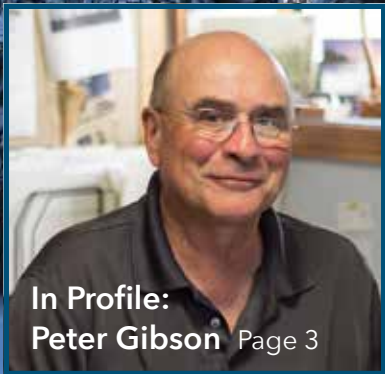
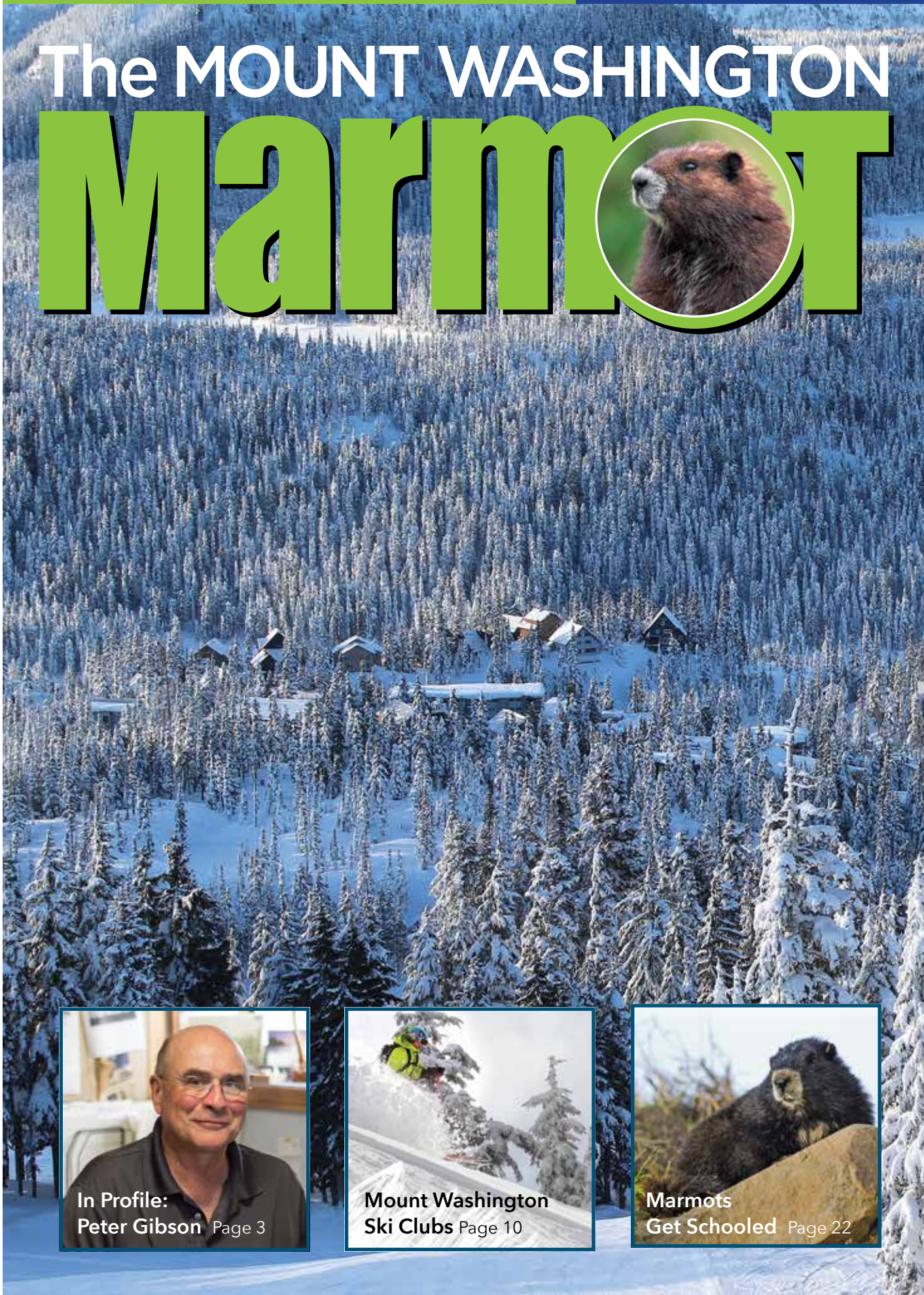


The MOUNT WASHINGTON Marmot



In Profile:
Peter Gibson Page 3



Mount Washington
Ski Clubs Page 10



Marmots
Get Schooled Page 22

Photo: Neil Havers



Talon Noble moves up the
Canadian Ranks Page 11

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Mount Washington
Resort Association
Moving Forward
Page 5



In Profile:

Pacific Group Resorts & Resort Expansion

After two years spent studying operations at Mount Washington Alpine Resort through winter and summer seasons, new owners Pacific Group Resorts is starting to move ahead with infrastructure and capital expenditures.

Pacific Group Resorts, based in Park City, Utah, describes itself as “an international collection of geographically diversified Resorts.” Each of its properties is purposefully situated less than a three-hour drive from one or more metropolitan markets.

Their American Resorts include Wisp

Resort in Maryland, Wintergreen Resort in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and Ragged Mountain near Boston, Massachusetts and Manchester, New Hampshire.

Mount Washington Alpine Resort is PGR's first foray into the Canadian ski resort industry, and so far it's been an interesting journey, says Mark Fischer, Executive Vice-President of Pacific Group Resorts.

“There's certainly some differences; different ways of doing things. Generally they're both good market based economies and the logic behind everything is pretty much the same,” he said.

“You people up in Canada are spectacular. It's absolutely beautiful up there; we're delighted to be up there.”

Pacific Group Resorts purchased Mount Washington two years ago and after two full winters and summers of studying operations and working in the background at Mount Washington, PGR is starting to make changes.

Two areas of emphasis for the company are snowmaking and summer activities. Extensive planning has taken place for snowmaking infrastructure, along with two winters of experimentation.

“We always put emphasis on summer business. Otherwise you have an asset that's only working three or four months out of the year,” says Fischer.

The Resort is only part of the package at Mount Washington, and at all of Pacific Group Resorts' properties. The company, including its predecessor Pacific Group, has built more than 1,000 real estate projects in more than 30 years, and Mount Washington will be no different.

Pacific Group Resorts has put two pieces of property up for sale, each approximately four acres, which would be suitable for townhomes, condos or a hotel.

The philosophy at PGR, according to their website, is “a lift ticket provides a day's worth of memories, but a vacation home provides celebrations for a lifetime.”

While the real estate market may be hungry for new development at Mount Washington, Fischer said there is a limit when it comes to commercial development. A previous ownership group talked a couple of decades ago of creating a commercial core for Mount Washington, but Fischer said Pacific Group Resorts is not looking at the same type of plan.

“We're not Whistler, we don't have two million people coming through our place every year,” he said. “We've got about 10 per cent of that.”

A commercial core of retail and restaurants doesn't make sense for the market, he said. Take a look at eateries, for example: the Resort added Eagle View Bistro last year and ran it through the summer. “We now have three restaurants in the building plus a cafeteria. There are four food outlets in (the Alpine Lodge). Except on the busiest days we don't max out,” Fischer said.

“We don't see a great deal more demand for restau-

rants. “We have to be realistic of the demand up there. It's not like some places where you build it and they will come. We can only build to what the place can handle.”

Mount Washington is also uniquely positioned on Vancouver Island, which has a population of approximately 750,000, not including tourists. “I'm of the opinion that we want to meet demand and provide the opportunity to have a good vacation,” Fischer said.

“We have to be prudent in our investments.”

Pacific Group Resorts has begun investing in its first Canadian Resort with cosmetic work on the exterior of the Alpine Lodge with plans for a patio for the Eagle View Bistro next summer, to \$145,000 in new ski and snowboard rentals and the purchase of a \$300,000 Nordic Cat.

One of the larger and longer-term plans the Resort is working on is installing a snowmaking system. (See story Page 4) Snowmaking is a priority for Pacific Group Resorts at its other properties, and although Mount Washington is known for its big snow years, Mark Fischer, Executive Vice-President of Pacific Group Resorts said such a system would still be a benefit. Snowmaking is like an insurance policy for a regular opening day.

A full snowmaking system, including hydro and water systems and a pumphouse, could run the Resort \$15 million over 10 - 12 years.

Once the snow begins to melt, thoughts turn to summer, and how to give visitors the ideal summer experience.

“The Bike Park exceeded expectations,” Fischer said. Expect to see more emphasis on the Mountain Bike Park, including new or streamlined terrain and new rentals. The Resort spent \$50,000 on new mountain bikes for rentals this year; they will continue to switch them out on a timely basis to make the latest technology available for visitors.

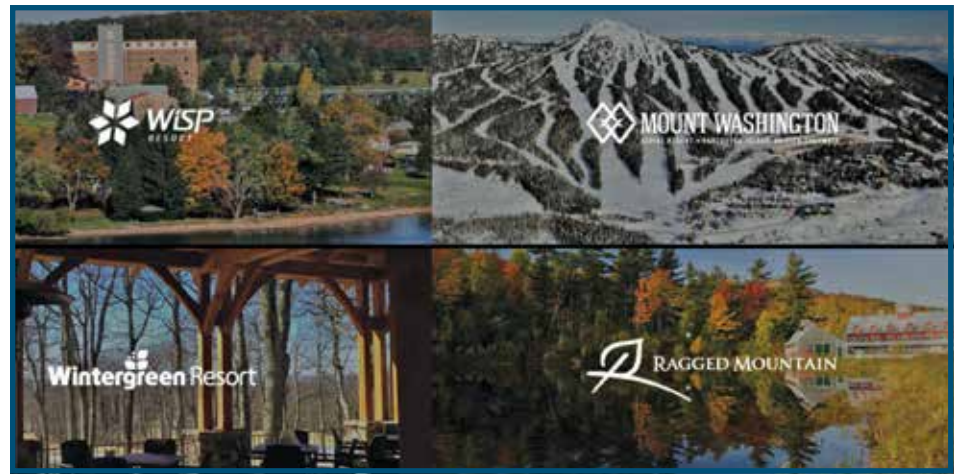
“You will see us slowly start to add summer programs and activities,” says Fischer. “It's so pretty up there in the summer... we'd like to have more for people to do.”

“We've had four generations of families up here now,” says Peter Gibson, the Resort's General Manager, who will retire at the end of the 2017-18 winter season. “It's the biggest winter draw on Vancouver Island. I'd like to see it continue with more focus on summer.”

While the Whiskey Jack Chairlift was painted green this summer as part of a plan to make all the lifts blend in with their natural surroundings, Fischer says there are no immediate plans to add or replace any chairlifts.

“The lifts last 40 - 50 years; the oldest lift we have is Whiskey Jack and it's been extremely well maintained by George (Trousdel, Director of Operations and Maintenance) and his guys,”

Continued on page 20



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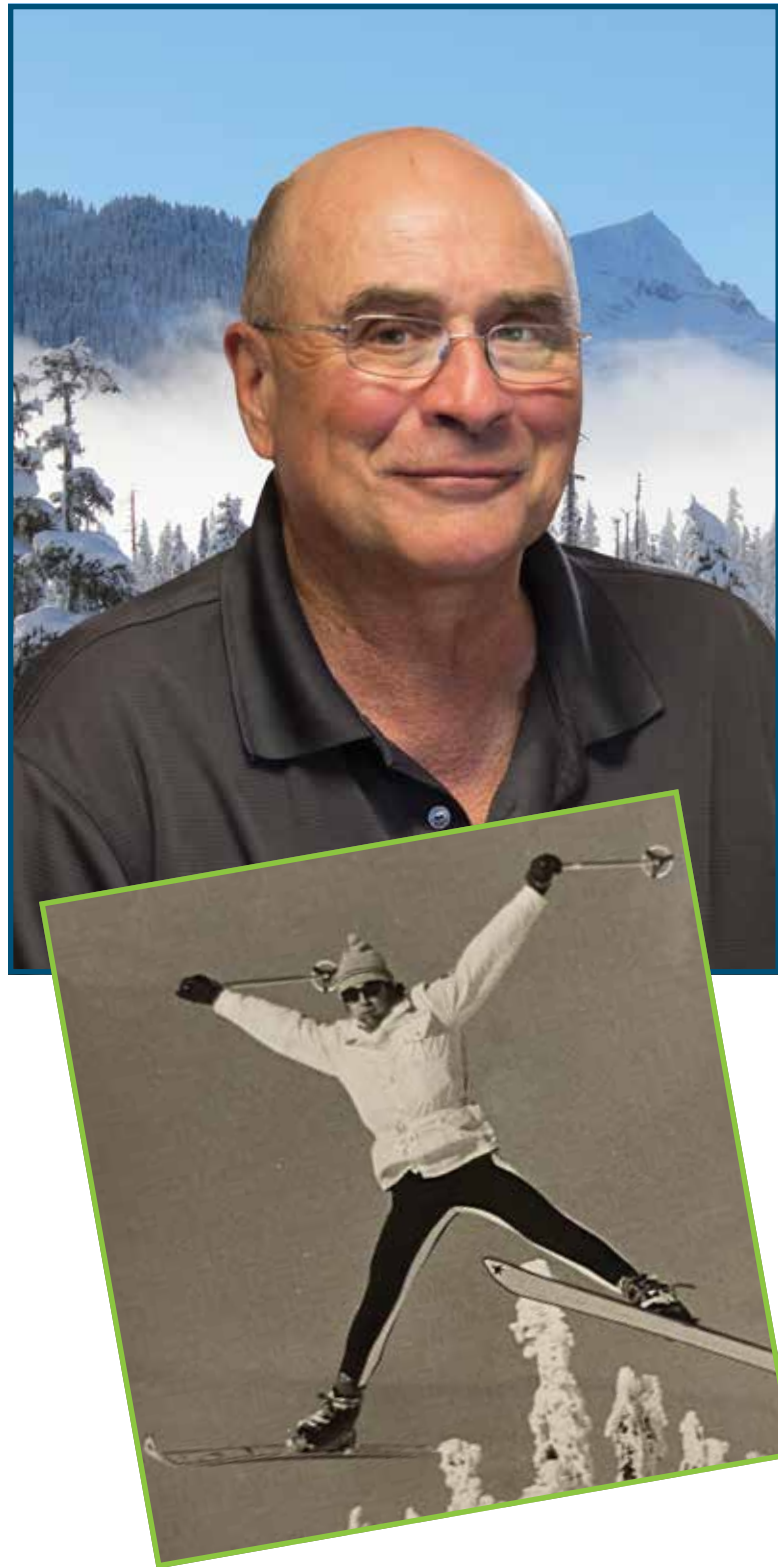
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Photos submitted



Top: Peter Gibson announces his retirement in 2017.
Below: Peter Gibson flying high at the start of a lifetime love affair with skiing and the industry.

In Profile: Peter Gibson

After 41 years of working at Mount Washington Alpine Resort, General Manager Peter Gibson has announced he will retire at the end of the 2017-18 ski season.

Gibson has been involved with the Resort since May 1977, shortly after the late Alex Linton and Henry Norie flew over the mountain and realized there was a skiing dream on the backside of the peak.

"I started having thoughts last October," says Gibson. "I made my decision early summer but we kept it under wraps."

"I've had one of the greatest runs in the ski industry. To be able to be at one area for four decades, and to help it develop from scratch into one of the top Resorts in Canada has been a privilege and a lot of fun," he says.

"To have a job in your home town and to be able to do something that has been a passion all my life is a dream come true."

Gibson started skiing at Forbidden Plateau in the Comox Valley when he was a child, and by the time he was 16 he was a full-fledged ski instructor. After graduating from Courtenay High School in 1967, he completed a Bachelor of Arts degree and Professional Teaching degree at the University of BC that he put to good use doing what came naturally: teaching skiing.

In addition to teaching at Forbidden Plateau and Mount Washington, Gibson also taught at Grouse Mountain and Whistler. In search of an endless winter, he was able to take an extended holiday and teach skiing at Ben Lomond, a ski area in Tasmania, Australia, during Canadian summers from 1989-92.

Gibson started with Mount Washington two years before the ski hill opened for business in 1979. For those first two summers his primary duty was operating a chainsaw and running the trail crew as they created the ski runs for the mountain.

"I was helping the founders figure out how to build the trails and infrastructure for the ski hill, but there was lots more that needed to be done, so while we cut trees we also planned the overall Resort and figured out how Ski School, Rentals and Resort Operations were going to work once the place opened," he explained.

All the brainstorming and planning paid off, and Gibson was named Director of Skiing when the Resort opened. Over time he assumed greater responsibilities including Guest Services Manager and Director of Marketing. In 1999 he was appointed General Manager and in 2001 he became the President of Mount Washington.

Over the years, the opportunity to get out on the slopes during the work week became tougher, but Gibson doesn't rule out getting back to the sport he's been doing since he was 10 years old. "I'm still passionate about the sport," he says. "You don't just go cold turkey."

Gibson will spend the next few months helping the Resort transition to a new GM. After that, he doesn't have any specific plans. "I have a farm and May is planting month," he says. "In springtime I find myself out in the garden."

Gibson has lived on his six-acre farm since before his children were born - about 25 years. The orchard, greenhouse and vegetable garden take up his leisure time during skiing's off-season. He has raised sheep in the past, and is thinking of bringing in a couple of beef cattle next spring.

"Things will come my way. I don't have plans to do much of anything."

Pacific Group Resorts has already started looking for a new General Manager, and Gibson expects one to be in place before the end of the winter, to give him a chance to mentor his successor.

Continued on page 21





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Photo Neil Havers



Make It Snow. Make It Snow. Make it Snow.

Mount Washington Alpine Resort continues with its long-term plans to install a snowmaking system on the mountain in several areas.

Resort Director of Operations and Maintenance George Trousdell and his crew have been testing snowmaking machinery in several different sites over the past two winters, especially the Beginners' area, and have designed a long-term plan that will see snowmaking in several different locations once everything is built.

'Snowmaking' is basically crystallizing water and placing it in specific places. "It's the same stuff that falls out of the sky, there's no chemicals in it," says Peter Gibson, the Resort's General Manager. "It's water we're pumping into the air and it's freezing. We're not depleting the resource."

Snowmaking is environmentally sound, says Trousdell, in that the snow melts, the water goes back into the ground and it stays within the watershed. "We're really recycling the water."

The Resort is looking 10 - 12 years in the future with its snowmaking plans, and planning that extensively took more time this year than anyone anticipated, says Trousdell.

"For the most part our plan is all in place; when we get the go-ahead from head office we'll see the next phase," he says.

The build-out cost for the entire system? "We're probably looking at \$15 million." *Continued on page 20*

Photo submitted



Gimme Shelter..

Mount Washington's fire service has a new fire truck... but no Hall in which to put it yet.

Procuring the fire truck is just one of several steps the Mount Washington Fire Service Steering Group has taken in the past few months to ensure the Resort community has fire protection.

After nearly a year of study and negotiation, Manager of Fire Service James Bast said the Comox Valley Regional District was poised to choose a Fire Department and sign a Service Agreement after the Marmot Newspaper went to press.

Staff had reviewed proposals from Courtenay and Cumberland Fire Departments and Oyster River Fire Rescue. Bast said once the agreement is signed, a Fire Department would be able to respond to fires on Mount Washington as early as December 2017.

While there was talk of creating a Volunteer Fire Department for Mount Washington, Bast said that's not feasible. "In order to be a firefighter the Province has pretty strict training regulations," and creating a small group to train on its own would be cost prohibitive.

If anyone is interested in volunteering

they should approach whichever Department is chosen for the service agreement, and join their Team. "They would be training with their comrades in the fight and there's nothing more valuable than that," he said.

The Regional District had an opportunity to acquire a GMC pumper truck from the Fanny Bay Fire Department for a transfer price of \$10,000 - much less than having to pay full price for a truck, Bast said.

"The truck itself was a transfer from another department of the Comox Valley Regional District; the price was reasonable," he said.

The Fanny Bay Department is required to replace its trucks every 20 years, and had to buy a new truck. The Regional District felt it would be economical to pay the transfer fee for the old Fanny Bay truck now.

"It's got no miles on it. The truck is in really good shape and we needed it; it just made sense that we sell it essentially to ourselves," Bast said.

The truck will remain in storage until the fire hall is built, in late 2018 at the earliest.

Continued on page 21

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Mount Washington Resort Association Moving Forward with Key Initiatives

With a new website, a resounding response to its Stakeholder Survey, and winter marketing plans in place, the Mount Washington Resort Association (MWRA) has undertaken a hive of recent activity.

Over the summer MWRA launched its new website at DiscoverMountWashington.com.

The site was designed to capture the mountain atmosphere, things to do, and places to stay, and will be the call to action for various MWRA marketing and communication initiatives, while the Vancouver Island Visitor Centre is supporting interested mountain visitors with real time Q&A support during its seven-day-a-week operations.

Given the Mount Washington area is an integral part of the Comox Valley, how it develops and thrives in future years matters to a broad range of individuals, businesses, user groups and associations.

A survey was released in October to capture input and help determine future efforts and stewardship on the mountain.

The MWRA, in conjunction with the Comox Valley Economic Development Society (CVEDS), together with the support of a third party contractor, developed the MWRA Stakeholder Survey as part of MWRA's efforts to consider its future role and priorities.

"The MWRA Board believed it was time to completely reevaluate its mandate, focus, and structure to best determine its future primary functions as it relates to meeting a range of needs from a wide spectrum of mountain users," said the MWRA Board of Directors.

More than 480 individuals responded to the survey, which provided stakeholders the opportunity to comment on everything from mountain services to community vibrancy.

The survey is part of the Invigorate MWRA Project, which will also include open house sessions for interested stakeholders to comment directly on the future of the association.

Keep up to date on news, events and on-mountain activities via the MWRA social media handles:

Twitter: @TourismMountWashington,
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Online: DiscoverMountWashington.com.

For visitor information, drop by the Vancouver Island Visitor Centre on your way to Mount Washington, located just off of Highway 19 at Exit #117, or call 1-855-400-2882.



A Tale of Three Gibsons

Peter Gibson may be the one retiring from Mount Washington Alpine Resort, but he isn't the only Gibson with a long association with the mountain.

Youngest brother Rick is a longtime Realtor, resident, snowshoer and skier who has been involved with Mount Washington almost as many years as Peter. Only Rick will not be retiring anytime soon.

There are actually three Gibson brothers: Peter is the oldest, then Ally ("short for Alastair but I'm only called that when I'm in trouble.") in the middle and Rick is the youngest.

"As a family, we all skied," says Ally. After relocating the family to the Comox Valley from Cranbrook, B.C. in 1960 after their father, a doctor, was offered a job as the Director of the Upper Island Health Unit, the Gibsons built a cabin on Forbidden Plateau. This was long before Mount Washington Alpine Resort was created, and all three boys learned to ski at Forbidden.

Peter raced with the Fanny Dunker Ski Club, earning the coveted Wells Gray Trophy at Forbidden three years in a row.

Ally worked on the Ski Patrol on Forbidden and was also on the Race Team.

"Peter won most races and I was listed as 'also ran,'" says Ally. "When Mount Washington opened I joined the Ski Patrol and patrolled there many years. I enjoyed the Ski Patrol and it taught me skills second to none in regard to helping injured folks. I still can handle any type of emergency and triage my way through any situation."

Rick has owned property at Mount Washington since 1979 - he got in in the early years, and was a skier too, although not as involved as Peter.

Rick has been selling real estate around the Resort since 1989, and has lived on and off the mountain over the past couple of decades.

"I have not lived full time on the mountain in seven or eight years," he says. "We are moving up full time though in December."

Rick admits he doesn't ski as much as he should anymore, but he loves to hike or snowshoe through Paradise Meadows - his Facebook feed is often full of scenic photos from his adventures.

While Peter's and Rick's hearts remained with Mount Washington, Ally found his love in the forest.

Continued on page 20.

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Photo courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort



Summer 2017

Weddings • Mountain Biking • Events

Summer was a great season for Mount Washington Alpine Resort, says General Manager Peter Gibson. "We were really pleased with the numbers, especially with the chairlift numbers," he said.

The Resort saw some visitors who traditionally spent summer in B.C.'s Interior, that decided to try out Vancouver Island due to the intense forest fire season the Interior experienced.

There were 40 weddings that took place in the spring and summer - 30 of which were already booked by March - with Raven Lodge being a popular location, he said.

A solid snow season meant the Resort still had snow when it opened for the summer: one-third of the trails were open in July, but had to wait for the snowpack to melt. A heat wave in the second and third week of July ensured the snow was gone.

The annual Wine and Beer Fests were sold out again this year, signaling the Resort's popularity with those events.

After a couple of quiet seasons while Pacific Group Resorts settled in as new owners, Mount Washington Alpine Resort

has made some investments in infrastructure and equipment.

"This summer Pacific Group Resorts invested \$75,000 in new uniforms for staff, \$50,000 in new bicycles for mountain biking and \$145,000 in new rental gear," Gibson said.

They have also ordered a new Nordic Cat for \$300,000, and while it's not brand new, it will replace one of the older grooming machines.

"Our two Nordic Cats have 10,000 hours, and this one has 3,000 with new implements on the back," he added.

The Alpine Lodge has also received a bit of a facelift. Crews stripped the old stucco off the front, and replaced it with board and batten wood siding.

"The Resort will be replacing the whole outside of the lodge with similar siding, but will do it in pieces," said George Trousdell, Resort Director of Operations and Maintenance.

The Whiskey Jack Chairlift was painted green this summer, as part of the Resort's ongoing plan to paint all the chairlifts so they blend into their natural surroundings.

Trousdell and his maintenance team also spent some time refining plans for the new snowmaking system that Mount Washington will be installing in the next couple of years (see story on Snowmaking, page 4).

The second full summer for mountain biking since it returned to Mount Washington was a success, says Mike Manara, Director of Sport and Guest Services.

"We saw continued growth despite having a really big snowpack in the spring," he said. "The Resort added an extra night of extended hours for mountain biking, which was popular," Manara said.

They offered a guide school for potential instructors and saw an uptick in their Learn to Ride classes. This was heartening because the Resort is focusing on growing the sport of mountain biking, and offering an avenue for people to ride mountain bikes.

They have worked hard to create a niche market of providing people an outlet to learn to ride, as well as developing a place for families to come and bike then take a chairlift ride.

Continued on page 12



The View From Then

Where has the time Gone?

I started my real estate career in 1989, before some of you were born! In my first summer as a Realtor on Mount Washington while putting up a For Sale sign a property owner came over to talk with me.

I told him how I was going to commit myself to the Mount Washington Community and never let them down. I told him I was going to focus on mountain real estate and become a name that all could owners trust. He looked at me and said, "You will be like the rest - once you are successful you will leave and forget about us".

In the years following I grew my business both on Mount Washington and in the Comox Valley. **BUT**, I never forgot those words spoken to me at the start of my career.

I have ALWAYS taken the mountain market very seriously and very personally.

Continued on page 7



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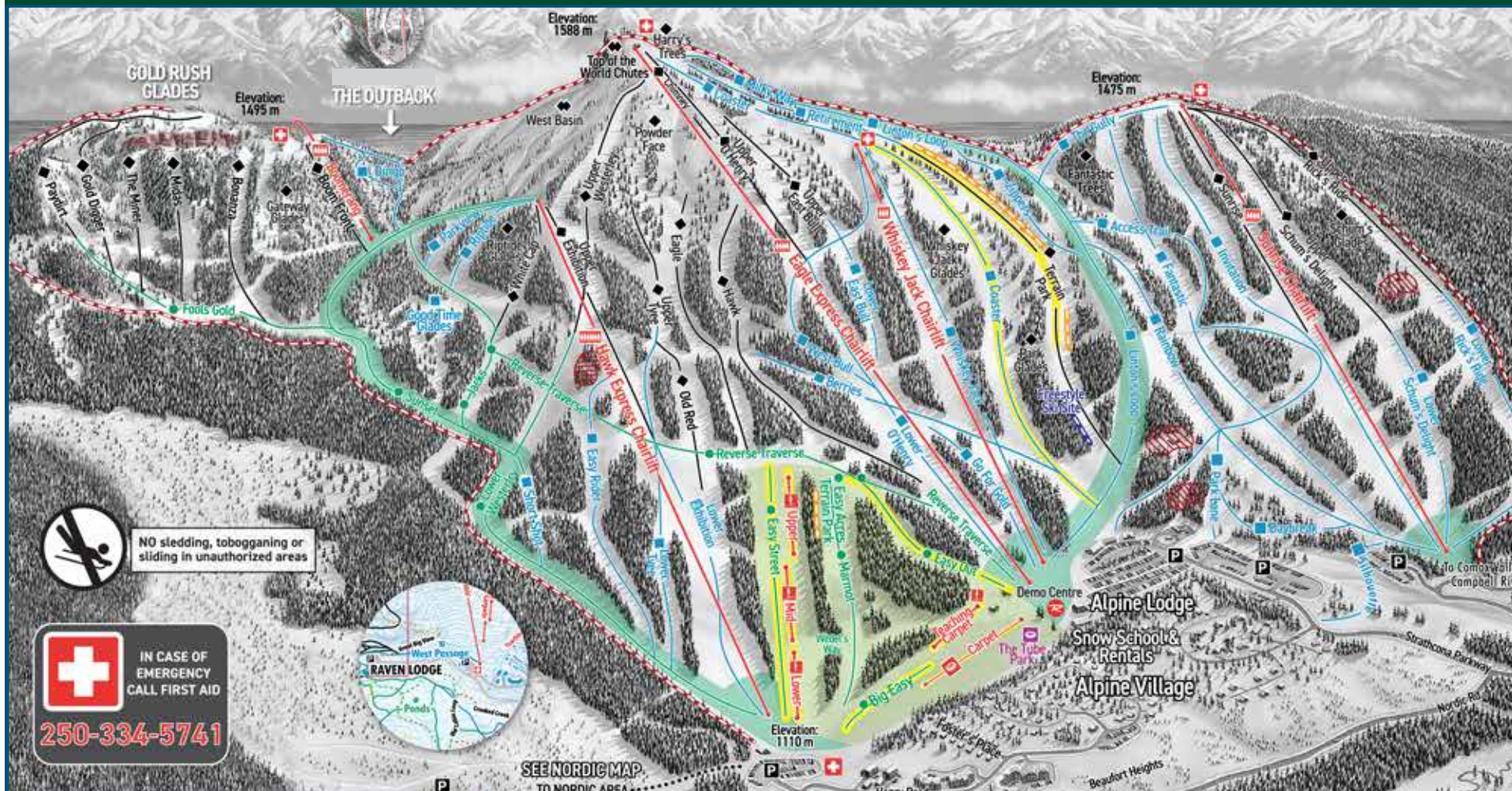
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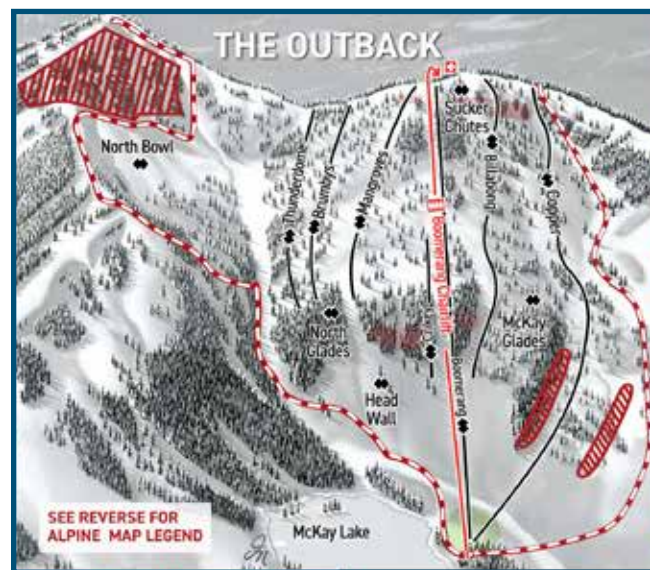
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The View From Here...

Buyers think that it is a buyer's market yet Sellers think it is a sellers market. What kind of market is it? A sale is defined as when you have a buyer and seller agreeing on market price. Unfortunately right now, even though there are many sales occurring, buyers are waiting for prices to fall. Sellers on the other hand feel their prices are already low and are itching to raise them.

What is the truth? The truth is inventory continues to fall and sales continue to occur. This simply means that demand will continue and prices will climb.

I don't need to discuss what has happened elsewhere in the Province, but high inventory has kept prices down here up until now. And this does not even take into consideration new resort owners, new vision and optimum snow conditions.



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Resort Staff Promotions

A number of people are wearing new hats at Mount Washington Alpine Resort this season!

The biggest difference people will notice this winter is that Director of Business Operations Don Sharpe has left Mount Washington after almost 17 years for another opportunity in British Columbia.

Sharpe's departure allowed for other people to move

up or take on different responsibilities.

"Everybody's pretty excited at our end, because we've created internal opportunities," Mount Washington Resort General Manager Peter Gibson said.

Mike Manara has moved into the Main Lodge from the Snow School Building, and taken on the new title of Director, Sport and Guest Services. He will continue to manage the Snow School and Demo Centre as well as the Rental Shop in the winter, and mountain biking in the summer.

His new responsibilities include being in charge of new retail (both Alpine and Nordic) opportunities, uniforms (the process has been streamlined to include all departments), special event management and group sales (such as school groups).

There's a renewed energy around the Resort," says Manara. "We all are proud of this place. With Pacific Group Resorts purchasing this place, there's a renewed sense of pride." Manara will also oversee all summer activities, from mountain biking to events, trails and hiking.

Sheila Rivers is now Marketing Manager, after spending a number of years as Marketing Assistant.

Tim Defert, who has always been in charge of food and beverage as Director of Hospitality, has also taken on the Call Centre, season's passes and off-site sales. He continues to be in charge of weddings and catering.

Jen Young is the new Ski School Director, taking over from Manara. Young has been with Mount Washington for 15 years, and was the first female Level 4 produced at the Resort, Gibson said proudly.

"Most ski schools are male-driven and having a female ski school director is positive."

One of the most unique moves involves **James Clarke**, whose expertise has gone from slopes to soufflés and more.

Clarke was the Slope Supervisor in charge of winter and summer grooming as well as snow removal. He is also a Red Seal Chef, and has taken over as Head Chef at the Resort.

Rich Meads has been promoted to Slope Supervisor.

Also on the maintenance side of operations, **Dan Caley** moved from Lift Maintenance Supervisor to Maintenance Manager.

The biggest move is yet to come...

With General Manager Peter Gibson's announcement that he will retire at the end of the 2017-18 winter season, Resort owner Pacific Group Resorts has started the process to find his replacement. No announcement was made before the Marmot went to press.



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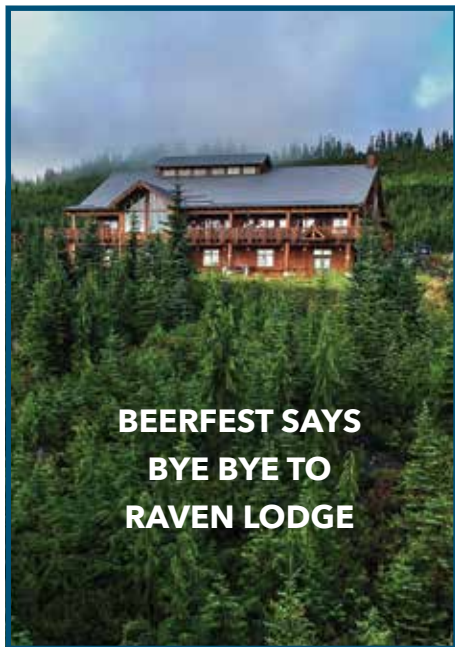
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NEWS in Brief

Encompassing people, places and happenings at Mount Washington.



BEERFEST SAYS BYE BYE TO RAVEN LODGE

BEERFEST ON THE MOVE

Mount Washington Alpine Resort is looking at moving the annual Beer Festival from Raven Lodge, due to the Lodge's popularity.

"We're looking at a new venue for the Beer Fest. Raven is so popular for weddings, it's booked for the weekend that we usually have Beer Fest," General Manager Peter Gibson said.

The Resort hosted 40 weddings this past spring and summer, with the bulk of them booked before March.



EAGLEVIEW BISTRO PATIO SLATED FOR SUMMER 2018

The Eagle View Bistro had a successful first winter, after opening in time for the 2016-17 winter season. Mount Washington has decided to hold off on building the Bistro's outdoor patio, although the plans are all drawn up. They will look at building the patio next summer.

DON TAKES A SHARPE TURN TO THE INTERIOR

Don Sharpe, who left his post as Mount Washington Resort Director of Business Operations earlier this year, and his wife Chantal have moved to the Agassiz area of B.C.

After 17 years at Mount Washington, Sharpe is now working with Holiday Trails Resort, which owns Manning Park as well as mobile home parks and



waterslides on the way to Hope, B.C.

Sharpe is now the Vice-President, Resort Operations and Marketing, for Holiday Trails Resorts and Manning Park Resort.



SHARPE FAMILY LEGACY LIVES ON

The Sharpe family may have moved on from Mount Washington, but their legacy lives on. Cassie and Darcy Sharpe, who both cut their teeth in their respective snowsports at Mount Washington, have both been invited to the ESPN Winter X Games in Aspen, Colo., Jan. 25 - 28, 2018.

SKI PATROL HONES THEIR SKILLS FOR 2017/18

The Mount Washington Ski Patrol Association took over Raven Lodge the first weekend of November for their pre-season skills weekend. Patrollers spent the day inside on the Saturday learning, practicing and assessing skills, then spent the Sunday outdoors in the snow, working on their outdoor skills.

INVESTORS GROUP SUPPORTS VISAS

Investors Group has donated \$500 to the Vancouver Island Society for Adaptive Snowsports (VISAS) to help the non-profit organization introduce people with disabilities enjoy snowsports.

One of their own employees, Chris Nagle, the division director of Investors Group, is an adaptive snowsports instructor with the Nordic division of VISAS. During the win-



Royal LePage Comox Valley Snow to Surf Relay Event- a Race for all Ages!

ter weekends, Nagle volunteers his time to provide opportunities for people with disabilities to learn Nordic skiing.

"It's a chance to give back and share my love of skiing with the community," says Nagle, as he explains what drives him to continue to volunteer his time for teaching adaptive snowsports.

"It's so rewarding seeing people get out on snow. We have many students who wouldn't have that opportunity without this program," Nagle explains.

VISAS runs Nordic lessons five days a week, and alpine lessons seven days a week throughout the winter season. Students have the opportunity to try sitskiing, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing or snowboarding.

Donations such as this \$500 cheque are used to purchase equipment, maintain operations and to subsidize the costs for students to experience adaptive snowsports at Mount Washington.

ROYAL LEPAGE SNOW TO SURF SETS DATE FOR 2018 RACE

The first snow of the 2017-18 winter season had barely fallen and the Royal LePage Snow to Surf Relay announced it would stage the 36th running of Canada's oldest multi-sport relay on April 29, 2018.

Registrations for the event, which combine alpine and Nordic skiing, running, mountain biking, kayaking, road cycling and canoeing opened online on Dec. 1. Find out more at www.snowtosurf.com.

NEW GROUP SHELTER AT CROTEAU LAKE

A permanent group shelter at Croteau Lake in Strathcona Provincial Park will provide safe, dry, versatile activity space

for larger groups and will complement a newly built group site, thanks to a \$30,000 grant from Island Coastal Economic Trust.

The facility will be a hard-sided yurt with a metal roof to accommodate the park's heavy winter snow loads, and will be large enough to provide shelter for group activities of up to 25 people - but not overnight accommodation at this time.

The Strathcona Wilderness Institute is driving the project (with help from BC Parks, Nyrstar Mine and community donors), which will cost \$61,000 in total.

"Hiking - particularly in the backcountry - is a growing tourism market, and this yurt will make it easier and safer for groups and newer hikers to access the spectacular mountains, valleys and lakes in this part of Strathcona Provincial Park," said Judy Norbury, Strathcona Wilderness Institute Society chairperson.

The group shelter, which complements the soon-to-be-built Croteau Lake group campsite, will help to increase the number of out-of-region visitors choosing Strathcona Park for all or part of their trip.

Data collected by the SWI over the past three years shows that more than one-third of visitors to the park's Paradise Meadows Trailhead were from outside the Vancouver Island region, and those numbers are consistent with statistics from BC Parks, the Alpine Club of Canada and other backcountry operators.

The site was chosen due to its historic use as a lodge and campsite by pioneer Eugene Croteau in the early years of Strathcona Park.

Groups will be able to reserve the site, which should be ready for use by summer 2018.

To learn more about the construction of the yurt go to www.oneofakindcw.com/current-projects/alpine-yurt/





MOUNT WASHINGTON SKI CLUBS

Mount Washington Alpine Resort is the home mountain for a number of ski and snowboard clubs, and they are a busy bunch. Here's what they'll be up to in the 2017-18 season...

MOUNT WASHINGTON SKI CLUB

"The last couple seasons have been great ones for the Mount Washington Ski Club," says Head Coach John Trimmer.

"Growth in all programs has exploded and energy and enthusiasm are at all-time highs! It's amazing what two bad snow years can do to skiing on the Island though and how deeply it can affect a club," he said.

"While numbers and enthusiasm in the Club have returned we seem to have lost some of our culture along the way. "It's been two years now since we offered on-snow opportunities in the summer and fall but we are returning to snow this fall for a five-day Camp in the Interior; this gives the older athletes an opportunity to really jumpstart their season," says Trimmer. "Whether this is a return of our past culture or the beginning of a new culture is yet to be seen but it's exciting either way."

The hard times the Club went through won't be forgotten, he added, "They were a huge learning experience for us and have definitely made us stronger. We are more committed to and more organized than ever to offer our great programs to Island families."

The Ski Clubs vision is to provide a family-oriented environment in which members make friends, develop a passion for

alpine skiing and alpine ski racing, and achieve excellence in a sportsmanlike culture.

The Club may be known for its racing, but its main focus at all levels is to create great all mountain skiers: it offers programs for children five to 19 years of age.

For more info on the Club's Programs, go online to www.mtwashingtonskiclub.com or call 250-897-6058.



The Rio Tinto Nancy Greene Ski League (left) is the "FUNdamental" stage of ski racing for children 4 - 11 years of age and their number one goal is to create great all mountain skiers!

MOUNT WASHINGTON FREESTYLE CLUB

The Mount Washington Freestyle Ski Club is Vancouver Island's only ski program focusing on moguls, slopestyle and big mountain skills.

In a team environment kids will learn turn carving, jumping, rails and mogul skiing in one of the Province's best all-around ski programs available for all levels of freestyle skiing.

The Freestyle Club has six programs coming up for winter 2017-18: **Try Freestyle**, a free half-day camp for kids who have never been involved with the Club before, takes place Dec. 27. A two-day **Jumps & Bumps Christmas Camp** for intermediate to advanced skiers aged six to 12 years is scheduled for Dec. 28-29, and a four-day **Christmas Camp** for intermediate and advanced skiers (12 and older) will take place Dec. 27-30. There is a

13-week **Jumps & Bumps** Program starts in January 2018 (one- and two-day weekend options).

This Program is for entry-level freestyle skiers working on skills development. Skiers aged six and older must be comfortable skiing steeper Blue runs and be able to load onto a chairlift unassisted.

There are also 13-week programs for the Freestylerz and Competitive teams. **Freestylerz** is an intermediate program for developing athletes aged 12 and up considering competing in the sport or athletes that have reached this skill level. The Competitive team is the advanced program for athletes competing in freestyle events. This program includes six days of coaching at competitions plus the four-day Christmas camp.

All this info and more can be found on the Club's website at www.mwfreestyle.com or on their Facebook page Mount Washington Freestyle Club.



STRATHCONA NORDICS

Mount Washington's Tallon Noble moves up the Canadian Ranks checking off National Podium performances.

Strathcona Nordics' skier Tallon Noble has relocated to Kelowna, B.C. and is skiing with Team Telemark under the tutelage of coach Adam Elliot. "Over the past few years I have slowly moved up the Canadian ranks under the meticulous coaching of Andrea Stapff, finally checking off national podium performances at the 2017 Canadian Ski Nationals in Canmore," Noble said. "With new teammates and new training environments I am ecstatic for the snow to fall and to see how my hard work will pay off."

Anyone interested in sponsoring Noble can check out his goals and sponsorship package here: <https://strathconanordics.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Tallon-Sponsorship.pdf>.

Other members of the club have been fundraising for the Dave Battison Athlete Development Fund, named after the late Nordics' coach. The fund helps pay for

team members' travel and other expenses.

Club members will participate in the 2018 BC Winter Games in Kamloops 22-25, and can be expected to attend a number of events off of Vancouver Island this season. The club will hold a BC Winter Games trial on Dec. 30 at Mount Washington.

Recreational programs kick off Jan. 13-14, 2018. The Feb. 10-11, 2018 weekend will be a busy one for the Nordics, with the Coast Cup No. 5 and No. 6 happening, as well as the Vancouver Island Loppet.

The club is dedicated to coaching, and will host a number of coaching clinics and refreshers this season. They encourage people to get involved as coaches to help the next generation of Nordic skiers.

For more information on cross-country skiing and what the Strathcona Nordics offer, please see their website at www.strathconanordics.com.

Photo: Laura Johnston



VI BIATHLON CLUB

The 'Give It A Shot' program is open to anyone who would like to try shooting the biathlon rifles and get a feel for the sport.

The Vancouver Island Biathlon Club has a world-class biathlon facility at Mount Washington Alpine Resort, and they plan on making good use of it this season. If you've never tried biathlon before, they are hosting a "Give it a Shot" introductory pro-

gram on Dec. 30 from 1-3 p.m. and again Sunday, March 11 from 1-3 p.m.

Biathlon is a sport that combines the marksmanship of target shooting with the sport of skate skiing. The Give It A Shot program is open to anyone who would like

to try shooting the biathlon rifles and get a feel for the sport, as well as learn more about programs VIBC offers. Registration is available through www.zone4.ca.

The club offers opportunities from beginners as young as age nine right up to master-age athletes.

The club is planning to attend four BC Biathlon Cup events this year: Jan. 26-28 in Prince George; Feb. 9-11 in Whistler; Feb. 16-18 in Burns Lake; and March 2-4 in Kelowna.

Members of the Competitive Youth Team, who train year-round with both

VIBC and the Strathcona Nordics JR Racing Team, plan to compete this season at the four Biathlon BC Cup Races.

Are you interested to see what they can do? You can watch the team training in the range on Saturday afternoons throughout the season, and may find them on the biathlon course near Raven Lodge any time they can fit in some extra training.

For more information on the biathlon club, visit their website at www.vibiathlon.ca. They are always looking for volunteers, and club members are encouraged to help out as officials at club events.

Photo courtesy VI Riders



The VI Riders Freestyle Snowboard Training Club is celebrating their 10th anniversary this year.

When VI Riders was incorporated in 2007 as a non-profit organisation, its goal was to fill a need for a Mount Washington snowboard freestyle/park program.

Over the past 10 years the Club has fulfilled this need and more. As Mount Washington Alpine Resort has developed its Terrain Park, VI Riders have ensured a generation of young athletes learn how to safely hit jumps and rails with qualified instructors that know them and that they trust.

This year, the Club has partnered with the Mount Washington Snow School to introduce a 10-week **Freestyle Develop-**

ment Program for snowboarders.

The focus of the Program, according to the Snow School, is "learning new tricks and mastering the fundamentals of snowboarding."

Riders signing up for the 10-week Program will work on their skills on snow and master tricks in the Resort's Terrain Park. "Rider development is of a freestyle nature and training is in a fun, confidence-building atmosphere," the Snow School notes.

For more information on the VI Riders, check out their website at or their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/vancouverislandriders.

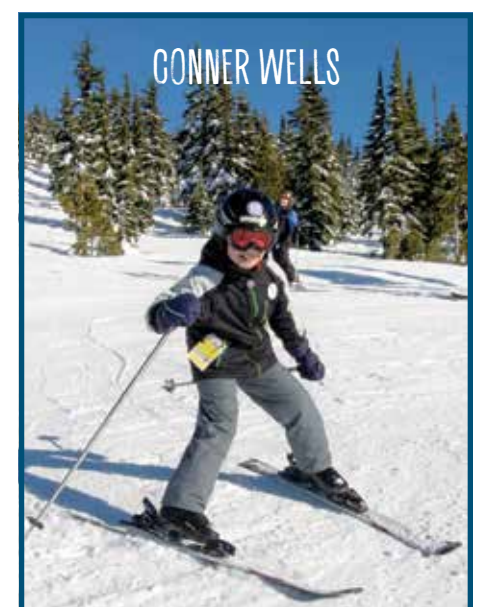
VANGOUVER ISLAND SOCIETY FOR ADAPTIVE SNOWSPORTS (VISAS)

Connor and Megan Wells are 10-year-old twins who have grown to love the sport of skiing thanks to the Winter Snowsports Festival, and the Vancouver Island Society of Adaptive Snowsports (VISAS).

The Festival is an annual event that provides opportunities for participants who are differently-abled to experience snowsports in a fun and supportive environment. Each participant is provided with four consecutive days of snowsports instruction, lift tickets and rentals, everything someone needs to get started on snow.

The twins' mother Michelle Wells remarks, "skiing with VISAS has become a special part of Megan and Connor's lives."

Continued on page 12.



Gavin Johnston (left) trains with the Vancouver Island Biathlon Club Competitive Youth Racing Team, and competes at the Biathlon BC Cup races in the Junior Boy (13-14 yrs) category.



Summer 2017

Continued from page 6.

"We really kind of see it as a family and all-inclusive sport," he said. "It's shed its image of being a hardcore, diehard sport."

Expansion work had to be put on hold due to a hot, dry summer that shut down much of the backcountry and treed terrain on Vancouver Island. They were able to do some grooming and build a trail that will have an advance flow trail with jumps and berms.

They also created better drainage in some areas, which helped minimize erosion while the snow melted. Next year they will look at another blue trail and an extension of the green trail, Manara said.

The goal is to have more consistent trail, that speaks to their tag line: "It's fun and it's flowy."

Two big snow years in a row have taught the mountain bike team to expect a mid-July season opening. "Targeting mid-July is good for us. The big focus in spring time is on maintenance, as well as receiving retail bicycles, etc.," he added.

Mount Washington hosted the three-day BC Cup Downhill Racing Finals in September, featuring the iconic Monster Mile race track.

People have raced the Monster Mile since the late 1990s. "It's got a lot of tough, challenging sections. It was not machine-built so it's not buff," Manara said.

"It was our first year back in mountain bike racing. It allowed us to show how great our product is here. There's a generation of riders that never had a chance to race on something like this."

Both the trail crew and food and beverage team worked hard to pull off the three-day race, and Manara said it can be considered part of the summer growth at the Resort.

"The race was held in honour of the late Stevie Smith, a World Cup calibre mountain biker from Nanaimo who used to race at Mount Washington before his death in May 2016. It was a way to honour his legacy in mountain biking," Manara said. "It made the event that much more special."

The BC Cup finals drew 200-plus riders each day. It was so successful that Mount Washington has been placed on the 2018 schedule, he said.



VISAS

Continued from page 11.

The program has increased their confidence and allowed them to realize that they can really be good at something."

Megan and Connor Wells were born prematurely, resulting in a variety of physical and developmental disabilities for both children.

"Megan tends to become overwhelmed easily, and needs breaks and ways to calm her anxiety. Connor is a very social and chatty boy, who is distracted easily and needs clear direction," shares

Wells.

The Instructors at VISAS are trained and certified to assess their students and provide individualized instruction to meet their needs.

While Megan benefits from regular snack breaks, opportunities to practice breathing exercises and a clear plan, Connor benefits from a different approach. He needs instruction to be delivered step-by-step, in simple terms with a dash of humour and consistent re-direction to the task at hand.

Wells is grateful, adding, "the accessibility of the Adaptive Snowsports program has made the idea of learning to ski so easy. The instructors are able to customize and adapt a learning strategy for [both] Megan and Connor's needs."

Skiing with VISAS and at the Winter Snowsports festival has helped give the twins a sense of belonging and "has really helped Megan and Connor build their confidence in their day to day lives as well as challenging them in ways they wouldn't be otherwise," Wells said proudly.

Both children have been asked to join the VISAS Snowsports Development Team when they are older, which is helping to motivate them to keep pushing themselves to become better skiers.

Applications are now available for the 2018 Winter Snowsports Festival, which runs from Jan. 7–11, 2018.

For more information about this and other programs, check out the VISAS website <http://visasweb.ca> or contact Peter at peter@playsthatwork.com or 416-363-4972.



FIRST NATIONS SNOWBOARD TEAM

The First Nations snowboard team empowers Aboriginal youth by using the winter sport of snowboarding as a fundamental tool for excellence.

The team represents First Nations from across the Province, including members selected from Campbell River, Comox Valley, Qualicum Beach and the West Coast areas to practice at Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

Team members go through a selection

process in early October, and commit to a minimum of 10 on-snow sessions.

The club has a website, www.FNriders.com, and a Facebook page (First Nations Snowboard Team-Vancouver Island) where Aboriginal youth can learn more.

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Photo: Neil Havers



ACCOMMODATIONS

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Browse the Accommodations Guide or go to www.mtwashingtonaccommodations.com for available condo or chalet rentals. From slopeside to ski-in / ski-out, there is a wide variety of options for your ski getaway. Vancouver Island's Alpine Paradise is waiting for your visit!

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Photo: Neil Havers

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	Call	Call	Call	Call	Call	Call	Call	Call	Call	Call	Call	Call																							
ALPINE VILLAGE WINTER ~ QUIET, VEHICLE FREE VILLAGE WITH FOUR PERIMETER PARKING LOTS SUMMER ~ DRIVE TO, WITH INDIVIDUAL PARKING																																			
1109 Alexandra Avenue (Main & Bachelor)	Call	Call	Call	Call	1	1	1	N	N	N	N	1	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Jean Haley	250.871.8807	chalet54rentals@gmail.com
690 Castle Crag Crescent B - (88B)	\$400	\$400	\$450	\$300	12	3	3	Y	N	Y	N	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	L	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Talaya	250-898-9238	talayac@gmail.com	
893 Clinton Wood Court "Chalet 26"	\$225	\$300	\$350	\$150	10	3	2	Y	N	N	N	2	Y	Y	N	Y	N	W	N	Y	F	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Elisa Djurickovic	250-381-1649	edjurickovic@gmail.com		
965 Clinton Wood Court	\$200	\$250	\$300	\$150	10	5	5	Y	N	Y	N	1	N	N	N	Y	W	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Kazimiera Stypka	250-477-2270	stypka@shaw.ca		
1016 Henry Road "Mogul Manor #47"	\$95	\$180	\$180	\$60	21	4	4	N	N	N	N	3	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Bob Shires	250-477-6707	blshires@pacificcoast.net		
750 Jutland Terrace "Chalet 9"	\$300	\$350	\$400	\$200	12	3	3	Y	N	Y	N	2	N	Y	N	Y	N	W	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Helen Austin	250-702-0095	www.chalet9.com		
1044 Meadow Lane "The Big Chill"	\$295	\$345	\$395	Call	12	4	5	Y	Y	N	N	3	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	Y	Y	O	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Debra Stockdill	250-592-7278	chalet40@shaw.ca			
974 Strata Way "Chalet 72"	\$175	\$275	\$350	\$150	8	3	3	Y	N	Y	N	2	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Glenda Kirk	250-658-1260	Chalet72@telus.net			
988 Strata Way "Red Roof Chalet 70 - Lower"	\$200	\$250	\$300	\$150	10	3	1	Y	N	N	N	1	N	N	N	Y	Y	PT	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Carol Turnham	250-592-2842	www.redroofchalet.com			
988 Strata Way "Red Roof Chalet 70 - Upper"	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$200	15	5	3	Y	N	N	N	1	N	N	N	Y	Y	W	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Carol Turnham	250-592-2842	www.redroofchalet.com			
BEAUFORT HEIGHTS DRIVE TO WITH INDIVIDUAL PARKING																																			
620 Arrowsmith Ridge "K2 Chalet"	\$225	\$275	\$325	\$200	12	4	5	Y	N	N	N	3	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	L	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Stephan Krieger	250-477-3878	www.k2chalet.ca			
899 Cruikshank Ridge "Mt. Washington Chalet"	\$250	\$350	\$1100	\$175	25	7	6	Y	N	N	N	4	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	N	N	F	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Booking Contact: Candice		www.mtwashingtonchalet.com			
909 Cruikshank Ridge "Beaufort Heights"	\$250	\$500	\$550	\$150	10	3	5	Y	N	Y	N	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	N	N	O	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Peter & Kari Zimmerman	250-951-8221	peterz.ca				
FOSTERS PLACE DRIVE TO WITH INDIVIDUAL PARKING																																			
Blue Haven	\$425	\$575	\$730	N/A	15	4	3	Y	N	N	N	3	N	Y	N	Y	Y	P	N	N	F	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Brian or Karla	250.871.8807	www.conagetaways.com			
1187 Fosters Place "Chateau Cona"	\$450	\$650	\$750	\$300	20	5	5	Y	Y	Y	N	5	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	E	N	N	F	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Brian and Karla	250-871-8807	www.chateaucona.com			
1203 Fosters Place "Mt Wash. Guest House"	\$625	\$850	\$1000	\$600	28	7	7	Y	Y	N	N	2	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	F	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	John & Susan Twose	250-335-0350	www.mtwashingtonguesthouse.com			
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1375-E "Strathcona Vacation Rental Home"	\$250	\$280	\$425	\$250	9	3	5	Y	N	N	N	2	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	F	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	John & Susan Twose	250-335-0350	www.strathconabandb.com			
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737 Albert Edward Place 3 (92-3)	\$95	\$150	\$175	\$65	6	3	2	Y	N	Y	N	2	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	Y	Y	O	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Tim Van Alstine	250-704-6566	mtwash737@gmail.com			
828 Washington Way E	\$275	\$400	\$450	\$200	16	5	3	Y	N	N	N	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Tyler Green	2502133464	greenerdad@gmail.com			
1044 Washington Way 3 (98-3)	\$125	\$175	\$200	\$75	8	3	2	Y	N	N	N	3	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	O	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Joan Scheunhage	250-723-4881	bigshinyhouse@hotmail.com			
BEAR LODGE 1280 ALPINE ROAD DRIVE TO SLOPESIDE LOCATION WITH UNDER BUILDING PARKING, AND HOT TUB																																			
101 - Bear Lodge	\$150	\$195	\$275	\$100	4	1	1	Y	N	N	N	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	F	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Doug Yelland	250-744-9214	www.bearlodgecondos.com			
203 - Bear Lodge	\$259	\$349	\$419	\$199	10	3	3	Y	N	N	N	4	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	O	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Paul Francisty	250-246-8807	pfrancisty@gmail.com			
307 - Bear Lodge	\$150	\$220	\$325	\$150	8	2	3	Y	N	N	N	3	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	O	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	MD Accommodations		N/A			
309 - Bear Lodge	\$150	\$230	\$320	\$150	6	2	3	Y	Y	N	N	3	N	Y	Y	N	Y	P	N	N	F	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Cheryl Adebar	250-218-8057	cheryladebar@gmail.com			
401 - Bear Lodge	\$170	\$240	\$340	\$135	6	2	3	Y	N	N	N	3	N	Y	Y	N	N	P	N	N	F	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Ken Heinrich	250-792-3424	bearlodge401@gmail.com			
409 - Bear Lodge	\$200	\$250	\$325	Call	6	2	3	Y	N	N	N	4	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	F	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Keith & Cathy Larsen	250-338-0972	bearescape@telus.net			
412 - Bear Lodge	\$275	\$395	\$495	\$175	9	3	3	Y	N	N	N	4	N	Y	Y	Y	N	P	N	N	F	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Richard	250-204-0560	412bearlodge@gmail.com			
BLUEBERRY HILL 1320 HENRY ROAD DRIVE TO WITH UNDER BUILDING PARKING, AND SAUNA																																			
106 - Blueberry Hill	\$125	\$175	\$175	\$85	7	2	3	Y	Y	Y	N	4	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Michele	250-755-9489	jmsparks@shaw.ca			
107 - Blueberry Hill	\$165	\$215	\$275	\$110	10	2	3	Y	Y	Y	N	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	P	N	N	F	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Leanne Webster	250-514-7483	www.klahanievacations.com			
116 Blueberry Hill	\$120	\$170	\$120	Call	7	2	3	Y	Y	Y	N	3	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	P	N	N	O	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Don Roset	2502031519	daroset@gmail.com2			
210 - Blueberry Hill	\$125	\$200	\$225	\$85	8	3	3	Y	Y	Y	N	3	N	Y	Y	N	Y	P	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Sheila and Greg	250-722-3987	sheila.buchanan@shaw.ca			
217 - Blueberry Hill	\$160	\$210	\$240	\$100	8	3	3	Y	Y	Y	N	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	F	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Elaine Smith	250 516-8862	www.mtwashingtoncondo.net			
307 - Blueberry Hill	\$195	\$245	\$300	\$150	8	3	3	Y	Y	Y	N	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	O	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Leanne Webster	250-514-7483	www.klahanievacations.com			
313 - Blueberry Hill	\$265	\$345	\$455	\$188	13	3	3	Y	Y	Y	N	4	Y	Y	Y	N	P	N	N	F	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Leanne Webster	250-514-7483	www.klahanievacations.com			
CREEKSIDE HOUSE 1380 HENRY ROAD DRIVE TO SLOPESIDE LOCATION WITH UNDER BUILDING PARKING																																			
202 - Creekside House	\$175	\$250	\$310	\$125	9	3	3	Y	N	N	N	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	O	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Lois Stevenson	250-339-0914	lois.stevenson55@gmail.com			
204 - Creekside House	\$150	\$205	\$275	\$100	8	2	3	Y	N	N	N	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	O	O	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Chantal Rousseau	250-923-5360	www.creekside204.ca			
302 - Creekside House	\$175	\$250	\$275	\$100	8	3	3	Y	N	N	N	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Mary Anne Kinloch	778 356 2999	makinloch@gmail.com			
MOUNTAINSIDE LODGE 1340 HENRY ROAD DRIVE TO WITH UNDER BUILDING PARKING, HOT TUB AND SAUNA																																			
101 - Mountainside Lodge	\$100	\$150	\$150	\$100	5	1	1	Y	N	Y	N	3	Y	Y	Y	N	P	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Tom Howe		mountainside101@hotmail.com			
202 - Mountainside Lodge	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$75	8	2	3	Y	N	Y	N	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Ed Handja	250-287-0011	www.mtwashingtonrentals.com			
203 - Mountainside Lodge	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$100	7	2	3	Y	N	Y	N	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	O	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Blair Watling	250-361-6485	blwatling@shaw.ca			
301 - Mountainside Lodge	\$125	\$175	\$210	\$100	7	2	3	Y	N	Y	N	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	O	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Gerrie	250-658-4484	gkarcher@telus.net			
305 - Mountainside Lodge	\$120	\$160	\$180	\$100	5	2	3	Y	N	Y	N	2	Y	Y	Y	N	P	N	N	O	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Rhonda Borton	250-248-6314	rkborton@shaw.ca			
PARADISE RIDGE 1201 HENRY ROAD DRIVE TO WITH UNDER BUILDING PARKING, OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL, SAUNA AND HOT TUB																																			
109 - Paradise Ridge	\$175	\$235	\$290	\$109	8	3	2	Y	N	Y	N	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	O	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Darla or Joe	250-390-2717	darla.joe@shaw.ca			
112 - Paradise Ridge "Panorama in Paradise"	\$190	\$250	\$290	\$99	10	3	3	Y	N	Y	N	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	L	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Jim Moreau	e-mail/fax only	www.panoramainparadise.ca			
209 - Paradise Ridge "Mountain Oasis"	\$240	\$340	\$440	\$170	11	4	4	Y	N	Y	N	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	O	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Janice Dunn	250-618-2078	janiced@shaw.ca			
210 - Paradise Ridge	\$165	\$210	\$260	\$125	6	2	3	Y	N	Y	N	2	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	O	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	CoDesign Interiors Group	403-707-7573	condo210@capstonedwellings.com			
301 - Paradise Ridge	\$175	\$225	\$275	\$100	8	3	3	Y	N	Y	N	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	O	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Renate Schoep	250-213-3597	rschoep@shaw.ca			
304 - Paradise Ridge	\$100	\$200	\$200	\$95	6	2	3	Y	N	Y	N	3	Y	Y	N	Y	P	N	N	O	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Barb and Al Shanks		www.mtwashingtonvacationcondo.com			
305 - Paradise Ridge "Peace of Paradise"	\$125	\$225	\$290	\$100	10	3	3	Y	N	Y	N	2	N	N	Y	Y	N	P	N	N	O	Y	N	N</											



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Fire-warmed Dining at Locals Restaurant



Decidedly urban, the Comox Valley offers visitors an eclectic mix of accommodations, restaurants, shopping, brew pubs, live music venues, theatre performances, spas and more. Pages 17-19

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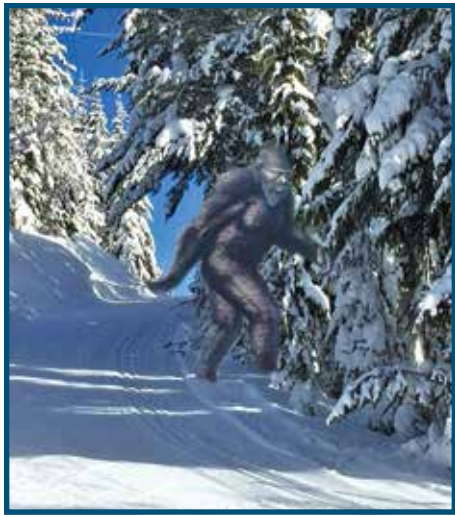
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Sasquatch Respect

continued from page 16.

In front of a toasty fire in the chalet's woodstove, you break out the iPad so you can search for some information on what you saw in the glade an hour earlier.

When you hit "search", what do you find? Precious little information - and that's a tragedy in the field of biology, says wildlife biologist and sasquatch expert Dr. John Bindernagel.

"There are people who do see sasquatch and those people deserve informed scientific comment," Bindernagel said in a speech at the 2017 International Bigfoot Conference and Film Festival in Washington State.

"There's a lot of evidence out there and it simply needs to be pulled together by someone. The near complete absence of biology professionals from the unfolding discovery of the sasquatch puzzles sasquatch eyewitnesses and amateur investigators."

Bindernagel's interest in sasquatch was piqued in 1988 while chaperoning a school field trip to Lake Helen Mackenzie in Paradise Meadows.

One of the students pointed out giant footprints in the mud on the side of the trail. Bindernagel returned to the trail and made plaster casts of the footprints - the first of dozens of casts he has collected over the years.

In 1996 he took two years off and wrote a field guide on sasquatches. He feels there has been enough information available to do this in the past, and openly criticizes the scientific community for not exploring the possibility that sasquatch exists.

"We could have done this many years ago," Bindernagel said in a presentation to biology professionals in June 2017. "We must do this to provide an alternative to the misperceptions of the sasquatch as misidentified bears, costumed humans and other cultural explanations."

All he's really asking for is that scientists consider the possibility that sasquatches exist, so a scientific discussion can take place.

So people who might be skiing through the glades at the end of their day and think they see something out of the corner of their eye will have a place to legitimately discern whether it's a sasquatch or not.

A Tale of Three Gibsons

continued from page 5.

Ally started as a logger in 1974 in Menzies Bay, working for MacMillan Bloedel.

"As was common with most folks that went into logging, I did all aspects of the logging industry. I planted trees, felled trees and worked on yarding them from the stump to the road. I decided there must be a job in the woods that was less work and one that wouldn't result in me being killed so I moved into the world of forestry engineering," Ally said.

"I started at the bottom and took some courses, and through battle field promotions I was able to join the Association of Forestry Professionals and became the Area Engineer."

After the company he worked for was sold a few times, Ally ended up in Nanoose working with Island Timberlands as Area

Engineer for the North Island Operations. He retired two years ago as Harvest Manager for IT, but still does a little consulting.

Ally earned his 15 minutes of fame in 1993 when he and another Forestry Engineer, Randall Dayton, discovered one of the tallest Alaskan Yellow Cedar (also known as Cypress) trees on Vancouver Island near Sayward, 70 kilometres north of Campbell River.

The tree was more than 2,000 years old, stood 200 feet tall and was 13.7 feet in diameter. At the time the tree - named Sergeant RandAlly - was a record breaker, and a recreational park was being developed in the area. The tree fell down in a windstorm shortly before the park opened, in March 2004, and was left lying on the forest floor for nature to reclaim it.

Although the three brothers have done separate things with their careers, they are still "uber-close", as Ally puts it, and get

together several times a year for family dinners. Rick is the gourmet chef in the family, and usually hosts these events.

"It goes without saying Peter has gone beyond commitment to Mount Washington as the Resort is part of him. It is his identity and one that he has embraced with passion," says Ally. "The mountain is greatly what it is today because of his efforts."

"I worry when he retires he will realize a large void and I hope he is able to fill it with something as meaningful as the mountain has been for him. I've had several conversations with him in that regard so time will tell."

"Rick has also done very well for himself. He started at the bottom and worked up to where he is today and is very successful. He had a recent and very sad tragedy of which he handled with amazing strength and resolve," he says. "I'm very proud of both my brothers."

Make It Snow

continued from page 4.

A pumphouse site has been identified near the Sunrise Quad chairlift, between Rick's Ride and Schum's Delight. Plans would include building the pumphouse, expanding the reservoir and bringing hydro into the pumphouse site. Then they could also look at running hydro and water to locations on the Coaster and the terrain park, Trousdell explained.

The Resort has a hydrologist monitoring and researching the aquifer at Mount Washington, and geotech surveys are underway as well with a consulting firm. It's all part of the Resort's research into its water supply.

"Building out a snowmaking system for the Resort is a hefty task, but the new ownership group is committed to it", says Gibson.

Snowmaking is an integral part of Pacific Group Resorts' other ski hills, particularly in the eastern United States.

"On the east coast you can't be in the ski business without snowmaking," says Mark Fischer, Executive Vice-President of Pacific Group Resorts, which owns Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

"Mount Washington, on the other hand, has generally enjoyed a lot of snow. There was a belief that they didn't need snowmaking. We had a couple of tough years and now we are taking a look at it," he says.

"For a place like Mount Washington, (snowmaking) is really just an insurance policy. It allows us to make sure we have good coverage early. It's around in case we need it for some reason, to fill in on weak snow years. It's not like the east coast, where you need to have it all the time."

There is an art to snowmaking, says

Fischer. "It's not the same as natural snow, which falls the same everywhere. You don't make snow on expert terrain: you could never put snowmaking in the Outback for example."

"The primary idea is to hit the areas progressively from the beginners' area - start with the stuff on the bottom of the mountain," he said. "The other thing that's important is terrain parks take a lot of snow to build out features, and we want to cover night skiing."

The future of coastal ski resorts has come into question with a couple of back-to-back weak snow years, and Gibson predicts snowmaking will be the difference. "We'll only survive with snowmaking," he says. "I think our long-term vision is to have snowmaking on one or two runs of every lift."

In 2013, when they had a late snow year, there were still lots of people who visited the Resort. "We could have run some teaching programs," Gibson says. It's that kind of scenario that is the impetus for snowmaking installation at Mount Washington.

"We want to concentrate on what we could perhaps open early if we had a late snow year," he says.

"The whole theory behind snowmaking is you can guarantee your start date. That way people planning their holidays and booking accommodation have confidence that no matter what natural weather throws at us we will have some kind of product to ski on."

Pacific Group Resorts

continued from page 2.

Fischer added, "If you maintain them well and replace parts as they wear out (lifts) last for eons. The Resort's alpine area is well laid out, he adds, so there aren't any plans to install new lifts.

One item that people have asked about but isn't being considered for Mount Washington is a mountain coaster. Pacific Group Resorts' Wisp Resort in Maryland has a mountain coaster among other summertime activities. It's similar to a roller coaster except riders are strapped into a cart and traverse a coaster track as it winds its way down the sloped course.

"We haven't done any studies on that," Fischer said. "Our lift system isn't conducive to them. The combination of the way the mountain is and the way our lifts are isn't conducive to (a coaster)."

Pacific Group Resorts is also focusing outside of the lodge and lift areas. They have put two different parcels of land up for sale.

One of the lots, four acres in size across from the main parking lot - the former recreational vehicle lot - could potentially be developed into townhomes or condos. The second lot is also approximately four acres, located between the bottom of the Hawk chairlift and Henry Road, and would be suitable for a hotel or condo development.

"One of the lots we feel would make a great site for townhome lots," Fischer said. "It seems to us maybe there's pent-up desire for some new product. We'll see if we can't find out if the market's interested or not."



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- GREAT BIG VIEW - 3km
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NEWS, ACCOMMODATIONS & REAL ESTATE

The MOUNT WASHINGTON Marmot

Published for your convenience by Rick Gibson of Royal LePage in the Comox Valley.

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INFORMATION:
rick@themarmot.ca

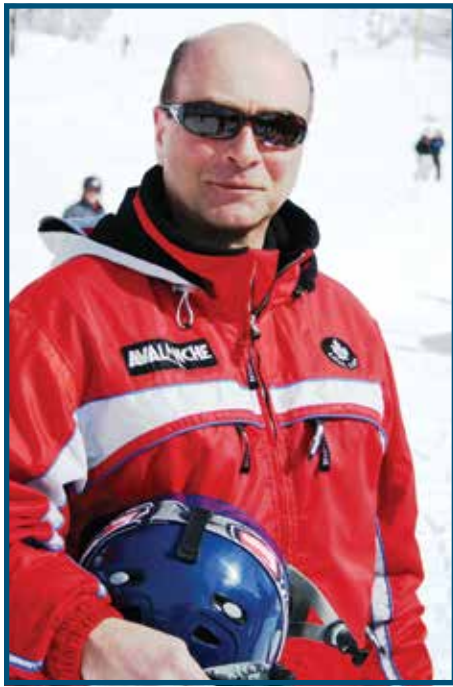
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Gimme Shelter
continued from page 4.



In Profile: Peter Gibson
continued from page 3.

"I've had a good response from everybody, not just here but in the ski industry," says Gibson. "It's a good feel."

Christopher Nicolson, president and CEO of the Canada West Ski Areas Association, has a long history with Peter Gibson - a past-chairperson of the CWSAA and 2013 winner of the CWSAA Jim Marshall Leadership Award. Nicolson graduated from Vanier Secondary School in Courtenay, and taught skiing at Forbidden Plateau a few years behind Gibson.

"I didn't formally work at Mount Wash-

ington but I took courses there...it was certainly my formative years as a skier. Peter was always a part of that one way or another," Nicolson said.

"I think he's both a pillar within Mount Washington and Vancouver Island but also one of those characters that's important to the ski industry," says Nicolson.

The CWSAA serves skiers and ski areas across the west and it's a testament to Peter that he was elected as chairperson, says Nicolson: it shows peer respect for Peter throughout the industry in Western Canada.

"Peter is from a different generation... anyone that's been in this business for that duration deserves a lot of respect. It's a special personality to be able to do all that."

Gibson announced his retirement more than six months before the end of the ski season, and says it will take that long to find a replacement and transfer as much knowledge as a mentor to the new General Manager at Mount Washington.

Nicolson acknowledged that this is an unusual situation for a ski resort, "where you have somebody with a lot of memory and a lot of institutional knowledge that goes beyond Mount Washington, beyond lifts, it goes well be-

yond the evolution of the community at Mount Washington.

"Mount Washington is going through a process of capturing that knowledge. One thing we're making sure as an industry is that we're documenting that knowledge. That process is very important."

George Trousdell, Director of Mountain Operations, expressed his appreciation for Gibson. "I've been here for 37 years, so not quite as long as Peter, but long enough to know him very well. His exit strategy is vintage Peter," Trousdell said.

"He's leaving in good health, he's in a good place, and he has given us enough time to allow for careful selection of a new General Manager, and the time for a thorough knowledge transfer between him and the new GM.

"Everything he does, he does thoughtfully and with an appreciation for those around him. I hope he enjoys his retirement because we're going to miss him."

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"When we do get the fire hall built up there, we'll be able to back (the truck) in there."

The cost for the fire hall, estimated at \$500,000, was "prohibitive" to start this year, he explained. Land has already been set aside, between the old RV site and below the Maintenance Yard, for a Fire Hall.

The Regional District has a maximum annual requisition for the fire service, and Bast said there isn't enough money this year to begin construction.

"The costs for the building were higher than expected. If we could wait one more year we might be able to build in 2018," he said.

"I'll be working with the designers to see if we can pare that down."

Information on the fire service is updated periodically on the website, www.comox-valleyrd.ca/mtwashingtonfireproject.



Photo: Adam Taylor

Not Your Typical Marmot Colony!

Getting 'Schooled' at Mount Washington



The colony of Vancouver Island Marmots at Mount Washington continues to thrive... welcome news for this critically endangered species.

In fact, Mount Washington's role in the helping marmots recover in the wild is growing.

Vancouver Island Marmots are a sub-alpine member of the squirrel family, about the size of a large house-cat. Typically, they live in remote, mountain meadows. In the 1990s, their population crashed, likely the

result of habitat disruption and predation. Years of work have secured habitat for the species, and a captive breeding program has re-introduced marmots born at the Calgary and Toronto Zoos to mountains where the species had once been wiped out. From just 30 marmots in 2003, there are now about 200 in the wild.

However, there are still challenges to overcome before this rare species achieves a stable population.

"Marmots born in at a Zoo have a lot to learn very quickly once they are released to the wild," explains Cheyney Jackson, a biologist with the Marmot Recovery Foundation.

"They have to adjust to a completely new environment, learn to avoid predators effectively, and pack on enough weight to survive their next hibernation, all at the same time. It's asking a lot of a young marmot."

This is where Mount Washington comes in. "It definitely isn't your typical marmot colony," says Jackson. She was part of a research team that concluded that Mount Washington's unique characteristics make it the perfect spot for a bit of 'marmot education.'

The team that included Jackson and researchers from the Calgary Zoo looked at the success of marmots that had been released to Mount Washington for one year before being moved into more remote, wild colonies.

"The marmots that spent a year in the wild at Mount Washington did worlds better; the difference was just astounding."

Why? Strangely enough, part of the answer may be people. "We think one of the big reasons marmots do so well at Mount Washington is that summer hikers and tourists scare away predators that would hang around and eat marmots in more remote areas," explains Jackson.

The marmots themselves are tolerant of

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Photo: Adam Taylor



Malcolm McAdie, Cheyney Jackson and Norberto Pancera (L to R) release a marmot to Mount Washington in the Summer of 2017.

people, as long as we keep our distance. “If they stand up, run, or duck underground, you’ve moved too close. Just back up and stay quiet, and the marmots usually come back out after a few minutes.”

Mount Washington seeds their ski runs with marmot-friendly plants as well, ensuring that there is plenty of food for inexperienced marmots to find.

By the time big crowds arrive, the marmots are underground, deep in hibernation. “Skiers aren’t going to wake up a hibernating marmot,” says Jackson. “They are under snow, rocks, and soil, in an extremely slow metabolic state.”

That’s not to say that people being close to marmots always goes smoothly. “In the summer months, we have had issues with dogs, unfortunately – we’d really encourage everyone to not to bring dogs up onto the ski runs. But the vast majority of people are incredibly respectful of the marmots. It’s what has made this location such a success for the species.”

Once these Zoo-born marmots have some ‘real life’ experience, they are moved to truly wild spots in Strathcona Provincial Park.

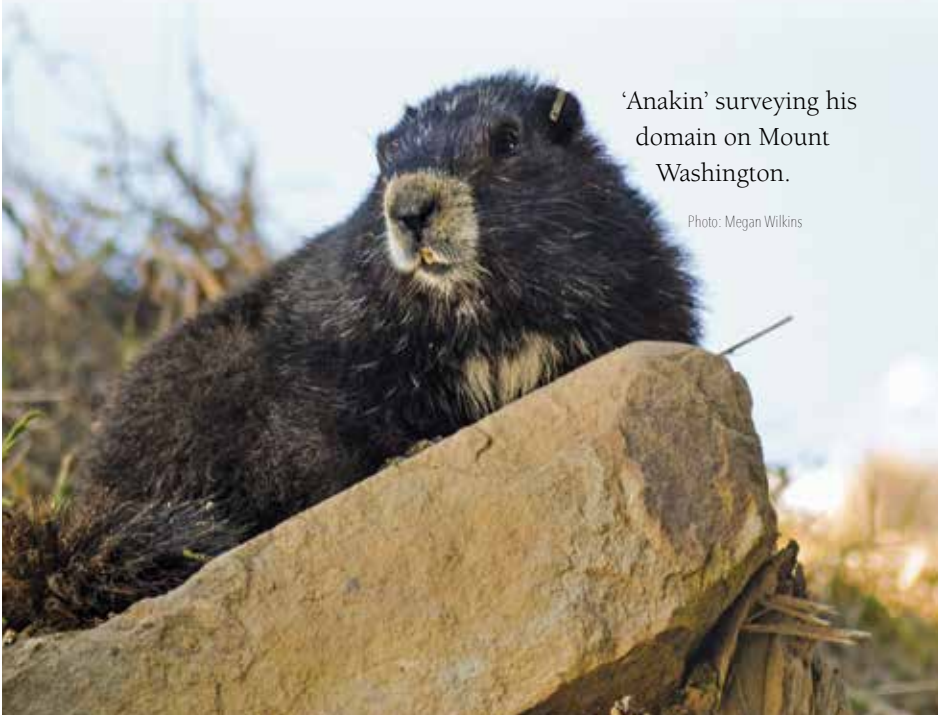
There, these pre-conditioned marmots seem much better equipped to survive the harsh weather and find food and mates on their own, all while avoiding predators.

Mind you, not every marmot is enthusiastic about the move. “We were a little shocked when Macallan, a marmot we moved to Mount Albert Edward in 2015, showed up back at Mount Washington one day this summer,” says Jackson.

So, will he have to move back? “No,” laughs Jackson, “he’s made his point. We’ll let him stay here.”

If you would like to help to recover our endangered Canadian marmot visit www.marmots.org and join the Adopt-a-Marmot Club.

Story: Adam Taylor



‘Anakin’ surveying his domain on Mount Washington.

Photo: Megan Wilkins

The Vancouver Island Marmot

(*Marmota vancouverensis*) is one of the largest members of the squirrel family (about the size of a large house cat). Other members of the Sciuridae family include chipmunks, squirrels and woodchucks.

Vancouver Island marmots are easy to recognize by their rich chocolate brown fur with contrasting white patches on their nose, chin, forehead and chest.

HABITAT Vancouver Island marmots live neither in the forest nor on the rocky mountaintops. They live in small patches of south and west-facing sub-alpine and alpine meadows (usually above 1000 meters), where occasional winter avalanches and snow creep prevent trees from taking root. These meadows are the first to become clear of snow and produce the early grasses and sedges the marmots rely upon when they emerge from hibernation.

There they find the forage they need, deep soil for digging (hibernation burrows need to be deep enough to reach below the frost line) and large boulders to provide convenient lookout spots to watch for predators. Boulders also help marmots regulate their internal body temperature; you will often see them stretched out on them in the early mornings and evenings, and are a predictable and necessary feature of marmot habitat.



Photo: Jared Hobbs

At Green Mountain, a wild marmot is alert to potential danger.

Underground burrows provide shelter from the elements and protection from predators. Typically 30-45 cms across, burrows range in size and purpose. Small, simple burrows may be used for a quick escape from a predator and larger more complex burrows are used for hibernation and birthing and may have numerous passages and exits. One excavated hibernation burrow measured five meters in length with the sleeping chamber located one meter underground.

ADOPT A MARMOT!

When you join the **Adopt-a-Marmot Club**, you help protect the endangered Vancouver Island marmot every day of the year. Pre-arranged monthly gifts are a convenient way to help save this beautiful and special creature from extinction. Your gift supports the field research and captive-breeding that’s so critical to marmot survival. For instance, your contribution will help fund ear-tagging of wild marmots, which is the only way in which we can identify and track individual marmots and the success of recovery efforts in future years.

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- Your official recovery project newsletter (The Marmoteer)
- Your special year-end report about individual marmots

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AT MT. WASHINGTON

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214	2 Bedroom Lockoff <i>FREEHOLD</i>	\$229,900
314	2 Bedroom Lockoff <i>FREEHOLD</i>	\$234,900
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415	1 Bedroom - Top Floor <i>FREEHOLD</i>	\$209,900



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700 Arrowsmith Ridge	\$94,500	919 Cruikshank Ridge	\$117,900
849 Cruikshank Ridge	\$69,000	949 Cruikshank Ridge	\$99,900



Sunset & Mountain Views

Spacious, well kept townhome within a few minutes stroll of the alpine lodge. Three bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and sauna. The inside is well cared for with a huge space in the lower floor for sleeping or ????. Outside patio to take in the sunsets and mountain views. Ski in and out access to the slopes. Fantastic location and great value.

\$184,900



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Features Include:

- Swimming Pool
- Sauna and Hot Tub
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- Mountain / Strathcona Park Views

109	4 Bedroom 1299 Sq Ft Corner Park view <i>FREEHOLD</i>	\$292,500
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306	3 Bedroom <i>FREEHOLD</i> Facing ski runs	\$349,900



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\$199,900



Gourmet Kitchen!

West Coast designer townhome located close to the Alpine Lodge of Mount Washington. Offering 3 bedrooms, two bathrooms and sauna. Vaulted ceilings in the living room and gourmet kitchen with appliances. Ample storage and easy access round out this great package. Mount Washington offers incredible snow, and affordable real estate prices.

\$199,900

Information current as of
November 28, 2017

Photo: Neil Havers



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Stroll to the Alpine Lodge!

Freehold three bedroom townhome tucked in the Alpine Village with views of the ski runs. Located close to the Alpine Lodge. Ski out to the lifts. The Alpine Lodge is but a stroll away! Unit does not look at other buildings. The Alpine Village offers piece and quiet yet easily accessible. Three bedrooms down with sauna.

\$209,900



Super Village Location!

This centrally located townhome has wonderful sunset views of the meadows in the village and Mt. Albert Edward in the distance. There is plenty of room to move with bedrooms on lower levels and a huge open living room and dining and kitchen area that features a propane fireplace and vaulted ceilings. Fully equipped and includes furnishings.

\$249,900



Ski Out to the Lifts!

Freehold three bedroom townhome tucked in the Alpine Village. Located close to the Alpine Lodge. Ski out to the lifts. The Alpine Lodge is but a stroll away! The Alpine Village offers piece & quiet yet easily accessible. Cozy up in the living room with propane fireplace. Three bedrooms down with sauna.

\$214,900



Family Owned Chalet!

This family owned chalet is located within a few hundred feet of parking. Living room faces west into Strathcona Park. Very easy access to ski slopes. Lovingly maintained by its owners, this chalet offers three bedrooms and open living area. Basement is undeveloped for future ideas.

\$374,900



Corner Suite Sunsets!

Mountainside Lodge at Mount Washington, 2 bedroom freehold lock-off suite on the third floor with views into Strathcona Park. Corner suite offers privacy and sunset views. Easy access to slopes in winter and Strathcona Park in summer. Suite comes furnished and ready to go!

\$224,900



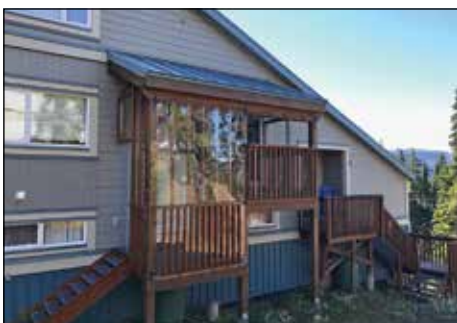
Perched on a Hillside!

Enjoy the commanding south west view into Strathcona Park in this incredibly well built and designed timber framed freehold chalet. The living areas are very bright with huge windows in the prow front. Big sun drenched deck to take in the sun all day from the sunrises to the sunsets. The lower floor has a custom designed large waxing area with a unique radiant heating system. Open up the large garage door and enjoy the view into the park, while staying warm!!! An electric forced air heating system and HRV is efficient and affordable. If required a heat pump can be installed to cool the chalet down in the summer months.

On demand hot water and a few other hidden touches such as emergency generator. Easy access to all things recreational and you are right next to Strathcona Park! Located in an area of million dollar homes, this one should not pass you by.

\$484,900

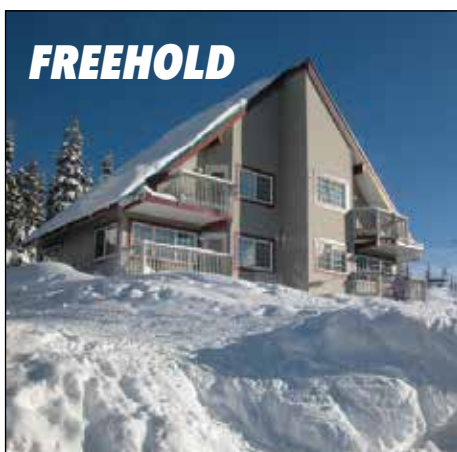
Photo: Neil Havers



Never Rented!

Tucked in a quiet part of the village but close to skiing and parking with easy access. Over 2000 square feet with 3 bedrooms and open living, dining and kitchen areas that features a propane fireplace and vaulted ceilings. Fully equipped including furnishings. Current owners have never rented.

\$234,900



FREEHOLD

Welcome to our Cabin!

The perfect smaller mountain home that is not set up to sleep 30! Very open bright design that is easy access to skiing in winter and the park in summer. Southern exposure off either of the two sun drenched decks. Vaulted ceilings and well thought out floor plan. A bathroom on each level, sauna in basement, loads of storage - just the perfect family retreat. And it is Freehold!

\$324,900



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Dream Location!

If you want a large chalet on the best location at Mount Washington this is it! Located at the end of Fosters Place, this truly ski in and ski out chalet is situated to take in the morning and afternoon sun yet less than 100 feet away from the slopes. The mountain home was custom built with insulated concrete walls with R50 insulation. Inside, are two propane fireplaces, HRV system, Low E windows throughout, 4 bathrooms, central vacuum, 2 hot water tanks, private concrete patios (both wired for hot tubs). The home has been split into two areas, the main part with 4 bedrooms and the

owners suite with 2 bedrooms. Plus, the overheight basement (11 foot ceilings) is ideal for getting out of the winter weather or workshop or? In the main area, take advantage of the spectacular views of the Beaufort Mountain Range and the vistas of Strathcona Park from the expansive outdoor patio or put a hot tub on the upstairs deck located privately off the master bedroom. 400 amp service.

\$624,900



2700 Sq. Ft. of Luxury!

Never before has a home of this style and quality been available on the market. Over 2,700 square feet with 6 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms. No expense has been spared from the silestone quartz kitchen, hardwood floors, solid cedar beams, log styled exterior to the open hearth style gas fireplace. All rooms are open and spacious. Fosters Place is Mount Washington's only drive-in, ski-out location. **\$799,900**



Perched on a Knoll!

This Alpine Village chalet is perfectly set up for a large family or those wanting a great rental property. Easy access to parking, ski in and out. Three distinct living areas; a lower 2 bedroom sunny owner's suite, main floor 5 bedroom suite with huge entertainment friendly kitchen and living area and an upper bachelor suite. Meticulously maintained with new hardiplank siding on the exterior. Loads of storage, well thought out design. Wood fireplace in the upper main suite and electric fireplace in the owners suite.

\$649,900



Come Home to the Marmot Home!

Custom built mountain home with sweeping sunset views into Strathcona Park. Lived in full time by its owners this has all the extras you would expect in a custom built home. Almost 4,000 square feet this three bedroom home has everything from concrete wall construction, heated drive way, gourmet kitchen, in floor heat, lots and lots of storage and a view that goes on forever. Two decks plus an outdoor patio. If you are seeking an exclusive family retreat on Mount Washington come home to the Marmot Home. **\$999,900**



Photo: Neil Havers



On Arrowsmith Ridge!

Thought out design with 6 bedrooms. Two of the bedrooms have their own ensuites while the others are designed as family suites. Each family suite has two bedrooms and a shared bathroom. Open living area with grand gourmet kitchen and huge cathedral ceilings. Main floor offers a large deck with BBQ. Sauna, loads of storage, two garages, heated drive way, huge laundry area and more. If you have been looking for the ideal property for a larger family, or for joint family ownership, this is the one! **\$1,050,000**

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DATE SOLD	LOCATION	BDRMS	LIST PRICE	LISTED BY	SOLD BY	DATE SOLD	LOCATION	BDRMS	LIST PRICE	LISTED BY	SOLD BY
November 28, 2017	111 Ptarmigan Ridge	1	\$98,800	Other	Other	January 5, 2017	709-4 (1/4) Castle Crag Crescent	2	\$37,500	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
November 28, 2017	640 Arrowsmith Ridge	Lot	\$45,000	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE	January 4, 2017	315 Bear Lodge	1	\$219,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other
November 28, 2017	212 Deer Lodge	3	\$214,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other	January 3, 2017	117 Blueberry Hill	3	\$224,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
November 27, 2017	113 Paradise Ridge	2	\$179,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE	December 30, 2016	111 Blueberry Hill	3	\$220,000	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
November 24, 2017	301 Creekside House	3	\$299,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other	November 29, 2016	988 Henry Road	5	\$390,000	Other	ROYAL LEPAGE
November 21, 2017	109 Deer Lodge	2	\$229,900	Other	ROYAL LEPAGE	November 23, 2016	312 Ptarmigan Ridge	1	\$114,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
October 25, 2017	915 Clinton Wood Court	3		ROYAL LEPAGE	Other	November 19, 2016	3 - Parkview Place	3	\$305,000	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
October 21, 2017	1176 Alexandra Avenue	Lot	\$199,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other	November 17, 2016	308 Blueberry Hill	3	\$229,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other
October 19, 2017	1723-A Fosters Place	6	\$788,888	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other	November 10, 2016	202 Blueberry Hill	3	\$239,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
October 12, 2017	E-828 Washington Way	5	\$295,000	Other	ROYAL LEPAGE	November 4, 2016	208 Ptarmigan Ridge	1	\$94,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
October 6, 2017	871 Strata Way	4	\$499,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE	November 3, 2016	1020 Cruikshank Ridge	2	\$289,288	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
October 5, 2017	114 Deer Lodge	1	\$124,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other	October 17, 2016	1030 Strata Way	5	\$319,000	Other	ROYAL LEPAGE
October 2, 2017	3-760 Albert Edward Place	3	\$159,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE	September 27, 2016	305 Ptarmigan Ridge	1	\$99,500	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
September 20, 2017	502 Paradise Ridge	3	\$179,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE	August 18, 2016	110 Bear Lodge	2	\$224,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
September 18, 2017	101 Ptarmigan Ridge	1	\$105,000	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE	July 28, 2016	971 Strata Way	5	\$339,900	Other	Other
September 18, 2017	312 Blueberry Hill	2	\$214,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE	July 23, 2016	930 Cruikshank Canyon	Lot	\$68,000	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
September 18, 2017	108 Ptarmigan Ridge	1	\$124,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE	May 25, 2016	978 Clinton Wood Court	4	\$369,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
September 6, 2017	214 Paradise Ridge	4	\$249,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE	May 16, 2016	105 Blueberry Hill	2	\$189,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
September 6, 2017	8 Parkview Place	4	\$419,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE	May 9, 2016	1195 Alexandra Avenue	6	\$499,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other
August 22, 2017	212 Ptarmigan Ridge	1	\$99,900	Other	Other	April 26, 2016	889 Jutland Terrace	4	\$329,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
August 21, 2017	116 Blueberry Hill	2	\$169,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE	April 12, 2016	5-691 Castle Crag Crescent	2	\$114,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
July 17, 2017	304 Bear Lodge	3	\$274,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other	March 25, 2016	9-709 Castle Crag Crescent	2	\$114,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
July 11, 2017	210 Ptarmigan Ridge	1	\$99,900	Other	Other	February 1, 2016	869 Cruikshank Ridge	Lot	\$58,500	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
July 4, 2017	110 Ptarmigan Ridge	1	\$89,900	Other	Other	January 31, 2016	Lot 10 Nordic Road	Lot	\$119,000	Other	ROYAL LEPAGE
June 17, 2017	1-924 Washington Way	2	\$149,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE	January 27, 2016	216 Blueberry Hill	2	\$179,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other
June 15, 2017	304 Ptarmigan Ridge	1	\$108,900	Other	Other	January 24, 2016	202 - Bear Lodge	2	\$222,900	Other	Other
June 10, 2017	213 Paradise Ridge	2	\$154,950	Other	Other	January 23, 2016	1066 Meadow Lane	3	\$264,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
May 31, 2017	204 Blueberry Hill	2	\$159,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE	January 22, 2016	211 Paradise Ridge	3	\$159,000	Other	Other
May 18, 2017	2-751 Albert Edward Place	3	\$189,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE	January 20, 2016	4 Wildwood	3	\$424,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
May 3, 2017	407 Deer Lodge	2	\$209,900	Other	Other	January 15, 2016	301-695 Castle Crag Crescent	2	\$129,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
April 21, 2017	6-760 Albert Edward Place	3	\$149,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE	January 11, 2016	403 - Paradise Ridge	3	\$164,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
April 14, 2017	1143 Alexandra Avenue	6	\$424,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other	January 10, 2016	8 - 736 Albert Edward Place	3	\$199,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
April 8, 2017	3 Parkview Place	4	\$372,500	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other	January 4, 2016	4 - 737 Albert Edward Place	3	\$114,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
March 27, 2017	503 Paradise Ridge	3	\$179,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE	January 3, 2016	1190 Alexandra Avenue	4	\$269,999	Other	Other
March 21, 2017	12-691 Castle Crag Crescent	2	\$162,500	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE	January 2, 2016	201-788 Castle Crag Crescent	2	\$127,500	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
February 26, 2017	872B Washington Way	3	\$244,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other	December 8, 2015	1217 - Fosters Place	6	\$469,000	Other	Other
February 26, 2017	203 Bear Lodge	3	\$299,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE	December 7, 2015	408 - Bear Lodge	1	\$149,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other
February 7, 2017	1176 Fosters Place	Lot	\$186,000	Other	Other	December 6, 2015	403 - Bear Lodge	3	\$299,000	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
February 2, 2017	107 Bear Lodge	1	\$149,900	Other	Other	November 30, 2015	305 - Bear Lodge	2	\$234,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
January 31, 2017	304 Deer Lodge	3	\$349,900	Other	Other	November 20, 2015	435 - Beaufort Heights	3	\$259,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
January 24, 2017	5-736 Albert Edward Place	3	\$189,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE	November 20, 2015	470 - Beaufort Heights	3	\$244,900	Other	Other
January 12, 2017	6-924 Washington Way	2	\$149,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE	November 12, 2015	305 - Deer Lodge	2	\$199,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE

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In the Comox Valley

Rick lives on the mountain and his experience shows with almost 30 years of commitment, in good times and bad. He is well acquainted with most of the properties and their owners. Rick is dedicated to the Resort and the Comox Valley through his numerous volunteer efforts. Have a real estate question that no one can answer? Rick likely can.

