

# PEOPLE PROGRESS OUTREACH SERVICE



**Annual Report 2016**

The Alpine Club of Canada | Le Club Alpin du Canada



# Message from the President

With the 2016 fiscal year behind us, it is time to celebrate our Club's progress and milestones. I invite you to read these pages and reflect on our proud achievements.

It is also a time to look to the future.

For me, that means putting more boots in the mountains and growing our members' pride in being part of this amazing organization.

Many of our members join for the Club's great range of activities. They soon learn the ACC provides so much more—a sense of history and shared passion for mountain culture, responsible access and preserving the environment.

How can we continue to do better for our members? I believe it starts with enhancing connections with our Sections.

In October, I had my first official meeting with our Section leaders in Lake Louise. It marked the initial step in a process of reaching out to determine their highest priorities so we can develop an effective nationwide strategy.

In 2017, we will conduct a survey of all members, building on last year's survey of Sections, asking you about your club experiences and expectations, for your ideas and input.

There is a lot to be done, but with so many sensational volunteers committing their time, energy and support to projects across the country, our organization is uniquely positioned to thrive.

It has been completely humbling to have been elected your President for the next three years. I will undoubtedly make mistakes. Please bear with me. My goal is to help everyone enjoy the peace, challenge and perspective of our mountain landscapes.

I hope to see you somewhere beautiful.

*—Neil Bosch, Edmonton Section*





# Message du président

Avec l'année fiscale 2016 derrière nous, il est temps de célébrer les progrès et les moments marquants de notre Club. Aussi je vous invite à lire ces pages et réfléchir aux sources de fierté que sont nos réalisations.

Ce moment est aussi propice pour envisager l'avenir.

Pour moi, cela signifie emmener dans les montagnes davantage de membres et accroître leur fierté d'appartenir à cette organisation remarquable.

Beaucoup de nos membres se joignent au Club pour sa grande étendue d'activités, mais apprennent vite que le CAC apporte bien davantage : un sens de l'histoire et une passion partagée de la culture des montagnes, de l'accès responsable et de la protection de l'environnement.

Comment continuer à faire mieux pour nos membres? Je crois que cela commence par le renforcement des liens avec nos sections.

En octobre, j'ai eu à Lake Louise ma première rencontre officielle avec nos chefs de section. Cela marquait la première étape d'un processus visant à tendre la main pour établir leurs priorités les plus grandes et développer une stratégie nationale efficace.

En 2017, nous mènerons un sondage parmi tous les membres, fondé sur l'enquête des sections de l'année dernière, sur vos expériences dans le Club et vos attentes envers lui, sollicitant vos idées et vos commentaires.

Il y a beaucoup à faire, mais avec le temps, l'énergie et le soutien que tant de bénévoles exceptionnels investissent dans nos projets à travers le pays, notre organisation est uniquement positionnée pour s'épanouir.

Avoir été élu comme votre président pour les trois prochaines années est une grande leçon d'humilité. Je ferai sans doute des erreurs en chemin, mais permettez-moi de compter sur votre soutien. Mon but est d'aider chacun à profiter de la paix, des défis et des visions de nos paysages de montagne.

J'espère vous rencontrer quelque part où c'est beau.

— Neil Bosch, section Edmonton



# Message from the Executive Director

Looking back at fiscal 2016, I am struck by the strong headway we continue to make in securing our Club's future, enhancing our network of huts, and offering ever more robust member adventures and services.

A definite highlight was welcoming our first booking at the Louise and Richard Guy Hut at Mont des Poilus on March 4, 2016. We also hosted our first users at the Cameron Lake Cabin in Waterton Lakes National Park in December 2015.

Back on the horizon is the potential for a new hut at Mount Robson, a project initially envisioned as a 2006 ACC Centennial Project. B.C. Parks has given us approval to proceed with a Level 2 environmental impact assessment.

The General Mountaineering Camp at British Columbia's Sorcerer Mountain was sold out months in advance and was rated a great success with at least one new route established up the peak.

Tremendous work was accomplished this year by national staff on a new engagement management system that will revolutionize how the Club engages with members and provide a highly customized online user experience. The new system—including online hut booking—will launch in 2017.

Remarkable effort also went into digitalizing our showpiece *Canadian Alpine Journal*, which will be made available to the world online.

In 2017, the Club will celebrate Canada's 150th birthday with aspirations to bring on at least one new hut and launch a new Section on the east coast. We will hold our 2017 Annual General Meeting in the Yukon, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Yukon Alpine Centennial Expedition, a crowning historical achievement of the ACC.



Thanks to all of you for a great year!

—Lawrence White





## Message du directeur général

Revenant à l'exercice 2016, je suis frappé par les progrès que nous continuons de faire pour assurer l'avenir de notre Club, développer notre réseau de refuges et offrir à nos membres des aventures et des services toujours plus solides.

Un point particulièrement marquant fut d'accueillir notre première réservation au refuge Richard et Louise Guy au mont des Poilus le 4 mars 2016. Les premiers utilisateurs du refuge du lac Cameron au Parc national des Lacs-Waterton ont également été reçus en décembre 2015.

À l'horizon se profile maintenant la possibilité d'un nouveau refuge au mont Robson, initialement envisagé parmi les projets du centenaire du CAC en 2006. BC Parks nous a autorisés à procéder à une évaluation d'impact environnemental de niveau 2.

Le camp général d'alpinisme de la Sorcerer Mountain en Colombie-Britannique a affiché complet des mois à l'avance et a été classé comme un grand succès, avec l'établissement d'au moins un nouvel itinéraire jusqu'au sommet.

Le personnel national a accompli cette année un travail formidable sur un nouveau système de gestion des engagements qui révolutionnera la façon dont le Club s'engage auprès de ses membres et fournira aux utilisateurs une expérience en ligne hautement personnalisée. Ce nouveau système, qui inclura la réservation de refuges en ligne, sera lancé en 2017.

La numérisation de notre joyau, la Revue canadienne alpine, a également généré de remarquables efforts pour qu'elle soit mise en ligne et devienne accessible pour le monde entier.

En 2017, le Club célébrera le 150<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du Canada en aspirant créer au moins un nouveau refuge et lancer une nouvelle section sur la côte est. Nous tiendrons notre assemblée générale annuelle de 2017 au Yukon, pour commémorer les 50 ans de l'Expédition alpine du Centenaire au Yukon de 1967, une réalisation historique et couronnée de succès du CAC.

Merci à tous pour cette excellente année!

— Lawrence White

Photo by Felix Camire



# OUR PEOPLE

**GOAL 1** of The Alpine Club of Canada's strategic plan is to **ENHANCE** our human capacity to serve our community and organization.

This goal is about serving and supporting OUR PEOPLE—our members, volunteers, board and committee members, staff, partners and the competitive athletes who, through their achievements and profile, serve as national and international ambassadors for the Club.

We also celebrate the great work of the people in our Sections who demonstrate their commitment every day—leading trips and courses, developing skills training, partnering with local organizations and providing the social connections that keep members coming back for more.

## Members

*This year's great response is a testament to the enduring legacy of the General Mountaineering Camp. We're now exploring five sites for future camps and upgrading equipment to enhance the GMC for years to come.*

—Frank Spears, Prince George Section, VP for Activities

- › At the end of November 2016, the Club had 13,666 members; an increase of 14% from the year before.
- › The Mountain Adventure Program ran a variety of course and camp offerings including skill development, themed trips for skiing, mountaineering, ice climbing and backpacking, as well as international trips to Mongolia and New Zealand.
- › Now in its 110th continuous year, the General Mountaineering Camp (GMC) was held at Sorcerer Mountain in the Northern Selkirk range in British Columbia. It was fully subscribed with 178 participants over an expanded six-week schedule, ending with an Artist Camp week.
- › As part of a partnership with the University of Alberta, a scientific research survey was launched at the GMC to study the impacts of environmental change on alpine tundra communities. The work was conducted by MSc student Cole Brachmann, under the supervision of Dr. David Hik (an alpine ecologist and ACC Edmonton Section volunteer). (See the Spring 2017 *Gazette* for the full story.)



Photo by Zac Robinson

Photo by Laura Rapp







*The GMC was one of the most amazing experiences I've ever had in the mountains and I've been scrambling since '93.  
—Richard Jagodzinski, Rocky Mountain and Calgary Sections*

- › Financial grants were awarded to support the development of mountain skills and the next generation of guides and volunteer leaders. The Club also provided subsidies for volunteers to attend The North Face Leadership program.
- › A pilot version was developed of the *Take It Outside* program aimed at helping young gym climbers transition safely to the outdoor environment. It will be tested in the summer of 2017 in ACC Ottawa, Outaouais and Prince George Sections.



# Volunteers

Each year, the ACC honours volunteers who contribute their time and talents leading trips, building and maintaining huts and trails, sharing stories and photos, and sitting on boards and committees.

## A.O. Wheeler Legacy Award

Ruth Oltmann, Rocky Mountain Section

## Honorary Membership

Karl Ricker, Whistler Section

## Silver Rope for Leadership

Robert Denson, Edmonton Section

Rick Checkland, Edmonton Section

## Distinguished Service Award

Bryon Caldwell, Calgary Section

John Booth, Jasper/Hinton Section

Willa Harasym, Vancouver Section

Biographies of all the ACC's Volunteer Awards winners can be found on our website.

## Don Forest Service Award

George Ormerod, Calgary Section

Clare Ormerod, Calgary Section

Tobias Link, Calgary Section

Brad Friesen, Manitoba and Saint-Boniface Sections

Brian Gilchrist, Manitoba Section

Donna McColl, Edmonton Section

Lil Lezarre, Edmonton Section

Lorne Filewych, Calgary and Rocky Mountain Sections

## Eric Brooks Leader Award

Nathalie Drotar, Calgary Section

Gerry Drotar, Calgary Section

Steven Rockarts, Edmonton Section

Martin Hofmann, Vancouver Island Section

Luca Jungen, Calgary Section

Susan Twitchell, Calgary Section

Paul Trudeau, Edmonton Section

Thomas McElroy, Edmonton Section

# Competitive Athletes

*These great athletes are wonderful ambassadors for the Club and through their competitions and successes, they are helping to raise the profile of the sport of climbing.*

—David Foster, Ottawa Section, VP for Services & Athletics

Photo by Greg Locke



- The ACC continued in 2016 to help guide development of Climbing Escalade Canada (CEC), Canada's new national federation for competitive climbing. During the year, the Club assisted the CEC in establishing its own financial and membership management systems.
- Competitive climbing in Canada got a big boost with the decision to include the sport as an "additional event" at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. This means the event has been added to these Games, but is not yet approved as a permanent event.
- In 2016, Canada achieved impressive results with Vancouver's Sean McColl, again winning the combined International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) World Championship title.
- Nanaimo's Elan Jonas-McRae captured ninth place for men, while Alannah Yip from North Vancouver, placed sixth overall in the women's combined results.





*The reward is seeing the light bulb go on with these kids and the confidence they develop through their hard work.*

*—Greg Locke, Chair,  
Newfoundland & Labrador Section*

© Curtis Jones Photography

## Motivating Youth to Climb On

An avid outdoor adventurer and professional photojournalist, Greg Locke didn't start climbing until age 50. That's when his daughter Erinn joined St. John's Walnuts Climbing Centre, the only climbing gym in Newfoundland, owned by ACC member Leo van Ulden, an ACMG certified guide.

Erinn, in the photo on page 8, soon developed a serious taste for competition and outdoor climbing, so her dad started training to keep up.

Greg joined the ACC when its newly formed Newfoundland & Labrador Section took over responsibility for the Walnuts junior climbing team. He became Section Chair and an ACC representative on the Climbing Escalade Canada board. "I learned everything I could to help these kids realize their goals."

The team has had many triumphs, including

podium spots in five categories at the 2016 Bloc on the Rock competition. Erinn and Lily Dubrowski also earned spots at the Youth National Bouldering championships—the first Newfoundlanders ever to do so.

Greg jokes he's the team "dad," taking care of accreditations, waivers and travel. But he's equally committed to reaching out to all youth—not just those eager to compete—through day trips to local crags, ice-climbing weekends and outdoor climbing workshops.

"We want to ensure all kids have a place to grow into at the ACC, whether it's through competition or recreation climbing."

Now 16, Erinn also volunteers for the Club as a kid's coach and safety officer. "It's all about getting young people outdoors, out on the trails, the ice, the crags," says Greg. "I never cease to be amazed at how young kids really take to this."



# Sections

*Decades ago, I learned to climb on the Centennial Park bluffs with the Thunder Bay Section. Today, I'm honoured to work with the hundreds of Section volunteers who make us such an exceptional organization. Your knowledge and dedication are what make us tick.*

—Toby Harper-Merrett, Montreal Section, VP for Sections

Two Section forums were held in 2016, one in May in Canmore and the second in October in Lake Louise.

Work continued with sharing ideas and best practices, identifying top priorities and determining how best to support each other in getting people outdoors in enjoyable, safe and supportive ways, and making sure future generations have that same opportunity.

The following are just a handful of 2016 highlights provided by some of the ACC's Sections:

**Yukon:** Hosted members from the Montreal, Calgary, Vancouver Island and Yukon Sections for two weeks of glacier fun in Kluane National Park at the annual Icefield Discovery Camp.

Three Section members, Wendy Shanks, Eddy Fast and Jenny George, assisted Parks Canada in scouting new hiking routes in one of Canada's newest National Park Reserves: Nááts'íhch'oh National Park Reserve.

**Whistler & Vancouver:** Participated in a fundraising "soiree" in November in support of Spearhead Huts, a project to build three new huts along the world-class ski traverse between Whistler and Blackcomb. The Spearhead committee incorporated this past year to become the Spearhead Hut Society. They received charitable status and started a crowd funding campaign.



Photo by Chris Jensen



**Vancouver Island:** Finalized a location for the first ACC hut on the island (pictured above)—along the southwest ridge of 5040 Peak, 35 km west of Port Alberni. Work is well underway in regards to fundraising and design. (See more on page 19.)

**Prince George:** Launched partnerships with University of Northern British Columbia and a local climbing gym to engage a younger membership.



**Calgary:** Held two events to launch the Alpine Mentorship Program to train volunteer leaders in mountaineering, alpine and scrambling skills.

A total of 108 leaders led 790 trip days.





**Rocky Mountain:** Launched a new Backcountry Skiers in Training (BIT) program. A team of 18 volunteers introduced 30 members to transceiver use, rescue scenarios, safety, gear maintenance and tips for whiteout skiing.

Twelve members participated in the Rockies Outdoor Climbing Knowledge Program (ROCK), which covers the skills needed to be proficient on a multi-pitch traditional climbing trip.

**Edmonton:** Saw significant growth in its gym climbing, pub, ski touring and fitness nights, as well as in its winter and summer camps.

The Assiniboine Summer Camp was held for two consecutive weeks.

**Jasper/Hinton:** Launched a cool new website and held a summer camp at Sorcerer Lake Lodge.

**Southern Alberta:** Participated in the development and opening of the Cameron Lake Hut in Waterton Lakes National Park.

Held a successful summer climbing camp based out of the Pocaterre group campsite in Kananaskis Country.

**Saskatchewan:** Mentored several new leaders in various mountain activities and expanded the types of trips offered to members.

Held rock climbing trips to Skaha Bluffs near Penticton, B.C. and Black Hills, South Dakota.

**Saint-Boniface:** The Section's ice wall, the highest ice tower in North America, was once again the centre of Festiglace, an annual ice-climbing festival and competition.

**Toronto:** Continued with nature conservancy outreach by helping with environment days and trash cleanup on the side of the cliffs at Devils Punch Bowl and Rattlesnake Point.

Work continues with the Bon Echo Hut renewal project on the shores of Mazinaw Lake. (See more on page 19.)

**Ottawa:** Worked closely with the National Capital Commission to maintain access and responsible use in Gatineau Park and surrounding areas.

**Thunder Bay:** Continued to support Project Peregrine biologists to reintroduce this species by rappelling down cliffs to reach nests of chicks to gather data.

**Newfoundland/Labrador:** Hosted another successful Flat Rock Climbing Festival in August, the largest outdoor climbing event in Newfoundland.

The Section's Junior Climbing Team (under 19) took podium spots in five categories at the Newfoundland Bloc on the Rock provincial bouldering competition.





# OUR PROGRESS

**GOAL 2** of the ACC's strategic plan is to **ADVANCE** financial sustainability and growth to ensure the ACC is serving the next generation of alpinists.

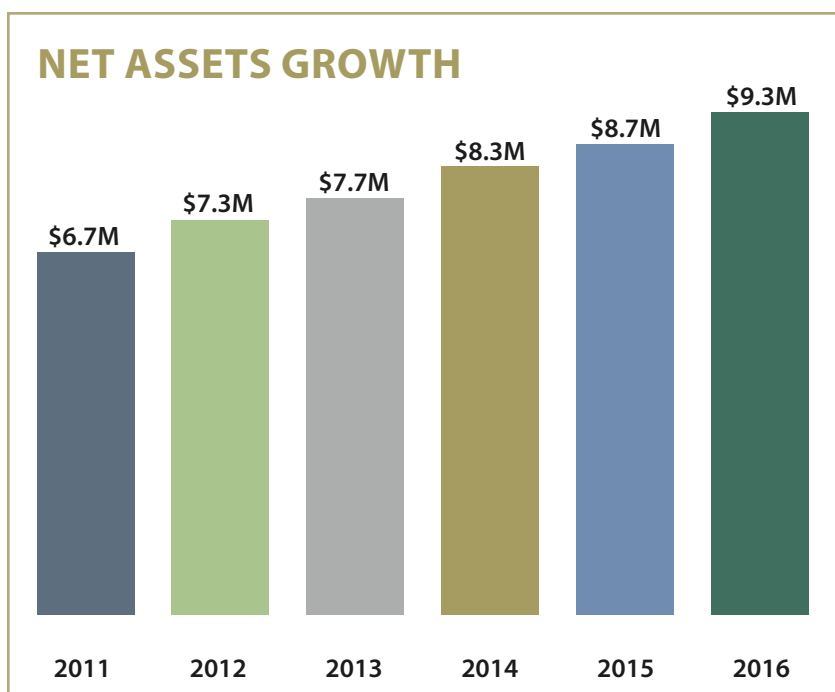
This goal is about OUR PROGRESS—in the wise stewardship of finances, in our plans for growth to best serve the next generation of members, in fundraising strategies to secure our future, in recognition of the impact of gifts to the Club, and in celebration of the progress we are making in enhancing and expanding the largest system of backcountry huts in North America.

## Finances

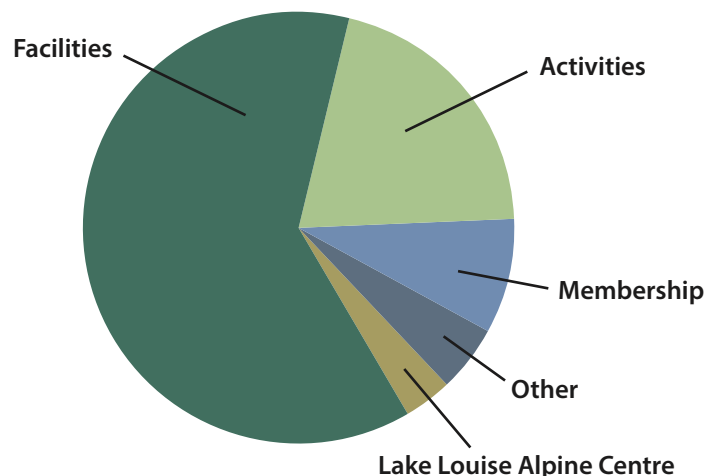
*I liken my position as treasurer to that of a trusted belayer. Through all weather, spindrift and boredom, we hold that rope so others can advance. That rope is the Club's funds. If we fumble it, if we mishandle it, the outcome of our efforts changes demonstrably.*

— Keith Sanford, Calgary Section, ACC Treasurer

- Fiscal 2016 was a healthy year for the Club's finances. We had an operating surplus of \$241,172 for the year. Our investment portfolio grew 5.5% to \$5.3 million. Revenue from core programs, dividends from the Lake Louise Alpine Centre and membership increases all contributed to a strong bottom line.
- For 2017, the Club will apply the age-old mantra that "if it isn't broken, don't fix it". We'll move forward with a balanced budget (maybe another small surplus) and expected growth in our portfolio of endowed funds.
- Program funding will be there when it's needed and the finance team will continue its quiet belay while others climb on.



# Revenue



## Income Statement to October 31

### REVENUE

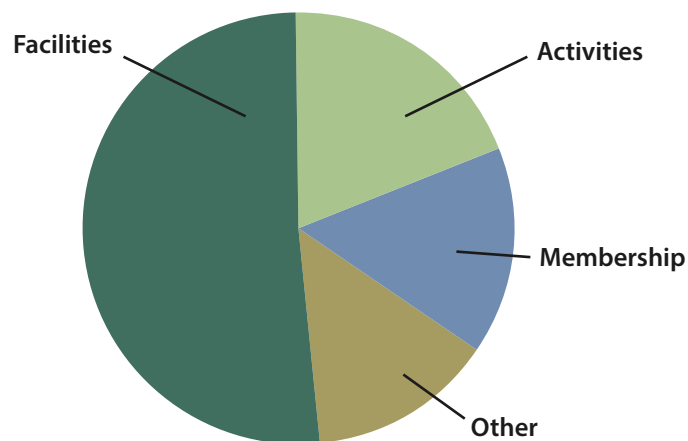
Facilities	\$	2,172,638
Activities	\$	723,115
Membership	\$	301,969
Other	\$	169,451
Lake Louise Alpine Centre	\$	122,536
	\$	<u>3,489,709</u>

### EXPENSES

Facilities	\$	1,676,169
Activities	\$	623,841
Membership	\$	498,449
Other	\$	450,078
	\$	<u>3,248,537</u>

Net Income	\$	<u>241,172</u>
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# Expenses



## Balance Sheet to October 31

### ASSETS

Current Assets	\$	481,968
Investments	\$	135,861
Lake Louise Alpine Centre	\$	1,068,959
Capital Assets	\$	<u>2,368,934</u>
	\$	<u>4,055,722</u>

### LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	\$	982,568
Members' Equity	\$	<u>3,073,154</u>
	\$	<u>4,055,722</u>

Designated Funds	\$	5,311,466
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Photo by Thierry Levenq





# Fundraising

In 2016, the ACC focused its fundraising efforts in areas such as leadership, greatest needs and Section specific projects.

Highlights included:

- › Fundraising efforts are underway for a new alpine hut on Vancouver Island and the revitalization of the Bon Echo Hut in Ontario.
- › Work is underway on a new giving website and gift administration process to ensure donors have a clear understanding about the fundraising program and priorities as well as making online giving much easier.
- › Work began on a new strategy for legacy giving designed to provide members with options to plan today and leave a legacy for the next generation that celebrates personal interests, values and passions.
- › Looking forward into 2017, leadership will continue to be a focus for the Club. Opportunities for continued education and training for amateur leaders would not be possible without the support from ACC members and donors.



Photo by Laura Rapp

*Going out into the wilderness is a wonderful opportunity for young women to develop leadership skills.*  
— Rick Higgins



## Jen Higgins Fund:

### Inspiring Young Women Leaders

Climbing and wilderness adventures have always been a part of life for Rick and Chris Higgins from Gatineau, Quebec. As a family with their two girls, Jen and Debbie, they travelled the world hiking, climbing and canoeing.

One of Jen's favourite spots was the ACC's Stanley Mitchell Hut in Little Yoho Valley, and it was on her way there with a friend in 1997 that Jen was involved in a fatal car accident.

In honour of her memory, the family established the Jen Higgins Fund for Young Women, an endowed fund to provide annual grants to young women leading "creative, self-propelled, mountain adventures" in perpetuity. Family and friends continue to support the fund with memorial gifts in honour of loved ones.

"Jen was a real doer," says Rick. "We wanted the fund to reflect her spirit of enthusiasm and adventure, but also to support young women who didn't have the same family encouragement or opportunities she had to climb and explore the wilderness."

Since its inception almost 20 years ago, the fund has supported the adventures of approximately 70 young women. In 2016, that included a solo hike across Iceland, a traverse through the Monarch Icefields, an exploration of ecosystems in Nahanni National Park, and a four-woman team summit of Mount Kern and Mount Goddard in the Tsilhqot'in Territory.

"We think the fund has been a huge success," says Chris. "It gives us great pleasure to see young women follow their dream like Jen did."

### Jen Higgins Fund

In 2016, Jenna Schulhof and her friends received a grant from the Jen Higgins Fund to explore the diverse wilderness of the Nahanni National Park in the Northwest Territories.



Jen Higgins on a trip to Neil Colgan Hut in 1992



# Donor Gifts at Work

More than 650 donors generously supported the Club in fiscal 2016, raising over \$439,000 in support of a wide range of initiatives and funds both at National and Section levels. Highlights include:

**Greatest Needs:** The Greatest Needs Fund is a permanent legacy of the ACC. Through the generosity of our mountain community, the fund allows our Club to celebrate our history, seize new opportunities, address pressing issues and make strategic decisions that benefit our national mandate.

In 2016, the fund invested in a number of activities, including the completion by the Leadership Development Committee of its first Top Rope Rock Climbing leader training curriculum, developed in partnership with Thompson Rivers University. Two additional leader training curriculums are under development for delivery in 2017: Winter Backcountry Leader and Summer Mountaineering Leader.

The fund was greatly supported by a generous legacy gift from the Estate of Tina Van Egmond.

**Environment:** The ACC's Environment Fund was created in 2002 to support projects related to the preservation of alpine and Arctic environments and climbing areas in Canada. To date, \$30,000 has been awarded.

In 2016, \$5,000 was given to The Association of West Kootney Rock Climbers (TAWKROC), for the preservation of Kinnaird Bluffs near Castlegar, British Columbia. One of the most historically significant and popular climbing crags in B.C., its future became unclear in 2015 when the landowner put it up for sale. The grant helped support a successful fundraising plan to buy the property with the intention of turning the bluffs into a public space.

**Leadership:** In 2016, 45 ACC members and friends donated over \$8,000 to the ACC Leadership Fund, helping support ACC activities and programs such as The North Face Leadership Program to develop and train emerging leaders from Sections across the country.

Over \$9,000 in grants were also awarded through designated leadership funds such as the Jen Higgins Fund (see story page 15), the Jim Colpitts Memorial Scholarship and the Karl Nagy Memorial Scholarship for a variety of training and education opportunities, as well as trips and adventures designed to build leadership skills.

In 2016, 20 General Mountaineering Camp volunteer leaders participated in a pre-GMC skills training day, funded through the Louise Guy Commemorative Fund. Training was led by a fully certified mountain guide who took the volunteers through skills training such as crevasse rescue and rope techniques.



Kinnaird Bluffs. Photo by Vince Hempsall

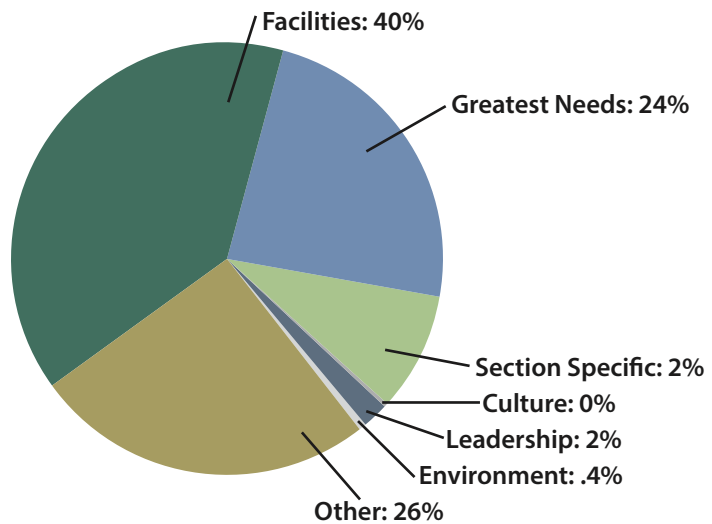
Young leaders Finn Steiner and Iain Sou Arrowsmith



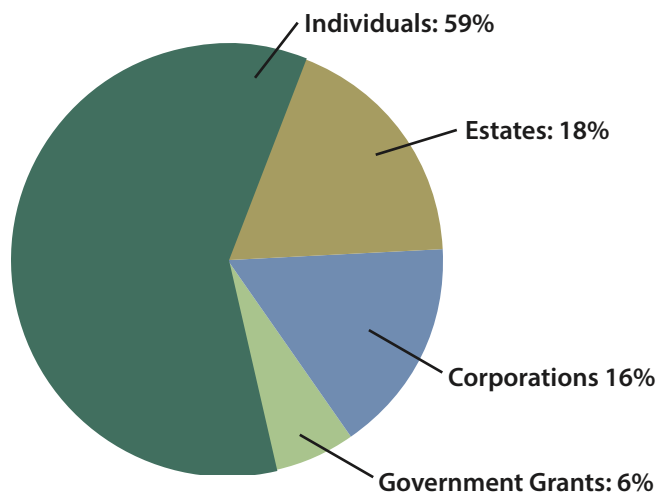


## FUNDS DONATED BY CATEGORY

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2016  
\$439,962



## FUNDS DONATED BY DONOR TYPE





**Facilities:** The ACC's Facility Fund is designated to provide service and upgrades to the entire backcountry hut network. In fiscal 2016, maintenance was completed on more than 20 huts. That included the Cameron Lake Cabin, which received a new furnace, stove, piping and ramp.

The Club would not be able to make these improvements without the support of donors such as the late Frederick Scott Graham, who left a legacy gift to help maintain the ACC's backcountry hut system.

The Louise and Richard Guy Hut, supported through a fundraising campaign in 2015, officially opened its doors in 2016 and recorded over 300 hut stays in its first season.

**Culture:** Each year, donors and Sections generously contribute to the Mountain Culture Fund to support publications including the *Canadian Alpine Journal* (CAJ), a literary icon that has been sharing mountaineering accomplishments every year since 1907 and will soon be available online.

In 2016, donor contributions allowed the CAJ to refresh its format from a magazine style to more of a book style, with full-colour images for the first time in its 107-year history.



Family fun at Cameron Lake Cabin. Photo by Curtis Yourex

Bon Echo hut. Photo by Mark Lord







**Section Projects:** Across Canada, Sections are identifying different initiatives to advance the ACC mission, such as upgrading the Bon Echo Hut in Ontario and building a new hut on Vancouver Island.

In 2016, the Vancouver Island Section launched a campaign to raise \$160,000 to build the first-ever ACC alpine hut on the island, located on the southwest ridge of Peak 5040, 35 km west of Port Alberni. The hut will give ACC members year-round access to hiking, climbing, backcountry skiing and snowshoeing.

The Toronto Section has raised approximately \$80,000 so far to renovate the Club's hut on Lake Mazinaw and rename it in honour of Wally Joyce, a long-time supporter. In 2016, with the support of Solares Architecture, building code and environmental issues were determined, and a conceptual design created. Planning has now started on the design and pre-construction stage. Construction could begin as soon as fall 2017.



# Donor Recognition

The Alpine Club of Canada is extremely grateful for the generosity of its members, friends and partners for their gifts of time, energy and funding.

On these pages is a list of contributors for the 2016 fiscal year, which runs from November 1, 2015 through October 31, 2016. We would also like to thank all those donors who wish to remain anonymous.

## St. Elias Level (\$10,000 or more)

Estate of Tina Van Egmond  
Estate of Frederick Scott Graham  
Gary Norton

## Rockies Level (\$1,000 - \$9,999)

1868015 Alberta Ltd.  
Neil Bosch  
Richard G. Campbell  
Doug Dean  
Philippe Delesalle  
Larry Forsyth  
Paul & Willa Geddes  
Richard & Chris Higgins

Greg Kiessling  
Robert LeBlanc  
Kit Moore  
Gil Parker  
Charles Price  
Natalie Putney  
David Toole  
Roger Wallis

## Cascades Level (\$100 - \$999)

Stan Adamson  
Laurie Allen  
Eric & Elizabeth Ashworth  
Keith Bagnall  
John Baldwin  
Michael Bamford  
Colin Bands  
Prem Baranowski  
Barbara Barrett  
Doug Beecroft  
Doug Bell  
Warren Bell  
Daniel & Jennifer Ann Bester  
Glen & Lis Boles  
Rheal Bouchard  
Jim Bourgeois  
Derek Brackley  
Jeannette Brandell  
Bertrand Braschi  
Peter Brogden  
Dion Brosius  
Kathleen Bruce-Robertson  
Howard Bussey  
William Buxton  
Wayne Campbell  
Andres Castillo

Judy Clarkson  
Robert & Yanka Cochrane  
Andreas Conradi  
Erica Cooke  
James Coulton & Judith Kashul  
Eric Cranfield  
Don Cretin  
Gordon Currie  
Michael Jack Cush  
Gilleen & Tony Daffern  
Isabelle Daigneault  
Joseph Davidson  
Chester Davis  
Jan de Grijs  
Manouane Deschenes  
André-Jean DesOrmeaux  
Sean Dolan  
Ron Eade  
Lyn Farquharson  
Marlene Finora  
Jim Firstbrook  
A. John L. Fisher  
David R. Fisher  
Todd Flick  
Cathy Flood  
Clarence & Fay Formanek

## In Memory

Patricia Haultain Bailey  
Edward Lau

Dominic Luckhurst  
Anna Smith

Bill Trigg  
Charles Turner

## Foundations

Alberta Sport Connection  
Banff Canmore Community Foundation  
John and Maggie KHG Mitchell Family  
Fund at the Edmonton Community Foundation

John Laughlan Memorial Award Fund at the Calgary Foundation  
Petzl Foundation  
The Benevity Community Impact Fund

David Foster  
Julien Fournier  
Marilyn Friedmann  
Mike Galbraith  
James Gardner  
Vitus & Gertrud Germann  
Brian Gilchrist  
Heather Gilley  
Colin Godfrey  
Kinga Gortel  
Clarke Gourlay  
Elizabeth Guilbride  
Melanie Hamilton  
Tom Haslam-Jones  
Gary Haug  
Ken Hill  
Peter Hind  
Nikki Hipkin  
Robert Hodgins  
Christopher Hope  
Colin Huggard  
Ken Hugo & Brenda Austin  
Mark Hurst  
Nicole Hustedt  
Davin Jackson  
Lorne James  
Wayne Johnston

Peter C. Jones  
Michael Kappel  
Boris Kaschenko  
Leo Kelly  
John Kirk  
Margaret & James Kirker  
Ben Klippenstein  
Valerie Kneteman  
Rick Kunelius  
Gernot Lackner  
Justin LaFrance  
William Lake  
William Lau  
Glenn Lee  
Lawrence Lee  
Blake Leew  
John Leslie  
Jolene Livingston  
Calvin Lloyd  
Doug Long  
Brayden Lowery  
Richard Lum  
Graham Maddocks  
Morris Manolson  
Pierre Marechal  
Stephanie Marler  
Marina Martin

John Martland  
James Mattice  
Gwen May  
Colin McCartney  
Chelsea McCune  
Rick McGraw  
Bill McIntosh  
Roland McIntosh  
Helmut Microys  
Roy Millar  
Garner Millward  
Lilla Molnar  
Mike Mortimer  
Dave Myles  
Luke Myles  
Alfieri Negro  
Skye Newnham  
Jean-Pierre Nicoud  
Laura Nixon  
Michaela Novotna  
Angela Ovens  
Steve Patten  
Heike Pauli  
Jim Peacock  
Alex Perel  
Michael Petepiece  
Brent Peters





Photo by Laura Rapp

## Cascades Level continued

Kevin Pettersen  
John Piera & Iris Hau piera  
Michael Piggott  
Darryl Polyk  
Joan Quade  
Randy Reeves  
Paul Robins  
Chris Rogers  
Ted Rosen  
Sean & Kathryn (Sparky)  
Russell

Sara Rykov  
Wade Sahn  
Peter Schlunegger  
Ulrike Schmidt  
Christopher Scott  
Joe Slade  
Gail Smith  
Rick Smith  
Richard Sobieski  
Stanislau Sovdat  
Herb Spear

L. Geoffrey Spedding  
Michael Stein  
Ben Stephenson  
Rob Stephenson  
D. Michael Stewart  
Martin Suichies  
Brian Sullivan  
Evelyn Tanaka  
Robert Thrasher  
John Timar  
Ingrid van der Zande

Michelle Van Eyk  
John Vellone  
Paul Veneziano  
John Wade  
Elizabeth Walker  
Graham Walker  
Alexandra Welsh  
Jonathan Whelan  
Calvin White  
Lawrence White & Corina  
Strim

Terry White  
Paul Wichman  
Kevin J. Witzke  
Giselle Wong  
Yung Wong  
Rob Wood  
Chuck & Lesley Young

## Laurentians Level (\$25 - \$99)

Carolyn Baker  
Victor Balon  
Anne Beaulieu  
Joan L. Bernard  
Ted Bik  
Barry Blanchard  
Robert Booker  
David Borutski  
Judy Brown  
Denis Byrne  
Shelagh Campbell  
Richard Carter  
Norma Chatwin  
Conny Chio  
Petr Chocensky  
Jason Clifton  
Dana Cole  
Martin Contento  
Brenley Crawford  
Brian Dannemann  
Matthew Dean  
Brian Dechene  
Jim Delgrande  
Simon Deschenes

Claire Dionne  
Michael Downey  
Richard Ebbs  
Burkhard Eibich  
Michele Eickholt  
Heather Erven  
Ben Evoy  
Ron Factor  
Paul Fahey  
Eckhardt Ferdinandi  
Travers Fisk  
Mary Ann Fulop  
Ursula Galpin  
Steven Gasser  
Robert Geber  
Gregory Grandsen  
Lynne Grillmair  
Larry Gubb  
Catherine Habel  
Dan Hallet  
Nicolaas Handojo  
Mark Hanneke  
Gaye Harden  
Marla Heim

Stan & Margaret Henry  
David Hik  
David Hobill  
Geoff Hodgson  
Nick Hoffman  
Gary Hoffman  
Theo Hofmann  
Ray & Jacqueline Hope  
Yan Huckendubler  
Harry Ingleby  
Richard Jansen  
James P. Jones  
Leandrea Kane  
Incheol Kim  
Stefan Kloppenborg  
Robert (Jamie) Knight  
Margaret Kolodziejczyk  
Geoff Kramer  
Mick La Plante  
Rene Lafreniere  
Bradley Lazarenko  
Benny Lee  
Gary Luck  
Dave MacAdam

Matt MacEachern  
Heather Macfaden  
Jeff Mackey-Murdock  
Don MacRae  
Derry Mah  
Patrick Martinson  
Ron & Evelyn Matthews  
Margaret McIntyre  
Marilyn McLaren  
Kevin McLaughlin  
Terry Morris  
Philip Murray  
Andrew Nette  
Elaine Ng  
Peter Ondrus  
Theresa Oswald  
Gyula Péch  
Lionel Piché  
Ray Pillman  
Carl Rantzow  
Harold Redekop  
Barbara and Kenneth  
Gordon Reed  
Craigmyle Riddell

Susan Roe  
Paul Ruchlewicz  
Richard Russell  
Raymond Rutitis  
Ernst Salzgeber  
Frank Schaper  
Curtis and Sally Scherer  
Mark Scoriah  
Jocelyn (Joie) Seagram  
Yendre Shen  
Dave Smith  
Peter Spear  
Jay Symons  
Heather Taxbock  
Patricia Thoni  
Nancy Townshend  
Curtis van Yzerloo  
John D. Wegmann  
Kaan Williams  
Kris Winkler



# Corporate Sponsors

The Alpine Club of Canada thanks our corporate partners for helping to promote the Club and supporting all we do to deliver the best in programs and services. We encourage you to consider them the next time you purchase goods or services of the type they offer.





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Cochrane  
The Whyte Museum of the  
Canadian Rockies  
Yamnuska Mountain  
Adventures  
Zaui Software

Photo by Roy Millar



# Facilities

*Our incredible maintenance and facilities teams outdid themselves this year, keeping our huts in tip-top shape. Their expertise and commitment provides real value for members.*

—Jim Gudjonson, Okanagan Section, VP for Facilities

- In 2016, facility user nights hit an all-time high of 52,683, an increase of over 10% from 2015.
- More than 30 service and maintenance outings were held at dozens of huts. Highlights included a new roof for the Elk Lakes Cabin, replacing the outhouse at the Scott Duncan Hut, and major log work to replace the damaged entranceway to the Stanley Mitchell Hut.
- In January, finishing touches were applied to the new Louise and Richard Guy Hut, which welcomed its first guests in March 2016.

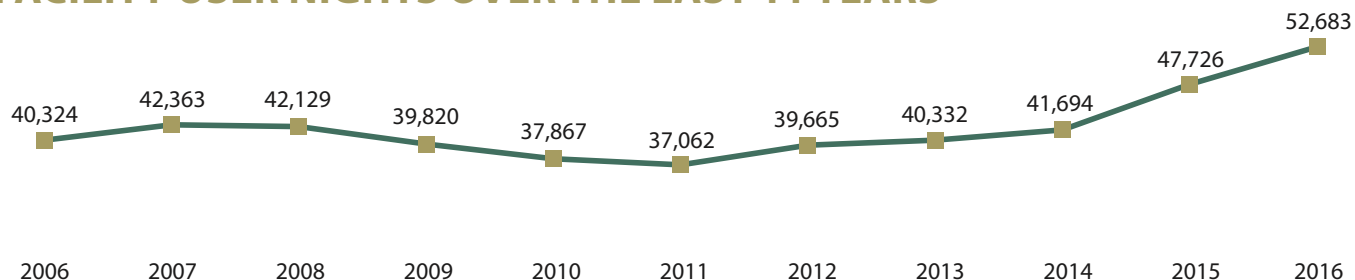


Lawrence White at the Louise and Richard Guy Hut. Photo by Zac Robinson



Abbot Pass Hut. Photo by Paul Zizka Photography

## FACILITY USER NIGHTS OVER THE LAST 11 YEARS





- Work began on redevelopment planning for the national Clubhouse. This included resurveying our Canmore property, an engineering study to assess the feasibility of accessing the Town of Canmore's water and septic systems, and extensive planning and mapping to consider several land-use options.





# OUR OUTREACH

**GOAL 3** of the ACC's Strategic Plan is to **EXPAND** marketing and communications to better share the work of the Club.

This goal is about raising awareness of the Club, its activities, advocacy and actions among all Canadians, members and Sections. It includes engaging interested Sections in marketing efforts, reaching out to like-minded community partners, and expanding all communications channels—publications, website, social media, events—to better tell the ACC story.

## Public Awareness

- › Our website had over one million page views with 196,000 unique visitors, compared to 166,000 in fiscal 2015. A total of 63 pages were published including new pages on adventures, environment, athletics and Section communications. Twenty-eight new blog posts were published.
- › The Club's Facebook followers increased at a rate of almost six a day in 2016 (8,765 to 10,968) compared to 5.44/day in 2015.
- › The #GreenGreyWhite photo campaign/contest was launched on Instagram, with 3,700 submissions. The Club has 2,800 Instagram followers.
- › There were 252 mentions of the ACC in news outlets (including major stories in Canadian and international press). There were 2,300 mentions on social media, compared to 880 in 2015, an increase of 177%.
- › The ACC presented at more than 10 trade shows, including the Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival, the MEC Snowfest, and provincial and national parks events. The Club supported and/or sponsored more than 20 events with prizes, including local events, fundraisers, Section film screenings, etc.
- › The Club continued to publish three issues annually—in print and online—of *The Gazette* membership newsmagazine, which highlights members' stories. Our weekly electronic bulletin, the *NewsNet*, now boasts over 17,000 subscribers.





Bill Putnam (Fairy Meadow) Hut. Photo by Cheryl Goodwin

## Environment and Access

*"Our members are doing great work to protect our natural environment and, through individual choices and group actions, are ensuring we preserve our wilderness areas for generations to come."*

—Wayne Campbell, Jasper/Hinton Section, VP for Access & Environment

- The National Office continued to review the Sections' needs in the areas of environment and access, and where possible, worked together to support their activities and priorities.
- The Club worked with Ontario Parks to advocate to keep open some threatened climbing and hiking areas in the Niagara Escarpment.
- A trails committee was formed and work began on the revitalization of the summer trail into the Bill Putman (Fairy Meadows) Hut in the Selkirk Mountains of B.C.
- Two best practice procedure manuals were drafted: Starting a New Climbing Area, and Personal Waste Management in the Backcountry. They will be posted on the ACC website.
- A trip to the Wates-Gibson Hut in Jasper National Park to research caribou habitat was completed in the fall with Laura Finnegan, a researcher with FRI Research (formerly the Foothills Research Institute.)
- Plans are in the works for a trip to the Wilmore Wilderness area north of Jasper in hopes of spotting the wolverine in its natural habitat.

Photo by Andrew Rennie



# Mountain Culture

*It is through the amazing dedication of our committee and volunteers that we continue to make such great progress in telling and celebrating the Canadian mountain story in words, images and film.*

—Zac Robinson, VP for Mountain Culture

- The ACC Library continues to grow in its new home at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies in Banff, Alta. ACC Rocky Mountain Section volunteers Joanna Croston and Jeannette Fish, with the aid of the Bev Bendall Library Fund, added a host of new titles to the collection, many generously donated by the Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival.



Plaque commemorating the long-standing partnership between the ACC and the Whyte Museum, and the contributions of Library benefactors Marj Hind and Bev Bendell.

Photo by Meghan Walsh

- As a founding member of the Banff Mountain Book and Film Festival, the Club was again proud to sponsor several important awards at this year's festival: "Best Film: Climbing" went to *Boys In the Bugs* (Zachary Barr, Peter Mortimer, Nick Rosen; REEL Rock Productions); the "Mountaineering Article" award, co-sponsored with the University of Alberta, was presented to Jeff Long for *Searching for Superman* (Ascent); and Jean McNeil won the book festival's "Grand Prize—The Phyllis and Don Munday Award" for *Ice Diaries: An Antarctic Memoir* (ECW Press).
- A new commemorative plaque is now hanging in the Heritage Room at the ACC Clubhouse in Canmore, honouring the life of Wally Joyce, a long-time ACC member who generously left a legacy gift to the ACC. The plaque was written by ACC volunteer Paul Geddes, Vancouver Section, and designed by Suzan Chamney, ACC Publications Manager.



*The ski traverses were my greatest achievement. They are simply magical.*

—Chic Scott,  
Rocky Mountain Section

Photo by Tony Hoare

- The scrapbooks of the ACC's first president and director, Arthur O. Wheeler, are now on display at the Archives & Library of the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies.
- A special Conrad Kain Centennial Camp was held in early September at the ACC's Conrad Kain Hut in Bugaboo Provincial Park. The camp commemorated the 100th anniversary of Kain's famous first ascent of Bugaboo Spire. Four Toronto Section members, supported by members from the Toronto, Ottawa and Vancouver Sections, ascended the Spire using the same type of equipment and gear used in 1916. A documentary film on the project, *Hobnails and Hemp Rope*, plus a photography exhibit is displayed at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies in Banff, AB.



## Breaking Trail: Chic Scott's Story

Chic Scott is a man of unconventional firsts. His story is told by Joanna Croston, Rocky Mountain Section, in *Breaking Trail: Chic Scott's Story*, the 22nd installation of The Summit Series.

An ACC member since 1973, he was the first Canadian to summit a Himalayan peak, the first Canadian to guide in the European Alps, and part of the first team to climb Mount Assiniboine in winter.

Chic has broken trails in other ways, too. When he completed the first high level alpine ski traverse from Jasper to Lake Louise, he opened doors to a generation of backcountry skiers. "I'm not a glamorous looking skier, but I have a lot of persistence."

An acclaimed historian and writer, and Patron of the 2016 Mountain Guides Ball, Chic has written hundreds of articles and dozens of books, including the first backcountry ski guide to the Rocky and Columbia Mountains and the first comprehensive history of Canadian mountaineering.

Chic was part of the group of ACC members who founded what is now the Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival, was founder of the Canadian Himalayan Foundation and one of the founders of the John Lauchlan Award, which continues to support young climbers today.

"Persistence was the key to my career. I have managed to stay at the forefront of mountain sports by knowing how and when to change my game."



# OUR SERVICE

**GOAL 4** of the ACC's strategic plan is to **IMPROVE** systems and processes to ensure our team is maximizing its talents and interests.

This goal is about ensuring the Club is continually improving its service to members, Sections, volunteers, donors and partners. It includes improvements to how the Club functions, how it is governed and national information technology support for members, donors and Sections.

## Governance

*As in any not-for-profit organization, we've openly recognized that our bylaw revisions should be an evolving process, responding to member feedback and constantly benchmarking against other organizations' best practices.*

*—Isabelle Daigneault, Rocky Mountain Section, ACC Secretary*

- › In 2015, the Club introduced a new process for national board candidate nomination and election. In response to member feedback after that year's election, further adjustments were made to the bylaws to make the process clearer and even more transparent and effective, including the development of a Frequently Asked Questions page on our website.
- › A new board member orientation process was introduced to help newly elected members hit the ground running. Senior board members are now acting as mentors to new members. An online briefing package that includes all the most recent documents is provided to help new members enjoy a smooth transition into their new roles.
- › In late 2016, work began on a process to review the Club's strategic plan in 2017 and prepare for the next three years.





## Information Technology

In 2016, the Club finalized its decision to invest \$250,000 into a new engagement management platform that will transform all aspects of our operations and communications, including membership, sales, adventures, hut bookings, fundraising and accounting.

Among other things, the new system will allow the Club to offer online hut bookings, automated membership renewals and membership surveys. It will improve the Club's environmental footprint by decreasing use of paper and will free up staff administrative time to focus on other priorities.

Most importantly, the new platform will transform how the Club, its members and Sections communicate with each other, allowing for seamless and highly customized service to members, donors and Sections.

Fiscal 2016 was spent developing and configuring the back end of the platform, with a launch date planned for 2017.

The Club's IT team also worked on the new, online version of the *Canadian Alpine Journal*, providing a strong search function.

## Board of Directors

Neil Bosch	President
Isabelle Daigneault	Secretary
Keith Sanford	Treasurer
Wayne Campbell	VP for Access & Environment
Frank Spears	VP for Activities
Jim Gudjonson	VP for Facilities
Zac Robinson	VP for Mountain Culture
Toby Harper-Merrett	VP for Sections
David Foster	VP for Services & Athletics
David Toole	Honorary President (ex-officio)
Lawrence White	Executive Director (ex-officio)

Photo by Thierry Levenq



*To bring together, and give voice to,  
Canada's mountaineering community.*

*Tous ensemble, bien représenter et faire apprécier la  
communauté canadienne des amateurs de montagne.*



## **NATIONAL OFFICE**

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Photo by Greg McKee