

# Reflections from ACC Donors

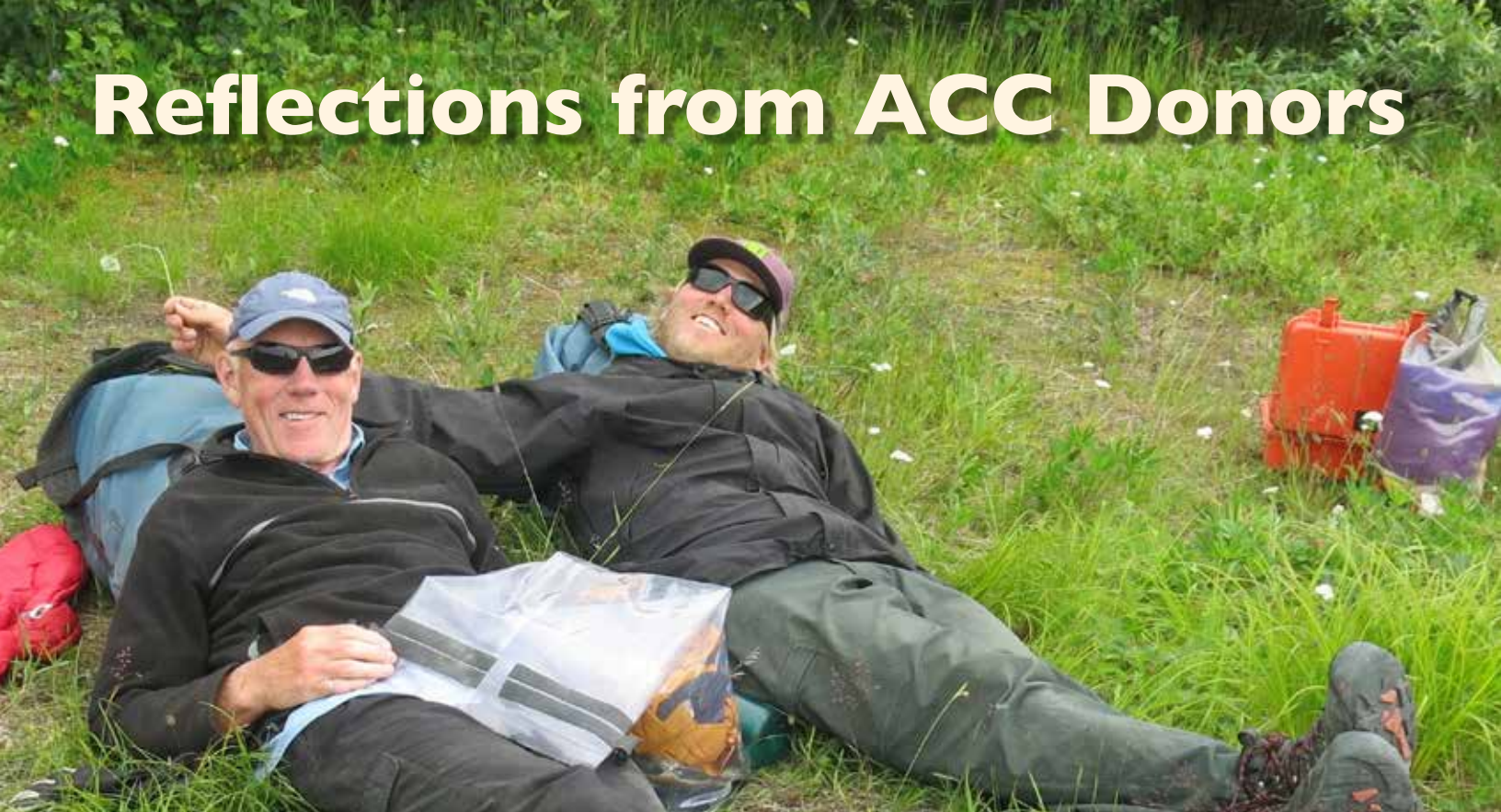


Photo: David Toole

## David Toole

For David Toole, it started in the 1980s with a simple desire to find people to join him on outdoor adventures. He found much more than that with The Alpine Club of Canada — a community of lifelong friends.

“A few years ago, I recall looking around the room at my birthday celebration in Vancouver and many of my guests were friends who were part of those early ACC memories,” he says.

David joined the ACC in Montreal where he and his family spent many enjoyable hours at the Val David ski house in the Laurentian Mountains. “We’d meet up with friends, rise early the following day and enjoy ski outings that lasted from sunrise to sunset.”

After a day on the slopes, everyone would pitch in to cook, share tales and try to best each other at board games.

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“It was a real community,” he says. “That was one of the best times of my life.”

As well as cross-country skiing, hiking, climbing, snow shoeing, biking and canoeing all over the world through his affiliation with the ACC, David has happily spent decades giving back to the ACC by volunteering.

He started serving on the Montreal Section executive and eventually became President of the national Board of Directors. He’s since been named Honorary President and received the ACC’s A.O. Wheeler Legacy Award and the Distinguished Service Award. David still volunteers and is a generous donor to the Club.

“The ACC has played a major role in my life,” he says. “I want to play a part in securing our legacy as a significant national organization.”

Photo: Thierry Levenq







Photo: Rennée Lamontagne



## Lara Seward-Guenette

The lure of the mountains has been irresistible for most of Lara's life.

After high school, she travelled to France as an exchange student where she tried skiing for the first time in the fabled mountains of Chamonix, one of the oldest ski resorts in the world and the site of the first Winter Olympics.

With that kind of introduction, she couldn't help but be hooked!

Nearly a decade later, Lara moved to Banff and tried her first scramble when a new friend, a member of The Alpine Club of Canada, invited her to Mt. Temple.

"I was a hiker but had not really climbed or backcountry skied," Lara says. "A scramble was a big thing for me."

Lara quickly became more confident and comfortable with a variety of alpine activities. She started volunteering with the ACC and took courses to build her skills so she could lead trips.

Lara shares her love of the outdoors with her husband who she met in 1999 while volunteering for the ACC at the Banff Mountain Film Festival. "We had an instant connection," she says. "I had just completed my first avalanche course and he was excited to have someone to share backcountry adventures with."

After nearly 20 years of living in the Bow Valley, Lara has built friendships that are like family. "When you're backcountry skiing, you're literally trusting people with your life."

Recently, Lara and her husband suffered some serious health scares and she decided it was time to write a will. It was important to her to include the ACC in her estate plans.

"I've gotten so much out of The Alpine Club of Canada and I've met amazing friends," she says. "I want to see that some of my hard-earned money goes back to an organization that has given me so much."

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## Glen and Liz Boles

Glen and Liz Boles are committed mountain people. Now, they want to pass this commitment on to the future, to friends and visitors who will explore, enjoy and respect the mountains as much as they themselves have done for more than half a century.

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*"We want to make sure the mountain experiences will go on."*

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Glen is a mountain climber, a very experienced, knowledgeable, and careful climber – and is almost as well known as a wilderness artist and photographer. Liz spent 25 years as a flight attendant and, whenever her worldwide travels permitted, she strapped on a pair of skis, then she too headed for the mountains.

Both are active members of The Alpine Club of Canada. In fact, Glen has been a member since the 1950s, and an Honorary Member of the American Alpine Club.

Through shared experiences and challenges, the ACC has become a central part of their world. Glen and Liz have made lifelong friends and also have had the opportunity pass along their knowledge and expertise to the next generation of climbers.

They've also noted a significant increase in 'climbing tourism', and want to help ensure the newcomers know how to experience and enjoy the mountains safely, the way they themselves did.

Glen and Liz have assigned a Legacy Gift to the ACC, to be used to support classes and training for young climbers. And perhaps, Glen says, "to buy some more huts for those come-from-away climbers to use."

Most of all, they want to 'give back' to the Club and its members.

"Because the ACC members did so very much for us. They were the lifelong friends who made our mountain world so very happy," says Glen.