

THE SQUAMISH ROCK CLIMBERS ASSOCIATION

Box 5216, Squamish, B.C. V0N 3G0
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Rockclimbing at Squamish has come a long way since the first routes were climbed back in the 1950's! From a modest beginning, it has grown to become a major climbing area attracting climbers from around the world and an important part of the local tourist and service industry. Visiting climbers consistently point out that the two main assets of the area are the wide variety of excellent climbing, from the Chief to the numerous little outcrops, and the convenient urban atmosphere close to Squamish and its' amenities. However, this closeness to the town and main highway means that the future of rockclimbing at Squamish is threatened as the town continually expands, roads are built and development encroaches on the crags.

Past events have shown that various levels of government and private interests do not adequately take into account any possible impact on rockclimbing when development is in the planning stage, largely due to a general ignorance of which bluffs and cliffs are important to rockclimbers and the local tourist industry.

The existence of some crags in Murrin Park is presently threatened by the widening of Highway 99; the entire Malamute is in jeopardy of being turned into a giant rock quarry; expansion of the gravel pit could wipe out the climbers campground and additional residential development could result in the end of climbing throughout much of the Little Smoke Bluffs. Climbers themselves can do much to alleviate this potentially disastrous situation by making representations to the bodies concerned as to the existence of climbing in these particular areas in the hope that awareness of the importance of cliffs such as Jalap Bluff, Nightmare Rock, The Malamute and the Smoke Bluffs will be taken into consideration during the planning stages of any development.

The Squamish Rockclimbers Association and the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. are attempting to bridge this gap between climber's concerns and developer's interests for the eventual benefit of all. Economic expansion is no bad thing for Squamish; indeed many climbers work and live there, but neither is destroying a part of the growing local tourist industry which is a permanent resource.

An economic impact study is currently underway to determine how much climbers spend in Squamish and the question of who uses the crags we climb on is also being studied. Efforts are being made to produce a comprehensive report later this year on the economic impact, benefits and importance of rockclimbing to this area. The permanent closure on August 1st, 1986 of Peshastin Pinnacles in Washington State is a very sober reminder of how easily rockclimbing can be ended on a particular crag!

Major Goals of the S.R.A.

1. Protect all rockclimbing areas and maintain harmonious access to them.
2. Act as a communications bridge between the various parties and concerns.
3. Promote awareness of rockclimbing among the local community.

Please Support THE SQUAMISH ROCK CLIMBERS ASSOCIATION!

KEEP INFORMED - ATTEND MEETINGS!

DONATIONS ARE WELCOME