

Report from the Chair – David Lemon

Vancouver Island Section members once again enjoyed a busy, active year in the mountains, with weekend trips on the Island, to longer events further afield such as a ski week at the Campbell Icefields and hiking week at the Amiskwi Lodge. The summer fly-in camp was revived in 2025 in a shortened form (so as not to require a land-use permit) at the Alava-Bate area. Education sessions covering first aid, rock climbing, ski touring and avalanche safety were held. The monthly slide shows moved to a new location at the Esquimalt Gorge Park Pavilion, where a series of excellent presentations finished up with the annual photo contest ably coordinated by Mary Sanseverino. Winners from the many excellent submissions may be seen on the section website. Articles about many of these activities in this edition of the Annual along with many great mountain photographs.

The popularity of Hišimýawił again continued to increase, leading to heavy usage of the trail and hut area. Additional signage reminding users of proper wilderness etiquette have been posted to try to alleviate the effects of the increased traffic.

Amelia Bieling completed the Island Qualifiers in 2025 to earn the Rick Eppler Award from the Section. The National Club recognized Garth Stewart with the Don Forest Service Award for his contribution to the Section in serving as treasurer since 2019.

Congratulations to Mary Sanseverino on the publication of her new native plant guidebook, (co-authored with Hans Roemer), Native Plants of British Columbia's Coastal Dry Belt: A Photographic Guide

This has been my final year as Chair of the Section executive. It has been a privilege to work with and share our love of the alpine such a great group, and I am confident that the next chair will find the same.

National Report - Christine Fordham

- Your ACC is a Canada wide club, with 26 sections which have evolved in our 120 year history. The ACC's direction for the next 3 years is outlined in the new strategic plan. https://alpineclubofcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2025-Strategic-Plan-2025-2028_V11.pdf

- We have recently had a membership database upgrade, with waivers being signed online, along with your annual renewals. The new member portal will make it easier for you to renew, and for trip leaders to check membership. Thanks for your patience during this upgrade.

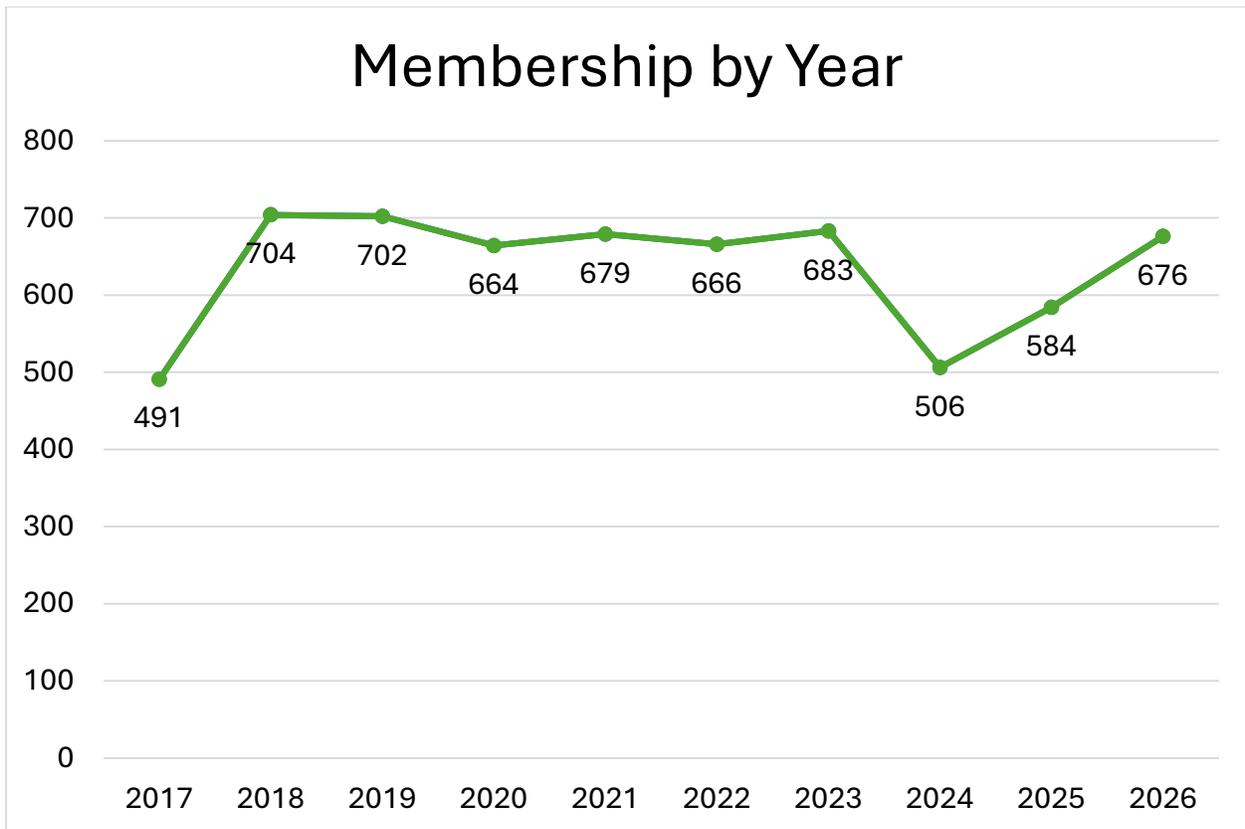
- Make sure you get the latest news and “all things mountain”, notices about mountaineering camps, access to North America's largest hut network, training for trip leaders, and everything ACC by signing on to the Dispatch newsletter, and stories by signing on to receive the Gazette, through the new member portal. - Don't forget that as a member you have access to some discounts, *TNF and ExpertVoice* <https://alpineclubofcanada.ca/membership-benefits/>

- The last North Face/ACC Summer Leadership Camp was held last summer and Rachael Trelour represented our Vancouver Island Section. These North Face Leadership/ACC camps have been replaced by 3 annual regional training camps. The next one is rock related at Squamish in September. Watch the Dispatch newsletter for more info.

- It has been my pleasure to have served as your ACC Section Representative for the past decade or so., Thank you!

Membership – Josh Slatkoff

- Memberships dipped in 2024 with the rollout of the new National renewal system, as some members did not receive reminders. Since then, National reached out to lapsed Members and numbers have increased.



Gear Manager's Report for the ACCVI AGM 7/02/26

I have continued to look after the avalanche safety gear, ice axes and crampons and other miscellaneous gear in Saanichton and have remitted a total of \$775 to the treasurer between

January 2025 and January 2026 for rentals. Erich Schellhamer has looked after the climbing gear in Colwood although it is temporarily with me until his return from South America. Up Island gear consisting of 2 sets of Avalanche Gear and 2 sets of ice axes and crampons has been looked after by Lindsay Elms and Val Wooton in Courtenay with temporary help during their absence from Lauren Attorp. Summer Camp gear, the Trail Rider and Hut supplies are in storage with Lyle Young in Cowichan Bay pursuant to our agreement with him at a cost of \$150 per month 2 years of which was paid in advance but with monthly instalments commencing May 1st 2026.

We have acquired 6 VHF radios from the Fernie Ski patrol 2 of which are in the Hut and 4 with me. We have also been generously gifted 2 Grivel 23 inch Mont Blanc Ice axes by Alan Thomson.

There continues to be a steady demand for avalanche gear during the winter season.

Mike Hubbard

AGM 2026 ACCESS REPORT – Barb Baker

Mosaic Gates

Permits have been renewed for 2026. Cost approx. \$850.00

Usage: 14 trips, over 2 years. mostly small groups.

Return of Waivers has been perfect to noncompliant.

NB Comox Gate 7km now uses 2 lock systems. New Avalanche gate key requires a fob which is part of our key rental costs.

For those who may not know these permits allow 24/7 access thru 3 gates: Comox Lake 7km, Ash Valley & Cottonwood. See details at accvi.ca under Info For Trip Leaders.

Mt Arrowsmith Massif Park RDN Judge's Route

Engineering for remediation at the top of Judge's Rte was done this summer with plans to be implemented 2026 summer.

A reminder in case RDN could use volunteers, that ACCVI partners with RDN on MAMP Park Management Plan(now expired).

South Island Natural Resource District SINRD (Crown land)

Deactivations:

South Taylor Main permanent deactivation completed (south side of Sprout Lake 11km)

Nahmint Br. 600 (access to Klitsa South Approach) This deactivation will not affect road usage to trail head.

Klitsa North Approach some time ago rerouted from South Taylor Main 4.1 km. This bypasses big rockfall on the original spur road.

Vancouver Island Trail locals have cleared & plan to brush out Stage 1&2 Inlet Trail as well as Runners Trail going east Francis Lake to Darlington Lake. These sections all part of VIT. On the Beauforts 3 days trail marking Mts Hall, Irwin, Cameron

Franklin River Pedestrian bridge engineering studies have been done and ACRD to proceed with decisions, fundraising etc.

No doubt other improvements: <https://vancouverislandtrail.ca>

FMCBC ACCVI will be working with FMCBC's Monika Bittel on an ORCBC FSR committee. This group plans to inventory FSR (crown land) roads which lead to important recreation destinations & the access impediments on those roads i.e. (bridge out, deactivation, rock fall). This will be part of their submission to government arguing that funds be used to improve FSR accesses leading to recreation sites.

Please report if access is impeded on an FSR road, what roads & specify what problems to access@accvi.ca. Photos & locations would be useful. Does not apply to private (Mosaic, etc) industrial roads

TrailRider In an effort to put this device to better use, a long-term loan to Strathcona Wilderness Institute is being considered. The trail rider would be stored with Comox Valley Search and Rescue CVSAR in the Mountain Centre now housing both CVSAR & Mt.Washington Fire Dept. This location would provide easy access to Strathcona Park and be available for CVSAR use as well as to SWI trips or our own.

ACCESS Takeover: if anyone is interested in Access for the club, whole or part, please step forward. I will provide introductions and mentoring for a year or so. Email access@accvi.ca

Hišimýawił report 2025

We had another successful year at Hišimýawił. Our biggest problem is the increasing popularity of the 5040 hike and the number of campers who are ignorant of basic backcountry etiquette. We regularly have to clean up garbage from the bear caches and in or around the outhouses.

We will continue our custodian training programs to help ensure that we can keep on top of hut maintenance and supplies. We have seen more winter use this season, that combined with the bad weather has created challenges keeping the batteries charged. We hope to make improvements to the generator charging system this year to avoid these problems in the future.

We had hoped to get the bridge over the Cobalt Lake outflow built in 2025, but we ran into some bureaucratic hurdles. We think that they can be easily overcome and we can build the bridge this year.

2024/25 Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour

Date & Location: January 26, 2025, at the University of Victoria's Farquhar Auditorium

Coordinator: Joanna Verano

The **2025/26 Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour**, held at the Farquhar Auditorium at the University of Victoria on January 25, 2026, was a resounding success -- and a particularly meaningful one. This year marked the **50th anniversary of the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival**, as well as ACCVI's **35th year of proudly presenting the festival in Victoria**. The event also achieved its **fourth consecutive sold-out show**, underscoring the enduring enthusiasm for mountain culture in our community.

The screening generated **just under \$18,000 in ticket revenue**, directly supporting the programs and activities of the **Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Island Section (ACCVI)**. Ticket sales were especially strong, with **three-quarters of all tickets sold during the early-bird promotion**, and the show reaching full capacity by mid-December -- clear evidence of strong and sustained support from the Greater Victoria community.

The evening was further enhanced by the presence of **national sponsors Duer and Sly Foods**, who engaged attendees in the lobby with product promotion, samples, and store discounts. A wide range of partner organizations also participated, including the **Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC, Vancouver Island Trail Society, White Water Paddling Society, Marmot Recovery Foundation**, and **Meerkat**. Their lobby displays before the show and during intermission contributed to a vibrant, interactive, and community-focused atmosphere.

Special thanks are extended to **Mary Sanseverino** for creating an engaging ACCVI lobby display; to **David Lemon** for speaking on stage to welcome the attendees; **Garth and Kate Stewart** for volunteering their time to support front-of-house operations; and to the **Hut Committee** and **Island Alpine Guides** for contributing a prize to the early-bird ticket promotion, helping to drive early engagement and excitement.

Together, these milestone anniversaries and another sold-out event highlight the lasting impact of the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival on Vancouver Island. We look forward to building on this momentum and continuing this valued tradition for many years to come.

ACCVI Leadership Committee: 2025 Annual Report

The Leadership Committee met several times throughout 2025, with a focus on better understanding section trips being offered, how to best support current leaders, and how to improve and encourage new leaders and foster strong leadership within our section.

We approached this phase as an information gathering process. To this end, last year saw two initiatives:

1. A comprehensive review of all section trips led and events hosted (Nov 2024 to Oct 2025); and

1. A broad survey on leadership issues distributed to the entire section membership.

Additionally, we reached out to recent trip leaders to gather more specific feedback and ask about what is working and what isn't. Another big thanks to those who responded and helped us better understand their personal experiences.

The results of both the annual trip report breakdown and 2025 leadership survey are summarized below.

ACCVI Trip Breakdown: November 2024 to October 2025

Between November 2024 and October 2025, ACCVI put on **78 trips/events total**, with the top 3 offerings being hiking/scrambling, backcountry skiing, and social events.

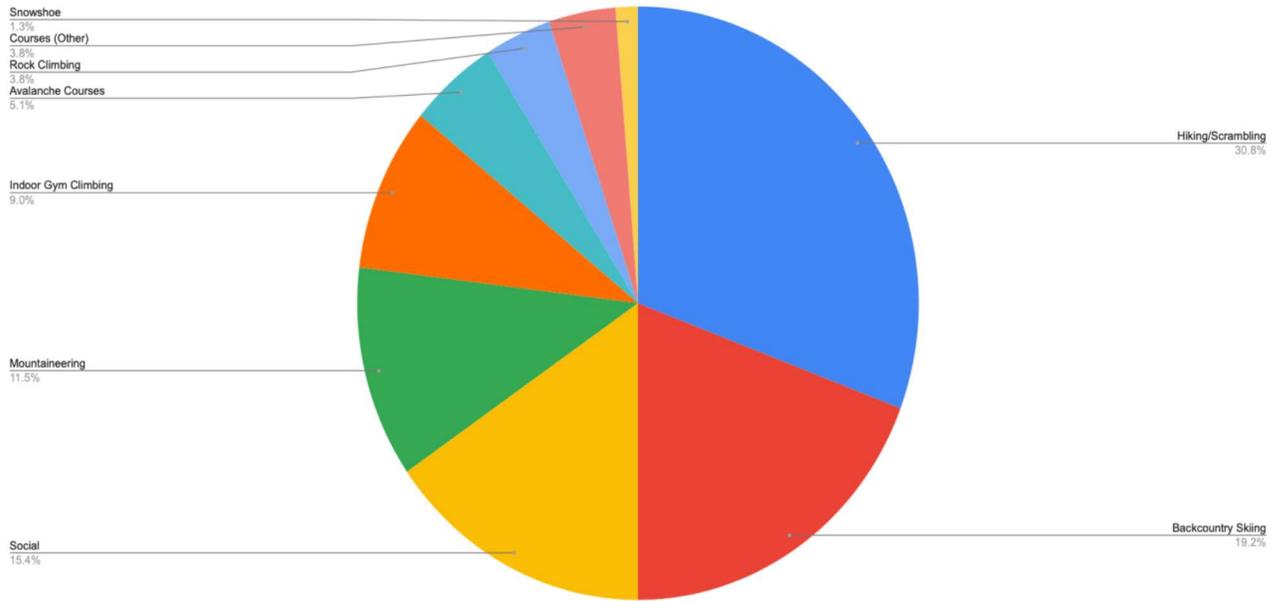
While not every trip ran as planned due to lack of participant interest and weather, this data gives us insight into what current leaders are planning.

(Table) Activity Category	Number of Trips	Average # participants per trip	Share of trip offerings	Rank
Hiking/Scrambling	24	8.3 average per trip	30.76%	1
Backcountry Skiing	15	8.5 average per trip	19.23%	2
Social	12	138.33 per trip (45.5 per trip w/o BMFF)	15.38%	3

Mountaineering	9	5.2 average per trip	11.53%	4
Indoor Gym Climbing	7	5.7 average per trip	9%	5
Avalanche Courses	4	7.5 average per trip	5.12%	6
Rock Climbing	3	6 average per trip	3.86%	7
Courses (Other)	3	4 average per trip	3.84%	8
Snowshoe	1	6 average per trip	1.28%	9
Total		78		

(Pie Chart)

Number of Trips



2025 Fall Leadership Survey Results (Summary)

We have summarized the survey results to our main questions below:

Have you led club trips in the past?

Yes (25) No (41) N/A (2)

Were past trips positive or negative?

Positive (24) Negative (3) Neutral (3) Did not respond (30)

Positive reasons:

- Plans enhanced through community
- Sharing skills and adventures
- Creating friendships
- Learning skills (organizational and outdoor)

Negative reasons:

- Incidents on past trips
- Insufficient preparation for emergencies
- Assuming responsibility for others

Incentives that would encourage leading trips?

- Discounts on courses and education (20)
- ACCVI Logo jacket (7)
- ACCVI swag (7)
- Tickets to BMFF (6)
- Mentoring with co-leaders (6)
- Do not need incentives (13)

Barriers to leading trips?

- Lack of time to participate and/or organize (30)
- New members and/or unfamiliarity with local terrain and locations (15)
- Feel unqualified to lead and lack confidence/experience in mountaineering (12)
- Family and/or pet commitments (11)

- Injuries, age, fitness, slow pace (9)
- Uncertainty about participant interest and/or skill level (4)
- Lack transportation generally or for logging roads (3)
- Cost for accommodation and gas (3)
- Concerns about weather and last-minute cancellations (2)
- Concerns about interpersonal problems, controlling trip participants, risk (5)
- Lack of co-leader (1)
- Difficult checking participant waivers and assuming risk (3)
- Concerns about being the only woman (1)
- Only available on weekdays (1)
- Skill development courses too expensive (1)

Would you consider leading trips in the future?

Yes (20) No (12) No Answer (26)

We look forward to building on what we learned last year and continuing the important conversation and our mandate in 2026. Have an idea for leadership development? Drop us a line (leadership@accvi.ca) or talk to us on the trails!

Sincerely,

ACCVI Leadership Committee

Rachel Treloar, Becky Noble, Peggy Taylor, Karun Thanjavur