

Mt.Washington's new 'Raven Lodge' ready for the 2001/02 Winter Ski Season

The new Nordic Lodge has been christened Raven Lodge, and will be open and operational for the 2001/02 winter season, says Mt. Washington General Manager Peter Gibson.

"We named it after a bird that's very visible in this area, both in vision and sound. And we just thought it was an applicable name," Gibson said.

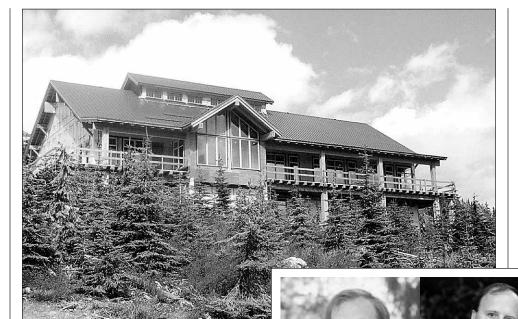
Construction workers have been up the mountain since the snow melted in the lower reaches, working on the Lodge. The plumbing has gone in and the downstairs slab has been poured for the floor.

The downstairs floor will hold washrooms, a laundry, lockers, the first aid department and all the rentals. The upstairs has an incredible view as one walks in; the interior will be completed with hemlock and special lighting will accentuate the skylight in the centre of the ceiling. Flooring will be carpeting, and the walls will be finished in a combination of natural wood and drywall.

The landings will be covered in a rubberized material identical to the main lodge. The exterior will be board and batten, done in red cedar. All the exposed concrete will be finished in a smooth, light-colored slate material.

"We'll bring some of the stonework inside. The fireplace will be finished with the same material, and will have some kind of raven theme."

Crews have cleared two areas for parking lots – a small one beside the Lodge and a larger one across the road, where the biathlon cabin and range



used to be located.

All this activity for the resort's cross-country operations is unique in the ski industry, says Gibson. "Very few ski areas are putting money into their cross-country areas. Most resorts say they have cross-country, but they don't really give it the investment that's needed," he said.

"Everything is on time; we seem to be on schedule. We hope that for our Thanksgiving event for homeowners, we'd like to host it in the new lodge," Gibson said.

The Lodge project will also be on budget, he added. "We have a bottle of champagne riding on it."

Cinnamon buns are back!

Heili's legendary cinnamon buns will not disappear when Mt. Washington's nordic operations move to Raven Lodge. continued on page 15

Then & Now

Realty World, Coast Country Realty sports a new name and a a new roster of realtors, increasing their sales team dramatically. Rick Gibson was so excited about the "new look" he decided to finally update his photo. (It's not a picture of Rick and his uncle)

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New Look for Realty World Coast Country and Rick Gibson!

On June 29, 2001 two major changes took place in the Comox Valley. The offices of Realty World Coast Country and Realty Executives merged forces into the largest Royal Lepage office on Vancouver Island. The combined team of over 50 realtors represent more than 50% of all the realtors in the Comox Valley. The new

company, called Royal LePage In the Comox Valley has 4 offices located throughout the Comox Valley.

Royal Lepage is an extremely well respected and recognized name in the real estate industry with more than 450 offices and 8400 realtors across Canada.

It all started in 1913, with a man named Albert Edward

LePage, a Canadian. His vision is still followed today with a belief that a real estate company should represent

continued on page 15

Rick Gibson

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New Bike Trail Maps ready for the 2001 summer season

Mt.Washington has developed a biking trail map in time for the 2001 summer season. Some 20 trails have been color-coded and overlaid on a map of the mountain, making it easier for increasing numbers of mountain bikers to get around.

"It's a huge growth area," Director of Resort Services Don Sharpe said.

"We've committed to building a great deal of trails this year. A lot of it is weather dependent (as of June 20, there were still five feet of snow at the top of the hill)."

Sharpe said hikers will be discouraged from walking the bike trails, for safety reasons. "We have other trails for that. There are points where (the trails) cross, and people will just have to respect each other."

The mountain hosted an Eco-West Adventure Race on June 30, which involved biking, hiking and kayaking 55 kilometres of alpine terrain. The August long weekend features Adrenalin Fest – a weekend of bike clinics, learning how to fix bikes and build trails. There will also be a concert and a race.

"We're trying to get a sanctioned race for September," Sharpe said.

Sharpe said the mountain bike trails have been marked with an environmental consciousness. "We're very careful not to go into delicate, sensitive areas. If we didn't create trails, (bikers) would create them on their own," damaging the ecological balance, he said.



Mt.Washington's expansive Bike Trail System is clearly outlined for riders on the new Trail Map.

There are two main single track trails with several branches, offering a variety of routes down – and a view from around every corner. Intermediate trails start at the base of the Eagle Express chairlift.

The Eagle Express is capable of carrying mountain bikes up to the summit, so riders can traverse their way back to the lodge. For the first time, Mt. Washington is offering a mountain bikers' season pass for \$120. "It pays for itself after eight times on the chairlift," Sharpe said.

People with winter season's passes can upgrade to the mountain bike pass for roughly \$56. A day pass for rider and bike is \$14.95.

The bike trail maps are available on the hill. Sharpe said he would eventually like to expand it to a full-blown site map, but that's a project for next year.



Westjet goes head-to-head with the competition in the Comox Valley.

WestJet's popularity has taken the Comox Valley, and Mt. Washington by storm, ever since the no-frills airline started direct service between Comox and Calgary in March.

Flights started arriving daily in early June, and will continue until September. At that time, the airline will re-evaluate whether to continue with daily service, or go back to five days a week.

"We're elated, needless to say," Comox Municipal Airport manager Chuck Fast said. The airport has doubled in size since August, as Fast and the Comox Valley Airport Commission struggle to keep ahead of the everexpanding air service. Kelowna's Accuratus Engineering and Comox's Thomas Dishlevoy Architects are designing a new terminal and discussions continue to relocate the terminal to another part of the military air base at CFB Comox.

Fast added that he couldn't have

predicted WestJet's popularity and the business it has brought to the airport and the community at large. In the first month of operation the air carrier saw 4,200 people take flights with them. The next month they carried 4,800 passengers.

"With 70-80 passengers per plane WestJet is happy. Their average is over 100 here, so they're really happy," Fast said

Siobhan Vinish, Director of Public Relations and Communications for WestJet in Calgary, agreed that the fledgling route has been a success. "We're very, very pleased with the load factor percentage on that route," she said.

"Our average load factor for our network is 75 per cent and Comox certainly is within the average. It's strong for us."

There are now eight flights between Comox and Calgary every week, until September 25. "We'll re-evaluate from there," Vinish said, adding that the route has been a benefit to travelers going both ways.

continued on page 15



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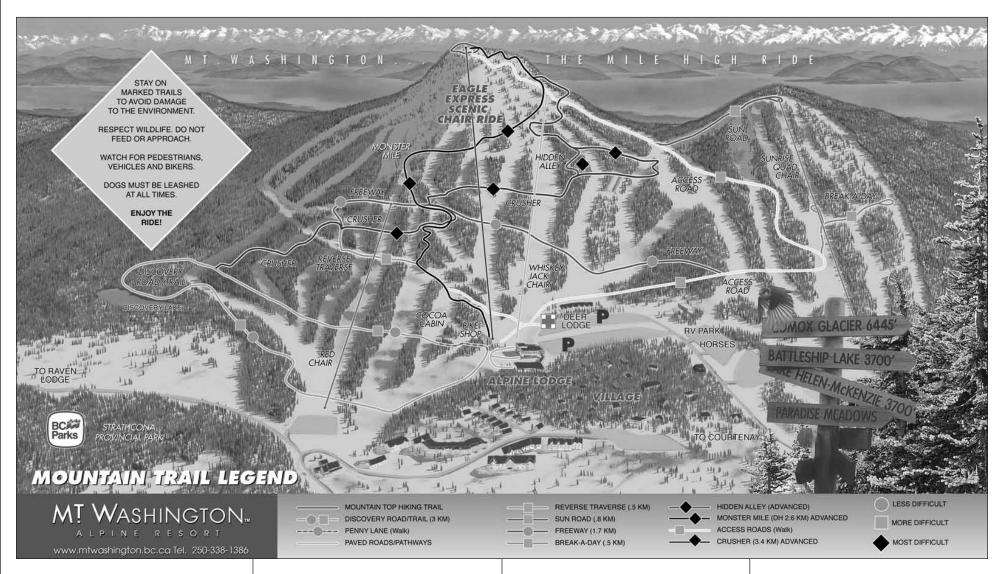
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New Lift Lines Cut

While work continues on Raven Lodge, plans are going ahead to replace the Red Chairlift. Resort staff has cut a line of sight from the base to the proposed unloading area, which is where the Raven run spins off the Westerly. "We've cut the line and had it surveyed. We're now getting quotes from three different lift manufacturers," Gibson said. There is an ongoing debate among Resort staff whether the new lift should be a quad or a "sixpack" – a six-seater.

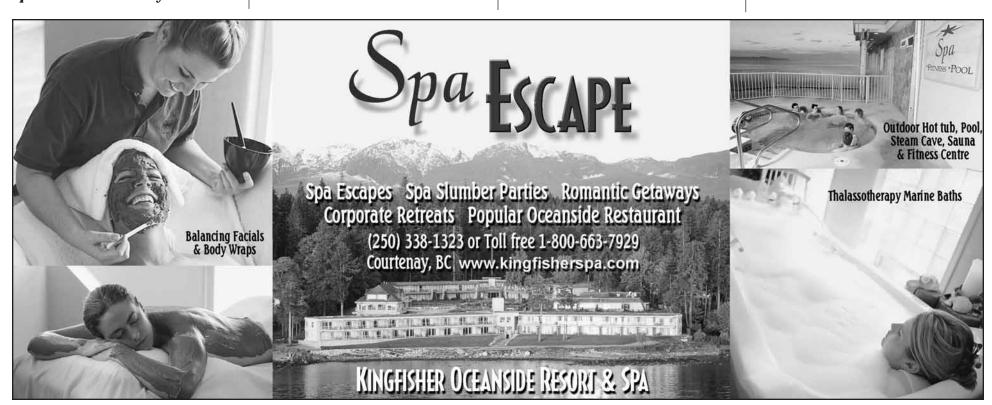
A new run has been marked, too; and the new unloading area will mean skiers and boarders can make better

use of the old red chair run.

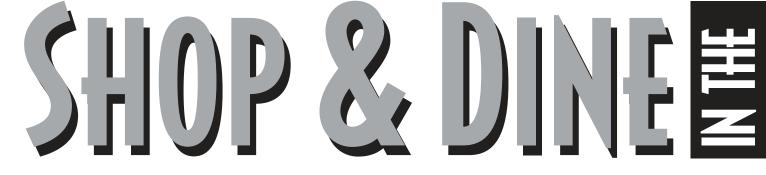
All this is very much up in the air, Gibson said. No date has been set for the new lift, but "we'd like to see this lift up and running as soon as possible.

"What the new red will do ... right now we have a major congestion with Freeway coming down and crossing runs. With the new red, Freeway will be eliminated." The new red will also give skiers better access to Powderface and the Glades. And for the novice and intermediate skier, it will open up a lot more lower-end terrain, higher up.

"And the higher up you go, the better the snow."











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Here's a sampling of the delicious diversity of shopping, eating, browsing and playing in downtown Courtenay and beyond!

Tita's, Courtenay's hot Mexican restaurant, is distinctive in its location: a bright yellow house on Sixth Street. With a warm and friendly atmosphere, Tita's specializes in fresh, authentic Mexican cuisine, featuring local produce and seafood as well as incredible fresh fruit margaritas.

Atlas Café is a global experience with a world of choices. Atlas serves fresh and innovative cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Diners will appreciate the warm and inviting vibe and beautiful summer patio, featuring fresh desserts, espressos, juices, kids' menu and nightly specials. Atlas Café is licenced, non-smoking and closed Mondays.

Yamato is the only place in the Comox Valley you can enjoy traditional Japanese food. The fully licenced eatery has a wide menu selection including sushi, teriyaki and tempura. Open for lunch, dinner and take-out.

Tulio's Casita offers fine dining with a busy, eclectic décor and a Mediterranean flavor. Family owned and operated, Tulio's has been serving the Comox Valley for almost 27 years. Stop in and enjoy their specialties: steak, seafood, schnitzel and lamb. Ask for your hosts, Peter and Teresa.

Escape to a simpler time and unparalleled ambience at the **Old House Restaurant**, beside the 17th St. Bridge. With four stone fireplaces, rough-hewn timbers and breathtaking gardens on two riverfront acres, the Old House was voted the sixth best restaurant in B.C. The restaurant features hearty, homemade West Coast cuisine seven days a week.

Orbitz Pizza is a groovy little eatery featuring gourmet pizzas, pastas, salads, organic coffee, homemade soups and sweets. Orbitz is licenced, but kid-friendly. Eat-in, take-out, delivery service available. Orbitz is open Monday to Saturday for lunch and dinner (until 9:30 p.m. on weekends).

The Rockfish Sushi Bar is conveniently located on Cliffe Avenue across from Driftwood Mall. Visitors can dine in, take out or have Rockfish's great food delivered to your door - whether you're in town or up the mountain!

Downtown Courtenay is set below the gaze of the Comox Glacier, and nestled above the Puntledge River. This vibrant downtown is alive with bright banners, lush, west coast greenery and hanging baskets, benches for people watching and a glittering white light theme to set the mood for an evening stroll. With unique, upscale shopping, eclectic bistros, cosy coffee houses, and more, Downtown Courtenay is the "must explore" heart of the Comox Valley. Check out the dinosaurs in the Courtenay Museum, incredible galleries, a wide array of professional services, a renovated civic theatre, new library and riverside parks.

Lucky visitors may stumble upon one of many downtown events throughout the summer. Market Day is a vibrant street market held at the end of July, full of fantastic sales, entertainment and more. The wonderfully rich agricultural product of the area is evident at the weekly Comox Valley Farmer's Market, held at Fourth St. and Duncan Ave. each Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Here, visitors may taste fresh baked goods, pick up delectable fruit and veggies, buy local meats for the barbecue and more.

The Comox Valley Art Gallery offers a juried selection of high-quality, original design works showcasing the best of local and regional crafts. Whether for earrings, artwork, teapots or glassware, "CVAG" invites you to browse.

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No matter where you are in the Comox Valley the Comox Glacier is ever present. The Valley boasts a spectacular alpine/ocean setting, making it an excellent destination for a day's shopping or a relaxing dining experience.

rayons, "Tommy Bahama" silks and much more. Make time for Penny Tyme - your first stop for affordable, quality, timeless lifestyle fashions.

McConochie's Furniture and Appliances has been serving the Comox Valley for 38 years. McConochie's is locally owned and offers a friendly atmosphere. The store specializes in Frigidaire appliances, Simmons and Sealy mattresses, La-Z-Boy recliners, Palliser leather and Canwood pine furniture.

Valhalla Pure Outfitters are the valley's "mountain sport" specialists. They feature Valhalla Pure outdoor clothing, made in B.C. They also carry all the latest outdoor brands in clothing, backpacking, climbing and travel gear. Valhalla Pure - check them out before your next alpine adventure!

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If you can't remember the last time you sat down and reviewed your financial goals, you're not alone. Jobs, families and friends can keep us so busy we don't often take the time to figure out how to reach our goals and dreams. Scotiabank's ican financial plan can help you take control again. It's designed to help you review your financial goals and rank them in order of importance. Once that's done, you and a Scotiabank representative can work toward building a practical, relevant plan that can bring your goals to life.

Timberland Helicopters, located at the Courtenay Airpark, offers local sightseeing flights around the spectacular Comox Valley. Soar up and around the 6,000-foot Comox Glacier, complete with its mountain lakes and waterfalls, followed by panoramic views of the local coastal islands. Phone (250) 703-0234 for more information.

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Putting a Name to a Place...

Foster's Place. Clinton Wood Court. Jutland Terrace. Henry Road. You may drive them or walk them every day at Mt. Washington. But have you ever stopped to think why these streets are named the way they are?



Origins are fairly obvious for some: Alpine Road leads to the alpine part of Mt. Washington's operation, while Nordic Road leads to the entrance to Paradise Meadows and cross-country skiing.

Some of them are named after peaks in Strathcona Park: Jutland Terrace, Albert Edward Place, Strata Way (yes, there's a peak called Strata – it's not named for Strata 799), Castlecrag Crescent.

Henry Road was named for Mt. Washington founder Henry Norie, says Resort General Manager Peter Gibson. This road was put in around the same time as the first roads in the Alpine Village, because it provided parking for Strata 799. (Ironically, co-founder Alex Linton was left out of the street naming. He is, however, immortalized with Linton's Loop ski run).

Other street names are more obscure. For instance, Clinton Wood Court is named for a pioneer who used

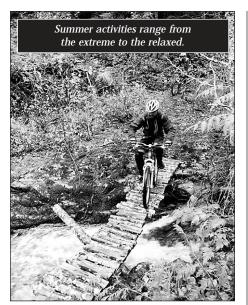
to run packhorses from Forbidden Plateau to MacKenzie Lake. Wood also explored the mountains in the early 1900s to find the headwaters of the Brown's River in order to assess the City of Courtenay's water supply.

One member of the Wood family was also an original shareholder at Mt. Washington. The family still owns a cabin on an island in the middle of Moat Lake, Gibson said.

Foster's Place is named for share-holders and brothers Ted and John Foster. Ted (the namesake for Fat Teddy's Bar and Grill) was part of the original group that bought the resort. When George Stuart took over, Ted purchased more shares. Both brothers ski at the mountain "and Ted loves having a pint of beer in his bar – Teddy size, of course," Gibson said.

"Gold Trail is called 'Gold Trail' because it's where our sewer line goes," he said, smiling.

Gibson said the Mt.Washington



board of directors already has plans for naming the next couple of streets, whenever they are built. "One of the next roads we put in will be named after one of our longtime employees, Randy Newton. We committed to his family that when the next road gets put in, we'd name it after Randy," Gibson said.

Newton was the grooming supervisor at Mt.Washington. He was hired by Ed Schum three or four years after Mt. Washington first opened, and died a few years ago of cancer. Newton had worked at Mt.Washington for 10 years.

Gibson said the mountain would also like to honor a husband and wife ski instructor team "in a similar way". Howie and Pat Marshall were both part-time ski instructors who were well-liked on the mountain. Pat died of cancer around the same time as Newton. Howie, who had been in remission, died two years later.

Summer 2001 Events & Activities

This year is shaping up to be a year of growth for Mt. Washington, as the Resort is set to become a four-season destination.

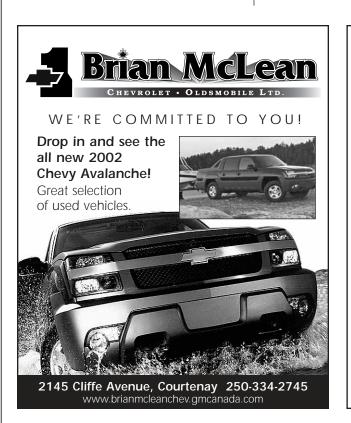
"This summer the addition of some new and exciting events and activities are important to us," says Don Sharpe, Director of Resort Services. "We want to give those visiting us lots more to do when they come up."

The completion of the new Nordic Lodge (now named Raven Lodge) in late summer, renovations to the stage at Fat Teddy's Bar and Grill, the addition of a new meeting room for up to 50 people (where the arcade used to be), the building of a nine-hole Disc (Frisbee) Golf Course, additional bike and hiking trails and numerous events will make Mt. Washington an exciting place to visit this summer.

The summer season kicked off on June 23 with daily operation of the Scenic Chair Ride, aboard the Eagle Express, and the traditional village clean-up and homeowners' barbecue. Events throughout the summer include Sunday craft fairs and brunch, art exhibits, family picnics, horseback riding, beer and wine festivals, a mountain Luau, full-moon sunset chair rides, a four-day music festival in August and more.

"We're going to put a barbecue at the top of the mountain from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on busy days and weekends, so you can grab something to eat at the top," he said. Picnic tables will be available for the summit snacks.

continued on page 16



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PHOTOGRAPHY

BC FORBIDDEN PLATEAU Parks

Strathcona Provincial Park

2001 MAP & TRAIL GUIDE

Trail Host Volunteers Needed

Due to the volume of people using the park, it is important for visitors to understand the need to preserve and appreciate the area's natural environment. The goal of the Volunteer Program is to provide up-to-date information about the park as well as safe and responsible park use.

With the 2001 summer season upon us, BC Parks needs volunteers for the Trail Host Program. While knowledge of Strathcona Park is an asset it is not required. An orientation provided by BC Parks gives volunteers all the information needed. The only requirement by volunteers is the will to represent their community and assist visitors. Being a Trail Host consists of greeting visitors and providing them with information about Strathcona Park, more specifically Paradise the Meadows/Forbidden Plateau areas. Volunteers provide information through walking along the popular day use trails or greeting people at the temporary information hut (donated by the Strathcona Nordics). The hut itself is located at the Paradise Meadows trailhead. The time commitment throughout the season is flexible, as the program is designed to accommodate all

volunteers who wish to participate. Anytime you can contribute from a couple of hours to a day, weekends or weekdays, will be appreciated.

In order to participate in the Volunteer Trail Host Program, interested individuals or groups should contact:

Andy Smith, BC Parks **Extension Officer**

Tel (250) 337-2405 Fax: 337-5695 E-mail: Andy.Smith@gems6.gov.bc.ca

Or stop in at the Miracle Beach Park office at 1812 Miracle Beach Drive, Black Creek, B.C.





Above

The raised trail system in Paradise Meadows allows visitors easy access to many areas of the park while protecting the fragile environment.

Day hikers enjoying a lunch break on Lake Helen MacKenzie. Watch for the ever-present Whiskey Jack's who would like to share your lunch with

BC Parks 2001 Map & Trail Guide courtesy of Rick Gibson





Rick Gibson Ph: 250-334-3124 (24 hrs) Cell: 250-334-7503

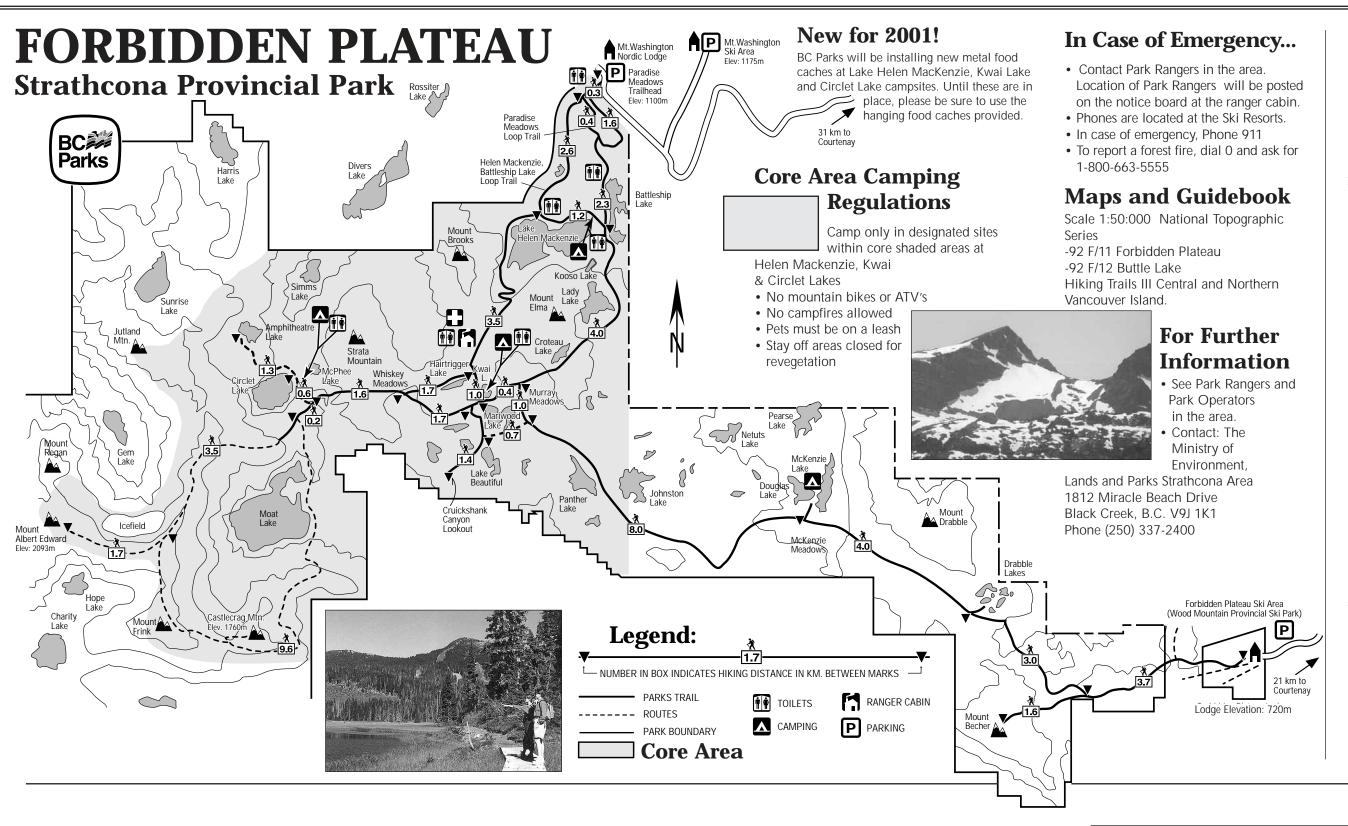




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Distance: 25 km one way Suggested time: 3 days

Buttle Lake. From the summit of Albert Edward descend it's southwest ridge to the drainage divide above Norm Creek and Ralph Lake. Continue up to Ruth Masters Lake

Routes

These routes are suitable for experienced hikers. People using these routes should have map and compass skills and be prepared for inclement weather.

From Circlet Lake

Mt. Albert Edward 2093 M Elevation gain: 935 m Distance: 6.5 km Suggested time to summit: 5 hrs.

Follow signs towards Albert Edward from Circlet Lake intersection. Trail climbs steeply for first 3 km. Once the first ridge has been reached look for route leading South and follow for 2 km. It's another 1.5 km to the summit.

Castle Crag 1760 m Elevation gain: 620 m Distance: 6.3 km Suggested time: 5 hrs.

Route begins at the southeast end of Moat Lake. Follow route to the small col west of the summit. It's a steep scramble over loose rock to the top. Caution: This route crosses boulder fields and slopes with loose rocks.

From Albert Edward

Augerpoint route (not shown on map)

An extended route through to

(local name) and above to the saddle southwest of Augerpoint Mtn. Continue southwest along the ridge to a high point of 1760 m before descending a long ridge above Shark Lake. Continue northwest along route to reach the beginning of the Augerpoint Trail. This trail descends steeply for 1400 m before arriving on the Buttle Lake Parkway at Buttle Lake.

The following guidelines will help to ensure that the Forbidden Plateau area remains pristine for all who venture there.

Hiking Trails - Please stay on designated trails, stay off revegetated areas and avoid taking short cuts.

Camping - Designated camping sites are located at Lake Helen, Mackenzie, Kwai, Circlet and McKenzie-Douglas lakes. Please use the tent pads and toilets where provided. If a tent pad is unavailable choose a site that has exposed soil or will not easily be impacted.

Fires - Campfires are prohibited. Please pack a campstove for cooking.

Garbage - Help keep the back country clean. Pack out all garbage and please pick up any litter you see. Please do not use outhouses for trash receptacles.

Pets - Please keep your pet on a leash at all times. Free running pets can harm other animals, irritate other visitors and can be harmed by wild animals. Do not allow your pet to swim in the lakes as this could contaminate drinking water sources

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Groups - Larger groups of people tend to concentrate use in an area and cause extensive damage to the fragile vegetation. To reduce these impacts, we recommend that group size be restricted to ten or less people. Where this is not possible, the larger group should be split into smaller groups which should travel and if possible camp in different locations.

Water - Drinking water is available from the lakes at all designated campgrounds. All drinking water should be boiled or purified prior to consumption. Please avoid swimming in these areas as it may contaminate the water supply. It is also important to use the toilets and grey water pits provided to keep these pollutants from entering the lake.

Safety - To avoid bear conflicts while camping, never leave food, garbage or toilet articles in vour tent. Please use pack sack hangers provided at designated campgrounds. Hikers should make noise when approaching blind corners to warn off bears and other animals

Mountain weather can change without warning, be prepared. Take spare, warm clothing and rain gear.

It is advisable to leave an itinerary of your trip with a friend or relative.





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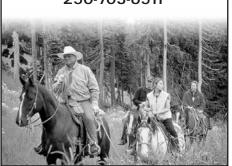
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ACCOMMODATION GUIDE

~Summer 2001~

There's so much to see and do on Mt.Washington in the summer besides great mountain biking, hiking and enjoying the mile high view following a chairlift ride to the summit. Here is a list of this summers main events.

July 21 & 22 • Family Picnic & Games (11 am to 4 pm) Kids games and Carnival games happening all afternoon. Bring your Picnic Lunch or purchase one from our Chef.

July 28 • Mountain Luau

(5-8pm) \$19.95 in advance (tax & gratuity extra), \$21.95 at the door (excl. tax & gratuity). Authentically prepared Luau, featuring roast pork and chicken cooked traditionally, accompanied with Hawaiian cuisine. Swing your hips to live entertainment. Dress: optional, but it's fun to go native!

August 3-6 • Adrenalinfest

Mountain Biking Clinics by professionals for the whole family! (Many participants camp out and participate every day!)

Aug. 4/Sept. 1 Full Moon Sunset Ride & Dinner Tickets \$19.95 (excl. tax and gratuity) Includes: dinner, chair ride, and entertainment (6 pm to 9 pm). Our scenic chairlift ride operates late and gives you the chance to view our incred-

ible vista under moonlight. Join us after for a dinner prepared by our chef.

Aug. 11 • 3rd Annual Wine Festival Wine Sampling from 3 – 6 pm. Tickets \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door, includes wine sampling, live entertainment and door prizes. BC Salmon BBQ dinner follows the Wine Tasting in Fat Teddy's Bar & Grill for only \$19.95 (excl. tax & gratuity)

Aug. 16-19 • Mountain Musicfest Purchase your Ticket Now! 4 Day Outdoor Music Celebration! Tentative schedule features: Blues Music on Thursday, 4 to 8 pm

Country Music on Friday, 2 to 8 pm Saturday Rocks from 2 to 8 pm Sunday reggae Music, 2 pm to 6 pm

Tickets \$10 each day in advance or \$12

at the gate. 4 Day Festival Ticket \$35

Aug. 25-26 • Mile High Arts Festival Galleries in the Alpine Lodge. Various artists will also be offering art for sale over the weekend.



Sept. 22 • Harvest Dinner

Join friends and family for our summer ending Harvest Dinner. contact our catering coordinator, Livea Gill at 250-334-5757 for more info.

October 6-8 • Thanksgiving 'Turkey' Sale Sno Tek and Altitude Sport & Gift clear out their winter gear and clothing from this past year.

Mt.Washington Phone Directory (Area Code 250)

Altitude Sport & Gift . . . 334-5721 Cat Trax Taxi 703-0055 Central Res. 1-888-231-1499 Victoria Res. 213-3375 Vancouver Res. 619-0550 Chain Rentals 338-5527 Employment 334-5759 Fat Teddy's Bar & Grill . 334-5716 Fireweed's Restaurant .. 334-5706 O-Zone Tubing Park ... 334-5708 Real Estate (Rick Gibson) . 338-1723 Reception 338-1386 Security (after hours) .. 897-2205 Village Market 334-5745 For up-to-date resort info go to

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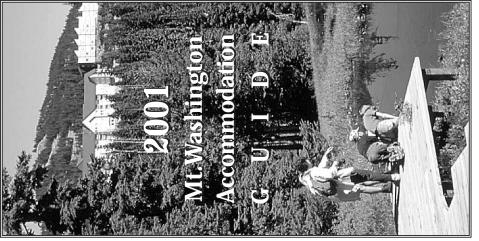


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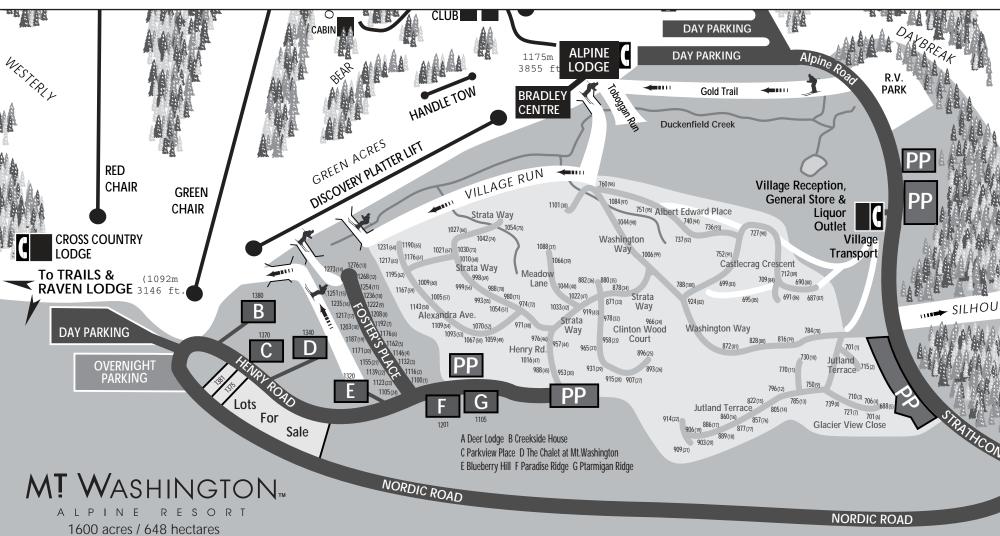
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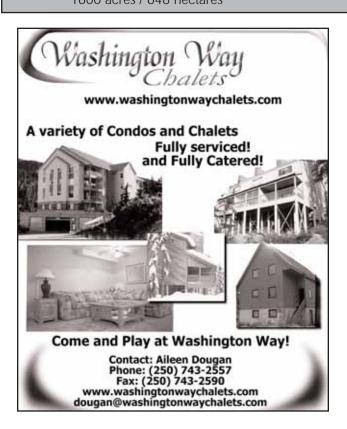


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With 70,000 local and international visitors each year, the Forbidden Plateau area of Strathcona Provincial Park is undoubtedly the most popular. But the "other" end of Strathcona offers a wealth of gems for hikers and walkers of all abilities.

Strathcona is 250,000 hectares of diverse, yet rugged wilderness slashing through the centre of Vancouver Island. Dominated by mountain peaks, the park also offers visitors alpine meadows laced with rivers, creeks, streams and lakes. The forests in the valleys and lower regions pre-date the discovery of Vancouver Island by Captain James Cook.

Buttle Lake is the dominant body of water in the park; it is also the site of one of the park's more popular campsites (the other is at Ralph River). Besides Forbidden Plateau, Buttle Lake is the only other place in the park with visitor-oriented developments - the rest of the park is a back-country enthusiast's paradise.

GETTING THERE

To get to the north end of Strathcona Park, follow Highway 28 through Campbell River to Buttle Lake, right on the highway.

STRATHCONA HIKES

One of the more popular trails to walk in the Buttle Lake area is Elk River - an 11-kilometre trail that begins right off Hwy. 28 and follows the Elk River for 10 kms before turning up to

Explore the "Other End" of Strathcona Park"

Landslide Lake (a five-hour hike).

Marble Meadows, a 6.6-km trail, offers viewpoints, alpine meadows and limestone formations. Start at the Phillips Creek Marine Campsite on Buttle Lake (six-hour hike).

Upper Myra Falls is a 3-km trail that starts just past the Westmin mine operation and follows a gravel road for 700m before turning into a forested trail (two-hour hike). To access Myra Falls, start near the south end of Buttle Lake and take the 1-km trail down to the falls. Although this is a short, 25minute hike, use caution while at the

New Camping Fees For Strathcona Park

Strathcona Park now has overnight camping fees in the Forbidden Plateau area. There is now a charge of \$5.00 per person/night over 16 years of age. Camping in the core area of the Plateau is restricted to designated sites at Lake Helen Mackenzie, Kwai Lake and Circlet Lake. There will be no charge at this time for overnight stays in random sites outside of the core area (see shaded area on map). There is no camping fee at those camping east of Panther Lake. There are fee stations for self registration at the entrances to the main trails. Please retain your registration receipts for our Park Facility Operators and Park Staff who will be monitoring the area. Strathcona Park, Forbidden Plateau area, has proven itself to be an all-season recreational destination. The plateau is one

of the most popular parts of the 250,445 ha. Strathcona Park. The plateau is the only sub-alpine/alpine area on Vancouver Island easily accessed by the general public.

During the winter, Forbidden Plateau is transformed into a cross-country skiers' paradise, and during the summer the area attracts visitors interested in numerous outdoor recreational activities. Visitors often hike the day use trails to view the flora and fauna that are unique to the alpine regions of Vancouver Island. The distinct and fragile ecosystem, which attracts visitors all year round is at risk.

Mt. Washington as seen from the trail system along Battleship Lake.

Guided Tours

The Strathcona Wilderness Institute (SWI), will be providing guided tours of Paradise Meadows this summer. Jennifer Williams will host tours every Saturday from June 30th to Sept. 3rd. Those interested are requested to be at the Paradise Meadows trailhead at 10 am on Saturday mornings prepared for a 1 1/2 hour tour through the meadows. No sign-up is required but be sure to dress for the ever-changing mountain weather conditions! Bring your binoculars and Guide Books too!

The SWI is also looking for interested interpreters to guide hikes on Sunday afternoons. For those of you wanting to share your knowledge and passion for the diverse flora, fauna and natural history of the Forbidden Plateau, please contact the SWI at 250-337-1871.





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New Look

continued from page 1

impeccable professionalism, principled conduct and the highest moral and ethical standards. 85 years later his principles are still followed in each Royal LePage location.

Rick Gibson is very happy with the merge. He also believes in the philosophies set out by Royal Lepage and is excited about the technology that the new company offers. Royal Lepage's internet site alone gets more then 160 million hits a month. Royal Lepage is well represented on Vancouver Island with offices in most areas.

Along with the new face of his company Rick has decided that it was time for a new photo. So what better time to introduce the new face of Rick Gibson with the new company name, Royal Lepage in the Comox Valley!

Raven Lodge

continued from page 1

The resort plans to continue operating the café in the old Nordic Lodge, and have renamed it Sunset Café. The old rental floor will be turned into expanded seating, and seasonal lockers will be provided for people who want to store equipment in the off-season.

Gibson said the only question mark is whether Heili will be at Raven Lodge or the Sunset Café.

Local Area Plan Update

A public hearing was held at Mt. Washington in mid-June to invite comment on Mt. Washington's new Local Area Plan. The plan is designed to guide the growth and development of the resort and protect the natural environment of the plan area.

"I think we've come up with a document that everybody's comfortable with," Gibson said. "It gives us the ability to grow, but addresses all the questions that were raised through the public process.

"The most significant thing is we go from being able to develop 750 units to 2,200, that gives us room to grow. At the same time there's enough control in the plan to make sure it's done in an orderly way. Environmental and social needs will be addressed as we go along," he said.

A secondary document lists items that still need to be worked out, like water and sewer provisions.

The Comox-Strathcona Regional District still needs to vote on the LAP.



Westjet

continued from page 2

WestJet has also decided to offer same-plane service from Comox-Calgary-Edmonton. As early as next fall people won't have to spend a twohour layover in Calgary before changing planes to get to Edmonton, and vice versa.

For Mt. Washington, WestJet's arrival was too late to have any real effect on the 2000/2001 ski season. But they're still excited about the possibilities the new air connection opens up.

"We think the impact is going to be this winter," says Director of Resort Services Don Sharpe. "The easy access for people from Edmonton and Calgary will be a big bonus for us."

A lack of snow in the Rockies which Alberta ski resorts experienced last winter – and increased recognition of the Comox Valley area with prairie travelers will benefit the whole region. And what's good for the north island is good for Mt. Washington, Sharpe said. "Once (tourists) are here, they'll spend in whatever place they go."

One place they're already spending in droves is Crown Isle Golf and Resort Community. From golf packages to a luxury villa, Calgary residents are willing and able to spend their money at the golf resort.

Mt.Washington, Crown Isle and WestJet have teamed up for a unique, fly-golf-ski promotion that will continue in the fall. Each WestJet boarding pass from the Comox-Calgary route will offer a free round of golf at Crown Isle or a free lift ticket Mt. Washington for the holder.

The airline is also good about sharing advertising promotions with businesses, Sharpe said. "We're advertising in their in-flight magazine. We have a good rapport with the WestJet people and who's there, and are learning how to make things happen."

WestJet announced in the spring that it has made another big jump in quarterly profits. The no-frills carrier made \$5.8 million last quarter, a 37-per-cent increase over last year. Revenues soared by 55.3 per cent to \$92.3 mil-

"Clearly, we had an excellent year last year," chief executive Clive Beddoe said.

Record Setting Winter Season!

Mt. Washington had a record year in skier visits for 2000/2001, reports Director of Resort Services Don Sharpe. "It was awesome," Sharpe said. "We did record numbers in downhill, about 378,000 skier visits. Nordic was on par for last year.

"That was because of the marginal snow in December. We felt we would have done better if we'd had more December snow."

The mountain had snow on opening day in December, and was able to remain open past Easter weekend in

"It seemed like every time we needed snow, we got it. We had a good snowfall ... most of the time we were near number one in terms of base."

The O-Zone Tubing Park saw eight to 10 per cent more visitors over last year, as that sport is catching on. The tubing park will be open later next winter, until 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Sharpe said the management team is entering its second year together, and is stronger than ever. He will celebrate his first anniversary on August 15.

Sharpe said the team's strength bodes well for a strong summer and winter. "You're looking at a team that works well together."

Mt.Washington and **Tourism Comox Valley** win Big Time at **Annual Tourism AGM!**

Mt. Washington and Tourism Comox dominated at Tourism Valley Vancouver Island's awards ceremony in Qualicum Beach in May, as each won two major awards.

The mountain resort won the Corporate Brochure Award and Corporate Internet Award. The ceremony capped an annual gathering of the Island's tourism industry, where tourism associations and businesses traditionally meet to review their collective promotion of the spectacular "Islands" region.

Mt. Washington marketing director Karen Bonell gave a special thank you to the designers "who have captured the essence of our region." Mt. Washington's brochure was designed by Darren Bristol of Bristol Design. The alpine resort's website was designed by Colin Wilson and Michelle Foster.

Tourism Comox Valley, of which Mt. Washington is a member, produces over \$450,000 worth of marketing activity that continues to give potential visitors a view of the wonderful diversity that the Comox Valley offers for vacationers and business people alike.

TCV is recognized on both Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast as a model Tourism Destination Marketing Office and has shared its development with others to strengthen Vancouver Island as a destination for regional, provincial, national and international visitors.

continued on page 16



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Summer 2001

continued from page 4

The Disc Golf course is something that's been talked about for several years. "I didn't want to talk anymore, so we're making it happen," Sharpe

The nine-hole course starts under the Whiskey Jack chairlift and ends at the Eagle Express. "It's a natural course so it follows the terrain of the mountain. It's through the trees so you're up and down."

The course is free to use, but discs cost \$3.50 to rent (they're also for sale at Altitude Sport & Gift Shop). Players throw the Frisbees from a tee box and aim at a chain link basket.

And if Disc Golf isn't your thing, try the beach volleyball court or horseshoe pitches that have been put in beside the Sno-Tek hut. Or be brave and try mountain boarding this summer - it's like a snowboard with wheels. Ron Knapp is back with his horses, offering trail rides around the mountain.

Another new feature this summer that Sharpe predicted would be popu-Iar was Kidz Camps - five-day adventure camps for kids seven to 12 years, which were scheduled for two separate weeks in July (July 2-6 and 9-13). These camps featur mountain exploration, hiking, disc golf, basketball, nature-based crafts and outdoor survival. "If we're successful, we'll continue them throughout the summer," Sharpe said. Koya Hansen, who runs the Kidz Zone in the winter, is also in charge of the summer camps.

The great thing about the Kidz Camps is that pick-up and drop-off is in Courtenay before work and after work, so parents don't have to worry about arranging a 2 or 3 p.m. pick-up. Fireweeds Restaurant and Altitude Sport & Gift are open daily.

For more information on Mt. Washington summer activities, visit their website: www.mtwashington.bc.ca or phone (250) 338-1386.

Tourism Awards

continued from page 15

The mountain has also received kudos of a different kind from BC Alpine. Out of 32 ski clubs in B.C., BC Alpine chose Mt. Washington as its 2000/2001 Resort of the Year.

This award is presented to the resort which best exemplifies ski club and resort co-operation; event and race quality; resort facilities including course preparation, course availability and banquet facilities.

This award was not a reflection of any one event, but recognition of the support and co-operation the Mt. Washington Ski Club receives from the resort throughout the entire season, according to ski club spokesperson Mike Stubbs.

Mt. Washington Racers train up to four days a week during the ski season, requiring space and use of mountain facilities.

"Without the support from this resort, this would not be possible," Stubbs said. Ski club race training and race event systems have honed the skills of many of Canada's top racers, including Alison Forsyth, Davon Callendar and Daniel Bird.

"With the continued support from Mt. Washington we are sure to have many more contenders in the years to come," Stubbs said.

"And now, Swedish television is proud to present, our latest star, Mt. Washington Resort!"

Mt. Washington came "this close" to hosting an episode of The Mole for Swedish television. But the ski resort eventually lost out to a rodeo clip that was filmed at Norwood's rodeo facilities.

"They were talking about putting people on the top of Mt. Washington for an overnight," says director of services Don Sharpe. "Something like they would drop them on the mountain with a backpack and they would have to hike ... but it didn't work out."

Sharpe said it wasn't the first call that the picturesque alpine resort has received, and it won't be the last.

"We get a lot of calls like that - once or twice a month, people phone wanting to film up here," Sharpe said.

Other calls have been coming from para-sailers anxious to tame the towering peak. Sharpe fielded so many requests that "I finally came to the decision that I'm going to wait a year and establish a safety area."

Sharpe is working with the Vancouver Island chapter of the Hang Gliding and Para-Gliding Association to work out fly and no-fly zones, and to determine how dangerous it would be to para-sail from the summit.

"My understanding is we're an adventure zone because we have the wind around here," he said.

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Mt.Washington hosts National Cross Country Ski Team once again

For the second year in a row, Mt. Washington played host to the National Cross Country Ski Team for some spring training.

The national junior team trained in and around the Comox Valley and Campbell River in May, combining on-hill and off-

> hill training activities. They spent most mornings on snow, alternating classic and skating techniques on the Lower West Meadows trail.

> Mt. Washington provided grooming so the team could ski out of the old Nordic Lodge. Conditions were great even though the resort had been officially closed for almost a month.



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- **#210**, 3 bedroom on the 2nd floor, facing Strathcona Park. \$209,000
- #118, 2 bedroom plus spa on the 2nd floor, views of Strathcona Park and Mt.Washington.

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\$169,900



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Nestled in the serene Alpine Village, this beautifully decorated & spotlessly clean townhome features a black & brass faced propane fireplace; bright white wide open kitchen and a spacious finished attic. Surrounded by mature trees with a Wonderful Mountain View, plus ski in & out access; it is excellent value.



Perched on a Ridge

to view the sunsets, park and the stars! 4 bedroom chalet in the Alpine Village. Chalet has been rarely rented and pride of ownership is evident. Lower floor could easily be remodelled to accommodate an in-law suite. Sit in the hottub and enjoy the views of the mountains, glacier and sunsets.

\$199,900



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NEW TO MT. WASHINGTON

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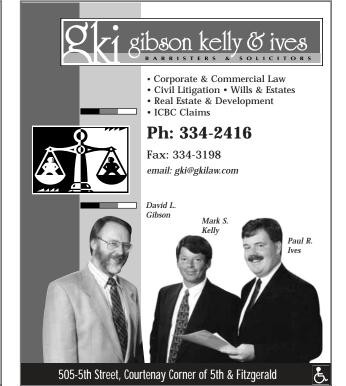
- I have been in the property management business for 15 years in the Comox Valley.
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Mountain & Park Views!

Well maintained semi-detached home in the Alpine Village of Mt. Washington. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and lots of living area! Wonderful mountain and park views from the living areas and deck. Extras include a hot tub, 2 decks and newer appliances. Easy access to parking and to skiing. \$209,900



Recreational Home, Make An Offer!

on Foster's Place. Drive in and ski out from this cozy retreat, with proven design. Hardwood floors and many upgrades, insulated floors and basement finished with an extra kitchen and bathroom. This home is owner built with many thoughtful features. Come and explore this cute and cozy chalet, you won't be disap-\$249,900 pointed.



Quiet Location

Located a few minutes walk from parking, this chalet has had many happy family years of use. Easy access to the slopes and a quiet location. Cathedral ceilings and an open floor plan. Large outside deck to enjoy the sunsets that the area offers. Property has been well looked after and is ready for a new family to start and enjoy it! \$259,900





This one's a keeper!

Located in a very private area of the Alpine Village with easy access in and to the slopes in this 3-4 bedroom immaculate chalet. Extras include a gourmet kitchen. wood-burning fireplace with wood, elevator, hot tub, decks, and a security system. Owner's have never rented this property and pride of ownership is evident.



Immaculate Chalet

4 level immaculate chalet in a prime location on Mt. Washington. 6 plus bedrooms and many spacious open areas. Hardwood floors, heat recovery system, great storage areas, spectacular views, easy access, hot tub, 3 bathrooms, and the list goes on! This 14 year old mountain home is well loved and was designed and built for skiers by skiers.

\$274,900



#7 Fosters Place

Drive In and Ski Out from this 3 year old chalet on Fosters Place. Designed with 3 levels, the basement is undeveloped, waiting for your imagination. Open living area features superb views. \$294,900



Incredible Views

Designed by Dave MacSween Design & Construction of Comox much thought has gone into this 3 bedroom unit. Located on the edge of Strathcona Provincial Park with the ski lifts across the \$249,900



Spotlessly Clean

Pride of ownership is evident in this truly ski-in, ski-out chalet located in the Alpine Village. Close to everything, yet nestled in the woods. Separate owner's suite down. New hardy plank siding outside! Bright, spacious floor plan This is a MUST SEE on your



Side by side duplex

Once in a while a unique property comes available. Each side has 2 bedrooms and spacious plans. There is also a common area which includes a large family room, sauna, kitchen, bathroom & bedroom. Ideal for 2 or more families, spectacular views.

\$299,000



All the Extras are Here!

From insulated concrete walls to the superb finishing, you will discover everything is here for the discriminating buyer. 2 large (12x28) decks and a smaller deck upstairs. Spacious kitchen & living areas. 5+ bedrooms and 4 \$389,900 bathrooms.



Overlooking the Ocean

Perched overlooking the ocean and the mountains, this special property awaits your inspection. Lovingly cared for by its original owners and builders, this one of a kind property has it all. The home has two distinct living areas, a self contained bright 2 bedroom suite with spacious deck and hot tub on the lower floor and a 4 bedroom 2 level home above. Common area includes storage and sauna. Also, 4 bathrooms and loads of storage. This mountain retreat is ideal for two families or an incredible rental property with a solid excellent rental history. \$349,900



Executive Styled Chalet

Drive in and ski out from this executive styled chalet on Fosters Place. This spectacular chalet is on the high side of the cul-de-sac with great exposure, huge vaulted ceilings and sleeps a bunch. Ski out the door and be back for \$399,900



Fantastic Foster's Place

Over 4000 sq. ft. of living space in this spectacular recreation property. Separated into 2 living areas with the main area having vaulted ceilings, sweeping views and down is a bright, open owner's suite. Below is a garage and workshop. Located on Foster's Place with easy drive in access and ski from your door to the slopes.

\$434,900



Over 3000 sq. ft. of luxury

in this 3 level log home located at the end of the cul-de-sac. The lifts are approx. 200 feet away making ski access a breeze! Dream gourmet kitchen, cathedral ceiling in living, dining area and on and on. Lower floor could easily be converted to additional accommodation and large outside deck is ideal for the sunsets. If you have seen the rest, come and see the best!

\$450,000



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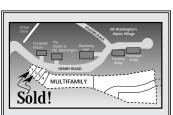
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Build for \$40,000 \$80,000 per unit!

Contact: Rick Gibson Ph: 250-334-3124 (24 hrs) Cell: 250-338-1723 www.rickgibson.ca





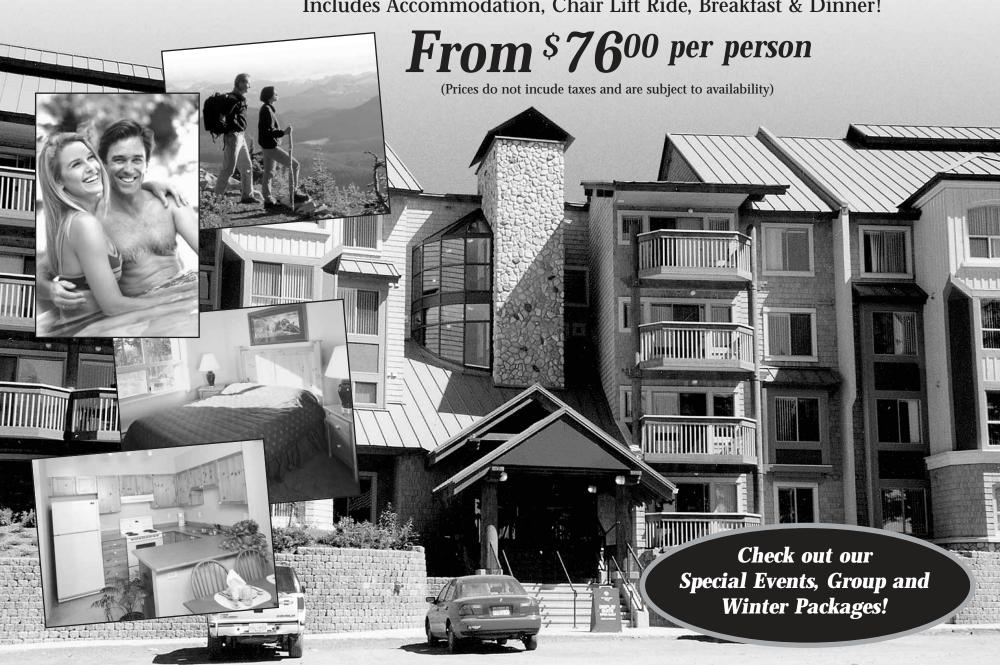
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