

Report from the Chair – David Lemon

2024 was another active year for the section, as the schedule for trips and other club events was filled throughout the season, ranging from a winter ski week at Amiskwi Lodge in the Rockies to summer hut camps at Hišimýawił and the Campbell Icefields. Ongoing problems in obtaining the land-use permit now required for the traditional fly-in camps again prevented one from being held in 2024, but efforts continue to re-instate them in future. Family-oriented activities resumed this past year as well, with ski trips to Mt Cain and a summer trip to the Elizabeth Parker Hut at Lake O’Hara offering great opportunities for young people to get to know and enjoy the mountains. Education courses sessions covering first aid, rock climbing, ski touring and avalanche safety also took place. You’ll find articles about many of these activities in this edition of the Annual along with many other interesting features.

Monthly slide shows at Swan Lake took place regularly last year, and culminated in the annual photo contest in December, ably coordinated by Mary Sanseverino. Winners from the many excellent submissions may be seen on the section website.

Four section members, John Ballantyne, Brian Nesbitt, Jeff Cousins and Walter Moar completed the Island Qualifiers in 2024 to earn the Rick Eppler Award from the Section.

Again, this past year, the National Club recognized a section member for outstanding service: Laura Darling received the Don Forest Service Award for her tireless work organizing ACCVI’s showing of the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival, the Section’s major fundraiser, which again a sold-out success.

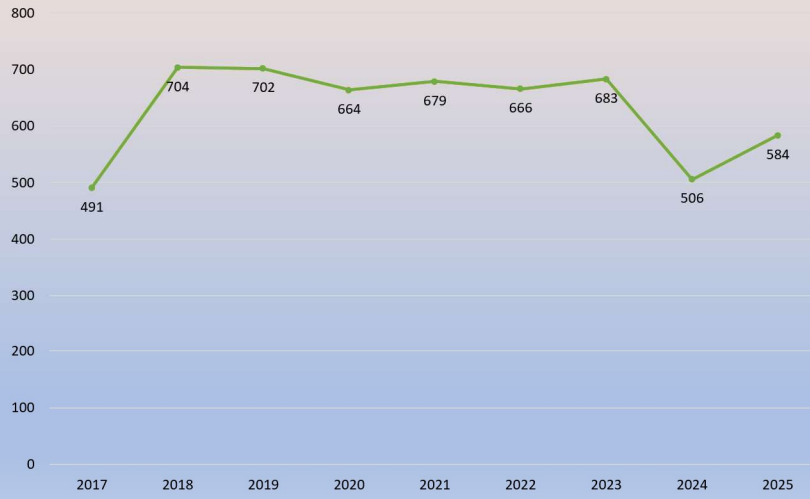
The popularity of Hišimýawił continued to increase this past year, leading to heavy usage of the trail and hut area. Additional signage reminding users of proper wilderness etiquette have been posted to try to alleviate the effects of the increased traffic.

The 2024 Island Bushwhacker Annual will be the last one produced by our editor, Janelle Curtis, who is stepping down after shepherding 4 superb annuals into publication. Many thanks for all your work on the Annual and the newsletters, Janelle, and you will be leaving very large shoes to fill.

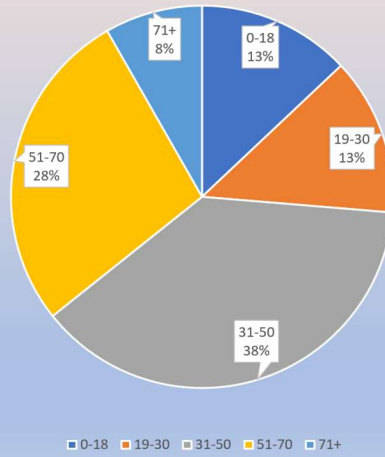
Membership – Josh Slatkoff

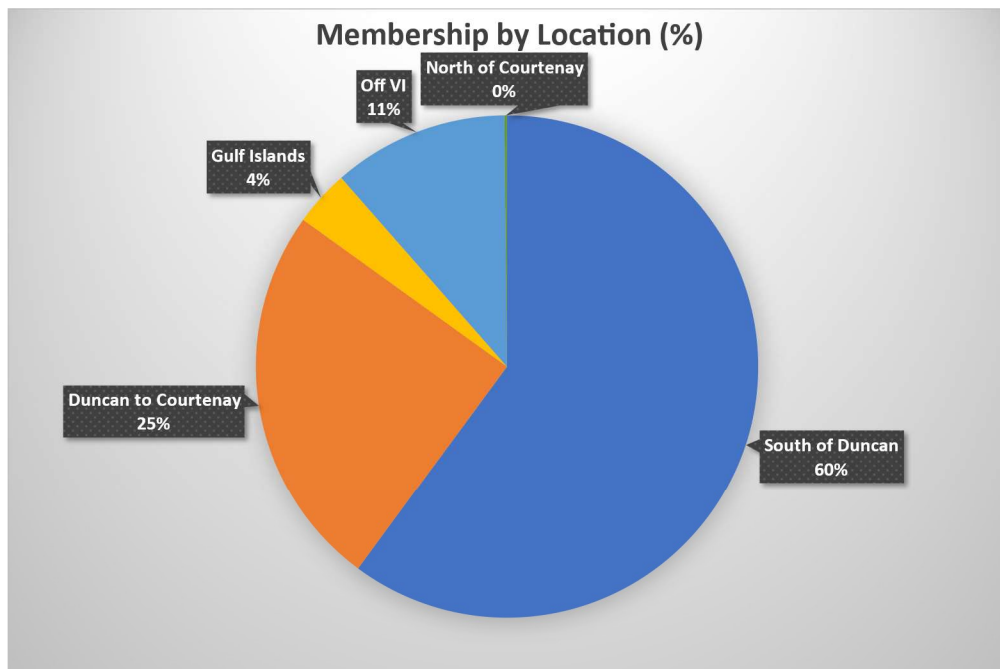
- Memberships dipped in 2024 with the rollout of the new National renewal system, as some members did not receive reminders. Since then, National reached out to lapsed Members and numbers have increased.

Membership by Year



Current Membership by Age





Access and Environment – Barb Baker

1. MOSAIC GATE PERMITS renewed.

There has been rather little use of our permits at Comox Lake Main accessing east Strathcona park destinations, Ash Main leading to south Strathcona Park & Cottonwood Gate accessing Lomas Lake/ ElCapitan / Service Peaks. Find instructions for use of these permits under [info for trip leaders](#) on our webpage. Cottonwood access is more casual but only gives weekend entry while the other two permits allow 24/7 entry.

As we pay annual fees for these privileges, we encourage use of them.

2. **JUDGE'S ROUTE** in Mt. Arrowsmith Massif Regional Park (MAMRP) is in some disrepair at the top. As you all know, this trail is very popular & one of the only non-technical ascents to the peak.

We have sent a letter to Regional District of Nanaimo Regional Parks Planner supporting his request to the RDN <https://www.rdn.bc.ca/regional-parks-and-trails> for funding the assessed repairs. Also the MAMRP Park Management plan has expired & we have encouraged its renewal.

Other letters supporting this initiative have been sent from AVOC (Alberni Valley Outdoor Club), FMCBC & AVRS (Alberni Valley Rescue Squad). These letters have not yet been presented to RDN Board.

3. **FMCBC** (Federation of BC Mountain Clubs) <https://mountainclubs.org> has supported our efforts with MAMRP by writing an excellent letter. This is one of the first times in many years that we have requested & received their help. FYI, each year we donate \$\$ to their organization.

They have invited more collaboration with our club. Feb 20, I will attend their Recreation & Conservation meeting chaired by Monica Bittel. We may have an opportunity to explain some of our Island concerns.

4. **ACRD** (Alberni -Clayoquot Regional District) Parks and Trails has formed a Working Group for public input on management of their many regional parks. These include Alberni Inlet Trail, China Creek Regional Park, Log Train

Trail, Mount Arrowsmith(Ski) Regional Park, Bamfield Community, Long Beach Community, Sproat Lake Community parks & trails. ACCVI has been offered a seat at this meeting, the first of which Feb 20, 2025.

5. **Marion FSR** to 5040 is in fine shape after extensive work spring 2024. RockStar who have managed the road work are aware of our interests in this access.

6. **Br 568 ADDER** access is passable. Technical assessment of mountain slope above the road, origin of the recent rock fall which impacts the road a little are: *more rocks could fall next week or next decade not able to predict. Signs of instability are present.*

7. **Mt. Abbel**, a big valley to the east of Mt. Cain & an area of some interest to P. Stone & other back country users has half dozen WFP logging blocks laid out to be harvested summer 2025. This info relayed from the forest engineer Sep 2024.

Please send any questions or comments to chair@accvi.ca (Access email not working temporarily.)

Hišimýawił, hut committee report - Martin Hofmann

2024 was another busy year for the hut and the hut committee. We had our busiest year ever, with 386 bookings for a total of 527 hut nights, an overall occupancy rate of 72%. The summer was especially busy with an occupancy rate was about 90%. We are expecting another busy year this year. We brought up lots of supplies in our heli lift in October. We should have more than enough for the coming year.

We already have quite a few First Nations and ACCVI club trips booked for this coming year. We are hoping to be able to facilitate more club trips and to get more members involved as custodians, particularly during the summer months.

If you have ever been up to the hut during or soon after a heavy rain storm, or even seen pictures, you will know that the Cobalt Lake outflow changes from a gentle flow to a raging torrent. Crossing this sections can also be challenging in early winter and late spring when the lake is only partly frozen but there is still lots of snow on the ground. A bridge across the outflow was identified as a high priority item in a trail report done a couple of years ago. This year we are planning to construct a bridge, thanks in part to a grant/loan from our section. We are also looking for grants from other agencies.

I would also like to thank the amazing people that are on the hut committee who have done an incredible amount of work to keep the hut and all its systems running smoothly. Without them I don't think we could have made it possible for so many people to get up there and enjoy the hut and the area in all seasons. Unfortunately we lost one member, Davis, last year and Rodney will be leaving this year.

It will be a challenge to find equally competent and hard working replacements for them.

GEAR MANAGER'S REPORT - Mike Hubbard

I have continued to manage the South Island Gear for backpacking and snow activities from Saanichton whilst Val Wooton and Lindsay have managed Up Island gear from their home in Courtenay. We have recently added 2 ice axes, 2 sets of crampons and 2 sets of snow shoes to the Up Island stash. Erich Schellhammer has been handling rock climbing gear from his home in Colwood .

Demand for avalanche gear and snowshoes has been high and income from South Island gear for 2024 came to \$505.

Summer camp gear has now been moved from Tom Hall's residence in Victoria to a storage container at Lyle Young's residence in Cowichan Bay which is also being utilised by the Hut committee .

2024/25 Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour - Joanna Verano

The 2024/25 Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour at The Farquhar at UVic was a resounding success, marking the third consecutive year of a sold-out show. With attendance returning to pre-COVID numbers, the event raised over \$18,000 in ticket sales to support ACCVI's programs and activities.

Ticket sales were particularly strong, with over half sold during the early-bird promotion. The event sold out entirely by the first week of January, demonstrating strong community enthusiasm and support.

The evening was enriched by the presence of partner organizations, including the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC, Vancouver Island Trail Society, and Island Alpine Guides. These groups engaged with the audience at their lobby tables during the pre-show and intermission, contributing to the event's interactive and community-focused atmosphere.

A special acknowledgment goes to Mary Sanseverino and Kaiya O'Cheek for curating an engaging lobby display for ACCVI. Additionally, the Hut Committee played a key role by providing a prize for the early-bird ticket sales promotion, further enhancing audience participation.

The success of this year's film festival highlights the ongoing enthusiasm for mountain culture and outdoor adventure, while also providing support for ACCVI's initiatives. We look forward to continuing this tradition in the years to come.

Membership communication – High Points *Catrin Brown*

Our update of need-to-know information, known as *High Points*, was e-mailed to the membership each month over the past year - except when the much more substantial quarterly Bushwhacker

Newsletter was distributed. Over time, *High Points* has evolved somewhat and now includes a bit more than just links to the schedule of trips and events. More photos from recent trips, prompts of upcoming opportunities....that sort of thing. We have been using Brevo, a cloud-based software platform for these mailings.

The Bushwhacker Newsletter has ended in its current form (final edition December 2024), and the *February High Points* was also the last of that iteration. For 2025, the plan is to streamline our communications into a single e-Newsletter, to be mailed each month / 6 weeks. It will include much of the content of the previous mailings, but hopefully in an enhanced format. Our goal is to keep the membership informed and connected, so please do get in touch with ideas and requests of what you would like to see included. Thank you!

Bushwhacker Annual and Newsletter – Janelle Curtis



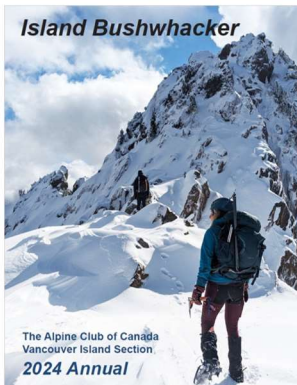
Island Bushwhacker 2023 Annual



- Report from the Chair – 1 article
- Notes from the Section – 5 articles
- Vancouver Island – 27 articles
- Mainland – 7 articles
- Distant Places – 4 article
- 2023 Photo competition winners and honorable mentions



Island Bushwhacker 2024 Annual



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- Notes from the Section – 5 articles, 5 articles so far*
- Vancouver Island – 27 articles, 13 articles so far*
- Mainland – 7 articles, 4 articles so far*
- Distant Places – 4 article, 3 articles so far*
- 2024 Photo competition winners and honorable mentions

As of 20 February 2025



Island Bushwhacker Annual



Please submit trip reports to the *Island Bushwhacker Annual* at bushwhacker@accvi.ca and/or post them on ACCVI's Discussion Forum at <https://discourse.accvi.ca/>

Deadline for 2024 articles was 15 February 2025 and extended to 1 March 2025

Comments, suggestions, ideas, and questions warmly welcomed at bushwhacker@accvi.ca



Island Bushwhacker Newsletter



Four issues in 2024: spring, summer, autumn, winter



Island Bushwhacker Newsletter



Columns included:

Report from the Chair
ACCVI Events
ACCVI Education

Portrait View: ACCVI Executive Members and Coordinators

Landscape View: other clubs and organizations

History: articles and photos about ACCVI history

Historical Photos: photos of ACCVI members over the years

Recommendations: films and books about nature/mountains

Access and Environment

ACC National News



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NATIONAL REPORT – Christine Fordham

-Several long-awaited incentive programs have recently come to fruition for volunteers and ACC members. Along with the "The North Face" discount program for ACC members, the ExpertVoice" program has just been added. "ExpertVoice" is a platform that connects industry professionals and outdoor enthusiasts with leading brands, offering insider access to exclusive discounts, product education, and gear insights. It's designed for people like you - those who live and breathe the outdoors and share their expertise with others.

- The National sponsored TNF Leadership Winter Camp had two VI participants, enjoy the leadership camp at Fairy Meadows. Congratulations to Janine Buckley and Chris Neate - we look forward to some Winter trips with these TNF graduates.

- National also has put out a series of Webinars, on various topics like "Almost AST training" and Introduction to Backcountry Skiing. Keep your eyes peeled for more in your bi-weekly mountain muse, "The ACC Dispatch" (sign up for this and other publications on your National Account where you renew your membership)

- The Alpine Club of Canada" changed its logo last May to the now more familiar green logo that replaced the mountain goat and skis crest. However, never fear, the original old goat (Original club logo) is still here and has become our "Legacy Logo".

- A Section Grant from National covered cost for our November slideshow "Marmot Images and Observations" with Catherine Babault and the upcoming evening in April with "The incomparable Chic Scott in Person".

2024 Summer Camp Report

Given our challenges with getting approvals to hold a fly-in four week summer camp in 2023 and 2024, I organized a week long late summer trip to the Campbell Icefields instead. It was an especially memorable trip in incredible surroundings that was enjoyed by all. In large part that was because of having a number of experienced leaders who generously mentored less experienced participants.

On following up on our 2023 application through Front Counter, I discovered that it would be at least 2026 and likely 2027 before our application for a 4 week camp at Athelney Pass was reviewed so I continued to explore other alternatives, booked Amiskwi for a week in early September 2025, and reserved another week at Campbell Icefields for 2026.

I have had preliminary discussions with Mowachaht-Muchalaht First Nations about holding two one week fly in camps at Alava Bate. If we are able to go ahead with that, it will be a section organized and led event, with each participant screened for their contributions to the section, or their willingness to take on a role in organizing and operating the camp or camp activities. Stay tuned, and if you are ready to volunteer to make it happen please let me know!