



2025 Annual Report



Section Chair Report | Rob Hester

It has been a great year serving as your chair to the Manitoba Section of the Alpine Club of Canada. Along with the work that our executive leads are doing, here are some other highlights:

Our National Office initiated a replacement of the current IT System. The new system will provide a smoother user experience for membership renewal and hut booking. They have been making great progress toward the end goal, and we can expect a full release in the next month.

Our Section adopted Microsoft 365 for our executive team. This allows us to collaborate on documents like this one, hold online meetings in Teams, and unify our email @accmanitoba.ca. We are not utilizing all its features yet, but we are making good progress.

Belays or Bouldering and Beers continues to bring out new people to this fun community event. We have lofty goals of running it more often than once or twice a month, but we have not been doing so. If you are interested in leading climbing at a local gym, then meeting at a pub or somewhere else, let me know. Speaking of Bouldering, the club sponsored an ad in the Manitoba & Kenora Bouldering Guidebook released in May. If you do not have a copy, get one! It is an incredible book created by club members Chris Tarry and Matt Gain.

The club sponsored the Canadian Western Regional Bouldering finals at The Hive in May. This was the largest climbing event ever held in Winnipeg, with over 150 athletes participating. The club has been working with Climb Manitoba to sponsor young athletes to compete in climbing competitions. The club will continue this in 2026 by sponsoring more local competitions. We continue to make connections with the community through the Banff Mountain Film Fest and our event sponsorships.

I would like to extend a Big Thank-You to our hard-working Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour Committee. Watching Simon, David, and Curt in action is something special. These three have taken the reins on this committee for years, and it runs like a well-oiled machine. Every year, improvements to the audience experience make this such a great success.

All this needs to be underscored with one final comment: We are your club, and we are always looking for volunteers to help us. There are roles to fill, big and small. Please contact me or any member of our executive if you can help.



Governance /Vice Chair Report | Marilyn McLaren & Rob Hester

The National Office created a template for sections to create their own Administration Policy. Our section used the template to help us cross the finish line on creating our policy. This work has been years in the making. The policy will guide us in the future and help us, as a membership, understand how we operate. This is a living document that will be reviewed and updated as the executive advances our club's goals. Please take some time to review it for yourself. It can be found on our website, under Club\Governance. Contact us if you have any questions.



Administrator Report | Erica Veenstra

The executive met 10 times throughout the year (did not meet in July and August). All meeting minutes have been recorded and are stored in a cloud facility. The annual Spring gathering, held on May 7 at Montecchio Restaurant, was attended by 32 members.



Financial Report | Steffany Peters

The Financial Report can be viewed in the 2025 AGM Financial Presentation slideshow, available for download from the AGM 2025 website.

2025 AGM - Manitoba

Financial Report

Events and Activities Report | Astor Fenoglio & Rob Hester

In 2025, the club ran 25 events with 21 trip leaders. We started the year with four winter events and got out to five Belays or Boulders and Beers, before spring came along, and we hit the boulders, cliffs, bike trails and mountains.

Places we visited included the following:

Winter - Spruce Woods, Mt Evergreen Ski Park in Kenora, Mantario Cabin

Belays or Boulders and Beers - U of M ALC wall, Vertical Adventures, The Hive

Riding – Southeast Winnipeg and the Forks.

Bouldering – Lac du Bonnet, Echo (twice), Jones, Paisley Park, The Narrows

Climbing – Jones Road, The Canadian Rockies, Panorama, The Narrows, Gooseneck, South Cliff, and the new kid on the block, Pine Grove

If you have not been to one or more of the places mentioned above, sign up for a trip next year. If you have any ideas or requests for places you would like to go, let us know!



Member Services Report | André DeBattista

As of November 26, 2025, we are at 225 members, down from 249 last year and 189 in 2024. There was a sharp decline in membership this September, which aligns with a sharp increase in memberships at the same time last year.

That spike last year was mostly due to 27 free memberships distributed through the University of Manitoba Climbing Club's Student Outdoor Club program. Some of these members engaged with the club's Belays/Boulders and Beers events and one or two club climbs, but perhaps we didn't engage with them enough as a club to retain them.

Welcome, all new members of the ACC Manitoba Section. New members are always welcome to contact us with any questions they have by email: info@accmanitoba.ca





Communications Report | André DeBattista

The first year of my term in communications was an effort to bring the club's communications practices up to date and learn about our membership. The club adopted a Microsoft 365 workspace for internal communications, and it is considering how to proceed with the newsletter email service. A new sponsorship framework was adopted, and a member engagement survey will come soon. We've learned that our Instagram posts receive more attention than Facebook and that the Digital Lounge received almost exclusively bot traffic. The Digital Lounge may be closed if there is no need for it. The Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour advertising campaign was a success, nearly selling out the venue, whereas the Reel Rock Film Festival event needs more support to continue. A Communications Committee was established in November, comprising Karen Patterson, Michelle Westman, Rob Hester, and André DeBattista. Together, the committee will be better equipped to meet the club's communication needs.



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

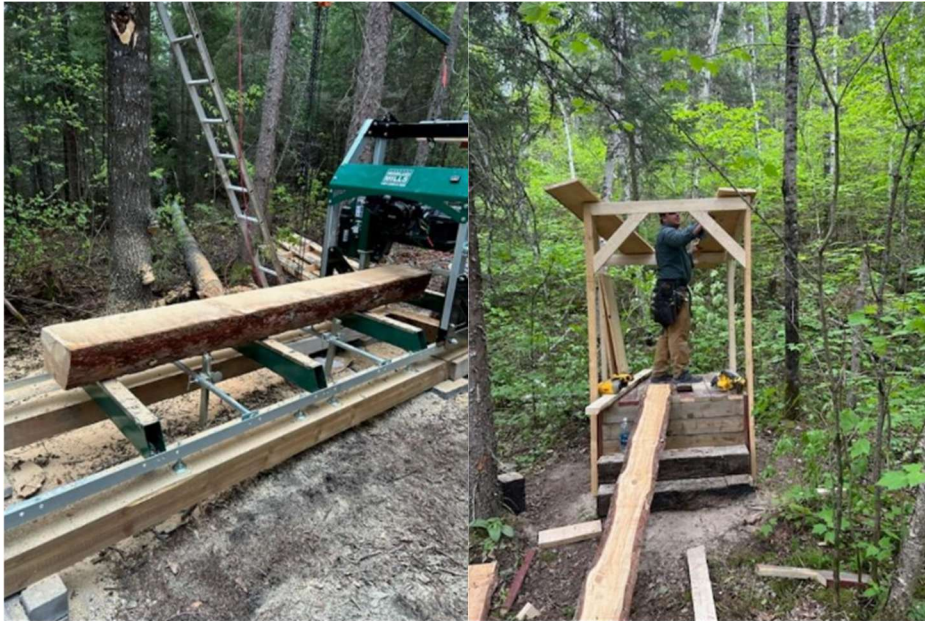
Two environmentally important projects involving the Manitoba Section were undertaken this year in northwestern Ontario.

Echo Creek Outhouse Reconstruction

The dilapidated wooden outhouse at Echo Creek has been a target for replacement for years. It was so deteriorated that many were afraid to use it. So, in 2024, our club planned to replace it with a green throne and applied for and received a partial funding grant from the National ACC Office.

However, it wasn't until the spring of 2025 that planning for the work began. When two local climbers, Steve Theriault and Jordon Fisher (club member), learned of our intention to install a green throne, they insisted on building a brand-new wooden outhouse instead. So, in late May and early June 2025, they proceeded to replace it using boards milled from local Red Pine.

Thanks, Steve and Jordan, for your efforts. It now looks too nice for an outhouse!



Pic Lake Green Throne Installation

Using the green throne that was originally bought for Echo Creek, a work crew led by Rob Hester decided to install a proper toilet facility at Pic Lake, where two separate areas were being used for human waste, both too close to the lake and camp. In early September, Rob and his crew found a great spot uphill from the lake for the throne. In addition to installing the toilet, the crew took the opportunity to clean up garbage that was strewn about and mark an easy access trail. Signs were placed in the camp and at the old 'toilet areas' indicating the location of the new facilities.

Thanks to Rob and the others on his crew for taking care of the environment at this location.



Learn More about the ACC's Access and Environment Activities

To learn more about the ACC's Access and Environment activities at the national level, visit the ACC's website at the following link. Here you can learn about the ACC's Values and Principles of Action and about its Access Partnerships and Access Organizations, which share and foster the interests of self-propelled outdoor enthusiasts.

<https://alpineclubofcanada.ca/environment/>

Training & Development Report | Rob Hester

This position is currently vacant, but that did not stop our executive from moving ahead on this important role for our club. We believe focusing on training and development for our membership is one of the best ways we can give back to our community. On November 29 + 30, the club organized a Wilderness First Aid course. Participants who successfully complete the course and exam will receive the Wilderness Medical Association's certification. This organization is internationally recognized, and its courses are often required for higher-level certification for many guiding bodies, such as the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides (ACMG). The club has set aside funds to cover the cost of the course for our trip leaders who have run two trips for the club in one year.

Nominations Committee

The following positions were vacant from our last year's AGM or are up for election this year, and nominations are open for a two-year term from 2025-2027.

The following members have put forward their names to stand for nomination:

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| • Vice Chair: | Marilyn McLaren |
| • Finance Administrator: | Steffany Peters |
| • Access & Environment Lead: | David Cormie |
| • Activities Lead: | Sam Beardsel |
| • Membership Lead: | Darla Hooker |
| • Training & Development Lead: | -Open- |