

Pre Ice Age plants on British Columbia mountain

A number of rare alpine plants have been discovered near a cave containing many ancient animal skeletons, on the remote northwest corner of Vancouver Island.

British Columbia Museum botanists Bob Ogilvie and Adolf Ceska collected samples of the plants, which they say could be descended from some that escaped the last Ice Age. They say the top of the

mountain containing the limestone cave may harbour as many as 134 plant species.

Among the rarest plants found were Britton's bladder fern, a new hybrid; slender cliff-brake, rare on the west coast; and moonwort, a species found in the western United States but until now unknown in Canada. Several plant species have been previously found only on the

Olympic Peninsula of Washington State and the Queen Charlotte Islands — areas of the Pacific Northwest missed by the last Ice Age.

The botanists found other rare plants on nearby limestone peaks. Yellow mountain avens had been previously found on Vancouver Island only as a 10 000-year-old fossil in a gravel deposit near Parksville and hybrid spleenwort had never before been discovered outside central Europe.

Mr. Ogilvie and Mr. Ceska said these plants probably survived on mountain peaks above the glaciers that exterminated all the surrounding vegetation 13 000 to 16 000 years ago.

Mr. Ogilvie said there is one more season of work left in a three-year survey at the cave. "It's slow work doing these studies because of the short season," he said. The growing season at high elevations is confined to late August and early September.

An ecological reserve proposal has been submitted for the area containing the plants and cave. Bones of a bear that died about 9 300 years ago were found among other animal skeletons inside the cave at the base of 80-metre cliffs.

The site was discovered by a group of cave explorers. They sent the bones to a provincial museum archeologist who had the find carbon-dated.

Canada sweeps curling championships



Canapress

The men's world champion curling rink with (left to right) skip Al Hackner, third Rick Lang, second Ian Tetley and lead Pat Perroud, raise the trophy after winning the Canadian men's championship in Moncton, New Brunswick and gaining a berth in the world championships.

The Canadian champion men's team from Thunder Bay, Ontario, won the Air Canada Silver Broom world championship held in Glasgow, Scotland this year, to give Canada an unprecedented sweep of the three major curling titles.

Previously, Linda Moore's team from North Vancouver, British Columbia, won the women's crown in Sweden and Bob Ursel skipped his Winnipeg, Manitoba rink to the men's world junior championship. (See *Canada Weekly*, April 10, 1985.)

The Canadian and world champion men's team was skipped by Al Hackner, with Rick Lang, third, Ian Tetley, second and Pat Perroud, lead.

The victory for Al Hackner and Rick Lang was the second in four years. They also won the 1982 Silver Broom championship in West Germany.

For Canada, the 1985 title was the ninth since the Silver Broom was sanctioned by

the International Curling Federation in 1968.

In the final game in Glasgow, the Canadian team defeated Sweden's Stefan Hasselborg with a 6-2 win. The Canadian team controlled the game after scoring three in the third end to open a 3-1 lead. The victory marked the first time a Canadian rink has defeated Sweden in the Silver Broom final.

Canada had moved into the final with a 9-4 semi-final victory over Tim Wright of the United States. Sweden defeated Denmark to play in the final.

This year, the Hackner rink lost its first game of the Ontario finals but won the rest and a berth in the Canadian championship. The Ontario rink finished second behind Pat Ryan's Alberta rink, who went undefeated in the round-robin. Hackner, who finished with a 7-4 record, won his semi-final and then defeated Pat Ryan in the final to win the Canadian championship and a berth in the world championship.

Continual growth for forms firm

A forms-manufacturing firm in Edmonton, Alberta, which services small- and medium-sized businesses, has continued to grow every year since it was founded in 1974.

Factor Forms Limited's owner Barney Baker said the company "has never had a no-growth year", and he expects the trend to continue.

In 1982, the company's sales were \$2.75 million. Sales reached \$3.75 million in 1984 and Mr. Baker expects billings of \$5 million in 1985.

Mr. Baker said that partly because of the company's position as the major western supplier of computerized invoices, statements and letterheads, Factor Forms has captured some 50 per cent of the trade segment of the forms-manufacturing business in western Canada.

Factor Forms is the only forms-manufacturing company in western Canada that serves the trade sector exclusively — printers, stationers, jobbing brokers and computer software developers, who supply customized invoices, statements, counter receipts and letterheads to small and medium-sized businesses.