2026 Annual Report



Section Chair Report | Rob Hester

It has been a personally challenging year for me. Throughout the year, our executive and section members have stepped up in many ways to fill the gaps I often left. One of the events closest to my heart is the Peter Aitchison Memorial club climb at Gooseneck. When I could not lead the trip, Astor Fenoglio, Destiny Odiway, and Sam Stevens stepped in to carry the load. The event went on as planned despite some rain, and once again, we climbed at Gooseneck as we have for more than 50 years. These were some of the many reasons I enjoy being a part of this excellent club.

We welcomed Winnipeg's newest climbing gym, The Kal, in September. We plan to bring back the popular Belays or Bouldering and Beers in January, starting at The Kal, to bring new people to this fun community event. We have lofty goals of running it more often than once a month. If you are interested in leading climbing at a local gym, then meeting at a pub or somewhere else, let us know.

The club sponsored Climb Manitoba in January to run a competition at the University of Manitoba. We also support youth development by supporting competitions at The Hive. All of this needs strong volunteer support, from judges and assistants to coaches, fundraising, and everything in between. It's great to see so many Manitoba Section members in these roles at these events. Consider donating your time to these organizations for their next event or more.

In May, the Manitoba Section sponsored the first annual Winnipeg International Mountain Film Festival. This two-day event showcased mountain films along with talks and local outdoor vendors. We look forward to supporting it again next spring.

Our Banff Mountain Film Festival Committee, led by Simon Statkewich, David Cormie, and Kurt Hull, continues to do an excellent job organizing our biggest fundraiser of the year. Funds raised at this event allow us to run our programming and give back to the community. Make sure to take advantage of the ACC Manitoba members-only presale and buy all 8 tickets you are allowed for friends and family. It's a great event and a great way to support our club.

We are your club, and we are always looking for volunteers to help us. There are roles to fill, big and small. This year, we have some big shoes to fill, as Sam Beardsel is leaving the Events Coordinator role. Please contact me or any member of our executive team if you can help.

Looking forward to a stronger year ahead!



Governance / Vice Chair Report | Marilyn McLaren

Over the past year, the Manitoba Section Executive has successfully operated under the new Section Administration Policy framework introduced by the ACC Board and Office. As we explained last year, the new framework provides consistency across the Sections of the Club and is substantially similar to the Manitoba Section by-laws.

1. Elections for the Manitoba Section executive committee will not change from past practice.
2. Decision-making by the executive committee (previously known as the Board) will not change with all committee members having an equal vote.
3. Approximately half of the committee's positions will come up for election each year, with positions having two-year terms.
4. If an executive position is vacated, the committee can fill that position until the next election. Positions that need to be filled at the time of an AGM will be put to a vote.

This year, the following positions are up for election for a two-year term:

- Chair — Rob Hester
- Section Administrator — Erica Veenstra
- Communications Lead — Karen Patterson
- Membership Services Lead — Darla Hooker

Training and Development Lead has been open, and we are very pleased to be able to nominate André DeBattista for a one-year term.



Administrator Report | Erica Veenstra

The executive met 9 times throughout the year.
All meeting minutes have been recorded and are stored in a cloud facility.
Spring gathering May 6@ Sidestage was attended by 30 members



Financial Report | Steffany Peters

The 2026 Financial Report is available at the bottom of this document, followed by the 2026 Financial Presentation.



Events and Activities Report | Sam Beardsell

We had a spectacular year running a wide variety of outdoor trips. In the winter months, we cross-country skied for overnight visits to the huts in Spruce Woods and the Mantario cabin. We kicked off the climbing season with a bouldering trip to Lac du Bonnet on April 25th. In early May, we ran the Black Sturgeon trail cleanup with The Hive. All participants received punch passes to The Hive for their efforts. We successfully ran seven bouldering trips and six roped climbing trips between April and October. A few trips had to be cancelled due to weather. Combined with our regular rope climbing trips, this was one of our most successful years in getting members outdoors.

As the interest in bouldering within the city grows, we hope to provide more opportunities to introduce members to the outdoor realm. We are discussing running next year's gym-to-crag course through The Hive to encourage new members and boulderers who are not yet members to get outdoors.

Our annual Experience the Mountains trip in July visited what some say is the crown jewel of the ACC Huts and Rocky Mountains: Elizabeth Parker Hut at Lake O'Hara. If you have not been, book a spot for 2027. Last but not least, we had two cycling trips in Winnipeg: The South Red River bike ride & North Red River. These great tours stop at loads of interesting places along the way. Definitely take one in next year.

In the future, we hope to expand our trips to hikes like the Hunt Lake trail in the Whiteshell and offer roped climbing options such as Black Sturgeon and The Forbidden Walls. If there are hikes, cliffs or bouldering areas you want to see on the list, let us know. Or even better, volunteer to assist our trip leaders next season, and eventually become a trip leader.

A massive thank you to our trip leaders for dedicating precious warm weather days to run our trips. They are the lifeblood of our club.

Bouldering areas we visited:

Lowball Land at Lac du Bonnet
Paisley Park
Jones Rhode
Echo Creek
The Forbidden Boulders
The Lookout at Lac du Bonnet

Roped climbing areas we visited:

Paisley Park
Old Baldy at White Lake
Pine Grove
Roadside
Whiskeyjacks
Gooseneck



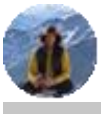
Member Services Report | Darla Hooker

As of November 1, 2026, the ACC – Manitoba Section has 268 members, up from 225 in November 2025.

It has now been one year since the Alpine Club of Canada launched its new online member portal. The portal gives members a convenient, centralized location to renew and manage their memberships. Members can access information about hut bookings, volunteer opportunities, and courses offered by the National Club. Members can also access publications, including the *Alpine Journal*, *Gazette*, and *State of the Mountains Report*.

Most members have transitioned to the new portal, which has made membership management easier and more efficient. The portal includes an online waiver for both youth and adult members. Once signed, the waiver remains valid for one year and covers participation in all Section events. This has streamlined the waiver process and eliminated the need for trip leaders to collect paper waivers from participants at individual events.

Alpine Club members receive the following discounts:
50% off apparel and 40% off gear at The North Face online.
20% off Rocky Talkie products.



Communications Report | Dre DeBattista

The communications committee, formed in 2025, has worked to revise our section's communications strategy. We have revised sponsorship framework, migrated our email services, updated our banners, and are planning to release some new merchandise.

We aim to portray our section as the premier Manitoban source for guidance in all things 'alpine.' This has been our identity for decades, providing a path for the uninitiated to access

the mountains. We have done so in providing experiential learning to our members, and we want to further this through informative and amusing public engagement online and in person. The goal is to show people what to expect as a member and how we give back to our community.

The sponsorship revision involved a scan of potential events in our broader community which we could engage with. The new policy and agreement template will allow us to better serve community events. Modern sponsorship packages include social media mentions, and these partnerships will help us reach new audiences.

We migrated our email service to Constant Contact because they offer a considerable discount to non-profit organizations. We needed an upgrade, maxing out our free contact list on Mailchimp, but their subscription costs would have been near triple that of the option we elected to use. It has reduced the friction when sending out member newsletters and we will use it for the first time to advertise to our Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour contact list this winter.

Graphic materials like banners and merchandise needed to be revised to include the new club logo. At the same time, we wanted to showcase some of our recent member activities, add QR codes leading people to our website and revise the taglines. Keep an eye out for new merchandise in 2027.



Librarian Report | David Cormie

The Club continues to maintain a small but extensive collection (221 items) of books (both fiction and non-fiction), journals, guidebooks, how-to guides, videos, and CDs related to mountaineering, mountain culture and skills development. The library also includes the Club's meeting minute archives from the 1990s. This library is maintained by the Club's librarian from his home.

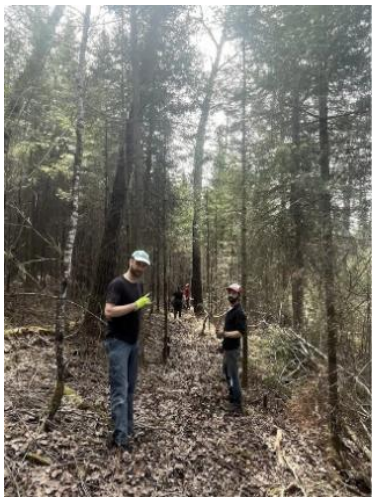
A searchable listing of the collection is available online on the Club's website.



Access and Environment Report | David Cormie

2026 Environment Fund Grant Request

Last January, the Club applied for an Environment Grant from the National office for $1100 to cover 50% of the costs to install two green thrones at throne-worthy locations. Previously, the Club had been successful following a similar application, with the encouraging words “This type of project is exactly the focus of the Environment Fund program”. We were advised several months later that our 2026 grant request had been denied in deference to more grant worthy projects.





Black Sturgeon Lake



Last spring the Club, in conjunction with The Hive Climbing and Fitness, undertook a trail improvement activity at Black Sturgeon Lake climbing cliffs. Approximately a dozen volunteers were involved in cleaning and rerouting the trail to avoid a low wet section. A big thanks is owed to The Hive for donating punch passes and membership to several lucky participants. Special recognition is owed to the Kesellman brothers (who have a cottage nearby) who opened up the cliffs to climb a few years ago. And it wasn’t all work! Some climbing was enjoyed too.

Statement of Financial Position

October 31,	2026	2025
Assets		
Cash	43,255	39,399
Investments	30,678	28,687
Venue Deposits (Note 1)	1,200	-
Total Assets	75,133	68,086
Liabilities		
Mount Manitoba Film sponsorship	1,000	-
Wilderness First Aid (Note 2)	1,200	900
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	72,933	67,186
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	75,133	68,086

Statement of Operations

Year Ended October 31,	2026	2025
Revenue		
BMFF	39,994	42,289
Reel Rock	-	4,052
Membership Revenue	2,248	2,136
Miscellaneous (Note 3)	2,058	698
Total Revenue	44,300	49,175
Expenses		
BMFF Expenses	22,372	22,911
Reel Rock Expenses	-	4,386
Gear and Equipment (Note 4)	2,020	2,156
Crag Maintenance (Note 5)	469	379
Meetings (Note 6)	3,346	4,040
Bank Fees	69	147
Advertising (Note 7)	4,250	1,100
Activities and Member Benefits (Note 8)	4,303	500
Software (Note 9)	1,724	-
Total Expenses	38,553	35,619
Excess of Revenues over Expenses	5,747	13,556

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended October 31,	2026	2025
Net Assets – Beginning of Year	67,186	53,630
Excess of Revenues over Expenses	5,747	13,556
Net Assets – End of Year	72,933	67,186

Fund Balances

October 31,	2026	2025
Cash and Equivalents		
Cash	43,255	39,399
Investments	30,678	28,687
Total	73,933	67,186
Represented By:		
Investment Fund	30,000	n/a
Operating Fund	38,056	n/a
Community Fund	5,877	n/a
Total	73,933	n/a

Note 1 – Venue Deposits

October 31,	2026	2025
Feb. 2027 Banff Mountain Film Festival	1,000	-
Nov. 2026 AGM	200	-
Total	1,200	-

Note 2 – Wilderness First Aid

Wilderness First Aid liability consists of deposits for the November 2025 Wilderness First Aid training course. Participants who successfully completed the course and meet the trip leader requirements by November 30, 2026 are eligible to have their deposit reimbursed. As at October 31, 2026, $2,700 out of a total $3,900 in deposits have been refunded.

Note 3 – Miscellaneous Revenue

Year Ended October 31,	2026	2025
Proceeds on sale of donated gear	-	110
Book sales	15	-
Bank interest	52	40
Investment income	1,991	548
Total	2,058	698

Note 4 – Gear and Equipment

Year Ended October 31,	2026	2025
New ropes	638	543
GriGris and carabiners	217	-
Rocky Talkie chargers	90	-
Satellite phone minutes	1,075	1,613
Total	2,020	2,156

Note 5 – Crag Maintenance

Year Ended October 31,	2026	2025
Thrones – installation	-	163
Echo revival	-	216
Chainsaw repairs & maintenance	469	-
Total	469	379

Note 6 – Meetings

Year Ended October 31,	2026	2025
AGM	2,165	1,724
Spring meeting	705	1,456
Christmas party	-	586
Trip leader orientation	187	134
Board meetings	289	140
Total	3,346	4,040

Note 7 – Advertising

Year Ended October 31,	2026	2025
Bouldering guidebook ad	-	500
Lac Lu Ice Fest donation	250	100
Honey Dill sponsorship	250	200
Climb Manitoba sponsorship	250	-
Canadian Alpine Journal donation	300	300
Marketing materials	700	-
Winnipeg International Mountain Film Festival	500	-
Mount Manitoba Film sponsorship	2,000	-
Total	4,250	1,100

Note 8 – Activities and Member Benefits

Year Ended October 31,	2026	2025
Trip leader recognition	500	500
Wilderness First Aid	3,593	-
Mantario ski trip	210	-
Total	4,303	500

Note 9 – Software

Year Ended October 31,	2026	2025
Website (2-year renewal)	960	-
Microsoft 365	411	-
Constant Contact	353	-
Total	1,724	-

Download the **AGM Financial Presentation 2026**

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