

MARMOT

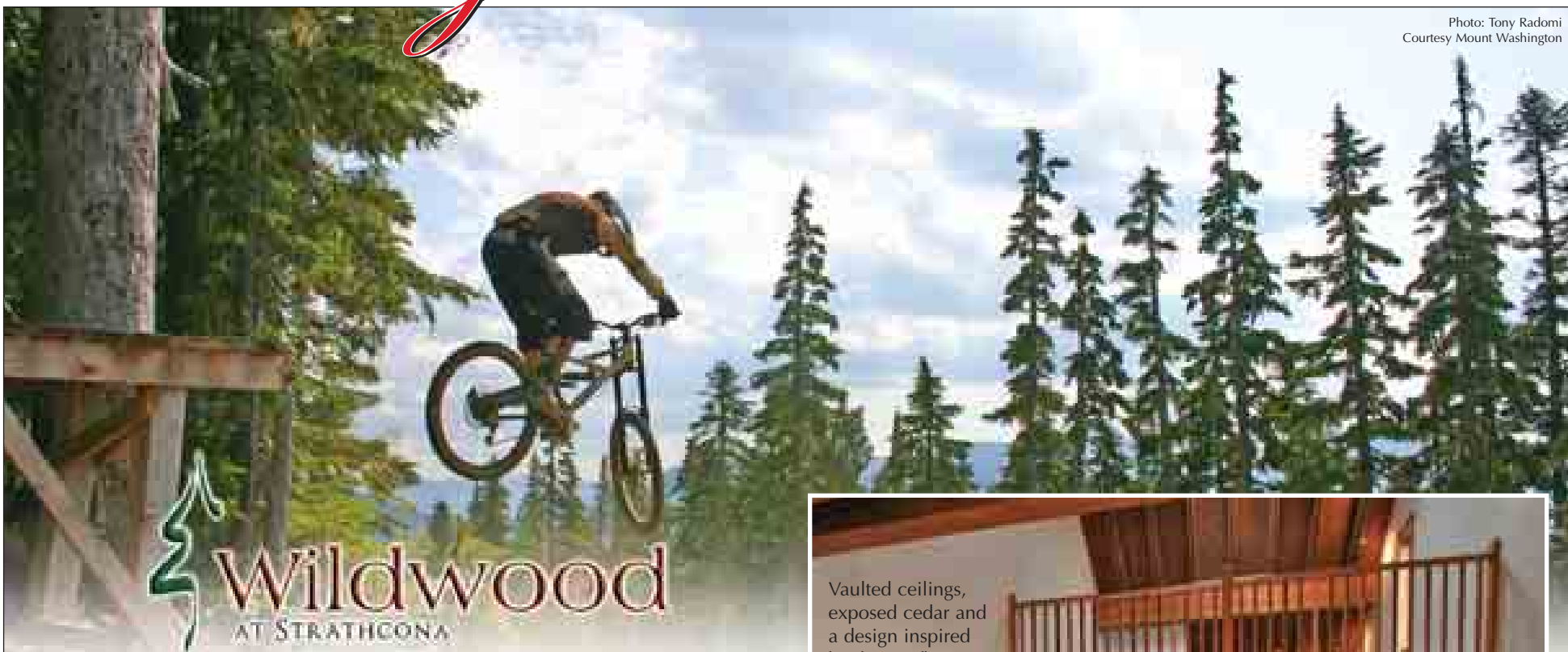
Mile High

News on Mount Washington

Summer/Fall/2006

Volume 16, #2

Photo: Tony Radomi
Courtesy Mount Washington



Wildwood
AT STRATHCONA

Yaletown Meets Mount Washington at Wildwood!

Leslie and Terry Farmer walked into the great room of their new home at Wildwood and gazed upward in awe.

The vaulted ceiling, constructed with exposed cedar and inspired by the confluence of forest and sky, was a big selling point for the Farmers – in fact, Leslie hadn't even wanted to look in Wildwood at first, until she saw the ceilings.

"My wife wasn't keen on this at first because it's three floors," Terry Farmer said in a telephone interview from his home in Victoria. They had first looked at units elsewhere at the Resort. Terry arranged for a viewing at Wildwood and urged Leslie to come with him. "Once she got into it on the ground floor she was sold immediately."

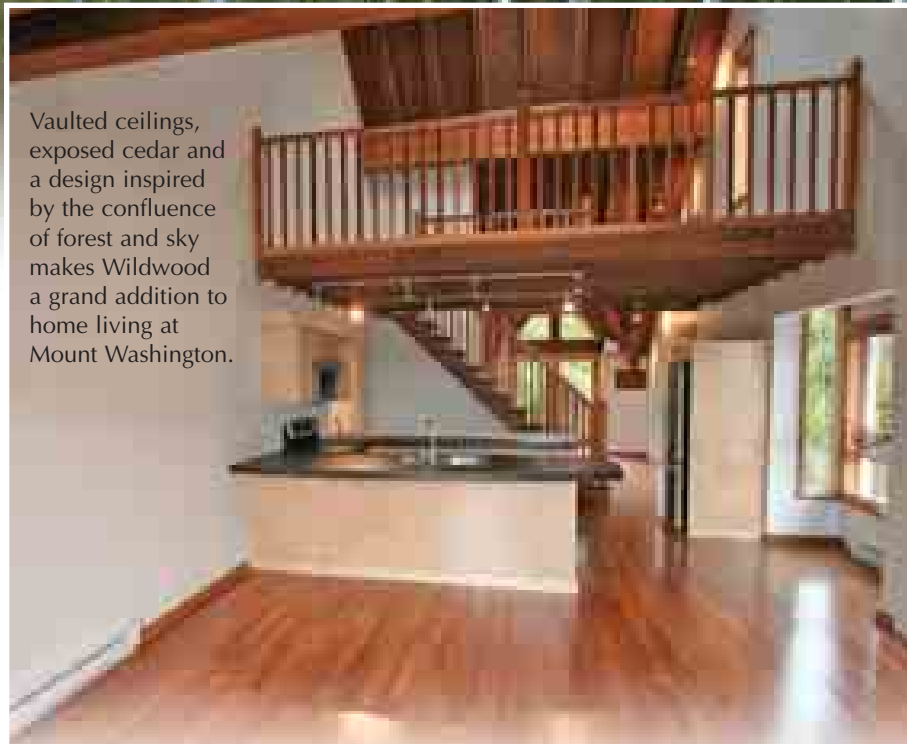
The Farmers are the first buyers in Wildwood, the newest development at

Mount Washington. Wildwood comprises eight luxury townhouse chalets in two, four-unit buildings, located on Nordic Road near the intersection with Henry Road and perched at the entrance to Strathcona Provincial Park. The Wildwood site was selected for its convenient access to the Hawk chairlift and the trailhead to Paradise Meadows.

The first phase was completed in late June. The luxury chalets are the first of their kind at the Resort and some have likened Wildwood to Vancouver's trendy Yaletown.

Architect Colin Kwok of Azurean Architecture Inc. said his inspiration wasn't so much Yaletown as the thought of building something in which he would love to be snowbound – "A place that felt like it was in the mountains without a mountain vernacular being forced onto it," he said.

Continued on page A14



Vaulted ceilings, exposed cedar and a design inspired by the confluence of forest and sky makes Wildwood a grand addition to home living at Mount Washington.

**Exclusive to
The Marmot...
Mount Washington
Accommodation
Guide**

**Paradise Meadows &
Buttle Lake Trail Maps & Guides**



Photo: Rick Gibson



Photo: Rick Gibson

News In Brief

Encompassing people, places and happenings at Mount Washington.

Mount Washington Operations Manager Erik Meertens has won a top industry award, this one from the Canada West Ski Areas Association. Meertens was presented with the Lars Fossberg Award at the CSWAA's annual conference in May. The award is presented annually to an up-and-coming manager or supervisor who shows a high degree of initiative and cre-

ativity together with the ability to improvise when dealing with the unexpected.

Meertens certainly knows the improvisation angle: he arrived at Mount Washington right before the infamous "no snow" season. Then this year – his second at the Resort – Mount Washington experienced the third deepest snow season on record.

Mount Washington Alpine Resort is king of the marketing world – at least in the eyes of the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA). The Resort was honoured in May with an NSAA marketing award, which Mount Washington Director of Sales and Marketing Karen Bonell accepted.

"This is our first award from the NSAA and gives Mount Washington Alpine Resort exposure to the entire North American market," Bonell said. "It's an honour to receive an award among the high-quality Resorts represented at the NSAA."

The Resort submitted its new "1,2,3, Free!" Discover Skiing and Snowboarding initiative in the Best Program to Increase Trial by New Participants category.

"Mount Washington delivered a unique campaign that truly appeals to not only new participants, but skiers/riders of all levels," said NSAA judge Senan Gorman, chief creative guy of the North Pole Design Company. "The 1,2,3, Free! Program is the beginning of a beautiful relationship."

The NSAA represents 326 alpine resorts in the United States and Canada that account for more than 90 per cent of skier/snowboarder visits nationwide.

Continued on page A15

The View From Here

Wildwood at Strathcona is taking real estate in the Mount Washington area to a new level. This is the first project designed and built to truly take in the four seasons of the area.

They are also the first development to promote themselves as being located directly adjacent to Strathcona Park (approx 60 feet away) with a ski area out the back door! (Note: The name is Wildwood at Strathcona - NOT Wildwood at Mount Washington).

Wildwood is a different recreational home option with an attention to detail that will give owners reasons to visit in all seasons.

This is another major step in Mount Washington's positive growth. And it all started some quarter century ago.

I grew up with a family cabin on Forbidden Plateau that had no electricity, no running water and the toilet was an out-house (a 50 foot slog out in the snow)!

Our weekend holiday would start with a 1000 foot trek through waist deep wet snow. Once arriving at our cabin, the wood stove would be started, candles would be lit and finally by the time departure day Sunday came around, we would all be warm and dry!

But at that time, what we had, was state of the art! I was so lucky back then to have that opportunity (*thanks Mom and Dad*).

When Mount Washington became a reality, and was about to open, the staff at the Resort gave guided tours of their state of the art flush toilets! You may laugh now, but I can remember traveling up a horrendous dusty trail of a road and going into the public



www.rickgibson.ca

washrooms and marveling at the water swirling down the toilet bowls!

Current day, we get to drive up to the mountain in an incredible storm, on pavement. Upon arrival, we get to drive into an underground parking lot, load our gear into an elevator and go up to our warm suite that is fully furnished. With a click of a switch the fireplace breathes to life.

If one wants, a remote control for the TV gives one 43 channels of programming. AND if you need it, even telephone and high speed internet is available! There are fridges, stoves, dishwashers, microwaves, TV's and almost every creature comfort is available somewhere! (even some bidets). Some people even have gas powered snow blowers and remote start vehicles so their truck is warm when they get outside!

We have come a long way and our expectation have also changed!

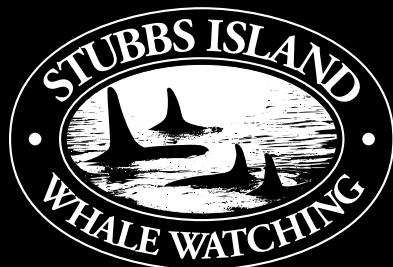
Wildwood at Strathcona is another major step forward in the area evolving into an all season community. Wildwood offers buyers a four season home that opens onto Strathcona Park. Wildwood promises the same things that Mount Washington offered for so many years- a new recreational home opportunity that truly gives buyers a four season choice. **(Wildwood even has flush toilets, I have seen them!)**

THE INSIDE SCOOP

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Celebrate Summer at Mount Washington

"We'll be hosting our most popular events again," says Don Sharpe, Director of Business Services for Mount Washington. "We'll also be tweaking and enhancing them this year." he added.

Two events that are sure to catch the attention of food and beverage lovers are a beer pairing dinner July 14, the evening before the Beer Fest, and a wine pairing dinner July 21, the evening before High on Chocolate. Both events feature a five-course, tapas-style dinner with accompanying beverages at Fireweed's.

While the mountain biking set might not be interested in a wine pairing dinner, they will be stoked to hear that Mount Washington is hosting the Canada Cup Race Series July 20-30. Racers in multiple classes will compete on an as-yet-to-be-announced route.

August 26-27 it's time for the B.C. Cup Finals, featuring the cross-country and downhill finals.

More interested in feeling the adrenaline rush yourself? The Hawk and the Eagle high-speed chairlifts are equipped to take riders and their bikes up with ease, providing full access to mountain biking terrain ranging from beginner to expert.

For those who would rather just take a scenic chairlift ride to the mountain's summit, the chairlift is open daily from June 30 to Sept. 24. The summit offers panoramic views of Strathcona Park, Comox Glacier, the Strait of Georgia and the Beaufort Range of mountains.

Looking to camp at Mount Washington? The Resort offers free group camping near Raven Lodge, which means campers have access to the lodge's facilities – showers,



Photo: Tony Radoni

Who can resist limitless chocolate? Not many, based on the number of visitors who show up at Mount Washington's ChocolateFest, one of the may events to check out this summer.

washrooms and coin laundry – during business hours.

The new trailhead by Raven Lodge will be completed this summer. It already features a meandering gravel trail leading into Paradise Meadows. Everyone from casual strollers to day hikers and hardy backcountry hikers can gain access to Strathcona Provincial Park from the trailhead.

Other outdoor activities available at Mount Washington include flyfishing, horseback riding and ATV tours.

For a detailed list of this summer's events go to page B2 of the Marmot.



Photo: Tony Radoni

"Boomer Crazies" LOVE The Outback

A black diamond skier, Mark Proudfoot craves the steep and the deep. And up until this year, his hometown mountain couldn't deliver. Then the Outback happened.

The brand, spanking new \$3.5 million Boomerang Quad stood idle during its debut season in 2004-05, as the snow on the new face never got deep enough. The Boomerang is Canada's first double offload chairlift, and opened up 162 hectares (400 acres) of new black diamond and double black diamond terrain on the mountain.

It's the best thing the Resort ever did, in Proudfoot's eyes. Proudfoot, 20, is a business student at the University of Victoria, but he grew up in the Comox Valley, at the bottom of Mount Washington. He learned to ski at Mount Washington.

"I don't think any other mountain around here has any more to offer an expert skier," he said. Proudfoot was already familiar with the north face territory, having done some back-country skiing there in the past.

"We always skied back there before the chairlift was there. It was always stuff we had to hike to; and now it's all opened up. "It was a lot bigger than I thought it would be."

Proudfoot skied 20 times last year, many of those days in powder. He said that's a slow year for him. "Usually it's around 100 times."

He skis with a big group of friends, and stays at home with his parents in Courtenay. One friend does own a chalet at Mount Washington, and they'll sometimes stay there. "It's good when we can all make it home," he said. *Continued on page A15*



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Paralympic Cup comes to Mount Washington

Mount Washington Alpine Resort will host an International Paralympic Committee World Cup race next winter. The resort was awarded the event in early June, after months of negotiation.

"It is a big deal," said Len Apedaile, President of the Strathcona Nordics. "It is the top athletes in these sports. It's a high-level international event and any high-level international event for a community is a big deal. "Short of them approving our final application with some of the finer business details, it's a go."

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) race circuits comprise 140 nordic ski and biathlon athletes from between 20 and 23 countries. Not all competitors would be able to make the trip to North America, Apedaile explained – most of the races are based in Europe, and some teams can't afford to attend races off that continent – but many of them would.

The event would see four nordic and biathlon events take place over five days. The Mount Washington races would be the final events of the season, meaning not only race winners, but the champions of the entire IPC World Cup series will receive their trophies at a ceremony following the race.

There hasn't been a Paralympic World Cup in Canada in several years; Quebec was the last province to host such an event, Apedaile said. Apedaile said the development of the Vancouver Island Mountain Sport Centre – of which he is Project Manager – and the community co-operation that has surrounded the project from

the beginning are the reasons that the IPC event is coming to Mount Washington. That and the fact the Club and the Resort have been slowly phasing in improvements to the Nordic facilities, like new terrain and competition trails.

"We have superb facilities here, so why wouldn't we attract them? To go into an IPC World Cup right away, before we're even ready, is an exciting opportunity."

The event will give the Vancouver Olympic Committee, Cross-Country B.C. and Cross-Country Canada some much-needed experience early in Vancouver's Olympic process leading up to 2010, he said.

"This becomes an early test event. The fact that we're having it now ... if it was another year or two down the road we wouldn't be getting it. They would be going into the Callaghan Valley," he said. Callaghan Valley near Whistler is where the Nordic facilities will be built for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games.

The Vancouver Island Mountain Sport Society, now an umbrella organization taking charge of the sport centre development, hopes to attract world-class skiers to its facility in events and practices leading up to the 2010 Olympics.

"Our vision here is to have a facility, a centre of excellence for athletes who are standing on the Olympic podium down the road; 2012, 2014, 2016. There will be homegrown people like Alison Forsyth (a Mount Washington Ski Club alumni) who will be there," Apedaile said.

"With 2010 coming along, we can do what we dream of doing."

'Spirit Sasquatch' Rumoured to be Roaming in Strathcona Park

The deep snowpack at Mount Washington has revealed a new secret about the sasquatch that are rumoured to roam the alpine areas: an albino cousin.

The albino species differs from the other white sasquatch, colloquially known as the Abominable Snowman. That particular species has different DNA characteristics.

The albino is related to the brown sasquatch, much like the Kermode or Spirit Bear is white in colour but really related to black bears.

The sasquatch's winter coating, found to be coarse hairs mostly snow-white in colour, usually turns to a finer, more chocolate brown in the summer. However, this albino cousin's fur doesn't appear to change. That makes them more difficult to spot.

Cryptozoologist Sven Yetichercher said it is unusual for the albino sasquatch species to go this long into the season without shedding its winter coat. "It must be pretty hot under all that insulation," he said puzzledly.

The sasquatch's footprints have been spotted in some of the more remote areas of the ski hill, including the new Outback terrain; as the thicker parts of the snowpack slowly melt away, the holes left from the creature's footprints can be seen.

Yetichercher expects there will be more sightings of the brown-coated sasquatches this year as they forage for food in lower elevations. In years when the snowpack melts early, they are seen above the 4,000-foot altitude level. He also predicts this particular species is becoming braver as the



This photo of a somewhat surprised 'Spirit Sasquatch' was apparently shot on the trail along Battleship Lake using a combination of infrared digital technology using a motion sensitive trigger mechanism, allowing the photographer to be miles away in a safe location.

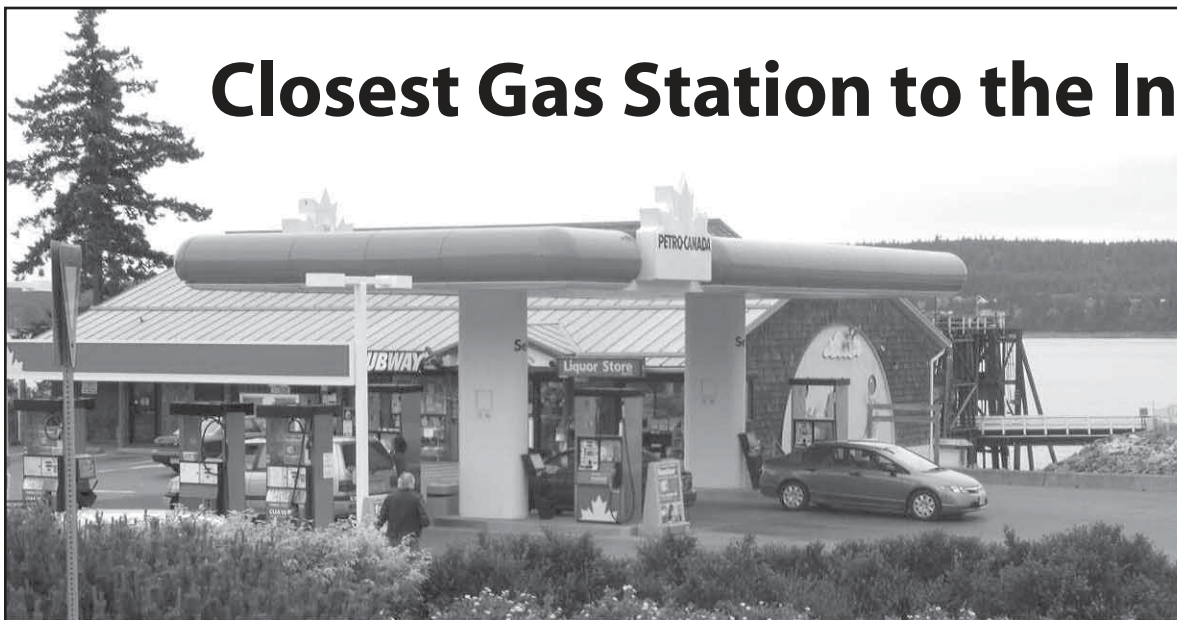
year-round population increases at the Resort; the sasquatch is becoming used to seeing humans.

Because not much is known about the eating habits of the sasquatch, Mount Washington property owners are being asked to keep their garbage locked up in an appropriate manner – just in case.

Meanwhile, crews doing some excavation for new development at Mount Washington were tight-lipped about a fossil find, but the Marmot has learned it might possibly be connected to the albino species. No sources were willing to be quoted for the article.

For more information and an opportunity to hear sasquatch sound files go to www.bfro.net

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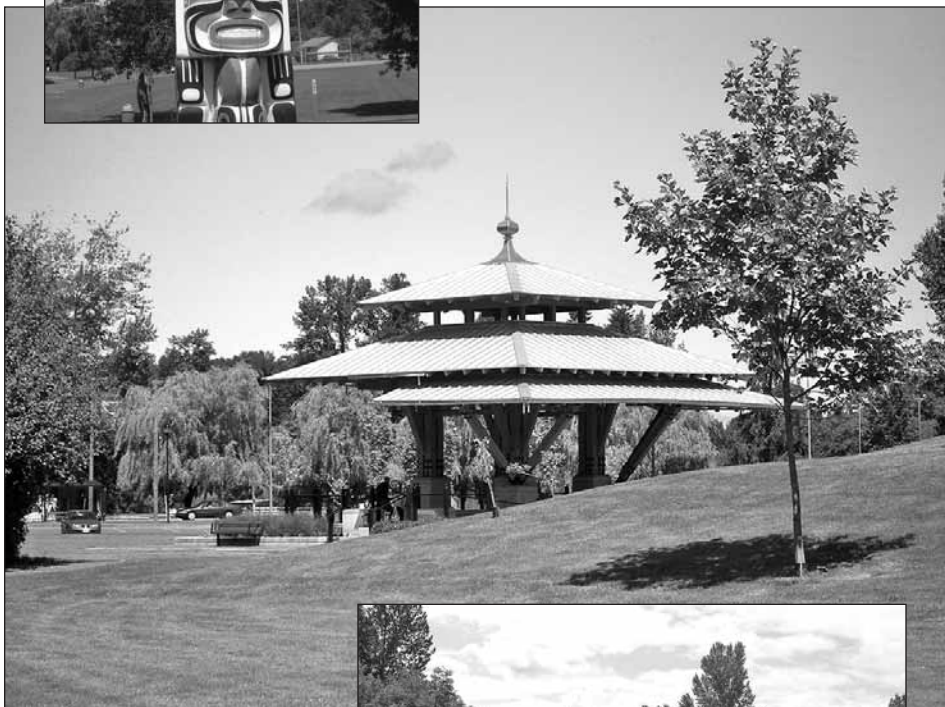
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Photos: Neil Havers

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CIBC WOOD GUNDY, Vice President and Investment Advisor, Rick Morson, is a Proud Sponsor of the Mount Washington Alpine Resort and the Strathcona Nordics Ski Club. Rick is shown at the Resort doing some mid-May training for the 2007 Canadian Masters Championships.

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Photos: Neil Havers



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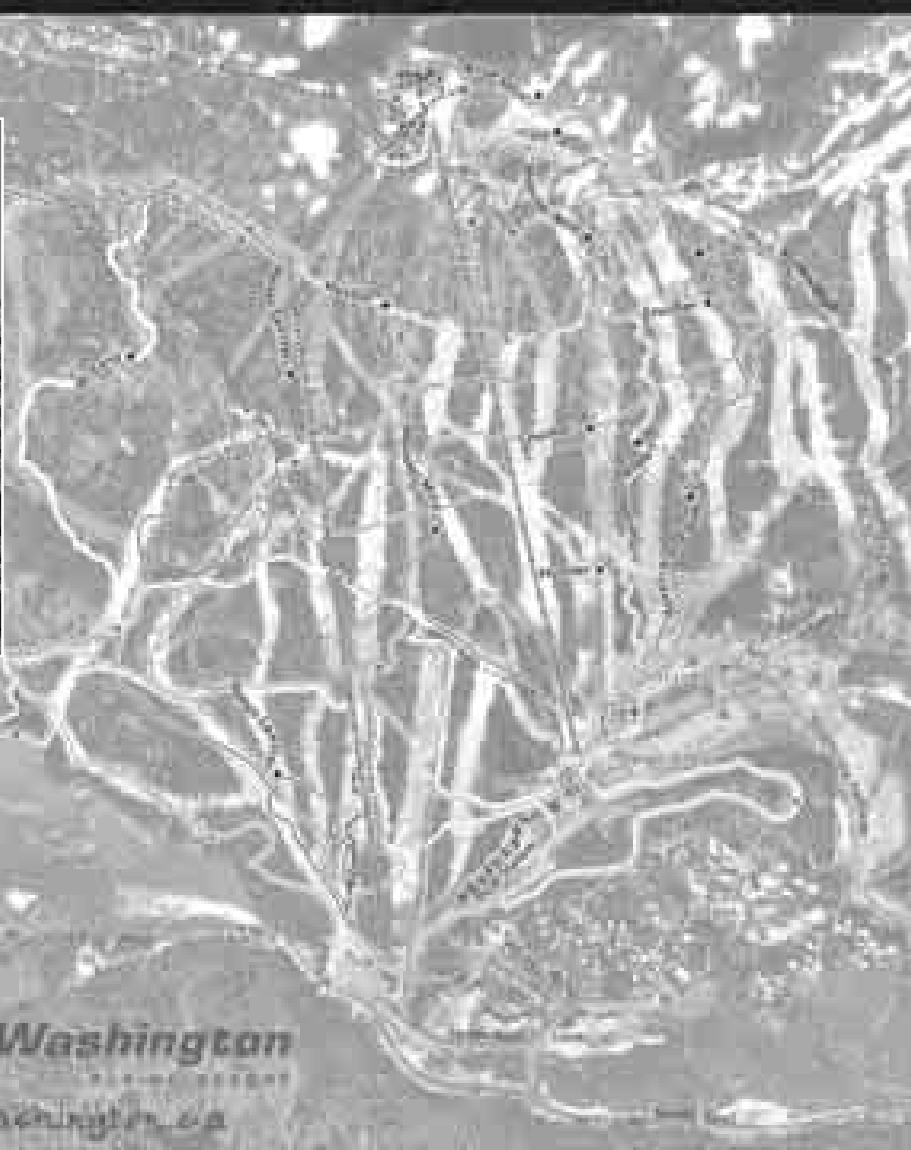
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Photo: Tony Radomi

2006 HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL GUIDE

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Summer Trail Map

Mountain Bike Trails

Less Difficult 31%	More Difficult 31%	Most Difficult 38%
Cross Country DUC Race Course • 6.1 km	Crusher • 3.8 km	Yukon Skisher • 1.7 km
Discovery Trail • 4.4 km	Hidden Alley • 0.9 km	Hustler • 1.8 km
Finger Trail • 3.8 km	Monster Mile • 2.0 km	Scratch and Sniff • 1.4 km
Magical Mystery Trail • 2.0 km	Wizard • 1.3 km	Dual Station • 0.2 km
Monsoon Hawk Connector • 3.8 km	4 Cross • 0.1 km	
Big Brother • 2.3 km		
Blue View • 1.4 km		
		14.4 km

Hiking Trails

Less Difficult 7%	More Difficult 30%	Most Difficult 63%
Eagle Express	Base Access	
Top of the World Trail • 8.7 km	Lodges Trail • 0.8 km	
Linker's Trail • 2.1 km	Memory Lane • 0.8 km	
Wet Trail • 1.2 km		8.2 km
West Summit Ridge Trail • 4.3 km		

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 5. Keep off closed areas and stay off signs and warnings.
 6. Stay on marked trails. Do not cut across fields.
 7. Stay off of lifts and trails if your ability is impaired through the use of drugs or alcohol.
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Photo: Susie Quinn

Caretaking Paradise...

The Marmot continues its feature on the caretakers of Mount Washington Alpine Resort with Janyce and Lawrence Erickson of Paradise Ridge.

The most fascinating part of living at Mount Washington, say Janyce and Lawrence Erickson, is the ever-changing weather. "The mountain has its own weather pattern," says Lawrence, who spent countless hours clearing the Paradise Ridge parking lots after each snowstorm last winter. In the summer he tears up the mountain bike trails, enjoying whatever summer weather Mother Nature can throw at him.

Coming from "down below," as Janyce describes Victoria, the couple didn't know snow. Now, they really know snow. "There's different kinds of snow," she

explains. "We can tell what it's like by the direction it hits the suite. It's wussy snow if it comes from over Strathcona Park. "If it comes from the mountain, watch out – batten down the hatches!"

Still smarting from memories of his snow-clearing days, Lawrence lamented that the snow came from over the mountain "all of January." Their corner unit is often buried during snowstorms, but reveals the most stunning sunsets from the picture window in the living room.

The deck is also where Janyce adopted Chester the chipmunk. "He comes here every day. If I don't have nuts outside by 9:15 a.m. in the morning I hear about it," she says. Chester competes for Janyce's affection with the couple's two black and

white cats, Fester and Sundae. Fester is not named for the Addams Family movie, but because "he's anti-social; never turn your back on the cat."

The couple has just finished its first real winter at the Resort (the first one last year really didn't count, as most people living and working at the Resort would likely say). "Through the winter it's a really different atmosphere," Janyce says. "It's frantic. When the mountain closes you see the residents come out in the sun, blinking their eyes."

The Ericksons have 40 bosses in the different suite owners, but say the relationship between all of them has been great. Janyce receives chocolate and flowers from the owners' kids whenever they're around, which she loves.

This was the first year that caretakers at Paradise Ridge looked after both the building and snow removal in the parking lot. Considering Mount Washington had its third-deepest snow season on record, it was a job and a half.

The Ericksons moved to Mount Washington two summers ago, before the "no snow" winter. They had spent the previous 11 years living in downtown Victoria, managing a social housing complex. Janyce had formed a kids' club to keep the street kids off the street.

"We liked that part of it, but we didn't like what was happening to the city," Janyce said. "We needed to get out of the city," Lawrence said. "We wanted something rural. So the city folk went to the country," Janyce added. "We're really rural now."

Working at Mount Washington Alpine Resort is a family affair for the Ericksons. Not only do Janyce and Lawrence Erickson manage Paradise Ridge Lodge full time, but Lawrence's sister, Linda Wicks, runs the General Store and two of her sons – the

Ericksons' nephews – also work at the Alpine Lodge. Jordan worked at Fat Teddy's as a dishwasher, Jared worked at Altitude and Aaron spent as much time on the hill as he could.



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\$10,000 Raised for Island-based Athletes

The Save-On-Foods Black on White Gala Dinner held in April helped raise \$10,000 for amateur athletes on Vancouver Island.

The event was held by the Vancouver Island Mountain Sport Society, which funds Island-based athletes who compete in mountain sports such as Nordic, alpine and adaptive (formerly disabled) skiing and snowboarding, biathlon and mountain biking.

VIMSS-funded athletes include biathletes Sarah Green, Sharleen Jackson and Jessica Sedlock; cross-country skiers Krysta Wark and Andrea Lee; downhill skiers Julie Peters and Mathieu Leduc and snowboarder Megan Chamberlin.

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Photo: Tony Radomi / Courtesy Mount Washington

Winter Wrap

The snow came back – and boy, did it ever stay around!

Mount Washington Alpine Resort enjoyed its third-deepest snow season last winter, a year after a virtual no-snow year.

"Overall it was a success, with the crazy amount of snow we received," said Brent Curtain, Resort Public Relations Director. Although they're still counting snowflakes, Curtain estimated the Resort received 1,200 centimetres of snow.

"We had a lot of powder days and the powder was great."

The highlight of the season was the opening of the \$3.5 million Boomerang Quad chairlift and double black diamond terrain in the Outback, on the north face of the mountain.

Because the snow didn't come until after Christmas, it wasn't a record year as far as skier visits. Still, 300,000 visitors between December and April is not too shabby, Curtain said. "We did have our busiest January-to-April period ever," he said.

If the Resort had been able to open for the Christmas holiday, it would have added about 7,000 skier visits per day between Dec. 24 and New Year's, easily surpassing the record.

The winter season was very uplifting for Resort staff members, who still cringe when people want to talk about the season of no snow last year. "A lot of people were asking, did we think skiers were going to come back. The skier visits in January and February answered that question," Curtain said. "As far as people coming back to Mount Washington, that wasn't a problem."

There were even new season pass holders this year, although not as many as they normally get before the season starts. Because there weren't very many snow days the previous season the Resort decided to honour 2004-05 season's passes in 2005-06.



Photo: Tony Radomi / Courtesy Mount Washington



Photo: Susie Quinn

Vancouver Island Mountain Sport Society Partners for Success

Things are starting to steamroll for the Vancouver Island Mountain Sports Society. Earlier this year the Society, which was created four years ago in response to the growing financial needs of Vancouver Island mountain athletes, took on the Nordic training centre project.

Then that project was twinned with B.C. Parks' efforts to build a visitors' centre near the new trailhead into Strathcona Park, which will be located near Raven Lodge.

"What's really unique with this project ... it's a project that not just one group has owned," VIMSS Chairwoman Vivian Dean said.

The VIMSS has received \$674,000 in public and private money, which will be spent on the first phase of the project – planning. Work will continue on trail upgrades this summer and project manager Len Apedaile hopes to complete site surveys for both buildings before the snow falls.

The second phase of the project will be the building itself. "This is all about bricks and mortar and design – about building the building," Apedaile said. A final location will have to be decided. Then various user groups will be asked for their input on what they want to see in the building.

Along with the physical structure will be consideration for an educational component. What sort of programming will work for both the sport and visitors' centres?

"You don't design a building and then figure out what to do with it," said Mount Washington Director of Business Services Don Sharpe.

Strathcona Park proponents are excited at the prospect of offering interpretive programming for park users.

(Above) An empty parking lot uphill from Raven Lodge could be the site of the proposed Vancouver Island Mountain Sport Centre and stadium for Nordic and biathlon events.

(Below): Vivian Dean, VIMMS chair

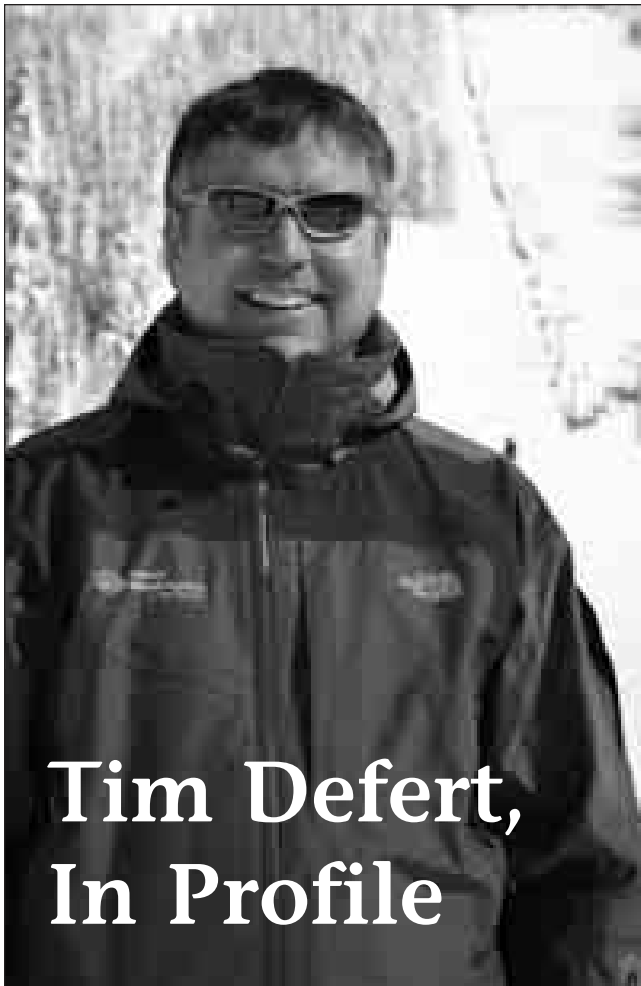


Photo: Susie Quinn

Sharpe and Apedaile are excited at the prospect of teaming up with Camosun College in Victoria to offer an elite sports centre. Camosun will spend \$32 million to build such centres in five or six locations around the south Island. What they don't have down there is an alpine environment and Sharpe will do his best to convince the college president to look north to Mount Washington.

The third phase will be to put together a business plan, showing sustainability of both the sports centre and visitors' centre.

continued on page A15



Tim Defert, In Profile

Mount Washington Food and Beverage Manager Tim Defert has had his learning year. Now he's getting down to business.

Defert joined the management team last September. He says it's one of the best management teams he's ever worked for.

"It's a great organization, with a great atmosphere and a great management team to work with," he said. Defert kept change to a minimum as he headed into his first winter season.

"This year we'll have some operational changes," he said. Defert's department is important to the success of Mount Washington, and he takes his job seriously. "I think it's a key component (at the Resort). It touches almost all the guests on the mountain and it can really make or break a customer's experience.

"They could have the greatest day skiing, but a cold cup of coffee is enough to ruin it," he said. Every year staff tries to improve on food and beverage service at the Resort. While the winter sees around 200 staff members, the summer kitchen usually employs 30-50.

"Summer is a huge area for growth," Defert acknowledged. "There's still room for winter. We're not done there yet."

The catering department is busy, with weddings booked into 2007. Catering Manager Rob Robertson has provided stability to this particular department, and that has opened up opportunities to cater to conferences and corporate events.

Defert began his food and beverage career in the kitchen. It's still one of his

favourite places to be. Although he cooks at home, "I'm not a very good gourmet cook," Defert admits.

His favourite type of food is Italian. And just like Alfredo Yabut left his mark at Mount Washington with his penchant for Chinese food, some of Defert's choices are influenced by his passion for pasta.

He intends to rebrand Fireweeds this year, opening it up for breakfast in the summer and as a place of pizza, pasta and prime rib by next winter.

Fireweeds has usually been used for the grocery store in the summer, but that is changing this year. Altitudes will now absorb the grocery business and the restaurant will operate as a restaurant.

Fat Teddy's – which used to be open for breakfast – will continue to serve lunch and dinner in the summer, and

Photo: Susie Quinn

Fireweeds will hopefully add patio seating. Starbucks will be back in Fireweeds this summer – a no-brainer, he said, since it was so popular in the winter. They've also bought a high-performance cappuccino machine to keep the speed up.

Beaver Tails, which was successful when it was located beside Mountain Tek in the winter, will be moved to a different location near the Alpine Lodge. And Defert is trying to organize a food kiosk by the Hawk chairlift in time for mountain bike season (or winter for sure).

"If you come to the Hawk, you don't have to go all the way to the main lodge to get a hot chocolate," he said.

Despite spending five years managing two resorts for Oak Bay Marine Group (one resort in the Bahamas for two years and Painter's Lodge in Campbell River for three years) Defert is happy where he is.

"It's definitely not an easy job. You're dealing with a large base of staff that's ever changing. Because there's great support from other management team members like Don Sharpe and Peter Gibson, it does make it easier to work."

Defert said when he returned to the Island he knew he would one day work at Mount Washington. His wife Simone spent six years working in the food and beverage department as well as the kids' centre, and constantly raved about the experience.

"Which is one of the reasons I knew I wanted to work there," Defert said.

He and Simone have settled in their home in Campbell River with children Gracie, 4, and Ava, seven months.

New Trailhead for Paradise Meadows



Photo: Susie Quinn

Paradise Meadows is getting a new trailhead, nearly 20 years after the idea was first mentioned.

Later this year B.C. Parks will unveil its gateway to Strathcona Provincial Park. A kilometre-long crushed gravel trail was created last fall, before the snow started falling, to lead hikers, walkers and runners to the new entrance to the park.

Andy Smith, spokesman for B.C. Parks, said the landscape plan has yet to be done. "We have some visions of what it will be like. Maybe carvings out of wood or rock," he said. The trailhead will create a new entrance into Strathcona Provincial Park, and it will solve some issues the old trailhead was never able to solve, like bathroom facilities and parking.

"It will be a much nicer access. People will have a parking lot right there, which we've never had," Smith said. A grand opening will be held sometime in August. The old trail will eventually be upgraded so it's accessible by wheelchair and stroller alike.

The trailhead and visitors' centre project really got off the ground this year when the project was amalgamated with the Vancouver Island Mountain Sport Centre. The non-profit organization and B.C. Parks were able to team up in asking for government grants and to streamline a complicat-

ed process. "There is strength in unison," Smith said. "We are together. We've got buildings that can be used by everybody, not just the park."

About \$5.5 million will have to be raised to build the sport centre and visitors' centre. The building will be multi-functional, providing space to run workshops such as Leave No Trace and avalanche training. While he would love to see an educational component to the new centre, Smith said it won't be limited to sports. "The sky's the limit as far as programs go with the visitors' centre," he said.

Smith and his committee members are also looking at ways to sustain the centre once it's built. B.C. Parks is looking at creating a group camping site on the Plateau and the revenue from the campsite would go back into the interpretive centre.

Where it will be situated is still up for debate, although Smith said a logical place would be somewhere in the vicinity of Raven Lodge. Some would like to see it where the snow dump is now. That's doable, Smith said, but it would mean leveling part of the parking lot.

The main thing with the building design, whatever it may be, is that it is accessible to people both in winter and summer, without taking away from the outdoor experience, he said.

A view of Paradise meadows as seen from the extensive boardwalk trail system.

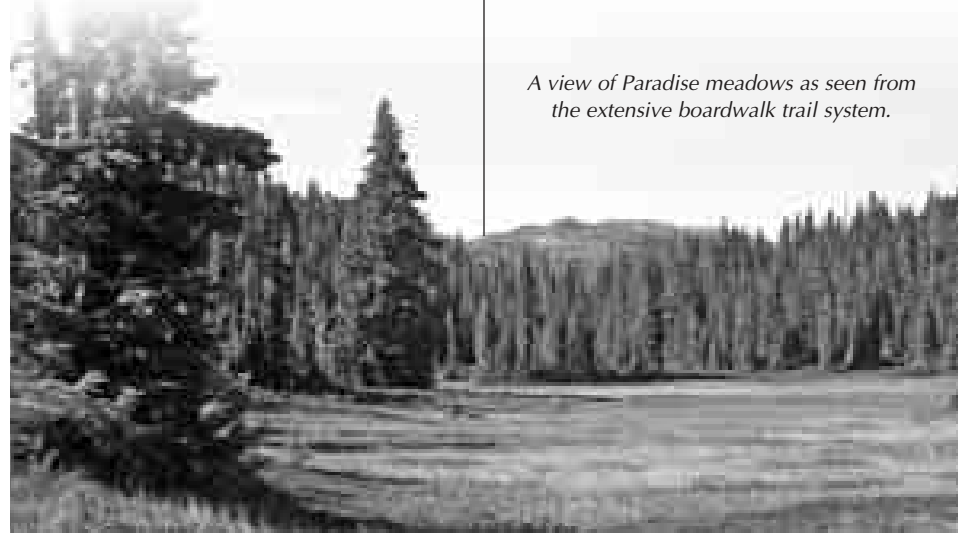


Photo: Neil Havers



Vancouver Island Marmots: The Momentum Grows

ANDREW A. BRYANT Scientific Advisor,
Marmot Recovery Foundation

As the last of the winter snow melts and the cool days of spring lead to warmer weather, some of our friends return.

They have names like Shelby, April, Chance, or William. Actually, "return" is not quite correct, for I'm referring to Vancouver Island Marmots, and in fact they've been here all along. Sleeping deep underneath the talus slopes and ski-runs. Now that spring has sprung, Mount Washington's permanent residents have emerged from hibernation and begun their annual cycle of mating, eating grasses and producing pups.

Our marmots are one of 14 distinct marmot species in the world. Canada is home to 4 species (Hoary Marmots, Yellow-bellied Marmots, Woodchucks and Vancouver Island Marmots), but only the Vancouver Island species has unique chocolate-brown fur and such unusual behavior.

One notable trait is their capacity for sleep -- Vancouver Island Marmots hibernate for over 6 and a half months each year! Here on Mount Washington, marmots typically enter hibernation in early October, not emerging until mid May in the following year. That fact means that the urban legend that Mount Washington closes each spring to protect the marmots is just that -- there is in fact no overlap between the ski season and the "marmot season".

And that's good news for North America's rarest mammal. The Vancouver Island Marmot (scientists know this species as *Marmota vancouverensis*) lives only on Vancouver Island. The wild population of this critically endangered species is currently believed to contain about 35 individuals. That's right. Only 35. As recently as 1998, this engaging ground squirrel tottered on the brink of extinction, with a world population of about 70 individuals. The future looked grim indeed. I'm very pleased to be able to report that since then the population has more than doubled. In fact it will likely exceed 200 marmots this year. How did this happen?

Basically, it happened because of people like you.

We began a captive-breeding program in 1997 with a handful of marmots. Through the Marmot Recovery Foundation, donors from around the world supported this program and the scientific research needed to make it work. And worked it has this spring we've had 14 litters of pups born, including 8 born at the facility here on Mount Washington.

But breeding marmots was only the first step. Now we've begun the process of restoring wild populations by releasing captive-born marmots back to the wild. We started slowly, in 2003, by releasing 4 marmots. In 2004 we released 9 and in 2005 we released 15. Over the coming weeks our field crews plan to release about another 30 to the wild. Most importantly, we've learned that marmots released in previous years are behaving just as wild-born marmots do, eating grasses and flowers, digging burrows and yes, sleeping as only marmots can do!

We have high hopes that this year will see another milestone achieved -- pups born in the wild to captive-born parents. Stay tuned! In a very real way the population decline has been stopped, and reversed. It will take years, of course, to achieve the recovery goal of a self-sustaining wild population of 400-600 marmots. Which is why your ongoing support is so critical for this species.

To learn more about Vancouver Island marmots, please visit our website at www.marmots.org or visit the Marmot's Den, which is located on the ground floor of the main day lodge.



Marmot Meets Royalty

Sophie Rhys-Jones holds a stuffed toy Marmot, a gift for her daughter from Lt.-Gov. Iona Campagnolo. The Countess of Wessex received the plush marmot, an island icon, at Governor House where she and her husband, Prince Edward, had lunch.



The Marmot On-line

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Photo: Susie Quinn

Ski Area... "Closed"

Mount Washington Alpine Resort finishes their ski operations in late April but this has never deterred people from visiting the Resort and nearby Strathcona Provincial Park during the so-called shoulder season between winter and summer.

Shawn Quinton is a snowshoe guide and luge coach at Raven Lodge in the winter, but doesn't stop enjoying the Park once the final chairlift is turned off for the season.

On a sunny June weekend he brought his kids – Phillip, 5 and Sierra, 3 – for an afternoon hike. "We're just going to play in the snow," he said as he portaged his kids over the gravel-encrusted snow piles beside the Raven Lodge parking lot to their sled a few metres away.

He brought his own skis, just in case. And he says he's familiar with the terrain and its hidden springtime dangers.

This time of year visitors to the Park want to watch out for snow bridges, made when runoff melts the underside of a snow pile, leaving a weakened bridge above with no sign of the danger below.

"People can use the Park whenever they want," B.C. Parks spokesman Andy Smith said. "What is restricting people right now is all the facilities, campsites and bathrooms are buried in snow."

The Park becomes a safety hazard for about a month, as warm temperatures quickly melt the snow. Crevasses form around the boardwalks snaking through Paradise Meadows and they're big enough to give people grief if they are unfortunate enough to fall into one. "That's the time of year we put a lot of caution out there."

Smith is excited about how the

Shawn Quinton, left, daughter Sierra, 3 and son Phillip, 5, get set to enjoy an off-season hike through Paradise Meadows. Quinton, a snowshoe guide and luge coach at Raven Lodge, says hiking in the shoulder season can be dangerous if one is not prepared. He was equipped with skis for himself and a homemade sled for the kids.



Photo: Susie Quinn

Mount Washington puts up signs indicating the Resort is closed at the end of the winter season in April. Although the Alpine Lodge is open some of the time, the resort doesn't officially open for the summer season until the end of June.

Vancouver Island Mountain Sports Centre and Paradise Meadows Visitors Centre are progressing, saying it will affect how people use the Park.

A proper Visitors' Centre will make Paradise Meadows an all-season place to visit, and an interpretive program will help get the message out about safe recreation. In late June, when most of the snow in the lower elevations is gone, it's all right to hike without skis or snowshoes. But it's best to be prepared to spend a night out in the weather, Quinton said.

The Snow Pack is Back!

Drought will not be a problem at Mount Washington this year, or the Comox Valley either.

After a year of virtually no snow threatened water levels in the Valley in 2004-05, there is no such thing now: the Resort closed in mid-April with 15 feet of snow. And that snow at the top of the mountain translates into water at the bottom.

As of June 1, – June! – snow conditions on Vancouver Island were above normal, about 118 per cent, even though the snowmelt rate was high.

Despite the early melt and higher-than-usual May runoff, the River Forecast Centre noted there were no water supply concerns on the Island.

One of the snow reporting areas is Jump Creek in the Central Island. Snow pillow readings are taken from there four times a month. (A snow pillow is an apparatus that measures snow water equivalent using the weight of the snow on an antifreeze-filled rubber bladder.)

Snow is a great substance to play in, but beyond its recreational appeal, snow in the ski hills is important as a source of water in western Canada.

The relationship between snowpack and the amount of snowmelt is complex. Many factors have to be taken into consideration, such as moisture content of the soil, ground water, weather patterns, and changes in air temperature.

For instance, if the ground was dry before the snow started to fall, it won't absorb the runoff as readily as if it was rainy before snowy.

In the West, according to www.nationatlas.gov, high mountain ranges hold a

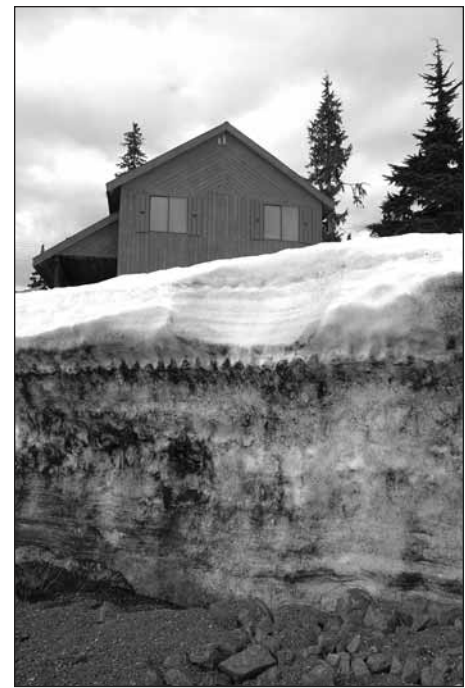


Photo: Susie Quinn

Snow was still deeper than a ski pole on May 10, three weeks after Mount Washington Alpine Resort closed for the winter season. The resort still had 15 feet of snow when it closed.

big enough snowpack to provide 50 to 80 per cent of a typical year's water supply.

"Despite an overall positive water supply outlook, we're still encouraging British Columbians to conserve water whenever possible," Environment Minister Barry Penner said. "It's an incredibly valuable resource."

DID YOU KNOW? Snowpack is measured in centimeters. One centimeter of snow is equivalent to one millimetre of rain once the snow is melted.

Mount Washington had its third-deepest snow year ever in 2005-06. The record still stands at approximately 21 feet, which fell in 1995. In fact, it was a world record!



Photo: Susie Quinn

Is it Sasquatch? No, it's a bear already beefing up on tasty grass by the side of the road on Strathcona Parkway in late May.



Photo: Boomer Jennitt / Courtesy Comox Valley Airport

Air Canada Back at Comox Valley Airport

Air Canada has a presence again at Comox Valley Airport, after a four-year absence.

Beginning August 1, Air Canada Jazz will provide regional jet service between Comox and Calgary. "It's direct to Calgary; they will fly Air Jazz's 50-seat CRJ," Airport General Manager Chuck Fast said. Flights will leave Calgary at 11:50 a.m. and arrive in Comox at 12:20 p.m. The flight back to Alberta will leave Comox at 12:50 p.m. and arrive in Calgary at 3:10 p.m.

The Air Canada flight originates in Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories, continues on to Calgary and then Comox. This routing will offer Comox passengers all new territory. "We're encouraged they're going to Yellowknife instead of the same old, same old," Fast said. "It's a new market for us."

Air Jazz is connective to all other Air Canada flights, which is another bonus for passengers, he said. Air Jazz will have its own counter in the departure area of the airport and will employ five or six people Fast said.

Air Canada terminated direct flights from Comox Valley Airport in 2002 when its regional AirBC pulled out, handing over its passenger service between Comox and Vancouver to Pacific Coastal Airlines.

Central Mountain Air, which came back to the Comox Valley Airport in 2003, had been Air Canada's third-tier airline in the late 1990s before that service disappeared off the radar. Central Mountain Air will continue to provide connecting service with Air Canada flights in Vancouver, Fast said.

The next step for Air Canada in Comox would be to reinstate the Comox-Vancouver service. Passenger numbers at Comox continue to balloon since the

Improvements to Comox Valley Airport continue to attract charter aircraft (shown below), and in the summer a new passenger carrier: Air Jazz. This will make it even easier for people to visit Mount Washington.

Cottingham Terminal opened just over a year ago.

"We're up 10 per cent for the first quarter," Fast said. "What's outstanding is that's up 10 per cent over last year, which was up 26 per cent (over the year before). "The passenger loads are good. I think the (Air Canada) service will add some stimulation for the market as well."

Because passenger numbers are up, the airport maxed out on its parking during peak periods last year. So the Comox Valley Airport Commission is looking at doing a small expansion in behind the "Welcome to Comox Valley Airport" sign, along Knight Road. "And then we'll run out of property," he said.

Air cargo has taken a back seat at the airport in favour of its new passenger terminal, but only because of supply and demand, Fast said.

In order for, say, seafood producers to be able to use air cargo effectively from Comox there has to be consistent cargo space on the aircraft flying in and out of there. "It just doesn't seem viable at this time" because airlines don't have enough extra space beyond passengers' luggage, Fast said.



Photo: Susie Quinn



Photos: Rick Gibson

Wildwood

continued from page A1

At the same time, he didn't want to design "a city project lost in the woods."

"Like Yaletown, an area that balances wonderfully aged exteriors with a certain up-to-the-minute modernity, we (Kwok and developer Raymond Lam of Lam Family Ventures Ltd.) very much wanted a fresh, updated version of what to do in the mountains," Kwok said. "If it feels like Yaletown – and you like Yaletown – I would say we were successful."

Lam is more pragmatic. "Wildwood at Strathcona was not created to be more upscale, but simply to be different and provide more options for buyers on the mountain," he said. "We feel that the characteristics that make Wildwood at Strathcona different will be the reasons for its success."

Both Kwok and Lam have experience designing and developing high-end units; Lam with a five-unit project in the Victoria area last year and a triplex conversion in a turn-of-the-century home this year; Kwok with numerous projects from airports to industrial parks, resorts to restaurants like Lumiere and Cioppino's (now Tojo's), also in places like Sydney, Australia, Toronto, Whitehorse, Vancouver, Seattle, Shanghai and Argentina.

The uptown nature of the design is what drew the Farmers to Wildwood. "It was an attraction," admits Terry. "Not only the look and space, but also the way Raymond has focused it. It's going to be a beautiful place to live."

Early on in the planning process, Kwok and Lam decided to keep an exposed structure on the inside of the high-vaulted ceilings in the upstairs living areas of each unit. That theme is carried on with the polished banister and wood floors, as well as exposed wood baseboards and trim.

"We wanted to use a very natural colour palette consisting of a dark brown siding and accented with lots of natural cedar," Lam said.

"The sophistication came in the building design. We wanted Wildwood to stand tall, allowing for high ceilings to provide a



Raymond Lam, left, and wife Jaya, front, of Lam Family Ventures Ltd., join Leslie and Terry Farmer in the Farmers' unit at Wildwood, the first phase of an eight-unit luxury chalet development. Photos: Susie Quinn

sense of openness even while outside. We wanted lots of decks to get outside into the fresh air and admire the breathtaking views of Strathcona Park," he said.

"We wanted well-appointed interior finishes like maple cabinets and flooring, tile in the bathrooms with slate floors and a sauna," he said. The kitchen is in the centre of the main floor living area.

"We feel that a comfortable living space provides for a sense of calm and relaxation. We envisioned a space to invite and entertain family and friends, but also feel cozy when only two are snuggled up in front of the fire."

The Farmers haven't owned a ski chalet since their children were young (they used to have a townhouse at Mt. Baker in Washington State). Now that their daughter has had a child, Terry and Leslie thought it was time to invest in another place.

Wildwood is ideal because their daughter, son and their respective spouses are all outdoor enthusiasts and the family home is located across the road from Strathcona Park. Terry skis, but Leslie does not (although she might try snowshoeing).

Farmer, who owns the Accent Inns hotel chain, will likely keep his home for family and friends, refraining from renting it out. "We will use it a lot, and year-round," he said.

The Lams will probably buy a unit in the second phase. Raymond Lam and his three sisters grew up on Vancouver Island and enjoyed Mount Washington for many years.

"Now with husbands, wives and grandchildren around, we knew that our families would be around to enjoy it for many more years to come," Lam said.

Boomer Crazies

continued from page A3

"That's where we usually meet up, is Mount Washington."

With the near-record snowfall the Resort received came a pile of perfect powder days. And because the Outback is on the leeward side of the mountain, it received its fair share.

"It just loads up," says Brent Curtain, Resort Publications Director. And that, says Proudfoot, is exactly what Mount Washington needed. "It was kind of neat because everyone was lined up at the top and waiting for (the powder). Before, if it was a powder day, the powder would last for half an hour.

"Sometimes they kept the suspense going because it took them a long time to open (the run)," he said, "so you could ski powder in the middle of the day." Even at Whistler, the powder is usually gone in an hour. Proudfoot added.

Curtain returned to Mount Washington last fall after working and traveling abroad. Also a powder hound, he was eager to try out the new terrain, and wasn't disappointed. "I got out there tons," he said.

"A lot of my days were spent on the back side. The quality of skiing was amazing." Curtain said 100 per cent of the feedback he received about the Outback terrain was positive. "If anything, it was a bit of an ego-bruise for some," he said.

Opening up the backside of the mountain was not only a good thing for skiers looking for a challenge, it also freed up terrain on the front side, giving beginners and intermediates more room to breathe.

There were no real hiccups with the Boomerang in its first full season of operation, Curtain said. There was a lot more avalanche control on the backside, though. "There were no significant accidents or avalanches. It's all avalanche controlled, so there's no real danger there," he said.

There were also fewer skiers and snowboarders going out of bounds or attempting back-country excursions, he added. "Because of the quality of terrain they don't need to go out of bounds to get that experience anymore."

The Boomerang was busy at the beginning of the season, as the curious wanted to take a peek. Although the terrain is labeled double black diamond, there are some areas an intermediate skier could negotiate. The problem, said Curtain, is that none of it is groomed. And that can be disconcerting for a skier used to groomed runs.

"We do recommend if you're an intermediate skier you're probably best to wait before going on the back side."

Not sure if you're good enough for the Boomerang? If you can ski down Powder Face on the front side without too many issues, you're ready for the Outback, he said. And take a buddy along who knows the new terrain.

News In Brief

continued from page A2

He found out what a half-metre of snow falling in 12 hours looks like. He also discovered the joys of clearing the Resort's parking lots three times in one night, only to repeat the same task a day later!

Speaking of parking lots... skiers tired of looking for a parking spot on the crazy-busy days at Mount Washington can take heart. The Resort is hoping to solve that problem over the summer. Parking will be expanded by 100-120 spots and new crushed rock laid down.

The parking lots aren't the only part of the Resort to get a facelift this summer: the buildings will get a fresh coat of paint and new carpets will be installed.

Peter Mustard, an Earth Sciences professor from Simon Fraser University who was profiled in our Summer 2002 Marmot for the geological exploration he was doing at Mount Washington, was in the news again earlier this year.

Mustard and partner Mike Boddy, a provincial geologist, were in remote north-west B.C. in the summer of 2004 when Mustard stumbled upon two important fossils, according to a report printed in British Columbia magazine.

He turned up an early Cretaceous turtle shell in Bower Basin, 450 kilometres north of Terrace. Less than an hour later, after knocking a rock off an overhang, he discovered a three-pronged track of a carnivorous raptor encased within the rock.

Both fossils can now be found in the Royal B.C. Museum in Victoria.

Foodies, take note: the Mountain Wok is morphing into a chicken rotisserie this summer. And Fireweed's will now serve pizza, pasta and prime rib. The Resort has also created a food kiosk at the Hawk chairlift for those who just can't wait for a good nosh.

Got any news tidbits to share about Mount Washington or its residents? Contact us at info@rickgibson.ca and dish.



Photo: Susie Quinn

Vancouver Island Mountain Sport Society

continued from page A10

Of course, all these plans have to dovetail into Mount Washington Alpine Resort's operations in and around the centres, Apedaile said.

The key component to the whole plan is group accommodations, Apedaile said. "The programming would not be sustainable because we would be limited to day use only," he said. "And day use is a small time in the whole of 24 hours."

A hostel-type accommodation would allow the centre to diversify. It would provide accommodation for world-class athletes coming to train at the Centre, but it would also allow the VIMSS to rent out the facility to school groups, visiting teams and park use groups.

B.C. Parks is also looking at creating a group campsite somewhere in Paradise Meadows, Andy Smith said. Any revenue from the campsite would go back into a proposed Strathcona Park Visitors' Centre.

The VIMSS doesn't want to end up in a situation like the Nordic Centre in Canmore, Alberta, which was built for the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics. Alberta's provincial government continues to heavily subsidize that particular centre, and just sunk \$23 million into upgrades. "That's not where we want to be," Sharpe said.

A group of people from VIMSS, Mount Washington, Strathcona Wilderness Institute, Rehabilitation in Motion and interested individuals met in June to talk about moving the project forward.

Volunteers were assigned to different sub-committees examining building design, sport needs, educational opportunities and twinning with a Strathcona Park Visitors' and Interpretive Centre.

More volunteers are welcome. For more information on the VIMSS or if you're interested in joining one of the working committees, please call Anya MacLeod at 334-1144 or e-mail her at anyamac@shaw.ca.

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VIMSS Project Manager Len Apedaile explains a flow chart during a meeting of interested stakeholders in June.

Photo: Susie Quinn

Mile High PROPERTIES

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Neat As A Pin!

2 bedroom corner suite in a popular building in the Alpine Village. Suite has been totally renovated with new laminate floor, new cabinets, new furniture. The suite shines and is ready for you! Easy access to slopes and parking. **\$179,900**



Corner Suite!

Three bedroom townhome located close to the Alpine Lodge and the new Mount Washington Village. Very private suite with proven living room, kitchen, dining room on main floor, two bedrooms and sauna upstairs. Comes with all furnishings and is ready to go. Crawlspace area could be further developed. **\$249,900**

SOLD!



Immaculate!

Extremely well kept townhome in Westview Inn located in Alpine Village of Mount Washington. Pride of ownership is evident in this immaculately maintained townhome. The owner has been patient and has been patient into a cute & cozy townhome. The building has a one year roof and is in very good repair. Easy access to slopes and in a quiet location. This one's a gem! **\$274,900**

SOLD!



Large Loft Area!

Spacious 3 bedroom townhome centrally located in Mount Washington's Alpine Village. Large loft area provides great extra sleeping areas. The building has a shared common area with laundry and games area and storage. This is a wonderful family oriented complex. **\$274,900**



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Many Upgrades!

3 bedroom townhome location in the Alpine Village of Mt Washington. Many upgrades have been done and the suite is in immaculate condition. Lower deck has hot tub. Building is very well maintained & easy access to parking & skiing. **\$274,900**



Tucked Away For Privacy!

Located in the heart of the Alpine Village with easy ski in and out access. Four bedrooms and open living areas. Tucked away for privacy, but a few minutes walk from all amenities. Designed by well known Bo Helliwell, this mountain home has a wondrous feel with a yellow cedar spiral staircase that connects all living areas. Four bedrooms, two mud room areas and ample storage throughout. **\$425,000**

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- 307** Top floor, facing the slopes \$164,900
- 311** Top floor, facing the slopes \$159,900



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- Fully Furnished
- Propane Fireplace
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- Easy access to Nordic trails
- Ski Storage areas

- 101** One Bedroom Lockoff \$149,900
- 105** Two Bedroom Lockoff \$224,900
- 301** Two Bedroom Lockoff \$244,900



Features Include:

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

- 118** 2 bedroom and spa room on the first floor, ski runs and Strath Park view \$299,900
- 209** 3 bedroom on the second floor facing Strathcona Park \$374,900



Features Include:

- Outdoor Swimming Pool, Sauna & Hot Tub
- Underground Parking
- Propane Fireplaces
- Ski Storage Room off Lobby
- Convenient Location to all Amenities
- Mountain & Strathcona Park Views

- 404** Two Bedroom facing slopes \$274,900
- 405** Three Bedroom facing slopes \$294,900
- 213** Two Bedroom facing Strathcona Park \$287,500
- 311** Top Floor, Three Bedroom facing Strathcona Park \$325,000



Features Include:

- 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Suites
- Slopeside Location
- Fully Furnished
- Front Desk Service & Caretaker
- Hot Tub
- Underground Parking

- 202** Two Bedroom lock up Strathcona Park views \$269,900
- 207** Two Bedroom facing slopes \$279,900



Luxurious Chalet!

Luxurious chalet located on Fosters Place, a snowballs throw from ski runs, has 3 levels of living area and can be divided into 2 units; a 2 bedroom suite, and a 3 bedroom suite. 3 fireplaces, 2 saunas, 2 hottubs, 5 bathrooms and 2 laundry areas! The top floor is reserved as a Masters Suite with 16 foot ceilings glass block ensuite and games room. Much attention to detail with oversized windows and a wonderful use of a variety of local woods are just a few of the numerous features. **\$899,900**



Top of the World!

Top floor 3 bedroom corner suite in Deer Lodge with WOW views of the slopes. Suite is totally ready to start renting. Offers slopeside access with under-building parking, hot tub and live-incaretaker. **\$349,900**



Parkview Perfect!

Located directly across from the loading area of the Hawk and Green chairlifts is Parkview Place. This 4 bedroom mountain home offers easy access to Mount Washington and Strathcona Park. Built to exacting standards by the same builder as Raven Lodge, this is a must see on your list. Four bedrooms, double garage, sauna, propane fireplace & very spacious main living area. **\$474,900**



Built With Extras!

Built with extras and better quality finishing this 4 bedroom chalet sits on a knoll with views up the slopes and into Strathcona Park. Loads of windows allowing lots of natural light. Sun will rise in the kitchen & set off the living room & large outside deck. Hot tub, sauna, 4 bedrooms and 2 kitchens. **\$574,900**



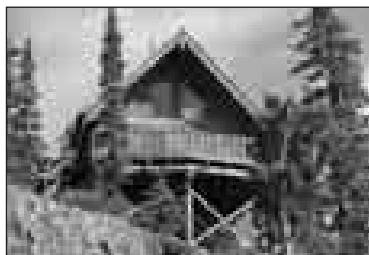
West Coast Contemporary!

Seldom does a home of this quality hit the market. Four bedroom West Coast contemporary home with huge cathedral styled living area. Large deck to take in southwestern sky. Four spacious bedrooms, easy access to slopes in winter & Strathcona Park in summer. Plus there is approximately 1500 sq. f.t of unfinished basement to create more living space or owners suite. **\$699,900**



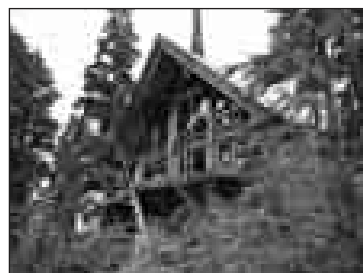
Bear Lodge Beauty!

3 bedroom corner suite in Bear Lodge! Fully loaded & ready to move into. Views of Comox Glacier and Strathcona Park. Locks in a bachelor suite (1 unit) and 2 bedrooms. Use as 3 bedroom. Bear Lodge is Mount Washington's newest development & is perched slopeside to make skiing in and out a breeze!! **\$349,900**



Perched on a Ridge!

WOW!! Perched on a ridge with breathtaking views into Strathcona Park. Cathedral ceilings and very easy access to alpine skiing & Nordic skiing. All thought our design plan. This chalet is on the market and is by the original owner! Deck is perfectly suited for a hot tub. located in the heart of Alpine Village. **\$499,900**



Paramount Views!

The epitome of a ski chalet in the woods! Perched on a ridge with paramount views, this log home is a must on your list! Special touches include cathedral ceilings, stained glass, wood fireplace with hand carved mantel, guest suite down with 2 bedrooms, pellet stove and separate entrance. Gourmet kitchen, sunset views. The word WOW says it ALL! **\$599,900**

Watch the Sunsets from your deck on Fosters Place!

Cathedral ceilings and open planned chalet on Fosters Place. Easy access to slopes and drive to your front door. Great owners suite down and bright living area up. Huge outdoor patio to watch the sunsets from. Efficient pellets stoves (one in main, second in suite). This is a great deal! **\$549,900**





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sun yet less than 100 feet away from the slopes.

The mountain home was custom built by the present owners with insulated concrete walls with R50 insulation. Inside, are two propane fireplaces, HRV system, Low E windows throughout, 4 bathrooms, central vacuum, water tanks, and private concrete patios (both wired for hot tub).

The home has been sold! The main living area with 4 bedrooms and the space below. Plus, the overheight basement (11 foot ceilings) for getting out of the winter weather or workshop or ??? In the main area, take advantage of the spectacular views of the Beaufort Mountain Range and the vistas of Strathcona Park from the expansive outdoor patio, or put a hot tub on the upstairs deck located privately off the master bedroom. Downstairs, check out the patio as well!

\$849,900



What You've Been Waiting For!

Lovingly maintained chalet on Fosters Place with 3 bedrooms in the main area with a separate 2 bedroom suite down below. ALSO there is an unfinished basement for further investigation. Each suite offers a rock faced fireplace and is totally furnished. As it sits the upper suite handles 12 people and the lower handles 7. Many other features like two decks and sauna and ample storage. Price includes web site (www.chalet19.com)

\$639,900



Bright LOG Home

WOW! Log home for sale on Fosters Place. 9 bedrooms and 3 kitchen separate areas with living room, kitchen, and billiards rooms in each! The chalet is fully loaded with an outdoor hot tub and a billiards room. Fully furnished and ready for you to move in. Proven income winner!

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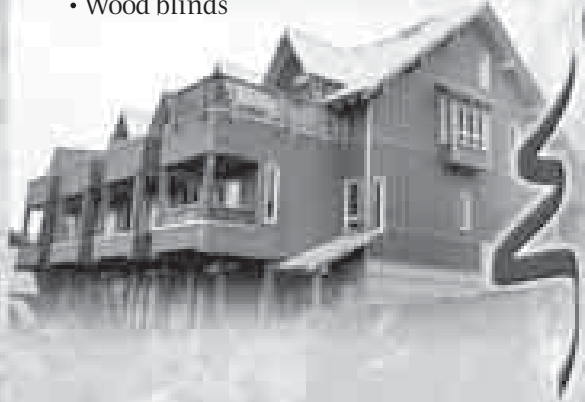
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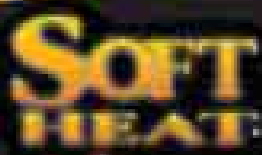
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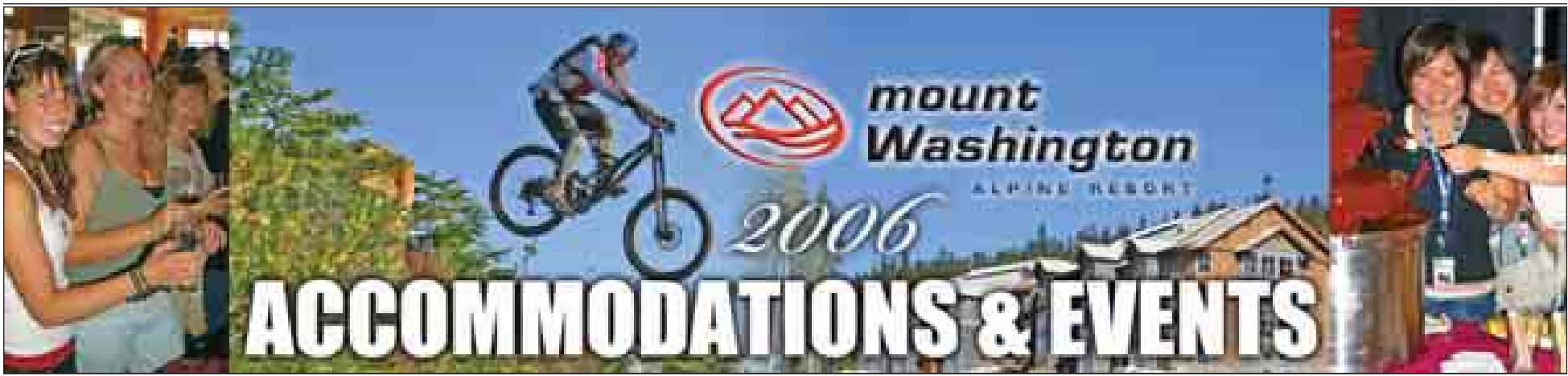
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July 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, Aug. 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, Sept. 2-3 • Pipers Pale Ale Music In The Mountains Free live outdoor concert series. Enjoy some live outdoor music from folk, R & B, world music and more. Different performers each weekend.

July 1-2 • Canada Day Family Picnic and Games Celebrate Canada Day with your family playing fun picnic games with prizes sponsored by Save-on-Foods.

July 9, 30, Aug. 20, Sept. 24 & 25 • Edge of the Rock Rally Car Series Event Rally Car Series held in the Sunrise Parking Lot. Offers drivers of all skill levels a chance to test their cars and their abilities on a flat gravel course. Contact Glynn Trafford, Organizer for more details at (250) 246-8282 or gtrafford@shaw.ca

July 14 • Beer Pairing Dinner Enjoy a 5 course (tapas style) dinner and experience beer pairing at it's finest in Fireweeds Restaurant, 60 people max.

July 15 • 7th Annual Beer Festival Tickets include unlimited samples, souvenir sampling glass and live entertainment.

July 20 • Women's Day Escape This one's all for the ladies for just \$59! Available every Thursday. Let a female instructor show you how to ride our terrain. Includes Lift, Guide and Snack.

July 21 • Wine Pairing Dinner Enjoy a 5 course (tapas style) dinner and experience wine pairing at it's finest in Fireweeds Restaurant, 60 people max.

July 29-30 • Mount Washington MTB Open Part of the Canada Cup Race series, a world class mountain bike racing event.

Aug 3, 10, 17, 24 • Lucky Thursday DH Race Series Sponsored by Dodge City Cycles, this DH race series runs for four Thursday evenings in the month of August. Enter one or the whole series of races. Great prizes!

Aug 5 • Sprint to the Summit The Sprint to the Summit is a gruelling 2km running race, straight up the face of Mount Washington. Vancouver Island's ultimate test of mental and physical strength. Come on out and strive for Glory!

Aug 5-6 • Mad March Ride/Skills/Race - 2 Day Camp Designed for those riders who want to learn how to ride faster, more aggressively and with more confidence.

Aug 11 • Wine Pairing Dinner See July 21 for details.

Aug 19-20 • VPS Fest Free mountain bike & rider ticket for Norco bike riders on Aug. 19 and 1/2 price on Aug. 20. Free tech support for all Norco bike riders and

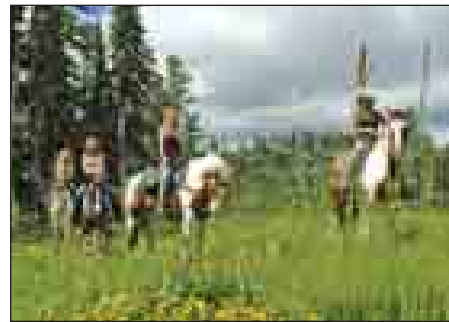


Photo: Jesse Dewhirst / Courtesy Mount Washington

tons of great prizes.

Aug 26-27 • Island Throwdown - BC Cup Finals One of the finest mountain bike racing events, featuring the Cross Country and Downhill Finals.

Sept 16 • VERTIGO The Mount Washington Hill Climb Challenge presented by the Comox Valley Cycle Club. A road cycling race of the highest climbing category. Mount Washington offers the most challenging hill climbing road course this side of Rogers Pass. Info at www.cvcc.ca

Oct 7-9 • Alpine Octoberfest Entertainment, yodeling contest, Food & Beverage specials.

For up-to-date Mount Washington event information go to www.themarmot.ca

Mount Washington Phone Directory (Area Code 250)

- Altitude Sport & Gift . . . 334-5721
- Ambulance 911
- Catering 334-5757
- Central Res. 1-888-231-1499
- Fat Teddy's Grill 334-5716
- Fire (To report a fire) . . . 792-1209
- First Aid 334-5741
- General Store 334-5721
- Police (EMERGENCY ONLY) 911
- Police (NON EMERGENCY) . 338-1321
- Raven Lodge 334-5764
- Real Estate (Rick Gibson) . . 338-1723
- Resort Info 338-1386
- Security 334-5753
- Security (after hours) 792-1204
- Utility (after hours) 792-1209

Banner Photos Above: Tony Radomi

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CHALET, DUPLEXES & SUITES

Table with columns for Unit address, Weekly Price, Weekend Price, Holiday Price, Summer Price, Max people, # of bedrooms, Bathrooms, Dishwasher, Jetted tub, Hot tub, Sauna, TV, VCR, Cablevision, Stereo, CD player, Fireplace, Wood stove, Wood supplied, Cleaning, Linen, Pets, FIREPLACES (W, E, G, P), CLEANING (F, L, O), Contact Name, Phone Number, Fax Number, Web.

Blue Haven advertisement for 1268 Fosters Place, featuring panoramic views, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fireplace, hot tub, and contact information for Paula McRae.

Mountainside Lodge advertisement for a ski-in/out unit with a spacious top floor 3 bedroom unit, 8 to 10 sleeps, and contact information.

CONDOMINIUMS & TOWNHOUSES

Table with columns for Unit address, Weekly Price, Weekend Price, Holiday Price, Summer Price, Max people, # of bedrooms, Bathrooms, Dishwasher, Jetted tub, Hot tub, Sauna, TV, VCR, Cablevision, Stereo, CD player, Fireplace, Wood stove, Wood supplied, Cleaning, Linen, Pets, FIREPLACES (W, E, G, P), CLEANING (F, L, O), Contact Name, Phone Number, Fax Number, Web.

Castle Crag Chateau advertisement for a lovingly maintained mountain retreat with summer & winter amenities, contact information for Wendy.

The Marmot On-line advertisement for a website providing past issues of The Marmot magazine, contact information for themarmot.ca.

For Up-To-Date Rental Accommodations: www.mtwashingtonaccommodation.com

The above information is current as of June 20, 2005

PLEASE NOTE: All properties are non-smoking and no pets except for Condominium 788-102 Washington Way. • These privately owned chalets and condominiums are rented out by their owners and have their own features and contacts as listed above.



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\$100 OFF COUPON advertisement for a \$100 discount on regular rates for a 3 night or more stay, valid for the 2005/06 season. Includes an image of two people on a ski lift.



FORBIDDEN PLATEAU PARADISE MEADOWS

Strathcona Provincial Park

2006 MAP & TRAIL GUIDE

Strathcona Park Institute Offering Weekend Programs

Weekend visitors to Strathcona will again have the option of taking a guided walk around Paradise Meadows with a Strathcona Park Institute interpretive guide, or let their children take part in some of the new activities planned for the summer.

A schedule of this year's Walks and Programs are shown on page B8.

INFO HUT: An Interpreter will manage the Info Hut at the new visitors parking area. The Info Hut is full of fascinating natural history objects that the kids will love and the volunteers there can update you on trail conditions and hiking destinations. The hut is open from 10-5pm Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holiday Mondays, July 1st - September 10th.

KIDS: Every Saturday at 10:00am throughout the summer kids can enjoy Paradise Meadows through a children's nature program. The program encourages children to learn about the natural world, helping them discover the plants and animals around them and developing their naturalist skills. Suitable for children ages 5 -12, 2 hour duration.

GUIDED WALK: For adults and families, a 90 minute walk of Paradise Meadows trail led by Interpreter and local expert volunteers. Saturdays: 1:00 pm

Guest Walk: For adults and families a 90 minute to 2 hour walk or lecture presented by a Guest expert on a variety of topics. Sundays at 1:00pm.

To help the Institute's operational costs, a donation of \$2.00 per person (\$5.00 per family) is suggested for these popular programs.

For visitors wishing to enjoy the local flowers and shrubs in the meadows at their own leisure, the Institute volunteers will have plant markers in place at various locations on the small loop walkway. The Institute has produced a small brochure that will also be available at the Info-hut to help those wishing to take a self-guided plant identification walk.

The Institute is again continuing the **weekend information service at Buttle Lake** (200 yards past the Gold River turn-off). Look for the sign before crossing the Buttle Lake bridge. This is a voluntary service, thanks again to Gerry Roberts. From June 30 ~ Sept. 10, hours of operation will be: Fridays: 3-9 pm (or dusk), Saturdays: 10-6 pm, Sundays: 10-4 pm. Volunteers are always welcome to help at either of the Info-huts. A good knowledge of Strathcona Park and its trails is essential.



Photo: Neil Hawers

As a non-profit society, the Institute's mandate is to continue to facilitate a co-operative effort to assure support for continuing education, information and park stewardship. In order to keep the organization running, they are always in need of directors and supporters. Their vision and present goal is to eventually create, with community partners, a Visitors Information and Park Interpretive Centre.

If you are interested in supporting the goals of the SWI, in any way, leave a message at: 250-337-1871 or e-mail: swi@island.net. The Institute website is: www.strathconapark.org.

(Above) Lake side lunch along the Helen Mackenzie, Battleship Lake Loop Trail.

BC Parks Map & Trail Guide courtesy of Rick Gibson



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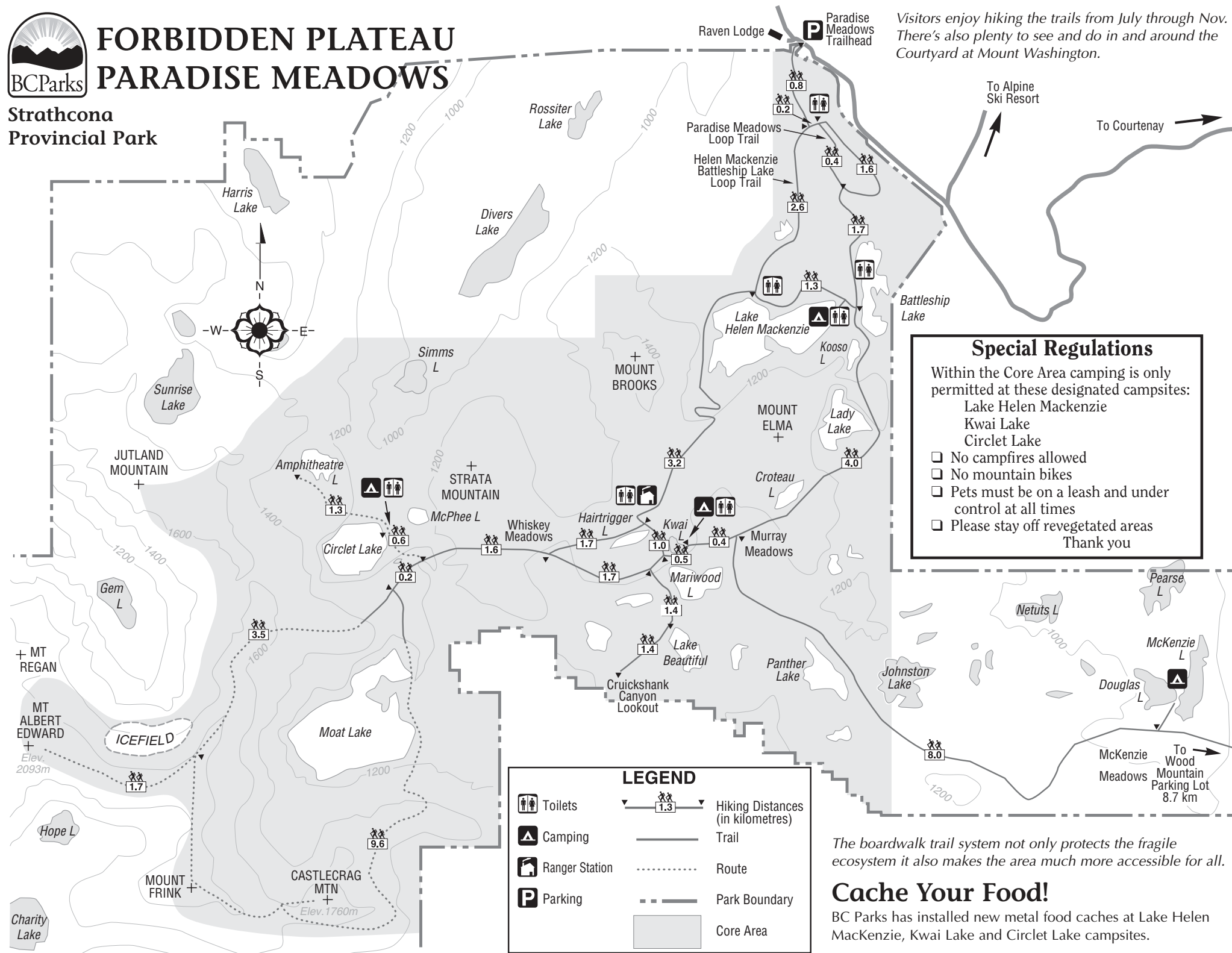
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**FORBIDDEN PLATEAU
PARADISE MEADOWS**
Strathcona
Provincial Park



Visitors enjoy hiking the trails from July through Nov. There's also plenty to see and do in and around the Courtyard at Mount Washington.

Special Regulations
Within the Core Area camping is only permitted at these designated campsites:
Lake Helen Mackenzie
Kwai Lake
Cirlet Lake
 No campfires allowed
 No mountain bikes
 Pets must be on a leash and under control at all times
 Please stay off revegetated areas
Thank you

The boardwalk trail system not only protects the fragile ecosystem it also makes the area much more accessible for all.
Cache Your Food!
BC Parks has installed new metal food caches at Lake Helen Mackenzie, Kwai Lake and Cirlet Lake campsites.

In Case of Emergency...

- Contact Park Rangers in the area. Location of Park Rangers will be posted on the notice board at the ranger cabin.
- Phones are located at Mount Washington.
- In case of emergency, Phone 911
- To report a forest fire, dial 0 and ask for 1-800-663-5555

Maps and Guidebook

Scale 1:50:000 Nat. Topographic Series
-92 F/11 Forbidden Plateau
-92 F/12 Buttle Lake
Hiking Trails III Central and Northern Vancouver Island.

For Further Info

- See local Park Rangers & Operators
- Web: wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/

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 Cirlet Lake

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

Follow signs towards Albert Edward from Cirlet 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 hours

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, Cirlet 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.

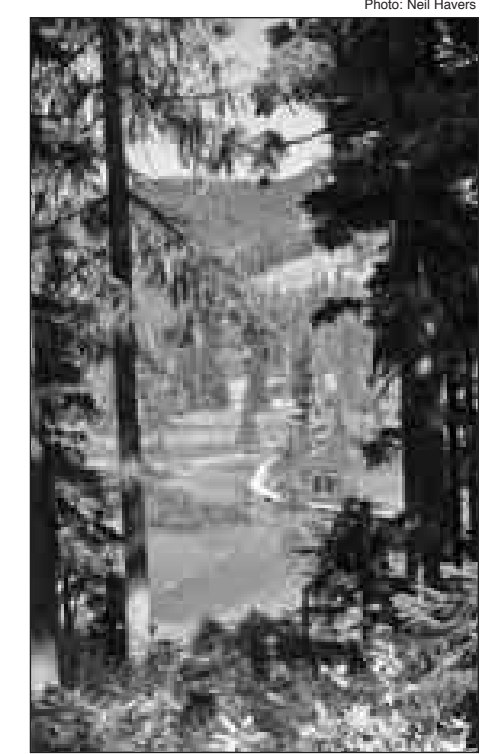


Photo: Neil Havers

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.

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BUTTLE LAKE

Strathcona Provincial Park



B5

Photo: Neil Havers

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?

Strathcona Wilderness Institute is pleased to provide all visitors with a wide range of information about BC's oldest, and one of our largest provincial parks. Maps, trail up-dates, details about visitor services and other useful information will be available every weekend starting June 23rd. To find out more about Strathcona, stop at the Park Information Hut and pay us a visit. We are located 300 metres south of highway 28 at Buttle Lake bridge turn-off to Gold River, at the Park Headquarters just watch for the signs!

HOURS OF OPERATION

June 23 to September 10, 2006

Friday: 3 pm ~ 8 pm

Saturday: 10 am ~ 6 pm

Sunday: 10 am ~ 5 pm

Monday: 10 am ~ 4 pm (holidays only)

If the weather is inclement and/or there are few visitors, closing times could be earlier.

2006 MAP & TRAIL GUIDE

Buttle Lake is easily accessible in forty five minutes from Campbell River on Hwy. 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 Crags. 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 Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Check out the Parks web site at www.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/.

Come to the campgrounds at anytime as 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 250-3474-1336 or fax 250-478-0376.

BC Parks Map & Trail Guide
courtesy of Rick Gibson

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BUTTLE LAKE CORRIDOR

Strathcona Provincial Park

NOTE: Cell phones don't work in the Buttle Lake area and the nearest public phone is in Gold River, 40 km west on Highway 28.

See Page B10 for detailed hiking descriptions.

BC Parks 2005 Map & Trail Guide courtesy of

Rick Gibson

Ph: 250-334-3124 (24 hours)

Direct: 338-1723

www.rickgibson.ca

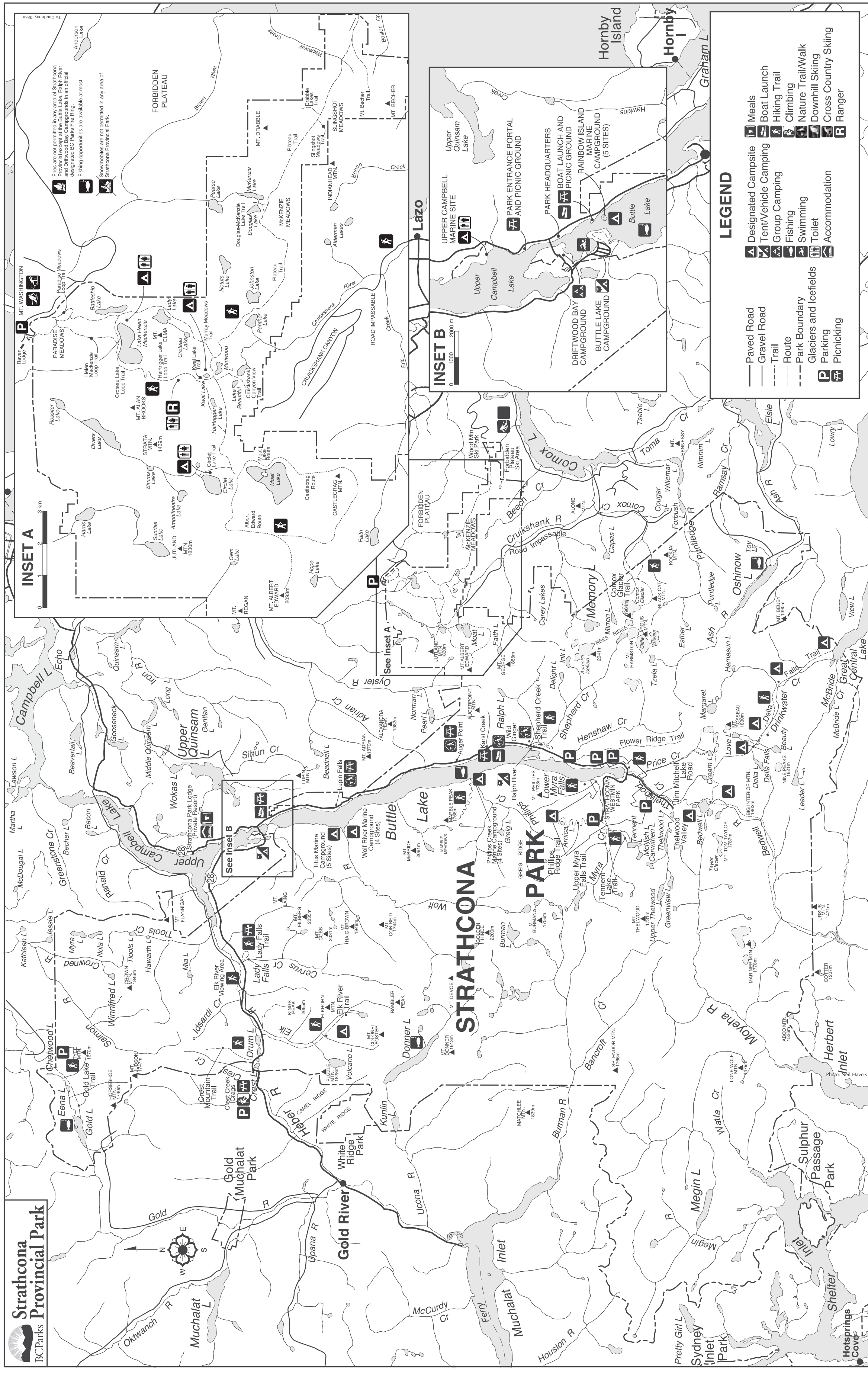


Photo: Neil Havers

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. The Strathcona Wilderness Institute can be contacted for more detailed route information at 250-337-1871 (e-mail: swi@island.net). 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.

Please let a friend know where you plan to go and when you plan to return.

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 July 1 through to the September Long Weekend.

The **FRIENDS OF STRATHCONA** is a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect, preserve and promote Strathcona Provincial Park. Tel: 250-337-1871
Box 3404, Courtenay, B.C. V9N 5N5

BUTTLE LAKE CORRIDOR 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: 10 hours
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 hours 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 hours. Steep with an elevation change of 1,040 metres. The trail begins at Westmin Road, 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 hours 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 hours. 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.

TENNANT LAKE (3)

Length: 4 km. Estimated time 2-4 hours 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 hours. Features river valley and old growth forest then rocky outcropping and a sub-alpine environment with excellent hiking and views. Camp in designated areas at Baby Bedwell and Bedwell Lakes. 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 minutes. 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 minutes. 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 minutes. Access from Westmin Road. 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 minutes. 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: 6.6 km. Time: 4-5 hours 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 minutes. 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 minutes. 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 hour and 15 minutes. 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 minutes. 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.

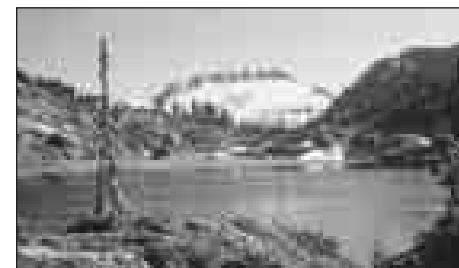
CAMPGROUNDS

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: \$14.00 per party per night, \$6.00 for extra vehicles.
- B.C Senior Citizens \$7.00 per couple per night (shoulder season only).
- 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 September 30th.
- Picnic tables, fire rings, water pumps and pit toilets.
- Fee: \$14.00 per party/night. \$7.50 for extra vehicles.



Cream Lake and Nine Peaks

- B.C Senior Citizens \$7.00 per couple per night (shoulder season only).
- 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

DRIFTWOOD BAY GROUP CAMPGROUND

- Private, covered shelter with woodstove and tables, large grass field, fire pit, pit toilets, wheel chair access pit toilet, water pump, swimming area.
- Fee: \$14.00 per party per night. \$7.50 for extra vehicles.
- Firewood \$10.00 per night
- The minimum number of parties allowed is 5 and the maximum is 25.
- Fee for non profit youth and school groups \$50.00 per night.
- Tel. 250-287-2942 to book the campground.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING FEE

- \$5.00 per night per person 13 years or older.



Photo: Neil Havers



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Alpine Adventure Awaits!

Discover the many natural features of Strathcona Park by participating in a series of family oriented programs on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer put on by the Strathcona Wilderness Institute, a non-profit society.

The programs will begin at the Paradise Meadows Info Hut located in the Raven Lodge Parking Lot on Mount Washington and last for 11/2 to 2 Hours, unless noted by (*). Cost is by donation.

Come out on Saturdays at 1:00pm for kids programming lead by SWI interpreters suitable for children ages 5 -12. On Sundays at 1:00pm join our local experts for naturalist lead Walk n' Talks through the Meadows.

July 1* ~ Canada Day Hike to Lake Helen Mackenzie Celebrate Canada Day by going on a 3 hour return hike through the sub alpine to Lake Helen Mackenzie. Bring your binoculars and a lunch and expect to see many interesting plants, flowers and creatures on the Plateau. Meet at the Info Hut by 1:00pm.

July 2 ~ Rock & Flowers Join local expert, Chris Pielou, for this informative and fun walk on Strathcona Park wildflowers and geology.

July 8 ~ Beaks, Feet & Feathers Birds are fantastic flying machines. Join the interactive fun in finding out their special adaptations.

July 9 ~ Birds & Plants of Paradise Join naturalist, Betty Brooks, and discover wildflowers and birds unique to Paradise Meadows.

July 15* ~ Parks Day hike to Croteau Lake Celebrate Parks Day with a four hour return moderate hike taking you

to a picturesque sub alpine lake. Meet at the Info Hut by 11:00am.

July 16 ~ Lichen & Moss Non-vascular plants are cool too! Join local Environmental Scientist, Tyler Johns, for a look at these fascinating plants.

July 22 ~ Rotting Logs Check out the temporary homes on the forest floor and find out what might live in a rotting log. Who knew decomposition could be so fun.

July 23 ~ I, the Tree and We, the Forest Join Agroforester, Harold Macy, and expect to look at the forest with new eyes.

July 29 ~ Seed Dispersal Seeds are specially adapted to move away from their parent. How does a plant get spread around?

July 30 ~ Healing Herbs, Medicinal Plants Join local expert herbalist, Janice McInnes for this informative look at uses for some of our local plants.

August 5 ~ Adaptation Activities, Fun with Insects Paradise Meadows is full of marvelous bugs. Come join the fun in an insect scavenger hunt to find out their survival ways.

August 6 ~ TBA

August 12th* ~ A Grand Time Grandparent/child hike to Lake Helen Mackenzie. An easy 3 hour return hike. Bring a lunch and lots of water.

August 13 ~ TBA

August 19 ~ The Forest Floor Go hot on the trail to find signs of mammals, insects and other interesting creatures on the forest floor.

August 20 ~ TBA

August 26 ~ Junior Stewards of Strathcona Park Come discover all the plants and animals unique to Paradise Meadows. Meet plants that eat bugs and birds that save food with their spit. Yummy!

August 20 ~ TBA

September 2* ~ Hike to Lake Beautiful This moderate 6 hour return hike takes you through part of Forbidden Plateau, ending up at a lake that truly deserves its name. Meet at the Info Hut by 10am.

The Paradise Meadows hut is open from 10:00am – 4:00pm Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holiday Mondays. The volunteers there can update you on trail conditions and hiking destinations. For all programs please remember to be prepared for all weather conditions and to tread lightly through the park.

The Mt. Washington Marmot

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

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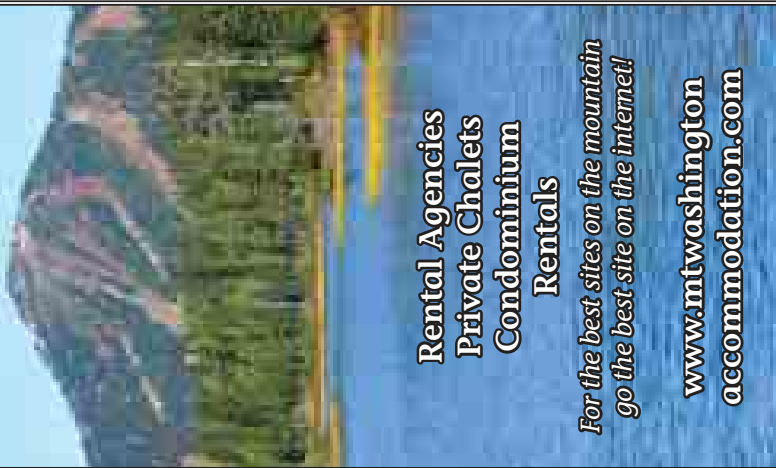
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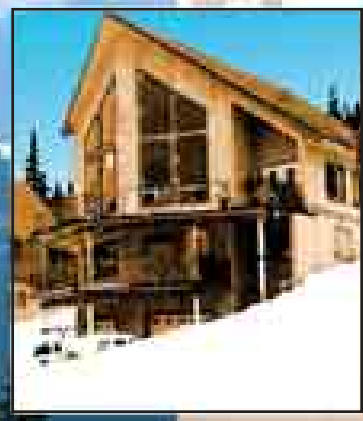
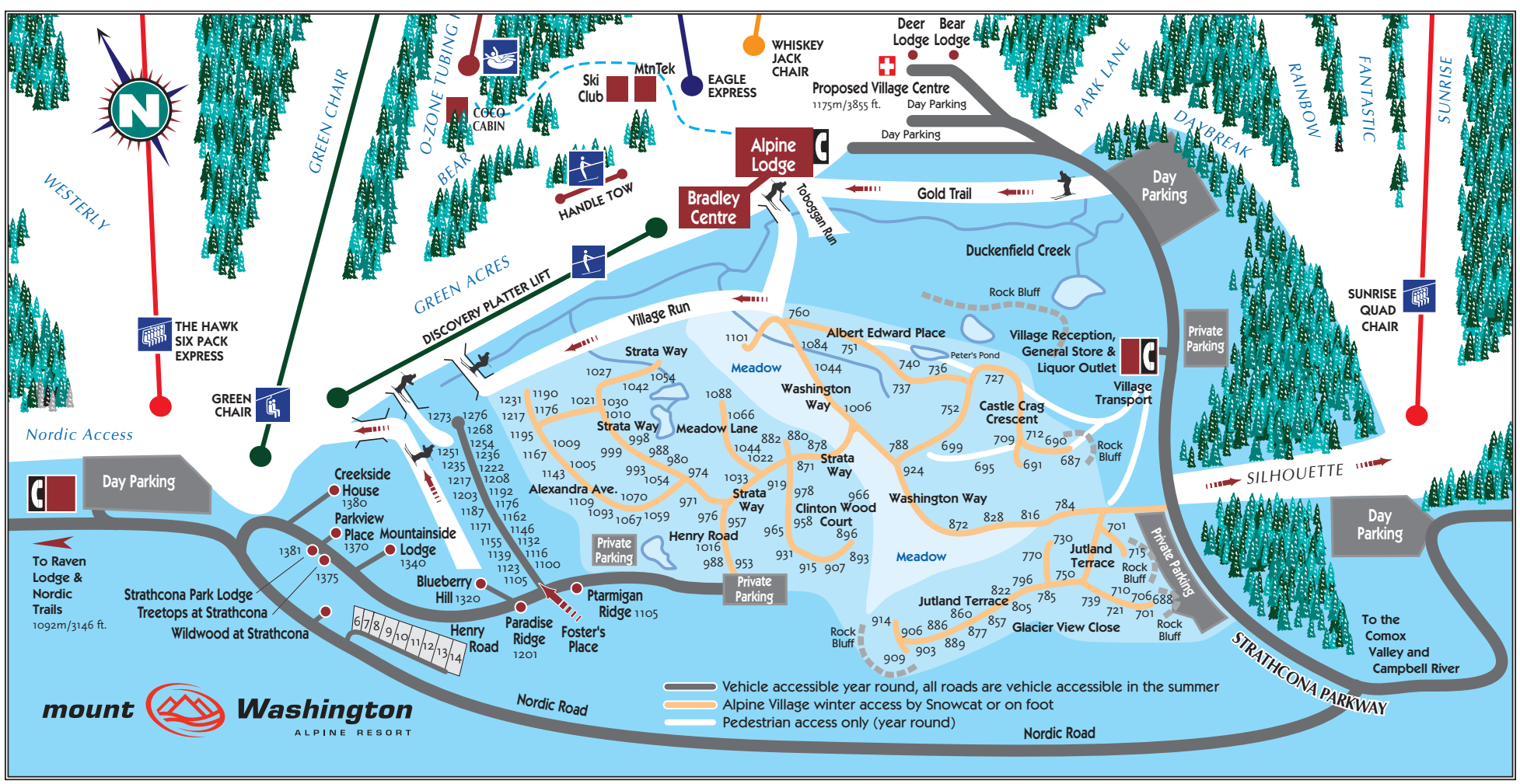
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