750 from Gabriola Parks and Recreation and $2,700 from MELP. BC Parks also contributed to the project by supplying a new information shelter. Armed with the money, the materials and over 500 hours of volunteer time and numerous edits and “hair pulling” sessions, a completed sign package was installed in the park.

The Heartlands Conservancy Society, as part of the second phase of the project, has commissioned a local desktop publisher to create greeting cards from the artwork on the signage. All proceeds from these cards will go to interpretive brochures for Drumbeg Provincial Park.

This project provided an opportunity for various groups to involve local youth and work together to develop a product that would not only benefit the park, but would also provide the community with a sense of pride and ownership.

On Sunday, December 5, 1999 a ceremony was held by the local community and BC Parks representatives to “commemorate” this new facility and, more importantly, a true and positive partnership that demonstrated the commitment to education of the wonderful conservation values of this park and surrounding area.

II

Local community members and BC Parks representatives admire the new interpretive signs – a benefit not only to the park, but also to the community.

Land Acquisition: Behind the Scenes

by Jim Anderson, Real Estate Services, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks

This is the first of a three-part series on BC Parks’ land acquisition process and the people who made it happen.

Two years ago a change in government accounting practices required completion of a major undertaking. The “capitalization of assets” required the government to report on expenditures for land acquisitions over the past twenty years. The result was a 50-page listing of legal descriptions with value of over $60 million.

Assignment done – end of the story.

However, stop and think: the first entry of meaningless numbers represent what we now know as Ruckle Park. Those computer entries are, in fact, the most popular, well known and often most important natural features in our province.

Often we take our parks for granted and don’t realize many parks were not supplied, or created by simply designating Crown Land as “dedicated parks” – but first had to be acquired from private landowners. Many don’t really understand the process or the people responsible for the negotiations that result in those former private holdings becoming parks.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, incentive to settlers to the colony and later the new province of BC, was induced by offers of “land.” Not surprisingly these early residents chose the best lands – on rivers and lakes. Other lands were acquired by early farmers, loggers and miners. As our population grew, settlement spread and many of the sites with the most scenic views or best recreational values were not available, or accessible, for public recreation or to preserve key natural values.

It was necessary for the Crown to reclaim these properties and return them to the status of public lands and because population density is highest on Vancouver Island, Lower Mainland and Okanagan, the majority of acquisition programs were focused on these regions. Land acquisition occurs by one of three means: outright purchase; donation; or exchange; and often transactions are a complex mix of all of these.

Unfortunately, there has never been an ongoing budget allocation so funding for acquisition, just like capital facilities, has its ups and downs; famine and then a feast.

Park planners have, since the ’60s, been the vision of the parks; identifying candidate parcels and preparing parks proposals. In a sense they have the easy part, enjoyable field trips, pretty postcard photo albums, and voluminous reports recommending in favour of park status. These reports from the ’50s, ’60s, ’70s, and

(Continued on page 7)
80s represent the “hopes” for a park system. Fortunately the parks blitz of the mid-70s and now the current Protected Areas Strategy has seen many of these realized.

However, many of the parcels, sites, lakes and islands identified as potential parks were not Crown Land but private property. For example, recently the government announced Goal 1 and 2 targets for new parks on Vancouver Island. Of forty sites identified over twenty-two had private lands within them. Similarly thirty years ago, Mt. Seymour, although a park, had dozens of private cabins within its boundaries. Today there are no such cabins.

With explosion of population in the Okanagan, new waterfront parks were critically needed. Today, we fortunately enjoy Cosens Bay, Bear Creek Delta and Fintry, all of which were formerly private properties, destined for subdivision, not public open space. All three were acquired through process of political leadership, faith/hope and tenacious negotiations.

Working Together to Make It Happen

by Rob Enns, Thompson River District

The Stein Valley Nlaka’pamux Heritage Park is a large, relatively new park co-managed by BC Parks and Lytton First Nation (LFN). One of the challenges for the Stein Management Board is finding a way to accomplish some of the many, many things that need to be done in the park when funding from both BC Parks and LFN is hard to come by. This year we decided to approach the British Columbia Conservation Foundation (BCCF) for assistance in obtaining funds and found them to be very keen to help out. They decided to sponsor a 13-week E-Team for the Stein and were successful in their application. However, the funding received was insufficient to cover all the support costs required to field a work crew. Just when things were looking grim, FRBC and J.S. Jones Timber Ltd. of Boston Bar approached us with an offer of funds for the park, some of which could be used to support the E-Team. With E-Team and FRBC/J.S. Jones providing funding, the Stein Management Board identifying and approving projects, LFN and the BCCF doing the hiring and administrative duties, and BC Parks and the BCCF doing the training and project supervision, it was a large and diverse group of people from many organizations working together to make it all happen.

The crew, comprised of Lytton First Nation members, started work in July in the main trail head area. They turned out to be energetic, keen, compatible and productive, doing everything from regular trail maintenance to bridge building and minor road improvements. Near the end of the project they spent three work-weeks camping in the park in order to work in areas farther than what could otherwise be productively reached in a day. All in all it was a very worthwhile experience for everyone involved, culminating with a BBQ at the trail head hosted by LFN (there was more food than even an E-team could consume!) and support for working together on a similar project next year. On behalf of BC Parks, Lytton First Nation and the Stein Management Board, I’d like to thank the BC Conservation Foundation, E-Team, J.S. Jones Timber Ltd. and FRBC for their support for Stein Valley Nlaka’pamux Heritage Park.

Old farm buildings at Fintry Provincial Park.
Heavy Load Shared by Many Hands

by Vicki Haberl and Al Jenkins, Garibaldi Sunshine Coast District

Tetrahedron Provincial Park lay under a blanket of snow, seemingly tranquil to anyone gracefully gliding their skis over the vast whiteness of this popular backcountry ski area near Sechelt, BC. It was a winter to be remembered, with more snow than anyone had seen in years. One skier reported probing for one of the four backcountry cabins and estimating that it lay buried beneath ten metres of snow!

When all that snow finally melted away, which wasn’t until well into August, the tranquility was shattered and the damaging effects of the heavy snow load were revealed. Many bridges were damaged, broken, or even “disappeared.” Stairs and other trail facilities were smashed. The McNair cabin had shifted and crushed the foundation blocks, and the roof overhang was broken. The estimated value of repairs was $25,000 for the cabin, $10,000 for the bridges and trails, plus E-Team costs.

When some base funding was secured from headquarters, Area Supervisor Al Jenkins began pulling together work plans, contracts, volunteers, staff, donations, equipment, and tools! Members of the Tetrahedron Ski Club, Ministry of Forests, Interfor, logging contractors, Black Tusk Helicopters and Airspan Helicopters, Sunshine Kitchens, E-Team members and BC Parks staff all came together to make a big project successful. Generous donations from local suppliers, contractors and volunteers made it possible to stretch the budget.

One of the biggest challenges was to plan and prepare the materials and equipment, much of which had to be airlifted into the park. Boxes of tools, hydraulic jacks, lumber and cable, were just part of the checklist. When the last of the snow patches melted away at 1200 metres, the E-Team crew worked for weeks, improving the trail and preparing abutments for new bridges. The Tetrahedron Ski Club donated a unique, stainless steel center support for one of the longer footbridges. Interfor and Ministry of Forests worked together to secure five 15 metre logs from outside the park. The logs were felled and trucked to a landing where a Bell 214 helicopter then flew them to the prepared abutments. The night before the logs were flown, 20 centimetres of fresh snow fell! Once it melted, the bridges were decked and some finishing touches were done.

With the cabin resurrected and the main bridge and trail repairs completed, everyone breathed a sigh of relief. Much had been accomplished, and just in time, because the snow was beginning to fall again for another winter.

Happy trails, and many thanks to everyone who helped make this project a success.

How Things Get Done Up North

by Gord MacRae, Skeena District

In 1994 my predecessor, Jim DeHart, had the cement bases for highway portal signs made and brought to Haines Junction. The next few years were spent attempting to get signs made for the bases. The first step in the process was to get agreement between BC Parks and the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, who co-manage the park, on what the signs should say. Once that was accomplished, the next step was to find funding for the signs. In 1997 and 1998 we had FRBC funding, but through some problems with deciding who should carve what on the signs, the project wasn’t started in time before funding was relinquished.

This is where our “sister agency”, Yukon Territorial Government Parks, and another ministry, Yukon Highways, come in. Hugh Markides, BC Parks District Manager, and Jim McIntyre, Yukon Parks Superintendent, got together and talked about the portal signs. Yukon Parks have a large well-equipped sign shop with sandblasting tools, routers, planers, and most other woodworking items. We had purchased the cedar planks the previous year, so after the signs chat, I had the planks shipped to the sign shop, where the Yukon sign men got to work.

(Continued on page 9)
Meanwhile, I spoke to Sam Dionne, Yukon Highways foreman, and we agreed to meet on site to choose the best sign locations. Sam was gracious enough to offer to place the gravel crush and spread it in preparation for the cement bases.

Ed Leschart and James Armstrong are the guys who did the detail work after getting the go ahead from Jim McIntyre. They did an incredible job, routing the lettering and the detailed BC Parks and Champagne and Aishihik logos. For those of you who aren’t aware, this park has been co-managed since 1996, and we wanted the sign to reflect that. The sign guys decided to router the sign rather than sandblast because of the clear cedar planks, and the detail in the logos. Then they painted the logos, and applied cetol. The signs were assembled, and taking up a great deal of space in the shop, so it was hinted that it might be time to have the cement bases placed on site, ready for the signs. We contracted Champagne and Aishihik Corporation to haul the bases and place them on prepared gravel crush.

Yukon Highways had the gravel pads ready for the bases in early September. Yukon Highways also maintains the entire Haines Road, a significant portion within BC, which stretches along one boundary of Tatshenshini Park for 200 kilometers to the U.S. border at Pleasant Camp.

Yukon Parks then brought the signs out to the sites on a five-ton truck with a Hyab grapple arm. They decided that the signs were so shiny, unscratched and beautiful, that they should install them as well, to make sure that they stayed that way! The signs look awesome now that they are in place, and we couldn’t have done it without the generous assistance of Yukon Parks and Highways. The entire job, which was worth well over $6,000 was done as a favor to the BC Parks Branch. A big THANK YOU to all involved!

Wilderness Wedding Vows
by Vicki Haberl, Garibaldi Sunshine Coast District

Some matches are made in heaven. But few are consecrated as close to heaven as the wedding of Ron and Miriam. Ron Goldstone, Acting Area Supervisor in the Howe Sound Area of Garibaldi/Sunshine Coast District made his vows with Miriam Bailey along the shores of Lake Lovely Water, in Tantalus Provincial Park. On a sunny day in late August, Ron and Miriam and a select few friends and family flew into this scenic site in the mountains just west of Squamish. The ceremony took place at sun set.

The romantic side of Ron inspired this unique matrimonial setting, but his sociable side required a full-scale party the following day. Again, a traditional setting was over-rulled, and a delightful celebration of their marriage took place at the Sunwolf Outdoor Centre, along the Cheakamus River. The weather continued to cooperate, and family and friends enjoyed a salmon barbecue and pig roast.

Congratulations, Ron and Miriam, we wish you all the best in your adventures through married life.

Bringing Parks into the Classroom
by Rebecca Stewart and Skyann Lewis, E-Team staff, Fraser-Fort George Regional Museum

Create a Park, join in the Web of Life, participate in an LRMP and Design Your Own Protected Area. With these activities and more the BC Parks, Prince George District is bringing protected areas to life in grade four to seven classrooms.

Currently the Fraser-Fort George Regional Museum is contracted to deliver these programs and has two E-Team staff working on the project. Grades four to five participate in the Protected Areas Strategies program. During the two one-hour classroom visits students learn through individual and group activities, class discussion and interactive games. By the end of this program students understand that people in society protect the things they value and that there are consequences when things are not protected.

(Continued on page 10)
Grades six to seven participate in a newer program, the Protected Areas Planning Program, which is in its third year. During three separate classroom sessions students participate in a mock LRMP, plan a protected area, and assist with managing the area. After completing these activities students appreciate that protected areas are not islands therefore management and protection are continuous to maintain a balance between recreation and conservation.

Delivering programs in area schools has been a great success, since the program originated in 1995. Every year new teachers become involved and returning teachers like Margaret Schuett of Hart Highlands Elementary “...thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and had nothing but positive comments from... students”. Part of this success has been achieved by working closely with BC Parks staff to keep the programs up to date with current issues.

For more information on these programs please contact Cheryl Livingstone-Leman at BC Parks, Prince George District, (250) 565-4364.

---

E-Team Intern Catalogues Strathcona Resources

by Andrew MacLeod, E-Team Communications

Since September, Erin Parr, an Environment Youth Team intern, has contributed her energy to building the Strathcona District Resource Atlas database.

The database includes information about the district’s natural, cultural and recreational resources. Parr has diligently catalogued documents like reports, maps and air photos in the Clayoquot, Parksville and Miracle Beach Parks offices.

“I’ve really enjoyed it,” she says. "It’s been the best work experience I’ve ever had. I got to try things out. It was related to my degree. It’s been a really great experience.”

Her supervisor, Bill Zinovich, helped enrich what could have been a tedious job. “He’s made an effort to get me involved in anything he can,” she says. “By trying out little things here and there I’ve got a feeling for how things work.”

Parr, who is 23 years old and who grew up in Terrace, finished a forestry degree at the University of British Columbia last May. “Forestry is related to forest harvesting, that’s the main focus,” she says. While some courses looked at ecology and sustainability, she says, “Working for Parks is a different perspective. It’s broadened my perspective.”

For example, she says, foresters look at a tree that has fallen and consider what price salvaging it might bring. “Here [in Parks] it’s the opposite. Just because it’s a fallen log doesn’t mean it’s timber.”

“It’s good to see things from both sides I think.”

Giving young people the chance to gain experience outside the classroom at a key time in their lives is what the E-Team is all about. For Parr it has also meant having time to think about what to do next.

She has considered returning to school for courses in education or environmental law. Recently she enrolled for distance education courses from the British Columbia Institute of Technology that will give her the qualifications to be a seasonal park ranger.

“I’ll definitely end up doing something outdoors,” she says. Whatever work the future may hold, it will have to wait a couple of months. As soon as Parr’s done at Parks, she and her boyfriend are jetting off to Thailand to hike and travel. “[The E-Team position] was perfect for what I was looking for. I had travel plans, so I didn’t want to be committed to anything long term.”
Kwaday Dan Sinchi – “Long Ago Person Found”

by Gord MacRae, Skeena District

(With thanks to content taken from Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture News Releases)

On August 14, 1999, three sheep hunters from Nelson, BC stumbled across the remains of an ancient aboriginal person on the edge of a glacier in Champagne and Aishihik traditional territory. The human remains were found within Tatshenshini – Alsek Park, a protected area within the BC Parks’ system and one of four adjacent parks forming a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This park was established in 1993 and has been co-managed by BC Parks and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations since 1996.

A team of relevant specialists was quickly put together for the recovery of the human remains. The team included archaeologists, a forensic anthropologist, a glaciologist, an artifact conservator, and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations’ and BC Parks representatives. Prior to the removal of the human remains, representatives of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations spoke quiet words of respect. Dr. Owen Beattie, University of Alberta, was present to give advice and guidance during removal of the remains.

The collected artifacts were transferred to Whitehorse where they were temporarily stored and monitored by specialists. The human remains were respectfully and carefully transported to the Royal British Columbia Museum, where they are to be stored in a special cooling chamber, pending study. Champagne and Aishihik First Nations members accompanied the remains to the museum. Our governments will be working in partnership to ensure the preservation of this important find, and to develop a plan for the study of this person and their tools and clothing.

The most recent data indicates the age of two artifacts found at the Kwaday Dan Sinchi site are about 550 years old. The two samples from a hat and robe found with the ancient person underwent radiocarbon dating and the results show the individual likely lived sometime between AD 1415 and AD 1445, more than 300 years before the first known European contact in this area.

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the BC Government are working together to determine what further scientific studies are appropriate. Once all studies are completed, the remains will be returned to the people and the land where Kwaday Dan Sinchi comes from. He will be respectfully buried, and we will all be thankful for all that this long ago person was able to tell us about his time in history, and his culture.

Site of the find located on the edge of a glacier in Champagne and Aishihik traditional territory within Tatshenshini – Alsek Park.
Call for Nominations

You can help British Columbia honour its exceptional citizens by nominating someone for the coveted Order of British Columbia, the province’s highest award. The Order of British Columbia was established by statute on April 21, 1989 to recognize those persons who have served with the greatest distinction and excelled in any field of endeavour benefiting the people of the province or elsewhere. Individuals are recognised for their outstanding contribution in the fields of community leadership, the professions, the arts, sports, business, science and education. There are many British Columbians deserving of this honour.

Nomination forms are available from your nearest Government Agent’s Office, the Protocol and Events Branch web site: www.protocol.gov.bc.ca or from The Order of British Columbia Secretariat, 553 Superior Street, Victoria (250) 387-1616. Nominations close at 4:30 p.m. March 10, 2000.

Arenaria Research and Interpretation
Victoria Natural History Society
Habitat Acquisition Trust
RLC Enterprises

BC Parks and the South Vancouver Island District (SVID) extend congratulations and thanks to Arenaria Research and Interpretation, the Victoria Natural History Society, Habitat Acquisition Trust, and RLC Enterprises Ltd. for their involvement and sponsorship of the Goldstream Provincial Park Art Show.

The biennial art show is a cornerstone parks partnership event for SVID. The exhibit at the Visitor Centre presented the work of 100 participating artists, attracted over 16,000 visitors, and enlisted 5,000 hours of volunteer work. This level of participation and enthusiasm demonstrates that the show continues to be an ideal venue for attracting new visitors to parks and spreading the conservation message to new audiences.

Art sales from this year’s event raised $10,000 which will be shared between the Eagle Extravaganza interpretive program at Goldstream Provincial Park and the Habitat Acquisition Trust’s fund for purchase of Brook’s Point on Pender Island.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to our partners and all the volunteers!

David Chater
District Manager
BC Parks
South Vancouver Island District