

The MOUNT WASHINGTON

# Marmot



2020 NEWS | ACCOMMODATIONS | REAL ESTATE

## MOUNT WASHINGTON DOWN THE ROAD... VISION 2020

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Advances

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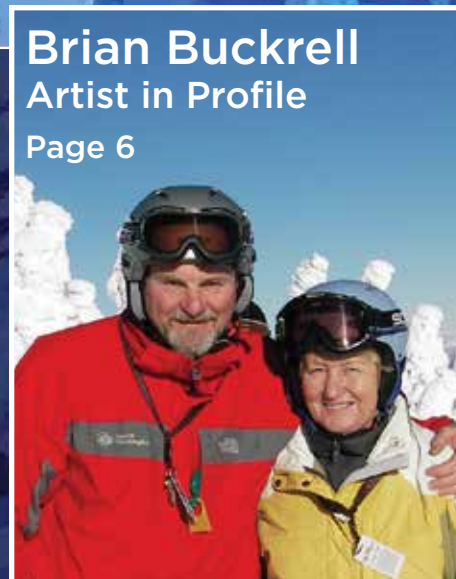
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## With four years under their belt and an anniversary just passed, Pacific Group Resorts Inc. are well on their way to achieving the vision they had when they purchased Mount Washington Resort.

"We were pretty keen on Mount Washington," says Mark Fischer, Executive Vice-President of Pacific Group Resorts. "We knew what we had and were anxious for it."

The ownership and management groups have been working on several ambitious projects in the past two years to achieve some of those goals.

"We really want to be a year-round Resort and we're excited at the possibilities there," Fischer said. "I think we're well on the way. We've got a little bit more stuff going on before we're full four-seasons... that's the objective, is to have a lot of year-round activities."

**Having a four-season Resort will not just benefit visitors: the growing number of people living full-time in the Alpine Village and surrounding areas will also benefit from increased activities, he said.**

The Resort has invested millions of dollars in infrastructure to bring snowmaking to the Mountain in the Beginners' Area, the Tube Park and new for this season, a run from the base of the Eagle Express Chairlift to the top of Whiskey Jack.

State-of-the-art snowmaking equipment will bring some security to the beginning of the winter season, giving nature a chance to work on a good snow base.

Staff will continue to provide a variety of snow programs and a full slate of events to solidify the winter season.

**Summer received a new lease on life in 2016 when the Bike Park was reopened.**

Fischer and Bike Park Manager Mike Manara are confident the Park "is just

going to get better," Fischer said.

"Mike Manara and his crew have done a great job with the Bike Park. I think the Bike Program is going to continue to grow and we're pleased with that."

Crews have been building new trails and are working on a Skills Park for next summer. It's all part of a purposeful in-filling of the services offered, from new children's programming at the Bike School to adding events to draw weekend over-night visitors.



Photo: Neil Havers

**Over the next three to five years the Resort will grow the trail network to 45 total kilometres, Manara said. They were at 20 kms at the beginning of last summer "and with the additions we're closer to 30 kms now. We should be 32 to 33 kms of trail in the downhill part by the time next summer (2020) rolls around."**

Resort visitors can expect to see expansion at the Bike Park for the next few years as the trail crew and management alike have plans to develop the product from the beginner trails to expert runs, and filling in the gaps with services such as mountain bike guides, introductory weeks and more.

Mount Washington is in a unique spot where people can ride lift-accessed mountain bike trails, single track, downhill, machine made trails, Blue and Black Diamond trails.



Sunlight glints off one of the snowmaking machines standing at the ready in the beginners' area of Mount Washington Alpine Resort. New snow guns were installed to bring early season coverage to runs from the Eagle Express and Whiskey Jack chairlifts.

Susan Quinn Photo

"We are literally in a Mecca of mountain biking from the South Island to Campbell River. There's trail networks literally everywhere. Our niche is we can be a one-stop shop," Manara said.

**In summer 2019 the first half of the Eagle's Flight Ziptour course opened to rave reviews. The Resort has been given the go-ahead by the British**

**Columbia Safety Authority to complete the four-span course, which will be the longest on Vancouver Island at 2.3 kilometres of dual cable. The double whammy of the Bike Park and Ziptours will generate up to 10,000 new visitors, according to management estimates.**

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Photo courtesy Mount Washington







# Snowmaking on Mount Washington

There are only two places in the world where making snow at a ski resort presents a challenge to the experts: New Zealand, and Vancouver Island.

**All Mount Washington Alpine Resort's owners can say is: challenge accepted.**

Mount Washington, located in the heart of the Island Mountain range on Vancouver Island, is known for its record mid-season snowfalls. Early snow, however, can be a bit of a guessing game.

When Pacific Group Resorts Inc. purchased the Island Resort four years ago they envisioned snowmaking equipment enhancing the early season by laying a foundation of man made snow in high-traffic areas, like the Beginners' Area or the Tube Park.

Since snowmaking equipment is a standard part of PGR's American Resorts, Company Officials started searching for a way to bring the process to Mount Washington.

"If there has been one surprise, it's been how difficult it has been to make snow at Mount Washington," said Mark Fischer, Executive Vice-President of PGR Inc.

"Manufacturers of snow makers tell us the two most difficult places to make snow are New Zealand and Vancouver Island."

Temperature, humidity and wind are all concerns for a Resort surrounded by water.

"There can be many challenges with snow making in our climate zone," says Layne Marett, the Resort's new Director of Mountain Operations.

"Freezing level fluctuation, humidity,

temperature and wind are all factors that play heavily when planning to make snow.

Duration of cold temperatures and future forecasts are always something to look for to ensure the snow we make will be the best quality and quantity given the time frame and weather window."

Man made snow can withstand warm temperatures a bit better than natural snow, Marett adds, "but it is not cost effective to run the snow making system if there is a chance of a really warm spell coming in the following few days."

A few cold days to freeze the ground followed by six or seven days of cold temperatures in the -3 to -12 degrees Celsius range are optimal.

"As it is a new system, we will try when we can to make snow to find the best method, even if the weather window is short."

Maintenance personnel, grooming department and snow removal team members all helped to install the system this summer.

"We will be excited to test it out whenever we can to perfect the quality and quantity for these conditions," Marett says.

"We will have the ability to 'bulk up' the natural snow or make snow for the Grooming Department if they may need snow for other runs nearby."

The Resort has spent the past two winters experimenting with snowmaking



Operations crews have spent the past few months burying pipes and installing snow guns for some serious snowmaking at Mount Washington Alpine Resort this winter. Susan Quinn Photo

equipment from different manufacturers, trying to find the right combination that fits what they want to do at Mount Washington.

"Nobody had tried to make snow on Vancouver Island before," Fischer said.

**Last year the Beginners' Area and Tube Park were covered. This year, staff have spent the summer laying groundwork for snowmaking to cover alpine runs from the base of the Eagle Express Chairlift to the top of Whiskey Jack.**

More than two kilometres of iron ductile pipe was buried underground to keep it from freezing, and that doesn't include the lateral pipes that connect to each hydrant.

A snowmaking 'pond' was dug out and

lined with impermeable clay to store water. A powerful pump house capable of providing water to the numerous snow making machines was also built.

"It's been a labour of love," Fischer said. "The guys worked really hard on that and we're really excited about it."

The multi-million-dollar Project will change the face of early-season skiing at the Resort, giving visitors a "top to bottom skiing experience. That's exciting," he said.

"It's good intermediate terrain but it gets you up to the top of the mountain."

Marett agreed. "Snow making is a great addition to Mount Washington. The ability to make snow will also help provide additional certainty for our guests when making early season plans to visit the mountain, especially over the holiday period."

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Photo: Neil Havers



## Changing Faces

The Executive Team at Mount Washington Alpine Resort has seen the passing of a torch and the creation of two jobs.

George Trousdell retired last summer as Director of Operations after 37 years with the Vancouver Island Resort. His departure has made way for the promotion of longtime employee Daniel Caley as Director of Maintenance and Facilities, and the hiring of a new employee, Layne Marett, as Director of Mountain Operations.

Caley has been with the Resort for more than 26 years, most recently as Manager of Maintenance. In 1993 he started his career as an entry-level lift operator and progressed through the mountain's apprenticeship program, obtaining his Red Seal Millwright certification from BCIT in 2001.

Dean Prentice, General Manager, said it was an easy decision to promote Caley from within the Company. He identified Caley's experience with the Resort's recent capital investments as well as at the Resort over the last couple of decades as key

factors.

"Dan was a natural choice as we install snowmaking infrastructure from the base area to the top of the Whiskey Jack Chairlift, since he has been intimately involved with the snowmaking equipment testing we've been doing for the past couple of seasons,"

Prentice said. "He's also been involved in the installation of the new Ziptour, and his leadership on that project makes this a great next step for Dan and for us."

Caley credited Trousdell's tutelage for preparing him for the expanded role at the Mountain. "Our career paths have a lot of parallels," Caley said.

"George and I both started as lift operators and worked our way up. I've learned a lot from him over the years, which gives me the confidence to take on this expanded role and contribute to the Resort's evolution."

Continued on page 16

Photo: Neil Havers



Mother Nature may not have had a great summer, but Mount Washington Alpine Resort did!

"It was a great summer," said Tim Defert, Resort Director of Hospitality and Sales.

"Everything was just a solid season. We had a lot of interest in the Zipline, of course. The weather didn't cooperate, but we had a good season."

Events like Tapped and the Alpine Wine Festival were sold out, and cycling events at the Bike Park drew crowds.

A new Eatery in the Courtyard was a hit too. "Our new Outdoor Kitchen and Patio was very well received by mountain bikers and tourists alike," Defert said.

The Patio featured a full restaurant in the front courtyard, with live music every weekend. It's something the Resort will definitely continue in 2020, he added.

There were more groups than ever visiting the Resort last summer, from tourists to Corporate Groups and Weddings. "Groups were on the increase last year and are looking good for this year," Defert added.

The opening of the first part of Eagle's Path ZipTours generated a lot

of interest, Defert expects more as the complete Trail will open in 2020.

A lot of the summer season was spent preparing for winter. Maintenance crews laid hundreds of feet of pipe underground for the new snowmaking system, which will see snowmaking from the Beginners' Area and the Base of the Eagle Express Chairlift right up to the top of the Whiskey Jack Chairlift.

"This summer while we were enjoying a really good mountain biking season we were building new trails," said Mark Fischer, Executive Vice-President of Pacific Group Resorts Inc., owners of Mount Washington.

It's part of a deliberate plan to expand the Bike Park and what it offers, says Bike Park Manager Mike Manara.

"Summer for us was a very successful (season). We're building and planning our trail expansion."

New Trail Crew Supervisor Ben McInnes started in May and will continue with the work begun last year, Manara said.

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Photo: Mount Washington

Susan Quinn Photo



## Zip Line Expansion Approved

The first Phase of a \$3.5 million Zip Line opened at Mount Washington Alpine Resort last summer and was an immediate hit. Now the Resort's owners are hoping to ride that success all the way to a four-span finish line in the summer of 2020.

The Resort offered a guided "Hawk Excursion" on the third and fourth spans of the Zip Line with a total of 1224 metres (4,015 feet) of cable. It was an exciting launch, said Mark Fischer, Executive Vice-President of Pacific Group Resorts Inc.

"We're looking forward to next summer," he said. "The B.C. Safety Authority has signed off on the whole ride, from the top to the bottom. It's going to be a big, big ride."

When the Zip Line is complete, it will include four spans with two side-by-side cables. The total length will be 2313 metres (7,589 feet) long and will drop a stomach-lurching 415 metres (1,364 feet). The four segments include short scenic walks in between each span.

The braking technology of the Eagle's

Flight Ziptour allows for cable spans that are longer, steeper and more dramatic than a typical zip line canopy tour.

Guests will be able to control their speed of descent dynamically - giving them the ability to open the throttle for the thrills, or ease back to take in the views.

The system provides guests with a full mountain exploration tour, top to bottom, in less than two hours depending on the size of the tour group.

"You step off that top platform into 30 metres of air and you're going to end up 60 to 70 metres in the air on the first span. We've had people hit 100 kilometres an hour."

**Although not the first zip line on Vancouver Island, Mount Washington's four-part Ziptour will be the longest at 2.3 kilometres.**

*Continued on page 17*

## The Fell Family IN PROFILE

Dan and Kim Fell and their two sons are part of a trend gaining strength at Mount Washington Alpine Resort, of families living full time at the Resort near Courtenay, B.C.

The Fells live with their sons Ty, 11, and Gavin, 9 and their Lagotto Romagnolo puppy named Winnie (short for Winter) in the Alpine Village in the Resort.

The family moved in 2018 from Nanaimo, where Dan was working at an engineering firm and spending all his spare time either skiing, boating or camping.

Dan owns his own engineering company now, JD Structural Consulting, and is accountable to himself and his clients.

Kim, a former dental assistant, works part time in Outdoor Elements, the clothing store at Mount Washington Alpine Resort. Her commute takes her two minutes from door to door, and she gets her summers off when the store closes.

"I pretty much wanted to work less and play more," Dan admits.

Just before making the decision to move to Mount Washington permanently, the Fells were spending fewer than half of their nights at their home in Nanaimo: they were either skiing at Mount Washington, on the lake in their power boat or camping in the family RV.

They had purchased their condo a couple of years previously, thinking it would remain a weekend getaway.

**The Fells traded life for lifestyle, downsizing from 3,000 square feet to 900 sq. ft. It was a challenge, says Dan, but it was worth it. "The whole point of this move was to have more flexibility in our life," he says.**

Ty and Gavin attend École Puntledge Park Elementary School.

*Continued on page 17*



Photo: Mount Washington







2020 Marmot Cover Image: Fresh Snow Raven Lodge



Winter Meadow



Along The West Coast Trail



Hey, what a great day!

## Brian Buckrell

### ARTIST IN PROFILE

An opportune visit to Vancouver Island to visit friends who had moved to Comox from Ontario have turned into a lifetime of skiing memories for Brian and Cathy Buckrell.

*Photo submitted*

Brian Buckrell was Professor of Reproductive Technologies at the University of Guelph's school of Veterinary Medicine, and ran his own Practice from his farm. Cathy was a busy country real estate agent, and the couple had three grown children.

"Our friend was an instructor at Mount Washington and took us up in June, and there was still snow on the ground. To us, that was amazing," says Brian.

By the late 1990s the Buckrells bought a condo in Comox, with views of the Comox Glacier and Beaufort Range mountains. They visited a couple of times a year.

**One visit, the Buckrells decided they didn't want to leave the Comox Valley.**

"Over the next year I resigned from the University, sold my Practice, sold our farm and contents, gave all our good stuff to the kids, loaded in an old RV and moved to Comox."

The Buckrells quickly became involved in skiing at Mount Washington. "Skiing is what our family did," Brian explained. "We belonged to a Private Club in Ontario. We all raced."

Their first winter in Comox, Brian joined the Snow School and for three seasons taught downhill skiing four days a week and cross-country skiing two days a week.

"Cathy and I developed the Masters Program, modeled on one we were part of in Ontario, bringing senior skiers out one day a week in groups and combined skill building with a social at the end of the day. Within a few years we had over 60 participants."

Buckrell loved biking, climbing and kayaking in addition to his snow pursuits. He and Cathy filled their days with social skiing and other activities.

However in 2004, with his knees getting worse and a diagnosis of prostate cancer, Buckrell was forced to curtail his outdoor activities. Cathy dragged him to a drawing



*After a successful and ground breaking career in veterinary reproductive medicine, Brian Buckrell of Comox turned his focus to skiing and later painting, class in an attempt to find something else for him to do.*

"He was an amazing surgeon with his hands so I knew he would be a good painter," said Cathy.

After the drawing class Buckrell enrolled in painting classes at North Island College. "I loved it," he said.

"My interest grew and I committed to becoming serious at painting - trying to capture the beauty of the West Coast on canvas."

He began to study with some of the best artists in North America, including a six-month full-time stint at a high-end school near San Diego.

"The more I learned the more I enjoyed the challenge," he said. "Soon people were asking to purchase my work. I began showing at the Originals Only event at Comox Harbour."

I started entering competitions for both my studio and plein air work (painting outdoors on location) and was surprisingly successful."

Soon, galleries were calling him and he entered the commercial art market with galleries in Whistler and Victoria, B.C., Calgary, Alta., and others. It was a good way for him to measure his artwork against others. *Continued on page 17 Photo submitted*

*Members of the Masters Program developed by the Buckrells*







# There's Lots of Brewing in the Comox Valley

## Craft beer continues to grow in popularity in the Comox Valley.

### Four new places have been added to the Comox Valley Ale Trail: Church Street Taphouse, New Tradition Brewing Co., Ace Brewing Company and Land & Sea Brewing Co.

Susan Quinn Photo



Ace Brewing Company

The Comox Valley already has stops on the Vancouver Island Ale Trail, which is part of the BC Ale Trail: **Gladstone Brewing** in Courtenay and **Cumberland Brewing** have been well established as places to check out award-winning, small-batch craft beer and delectable nosh.

**All Comox Valley breweries are a short 20 minute drive from Mount Washington Alpine Resort.**

**Church St. Taphouse** held a soft opening on the busiest weekend in Comox: during Nautical Days on the August long weekend.

The Taphouse is locally owned and operated in the heart of Comox, and its craft beers are holding their own in the proliferation of brew pubs that have opened in the Comox Valley.

The Taphouse features a south-facing patio and windows that open to let in the breeze in the summer, and protect guests from west coast storms in winter.

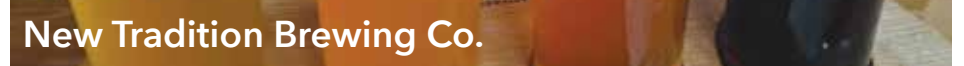
*(Fun fact: Church St. Taphouse is listed under "churches and other places to worship" in the Yellow Pages. Oops!)*

**New Tradition** has opened in Comox Centre Mall, giving people at the other end of the seaside town a place to gather for a brew. While their beer is cutting edge and they offer Natural Pastures Cheese Company's squeaky cheese curds for a snack with their brews, New Tradition has some classic vinyl albums for guests to listen to. They also feature an open mic night and live music.

*Continued on page 17*



Church St. Taphouse



New Tradition Brewing Co.



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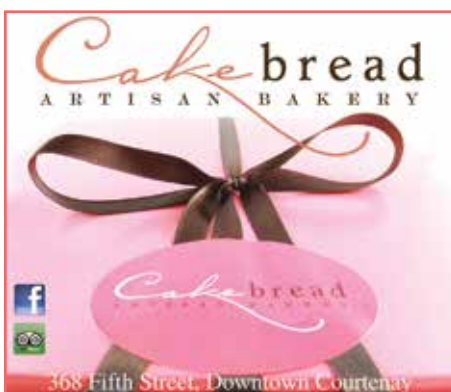
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**Why is Rick Gibson known as the Mount Washington Real Estate Expert?**

For one reason **HE LIVES HERE** and is involved in the community. For another reason **HE IS A HOME OWNER** on the mountain and a proven **MARKET LEADER**. Rick is well acquainted with most of the Alpine Village properties and their owners. Rick is dedicated to Mount Washington and the Comox Valley through his many volunteer efforts.







# NEWS in Brief

Encompassing people, places and happenings at Mount Washington



## 6IX PARTNERSHIP

Mount Washington has a new partner for its 6ixPak Lift Tickets this year. Owners and Management welcome Quality Foods as their sponsor for 2019-20.

...

## DALE LOGAN TAKES ON RISK MANAGEMENT

Dale Logan, the Risk, Employee Experience and OHS Manager at Mount Washington, has been named to the Canada West Ski Areas Association's Safety and Risk Management Committee.

...



## FAT BIKES ARE BACK

Fat bikes are back for winter, and the fleet has expanded. The Resort introduced the winter mountain biking activity with a few bikes last winter.

Fat bikes have fatter tires than summer mountain bikes, as they are adapted to ride in snow.

Bike Park Manager Mike Manara and other staffers looked at the Fat Bike Program at other Resorts such as Silver Star to see how successful they were.

They took fat bikes out on Mount Washington trails and talked to users about their experience too.

They learned that fat bikes are sensitive to temperature, Manara said. That's why they are only brought out when temperatures are ideal - otherwise, the bikes slog through the snow and suddenly the ride is no fun.

"For us, it's a niche thing. It's a great workout; it's fun. We're continuing to look for opportunities to expand fat bikes in our snowshoe network"

There will be 12 fat bikes available come winter. And look for pedal assist e-bike tours at the Alpine Resort come summer 2020.

As the Resort works on a trail network for fat bikes in the winter, Manara hopes the trail will be used as a small community walking trail in summer. He envisions about 10 kilometres developed over the next three to five years.

...



## INAUGURAL PRIDE WEEKEND

Mount Washington's inaugural Pride Weekend was so successful the Resort is already planning its second Annual Event for late February.

Vancouver Island Pride held a VIP Getaway featuring on and off-snow activities including a Charity Ski Race, Pride Parade and evening social events.

The Resort partnered with LGBTQ travel specialist Dean Nelson of Travels By Dean to coordinate travel for last year's Festival.

"We're going to be building this Event over the next few years," said Director of Hospitality and Sales Tim Defert.

...

## NO SMOKING - NO TOKING

Mount Washington made a conscious decision a few years ago to be a smoke-free Resort. That decision includes all kinds of smoke - from cigarette to e-cigarettes, and with legalization a year ago, cannabis. No smoke means no toke on the Resort's premises.

...



## MOUNT WASHINGTON TACKLES CLIMATE CHALLENGE

When the U.S. based National Ski Areas Association put out the call for member Resorts to join in the NSAA Climate Challenge in 2019, Mount Washington Alpine Resort answered with a resounding "yes" along with the other four ski areas in The Pacific Group Resorts Inc. family.

The NSAA Climate Challenge initiative has been around for several years, and more Destination Resorts are starting to join.

A Steering Committee of staff members was quickly formed to develop and implement eco-friendly programs, and a trio of 'sustainability co-champions' - Levon Young, Jacinta Philippson and Charlene Cresswell - had already drafted a list of actions by last June.

Some of the ways the Resort and guests will be able to collaborate include respecting no idling zones, using Resort wide recycling programs and refillable water bottle stations.

The Resort will reduce idling time for groomers and buses, consider purchasing carbon credits, plant trees, recycle and compost.

"We operate in a pristine alpine environment and we'd like to help keep it that way for generations," Resort General Manager Dean Prentice said.

...

## WINTER WISH LIST #1 VEHICLE RECHARGING STATIONS

A new resident at Mount Washington Alpine Resort is hoping part of the Climate Challenge initiative includes charging stations for electric vehicles. Dr. John Christensen, who runs Metral Dental in Nanaimo, bought a condo in the Alpine Village in April 2019.

He's been able to drive it into the site throughout the summer as he has been renovating his unit, plugging his car in via an extension cord.

Come winter, though, he will be forced to park his vehicle by the entrance to the Mount Washington Alpine Resort is a smoke-free zone. No smoke also means no toke in these days of legalization.

Susan Quinn Photo

Volunteers and trainers with the Mount Washington Ski Patrol Association celebrate another successful Patrol Qualification Assessment training weekend at Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

Submitted Photo

Village. He is hopeful that there will be winter charging options.

...

## SKI PATROL ASSOCIATION TRAINING FOR 2020

The Mount Washington Ski Patrol Association has kept visitors to the Alpine Resort safe for the past 40 years. In 2019 they have nearly 140 members who give their time for training and patrolling.

Training is a year-round endeavour, with training weekends starting in November, well ahead of the winter snow season.

Members also go through a Patrol Qualification Assessment weekend in early November, and are called upon for snow camp and other training activities.

To learn more, check out their Facebook page or their website at [www.mwskipatrol.com](http://www.mwskipatrol.com).

## SKI PATROL ASSOCIATION FUND RAISER

The MWSPA has swag to sell to the public as a new fundraiser. They have T-shirts, hoodies and even coffee mugs with ski run slang and their logo on the items.

Sales from the official clothing items, available at <http://shop.spreadshirt.ca/mwspa>, will support the neighbourhood ski patrol.



Members of the Mount Washington Ski Patrol Association practice stabilizing a patient with a suspected spinal injury for transport via stretcher. The demonstration was all part of Patrol Qualification Assessment weekend in early November.

Submitted Photo





# MOUNT WASHINGTON ACCOMMODATIONS

## MOUNT WASHINGTON ALPINE VILLAGE MAP

VILLAGE MAP COURTESY OF  
**RICK GIBSON**  
MOUNT WASHINGTON & COMOX VALLEY REAL ESTATE  
250-334-3124 (24 hours) Direct: 250-338-1723  
rick@rickgibson.ca  
www.rickgibson.ca

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EAGLE EXPRESS  
Ski Club  
Rossignol Demo Centre  
Teaching Carpet  
Tubing Carpet

**Mid**  
MARMOT  
BIG EASY

**Lower**  
EASY STREET

**Alpine Lodge**  
General Store & Liquor Outlet  
Whiskey Jack Chair  
Linton's Loop  
Deer Lodge  
Bear Lodge  
Day Parking  
Alpine Road  
Gold Trail  
Duckensfield Creek  
Rock Bluff  
Snowball Lake  
Village Transport  
Private Parking

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SILHOUETTE  
To the Comox Valley and Campbell River

**Strathcona Parkway**  
Creekside House 1380  
Parkview Place 1370  
Mountainside Lodge 1340  
Blueberry Hill 1320  
Paradise Ridge 1201  
Fosters Place 1105  
Ptarmigan Ridge 1105  
Henry Road 1016  
Strata Way 1010  
Meadow Lane 1044  
Washington Way 1006  
Strata Way 971  
Clinton Wood 958  
Court 896  
Jutland Terrace 805  
Glacier View Close 857  
Arrowsmith Ridge  
Beaufort Heights

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# Mount Washington

## PRIVATE RENTAL ACCOMMODATIONS

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Photo courtesy Neil Havers

	Weekday Price	Weekend Price	Holiday Price	Summer Price	Max people	# of Bedrooms	Bathrooms	Dishwasher	Jetted Tub	Hot Tub	Sauna	TV	VCR	Cable/Internet	DVD	Stereo	CD Player	Fireplace	Woodstove	Wood supplied	Cleaning	Linen	Pets	Contact	Phone	Email or Web		
																											FIREPLACES: W • Wood E • Electric P • Propane CLEANING: F • Full Cleaning L • Light Cleaning O • By Request LINENS: P • Provided N • No • On Request	
<b>ALPINE VILLAGE</b>	WINTER ~ QUIET, VEHICLE FREE VILLAGE WITH FOUR PERIMETER PARKING LOTS												SUMMER ~ DRIVE TO, WITH INDIVIDUAL PARKING															
690 Castle Crag Crescent B - (88B)	400	400	500	300	10	3	3	Y	N	Y	N	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	L	Y	N	Talaya	250-898-9238	talayac@gmail.com	
965 Clinton Wood Court	200	250	300	150	10	5	5	Y	Y	Y	N	1	N	N	N	Y	Y	W	Y	Y	O	Y	N	N	Kazimiera Stypka	250-477-2270	stypka@shaw.ca	
1016 Henry Road "Mogul Manor #47"	95	195	195	75	21	4	4	N	N	N	N	3	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Bob Shires	250-477-6707	blshires@pacifcoast.net	
750 Jutland Terrace "Chalet 9"	350	400	450	250	12	3	3	Y	N	Y	N	2	N	Y	N	Y	N	W	Y	Y	N	Y	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	O	Y	N	N	N	Debra Stockdill	250-592-7278	chalet40@shaw.ca	
871 Strata Way "Doug's Chalet" - Lower	170	220	320	130	8	2	1	N	N	N	N	2	N	Y	N	Y	Y	W	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Doug & Kim	250-218-5794	dougschalet33@gmail.com	
919 Strata Way 43	350	400	500	Call	10	4	3	Y	N	Y	N	2	N	N	Y	N	N	W	Y	Y	F	Y	N	N	Keith Feser	250-954-5556	keithfeser@gmail.com	
971 Strata Way 48	485	685	850	\$400	12	5	3	Y	N	Y	N	4	N	Y	N	Y	N	W	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Carrie Borland	250-218-4323	mountainspiritway@gmail.com	
974 Strata Way "Chalet 72"	185	280	375	185	8	3	3	Y	N	Y	N	2	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	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	Carol Turnham	250-592-2842	www.redroofchalet.com	
988 Strata Way "Red Roof Chalet 70 - Uppper	250	350	400	200	15	5	3	Y	N	N	N	1	N	N	N	Y	Y	W	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Carol Turnham	250-592-2842	www.redroofchalet.com	
1109 Alexandra Avenue Main & Bachelor	470	600	895	280	20	7	6	Y	N	Y	N	3	N	Y	N	N	N	W	N	Y	F	Y	N	N	Cona Vacation Getaways	250-871-8807	www.conagetaways.com/chalet-54	
<b>BEAUFORT HEIGHTS</b>	DRIVE TO WITH INDIVIDUAL PARKING																											
605 Arrowsmith Ridge 605 Arrowsmith Ridge	400	600	850	400	14	6	9	Y	N	N	N	2	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	O	Y	N	N	N	The Timber Wolf Lodge	250-334-6432	www.TheTimberWolfLodge.ca	
620 Arrowsmith Ridge "K2 Chalet"	225	300	350	200	12	4	5	Y	N	N	N	2	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	L	Y	Y	N	N	Stephan Krieger	250-477-3878	www.k2chalet.ca	
680 Arrowsmith Ridge "Big Red Chalet"	300	350	400	265	16	5	3	Y	N	N	N	3	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Jennifer Bryans	604-807-2847	www.bigredchalet.com	
909 Cruikshank Ridge	350	500	550	250	10	3	5	Y	N	Y	N	2	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	E	N	N	O	Y	N	N	Peter & Kari Zimmerman	250-951-8221	peterz.ca	
<b>FOSTERS PLACE</b>	DRIVE TO WITH INDIVIDUAL PARKING																											
1187 Fosters Place "Chateau Cona"	560	810	1000	125	20	5	5	Y	Y	Y	N	5	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	E	N	N	F	Y	N	N	Cona Vacation Getaways	250-871-8807	www.chateaucona.com	
1235 Fosters Place "Alpine Chalet"	400	700	1000	300	12	3	5	Y	N	Y	N	2	N	N	Y	N	N	P	N	N	F	Y	N	N	Cona Vacation Getaways	250-871-8807	www.conagetaways.com/alpine-chalet	
1268 Fosters Place "Blue Haven"	595	850	1265	100	21	6	7	Y	N	N	N	4	N	Y	N	Y	N	P	N	N	F	Y	Y	N	Cona Vacation Getaways	250-871-8807	www.conagetaways.com/blue-haven	
1273 Fosters Place 1273	675	900	1265	125	18	6	5	Y	N	N	N	3	N	N	Y	N	N	P	N	N	F	Y	N	N	Cona Vacation Getaways	250-871-8807	www.conagetaways.com/wintergreen-lodge	
<b>ALPINE VILLAGE</b>	WINTER ~ QUIET, VEHICLE FREE VILLAGE WITH FOUR PERIMETER PARKING LOTS												SUMMER ~ DRIVE TO, WITH INDIVIDUAL PARKING															
828E Washington Way	275	400	450	200	16	5	3	Y	N	N	N	2	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	P	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Tyler Green	250-213-3464	greenersdad@gmail.com	
<b>BEAR LODGE</b>	1280 ALPINE ROAD												DRIVE TO SLOPESIDE LOCATION WITH UNDER BUILDING PARKING, AND HOT TUB															
203 - Bear Lodge	269	359	449	199	10	3	3	Y	N	N	N	4	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	O	Y	N	N	Paul Francisty	250-246-8807	pfrancisty@gmail.com	
401 - Bear Lodge	189	269	369	135	6	2	3	Y	N	N	N	3	Y	N	N	N	N	P	N	N	F	Y	N	N	Ken Heinrich	250-792-3424	bearlodge401@gmail.com	
409 - Bear Lodge	250	250	325	Call	6	2	3	Y	N	N	N	4	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	P	N	N	F	Y	N	N	Keith & Cathy Larsen	250-338-0972	keith.larsen@telus.net	
412 - Bear Lodge	295	495	550	195	9	3	3	Y	N	N	N	4	N	Y	Y	N	P	N	N	F	Y	N	N	N	412 Bear Lodge		412bearlodge@gmail.com	
<b>BLUEBERRY HILL</b>	1320 HENRY ROAD												DRIVE TO WITH UNDER BUILDING PARKING, AND SAUNA															
107 - Blueberry Hill	185	255	330	160	8	2	3	Y	Y	Y	N	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	P	N	N	F	Y	N	N	Klahanie Vacations	250-514-7483	www.klahanievacations.com	
207 - Blueberry Hill	185	\$255	330	160	8	2	3	Y	Y	Y	N	3	N	Y	N	N	N	P	N	N	O	Y	N	N	Klahanie Vacations	250-514-7483	www.klahanievacations.com	
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	Elaine Smith	250-516-8862	www.mtwashingtoncondo.net	
303 - Blueberry Hill	185	255	330	160	7	2	3	Y	N	Y	N	2	N	Y	N	N	P	N	N	O	Y	N	N	N	Klahanie Vacations	250-514-7483	www.klahanievacations.com	
313 - Blueberry Hill	320	405	520	225	13	3	3	Y	Y	Y	N	4	Y	Y	Y	N	P	N	N	O	Y	N	N	N	Klahanie Vacations	250-514-7483	www.klahanievacations.com	
<b>CREEKSIDE HOUSE</b>	1380 HENRY ROAD												DRIVE TO SLOPESIDE LOCATION WITH UNDER BUILDING PARKING															
302 - Creekside House	175	250	275	100	8	3	3	Y	N	N	N	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Mary Anne Kinloch	778-356-2999	makinloch@gmail.com	
<b>MOUNTAINSIDE LODGE</b>	1340 HENRY ROAD												DRIVE TO WITH UNDER BUILDING PARKING, HOT TUB AND SAUNA															
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	BLAIR WATLING	250-361-6485	blwatling@shaw.ca	
301 - 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	Gerrie	250-658-4484	www.mtwashingtonaccommodation.com	
305 - Mountainside Lodge	140	180	180	N/A	5	2	3	Y	N	Y	N	2	Y	Y	Y	N	P	N	N	O	Y	N	N	N	Rhonda Borton	250-616-9085	rkborton@shaw.ca	
402 - 1340 Henry Road	175	205	275	135	1	1	1	Y	Y	Y	N	2	N	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	O	Y	N	N	N	Klahanie Vacations	250-514-7483	www.klahanievacations.com	
<b>PARADISE RIDGE</b>	1201 HENRY ROAD												DRIVE TO WITH UNDER BUILDING PARKING, OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL, SAUNA AND HOT TUB															
209 - Paradise Ridge "Mountain Oasis"	250	350	450	185	12	4	4	Y	N	Y	N	2	N	Y	N	Y	Y	P	N	N	F	Y	N	N	Carmen Araujo	250-888-7729	mountainoasis@shaw.ca	
210 - Paradise Ridge	\$160	210	260	125	6	2	3	Y	N	Y	N	2	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	F	Y	N	N	N	Dana Lipka	2502163372	danalipka@shaw.ca
305 - Paradise Ridge "Peace of Paradise"	150	225	300	125	8	3	3	Y	N	Y	N	2	N	N	N	Y	N	P	N	N	F	Y	N	N	N	Yolande or Jasmine Girard	780-531-6120	peaceofparadise305@gmail.com
308 - Paradise Ridge	\$75	250	325	Call	7	3	3	Y	N	Y	N	2	N	Y	N	N	N	P	N	N	L	O	N	N	Lisa Hoefler	778-268-0585	lhoefler@telus.net	
501 - Paradise Ridge	160	\$250	350	120	8	3	3	Y	N	Y	N	2	Y	Y	Y	N	N	P	N	N	F	Y	N	N	Amber McDonald	250-893-2926	mcdonaldamber084@gmail.com	
<b>PARKVIEW PLACE</b>	1370 HENRY ROAD												DRIVE TO WITH UNDER BUILDING PARKING FOR TWO VEHICLES															
10 - Parkview Place	350	435	535	250	9	4	3	Y	N	Y	N	3	N	Y	Y	N	Y	P	N	N	O	Y	N	N	Klahanie Vacations	250-514-7483	www.klahanievacations.com	
<b>PTARMIGAN RIDGE</b>	1105 HENRY ROAD												DRIVE TO ACCESS WITH OPEN PARKING															
313 - Ptarmigan Ridge	100	125	175	100	5	1	1	Y	N	N	N	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	O	Y	Y	N	N	Carolyn Tatton or Ken Green	250-753-7377	tatton@shaw.ca	

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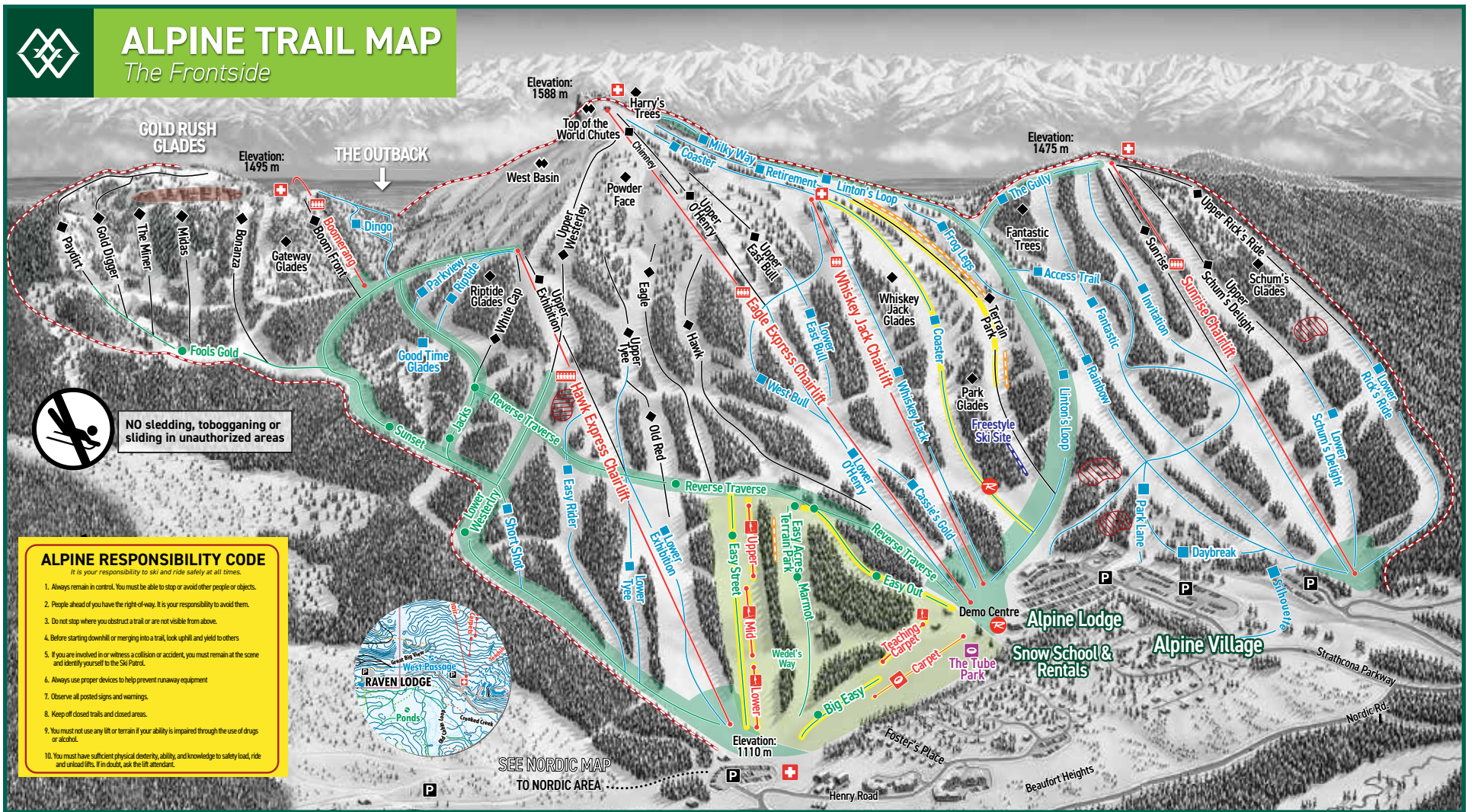
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• The info is current as of November 12, 2019  
• These privately owned condominiums and chalets are rented out by their owners and have their own features and contacts as listed.  
• Royal LePage in the Comox Valley and The Marmot have no interest, financial or otherwise in these accommodations and assume no responsibility for them in any way.



# WE LOVE SNOW!





2019 IN REVIEW

Continued from page 4

“It’s so important to have a skilled Trail Keeper; we have a bit of a niche here.

We have a lot of machine built trail, which sets us apart from some other communities on the Island.”

Manara said work on trail expansion began a year ago, and continued into the summer.

“It was strategic in that we moved one

of our beginner trails to a slightly lower elevation. That allowed us to get the Bike Park open earlier.”

Snow can stay on the higher trails until mid-July, he explained. This summer the park opened in mid-June.

“Those were some really key points for summer. We had vintage B.C. coastal weather: it wasn’t smoky, it was definitely wet at times. As far as mountain bikers are concerned, they’ll ride in all weather.”

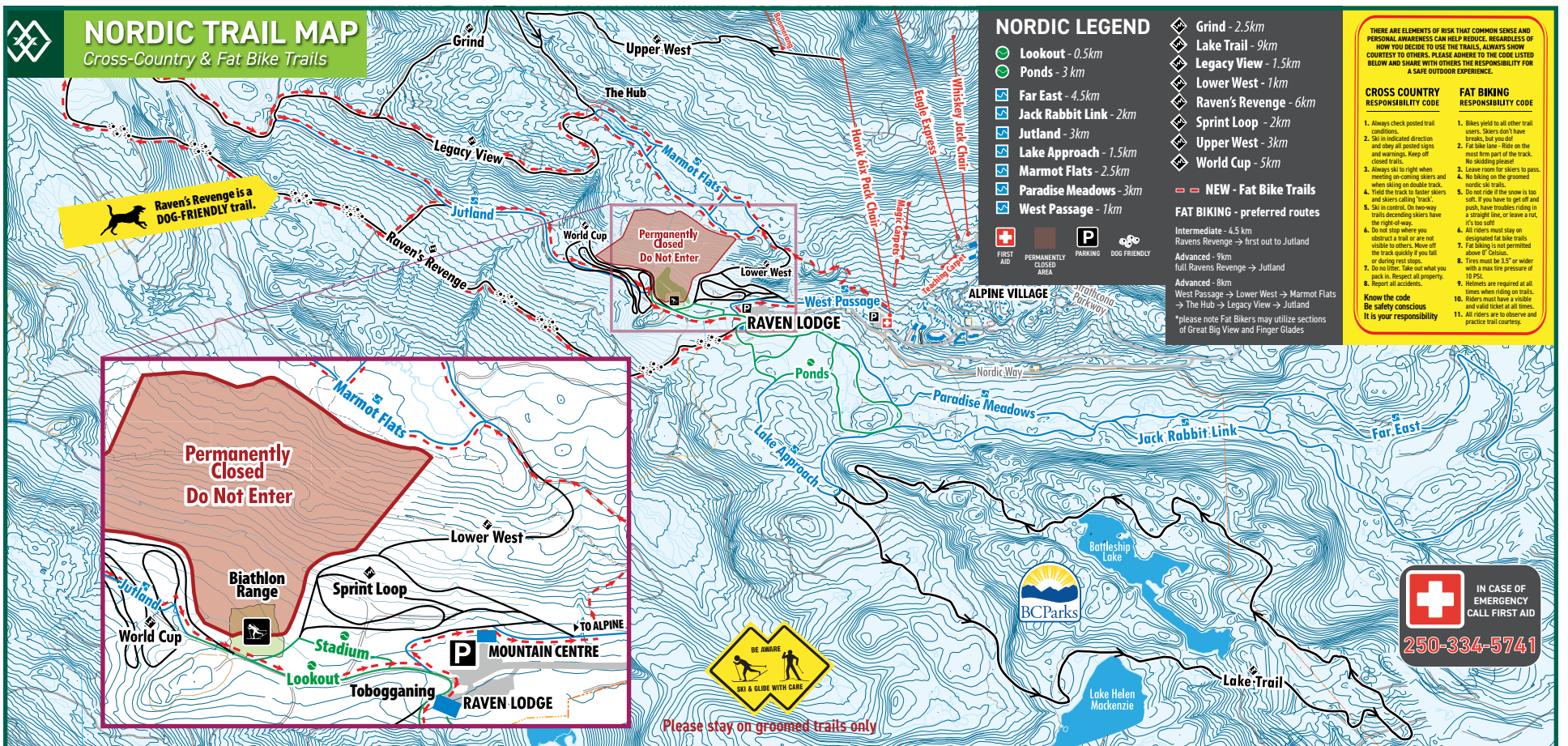
Where the Bike Park showed the greatest growth in the summer was in its supporting departments like guided bike tours and lessons. That translated into increased rentals.

All the trail work meant the Bike Park was able to offer extended hours in the fall, and they tested staying open Fridays in September - “which, when the weather was good, gave us good numbers,” Manara said.

There’s certainly a demand there for the shoulder season, he added.

The Bike Park Crews also worked on a new Skills Park that will be developed around the base of the Alpine Lodge. It will offer some features that beginners would typically see on the mountain bike trails, such as berms and corners, and a place to safely practice on these features.

Riders can expect to see even more improvements when the Bike Park reopens for summer 2020.







**MT. WASHINGTON SKI CLUB**  
 The Mt. Washington Ski Club provides 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. Our main focus at all levels is to create great skiers, in all terrain and snow conditions! These opportunities lead to excellence on and off the snow!  
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**STRATHCONA NORDICS** We are Vancouver Island's Cross-Country Ski Club, dedicated to skier development and the promotion of nordic skiing for fun, fitness, recreation, and health. You can find us at Raven Lodge at the Nordic area on Mount Washington every weekend in the winter. The club is 450+ members strong. We have a vibrant program-focused Club dedicated to skier development of all ages, for fun, fitness and recreation, and to the lifelong love of skiing.  
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Photo: Mount Washington



## VISION2020

Continued from page 2

The Courtyard Patio and Outdoor Kitchen were hits with mountain bikers and tourists alike, and brought a new vibe to summer in 2019. "This will be the new normal for summer," Resort Director of Hospitality and Sales Tim Defert said.

"We're on the right side of the building, the activity side of the building, so you can watch mountain biking and other activities. People want to sit outside."

Defert said the Bistro will stay the same for 2020, continuing on with the successes the Food and Beverage Staff have built over the past two years.

"We do have a new location opening this winter down on the bottom level (of the Alpine Lodge). It will be a Cantina opening - a licenced Mexican food stand."

**Mexican food is on trend right now:** fast, flavourful and convenient. "It's our first foray into Mexican," he said. Look for Baja-style burritos and other such fare in a renovated, lounge-like setting.

**Sushi will be back on the menu,** as it was popular last year, and the Resort has re-vamped its pizza program with delivery offered Friday and Saturday nights to Bear and Deer Lodges.

"We may do more," Defert said, depending on how well the service is received.

Now that the Ziptours have opened up terrain during the summer the Resort will look at how to bring food service to the top of the mountain. Lack of water and power present some unique challenges, Defert noted.

"We would very much like to be able to do that," Fischer said, "have a place where people can grab a beer, something to eat and enjoy the views. It's a spectacular place."

The biggest challenges to a year-round Resort will be the months of May and November. "May because the snow hasn't quite melted yet, and November because it's not quite summer anymore but it hasn't started snowing yet."

There are no plans to build any Resort-owned residential developments at the moment, Fischer said. There is interest and movement in units that are already built in both the Alpine Village and around Henry Road.

"We're happy there seems to be renewed interest in the Alpine Village," Fischer said.

"People are buying (units) and fixing them up." "It's a good vote of confidence in the area."

**Season's Passes already hit a record for the 2019-20 season in October, further showing confidence in the Resort.**

Mount Washington has a solid Management Team, Fischer added. "We're looking forward to the next season with new stuff going on. Dean Prentice has done a really nice job. It's hard to replace an institution like (former longtime General Manager) Peter Gibson, but Dean has done a great job."

Until then, Fischer is happy with the pace that Mount Washington is growing since Pacific Group Resorts Inc. purchased the Island Resort. "We're pretty deliberate," he said. "We could have tried to go faster. We didn't want to outrun our headlights, is the expression we use."

**"Snowmaking, Ziptours, new trails, new restaurant. It's pretty good."**

Susan Quinn Photo



## SNOWMAKING

Continued from page 3

After two years of experimentation PGR has finally settled on snow guns from Techno-Alpin. Pacific Groups Resorts Inc. uses some of their equipment at their Resorts in New Hampshire and Wisp in Maryland.

"We have a mix of (equipment) at different places because different snow guns do different things, in different locations," Fischer explained.

The other manufacturers whose equipment Mount Washington Alpine Resort tested out were helpful, Fischer added. "All the guns we tested, they all worked hard; it just turned out Techno-Alpin was the right product."

Crews move the snow around to maximize quality on the slopes. Photo: Mount Washington



## CHANGING FACES

Continued from page 4

While Prentice indicated he was happy to elevate a long-time staffer like Caley, he expressed equal satisfaction at being able to strengthen the Resort's Executive ranks with fresh ideas and strong experience from outside the Company.

Marett's career began at Cypress Mountain in Vancouver, where he headed up the Terrain Park and Events Programs.

Marett attended Selkirk College's Lifts program in 2008, and he obtained his Red Seal Millwright certification through BCIT in 2011.

From Cypress, Marett move to Mt. Seymour as both their Maintenance and Operations Manager.

Prentice noted Marett's operational experience in the North Shore mountains and his educational background will be helpful as Mount Washington expands its summer operations and builds out its snowmaking infrastructure in the coming years.

**Marett said he is happy to be at Mount Washington. "With the Ziptour opening this summer and the snowmaking being installed, this will be an exciting and challenging endeavour," he said.**

"It's a bonus that my family is delighted to spend more time on this mountain."

Caley and Marett aren't the only two employees to either be promoted or move to the mountain for a new position.

Human Resources Manager **Cam Thickett** joined the Resort Team from Calgary, and was in the thick of it right away during the annual Fall Job Fair at Eagle View Bistro.

**Linda Bigelow** is the new Groups and Season's Pass Representative, having come from the Resort's Call Centre where she worked for the past five years. She has had a record year of Early Bird Passes sold already.

**Robyn Heron** joined the Team two years ago as Business Development Manager and has continued to increase the number of corporate and other groups that visit Mount Washington.

**Ben McInnes** joined the Bike Park in May 2019 as the new Trail Crew Supervisor. "Ben came to us with 10 plus years of commercial bike park experience working with an outfit called Hoots Bike Park Design," said Mike Manara Bike Park Manager.

"He was running small crews with them. His leadership and skill set have helped take the Bike Park in terms of maintenance and building techniques and standardized the trail product we have out there. "That really helped elevate the rider experience."

**Beth Novak** is doing double duty as both the Nordic and Ziptours Manager, capitalizing on her nine years of experience at the Resort.

**Jen Young** returns as Snow School Manager following maternity leave.

Mark Fischer, Executive Vice-President of Pacific Group Resorts Inc., said the Management Group - led by General Manager Dean Prentice - is possibly the biggest perk to owning the Resort.

**"I think the thing we're most pleased about is how pleasant the people are to work with," Fischer said. "It's a really good group of folks."**

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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In the Comox Valley







Photo: Mount Washington



## ZIP LINE EXPANSION

*Continued from page 5*

**It's also another big step toward offering a four-season Destination Resort.**

"The Ziptour will make it possible for everyone to experience the beauty and excitement of Mount Washington's terrain, whether you are an expert skier or not," says Resort General Manager Dean Prentice.

"We are advancing towards our goal of becoming a true year-round Destination Resort. In 2016 we re-opened our lift-accessed Bike Park in which we have witnessed huge visitation growth.

Continuing that expansion trend...the Mount Washington Ziptour is the largest single capital investment into our summer operations in the Resort's history."

The course spans a large area of the Resort's property, starting at the top of the Eagle Express Chairlift. It will travel from one summit to the next, sending guests zipping high over the gorge to Little Mount Washington. It then works its way down the Hawk Chairlift side, ending on top of the Ziptour Centre across from the Alpine Lodge.

The run also features side-by-side cables, so people can run together - even racing each other down the course.

People sitting in the Courtyard Patio will be able to watch the action as people zip down the final run.

Prentice has said he expects the zip line will bring an additional 6,000 to 10,000 visitors to Mount Washington every year.

Photo: Mount Washington



Susan Quinn Photo



## THE FELL FAMILY

*Continued from page 5*

They car pool with their friend Tegan, 11, whose parents Jeff Warren and Janine Rathleff live at the mountain too.

Because there isn't a large number of kids living at the mountain, the Fells thought it was important for the boys to socialize with friends at a public school instead of home schooling them.

Gavin says living on the mountain isn't so different from their previous life in Nanaimo. "It's kind of like normal except you get a lot of snow in winter," he says.

The boys get lots of visits with friends from town who come up to Mount Washington to ski or snowboard, says Ty.

"We can skip more school," he says. "When we lived in Nanaimo we didn't have snow days."

The family has only been skiing for about five years. Dan's former partner took the family skiing as a company Christmas party, and everyone loved it. "We took (Gavin and Ty) skiing one time and they both took to it like crazy," Kim says.

The next weekend, they went to Ski Tak Hut in Courtenay and outfitted everyone with all the equipment they needed. The boys were so excited "we went to White

## BRIAN BUCKRELL

*Continued from page 6*

Buckrell takes his inspiration from impressionist Canadian landscape artists such as Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven, whose influence has been felt in the Canadian art scene since 1920.

"After 12 years now of painting I can say with confidence that I am a full-time painter," he said.

He teaches six to eight workshops annually across the Country. He has won a few Awards, including the 50th Anniversary Invitational Plein Air Competition of the McMichael Gallery in Kleinburg, Ont. It is the same Gallery that houses the Canadian Collection of the Group of Seven.

"Against 50 invited Artists I took home the prize, which was to have my work hanging beside some Tom Thomson pieces in the Gallery for six months," he said.

He was recently asked to be a presenter

Spot and ate with our helmets on," Gavin remembers.

While Kim and Gavin are fair weather skiers, Dan and Ty hit the slopes in all sorts of conditions: the steeper and deeper, the better.

Gavin competes in Freestyle, preferring to ski only one day per weekend. For Ty, though, skiing is a passion: he takes Fridays off school so he can train with the Mount Washington Ski Club three days every weekend in winter.

There are two questions the Fells always hear when their friends find out they live at Mount Washington full time: you must hate the commute, and don't you get lonely?

"It's 20 minutes to Courtenay, and the views are spectacular," says Kim "We get some amazing sunsets and sunrises."

As for loneliness, both Kim and Dan say their life couldn't be further away from loneliness. "It's a very tight community, and it's a growing and vibrant community," says Kim. "There are a lot of people who live up here full time."

**The Fells are among at least 27 families or couples that live full time in the Alpine Village, Foster's Place or any of the numerous buildings and homes surrounding the Resort.**

"It's kind of more like an old-fashioned community where everyone looks after one another," Dan agrees.

Children play around the Village and parents look after each others' kids. Kim knows Ty and Gavin are safe. Whenever someone heads into town, they ask around to see if they can pick something up for their neighbours while they're at it.

"We get to live a very full life, a very simple life," Kim says.

at the International Plein Air Convention in Denver, Colo., in May 2020. More than 1,500 Artists attend the Convention. "It is a great honour for me," Buckrell said.

Among Buckrell's landscapes are winter scenes inspired by his time at Mount Washington and Paradise Meadows. His work has been used for fundraisers throughout the Comox Valley, from the Vancouver Island Mountain Sport Society to Mount Washington Ski School, and for a number of years the Kus-Kus-Sum Project.

Although Brian and Cathy now spend their summers back in Ontario with their sons and grandchildren, they won't give up their mountain adventures. Both of them turned 75 this year and after 50 years of skiing, they have earned free Seasons' Passes at Mount Washington.

"We love the Valley, have great friendships and hope to be able to ski many more years."

Susan Quinn Photo



## Valley Breweries

*Continued from page 7*

New Tradition has six beers available on tap in the tasting lounge, and their brews are also available on tap at other establishments in the Comox Valley, like White Whale Restaurant and the Roy Pub.

### Land & Sea Brewing Company Ltd.

Is the first of three craft beer places located in Comox, on Guthrie Road. Owners Hanna and Jason Walker opened Land & Sea in December 2018, with Head Brewer Tessa Gabiniewicz creating the beer. She intends to have four to six beers on tap, from light ales to dark brews.

The tasting room is open and friendly, and features an open kitchen where visitors can watch the food team create items from the intimate menu.

### Ace Brewing Company

moved into a building on Mansfield Drive in Courtenay that once housed a car dealership, one block away from the Courtenay Airpark.

The location is close to a small airport seems deliberate, given the vintage aviation décor: Spitfire models hanging from the ceiling, a Spitfire mural painted by Ross Bodenmann and Nick Hutton-Jay on one of the walls, and wooden beer pulls shaped like propellers.

Aside from the interior decorating, beers carry names like Spitfire lager, Kitty Hawk Honey Cream Ale and Drop Tank India Blonde Ale, while food offerings include the Herc smoked meat sandwich. Like they say, they have flights departing all day, regardless of the weather!

Ace Brewing is a family-run business owned by Jo-Anne Landolt and she lured head brewer Louis Hage away from Montreal, where he was brewing for a company for the past two years.

The doors only opened at Ace in mid-September, but already the brew pub is making an impression.

Four of Ace Brewing's core beers can be found in four-pack cans at the brewery as well as local Comox Valley Liquor Stores.

Their brews have also been featured in tap takeovers at Church Street Taphouse and Smiths Pub in Victoria, and their beer is served on tap at numerous locations around the Comox Valley.

The new brew spots represent a continuing trend in British Columbia; The Growler B.C. reported two dozen new craft beer locations were on tap to open in 2019.





Photo: Ryan Tidman

# Snow School for Marmots?



Pixy

Meet Pixy. She's a 2 year old adolescent Vancouver Island marmot, one of only about 200 of this endangered species in the world.

Pixy was born at the Toronto Zoo, as part of a captive breeding program aimed at recovering this uniquely Canadian species. This summer, Pixy was released to the wild, but only after a year of 'school.' It's a strategy conservationists working to protect the marmots believe is helping the species make a comeback in some of the Island's harshest environments, like the sub-alpine of Strathcona Provincial Park.

Strathcona Park is the largest protected area on Vancouver Island. Two and half thousand square kilometers of lakes, mountain peaks, glaciers, and forest, it is home to some of the most incredible scenery and wildlife in the world; including about fifty of the rare Vancouver Island marmot.

But that wasn't the case just a few year ago. The marmot had been completely lost in the Park, part of a decline of the entire species that left fewer than 30 in the wild in 2003. As recovery efforts ramped up, the first priority was marmot habitat further south, but Strathcona was always part of the plan.

**"We wanted to start where the last remaining marmots had survived, on Mount Washington and handful of mountains further south, but we knew we'd be bringing marmots back to Strathcona at some point," recalls Cheyney Jackson, the Marmot Recovery Foundation's Field Coordinator.**

Photo: Mike Lester

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Sign me up! I want to join the Adoption Club:

- \$120 for one year, OR per month:  \$10  \$15  \$20  \$25

*I authorize the Marmot Recovery Foundation to deduct the above amount from my chequing account monthly. (I have enclosed a blank cheque marked VOID for processing purposes.)*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR GUARANTEE:** You can change or cancel your pledge at any time.

### METHOD OF PAYMENT

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- Visa  MasterCard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Marmots are social animals, and their colony structure helps new marmots learn how to avoid predators.

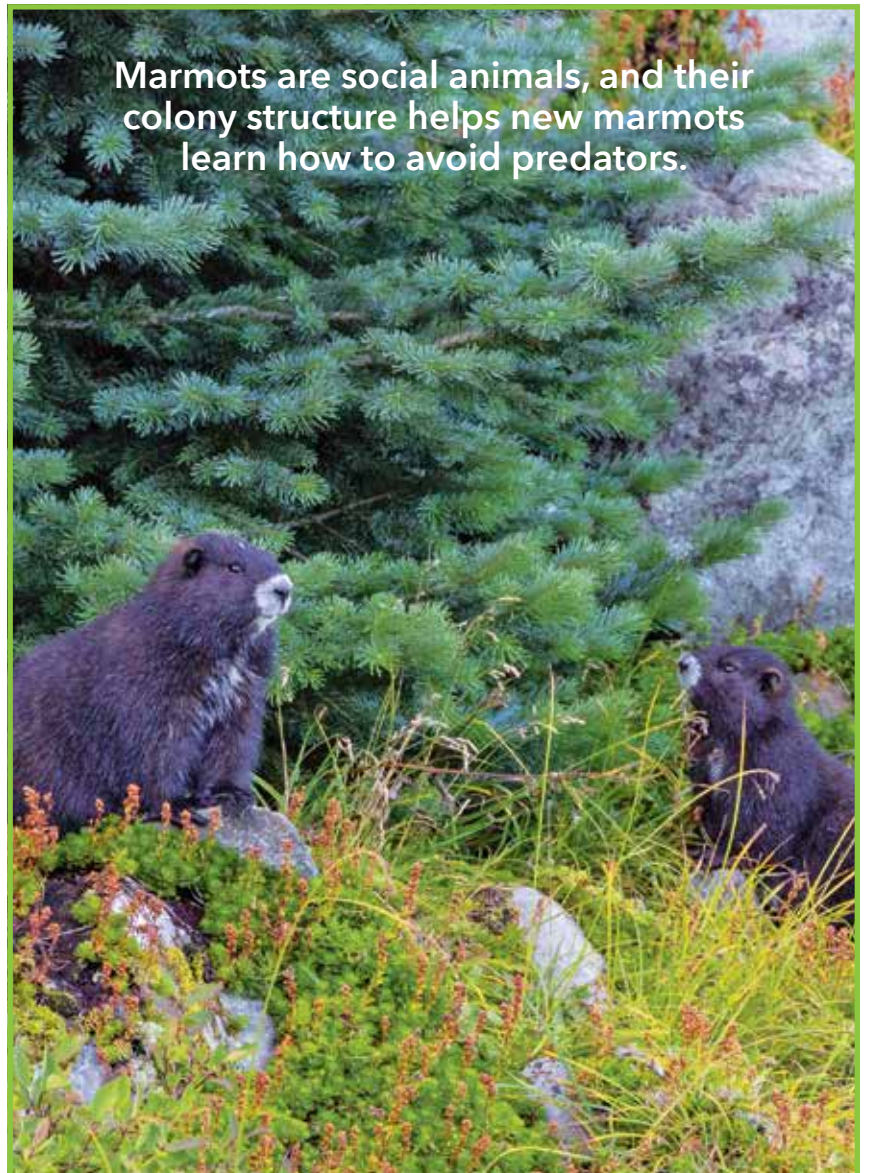






Photo: Ryan Tidman



"I remember when the first releases to Strathcona happened in 2007, I was pretty excited to see marmots go back into the Park."

Unfortunately, those first released marmots struggled to survive. "The Park seems like a perfect habitat, but in hindsight it's clear there were going to be challenges here that we hadn't faced before." The winters in Strathcona come earlier and end later, leaving the marmots with less time to prepare for a long hibernation. Plus there was no marmot "infrastructure" left. "Marmots use the same burrows and hibernacula for many, many years," Cheyney explains, "but all those homes and hideouts disappeared with the marmots."

Perhaps most importantly, there weren't any resident marmots to show these newcomers the ropes. Marmots are social animals, and their colony structure helps new marmots learn how to avoid predators, and teaches them the best places to sleep and when to start and end hibernation. With that realization, a plan was hatched.

### What if marmots could be taught how to survive before they went into Park?

That's why Pixy is being released for the second time. Last year, when she was released for the first time, she was let go at Mount Washington.

"Mount Washington is a gentle colony for the marmots. The people keep away most of the predators, and the hills are lush with vegetation," Cheyney says.

It's like marmot grade school – they get to learn about life in the wild, but some of the hard edges are removed. Then, earlier this year, Pixy was caught again, and transported to Castlecrag. Her year at Mount Washington greatly improves her chances of surviving in this more remote and rugged mountain.

"The research suggests she's about 5 times more likely to survive and produce pups of her own with this year of learning under her belt," says Cheyney. It's a big difference, and it has allowed marmots to begin the process of recolonizing their old meadows in the Park.

### "We're seeing second and third generation marmots now, it's thrilling."

These survivors are busy revitalizing the burrows, hibernacula, and meadows used by their great-great-grandparents, and will be ready to welcome new friends that arrive in the future.

### It's amazing what a bit of education can do.

*The Marmot Recovery Foundation is always interested in hearing reports of marmots, and pictures are encouraged.*

**Send your sightings to [info@marmots.org](mailto:info@marmots.org) or call 250 390-0006.**

*Foundation researchers monitor the progress of Marmots released into the wilderness.*

Photo: Ryan Tidman



## 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



Photo: Jared Hobbs

of marmot habitat.

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.

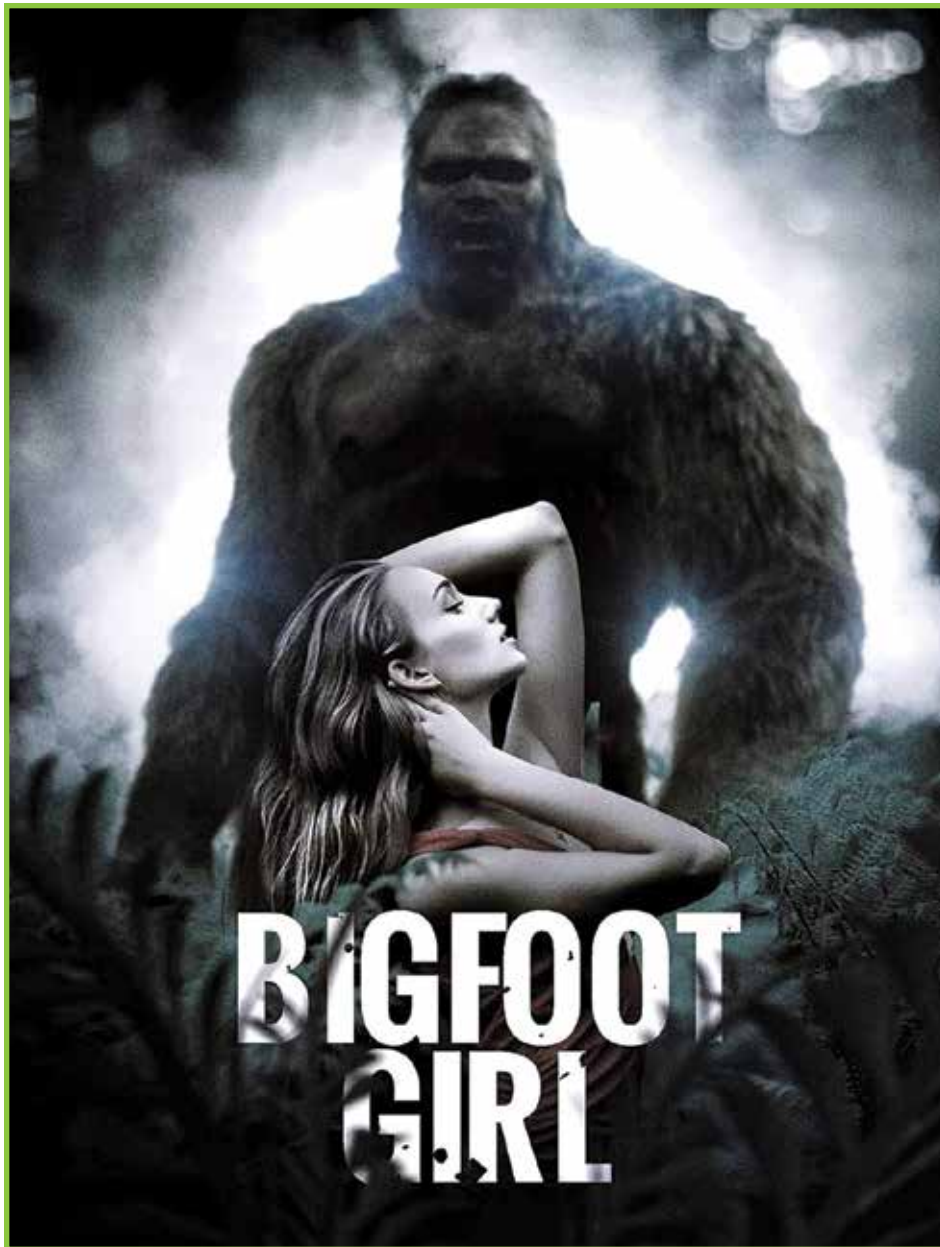
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- Your full-color poster of a Vancouver Island Marmot
- Your official recovery project newsletter (The Marmoteer)
- Your special year-end report about individual marmots

**For more info go to [www.marmots.org/adopt.htm](http://www.marmots.org/adopt.htm)**







## Sasquatch has hit the mainstream.

After years of the odd footprint or vocalization being recorded around Mount Washington and northern Vancouver Island, Bigfoot is finally being noticed.

A film crew with Millspictures Studios has released Bigfoot Girl, a documentary featuring Campbell River Sasquatch researcher Thomas Sewid and how he helps Kiana Passmore search for Bigfoot in the bush. Trailers for the movie can be found on YouTube.

Sewid, a commercial fisherman turned Indigenous historian and tour guide, conducts Sasquatch expeditions from a research base camp in the bush to the north of Mount Washington Alpine Resort, around Campbell River.

A member of the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nation, Sewid conducts talks on the Indigenous connection with Sasquatch.

Sewid can also be heard on his podcast Sasquatch Island, where he shares stories of encounters on Vancouver Island.

The documentary follows on the heels of a feature in The Toronto Star by writer John Zada, who travelled to Bella Coola to study the numerous reports of Sasquatch in that area of British Columbia's coastline.

### 2019 MOUNT WASHINGTON REAL ESTATE SALES

DATE SOLD	LOCATION	BDRMS	LIST PRICE	LISTED BY	SOLD BY
Nov. 7, 2019	106 Blueberry Hill	2	\$259,900	Other	ROYAL LEPAGE
Nov. 5, 2019	3-1084 Washington Way	3	\$264,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other
Oct. 28, 2019	313 Deer Lodge	2	\$272,500	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
Oct. 16, 2019	209 Paradise Ridge	4	\$319,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other
Oct. 10, 2019	101 Ptarmigan Ridge	1	\$127,500	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
Oct. 7, 2019	113 Ptarmigan Ridge	1	\$124,900	Other	ROYAL LEPAGE
Sept. 7, 2019	10-691 Castle Crag Cres.	2	\$154,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
Aug. 28, 2019	4-736 Albert Edward Place	3	\$272,500	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
Aug. 17, 2019	314 Ptarmigan Ridge	1	\$134,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other
Aug. 15, 2019	103 Ptarmigan Ridge	1	\$138,500	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
Aug. 15, 2019	828B Washington Way	3	\$259,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
July 22, 2019	306 Creekside House	3	\$319,000	Other	Other
July 20, 2019	5-1084 Washington Way	3	\$279,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other
July 19, 2019	207 Blueberry Hill	2	\$264,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
June 19, 2019	988 Henry Road	6	\$449,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
May 23, 2019	404 Paradise Ridge	2	\$215,000	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
May 18, 2019	207 Deer Lodge	2	\$299,900	Other	ROYAL LEPAGE
April 24, 2019	1167 Alexandra Avenue	5	\$329,900	Other	ROYAL LEPAGE
April 17, 2019	209 Bear Lodge	2	\$274,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other
April 9, 2019	415 Deer Lodge	1	\$209,000	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
March 20, 2019	211 Blueberry Hill	3	\$259,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
March 13, 2019	113 Bear Lodge	2	\$267,500	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other
Feb. 25, 2019	495 Arrowsmith Ridge	Lot	\$66,500	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
Feb. 25, 2019	4-695 Castle Crag Cres.	2	\$165,000	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
Feb. 25, 2019	lot 72	Lot	\$45,000	Other	Other
Feb. 20, 2019	690A Castle Crag Cres.	6	\$284,900	Other	ROYAL LEPAGE
Feb. 10, 2019	2-740 Albert Edward Place	3	\$189,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
Feb. 7, 2019	210 Bear Lodge	2	\$274,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
Feb. 4, 2019	311 Ptarmigan Ridge	1	\$119,000	Other	Other
Jan. 18, 2019	2-1044 Washington Way	3	\$249,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE

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**MOUNT WASHINGTON**

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**Features Include:**

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- Fully Furnished, 6 appliances
- Rainscreen Technology
- Live-in Caretaker
- Underbuilding Parking
- Common Hot Tub
- 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom, some w/Lock-offs

- 311 3 Bdrm Lockoff **FREEHOLD** \$375,000  
Slopeside view
- 406 Top Floor Penthouse **FREEHOLD** \$349,900  
2 Bedroom Lockoff - Slopeside view
- 412 Top Floor Penthouse **FREEHOLD** \$464,900  
3 Bedroom Lockoff - Strathcona Park view
- 414 Top Floor Penthouse **FREEHOLD** \$319,900  
2 Bedroom Lockoff - Strathcona Park view



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**Features Include:**

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- Mountain / Strathcona Park Views

- 301 3 Bedroom Corner Suite **FREEHOLD** \$294,900



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AT MT. WASHINGTON

**Features Include:**

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- Fully Furnished • Caretaker
- Front Desk Service

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3 Bedroom Lockoff - Strathcona Park view



- 114 2 Bedroom **FREEHOLD** \$274,900  
Strathcona Park view
- 116 2 Bedroom **FREEHOLD** \$259,900  
Strathcona Park view
- 217 3 Bedroom **FREEHOLD** \$299,900  
Ski Run view



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- |                      |                 |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 515 Arrowsmith Ridge | <b>\$67,000</b> | 700 Arrowsmith Ridge | <b>\$72,500</b> |
| 650 Arrowsmith Ridge | <b>\$69,900</b> | 890 Cruikshank Ridge | <b>\$85,000</b> |
| 690 Arrowsmith Ridge | <b>\$72,500</b> |                      |                 |



**Carefree Condo Living!**

2 bedroom suite located in the heart of the village with easy ski out access and close to parking. Suite is clean and tidy and shows well. Building is well maintained with newer

roof and newer siding. Nice open floor plan and with updates. Suite is freehold. Cozy well thought out layout; 2 bedroom 1 bath, with 2 extra built in bunks, potential to sleep 10. Sunken living room with wood burning fire place. Large kitchen with sit-up bar, dining area, great laundry area with pantry and lots of storage. A very private corner unit nestled in the trees, well cared for with sunrise and sunset views of Strathcona Park Glacier and a small peekaboo ocean view. There is a nice size deck with a storage deck box. Also available is a ground level storage locker for firewood or equipment. Condo fees are approx. \$350 per month and include property taxes. Please note this is a share sale so can not be financed. **\$167,500**



**Your Castlecrag Castle!**

Family owned and very well maintained 2 bedroom 2 bathroom corner condo for sale in the Alpine Village on Mount Washington. Views from the balcony of the bright well laid out suite to the ski area. Sauna and in suite washer dryer. Easy access to skiing and parking. Building is in great shape and has a live in caretaker.

- |                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 102-695 Castle Crag              | <b>\$124,900</b> |
| 2 Bedroom, Strathcona Park View  |                  |
| 105-695 Castle Crag Corner Suite | <b>\$138,800</b> |
| 2 Bedroom, Strathcona Park View  |                  |



**Close to Alpine Lodge!**

Freehold 3 bedroom townhome tucked in the Alpine Village, close to the Alpine Lodge. Ski out to the lifts. The Alpine Lodge is but a stroll away! The Alpine Village offers peace and quiet yet easily accessible. Cozy up in the living room with propane fireplace. Three bedrooms down with sauna. **\$244,900**



**The Best in Leisure Living!**

Nestled in the heart of Mount Washington's alpine village, this distinctively designed freehold townhome offers the best in leisure living. Eagleridge is breathtakingly sited to afford commanding western views of the Beaufort Mountains. The suite offers 3 spacious bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, a large deck and a huge loft area for the youngsters to disappear. The open layout in the main living area is great for entertaining and after-ski activities. The 15 year complex is only a short walk from the lifts and Alpine Lodge. This is one of the larger townhomes on Mount Washington. All operating costs including, taxes, strata and utilities have been under \$6,000 per year. **\$399,900**

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**Sunset Views!**

Perched on a ridge to view the sunsets, park and the stars! 4 bedroom freehold chalet in Alpine Village of Mount Washington. Chalet has been rarely rented and pride of ownership is evident. Newer roof and home is well cared for. The main floor offers bright living area and large deck. Downstairs is a large family room and billiards area. Upper is two more bedrooms. **\$419,900**



**Two Legal Titles!**

This Freehold legal property on Mount Washington has it all. What you get is two legal titles and there are two units that share a common area. Within the common area is a third suite! Each side has 2 bedrooms and spacious plans. The common area which includes a large family room, sauna, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. Ideal for 2 or more families with spectacular views. Nestled on a ridge with views of the ski runs on one side and Strathcona Park sunset views on other. Easy access to skiing with ski out to Sunrise Quad or Hawk Chair. Buy the package you have a large single chalet or use as 2-3 suites and then sell one of the off, or keep the other. WOW - this one has many options!!! Units A, B, & C **\$449,900**



**Welcome 2 K2!**

Welcome to the K2 Chalet on Mount Washington. This freehold alpine chalet featuring old-world German craftsmanship has 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, is drive-in drive-out with easy access to slopes in the winter and Strathcona park year round. K2 offers an inviting open main floor with spacious kitchen dining and living area. The view from the private deck is south with an unspoiled view of the local mountains and park. The main area offers 3 plus bedrooms with overflow down or an owners suite. Upstairs is a rec room currently sent up for billiards. Has been a very popular rental. **\$474,900**



**One Owner Charmer!**

Tucked in the trees with SW exposure, come home to this 5 bedroom freehold mountain home. Less than 50 meters from parking and ski in and out means the best of both worlds! The charm of the original Alpine Village makes this location second to none. This one owner home is lovingly maintained and was architecturally designed when built in 1983. The living areas have vaulted ceilings and the focus of the living room is an expansive river rock fireplace. Open gourmet kitchen with ample counter space for all to assist the chef. Downstairs is a wood room, laundry, workshop and two bedrooms. The other three bedrooms are on the main and upper floors. Two entry areas, one on the main floor and one on the lower floor. **\$594,900**

**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**



**Million Dollar View!**

A million dollar view of the ski runs awaits you from the Norse Log Mountain home. This freehold 5 bedroom home is nestled in the middle of the village with true ski in and out access. Enjoy the ambience of the fireplace in the great room with 21 foot vaulted ceiling. Lots of natural light. In floor radiant heat, 3 bathrooms, great mud room, separate suite downstairs. Out on the deck is hot tub to soak in the view at the end of the day. Much thought was planned before this was built so the plan flows and works! **\$799,000**



**2700 Sq. Ft. of Luxury!**

Never before has a Freehold home of this style and quality been available on the market. Over 2,700 square feet with 6 bedrooms and 4 bath-rooms. 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. **\$699,900**



**Come Home to the Marmot House!**

Custom built Freehold 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. **\$688,500**



INFORMATION CURRENT AS OF NOVEMBER 15, 2019



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