



SQUAMISH ACCESS SOCIETY
SOCIETY NO. S-50588

2021 **ANNUAL** **REPORT**

Executive Summary

- **Membership rose from 1130 to 1480. After consultation with our community and members, we moved to an annual subscription model.**
- **Positive engagement and advocacy continue with BC Parks, FLNRO, BC Timber Sales, the Smoke Bluffs Advisory Committee, and the District of Squamish.**
- **2021 will be remembered for the unprecedented rock fall events. SAS worked closely with BC Parks to identify the extent of the destruction and pass on closure information.**
- **The potential sale of the Smoke Bluffs Park lands owned by the Federation of Clubs of BC is still under review after consultation with parties of interest including SAS and the District of Squamish.**
- **Smoke Bluffs Park was officially designated as a park by the District of Squamish.**
- **SAS, SORCA, and the Squamish Nation continued to develop a management framework for a recreation fund put forward by the BC Government as part of the Watts Point land transfer.**
- **Stewardship and trail building events were held at the Grand Wall, Murrin Park, and Cheakamus Rec Site.**
- **After almost 30 years, the stairs at Petrifying Wall were replaced in collaboration with Arc'teryx during the annual Squamish Climbing Academy.**
- **The SAS rebolting program installed 59 protection bolts, 58 anchor bolts, and 61 chains.**
- **The society is in excellent financial shape thanks to membership dues and consultation fees from the film industry.**

Board of Directors

The Board would like to extend a big thank you to Krissy MacKay for her years of service to SAS and the climbing community. She will be stepping back from the Board of Directors but staying on as a member of the Smoke Bluffs Park Staff Advisory Committee.

Travis McClinchey will remain a treasurer for the next year but with a reduced workload so that he can focus on family, career, and hopefully more climbing.

2022 Director Roles:	Chair: Robin Richardson	Vice-Chair: Brian Moorhead
	Treasurer: Travis McClinchey	Secretary: Caitlin MacDonnell
Directors at Large:	Emilisa Firdich Alex Ryan Tucker Kieran Brownie	David Jones Ben Webster
New Directors:	Paul McSorley, Peter Winter, Jeff Yoo	
Associate Directors:	Jack Fieldhouse	

Membership

- In 2021, SAS saw membership rise from 1130 to 1480. After consulting with our community and member, SAS moved from the 5 year/\$10 model to an annual membership starting at \$10 with a recurring option. We feel this better reflects our requirement to attract members and raise funds.
- We successfully increased our membership numbers through collaboration with community events (Rampage), in person sign up locations at clean up events and on busy weekends, and facilitating sign up with QR codes on stickers and posters.
- Climb On and Quickdraw guidebooks included SAS business cards with their shipped products to encourage member sign up.
- SAS has an add page in the forthcoming Squamish Bouldering guidebook to encourage member sign up.

Advocacy

Key Land Manager Relationships

Squamish Nation

- The Squamish Nation, SAS, and SORCA met throughout the year and established a governance structure for a proposed fund from the Province that is part of the Watts Point land transfer. The purpose of the Community Recreation Fund is to take into trust monies deposited into it by the Province to achieve the following objectives.
 - Respect and support the sovereignty of Squamish Nation and the objectives of the XAY TEMIXW management plan; while
 - Supporting existing recreational activity as allowed by Squamish Nation.
- 2022 will see the finalization of the agreement and commencement of collaboratively managing the fund to meet its stated aim.
- SAS joined with the Indigenous Life Support Academy (ILSA) and Arc'teryx to support a climbing and recreation program for youth of the Squamish and Lil'wat Nations. Several indoor climbing days were held in November and December at Ground Up Climbing Centre.

BC Parks

- There were four major rockfall events in Squamish this summer. SAS collaborated closely with BC Parks to define the extent of the rockfall and get closure information out to the community via our communication channels.
- The closures will remain in place until spring of 2022. SAS will advocate for climber access and be prepared to examine and repair route hardware damaged on the Grand Wall.
- Squamish SAR and the RCMP became concerned that hikers were consistently getting lost on the Murrin Loop trail. As SAS had developed this trail and an updated park map, we produced durable trail maps that were placed at several key intersections.
- BC Parks re-instituted a day pass system during the high season in the Stawamus Chief Park. SAS clarified access for climbers and communicated this to the climbing community.
- Phase 2 of Grand Wall bouldering area fencing project was completed in January. Flashed equipment partnered with SAS for the project, raising \$3600 through crowd funding and matched with \$3000.
- As with previous years, SAS disseminated information on falcon nesting site identification to the climbing community. There were no closures this year.
- Four film shoots occurred in the boulders along the Mamquam Forest Service Road. SAS worked closely with the production companies to minimize the impact on boulderers and ensure that information on dates and closures were passed to the community. BC Parks mandates that film companies wishing to shoot in the Stawamus Chief Park consult with SAS. As part of this arrangement, the companies remunerate SAS. This year we received a total of \$9,300.
- A volunteer stewardship day at the Grand Wall saw large amounts of trash removed from the boulders and parking area.

District of Squamish / Smoke Bluffs Park

- In February 2021, Squamish Council adopted the District of Squamish Park Dedication (Smoke Bluffs Park; SBP) Bylaw No. 2800, 2021. The bylaw dedicates the District lands within SBP for the purpose of parks under section 30 of the *Community Charter*. The by-law specifically provides that Council “wishes to

preserve Smoke Bluffs Park as an area for rock climbing in the District of Squamish.”

- The District of Squamish (DoS) passed a bylaw transforming the SBP Committee to a Staff Advisory Committee. This less structured committee format has pros and cons. It is more flexible and less constrained by formal regulations, but it’s discussions and decisions provide direction to the DoS Staff despite being non-binding. SAS will continue to work with the other committee members to effectively manage the SBP and ensure that it remains climbing focused.
- The potential sale of SBP parcels owned by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMCBC) to the DoS was a very contentious issue in the first half of the year. SAS participated in consultation sessions held by the FMCBC that were attended by other concerned parties including the BC Mountain Clubs (BCMC), Alpine Club of Canada-Vancouver, and UBC Varsity Outdoor Club. For a full report on these proceedings see our website news feed.
 - The consensus of the consultations was that there was still much information to be gathered with respect to protecting climbing in the park in perpetuity. The FMCBC has pledged to reconstitute another committee for this purpose.
- In May, the DoS convened the Squamish Visitor Management Roundtable (SVMR). This was a bi-weekly multi-agency session to proactively identify and address issues resulting from the increased visitor numbers in the Squamish region. Attendees included the DoS, FLNRO, BC Parks, RCMP, Bylaw Enforcement, Conservation Officers, Squamish Nation, SAS, SORCA, and others. An example of an issue addressed by the SVMR is a shortage of toilets in high traffic areas. SAS, SORCA, and FLNRO put forward locations, and porta-potties were placed there for the summer season (Slhanay parking).
- There is a proposed neighborhood/housing development in the North Crumpit Woods area. The project is adjacent to, but not on the area containing the Sanctuary crags. SAS attended a public info session and special consultation with members of the SBP Staff Advisory Committee where we emphasized that climbing takes place at the Sanctuary and the necessary access to the area. We will continue to monitor the public consultation process.

Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development (FLNRO)

- The proposed expansion of Cheakamus Recreation Site to include South Chek climbing areas has been on standby throughout 2021. It is still supported by FLNRO and we hope to see it move forward in 2022.
- SAS partnered with Midnight Lightning and Arc'teryx for a crag stewardship event at the Chek Rec Area. The campground and core crags were thoroughly cleaned of garbage and some trail work was done on the approach to Echo Beach.
- In order to maintain emergency access, BC Hydro said that they will repair the road to Electric Avenue and install a gate. This was supposed to happen in the fall but has been delayed.

BC Timber Sales

- Active logging occurred in the Chek Canyon area. SAS alerted climbers to logging traffic and road closures.
- Corresponded with BC Timber Sales to review parcels slated to be logged in future years in order to alert them to climber use of areas or roads.

Infrastructure

Bolt & Anchor Replacement

- The rebolting program was expanded in 2021. Thank you to Kris Wilde for joining the team. Hardware was replaced in the Smoke Buffs, Chek, Murrin, Rogues Gallery, Area 44, the Malamute, and on the Chief.
- The total work completed was 59 protection bolts, 58 anchor bolts, and 61 chains. For the full report, visit our website.
- Thank you as always to Squamish Rock Guides for the many hours of volunteer work in addition to the paid rebolting.

Crag Improvement and Trail Building

- Petrifying Wall stairs described above.
- Grand Wall bouldering area fencing phase 2 completed and funding secured for the final phase to be built in early 2022.
- SAS volunteers cleaned out a surprising amount of trash from the Grand Wall area.
- Crag cleanup at Chek Rec Area and trail improvement to Echo Beach.
- Protect Our Winters (POW) eagerly stepped up to bring volunteers from their membership to a trail improvement day at Murrin Park. They assisted with work to improve water channeling and eliminate trail braiding. This work was continued by a group of local climbing community members.
- Anchor replacement and rebolting at various crags throughout SBP.

Stewardship & Community

Festival Support

- The Arc'teryx Climbing Academy was once again a live event.
 - The highlight of the weekend was the world premiere screening of The Alpinist about the life of Marc-André Leclerc who was a friend and inspiration to many in our community.
 - Volunteers assisted our skilled builder, Todd Nichols, in demolishing and rebuilding the stairs at Petrifying Wall. Arc'teryx generously paid for this project to support stewardship of outdoor and community resources.
 - Kieran Brownie narrated a short video on sustainability and connection to the land followed by a presentation on SAS's contribution to the community.
- For 2021, the Rampage bouldering festival transformed into a month long multi-disciplinary and friendly competition supported by the Kaya climbing app. All participants became members of SAS. Thank you to the organizers of Rampage for donating all of the proceeds of registration to SAS.
- The Golden Scrub Brush Awards were delayed again due to COVID uncertainty.

Community

- Climb On continues to be a valued partner in the Squamish climbing community. They supported SAS this year with membership drives, exposure on social media, and supplying bolting kits for us to re-sell.
- The Patagonia store in Vancouver held a screening of the film Stone Locals and invited SAS to speak about access and stewardship. They generously donated the proceeds of beverage sales to SAS.

Our Valued Allies

- Climb-On
- Arc'teryx
- Valhalla Pure Squamish
- Ground Up Climbing center
- Flashed
- UBC Varsity Outdoors Club
- FMCBC
- BCMC
- SORCA
- The Hive and Cliffhanger gyms
- The Squamish Nation
- Climbers Access Society of BC
- The Access Fund
- ACC Squamish and Vancouver
- Tourism Squamish
- Escape Route Squamish
- ILSA
- Patagonia
- POW

Communications

Social Media

- Our social media reach grew this year from approximately 1500 to 2500 for Facebook and from 2200 to 3000 Instagram followers.
- Continuing from 2021, our messaging focused on several key areas:
 - Announcements: Information about closures, access issues, and events with the aim of quickly notifying the climbing community.
 - Sharing our work: Updates on SAS projects like rebolting and trail work with the aim of increasing transparency of what our role is and awareness of our contributions.
 - Educational: Teaching people about issues they may encounter, including problems with hardware, with the aim of encouraging stewardship and helping climbers take responsibility for climbing areas.
 - History/Storytelling: Sharing interesting stories and details from Squamish climbing in years past.

Newsletter

- New for 2021 was a periodic newsletter. Not all our members are on social media, and often posts can get lost in the feed, so the newsletter was instituted to keep our members informed of SAS activities, news, and volunteer opportunities.

Website

- After a major rebuild in 2020, the website saw minor tweaks and improvements. Most notably, we are now able to mirror our social media feed to the News section. This reduces the workload for our communications team.

2022 Goals

Advocacy

- Squamish Nation
 - In collaboration with the Squamish Nation, SORCA, and BC Ministry of Indigenous Affairs, finalize the management plan for a proposed fund that will support outdoor activities and education for the Squamish Nation as well as general recreational activities on Squamish Nation lands.
 - Support climbing opportunities and programs for Squamish Nation youth lead by ILSA and Arc'teryx. Through our community connections, SAS will bring in other businesses and organizations to contribute equipment, funds, or volunteer time.
 - Develop a mutually supportive long-term relationship with the Squamish Nation aiming towards a Memorandum of Understanding regarding climber activities on lands belonging to the Squamish Nation.
- FLNRO:
 - Improve the Electric Avenue crag with picnic tables.
 - Trail improvement project to Echo Beach.
 - Coordinate with BC Hydro in regard to grading the road to Electric Avenue and re-installing a gate at the bottom.
 - Continue to work with FLNRO to finalize the expansion of Chek Rec Area.
- DoS/SBP:
 - Continue to advocate for climbing on the Smoke Bluff Park Advisory Committee.
 - Continue to advocate for long term protection of SBP as a climbing park when/if the FMCBC restart discussions with the DoS regarding the potential transfer/sale of FMCBC lands in the SBP.
- BC Parks:
 - Phase 3 of the Grand Wall bouldering area fencing installation will be completed in 2022 with monies from a BC Parks Enhancement Fund.
 - Work with BC Parks to safely re-open climbing and bouldering in closed areas.
 - Inspect and repair damaged climbing hardware on the Grand Wall.

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- Advocate for park infrastructure projects including bike racks, trail markers, new toilets, signage, and additional trail work.
 - Continuation of peregrine falcon closure data collection and notification.
 - BC Timber Sales:
 - Continue to correspond with BCTS to review planned logging parcels.
 - Communicate logging activity and road limitations to climbers.

Infrastructure

- Expanding the Bolt/Anchor Replacement Program from \$4,000 to \$7,000/year.
- Complete Phase 3 of Grand Wall bouldering area trail fencing.
- Trail work projects:
 - Skywalker descent trail, Echo Beach, and Murrin trail improvements.
- Trail Markers: Grand Wall bouldering area trails and the main trail to the Grand Wall.
- Smoke Bluffs Park. Plan for trail marker and signage upgrade and completion of a trail from the Blind Channel to Burgers and Fries.

Community/Volunteer Activities

- Hold The Golden Scrub Brush Awards in the fall.
- 10/3 Volunteer Program: Re-engage the groups who organized volunteer days in previous years and recruit groups within the local climbing community.
- Crag Keepers Program: Promote climber self-reliance and stewardship by supporting groups who can contribute on a yearly basis and an educational campaign on basic, safe scrubbing on top rope.
- Festivals: Support the Arc'teryx Academy and Rampage with SAS info, membership drives, and stewardship projects during the festivals.

Membership

- Sign up 500 annual members through community events, trail head QR links, and high traffic weekend sign up booths at major parking areas.
- Partner with climbing gyms and local businesses to facilitate sign up at their locations through QR signs, stickers, and education of staff.
- Volunteer opportunities will be solicited through our communications channels.

Communication

- Recruit a volunteer to manage social media posts and communications.
- Develop and institute a coherent communication plan for the year including social media posts, website updates, and membership emails.
 - Education: Social media posts in spring to increase awareness regarding bolt and permadraw issues, encourage community to replace missing hangers, and improve safety awareness.
 - Announcements: Proactively inform the public and disseminate new/unforeseen issues (ex. bears at a crag, rockfall hazards.)
 - Sharing our Work: Increase the number of messages about projects and accomplishments to raise the profile of SAS and inform our members.
 - History and Story Telling: Increase our social media engagement with a steady flow of stories of interest and partner with allies and community influencers.

Society Internal

- Integrate new board members and balance volunteer workload with life commitments (and climbing!)
- Recruit a new treasurer.
- Add associate board members with trail building skills to lead major projects.
- Grants and corporate donations:
 - Refine the grant application for the Community Gaming Grant. The aim is for these funds to support trail building and rebolting efforts.
 - Apply for the Squamish Community Fund to support trail building.

Financial Summary

SQUAMISH ACCESS SOCIETY
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	As at December 31, 2021
Assets	
Cash	\$ 42,527
Accounts receivable	30
Total assets	\$ 42,557
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$ 1,838
Net assets	40,720
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 42,557

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS	For the year ended December 31, 2021
Revenue	
Trail-related grants and donations	\$ 9,872
Filming-related donations	9,300
Event-related donations and memberships	3,403
Individual donations and memberships	5,075
Total revenue	27,651
Expenses	
Trail work	5,832
Rebolting	4,232
Board insurance	1,046
Promotion, administrative supplies and other	1,739
Total expenses	12,850
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 14,801