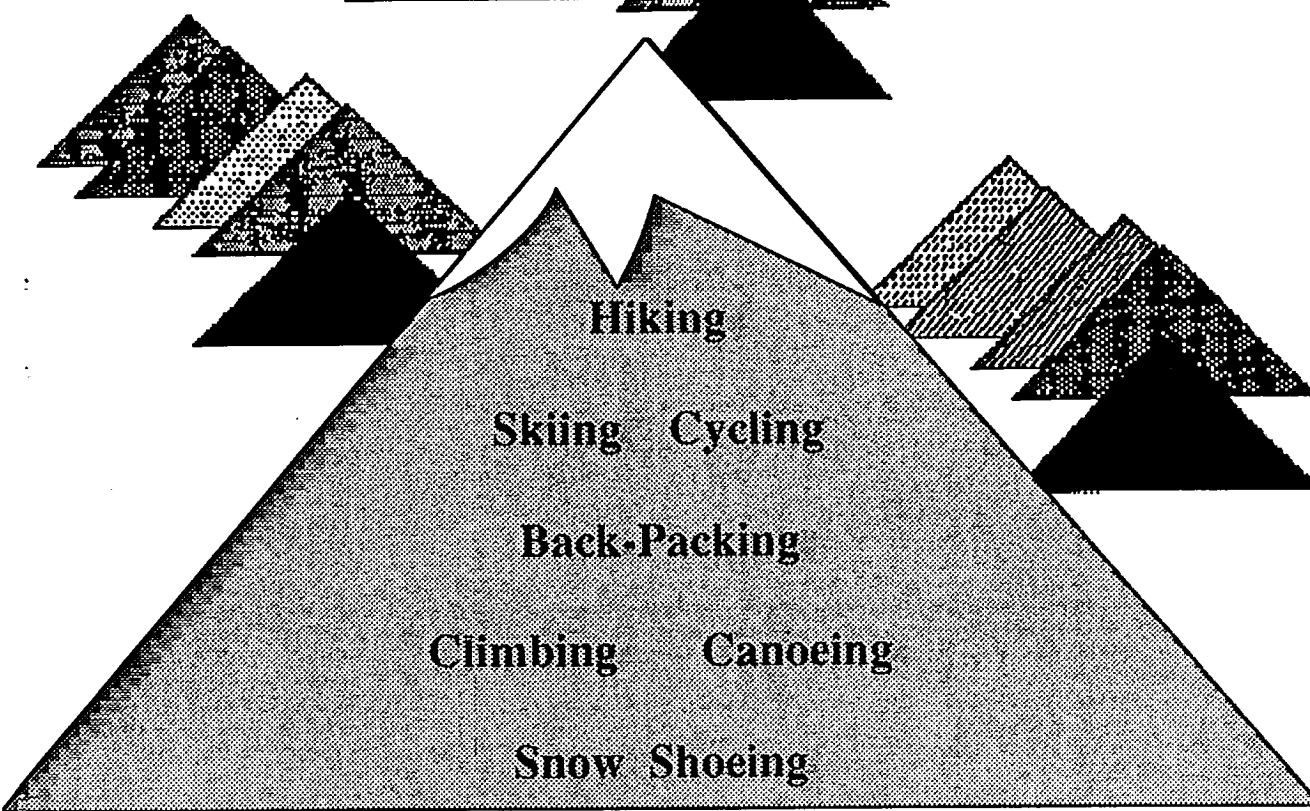


The October 1991  
**Packrat**



Hiking

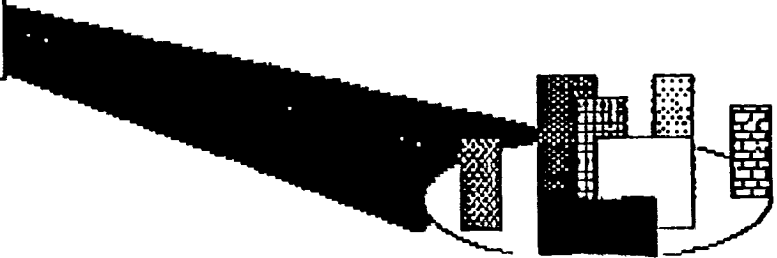
Skiing    Cycling

Back-Packing

Climbing    Canoeing

Snow Shoeing

*In this issue*  
*Exshaw Creek Backpack*  
*Co-ordinator Chairman's Report*  
*The Map Is Wrong*  
*Affordable Recreation Centre in Lake Louise*



# THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAMBLEURS ASSOCIATION

- ACTIVITIES:** Hiking, Backpacking, Climbing, Canoeing, Cycling, Mountain-Biking, Snowshoeing, Educational and Awareness Programs and Social functions
- MEETINGS:** WEEKLY- Wednesday evening at 7:45 PM  
Rosemount Community Hall  
2807 - 10 Street N.W.
- MAIL:** P.O. Box 3098, Station 'B'  
Calgary, Alta., T2M 4L6
- FEES:** Annual Membership: Single \$25:00 / Family \$35:00
- TRIP INFO:** 282-6308 RMRA Hotline

## RMRA EXECUTIVE 1990

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>Edna Konik</b>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>Alicean Van der Voet</b>
<b>TRIP COORDINATOR</b>	<b>Dave Reid</b>
<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>Debra Carle</b>
<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>Irene Willett</b>
<b>PROGRAM DIRECTOR</b>	<b>Reg Fryling</b>
<b>PACKRAT EDITOR</b>	<b>Jim Dempsey</b>
<b>SOCIAL DIRECTOR</b>	<b>Marietta Portigal</b>
<b>EQUIP. COORDINATOR</b>	<b>Ken Frank</b>

Please note: Opinions expressed in the "Packrat" do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the "RMRA" as a whole

# R M R A

## Presidential Ramblings

As the fall hiking season approaches, your executive is about to decide upon the purchase of liability insurance. Such insurance would protect all members against financial liability arising from any legal action taken against the RMRA for an injury or death occurring on one of our trips.

Do we need such insurance? It seems we do. only a short while ago a member gave a trip report that included a discription of her uncontrolled slide down a steep snow slope. The route ran above the snow; the snow was hard-packed giving little foot-hold, nothing in the situation required the group to cross the snow. Had the fall not been arrested by a strong fellow hiker, she would have plummeted to brusing injury. The stage might have been set for a proteneial law suit against the RMRA.

We have had other incidents over the last few years, either where death was narrowly averted or where serrous injury did occur. We were lucky. We were not sued where we might have been. Although trip participants sign a waver supposedly giving up all claim to legal action against the RMRA, our waver offers little protection in reality. If a court decides that we did not take reasonable precaution to avoid an accident, the waver is most likely to be worthless. Nor will our waver protect us if the court is convinced that the trip participant was too inexperienced to understand the risks involved in the trip he/she signed up for.

In an increasingly confrontational society, we are at risk to be sued for accidents that happen on our trips. Liability Insurance appears to be the answer. With the answer comes a new question; should we limit our activies to activities covered by the policy?

Our prospective policy excludes trips where ropes or climbing gear are required. Such trips would continue to expose us to financial liability.

Hard choices require thoughtful decisions, let your executive and our trip co-odinators know your opinion.

In the meantime, happy rambling

Oct., 1991,  
President,  
Edna Konik.

# EXSHAW CREEK BACKPACK

On the Heritage Day Weekend (Aug 3rd to 5th) three of us headed up Exshaw Creek to the usual campsite. This is my tenth consecutive year of co-ordinating backpacks to this location, this trip being the twelfth, having already gone on the Victoria Day and Canada Day long weekends this year, both of which were of a damp nature. I figured that the third try this year should be lucky as far as weather was concerned and it proved correct.

On Saturday Wilf Twelker, Sue Roud and I arrived at the campsite around 11:30 and got organized setting up tents, ect. After some lunch Sue decided to walk back out to Exshaw to phone some friends she was to meet the next day. On her way she did encounter a deer

We had a leisurely afternoon then Wilf and I crossed the creek and headed up to the top of Exshaw Ridge (2073 m. - 6800 ft.). It was a warm slog up the slopes but we made 580 m. (1900 ft.) elevation gain in an hour and fifteen minutes. The views were good. There were some scattered clouds, light wind and 17° C. so we enjoyed a nice rest stop and headed down reaching camp just after 17:00. Shortly after our arrival the sun dropped down behind the ridge putting us in the shade but it was still 20° C. and calm so quite pleasant. Sue arrived back from her walk to Exshaw and we had our supper and enjoyed a pleasant evening around the campfire, not being bothered too much by mosquitoes. By 22:00 when we headed for our tents it was clear, calm and 12° C. I made a startling discovery in the afternoon that I had forgotten to bring to bring stuff for Sunday and Monday lunches so had to spread out Saturday lunch for three days.

Sunday morning I got up around 7:30 and lit the fire and the others were up soon afterwards, it was a great morning, clear, calm and 5° C. When the sun rose up over Exshaw Ridge and shone on the campsite just before 9:00 it started to warm and by 10:00 it was up to 16° C. Sue decided to pack up and head out to Exshaw to meet some friends. A couple of horseback riders stopped by for a chat, they said they were going over Exshaw Pass and over to the Ghost River but later in the day we saw their tracks heading back down stream so presume they turned back after encountering the rough trail just up stream from Fable Gully area.

Mt. Fable 2702m. - (8865ft.) was our destination today. I had almost reached the summit on May 2nd, 1976 on a trip with ten other ramblers, lead by Bill Leach but got scared off by the last 20 or 30 meters. As far as we knew at that time the 1976 trip was the first ascent of Mt. Fable by any ramblers. Wilf and I left just after 10:30 and it was now getting hot. As we left Exshaw Creek to head up Fable Gully, Wilf asked me if there was any water up there. I replied that I was sure there was about 15 min. up the gully. Luckily there was, even if it was just a small stretch of running water not much more than about 40 meters long. Wilf filled his water bottle and we continued walking up taking a short break before reaching the headwall. At the headwall there was a trickle of water down the cliff so we got an extra drink at this point, up till then we had no wind but once above the headwall got a slight breeze which was very welcome as by now it was very warm.

We slogged on up trying to avoid as much scree as possible and reached the col at 14:00. My feet felt like they were on fire so I asked Wilf if he really had his heart set on going to the summit and he replied "Sure, why not give it a try." I took my boots and socks off and after a half hour rest I actually felt like I'd be able to walk again; so off we went, heading up the last 150m. (500ft.) to the top. We arrived at the cairn just after 15:00, the last part of the summit ridge not being as bad as I had remembered from my last attempt, but then there had been snow on it. We signed the register noting that the last ascent had been made on June 11th and only one previous party this year before, on April 26, 1980 when four Ramblers made it to the summit, one being his daughter Sonya who was at that time 12 years old, probably the youngest person to get there. She scared the hell out of Wilf by taking a tumble on the summit ridge and falling head first onto a snow slope but fortunately did not slide down and was quickly grabbed by Wilf. So finally after fifteen years of wanting to get to the summit I finally succeeded, mainly thanks to Wilf encouraging me to continue on and not give up at the col.

The trip down was quicker. Excluding the time for rest breaks it took 3 hrs and 50 mins. to get to the top, the elevation gain from the camp is 1209m. (3965ft.). On the decent before getting down to the col we saw a nice scree slope so we headed down it and of course it ended at the top of a cliff but we were able to cut through an opening in a rocky ridge and gain access to the main scree slope leading down to the top of the headwall. It was a gruelling walk back down, I hadn't realized on the way up how much broken rock we had walked on and it was nice to get to the lower part of the gully when we could once in a while get off the rocks. Our decent took 2 hrs. and 35 mins. excluding a couple of rest stops and we were back at camp just after 18:30.

It felt good to have a wash in the creek which was warm 8° C. as compared to the water temperature of 5° C. on the July 1st weekend. We enjoyed a relaxing evening around the campfire. One big dark cloud went over and we got literally 5 drops of rain, I got 3 and Wilf only 2. At 19:30 it was 19° C., calm and with the odd Cumulus cloud around and by bedtime at 22:00 it was clear, calm, and 14° C. This was a perfect evening to end a great day.

I expected to sleep in on Monday morning after the rather strenuous day before but woke up at 6:30 and finally got at 7:00 and lit the fire. It was a nice morning, clear, calm, 6° C. Wilf got up at 7:30. We saw a couple of hikers or climbers go past the campsite. I mentioned to Wilf that I was in no big rush to pack up so we would assemble a few items together then stop for coffee and sit around, then repeat the process again. It took us from around 9:30 to around noon to get our packs loaded up. As we were leaving around 12:30 a couple of horseback riders were heading up the creek. When we arrived in Exshaw after less than an hour's walk we headed for the Heart Mountain Cafe for ice cream and as we were leaving the town I saw the two riders coming down one of the streets so they hadn't ridden too far.

In all the years I have been going up Exshaw Creek I have noticed a lack of wildlife. On some trips we have seen Big Horn Sheep in the vicinity of the campsite and of course on the ridges. I have seen deer go by the campsite and one time saw mountain goats on the slopes above Exshaw Pass.

Continued on pg.....10

# The Map Is Wrong

Many of us know that the 1:50,000 topographic maps of the Rockies are wrong in their delineation of forested areas, glaciers and trails but Mary Taylor, Alistair Des Moulins and I found a gross error in contours. Here is how it happened.

One sunny Friday morning in August we set off from the Sawmill Parking lot to explore the summits at the head of James Walker Creek. From the lake we made our way up through the forest north-eastward to a cave from which a large spring issued and on to timberline. From there there is a choice of going up the N.E. fork, which Mary and I had both done in climbing Mt. James Walker (map reference 255 - 293) or going up the north fork, which to our knowledge no Ramblers had explored. We chose the latter. Our objective would be the fairly gentle unnamed summit with a considerable area above the 9800 ft. contour at the head of the valley (map ref. 249 - 304) between Mt James Walker and The Fortress or Fortress Mountain. In the unlikely event that the weather would hold (black clouds to the south and south-west) we could perhaps try to traverse over Mt. James Walker and go down the N.E. fork.

As we headed north up the new valley past the two tarns and surmounted a moraine we got two surprises. Firstly the south facing headwall of the valley was occupied by a glacier, though none was shown. Secondly, our objective didn't look as high as the ridges on either side of it. That must be an optical illusion because contours are accurate on these maps made by Photogrammetric methods.

The best route appeared to be up the snowfield on the East side of the glacier and then up a steep slope to the bottom of a cliff band, which would take us virtually to our summit. As has generally been the case this summer red algae had colored much of the snow red giving "watermelon snow". We kicked steps up that and struggled up the hard dirt and rocks of the steep slope for a good walk along the bottom of the cliff band to our summit while the threatening clouds got darker and closer.

The twin summit was fairly gentle as the map showed. But, instead of being as high as the ridge just to the west and The Fortress and nearly as high as Mt. James Walker, it was a couple of hundred feet lower. My altimeter showed just over 9600 ft.. It was more of a saddle than a mountain! The map was wrong.

We heard thunder! So after a glance at the views and a very quick bite and sip we had to head back down as lightening appeared. We got down to the snow just as the rain and hail opened up on us. We scurried on down the north fork valley as lightening struck the ridges above! Then the precipitation ceased and the sun broke through for lunch and further exploration around the fork of the valleys.

## Trip Coordinators Chairman Annual Report

Compared to last year the number of trips and participants is similar in spite of the cold smap in the early winter. The number of active coordinators who have taken out one or more trips is one more than last year at 38. This year, 7 coordinators have taken out 10 trips or more and are responsible for 43% of the activity.

Many thanks to Wally Drew, Alastair Sinclair and John Schleinich for all their efforts. Also many thanks to Alistair DesMoulins and Brieta Angus for sharing the trip coordinator's job throughout the year.

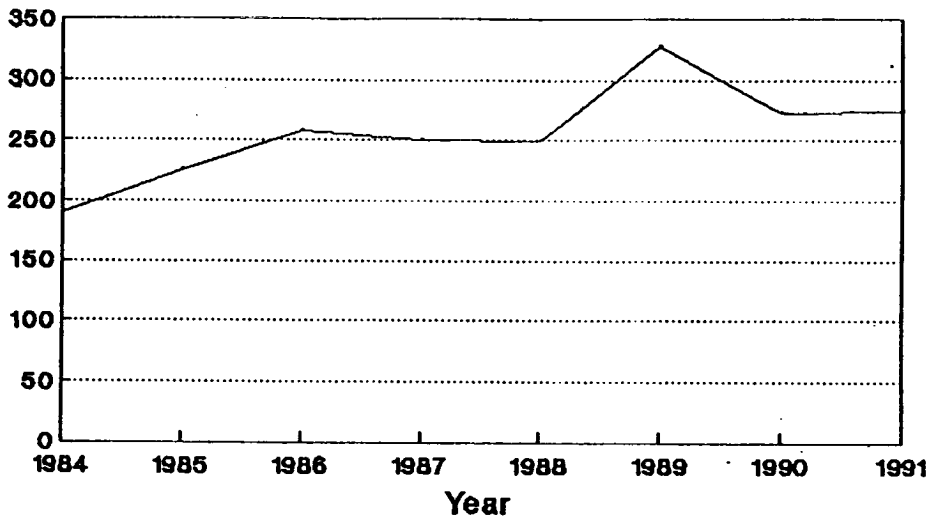
Dave Reid

TABLE 1

COMPARISON OF RMRA COORDINATOR ACTIVITY 1990 TO 1991

	Fall (Oct-Dec)	Winter (Jan-Mar)	Spring (April-June)	Summer (July-Sept)	1991	1990
1. Total trips	47	69	76	84	276	273
2. Total person days	265	368	645	837	2115	2189
3. Average persons/trips	5.6	5.3	8.5	10.0	7.7	8.0
4. Dominant type of trips (persons)						
- day hike	19(128)	8(41)	62(538)	70(644)	159(1351)	144(1299)
- xcountrly ski	20(94)	42(212)	1(3)	0	63(309)	71(392)
- downhill ski	3(20)	14(72)	2(8)	0	18(100)	15(69)
- cycle	0	0	4(10)	0	5(10)	13(72)
5. Average trips/coordinator	2.8	3.2	2.9	3.2	7.2	7.4
6. Average number person days/coordinator	15.6	17.6	24.8	32.0	55.5	59.2
7. Number of coordinators with 5 or more trips	3	3	5	4	19	20
8. Number of active coordinators	17	21	26	26	38	37

## # of Trips



## # of Participants

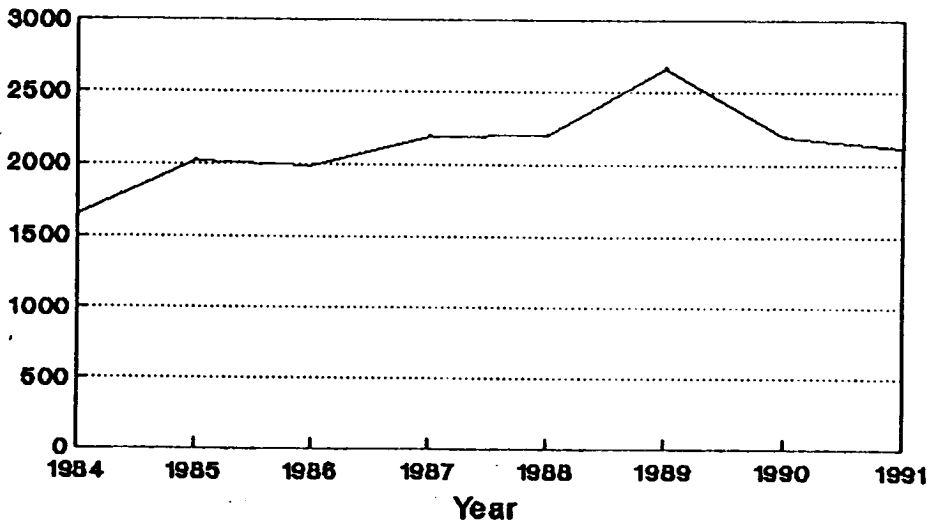


Figure 1. Number of RMRA trips and participants 1984 to 1991



**TABLE 2**  
**SUMMARY OF RMRA COORDINATOR ACTIVITY 1990/1991**

Coordinator	Status	Total Trips (Days)	Person Days	X-C Ski	D-III Ski	Water O/Night	Snowshoe	Day Hike	Backpack	Car Camp	Cycle	Canoe
Angus, B.	A	4	14	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Campbell, D.	F**	10	101	3	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-
Cramb, B.	F	4	39	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Davis, A.	F**	12(20)	151	-	-	1	-	7	4	-	-	-
Demsey, J.	F	5(13)	47	1	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-
Des Moulins, A.	F**	15(25)	101	1	-	3	-	1	8	-	-	-
De We, R.A.D.	F**	4	51	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Drew, W.	F**	32	308	11	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	-
Fisher, A.	F	1	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Folkis, R.	F**	2	5	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Foltz, A.	A	1	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Frank, K.	F*	17	50	1	1	-	-	15	-	-	-	-
Fryling, R.	F*	7	42	3	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Henley, A.	F**	7	34	-	4	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Jones, D.	F	6	24	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Jull, D.	F**	1(4)	20	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Kittle, K.	F**	6	110	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
Ladouceur, D.L.	F	2	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Ladouceur, D.	F*	5(7)	33	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Logan, S.	F*	4(7)	31	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	1	-
Lowndes, D.	F	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
McGill, P.	F*	1(3)	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mich, J.	F*	1	14	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Morris, T.	F**	11	56	-	-	-	4	7	-	-	-	-
Noor, G.	F*	5	20	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Pattison, H.A.B.	F**	9(17)	72	-	6	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Reid, D.	F**	8	83	5	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Schleimich, J.	F**	51	213	19	-	-	-	32	-	-	-	-
Scott, K.	F	5	65	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
Stclair, A.	F**	15(20)	216	1	4	-	-	9	-	1	-	-
Schoon, J.	A	3(5)	21	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-
Taylor, M.	F*	4	20	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Thornon, T.	F**	2	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Tueber, W.	F**	1(6)	10	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Van Der Voet, F.	F	1	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Watson, K.	F*	5	41	-	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Weger, D.	F*	4	19	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weston, B.	F**	2	31	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>276(332)</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>

Continued from pg. 5

but, except for a mouse or two at the campsite I've never seen ground or tree squirrels although a few years ago someone said they saw a tree squirrel. You would expect Wiskeyjacks or Clark's Nutcrackers to be around when you are eating but I've never seen any. Only once, about eight years ago, did I see a bear tracks. Before taking out a backpack here I go up the creek once or twice to check the trail for signs of bears but except for the one ocassion have never seen any.

This turned out to be a real good weekend for us and I was quite pleased to finally get up Mt Fasble, again thanks, Wilf, for your help.

By Art Davis

## Editor's Note (or Editor's Filler)

For two years I have had the job of Packrat Editor. I say job! Because at times it was a real chore, like trying to put a newsletter together with nothing to put in it. But! As usual someone would always come up with an artical such as Art Davis whom I thank very mach, I also have a very special thank you to Wally Drew for the proofreading, corrections in spelling (which were many) and the all round general help and advice in editing "The Packrat". It was also very gratifying at other times like getting "The Packrat" out on time without sacrificing quality as happened with my first newsletter which I do apologize for. After seeing all the mistakes that were not noticed before printing, I decided to get more help, especially in typing which was not always easy to do but I always managed to find someone to do some and I did the rest until I was able to do it myself in my onehanded way, which seems to be the only way I can do it. Also in the last two years I learned how to use a Macintosh Computer, not professiopnly but enough to produce "The Packrat" which is a lot for me considering the fact that I knew absolutely nothing about it when I accepted the position. The reason I decided to take it on was because Barb was resigning and it seemed nobody else wanted to do it.

Well! Now I am leaving it to someone else. So on Oct. 16 come to the Annual General Meeting and vote for your choice of Editor or President or Secretary or whomever, but please come and cast your ballet and voice your opinions where they're needed.

Packrat Editor  
Jim Dempsey

The correct address for the De Wits;

Mr. & Mrs. Rein De Wit  
2736 Dooley Dr.  
Victoria, B.C.

# An Affordable Recreation Centre in Lake Louise

The Canadian Alpine Centre and International Hostel at Lake Louise is a joint venture between the Southern Alberta Hostelling Assn. and the Alpine Club of Canada. The Centre will open up the Lake Louise area to the discerning outdoor recreator. By December 15, 1991 a brand new 100 bed facility will be open for use. It is located in the Lake Louise townsite across from the Lake Louise Inn. Together with the regular amenities offered, the Centre will also include a cafeteria, family room and a limited number of couples' rooms. In addition to these extra facilities the Centre will also include meeting/conference and reading/library rooms.

The building is currently running on schedule. To date, the Lake Louise Centre is now 40% completed. The special heavy timber "post and beam" construction is helping to make the Centre a unique building that will complement the surrounding area of Lake Louise. You are welcome to drive down and view the Centre on your next visit to Lake Louise but please note that visitors are NOT allowed on the building site. It is however, completely visible from the roadside.

By using the Centre you can help us create the ultimate outdoor recreation experience in the Rockies, so come out and join us soon.

For further information  
contact

**SAHA**

**Deborah Schneider**

at 283-5551

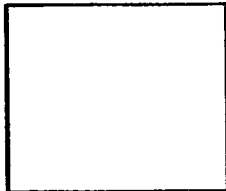
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