

pitch is 90 meters of Grade 5. In Ontario, on the northern tip of Lake Superior, lies a 12-mile gorge named Orient Bay. The area is emerging as a new site of water ice activity. Centered around the town of Nipigon, Orient Bay has some 150 named routes. Nearby sites such as Kama Bay and Ice Station Superior offer another 75 routes.

*Mount Geikie, North Face.* A new route was established on the 4,000-foot north face of Mt. Geikie in the Canadian Rockies. From July 23 to August 2 Scott Simper and Seth Shaw climbed continuous crack systems through the overhanging headwall to the right of the Lowe/Hannibal route. Two ledge systems split the route into thirds. The first section was mostly fourth-class climbing with a few pitches of 5.9. The second section was nearly vertical with sustained free climbing and some aid. The third section was overhanging but with moderate climbing of A1 with a few hard spots. The currently nameless route goes at VI+ 5.10 A3+.

*Canadian Rockies, Winter Ice Activity.* The 1996-1997 winter in the Canadian Rockies turned out to be perhaps the most prodigious season ever—not for the new route total (which was less than half of each of the previous three seasons), nor for the number of established routes formed (most venues north of Lake Louise were well below average), but for the mass of climbers that descended upon the area beginning in early February.

By late October *The Terminator* (150 meters, V WI 6) formed for the first time since 1986 on Mount Rundle near Banff. Added to the mix, the *Troubled Dreams* (WI 6+ M8) start to *The Replicant* (145 meters, V WI 6+) formed up as easy Grade 5 ice. And if that wasn't enough, by mid-December the ephemeral *Sea of Vapors* (165 meters, V WI 7+) came into being with nothing but fat, solid ice, thus becoming the easiest line on the wall (WI 5-). Other Rundle plums like *La Goute* (50 meters, IV WI 6+) and *Shampoo Planet* (190 meters, III 5.9+ WI 3R) also formed alongside several new mixed routes. An early report in *Climbing* magazine and endless raving on the Internet brought the visiting climbers by the busload. The early reports stated it was a banner year for the Rockies. Yet aside from The Rundle area and The Vermilion Pass region in Kootenay Park, the rest of the range was rather dry. Combine this with extended periods of high avalanche hazard, bitter cold and deep snow, and the throngs were confined to a rather small selection of routes that centered around the Rundle Wall. As soon as the cold spell snapped in early February all three of the major Rundle routes had line-ups virtually every day of the week for the rest of the winter. The carnage was so great that by mid-March climbers were leaving the car by 1 a.m. only to shiver in the pre-dawn dark for three hours just to lay claim to their route of choice. The Terminator area has for years been known as simply The Terminator Wall or, more recently, The Rundle Wall. However, after this season's circus a more appropriate name became required and was applied by Tim Pochay. It is now known as The Trophy Wall.

After everyone realized all three Trophy Wall routes were easy picking, the obvious challenge became to do all three in a single day. First up to the queue were Ken Wylie and Keith Haberl. In order to beat the crowds they employed blockers. While they ascended *Troubled Dreams* via headlamp, they had friends get onto *Sea of Vapors* (referred to as "Sea of Anchors" by the end of the season). While the pair made their way up *The Terminator*, their friends kept the ensuing hoards off *The Sea* until they were down and ready to complete the triumvirate. An unfortunate, but necessary tactic considering the crowds. In March, François Damilano and Guy Lacelle repeated the effort—but they had no crowds to worry about. The weather kept all other suitors away as the temperature in Banff that morning was -27°C! A week later when it warmed up,