



The Hawk is Soaring to Completion!

Work is well underway on the new Hawk chairlift that will open up new intermediate terrain at Mount Washington.

The lift line was cut last year and the bulk of the runs were done then, too, said Dave Hampshire, Public Relations Director at the alpine resort.

"The lift line was cut last year because we knew we wanted to put (the new chair) in, we knew we wanted to do it 'today'."

The six-seat, high-speed Hawk replaces the old Red Chair, which was a slower, three-seat lift. The cables for the Red Chair were dismantled in May, and the Swiss company that is putting in the lift was in town in late June to assemble both the up-load and off-load stations at each end of the lift.

"It will be pretty exciting when the helicopters come in to put in the towers," Hampshire added. The new Hawk will open up 200 more acres of skiable terrain.

The resort decided to go with a six-pack for convenience's sake. "The area the Red serviced was primarily an intermediate area. What we had was a lift that was beyond handling the capacity of people that wanted to get on that lift." There was also a bottleneck at the top of the lift, as people disembarked the Red Chair, Hampshire said.

"We looked at a quad that would have worked quite well, but looking at doubling the amount of people on that chair just made sense."

The Hawk will be 10 per cent longer than the Eagle Express, which means it will be the longest chairlift on Mount Washington.

The Hawk will be operational in time for opening day, Hampshire said. "It will actually be running sometime in the fall, to test it out."



The Hawk will be able to carry riders 6 at a time... 2400 riders/hour!

As for the old Red Chair, Hampshire said there are plans to sell it — just like the Blue Chair was sold to Mt. Baldy when that lift was replaced by the high-speed Eagle Express.

"It's still a great lift. There's a lot of life left in it," Hampshire said. But the Red Chair

has outlived its usefulness at Mount Washington.

"We couldn't make it go any faster and still safely put people on it. With the Hawk being high-speed, it's going to be very easy to get on, and safer, too," he said.

A Mountain of Real Estate Activity!

Rick Gibson of Royal LePage in the Comox Valley is breathing a sigh of relief as the Mount Washington Real Estate market takes off for the first time in four years.

"It's great that this is happening," says Rick, who is one of Mount Washington's staunchest supporters. "It proves that Mount Washington is on the right track with their development plans." He adds that he has seen more real estate sales activity in the past year than in the previous four years combined. "I was getting worried," he laughs, "Since the Mount Washington market makes up a big chunk of my business, I'm sure you can understand that there is only so long a guy can make a living in a silent market."

In the past year sales have tripled while most prices are clinging to lower levels. For now, Rick is quick to point out that these great buys will not last forever.

"In the past few weeks I've had three sellers actually raise their prices." And he's quick to add, "If you're looking for an investment property up on the mountain, my suggestion is that you act quickly."

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Rick Gibson
www.rickgibson.ca
 250-334-3124 (24 hours)



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Hiking and Biking Trails expand at Mount Washington Resort

The trails are made for walking at Mount Washington this summer. The Alpine Resort has been busy putting in a one-kilometre bark mulch trail from Raven Lodge to the trailhead into Strathcona Park's Paradise Meadows.

"We want people to be able to access (the trailhead) without necessarily walking on the road," says Mountain Management.

The trail connecting the Nordic Lodge to the trailhead is just one phase of Mount Washington's walking trail system, Sharpe explains.

"We have identified a walking trail from the top of the mountain, two different routes to take you from the top of the Eagle Express all the way back down," they said. One trail is more difficult and goes 1,700 feet almost straight down the mountain-side. The other is more leisurely and meanders along the downhill slope for 2.5 kilometres.

Another walking trail that many people aren't aware of is Discovery Road, which is better known as a bike trail. The three-kilometre-long loop is accessed from the Alpine Lodge; it traverses through the O-Zone tubing park and keeps going west for 1.5 kms, then returns 1.5 kms.

Next year a two kilometre long trail connecting the Alpine Lodge to the Raven Lodge will be laid.

Part of the balancing act in developing such a trail is the fact that the new Hawk Chairlift is being constructed right in the middle of where the trail would go.



Hikers and bikers are finding more accessible terrain each summer at Mount Washington.

The new trail will connect the Alpine Lodge to the bottom of the Hawk, then continue on to the Raven.

Mount Washington has also upgraded another trail close to the main lodge. It's a simple, one-kilometre loop that anyone can walk. The trail is wooded and comes out on a couple of view points. Formerly called Penny Lane, this revamped trail has been given a new name: Memory Lane.

The new moniker is quite appropriate. The short hiking trail has been renamed in honor of those who truly loved Mount Washington. "We have had a lot of people who wanted to do something (to remember) those who truly loved coming to the mountain.

Continued on page 21

Winter 2001/20002 Best Season Ever at Mount Washington

Mount Washington has added to the west.

Hampshire said media interest this year has been great, and has contributed to people finding out about Mount Washington. Comments they've been receiving from out of town visitors are "Wow, you guys are right on the edge of something great," he said. "Especially people who saw Whistler in their early days, they're saying we're the Whistler of old - right before their boom.

"We've come a long way from the \$12.00 lift ticket in 1979. But we have a lot more services and terrain, too."

At less than \$50.00, Mount Washington's lift tickets are still a great deal compared to Whistler (\$70.00), he said.

A number of factors contributed to Mount Washington's successful year. "The snow was so accommodating," said Hampshire who, during the winter season, is known as the "Mount Washington Snow Boy." "We received a lot of that very fine powder versus the heavy stuff, as usual."

That fine powder actually delayed the season opener by a week because the snow that was falling in November was drifting in the wind. "We had these 300 centimetre deep drifts," Hampshire said. It took awhile for the snow to fall in sufficient quantity for opening day.

Hampshire credited part of last season's success on the new Inland Island Highway, which is now open from Victoria straight to Campbell River. The highway has made the drive so much easier for visitors coming from Victoria, that even though it's only cut off 20-30 minutes, they arrive much more rested. And the turn-off to Mount Washington is just 18 minutes from the Jubilee Parkway in Campbell River.

Continued on Page 21

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Do Sasquatches Really Exist? On Vancouver Island?

Wildlife biologist John Bindernagel thinks so. And he has a shelf full of plaster cast footprints - including a set from Paradise Meadows to prove it.

In October 1988 Bindernagel was chaperoning a junior high school field trip to Lake Helen Mackenzie when a student pointed out a set of large footprints in a muddy patch of the trail.

"They all were walking along the trail. We (Bindernagel and his wife) were at the very back picking up sleeping bags, etc. The last girl said, 'what's that?' and pointed (a footprint) out in a low, muddy spot."

There were five such tracks, and they all seemed to be following the trail, Bindernagel related.

Unfortunately it was three days before he and his wife could go back and take a plaster cast of the footprints, and by then they had been obliterated by use.

The footprints were 15 inches long and one third wider than a normal human footprint. The step was about 40 inches - much longer than a human step.

Bindernagel's footprint cast is one of only 100 in existence, he said. More importantly, it made a believer out of his wife - who tolerates his passion for Sasquatch.

Bindernagel is a registered professional biologist with a degree in biology from the University of Guelph in Guelph, Ont. His interest in sasquatches began in 1963 when he was a third-year student in wildlife management at Guelph. His field

work began in 1975 when he moved his family to B.C., partly so he could begin field work on this species.

Bindernagel studies sea birds and big game; he has worked in Africa, the Caribbean, Asia and Iran in addition to North America.

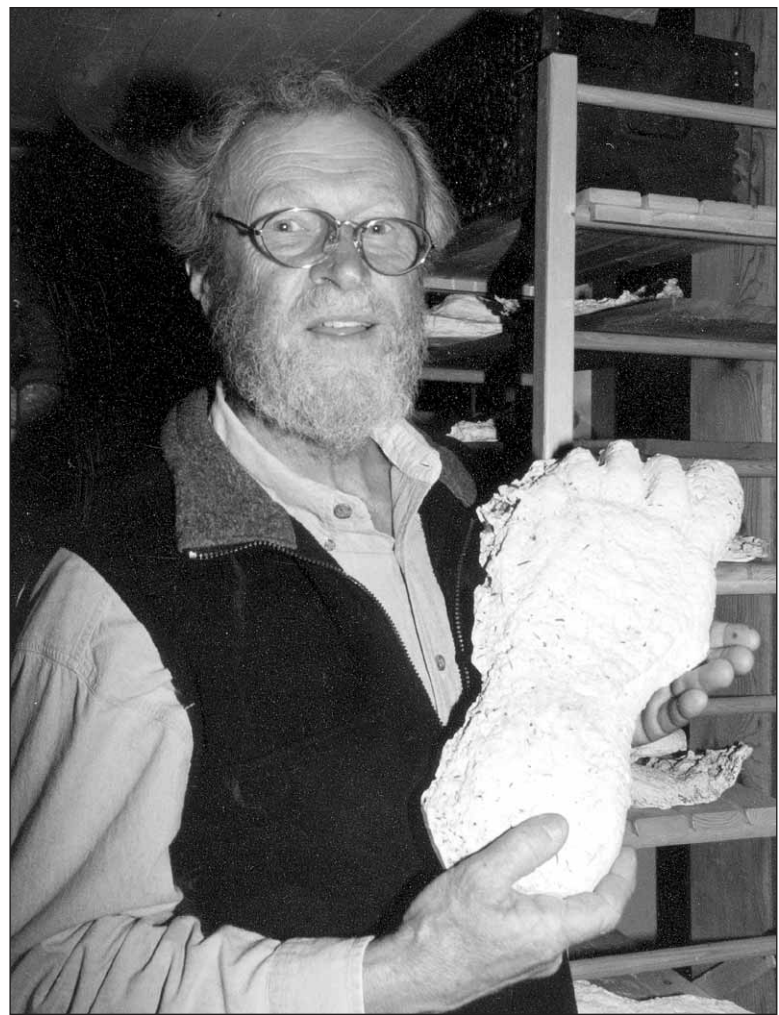
In 1996 he took two years off and wrote a field guide on the Sasquatch, entitled "North America's Great Ape: The Sasquatch (paperback, US\$25 available at Cumberland Museum and from Beachcomber books, beachcom@island.net). Bindernagel's research fills his cramped living room-slash-home office. He maintains a Web site devoted to his field research, and sasquatch footprint casts fill a wooden shelf. There is a common pattern to most of his research: that sasquatch is, in fact, North America's great ape.

One footprint cast from California shows unusual ridge patterns, not unlike the whorls of fingerprints, along the outside of the foot as well as the heel area. Great apes also have pronounced ridges on their feet. It took Bindernagel a long time to publicly acknowledge his interest in sasquatches; over years of skepticism by his fellow scientists, he's lost a lot of his idealism, and developed a thick skin. But he's no fanatic, he said.

"I'm not saying it's an easy thing to accept. What I'm saying is we have so much evidence, it's time to at least start discussing it," he said.

There has been other Sasquatch sightings around the Mount Washington area besides Bindernagel's discovery. In fact, there have been 84 sightings from the Comox Valley-Campbell River corridor over the years.

Bindernagel has had reports of a



The proof is in the evidence left behind claims John Bindernagel

sasquatch sighting from a ski patrol member who was on the back side of the mountain, at McKay Lake. The ski patroller was treating a patient when he saw something that he thought was a sasquatch.

Several sightings have come from the Oyster River area, too. "I've got 20, 25 reports from Fanny Bay to the Oyster River," he said. "Mostly I get them second-hand."

Other reports have come in from Mary Wood Lake (Forbidden Plateau, early '90s)

as well as Comox Lake (1980), three from Wolf Lake, one from Anderson Lake (late-80s) and another from a mushroom picker on the lower slopes of Mount Washington.

In the early '90s a man driving in the Bevan Road area says he saw one cross the road; it was 3:30 a.m. He and his brothers, also in their '20s, went to the RCMP with their sighting and were asked whether they were drinking or smoking something funny. They recanted.

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Mount Washington Rocks

Eighty-five million years ago, no one skied at Mount Washington. That's because the mountain likely didn't exist that far back in history, says geologist Peter Mustard.

Peter Mustard is a Professor of Earth Sciences at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby. He spent part of last fall living at Mount Washington and mapping different rock types of the Trent River and other local areas to provide the base for future geological studies. He was back in the Comox Valley area in June 2002 to do some more mapping of cut blocks west of Mount Washington.

"If you wanted to go skiing 85 million years ago, there was no place to go," he said. Not only was most of the region under water, it was also flat. "This is a new idea." Recent research - including Mustard's mapping project - indicates that, contrary to popular belief, the Beaufort Range did not exist 85 million years ago. A geology guide for Strathcona Park suggests that there was a large mountain range located approximately where the Beaufort Range is now, but "we're pretty sure now that didn't exist."

The other reason no one would have been skiing at Mount Washington 85 million years ago is that temperatures in this region were at least 10 degrees Celsius warmer than they are now. "All of the plants we find are sub-tropical types - the stuff we would find in Mexico," Mustard said. That could mean one of two things: that when this area was all sand beaches and shallow seas, the land mass was farther south, closer to the Equator; or that the climate was just that much warmer.

"There probably was no winter as we know it. It would probably have been like winter in California or Mexico. So there was no snow."

The geology of Mount Washington is not

unique to this area of Vancouver Island - although part of it is more rare than others, Mustard said. There are three basic rock types - sedimentary, volcanic and quartz diorite (granite that is rich in quartz) - and they're plainly visible to skiers and summer visitors.

The first type of rock is called the Karmutson Formation or Karmutson Volcanics, which is made up of volcanic rock. They're the greenish rocks visible in the lower parking lot; they're from the Triassic Period and are approximately 220 million years old.

"They're very common," says Mustard. Above the Karmutson Volcanics, as you drive up the Strathcona Parkway from the main parking lot, is sedimentary rock from the Nanaimo Group. This group of rock stretches from Campbell River in the north along the Island's eastern shoreline to the Saanich Peninsula in the south, and as far west as Port Alberni. The Nanaimo Group is from the Cretaceous Period and its rocks are 65 to 90 million years old.

The Nanaimo Group comprises the sandstones, coals, etc. that form some of the mountains of Strathcona Park. They are also the rocks where coal was mined in the Comox Valley, and from where many of the fossils in the Courtenay Museum are found. "They're really well-exposed in the main parking lot" and on the lower ski slopes, Mustard said. In fact, a small coal seam was discovered in the main parking lot last year when the resort expanded the parking lot. The third type of rock, quartz diorite, is only about 45 million years old and comprises the mountain's "Mile High" profile. It's called the Mount Washington Intrusive

and was formed when molten lava travelled upwards from the earth's interior, looking for an exit. However, the intrusive didn't make it to the surface; it cooled underground instead. The Mount Washington Intrusive is only visible now because millions of years of erosion have worn away the softer rock of the Nanaimo Group that surrounds the ski hill's peak.

"Igneous rocks of this age occur throughout southern Vancouver Island, but the Mount Washington example is one of the largest and best exposed examples; thus, all these occurrences are commonly known as the Mount Washington Intrusive suite," Mustard said. These rocks are harder and more weather-resistant than others in the area, so they tend to stand out. They take longer to erode, too, which is why Mount Washington's peak is still around while the sandstone around it has eroded.

The delineation between the Mount Washington Intrusive and the sedimentary rock is somewhere between the main parking lot and the lower runs, Mustard explained. However, because the ski slopes are covered with snow in the winter and grass and trees in the summer, locating the exact line is difficult.

While there may not have been snow when the geology of Mount Washington was formed, there was water - and lots of it. "Even up in those high mountains in Strathcona

Park, most of those rocks have marine fossils in them," he said. While paleontologists have discovered many marine specimens, like a mosasaur, elasmosaur and sea turtles, not one tooth or bone from a land-based dinosaur has been discovered anywhere from Campbell River to the American border.

Mustard guessed that there was some sort of sea barrier that separated the dinosaurs prevalent in the Alberta Badlands from Vancouver Island.

"Either that, or we're not looking hard enough."



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Raven Lodge Boosts Nordic Visits by 50%



Raven Lodge's first year of operation was a raving success, says Dave Hampshire, Mount Washington's Director of Public Relations.

The posh, post-and-beam lodge has launched the Alpine Resort into the first-class category of nordic skiing - a sport that is gaining in popularity in North America on its own.

"People walk in and the lodge is meeting their expectations of what a ski lodge looks like," Hampshire said. The sweeping vistas visible through the floor-to-ceiling windows as one walks in the lodge are breathtaking, and the grand stone fireplace and sitting area are ideal for apres ski.

The whole ambience "gives them a sense of arrival, he said. "The footprint that was chosen for the lodge was designed so when you walk in, Mt. Albert Edward is right there."

Raven Lodge's popularity is evident in the numbers, Hampshire said. Season pass sales were 60 per cent higher and nordic trail passes (for the groomed, track-set runs) were 50 per cent higher than last year.

"It was the dramatic increase we saw in numbers and just having the ability now to promote the sport with a facility that reflects the pureness ... it really allows us to match that," he said.

The Alpine Resort and its new lodge were featured in a two-hour MuchMusic special last winter, as well as on the Outdoor Life Networks' Ride Guide program. That show will air in the United States, Africa and Europe in the fall.

Subaru came up to Mount Washington two separate times to shoot commercials, too. "In total they had 15-20 different Subaru vehicles up there. They bring up 150 people per episode. It's a big, big event" to film a commercial, Hampshire said.

"Both times (Subaru) spent \$250,000 to \$800,000 in a two-week period on Vancouver Island."

A Pair of Awards Puts Mount Washington on the Map

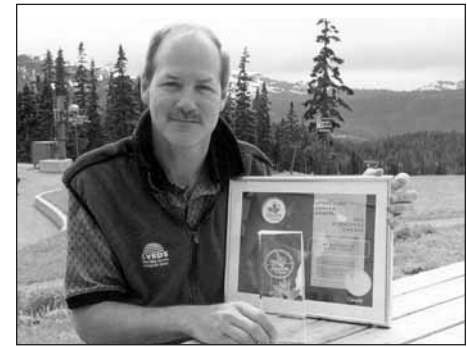
Mount Washington has been named one of the top attractions in Canada - on the same level as the Calgary Stampede and five other attractions from across the country.

Last spring the Resort was nominated for a prestigious Attractions Canada award. Nominated in the category of Leisure and Amusement Centre, Recreation or Sporting Venue with a budget in excess of \$600,000, Mount Washington went head to head against some major attractions.

"This is an incredible milestone for an attraction that has been open to the public for just over 23 years," said Mount Washington's Director of Business Services. "And to have our name on the same ballot as the internationally-known Calgary Stampede speaks volumes as to the gaining popularity of Mount Washington."

While the Resort saw Calgary take home the National Award, the trophy signifying Mount Washington's top placement among B.C.'s many attractions is another feather in the cap of a resort that has seen its name on a number of trophies this spring. Other awards include BC Tourism's 2002 Starfish Award for Environmentally Responsible Tourism and Tourism Vancouver Island's 2002 Top Website Award.

Judging for the award was done by a variety of tourism and media experts. Sharpe accepted the Provincial Finalist trophy at the awards ceremony in Edmonton.



Don Sharpe, Director of Business Services proudly displays the Attractions Canada Award

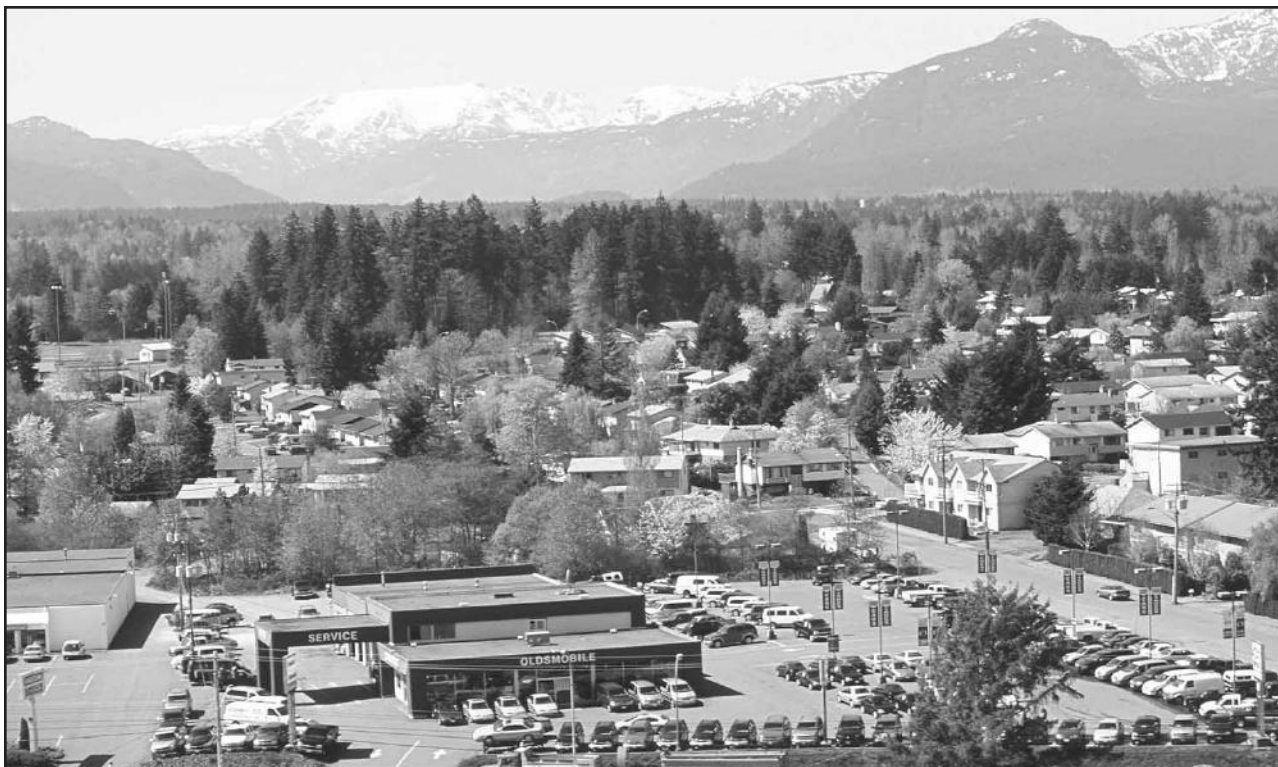
Mount Washington wins the 2002 Starfish Award for environmentally responsible tourism from BC Tourism.

The Resort has made a commitment to the environment with careful planning and a number of initiatives, from setting up recycling depots to studying water waste, creating environmentally-sensitive landscaping to creating a staff coffee card program to reduce the number of paper and Styrofoam cups being thrown into the landfill.

Some of Mount Washington's principles which have led to the Starfish Award include: understanding the historic and regional landscape characteristics, respecting the natural landforms and enhancing the environment for residents and visitors alike by using landscaping techniques that require little or no water.

The Alpine Resort works in close concert with BC Parks, as it sits on the doorstep of Strathcona Provincial Park; the Resort donates \$10,000 annually for park projects and initiatives associated with the Provincial Park.

The Starfish was presented by the Oceans Blue Foundation.



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FORBIDDEN PLATEAU

Strathcona Provincial Park

2002 MAP & TRAIL GUIDE

Strathcona Park Institute offers Weekend Programs

In spite of the provincial government's huge cuts to parks funding and staff, along with the annihilation of all park's interpretive programs, (including the Trail Host Program), summer visitors to Strathcona Park can at least be assured of a weekend (Saturday and Sunday mornings) interpretive walk in Paradise Meadows and some basic park information. Strathcona Wilderness Institute is again offering this popular visitors service (10am ~ 4pm) which is based out of a small trail head hut, again kindly loaned by the Nordic Ski Club and moved into position by Mount Washington Resort's maintenance staff.

These summer weekend programs will be held through the summer to the September 2nd, Labour Day weekend. To add more variety and subject matter, special guests (local experts) will be leading some of the Sunday morning walks. Anyone interested in learning more about the Natural World is welcome. This year however, because of the lack of funding from BC Parks, the institute is requesting \$2.00 per person (\$5.00 per family), which helps the financial burden. Volunteers, who are familiar with the area, are always

welcome to help at the information hut, especially during week days throughout the summer.

The Institute is also continuing the weekend information service at Buttle Lake (200 yards past the Gold River turn-off). This is an entirely voluntary service, thanks to Gerry Roberts. The hours will be: Fridays: 3-9pm (or dusk), Saturdays: 10am-6pm, Sundays: 10am-4pm. This public service operates until Labour Day in September.

As a non-profit society, the Institute continues to facilitate a co-operative effort to assure support for continuing education, information and park stewardship. They are, at present, seriously



in need of more active directors in order to keep the organization running. The goal is that a successful fund-raising activity will enable them, in the near future, to employ a part-time executive director.

If you are interested in supporting SWI, in any way, please contact Steve Smith and leave a message at 337-1871 or e-mail: swi@island.net. You can also visit our website: www.island.net/~swi/.

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

Left
Day hikers enjoying a lunch break on Lake Helen MacKenzie.

BC Parks 2002 Map & Trail Guide courtesy of Rick Gibson.



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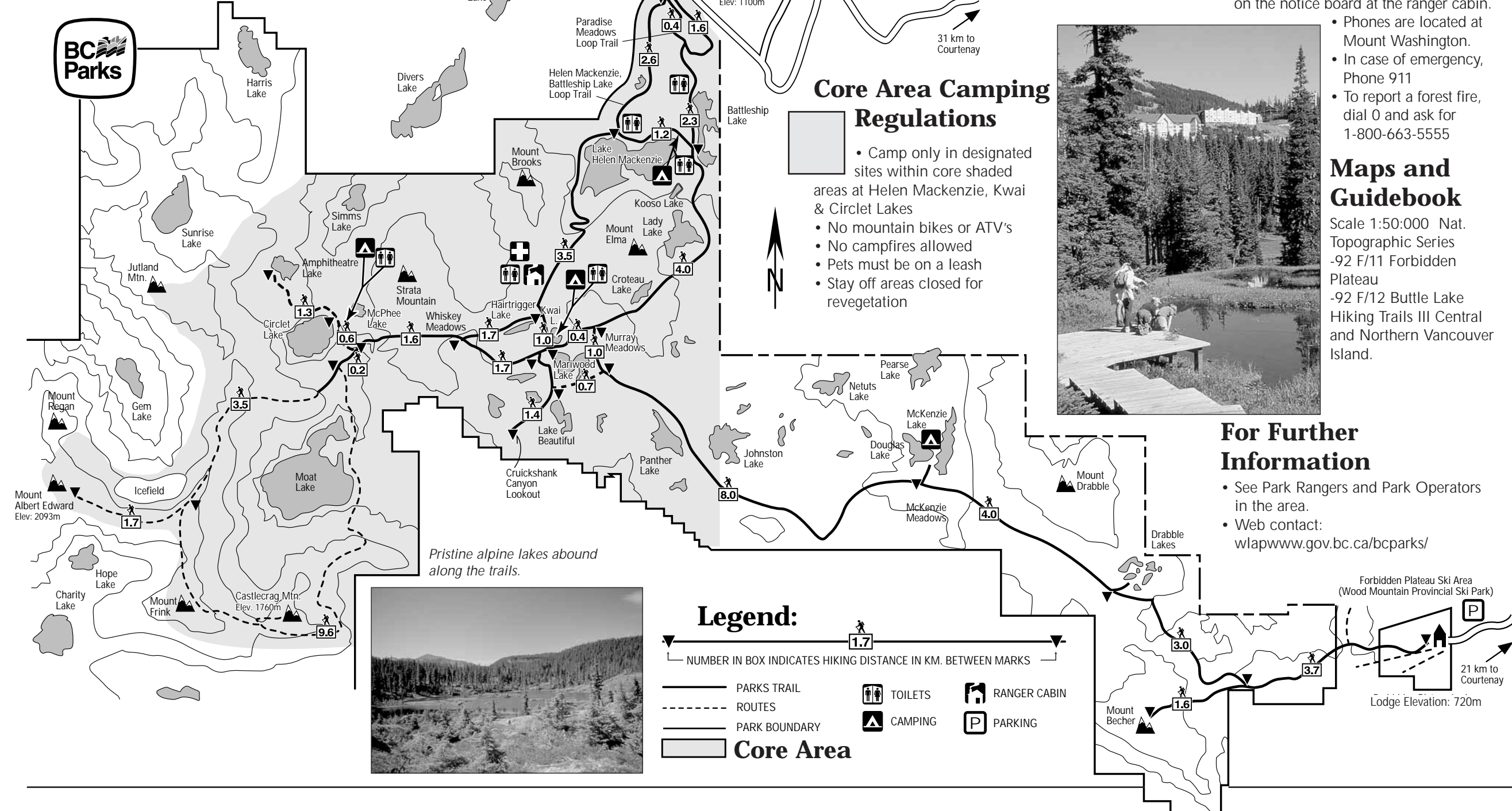
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FORBIDDEN PLATEAU

Strathcona Provincial Park



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 Circllet 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 Circllet 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)
Distance: 25 km one way
Suggested time: 3 days

An extended route through to 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

(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, Circllet 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.

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 your 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.



The Forbidden Plateau trail system allows hikers of all ages to experience the spectacular beauty of Strathcona Park.

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BUTTLE LAKE

Strathcona Provincial Park



2002 MAP & TRAIL GUIDE

Strathcona Park's Buttle Lake is easily accessible in forty five minutes from Campbell River on highway 28. The drive takes you alongside the Campbell and Upper Campbell Lakes ending with views of the expansive waters and dramatic mountains of the Buttle Lake corridor.

The beauty of this peaceful place will take your breath away, and you will find great opportunities for camping and recreational pursuits.

People come to fish for trout, and to swim, canoe, kayak, board sail, picnic, sunbathe and waterski on the 25 km of lake, while others enjoy the easy and interesting nature walks, or more challenging back country hikes. Local guides and club members rock climb at Crest Creek Craggs. Some visitors just sit quietly in the shade of ancient trees and enjoy the fresh air.

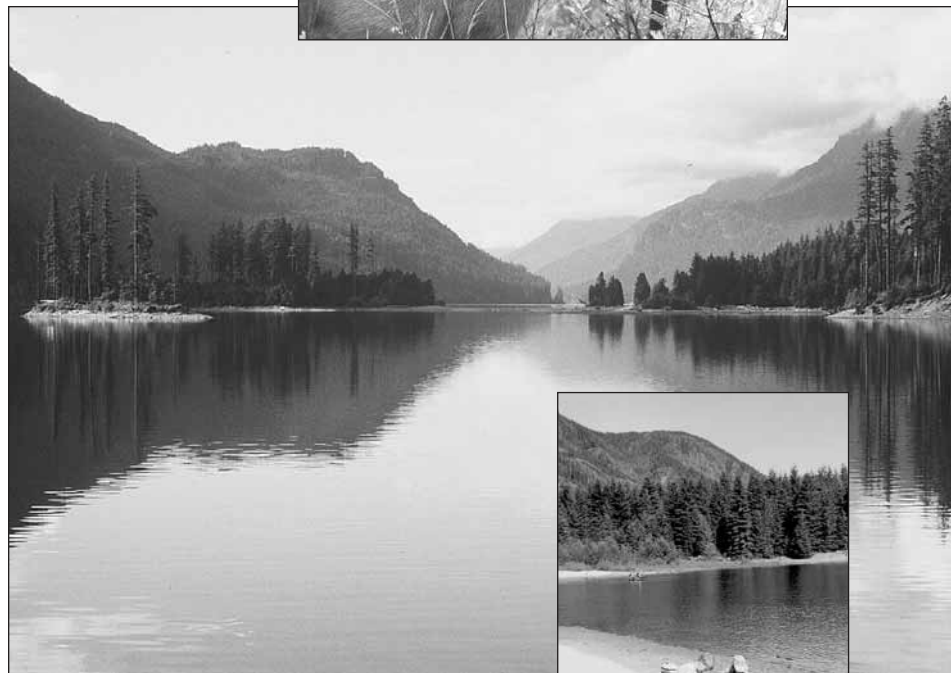
Camping facilities include 85 sites at **Buttle Lake Campground** on the lake at the North end, and 75 sites at **Ralph River Campground** with both lake and river access at the south end of the lake. **Driftwood Bay Campground**, an excellent facility for groups, is located separately on the northern end of the lake. You will also find simple wilderness camping opportunities for boaters

on the western shoreline.

A pleasant white sand beach and a playground for children are available at Buttle Lake Campground. There is a concrete boat-launch ramp within two kilometres, and also an undeveloped gravel launch nearby. The lake levels are controlled by hydro electric dams and tend to be low during the winter but normally rise for the summer months.

Ralph River Campground is shaded by the graceful beauty of an ancient forest of cedar, hemlock and fir trees underneath which you will likely see the resident blacktail buck grazing. This peaceful campground borders both the lake and a lovely clear river, which is at times alive with spawning trout. It's a popular spot for both fishermen and hikers of all levels. Many of the trails are easily accessible from Ralph River Campground.

There are interesting trails to explore, some less strenuous and others more challenging, and each with unique features to enjoy. Opportunities abound for everyone throughout the Buttle Lake corridor. For further information refer to the map on the next page. If you are at Buttle Lake go to park headquarters, where volunteers from the Strathcona Wilderness Institute will assist you. check out the web site at wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/. Come to the campgrounds at anytime as



With a sandy beach, spectacular views, kids playing area, boat launch and trail systems close by Buttle Lake is a popular site for family camping in the spring, summer and fall.



BC Parks 2002 Map & Trail Guide courtesy of Rick Gibson.

there are almost always sites available on a first come first serve basis at both major campgrounds. If you would like to make a reservation at Buttle Lake Campground call Discover Camping at 1-800-689-9025, or link up to website at www.discovercamping.ca. To book Driftwood Bay group campground call 287-2942.



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Strathcona Provincial Park
INFORMATION HUT

Run voluntarily by
The Strathcona Wilderness Institute

Do you have questions about Strathcona Park and its fascinating plants, wildlife or history? Are you interested in taking an easy day hike or exploring some of the challenging back country? The Strathcona Wilderness Institute, with assistance from BC Parks, is pleased to provide visitors with a wide range of information about BC's oldest park. Maps, trail update, details about visitor services and other useful information is now available. *To find out more about Strathcona, stop at the Park Information Hut, located 200 metres south of the Gold River turnoff at Park Headquarters... just watch for signs!*

HOURS OF OPERATION
To September 2, 2002

Friday: 3 pm ~ 9 pm (or dusk)
Saturday: 10 am ~ 6 pm
Sunday: 10 am ~ 4 pm
Monday: 10 am ~ 3 pm (holidays only)

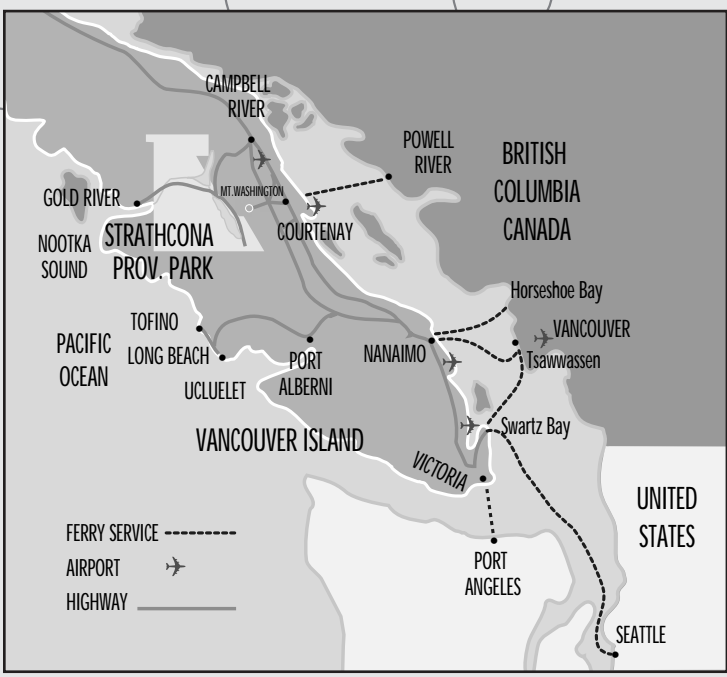
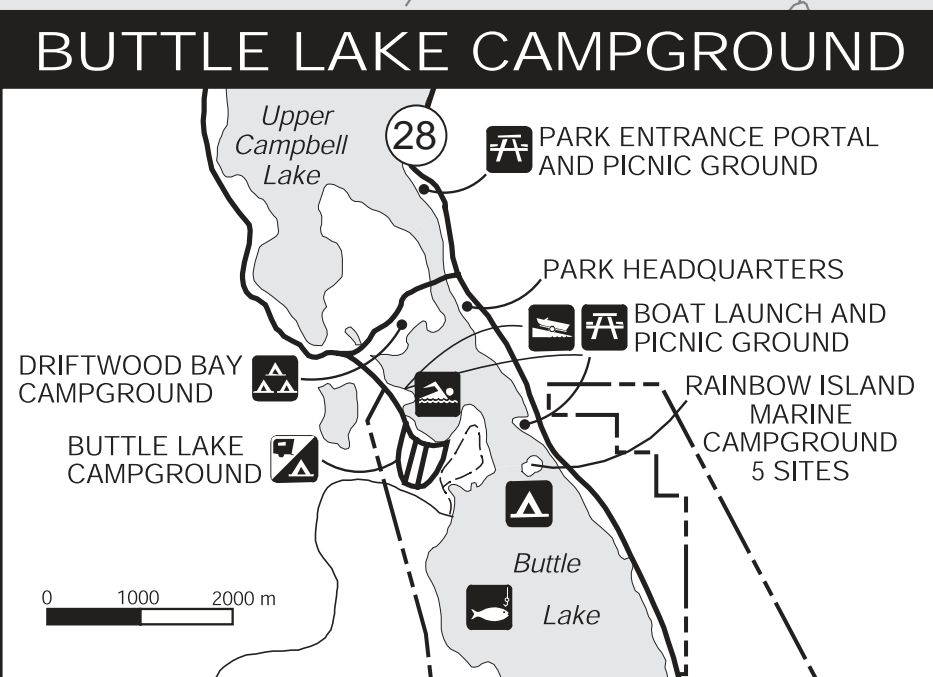
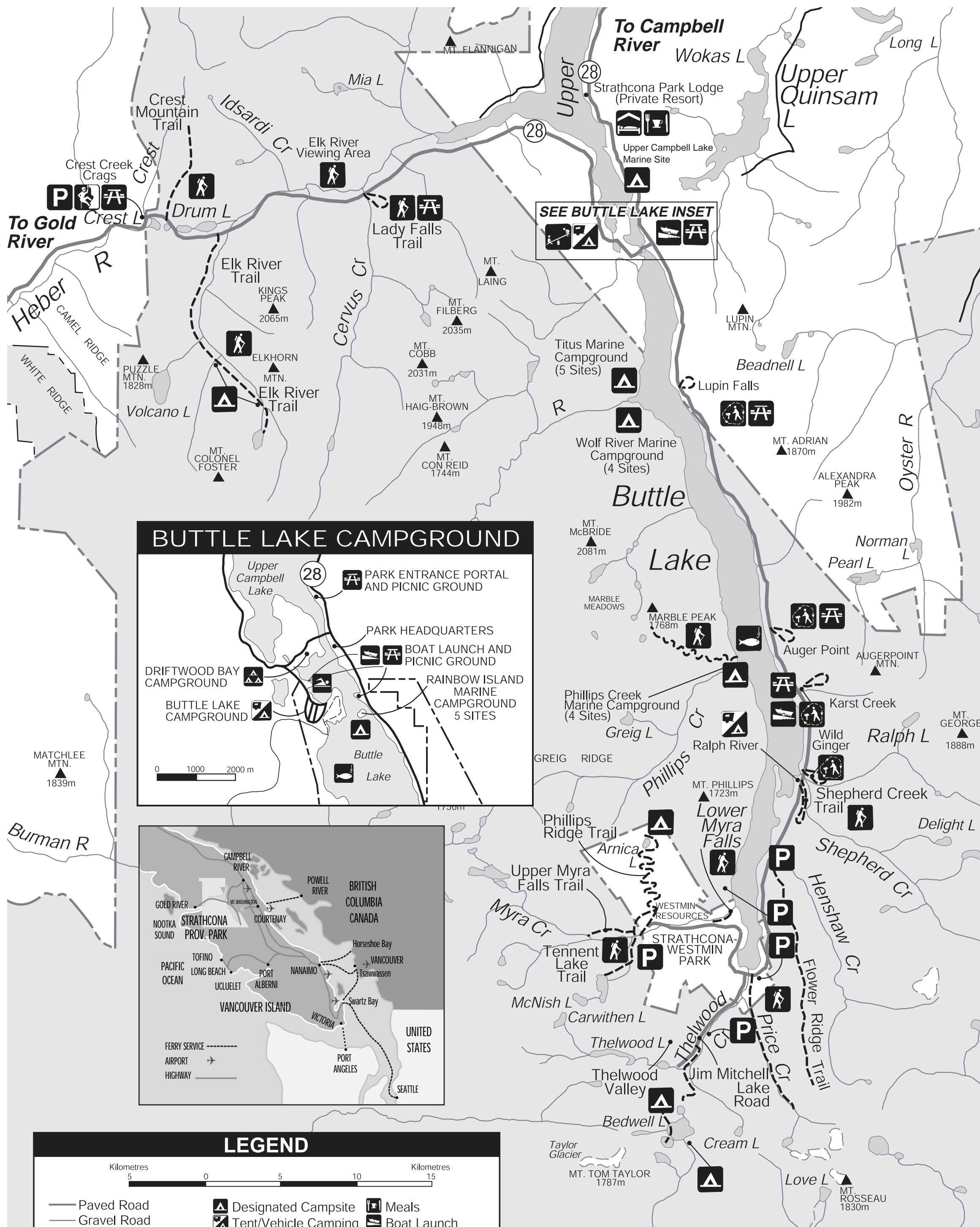
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BUTTLE LAKE CORRIDOR

Strathcona Provincial Park



LEGEND		

BUTTLE LAKE CORRIDOR TRAIL AND CAMPGROUND INFORMATION

The trails described here are well defined and easily accessible. The trail heads are marked with signs. There are other, less defined trails and routes which are not shown on this map. Distances, elevation changes and hiking times are for ONE WAY only and are approximate. Campfires are discouraged in most back country areas and not permitted in some. Wear sturdy boots and carry rain gear and a sweater, even in the summer months, because weather can change suddenly and dramatically in the mountains. Please preserve the delicate alpine environment by staying on trails.

For further information about trails and wilderness areas visit the volunteer information hut at Park Headquarters, or ask park rangers. Topographical maps and guidebooks can be obtained locally at sports stores in Campbell River or Courtenay. If you wish to travel on less defined routes please be well prepared with a map and compass, proper equipment, and experience in wilderness travel. Let a friend know where you plan to go and when you plan to return.



Ralph River Campsite



Watch for deer along the trails.



Myra Falls

A Freshwater Fishing License and current regulations can be acquired from sports stores in Campbell River. The MARINE CAMPSITES are accessible by boat only. There is a \$5.00 per adult per night fee. The money can be deposited into a vault at the boat launch access points listed below. B.C. Parks also now charges \$5.00 per adult per night for back-country camping in some areas and fee vaults are located at the applicable trail-heads.

The STRATHCONA WILDERNESS INSTITUTE and the FRIENDS OF STRATHCONA provided financial support for the production of this map. The STRATHCONA WILDERNESS INSTITUTE is a non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire awareness, appreciation and stewardship of the natural world through education and participation. The institute will provide a volunteer information service on weekends at park headquarters at Buttle Lake from June 28th until September 2nd 2002. The FRIENDS OF STRATHCONA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect, preserve and promote Strathcona Park. Box 3404, Courtenay, B.C. V9N 5N5 Tel: 250-337-1871

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ACCOMMODATION GUIDE

~Summer 2002~

There's so much to see and do on Mount 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 20 & 21 • Overwaitea Family Picnic & Games It's FREE and FUN for the whoLe FAMILY! Backyard bouncer, clowns, face painting, balloons, potato sack and 3-legged races, and more!

July 28 • Sunset Chairlift Ride
Soak up the pristine alpine landscape surrounding you as the sun goes down. Adults: \$6.50
Children (7-12): \$5.50

July 27 • Mountain Luau
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Half Price for Children 7-12

August 3-4 • Mountain Bike Riding Clinics Free downhill, Trials, Free Ride and Intro Clinics for all levels of riders.

August 10 • 4th Annual Wine Festival Tickets includes wine and food samples, entertainment and door prizes.

August 16 • Mountain Music Outdoor Concert Series (TBA)



Don't miss the Mountain Luau!

August 24 • Sunset Chairlift Ride & Mile High Arts Festival (24th & 25th)
Galleries in the Alpine Lodge. Various artists will also be offering art for sale over the weekend.

September 7 • Under The Sea Dinner



September 7-8 • Island Triple Throw Down Mountain Bike Race

September 28 • Harvest Dinner

October 12 • Mount Washington Village Home Owners Barbeque

October 14 • Last chance for a scenic chairlift ride!

For up-to-date resort info go to www.mtwashington.ca

Mount Washington Phone Directory (Area Code 250)

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- Catering 334-5757
- Central Res. 1-888-231-1499
- Fat Teddy's Bar & Grill . . . 334-5716
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- First Aid 334-5741
- Police (EMERGENCY ONLY) 911
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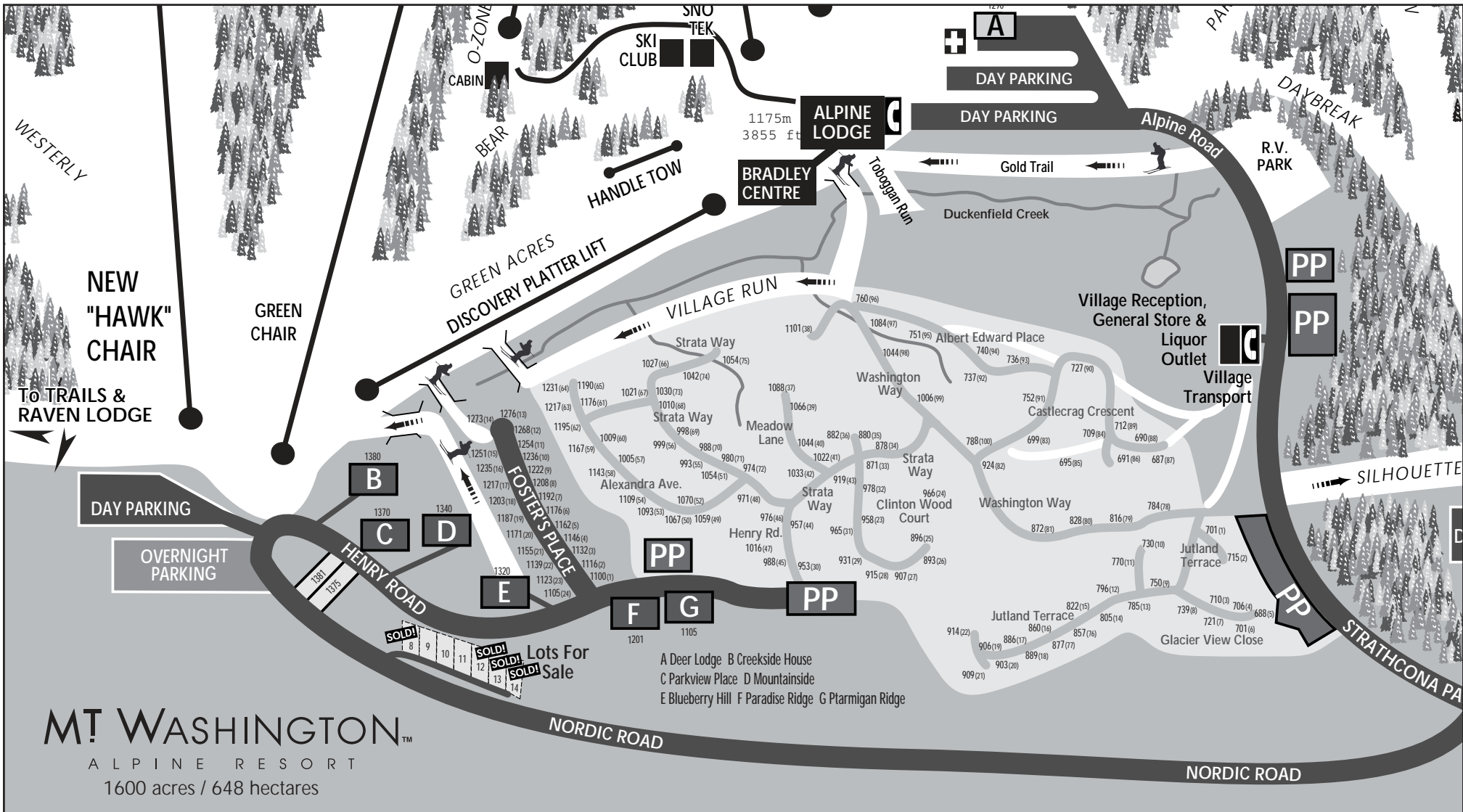
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HIKING TRAILS, BOAT LAUNCH RAMPS, AND CAMPGROUNDS

The trails are graded as follows: (1) Easiest (2) Moderate (3) Difficult

ELK RIVER TRAIL (2-3)

Length: 11 km. Suggested time: 4-5 hrs. Elevation change 600 metres. Trail starts at Hwy. 28 and follows the Elk River Valley for 10 km before climbing up to Landslide Lake. Bare rock sections. Camp in designated camping areas only.

CREST MOUNTAIN TRAIL (3)

Length: 5 km. Time: 3-4 Hrs. to the tarn. Steep with an elevation change of 1,250 metres. Caution required on single log creek crossing (the last good water). The snow stays late into the year on top. Random camping allowed.

FLOWER RIDGE TRAIL (3)

Length: 6 km. Time to the subalpine ridge: 3-5 Hrs. Steep with an elevation change of 1,040 Metres. The trail begins at Westmin Rd., climb an additional 200 metres from the top of trail to flat ground for tents. Poor water. Panoramic views. Camping possible at halfway point.

PHILLIPS RIDGE TRAIL TO ARNICA LAKE (2-3)

Length: 6.5 km. Time: 2-5 hrs with an elevation change of 800 metres. This is a well graded trail beginning at Westmin mine. Observe old growth forest, a waterfall, and alpine meadows. Designated camping area. Bear cache.

UPPER MYRA FALLS (2)

Length: 3.3 km from the parking lot past the yellow gate. Drive through the mine area to find the parking lot. Time 2 hrs. Elevation change: 100 metres. Trail follows gravel road for approx. 800 metres to the sign. Large trees. Views of Mt. Myra and a waterfall. No camping.

TENNENT LAKE (3)

Length: 4 km. Estimated time 2-4 hrs. with an elevation change of 840 Metres. Trail access is from the parking lot at the mine. Walk past the yellow gate on the gravel road for 1 Km and across a bridge to the start of the trail which is a rough, rocky, steep old roadbed. Old-growth forest to sub-alpine. There is an undefined route to access Mt. Myra from here. Tennant Lake is dammed. Random camping is permitted.

BEDWELL LAKE (3)

Length: 6 km. Drive over the Thelwood River bridge at the south end of Buttle Lake, and turn left immediately onto the Jim Mitchell road for 6.8 Km. This is a rough gravel road not suitable for small vehicles. Trail elevation change: 600 metres. Time 3-4 hrs. Features river valley and old growth forest then rocky out cropping and a sub-alpine environment with excellent hiking and

views. Camp in designated areas at Baby Bedwell and Bedwell Lakes. Fires are not permitted. Be aware of bears.

CREST CREEK CRAGS

Technical climbing only. Picnic facilities. Climbers can explore a number of rocky bluffs in this area which is easily accessible from alongside Highway 28. Climbers using the area do so at their own risk. It is each climber's responsibility to climb safely and ensure that they have the necessary skills to do so. Camping and fires are not permitted.

LADY FALLS (1)

Length: 900 metres. Time: 20 mins. The trail starts at Hwy. 28. Enjoy the cool spray from the falls. Picnic facilities at trailhead. No camping.

ELK VIEWPOINT (1)

Length: 400 Metres. Time: 15 mins. The trail starts at Hwy. 28 and accesses a viewing platform where you may be able to see Vancouver Island's unique Roosevelt elk. No camping.

LUPIN FALLS (1) Loop Trail

Length: 800 Metres. Time: 15 mins. Access from the Westmin Rd. Walk a circular trail through a cool forest to the waterfalls. No camping. Picnic facilities at the trail-head and a canoe and kayak launch access for Wolf River and Titus Mt. marine campsites.

AUGER POINT (1) Loop Trail

Length: 400 Metres. Time: 15 mins. This forest is recovering from the fire of 1982. No camping. Picnicking facilities at trail-head and a canoe and kayak launch access for Marble Meadows trailhead.

MARBLE MEADOWS (3)

Length: 6.6Km. Time: 4-5 hrs to the Alpine meadows. Elevation change: 1,250 Metres. Steep, some bluffs. Trail starts at Phillips Creek marine campsite on Buttle Lake. Access by boat from Auger Pt. or Karst Creek day use areas. Be aware of submerged stumps in the lake. Random camping is allowed in the meadows. Marble Meadows features wonderful viewpoints, alpine meadows and limestone formations.

KARST CREEK BOAT LAUNCH RAMP, TRAIL AND PICNIC AREA (1)

A good concrete ramp located 4 km from Ralph River Campground, and accessible from the Westmin Rd. There is a large open grassy area plus several picnic tables and fire pits, and lots of room for parking. Karst Creek trail is a 1.3 km loop. Time: 45 mins. Observe Karst

geological formations such as sink-holes with disappearing and reappearing streams. No camping.

WILD GINGER (1) Loop Trail

Length: 800 metres. Time: 20 mins. Access is across the road from Ralph River Campground. The trail follows the Ralph River. No camping.

SHEPHERD CREEK (1) Loop Trail

Length: 1.5 km. Suggested time: 1 hr and 15 mins. Access is across the road from Ralph River Campground. A shady walk along the Ralph River then ascending to pass a lively marsh. See Dogwood trees in the spring. No camping.

PRICE CREEK TRAIL (2-3)

Suggested time: 3-4 hours. Trailhead can be accessed near the Thelwood Creek Bridge. Originally the only access route to Cream Lake and still only suitable for Advanced Hikers, this trail can make a pleasant day hike through varying timbered areas if you turn around at or before the log crossing. The route beyond this log crossing is extremely rough and steep and snow lingers late into the summer.

LOWER MYRA FALLS (1)

Length: 800 metres. Time: 30 mins. Steep descent. Enjoy several beautiful water cascades. Use caution when approaching the creek, and supervise small children. No camping.

BUTTLE LAKE BOAT LAUNCH

A good, recently lengthened concrete launch. Located 1 km south of the bridge at the junction and only 1.5 km from Buttle Lake Campground. No camping. The launch provides immediate access to the Rainbow Island marine campsites.

FORBIDDEN PLATEAU AND PARADISE MEADOWS

Refer to a separate flyer in "The Marmot" publication for information about this area which is accessible from Mount Washington.

RALPH RIVER CAMPGROUND

- Ancient forest, lake and river.
- Gates are open all summer until Sept. 30th.
- Picnic tables, fire rings, water pumps and pit toilets.
- Fee: \$12.00 per party per night, \$6.00 for extra vehicles.
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- Firewood: \$5.00 per bundle.
- Reservations are NOT taken, however the campground is rarely full.

BUTTLE LAKE CAMPGROUND

- Sand beach and playground.
- Three easy nature trails begin here. Fish in Darkis Lake.
- Gates open all summer until Sept. 30 th.
- Picnic tables, fire rings, water pumps and pit toilets.
- Fee: \$15.00 per party per night. \$7.50 for extra vehicles.
- B.C Senior Citizens \$7.50 during the spring and autumn.
- Firewood: \$5.00 per bundle.
- Some campsites can be reserved ahead of time by contacting Discover Camping at 1-800-689-9025 or by going online at www.discovercamping.ca

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- Firewood \$10.00 per night
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- Tel. 250-287-2942 to book the campground.



Above: Cream lake and Nine Peaks
Below: Landslide Lake

Bedwell Lake to Cream Lake is an undefined route for strong, experienced hikers. No camping area



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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.

Explore the "Other End" of Strathcona Park

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. Trail Maps are available.

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 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, 25-minute hike, use caution while at the falls.

Water crossing above a waterfall at Lake Beautiful.

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



The Townhomes at



The Townhomes at Parkview Place have been carefully designed and will be constructed with a commitment to quality by the same developer that built Creekside House, Parkview Place (Phase 1), and the new Raven Lodge. Located directly across from the Green Chair, Parkview Place is truly a Ski-In/Ski-Out home overlooking Strathcona Provincial Park. Priced from \$199,000.

For more information contact:

Rick Gibson

Cell: 250-334-7503 Office: 250-334-3124 (24 HRS)



www.themarmot.ca

The Mt. Washington
Marmot

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Real Estate Activity

Continued from Page 1

"The best bargains are being snapped up by savvy buyers and I only have a few really hot deals left."

As for residential development on the mountain, the brand new second phase of Parkview Place townhomes are currently under construction on Henry Road. Located within a stone's throw of the loading area for the new Hawk chairlift, these deluxe residences are designed with bright, open plans, three or four bedrooms and a spacious double car garage. The superb location puts you right in the heart of alpine action by being a truly ski-in, ski-out, drive-in, drive-out property; while at the same time providing excellent access to all Nordic facilities.

Ben Kunz is the builder for Parkview Place and he's no stranger to construction on Mount Washington. His latest accomplishments include Raven Lodge, Creekside House and of course the first phase of Parkview Place.

In addition, Mount Washington has opened up a small number of single family lots on Nordic Road. "These are the first single family building sites brought to the market since 1992." States Rick, "They offer unobstructed, commanding views right into Strathcona Park." Four of the seven lots sold immediately. "Where else can you purchase fully serviced lots like these for prices starting at \$79,900 that border the oldest provincial park in British Columbia?" Rick asks.

Rick feels that the next focus for development will be the area surrounding Deer Lodge. "The time is ripe for commercial development and I've got a stack of people just waiting to become part of the new Mount Washington Village." He says. "Deer Lodge has proven to be an extremely attractive location for renters and owners

due to its unbelievable, slopeside location, and proximity to the Alpine Lodge."

Appia Developments is offering some extremely exciting incentives for purchasers of their few remaining suites. "These are the deals that everyone is looking for," Rick points out, "Gorgeous suites in an unbeatable location at great prices, and strata fees paid for three years! Who could resist that?"

Rick states that he's had purchasers from as far away as Oman and he continuously gets inquiries from around the world. "Mount Washington is no longer viewed as a ski resort for Vancouver Island residents. It is becoming a vacation destination for the world."

For more information about real estate and development on Mount Washington, Rick is easy to contact.

You can call Rick Gibson at 250-334-3124, or 250-338-1723 (home), and 250-334-7503 (cell). Or you can email him at info@rickgibson.ca. His website, www.rickgibson.ca is filled with information about the resort which includes back issues of this newspaper, maps, accommodation for rent and of course, properties for sale.

The Opening of Raven Lodge and the expansion of the Inland Island Hwy. (19) to Campbell River were key factors contributing to the resort's best winter season on record.

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Winter Season

Continued from Page 2

WestJet's new air service between Comox and Calgary has also had a profound effect on the Resort. The mountain saw a lot of skiers and snowboarders come in from Calgary, and teaming up with Crown Isle for a golf/ ski package was also a gem. The Resort sent people to a trade show in Calgary arranged by the Comox Valley Economic Development Society, and has been promoted in ads assembled by Comox Valley Tourism.

"All those things came into play," Hampshire said.

While the mountain is barely a month into its summer season, many resort employees are already setting their sights on next winter - and how far they can take it.

Hiking & Biking

Continued from Page 2

"The beauty and tranquility of this special trail lends itself to remembering those no longer with us, but instead live on in our memories," he said.

Someday the resort hopes to have a bench program in place where family and friends can donate a bench, with a memorial plaque honoring a loved one who has passed away.

The mountain has spent more time concentrating on walking trails this year because staff has noticed a trend towards walking in their summer guests. People are looking to just get outside. They want to get outside and enjoy.

Most telling in Mount Washington's commitment to the walkers who enjoy the Alpine Resort in the summer is the creation of a full trail crew. The crew is three strong and is responsible for maintaining and developing the bike trails as well as maintaining the walking trails. They're called the 'trail crew' and that's all they do.

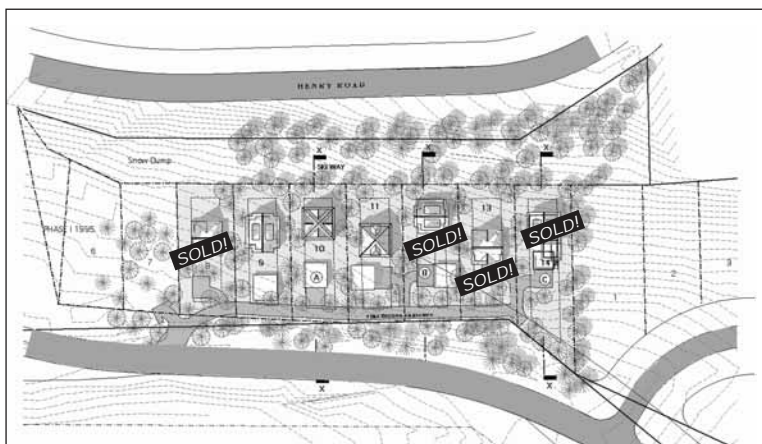
A new map is available showing the biking and hiking trails at Mount Washington (see page 3). Either lodge has copies.

Biking Craze Grows

The mountain biking craze continues to grow at Mount Washington Alpine Resort, and the resort is heeding the calls for more trails.

A short trail built last year called Hidden Alley has been tripled in size. Hidden Alley continues through the trees, as its name suggests.

The Resort's new, dedicated trail crew has been working on a single track, cross-country trail which is something that's been desperately needed. The single track trail will be completed and ready for riders by mid-summer.



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Sasquatch Sightings

Continued from Page 4

Then there was a sighting from a grouse hunter south of Comox Lake, near Nim Nim Lake.

The most recent sighting was two years ago at Divers Lake. Further to that, Bindernagel told the Bremerton Sun in 1994 that, two years previously, he heard a strange, apelike call at a friend's cabin near Comox Lake.

"The only thing that I have ever heard which is similar is a chimpanzee in Uganda," he said. "It was a sort of 'whooh whooh whooop'."

What do you do if you come across a Sasquatch?

Document, document, document, says Bindernagel. Write down the details of your sighting, or phone or e-mail him with the details. Take notice of things like the size and composition of the sasquatch, where it is, what it's doing.

And if possible, take a plaster cast of any footprints. It's best to get the plaster casts as early as possible, he said.

Hard evidence is going to be what convinces mainstream scientists that sasquatches are real, Bindernagel said. The skeptics look at things like a lack of a carcass to prove that sasquatches don't exist. Bindernagel is skeptical of the skeptics.

"As a wildlife biologist I've only found two bear skulls in 40 years of field observation, I know how quickly bones disperse."

Bindernagel is convinced that sasquatches are seen far more often than we know, simply because of the stigma attached to Sasquatch. "However many there are, there's more than we think. They're seen more commonly than we think but most sightings don't ... become reports." He hopes that will change in the future.

"I fully expect that wildlife biologists will recognize the sasquatch as a species in the not-too-distant future, and subsequent researchers will find B.C.'s shellfish-rich West Coast to be one of its prime habitats," he wrote in an article in Beautiful British Columbia magazine last summer.

"But until other North American biologists are willing to look beyond their own continent for possible explanations - and until we finally have irrefutable evidence that sasquatches exist - doubt will continue to linger, and witnesses will remain reluctant to speak out."

Anyone wanting to report a Sasquatch sighting can call Bindernagel at his office at (250) 338-8482.

Great New Developments on "Marmot Mountain"

There's a saying that faith can move mountains. In the case of the Vancouver Island Marmot, faith - and a lot of hard work - has built a facility on TOP of a mountain,

and Mount Washington Alpine Resort Ltd has had a lot to do with keeping that faith alive.

The Vancouver Island Marmot is a critically endangered species found only on Vancouver Island. At last count there were roughly 80 of these adorable critters left in the world. One colony is on Mount Washington, the others are on the mountains west of Nanaimo.

Research into the Marmots' plight led to the formation of a scientific recovery team, which soon realized that the only way to bring the animals back from the brink of extinction was to breed them in captivity then release them back into the wild. The Marmot Recovery Foundation (MRF) was formed in 1998 to finance and promote this recovery project.

Breeding centers were set up in the Toronto and Calgary Zoos and at Mountain View Farms in Langley, BC. MRF scientists calculated they would need to manage a captive population of 40-80 marmots over a 10-15 year period for the breeding and reintroduction program to succeed. It didn't take long to realize that an additional facility was essential. Research revealed that, before the captive-bred Marmots were released back into their natural habitat, they needed to be acclimatized to natural environmental conditions (altitude, light levels, temperatures etc). This was to ensure released animals got the experience necessary to cope with local conditions. A "halfway house" was needed.

That's where Mount Washington Alpine Resort came in. A donation of land for a breeding facility was established. This donation was a huge shot in the arm for the Marmot Recovery Foundation, which went on to fundraise and oversee the building of the actual facility. The Vancouver Island captive breeding facility was completed in October, 2001 and the first Marmots were moved in on October 15th.

On June 7, 2002 the MRF held the official opening ceremony for the breeding facility. It was named the Tony Barrett Mount Washington Marmot Recovery Center, in memory of the Foundation's first Chief Financial Officer, who was instrumental in getting both the MRF and the building off the ground. Tony Barrett died tragically in the spring of 2002. His family and close friends attended the dedication ceremony, then joined over 100 people at a special reception in the resort's Alpine Lodge afterwards. Stakeholders large and small - from

the forestry giants Weyerhaeuser and TimberWest, to the Foundation's longest-running individual donor, Mrs. Daphne Smith of Nanaimo - enjoyed the celebration.

The nine Marmot "residents" in the facility took the fuss in stride. They have recently been joined by "Jack", dubbed The Big Marmot Hope. This two year old male marmot has been transferred from the wild for a few weeks only in order to be introduced to "Gemini", a lovely young lady Marmot who was bred in captivity. Later this summer they will be released into a natural Marmot habitat and Jack is expected to teach Gemini how to function in the "real world". The MRF's field crew will be monitoring them closely to see how the first reintroduction proceeds.

Meanwhile, the wild Mt. Washington colony is thriving. The field crew estimates there are currently between six and ten marmots there however, they won't know the precise number until they've done a number of thorough scientific counts.

When you visit Mount Washington, you're not able to see the Mount Washington Marmot Centre since the marmots need to be kept in quarantine from the public, but you are able to visit the Marmot Interpretive Center on the Marmot Floor of the Alpine Resort. There you will learn the history, plight and fight for survival of Canada's most endangered animal. Take the time to visit. You'll be glad you did.

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Travel Access on the Rise for Mount Washington



With the completion of the Inland Island Highway to Campbell River, Mount Washington now stands at the gateway to Discovery Passage.

That presents a lot of travel and tourism opportunities from land, air and if Campbell River has anything to say about it... sea.

The North Island is serviced by two major airlines, WestJet in Comox and Pacific Coastal in both Comox and Campbell River. The river city is also wooing Seattle-based Horizon Air, says Lynn Phillips, executive director of Tourism North Central Island.

"We are talking with Horizon Air. They have tentatively agreed to a site inspection in October," Phillips said. However, there is a catch: right now Horizon doesn't have enough aircraft to fill all their current routes (they're re-deploying the planes they do have to keep up with the demand), so starting a new route will be difficult.

There are numbers to back Campbell River's bid for an American-based airline: 53 per cent of the North Island population that flies to the States drives to Vancouver, first, Phillips said. "That's a big chunk of the population."

A U.S.-based airline would be a huge boost to the sport fishing industry in Campbell River, she said. Campbell River's fishing business is predominantly from the Pacific Coast corridor - Washington, Oregon and California. However, the river city is competing for fishing product with Alaska "which has very good access, where we do not. So (Horizon Air) would mean a lot for us," she said.

While a deal is by no means imminent, Phillips said Campbell River is hopeful that Horizon Air will choose to fly to this North Island destination.

Last winter WestJet began flying from Comox to Calgary, and the run has been so successful that the airline is looking into direct flights servicing Comox to Edmonton.

For the summer, WestJet has added four extra flights per week. The additional flights arrive non-stop from Edmonton and depart non-stop to Calgary. Connections to WestJet's other destinations are available in both Alberta cities, according to WestJet vice president of marketing and sales, Bill

Lamberton.

WestJet flies a Boeing 737-200 series aircraft which seats 120; the airline serves 22 Canadian cities from B.C. to Ontario, including a relatively new route to Toronto. Where WestJet has been growing due to its popularity, Air BC has decided to pull out of both Comox and Campbell River. Now, all connecting Air Canada flights will be handled by family-owned Pacific Coastal. Air BC (now operating as Air Jazz) decided to leave the two markets due to a drop in business between the two points. "We have seen a shortfall in passenger traffic between Comox and Campbell River," said Dennis Erickson, Air Canada's communications manager for western Canada.

Erickson assured that Air Canada and Pacific Coastal will work closely with one another to ensure connections through Vancouver continue smoothly.

Pacific Coastal has serviced Comox airport since April 2000 in its 33-seat, Shorts 360 turboprop. The airline will now offer six commuter routes between Comox and Campbell River - two additional trips per week than last year.

While air travel is well entrenched in the North Island, the possibility of Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines' ships using Campbell River's Boliden wharf as a port of call has generated a lot of excitement, Phillips said. "They want to come to Campbell River, there's no doubt about that," Phillips said. Now, it's up to the District of Campbell River and the Campbell River Indian Band (CRIBCO) to continue pursuing the funding for the upgrades.

The project fits within the parameters of the Western Diversification Fund Infrastructure Program. Unfortunately Campbell River has been thrust into a political game between the provincial and federal governments as the WEPA Agreement between the province and the federal government expired in March and has not been renewed. So approval has been slow in coming, Phillips said.

The total cost of bringing cruise ships to Campbell River will be about \$5.7 million. Campbell River and CRIBCO will bring in \$2.2 million in land and assets.

Handling 15 ships a year "is very doable," Phillips said. Economic opportunities will be practically endless. "There will be businesses built just because the cruise ships are stopping here."

THE MARMOT Premier Business Directory

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Altas Cafe	338-9838
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Big Foot Safari	1-866-338-0344
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Chalet 9 & 21	1-866-826-7325
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Strathcona Wilderness Institute	337-1871
The Friends of Strathcona	337-1871
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The Romance Shop	338-0669
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Toscanos Fine Italian Cuisine	890-7575
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Visual Sound Store	338-5177
Yamato Japanese Restaurant	334-2025

Let them know you found them in The Marmot!

Ticket scanning to be introduced



Mount Washington lift tickets are going high-tech next season. The Resort is introducing a new ticket that can be scanned, like an item with a bar code.

What the scanning process will do is eliminate ticket fraud, says Mount Washington Public Relations Director, Dave Hampshire.

Although the mountain has been virtually fraud-free in recent years, last winter's high volume of customers meant a few fake tickets were discovered. "It certainly caught our attention this year, with the numbers we had," Hampshire said.

The ticket scanners will also help with the Resort's accounting. It allows the Accounting Department to keep track of the tickets and also to sell passes in advance - the tickets are only activated once they have been scanned, Hampshire said.

PowerSmart Pays Off

The Comox Valley was chosen as a Power Smart community by BC Hydro. Earlier this year the community was blitzed by the provincial power company, promoting Power Smart programs and energy conservation through a series of initiatives.

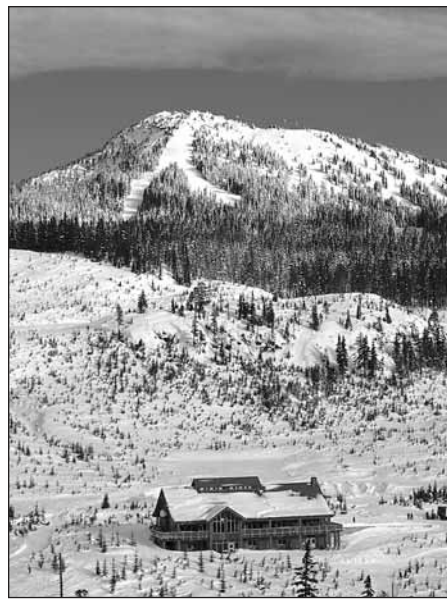
Mount Washington is one of several corporate examples in the Valley where being power smart can improve the overall financial status and operating costs of a business.

"At a year-round resort such as Mount Washington, one of our biggest expenditures is our energy bill, which is somewhere in the vicinity of a quarter of a million dollars a year," Resort President Peter Gibson said. "So we were eager to have a BC Hydro business representative work with our facilities crew to see if there were cost-effective ways that we could drive the bill down."

BC Hydro went through a preliminary on-site inspection of the resort and identified energy savings opportunities that could reduce the mountain's bill by eight to 10 per cent per year, which Gibson says is almost \$25,000 per year. The mountain went through an audit process to see if there were even greater savings.

"Mount Washington is one of the biggest private energy users in the Comox Valley, so we wanted to participate in the Power Smart program from a leadership perspective," Gibson said. "We realize that energy on the Island is a resource that we cannot take for granted - especially as the population in our region continues to grow."

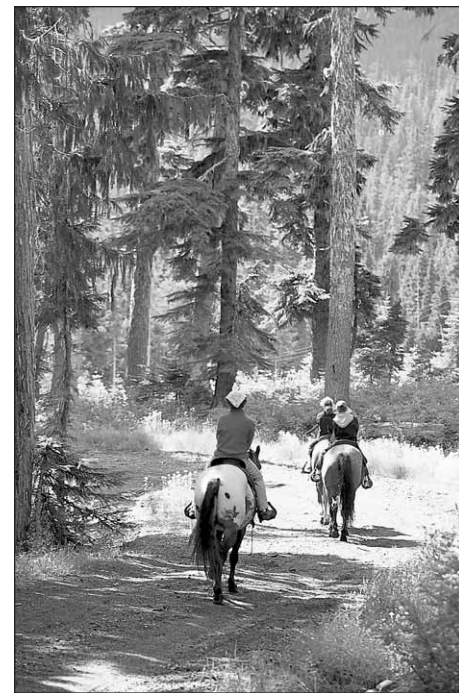
Aside from seeing a reduction in its energy costs as a good business decision,



It takes a lot of power to light and heat Mount Washington. With Powersmart savings can reach \$25,000 annually.

Mount Washington is a leader in the area of environmental stewardship. They recently won the 2002 Starfish Award for Environmentally Responsible Tourism from BC Tourism. The award was granted based on the resort's integrated approach to conservation-based design and operations as well as its clear commitment to the local community and adjacent wilderness areas. Cited among Mount Washington's environmental achievements and projects were:

- The addition of extensive glazing on the main lodge's southern face to provide passive solar heating and lighting, minimizing external energy requirements.
- A state-of-the-art sewage treatment plant that treats sewage from both the resort and neighboring condominiums. Bio-sludge from the sewage treatment plant is applied to the fields of a local farm.
- Water consumption has been reduced from 25 million gallons per year to 18 million gallons per year.



There are many ways to enjoy yourself on Mount Washington in the summer.



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MOUNT WASHINGTON PROPERTIES *For Sale*



Ptarmigan Ridge

Features Include:

- One Bedroom Apartments located on paved Henry Road
- Apartments are Furnished
- Drive To Access • Propane Fireplaces • Self-contained Kitchens • Ski Storage Lockers off Lobby • Breathtaking Mountain Views • Convenient Location to Ski Lifts and Strathcona Prov. Park.

#205, 1 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Mount Washington. \$84,900

#301, 1 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Mount Washington. **SOLD!** \$94,500

#204, 1 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Strathcona Park. \$97,500

#206, 1 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Strathcona Park. \$99,000

#306, 1 bedroom, fully furnished, jacuzzi tub top floor facing Strathcona Park. \$104,900

#302, 1 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Strathcona Park. **SOLD!** \$97,500

#112, 1 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Strathcona Park. \$104,900

Single Family Building Site!

Two of the few remaining single family building sites on Mount Washington.

\$107,900 ~ \$115,000



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ROYAL LEPAGE

In the Comox Valley



PARADISE RIDGE

Features Include:

- Outdoor Swimming Pool, Sauna & Hot Tub • Elevator Access
- Drive To Access with Underground Parking • Propane Fireplaces • Ski Storage Room off Lobby • Kitchens with 4 Appliances • Full Size Washer & Dryer in each unit • Convenient Location to all Amenities
- Mountain & Strath. Park Views

#304, 2 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Mount Washington. \$159,900

#306, 3 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Strathcona Park & Mt. Washington. \$169,900

#407, 2 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Strathcona Park & Mt. Washington. \$169,900

#212, 3 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Strathcona Park. \$179,900

#402, 3 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Mt. Washington. **SOLD!** \$199,900

#406, 3 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Strathcona Park & Mount Washington. \$199,900



View Condo on Corner

Two bedroom corner condominium centrally located just above the General Store. Priced well below other comparables, this is the best deal around. South West facing for warmth and sunshine. Come enjoy your own piece of paradise! \$79,900



Rick Gibson

Peak Performance serving the Mount Washington Real Estate market since 1989.



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. \$369,900



Heart of the Village

This 2nd floor corner suite is located in the heart of the village. Easy access in and ski down to the lifts. Comes furnished with all necessities. \$95,000



Suite Deal Available

in this great building. The apartment is immaculate with great views and exposure. The suite offers two bedrooms and west coast spacious design. Fully furnished and ready to go this home is awaiting your inspection!

\$99,900



Sunset & Slope Views

Top floor 2 bedroom corner suite with sunset views and views of the slopes! Located in the village with easy ski-out access and close to parking. Suite is clean & tidy and shows well. Building is well maintained with brand new siding. Nice open floor plan and very quiet. \$109,900



Snowbird

Affordable, spacious, with easy access to village parking lot, Sunrise Quad and general store. Popular townhouse floor plan with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sauna and open kitchen/living/dining area. These units are completely furnished. Ideal floor plans for families.

\$134,900- \$138,900



Features Include:

- Elevator Access • Spectacular Views of Strathcona Park and the Ski Runs • Drive To Access with Above & Underground Parking • Propane Fireplaces • Convenient Location to all amenities • Units are furnished & ready to go • Ski Storage Room off the Lobby with separate lockers for renters

#209, 3 bedroom on the 2nd floor, facing Strathcona Park. \$174,000

#114, 2 bedroom on the 2nd floor, fully furnished, facing Strathcona Park. \$182,500

#213, 2 bedroom on the 2nd floor, facing Mount Washington. \$184,900

#303, 2 bedroom on the top floor, facing Strathcona Park. \$187,500

#211, 3 bedroom on the 2nd floor, facing Mount Washington. \$199,900

#309, 3 bedroom on the third floor, facing Mount Washington. \$205,000

#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 Mount Washington. \$235,000



Old Village Charm

Large semi-detached home centrally located in the Village. Ski in & out from the property. With 3 bedrooms it is ideal for families or large groups. Pristine private setting gives you the impression that you're tucked in a wooded glen. \$169,900



Overlooking Strathcona Park

One bedroom condo with partial basement! Executive style condo on Mount Washington with easy access to Alpine and Nordic skiing. Loads of windows for natural light. Large sundrenched deck, 1 bedroom, private entrance and partial basement (other bedrooms?). This is a price opportunity not to miss!

\$134,900



Enjoy the Sun

Corner townhouse enjoys morning sun in the kitchen & afternoon sun in living room. 2 large bedrooms up, each w/their own bath and jetted tub in each. Convenient central locale with fairly flat traverse to either Village Run or Quad. Easy access to parking

\$139,900



Vaulted Ceilings

Modern townhome with vaulted ceilings and very spacious floor plan. 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Crawl space is large enough to develop into another full level. Check out this bright townhome! You will be glad you did!

\$169,900



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Purchase now and pay no Strata Fees for 3 years!*

DEER LODGE Features Include:

- Mount Washington's only slope side hotel • Located in the heart of the Village Centre • 2 & 3 bedroom fully furnished deluxe condos
- On-site management available
- Ski to and from your door
- Underground parking

2 Bedroom from **\$164,900**

3 Bedroom from **\$189,900**

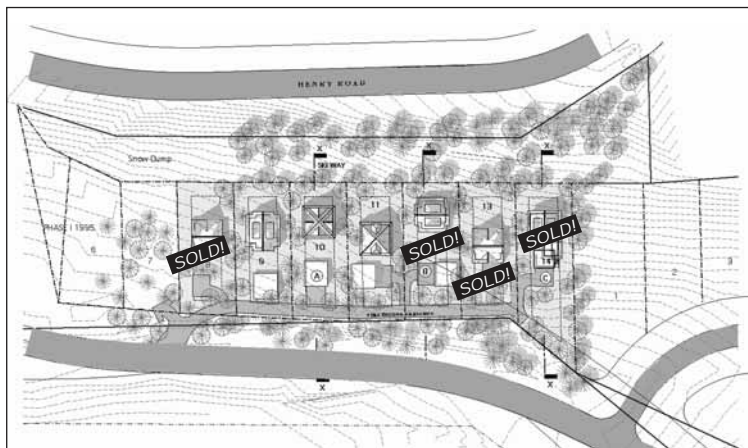
(*Conditions may apply)



Slope Side Access

Deer Lodge on Mount Washington offers the best slope side access in the area! This penthouse condo offers 2 bedrooms & deluxe furnishings! One of the bedrooms is a lock off so you can stay in one and rent out the other.

\$179,900



WOW!!! Single Family Building Sites for \$79,900!!!

Located adjacent to Strathcona Park with views of Island Mountains and Meadows. All the lots offer drive in access all year.



Top Floor Penthouse

2 bedroom lock off unit in Deer Lodge. This top floor penthouse condo has all you've dreamed of. Overlooking the ski runs, this is a dream come true. Deer Lodge offers great rental income, underground parking, hot tub & more. Ski right into the front door & drive out the back.

\$189,900



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.

\$209,900



Mountain & Park Views!

Well maintained semi-detached home in the Alpine Village of Mount Washington. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and large deck area! Wonderful park views, dining areas and deck. Extras include a hot tub, 2 decks and newer appliances. Easy access to parking and to skiing.

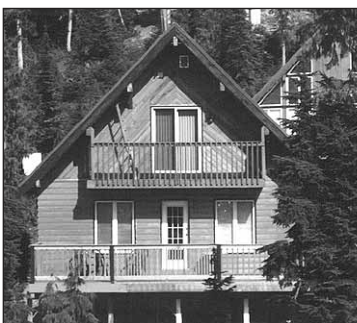
\$198,000



Home Away From Home

Luxuriously appointed, large spacious plan awaits you in this ski-in and out townhome on Washington Way. Easy access, just a 5 minute stroll to the Alpine Lodge. Ideal for families or rental with ample room. Loads of storage, hot tub, sauna & more!

\$214,900



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 disappointed.

\$249,900



PARKVIEW PLACE

Features Include:

- Only 6 of these mountain homes will be available
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- The only new site across from the New Hawk Six Seat Chairlift
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#6, 3 Levels, 2400 Sq. Ft. **\$274,000**

#7, 3 Levels, 1860 Sq. Ft. **\$199,900**

#8, 3 Levels, 2400 Sq. Ft. **\$249,900**

#9, 3 Levels, 2400 Sq. Ft. **\$249,900**

#10, 3 Levels, 1860 Sq. Ft. **\$199,900**

#11, 3 Levels, 2260 Sq. Ft. **\$249,900**

PENDING

CREEKSIDE HOUSE



Features Include:

- Located across from the loading area of the NEW HAWK six seat chairlift
- Underbuilding parking
- Elevator and secured entry
- Locked ski storage area
- Propane fireplaces
- Suites are furnished.

101 Corner 3 bedroom suite overlooking the Hawk Chairlift. **\$209,900**

204 Corner 3 bedroom suite overlooking Strathcona Park. **\$224,900**

304 Penthouse 2 bedroom suite with morning sun. **\$199,900**

Mountainside

Location! Location! Location! 2 bedroom suites available next to the new Hawk Six Seat Chairlift! Underbuilding parking and views of the mountain runs or Strathcona Park. Units are furnished, and have gas fireplaces. **Call for mor details!**



Nestled in the Woods!

Your own chalet nestled in the heart of the alpine village of Mount Washington. Easy access in and out and the slopes are a downhill ski away! This mountain home is very cozy with 3 bedrooms, wood burning fireplace, 2 bathrooms and sauna. **\$239,900**



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 street. **\$249,900**



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. **\$259,900**



Cathedral Ceilings

Ski out access and close to parking, this chalet has cathedral ceilings and an open concept. Two sundecks face south, with sauna and woodstove for apres-ski. Loft for children play and sleep area. Established, year round rental clientele. Open kitchen, living and dining on entry level. Lots of storage with separately accessible basement for future development. **\$259,900**



Immaculate Chalet

4 level immaculate chalet in a prime location on Mount Washington. 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms 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**



Side By Side Duplex

Once in a while a unique property comes available. Each side has 2 bedrooms and spacious areas. There is also a common area which includes a large family room, sauna, kitchen, bathroom & bedroom. Ideal for 2 or more families, spectacular views. **\$299,900**



Incredible Value!

This 3 level Mount Washington semi detached chalet has just under 2500 sq.ft. of quality construction and living area. There is a 1 bedroom suite on lower level fully self-contained w/its own entrance & upper level has 4 bedrooms, 2 baths chalet that has a huge rock fireplace, glass etching in Master Bedroom 2 gas fireplaces & much more. **\$299,900**



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 lunch. **\$399,900**

Rick Gibson
Peak Performance serving the Mount Washington Real Estate market since 1989.



Fantastic Foster's Place

Over 4000 sq. ft. of living space in this spectacular recreation property. This 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. **\$434,000**



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 1/2 mile away making it a breeze! Dream kitchen, cathedral ceilings 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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