

## TRAILS COMMITTEE REPORT

Its that time of the year again. As the snow recedes, our trails begin to appear once again. Members will be hanging up skis and snowshoes and getting out enjoying hiking and rambling trips.

Speaking of trails, several trails that members and the public enjoy using have been established and/or are maintained by FMC member clubs. The trails committee is still trying to compile who the trail maintainers are for each club and to determine which clubs are working and maintaining on which trails. This will help in our revitalization of the Adopt-A-Trail programme.

The most popular FMC Trails brochure is soon to return. The Bus to Trails brochure is currently being updated with help from Robert Batt from the North Shore Hikers. The brochure is expected to be ready soon (this summer) and will be available in brochure form or on the Fed website.

From the Island comes a new FMC brochure in conjunction with the ACC-Island Section. The new Mount Arrowsmith Map/Brochure is now available. Send a message to Evan Loveless or to Peter Rothermel to request your copy. Peter has been the driving force behind making Mount Arrowsmith a regional park and it appears that it is going to happen.

When Pat Harrison (Valley Outdoor Club) met with Bill Marshall and John Crooks (Director and Assistant Director of Recreation Sites and Trails for BC) in February, he emphasized the need for funding of stewardship organizations like the FMC, and assistance with third party liability issues. Under the new Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts (MTSA), they are hopeful that more money will be forthcoming this fiscal year. So write your trail proposal and submit it. They have also developed a new one page contract for clubs to sign to provide protection from third party use when doing trail work on Crown Land.

The fate of the Baden-Powell Trail section at Eagle Ridge Bluffs in West Vancouver continues to be unresolved due to the proposed Sea to Sky highway bypass at Horseshoe Bay. We still do not know for sure where the trail will be located but we are told it will still have a connector to the Village of Horseshoe Bay ( to the parking area for 3 cars). There are some property and planning issues that need to be resolved with the District of West Vancouver. One option that has been presented is for the B-P trail to be joined with the TCT at Nelson Creek via Whyte Lake and Whyte Creek, where a rough trail already exists. BC Parks and other agencies are lobbying for more parking at that trailhead. However the Eagleridge trailhead may not exist in future. We will keep you up-to-date on this on the FMC website.

The Trails Committee enjoyed a great day at Lions Bay on Saturday, April 22, Earth Day. We wanted to show that the hiking community is taking care of the overflow parking we negotiated at the school, and to check the condition of the new trail from the parking lot

up to the trailhead. The community of Lions Bay appears to have taken ownership as some brushing out had already been done. The trail was well used, and had little litter. The trail markers were still intact as were the flagging tapes we put in last summer. This issue appears to have been successfully resolved, although we are asking for signage to direct hikers to the overflow parking. Otherwise towing of cars may continue when the hiking season gets under way.

Pat Harrison and Ken Rodonets (Comox District Mountaineering Club) did a presentation to the City Council meeting of the City of Courtenay on Monday, April 10 regarding the National Hiking Trail crossing Comox Valley. The presentation was well received. As a result, the City Council of Courtenay passed a resolution supporting the National Hiking Trail plans through the Comox Valley, the need to work with Hike BC to accomplish this goal, and to approach other political jurisdictions to assist Hike BC in accomplishing the goal. The trail is planned to route through the Comox valley from the Little River area (Ferry to/from Powell River) to the Beaufort Mountain Range beyond Cumberland. Further invitations have been extended for updates on the NHT from Cumberland, Port Alberni, West Vancouver, Squamish, and Quesnel representatives at the May 6 Hike BC Annual General Meeting.

The Outdoor Recreation Council and the Federation of Mountain Clubs were planning a Trails Day event in Squamish this summer. With ORC's difficulties at the moment, this project may have to be put on hold for a year.

Pat Harrison & Alex Wallace  
Co-Chairs  
FMC Trails Committee