

**Prince George Backcountry Recreation Society  
Annual General Meeting – December 16, 2024  
Agenda**

Invitees:

Directors:

1. President – Alex Bevington
2. Vice President – Les Szerencsi (online)
3. Treasurer – Dave King
4. Secretary – Heather MacRae
5. Communication Director – **Vacant**
6. Authorization Director – **Vacant**
7. Fundraising Director – **Vacant**
8. Past President – Duncan McColl
9. Director at large – Deanna Danskin
10. Director at large – Joel McLay
11. Director at large – Hardy Griesbauer
12. Director at large – Kimberley Kenyon (regrets)

Member Groups:

1. Caledonia Ramblers: Dave King
2. Caledonia Nordic: Kevin Charleston
3. Alpine Club of Canada - Prince George Section: Hardy
4. Prince George Naturalists: Bonnie Hooge
5. Fraser Headwater Alliance: Roy Howard (AI updating today)
6. UNBC Outdoors Club: Nobody in attendance
7. Northwest Brigade Paddling Club: Duncan McColl
8. Penny Community Historical Association: Les Szerencsi
9. Ozalenka Alpine Club: Jeff Corbett
10. Prince George Cycling Club: Jacob Mullen
11. Association of Caledonia Trailbuilders: Dan Domes
12. Back Country Horsemen of BC – Omineca Chapter: Verna Houghtaling, Connie Ross
13. Great Divide Trail Association: Doug Borthwick

Members of the public in attendance:

Adam Hawkins  
Hunter Gleason  
Greg Watson,  
Greg (ramblers pres)  
Evan  
Tim Antill  
Lauren Phillips

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1. Housekeeping
  - Thanks to OverHang for the space
  - Land acknowledgement to Lheidli Tenneh
2. Approve minutes from last meeting (AGM and March)  
**MOTION:** Alex puts forward motion to accept AGM minutes as presented. Seconded by Past President Duncan McColl. **PASSED.**
3. New agenda items?
  - Tabor Mnt Ski Hill update.
4. Club Member Updates
  - Caledonia Ramblers: Dave King
    - Year-round activities, summer usually 2 trips per weekend, active in and around Prince George and through Robson Valley and Barkerville, Pine Pass. Also maintain trails; approximately 700-800 hrs of maintenance.
    - Extending boardwalk at Viking. 2100 ft of plankway in meadow. More to come for another 200-300 ft. Discussion with BC Parks for more work.
    - Alexander MacKenzie heritage trail. Cleared and maintained first 65 kms for Rec Sites & Trails. Design and build of bridge at km 54; stringers in place but no decking yet.
    - Still involved in Ancient Forest. Sat in with Lheidli They are building an interpretive centre approx 1400 ft in size in the front parking lot.
    - Group has 190 members or so.
  - Caledonia Nordic: Kevin Charleston
    - New Vice Pres from board elections in October. Lots of new people with some carrying on. Just completed the 3 km roller ski track. This fall was final works, with clean up in spring. Trail policies and signage still to come.
    - 2000 members or so.
    - Been skiing for a month or so. Not able to run large groomers yet, just snowmobiles.
    - International selection race coming up in January. Smaller event than last year. Other smaller competitions throughout the winter.
    - FireSmart projects around infrastructure. Thinning mostly. This is through BCWS crown land programs.
    - A new picnic structure was finished this fall.
  - Alpine Club of Canada - Prince George Section: Hardy
    - 65 members in the local chapter
    - Winter schedule of trips is available on the chapter website. Ice climbing, backcountry skiing, intro to backcountry skiing, winter camping.
    - National organization is going through new training format. Online format on a Utube channel. Training for free and available to the public.
    - Membership fees are only \$35 bucks comes with 40% off Northface.
    - Website will be updated soon; will share through PGBRS when done.
    - Money has been put to new rock climbing crags with 17 routes now. New one near Purden being developed.
  - Prince George Naturalists: Bonnie Hooge

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- Around 80 members currently
- No big projects on the horizon
- Swan count on Jan 24, Spring cleanup coming up
- Library talk on native species; another on bats
- Invasive plant pulls happened in Carey Jane Grey park, Hudson bay slough
- Membership nature photography slide show this fall
- Christmas bird count happening Jan 5 in PG; FSJames Dec 29, Quesnel Dec 22
- Thanks to PGBRS for agreeing to refrain from using mouse poison in cabins.
- Fraser Headwater Alliance: Roy Howard (AI updating today)
  - Small group out of Mcbride/Dunster with 28 members
  - Main focus is Goat River trail with many improvements over the years.
  - About 1 km is still brushy at the West end. Cable car good for next 50 years. Bridge now over Whitehorse creek, upheld during flood.
  - Plans for West end of trail rerouting into alpine overlooking Bowron lakes. Group in Quesnel looking after trail on that end. BC Parks didn't allow development of new trail proposal into alpine. Will discuss further during Management plan process this coming year.
  - This trail is 42 kms and true wilderness. Trail is not used enough. From Crescent Spur there are 3 campsites with toilets and bear caches and good water. Going to try to promote this shorter trail option.
  - Road closures have been a problem – Roy wants to connect Great Divide Trail to Goat all the way to coast! Road closures are hindering that.
- UNBC Outdoors Club: Nobody in attendance
- Northwest Brigade Paddling Club: Duncan McColl
  - Club is still active with about 6-7 members
  - Insurance and COVID put a damper on pool sessions.
  - Low key presence, mostly connecting through Facebook to get connected and do activities.
  - Books and Company still has the guide books.
- Penny Community Historical Association: Les Szerencsi
  - AGM was held about a month ago, previous board all in place again.
  - About 50 members
  - Cleared out the bottom of the Red Mountain trail this year.
- Ozalenka Alpine Club: Jeff Corbett
  - Ozalenka - cabin is complete and paid for. This past summer we helicoptered out all of the old cabin junk, did some repairs on the bridge at the trailhead, and some minor trail upgrades. So at this time the Ozalenka trail and cabin are pretty much in a condition that now only requires routine maintenance.
  - Avalanche Valley - this trail has been subject to years of uncertainty about if or when or where the South Dore FSR will be closed. A year or so ago, FLNRO deactivated the last kilometer of the road before the trailhead. They pulled the last bridge and barricaded the second last bridge. That means this hike is now about 1km longer than in the past (no big deal), but also that Avalanche Valley Creek must now be fjorded on foot - easy at low water, all but impossible at high water. A footbridge over this creek is on the agenda for the Ozalenka Alpine Club.
  - Beaver Bench Lakes trail - This proposed trail was delayed and slowed down by active logging in the area, and then by the RST boondoggle in our district last year. Thanks to Mikel Leclerc of RST this new trail received a re-authorization and timeline extension and was built this past summer from the end of logging to treeline. Directions - at 32km on the Beaver/Holmes FSR

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take the spur road to the south, cross the Beaver/Holmes River, and follow the road about 8km to the current trailhead. This is a high quality trail to an alpine area with open meadows, beautiful lakes, and ridges and peaks to scramble. This trail will be listed in the new edition of the Central Interior Trail Guide, vol II, edited by Art Carson and Dave King. Highly recommended. There are no services or campsites. This is traditional backcountry camping.

- Eagle trail - this trail needs for major brushing out, and ideally some re-routing to avoid the overgrown old-road section.
- Other trails and plans - I dream of extending the trail system in the Dore River area, a cabin on the Kristi Glacier trail, and of finally achieving some officially recognized and protected terrain for backcountry skiers in the Dore River drainage.
- the closure of the Dore River Road mid-summer forced the Club to refund about \$9000 of cabin reservations. And until the road is re-opened none of the trails up the Dore River are officially accessible. (The road is still usable, as long as you don't mind driving over a bridge that is signed as being closed due to a 0 (zero) load rating.) There is uncertainty about when this road will reopen. As an alternative access to Ozalenka, the Club has talked about reopening the Clyde Creek trail.
- Prince George Cycling Club: Jacob Mullen
  - Around 400 members
  - 5-10 year master plan is complete. Took about 3 years. 80 pages. Final version in a couple months. Key feature is pre approval by all necessary authorities with jurisdiction.
  - Pilot project for BC bikers, design of trail and archeology work. Working with Lheidli T'enneh, leading by example in the province.
  - Consultant for the Master Plan did interviews with people around the area and PG. Ramblers participated.
  - GPS'ing of proposed trails already done and in plan. Will be approved as long as they stay within close proximity to the Master Plan.
- Association of Caledonia Trailbuilders: Dan Domes
  - Staging area on Groveburn Rd with lots of improvements; gates, signage; really professional look and feel.; great volunteers,
  - New 1 km trail is adaptive with a gentle grade
  - Old School very black technical trail. Right of way cleared, rock and grade is too steep for excavator so work will take a while yet
  - PGBRS helped facilitate grants. Brushsaw bridge and culvert. Trench. Heritage trail. Access to troll lake trail.
  - Applications for new trails are in the works.
  - 4 km of new trail this year. 15 in total over last 3 years
  - 5 km update of heritage trails planned
  - 140 members
- Back Country Horsemen of BC – Omineca Chapter: Verna Houghtaling, Connie Ross
  - 53 members. 1 of 19 chapters; 1000 members throughout the province
  - Activities included Corburn trail near Redrock; 9-10 km loop trail. Cail creek pit around Fraser river. Mothers day clean up.
  - Hickory Wing at Tabor. Brushed last year, grant money this year to fix bridges and rebrush next year

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- Took advantage of a good year, McBride mnt peak, Bell mnt, Fishtrap by Barriere, Coalmine camp by Telkwa, Lily lake trails near Vanderhoof; these trips can be found on facebook. Pack trip into moose river in Mnt Robson.
- Rendezvous was held at the rodeo grounds in Valemount. Upgraded the area. All the way to Kinbasket.
- Great Divide Trail Association: Doug Borthwick
  - 650 members and growing rapidly
  - Recently started a gateway community program to introduce ourselves. Keyed in on PG and McBride so far. Propose developing through to Monkman. What kind of supports, challenges. 150 kms of trail. Going to present more widely in the new year.
  - Sent our Executive Director to Italy's Alpine Club to present last year.
  - Work this year, around Mnt Robson area – Moose river, Colonel creek. Constant deadfall but a crew in there last year. Upright creek has a temp bridge. Just north of Sheep creek to Shale hill where we did 15km of trail. Had no money for helicopter time, so all done by hand and walking in.
  - Would like to collaborate with Fraser Headwater Alliance about connecting the trails in the area.
  - People out to PG and McBride next month or so to promote the area and trail.

5. Directors updates

- Directors at large
  - Kim; not in attendance
  - Hardy; nothing to bring forward
  - Joel; nothing to bring forward
  - Deanna; nothing to bring forward
- Past President (Duncan) – nothing to bring forward
- Treasurer; information below in President report and documents attached
- Vice President (Les) – will be working on the NDIT grant for the Tabor Mnt cabins
- President
  - See attached document; 2024\_AGM.pptx.
  - Most details in the document, additional commentary added under each bullet.
  - Longworth: Slides 2-10
    - Won't have to put in any money ourselves.
    - Have to have avalanche mapping done for cabin area. Subcontractor is on board to get the work done; \$5000 or so. Next year, Avalanche Canada will be doing a digital auto ATES rating for all areas.
    - Bryce has given an estimate to complete siding, beds, chimney extension, solar. Estimating ~\$67000 but might be a bit high.
    - Cabin is online but with a weird authorization. Sec 57 is just for works on Crown Land. Usually Sec 56. RS&T has a Ministerial Order to not expand right now. Only donations for now due to this authorization. Seeing a sliding scale of what is being donated.
    - Photo of outhouse won most scenic outhouse of BC.
    - Really well build and insulated, comfortable, stocked for winter.

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- Will need to work on declaring the risks of visiting this hut to the average user. No water, bad avalanche terrain and mark the trail better.
- Winter heli access is possible in the meadow. Drifts are bad in around the cabin.
- Thoughts to link to red? Mountaineering route across to Red in winter but summer would be good. 15km or so.
- Grizzly Den; Slides 11-16
  - Opens tomorrow, Dec 17. Wood got up there last week.
  - Details of cost overruns on Slide 11.
  - Raven was 500,000 pre-covid. This one is much fancier.
  - Contractor is currently taking a significant loss on this project.
  - One of the overruns was the floor structure that wasn't correct. Had to fly a welder up to fix before the build. Also had lots of heli down days waiting for weather.
  - No answer back yet if we will get money from the fabricator; that part was paid by Parks; conversation is between them.
  - Propane is hosed in but not functional. Solar is on site but not hooked up
  - Engineers have some small comments. Robson has considered those costs already in their contract.
  - 50,000 to demobilize old hut next year.
  - Motion mentioned on this slide is below in finance section.
- 8 Mile Cabin; Slide 20
  - Has it's niche, base camp for upper cabins, kids can get here.
  - Worth doing something at some point. Parks is interested
  - Restore it but maybe a little later. Something more bare bones, smaller, insulated.
- Red Mountain Cabin; Slide 17
  - Needs patching to keep critters out.
- Farm Cabin; Slide 18
  - Lots of mice to be dealt with. Steel wool and traps.
  - Hoping people will trap away.
  - Back is on cement, front is logs. Foundation needs to be done.
  - No trail work done by PGBRS this year; lots of large trees across the bottom 2kms.
  - Pass Lake road will not be plowed past 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Jan this year.
- Raven Lake Cabin; Slide 19
  - Lots of wood, some work needed.
  - Upstairs gets too hot so a screen door would be great.
- Tacheeda Lookout
  - Work was done on the trail by the ramblers but not all the way to the top. Too many trees down each year.
- Tabor
  - They hold the money until we do work then submit receipts and get reimbursed.
  - Troll, Treeline, and Viewpoint cabins. Should leverage to get bigger grants.
  - Bryce and Dave got some brick footings in to hold them up for now.
  - Troll needs door, stove, woodwork...

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- Treeline cabin has good access right now due to logging; road is 2-300m, logging within 100m. Need to replace roofing. Cabin is fundamentally solid and wouldn't need a lot of money.
- Troll will take up the majority of the 25,000; worth it due to connection to Caledonia.
- Current NDIIT grant needs to be finished before starting the next grant. Alex to finish.
- Website/Facebook/Instagram; Slide 22
  - Good traffic to the site overall
  - Trip reports – cool resource – highest views are around 800 for our highest route.
- Booking system; Slide 25
  - Gross volume ~\$155,00 gone through booking system since 2020. \$108,000 net.
  - Issues – sometimes no confirmation email for weird email accounts.
  - We will need a conversation on booking in the future. Could do rolling booking but some challenges with that. Or maybe look into higher level booking system.
  - Slide 26-27; revenue tables attached for each cabin. And a table of revenues by year.
- Events; Slide 28
  - Tim and Evan have an idea for next fall to have our own Northern Film Fest. To include art, photo, professional video and non-professional. Tourism PG may be on board. Marketing and \$\$ might be needed. Prize for filmmakers. No budget request at this time, just socializing the idea.
- Merch; Slide 29
- Reporting; Slide 30
- 2025; Slide 31
  - Parks pretty vocal about having a calmer year!
  - Are we managing the huts well? Maybe hut stewards?
  - Tabor should be a priority
  - Longworth and Grizz not done yet.
  - Cabin chore list kept ?
- Finance – Dave and Alex
  - Please see attachments from Dave
  - Pretty good shape, 5 sub accounts.
  - Gaming almost \$80,000. Longworth in that account. Was already some in the account.
  - Red – barely touched.
  - Chequing – most active. Very large amounts coming and going. Booking goes into that. Alex separates out parks cabin \$\$'s for use within parks – flexible but really only park money.
  - Raven account – booking account money.
  - Farm account – just took over. Most was from Amber and Kevin
  - RDIFFG funding may have an end date of Dec 18. Check into this.
  - All over there's 163,00 in our accounts. 60,000 firmly committed. 100,000 flexible.
  - Alex
    - Offered spreadsheet of specific items of paid. Attached.

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- **MOTION:** Alex motions to change the contract with Robson to give them an extra \$60,000 of which we have \$14,000 left over from the grants and \$36,000 from club.
  - Discussion ensued.
  - Questions regarding helping a for-profit, why did they have down days, is this just cause we feel bad for them, what is money allocated for instead?
  - They saw project through to end – could have walked away at end of contract dollars. We could improve the way we did stuff. There was discussion about raising the fees for the cabin to get the money back – BC Parks yes, Alex no. Maybe give them half of 60,000 and look at fabricator of the floor to get some back on errors made – go for half another time?

**PASSED.** 9 in favour, 2 abstentions. 1 against.

6. Elections

- President: Alex
- Vice President: Les
- Treasurer: Dave
- Secretary: Deanna
- Communications: Vacant
- Authorizations: Heather
- Fundraising: Vacant
- Past President: Duncan
- Director at large: Tim (Events)
- Director at large: Joel
- Director at large: Kim
- Director at large: Hardy

**MOTION:** Alex puts forward a motion for the above list to be our executive and board. Seconded by Duncan. **PASSED**

7. Annual Reports

- Alex provided a slide in the attachments of all the reporting that is required.

8. Tabor Mountain.

- Discussed in Presidents report. No additional information for this agenda item.

**MOTION:** Alex motions to adjourn the AGM. Seconded by Jacob. **PASSED.**