



Alpine Club of Canada *Board of Directors*

Minutes of the Meeting

March 25, 2006

Thompson Dorfman Sweatman
LLP Barristers and Solicitors Boardroom
Portage and Main, Winnipeg, Manitoba



ATTENDING BOARD MEMBERS:

Cam Roe, President
Gord Currie, Treasurer
Peter Muir, Secretary
David Zemrau, VP Services
Carl Hannigan, VP Facilities
Bob Sandford, VP Mountain Culture
Isabelle Daigneault, VP Access and Environment
Gil Parker, Vancouver Island Section
Rob Brusse, Vancouver Section
Andy McQuilkin, Okanagan Section
Mark Earle, Prince George Section
Keith Sanford, Calgary Section
Neil Bosch, Edmonton Section
Rod Church, Central Alberta Section
John Derick, Rocky Mountain Section
Wayne Campbell, Jasper/Hinton Section
Dave McCormick, Saskatchewan Section
Simon Statkewich, Manitoba Section
André Mahé, St. Boniface Section
Frank Pianka, Thunder Bay Section
Sandra Bowkun, Toronto Section
Elfrieda Bock, Ottawa Section
Denis Villeneuve, Outaouais Section
Murray Levine, Montreal Section
Mike Mortimer, Director, External Relations
David Toole, Director, Planning and Development
Bruce Keith, Executive Director

ALSO ATTENDING:

Lynn Martel, *Gazette* Editor
Leo Tardiff, Thunder Bay Section member
Lawrence White, Director, Facilities
Suzan Chamney, Director, Communications
Sandy Walker, Director, Club Services
Nancy Hansen, Director, Mountaineering and Recording
Secretary

ABSENT:

Roger Laurilla, VP Activities
Competition Climbing Section Representative
Whistler Section Representative

President's Welcome (C. Roe)

C. Roe thanked the Manitoba and St. Boniface Sections for organizing this weekend's events in celebration of the Club's centennial year, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

S. Bowkun requested that the topic of "inappropriate behaviour" be added to the agenda.

Motion by D. Zemrau, seconded by R. Church that the agenda for the Board meeting be approved.

CARRIED

Approval of Minutes from the October 29, 2005 Board Meeting

Motion by S. Bowkun, seconded by D. McCormick: that the minutes of the October 29, 2005 Board meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

Section Reports and Issues

The Section representatives spoke to their reports. M. Earle said that Prince George member Jack McGhee has been diagnosed with cancer and is not expected to live much longer. There was discussion over the relationship between the ACC and non-members in some locales who feel that the ACC should be "doing something" about particular access and environment issues. Sections that expressed concern over these issues will be contacting I. Daigneault for further discussion. R. Brusse announced that Mills Winram, an ACC member since 1926, recently passed away at the age of 98. A. McQuilkin gave an overview of a recent Okanagan Section ski camp which sadly ended with an avalanche that claimed the lives of two Okanagan Section members. C. Roe expressed his condolences to the Okanagan Section, and a moment of silence was observed for the fallen Okanagan Section members and other members the Club has lost recently. F. Pianka mentioned that the Thunder Bay Section is considering submitting a proposal to host one of the 2008 ACC Board meetings in celebration of their 25th anniversary. D. Villeneuve said that the Outaouais Section is working towards translating the national membership webpage and membership brochure to the French language in order to attract more members in their area. W. Campbell said that a Section trip was stopped by a Park warden who told them they should not be in the area due to high avalanche hazard. He said that discussion regarding trip leader certification ensued within the Jasper/Hinton Section, with some members suggesting that each leader should be required to obtain and then prove relevant qualifications prior to leading trips. Several Section Representatives said that rather than establishing such written policies, their Sections have trips committees to evaluate each leader and the appropriateness of the trip they are proposing. Several Sections also use a "trip leader application form" to assess new trip leaders.

External Relations Report (M. Mortimer)

M. Mortimer distributed his report. He also distributed ACC centennial banners (1 per section) that the Sections can provide to their members to take on trips (and include in climbing and/or summit photos). As the year progresses, Sections agreed to submit the photos to D. Villeneuve of the Outaouais Section for inclusion in a centennial photo album. Sections can keep the flags at the end of the year, and it is hoped they will display the flags proudly at various Section events. M.

Mortimer requested that all Sections forward any local media coverage related to the centennial to the National Office. He then reviewed the centennial celebrations and events that will take place in 2006. All of the centennial celebrations, events and information about the flags and photos are included on the centennial website which can be accessed via the National Club's homepage.

L. Martel requested that Sections inform her about their centennial plans and accomplishments so that she can include them in the spring and fall 2006 Gazettes.

ACTION: ALL SECTIONS

M. Mortimer spoke about a proposal that the ACC has received from Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). The ACC and CPR have historical ties, and the CPR is interested in creating an ACC environmental legacy fund in the name of their retiring CEO. M. Mortimer is currently negotiating the arrangement with CPR.

Awards (M. Mortimer)

On behalf of the Awards Committee, M. Mortimer requested that the Board consider bestowing the A.O. Wheeler award on D. Toole, and that John Wheeler be presented with an honorary membership this year.

Motion by P. Muir, seconded by D. Zemrau: that John Wheeler be made an Honorary Member of the Club for his contributions to Canadian mountaineering.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion by P. Muir, seconded by M. Levine that: David Toole be awarded the A.O. Wheeler Legacy Award for his outstanding and varied contributions to the Club over many years.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Secretary (P. Muir)

P. Muir told the Board that he will be posting a copy of optional Section by-laws on the National website by mid-April. Sections may download the document to use all or part of the by-laws to govern their Sections if they choose.

ACTION: P. Muir

P. Muir also presented the new "Board Members' Handbook" which all Board members should download from the National website and read.

As well, P. Muir distributed copies of a proposed policy regarding children attending ACC trips and outings

D. McCormick spoke to the proposed policy regarding children on ACC camps. D. McCormick requested that all Sections discuss the policy and provide feedback to him so that the policy can be ratified by the full Board in the fall. E. Bock asked if the policy covered the issue of parents or grandparents who want to take young children on Section trips when the trip leader does not feel comfortable with the idea. P. Muir said that the policy provides for decisions to be made by the Section Executive regarding the attendance of children on Section trips. M. Earle asked how to deal with situations where parents bring their children to climbing areas when the children are not participating in the climbing activity, but are "hanging out" near the base of the climbs. P. Muir and D. McCormick will attempt to address this situation when the policy is finalized.

ACTION: P. MUIR, D. McCORMICK

C. Roe stressed that the Section Representatives need to remind their Sections that it is imperative all trip leaders have everyone on the trip sign the waiver before the trip begins.

ACTION: SECTION REPRESENTATIVES

J. Derick requested that the National Club write a brief letter that the Section Representatives can take back to their trip leaders, outlining the importance of the waivers and the consequences of not having waivers signed.

ACTION: B. KEITH

R. Brusse suggested that all ACC members sign a waiver and that the waiver be kept on file. If a waiver is forgotten before a Club trip, the waiver that was signed upon joining could be referred to. P. Muir will look into this option.

ACTION: P. Error! Contact not defined.

R. Brusse suggested that the Club waiver be displayed more prominently on the ACC's homepage.

ACTION: B. KEITH

C. Roe also stressed the importance of getting an accident report to the National Office immediately after the accident takes place. Our insurance company demands this protocol be followed.

ACTION: SECTION REPRESENTATIVES

P. Muir reminded the Board members that one person from each Section must report any Section trips that are planned to the United States for approval by the ACC insurance companies. P. Muir also reminded the Board members that residents of the United States are not allowed to take part in ACC trips that take place in the United States. United States residents are allowed to take part in ACC trips that go to any other location in the world.

ACTION: SECTION REPRESENTATIVES

Treasurer (G. Currie)

G. Currie said that we do not have final audited 2005 financial statement yet but that the draft statements are showing a small operating surplus for the year. In due course, the final 2005 statements will be emailed to the Board for approval.

ACTION: B. KEITH

For the benefit of new Board members, G. Currie reviewed the major line items in the 2005 financial statements. He said that 2006 is looking positive so far, although it is too early in the fiscal year to make accurate projections for many areas.

G. Currie said that the ACC has contracted with a professional consultant who will be putting together a development plan for the Club. It is hoped that the development plan will be complete by the end of June. It is intended that the plan will give the Club a direction in which to move regarding fundraising.

Several questions were asked by Board members regarding the 2006 budget. G. Currie answered all questions to the satisfaction of the Board.

VP Access and Environment (I. Daigneault)

I. Daigneault spoke to her report. She thanked P. Muir for his guidance and advice in her role as VP Access and Environment. She said there are several new members on the National Access and Environment Coordinating Committee (NAECC), and that the committee is planning on developing a set of values, principles and priorities regarding the impact of mountaineering on other stakeholders in the shared mountain environment. She said that relationship between the ENEQ and FQME continues to strengthen.

VP Services (D. Zemrau)

D. Zemrau spoke to his report. He said that the 2006 winter North Face Leadership course was a success. He requested that the Board members encourage the trip leaders within their Sections to apply for the upcoming summer North Face Leadership course. The deadline for applications is May 1 and application forms are available on the national website.

D. Zemrau has been working on a "Centennial Survey" of our members. The purpose of the survey is to find out where our membership is at in terms of their current thoughts and preferences. This will give the Executive and Board a direction towards which to work in the future, and will provide a "snapshot" of our membership in our Centennial year.

D. Zemrau told the Board about this year's Jen Higgins and Jim Colpitts fund recipients, and encouraged Board members to remind their Sections about the availability of these grants.

L. Martel gave an overview of the recent ACC-organized "Sunshine 5000" ski mountaineering race in Banff National Park. The event was a success and will likely be held again next year.

VP Mountain Culture (B. Sandford)

B. Sandford thanked S. Chamney and Lynn Martel for their efforts in producing the Centennial Gazette, and apologized for accidentally omitting mention of the St. Boniface Section on page 58. He also said that he and Vi Sandford have produced a historical documentary about the ACC which will premiere at the Gala dinner on March 25, 2006. Also premiering at the dinner will be the Elizabeth Parker play commissioned by Parks Canada. He mentioned that the play can be staged by any section of the Club providing they are willing to cover the travel costs, and said that if sections are interested in hosting the actress and her play in their hometown, they should contact him.

ACTION: SECTION REPRESENTATIVES

M. Mortimer thanked B. Sandford for the efforts of the Mountain Culture committee in bringing many of the Centennial events to fruition.

B. Sandford said that L. Martel has a full page article in this month's edition of "Explore" magazine regarding the ACC's centennial.

VP Activities (N. Hansen for R. Laurilla)

N. Hansen presented R. Laurilla's report on his behalf. The current forecast for the finances of the Canadian Centre for Mountaineering is that it will meet budget in 2006. This is largely because of the three successful international camps that ran this past fall and winter and the Japanese Alpine Club camps that are currently underway. She reported that every week of the GMC is currently fully subscribed, and that there are between 4 and 11 people on a waitlist for each week.

VP Facilities (C. Hannigan)

C. Hannigan referred the Board to his report. He added that the Pat Boswell (Toronto Section) cabin at the Clubhouse is well underway and will be available for use this summer. C. Hannigan also announced the recent formation of the ACC Trails Committee, headed by Jerry Auld.

Awards (C. Roe)

C. Roe spoke on behalf of Paul Geddes regarding the 2006 ACC service awards. He reviewed the names of the award recipients and offered his congratulations to these exceptional volunteers. The award recipients for 2006 are as follows:

Distinguished Service Award

Bruce Hardardt
Nikki Hipkin
Denis Gravel

Don Forest Service Award:

Anne Anderson
David Foster
Martyne Laliberté
Eric Lepage
David Moe
Heiki Pauli
Mike Rogers
Wayne Vibert
Don Wighton

The actual awards were given to various Board members to take back and present to the award recipients locally at an appropriate time.

ACTION: SECTION REPRESENTATIVES

Planning and Development Report (D. Toole)

D. Toole passed around a sample of an ACC pin that ACC honorary member Eric Lomas has been working on to replace our standard bronze ACC pin. He thanked Eric for his hard work on the pins and also for creating new A.O. Wheeler awards, and said that the Executive had voted unanimously for B. Keith to send an official letter of thanks to Eric.

D. Toole said that the Golden Alpine Holidays facilities in the Selkirks are for sale and have been for some time. He and C. Hannigan have discussed the pros and cons of the ACC purchasing these facilities through an ACC donor. The facilities are for sale for \$800,000, but he has so far been unable to identify the right donor.

D. Toole reported that the BC Government has not yet announced their Roofed Accommodation Strategy policy for provincial parks. The ACC has been waiting for the announcement before proceeding with a formal application to the BC government for the building of a new hut in Mt. Robson provincial park. BC Parks has been waiting for the announcement to guide their actions regarding the license of occupation at the Elk Lakes cabin (currently held by the ACC)..

D. Toole also presented some statistics showing that the ACC membership numbers have decreased as follows in the past few years (3?):

- Overall – 20%
- CAJ option– 25%
- Facilities option – 15%
- Vancouver Section – 40%

He said that 75% of the Sections have experienced a decrease in membership numbers in the past few years (3?) The remaining Sections have either maintained or increased their current membership numbers.

D. Toole said that the Executive Committee decided to form a Membership Committee to examine and analyze causes for the decline in ACC membership and recommend specific actions to address the problem.

D. Toole also said that he has drafted an ACC vision statement that he will present at the fall meetings.

D. Toole talked about the new ACC database/accounting system called “Merlin”, created by Kevin Lohka at the National Office. The database is excellent and will serve the office well. However, the IT department continues to be understaffed and cannot undertake any new projects at this time. D.

Toole is working with the Executive Committee to prioritize the long list of projects that need to be completed, including several that will assist the Sections in their information requirements. L. White gave a demonstration of the system to the Board.

National Office Report (B. Keith)

B. Keith thanked the Manitoba and St. Boniface Sections for organizing the Executive Committee and Board meetings. He welcomed S. Walker in her new position as Director, Club Services - a combination of two previous part-time positions held by Audrey Wheeler and N. Hansen. He announced that Dan Verrall will be leaving his position at the end of June as Facilities Maintenance Manager (after 22 years).

Membership Incentive Activities for 2006 (B. Keith)

B. Keith reported that there are two initiatives underway for membership renewal incentives. One initiative involves monthly draws of prizes for members who renew before the 15th of each month.

The other initiative is a "centennial renewal" letter that was mailed to everyone whose membership expired within the last three years. Of the 4000 letters that were mailed, 130 memberships have been renewed to date. A benefit of this program was that it allowed the Club to test its new on-line renewal system – a feature that will be made available to all members in due course.

Grants (I. Daigneault)

I. Daigneault reviewed the recommendations of the Environment Committee regarding the applications to the Environment Fund this year.

Motion by I. Daigneault, seconded by A. McQuilkin that the recommendations of the Environment Committee be accepted as presented:

- **Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments (Kristina Swerhun) - \$500**
- **Environmental protection and access maintenance for Abbot Pass Hut and Fairy Meadow Hut trails (Jerry Auld – ACC Trails Committee) - \$1500**
- **Ghost River Study (Grant Parkin – CASA) - \$817**

CARRIED

Corporate Partnerships (B. Keith)

B. Keith said that following the proposed CPR agreement, there will be a greater focus on fundraising attempts with larger corporations.

P. Muir reminded the Board members that they must inform B. Keith about their major fund raising initiatives/grant applications/corporate sponsorships to ensure that each level of the Club is aware of applications made by the other to help maintain the professional and organized appearance of each level's fundraising/sponsorship activities.

B. Keith updated the Board regarding a proposed MEC partnership. B. Keith recently signed an "agreement in principle" whereby there will be an annual \$10,000 cash and product grant from the MEC to the ACC beginning in 2006. A Committee, headed by C. Roe, will be formed to come up with a proposal to allocate the \$10,000 for 2006.

ACTION: C. ROE

Development Officer update (B. Keith)

B. Keith reminded the Board that they had approved funding in the 2006 budget for a Development Officer staff position. However, he said that he had decided it would be prudent to create an overall development plan before hiring a new staff person. He has therefore arranged a consulting contract with a fundraising expert to create a development plan for the Club. This person recently contacted several Executive members to learn about the ACC in order that she can provide us with a fixed-price quote to prepare a development plan. He expects that the development plan will be in his hands by the end of June.

ACC NewsNet (S. Chamney)

S. Chamney spoke about the ACC e-newsletter, the "NewsNet", and said that she has added all of the Section Representatives and Section Chairs to the NewsNet list. She requested that the Sections forward the NewsNet to their Section members if they feel the information is relevant.

ACTION: SECTION REPRESENTATIVES

Inappropriate Behaviour (S. Bowkun)

S. Bowkun said that the Toronto Section has received complaints about a member who is disturbing other members who use the dock and hut facilities at Bon Echo. S. Bowkun will send this member a letter requesting that she cease the objectionable behaviour. P. Muir said that it would be reasonable to revoke her membership if she does not comply with the request.

ACTION: S. BOWKUN

Certified guides and ACC Section Trips (J. Derick)

J. Derick said that there has been some controversy within the Rocky Mountain Section regarding an internally proposed policy to hire certified guides to lead all Section ski camps. Considerable discussion about this issue ensued. R. Brusse requested that a "chat room" be set up on the ACC National website in order to facilitate common interest discussions amongst the various Sections. B. Keith recommended that R. Brusse request that D. Toole include the chat room idea on his list of IT projects.

ACTION: R. BRUSSE

Sunday Plans

P. Muir requested that all Board members be at the Birks building on the corner of Portage and Smith at 10:30am on Sunday, March 26, 2006 for a photo. He noted that a photo was taken in front of this building in March of 1906 of the original Board of Directors of the Alpine Club of Canada at their first meeting.

Next Meetings (P. Muir)

2006 AGM - July 15, 2006 at Rogers Pass
Fall '06 Executive Committee Meeting (date/location TBA)
Fall '06 Board Meeting - Oct 13, 2006 in Canmore

Motion by G. Currie, seconded by B. Sandford: that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED (3:00pm)