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ACCOMMODATIONS & EVENTS GUIDE - STRATHCONA PARKS MAPS - REAL ESTATE & MORE



Bye Bye Green Chair... Hello Magic Carpets?

The venerable Green Chair Lift is gone. In its place, four covered Magic Carpets will be installed - the latest in people moving technology for North American ski resorts.

And with them, a revamped beginners' ski and snowboard area will be developed this summer.

"This is great. We really need to create a better beginner experience," Director of Business Services Don Sharpe said. "Mount Washington on Vancouver Island needs to create their next generation of skiers." The Resort will do so in a safe and easy manner, he added.

The Green Chair, Platter and Handle Tow were dismantled in May and sold to two smaller ski resorts. The slider and handle tow went to Powder King, near Prince George. Some of the Green Chair parts were shipped to Mont Sutton in Quebec, primarily for parts.

The area between the Bradley Centre and the Hawk Chair will be leveled out "so you won't have the sensation of being pulled to the left when you're skiing for the first time," Sharpe said. "That will be a big change for us."

The Magic Carpets are a new trend at ski resorts, although Mount Washington's will be covered, this is cutting-edge technol-

ogy, Resort President Peter Gibson said.

One 250-foot covered conveyor will be centred near the top of the new beginner slope on Green Acres. There will be three covered conveyors (550 to 650 feet long) installed on the Green Face to replace the chair. *Continued on page 10*



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News In Brief

Encompassing people, places and community happenings at Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

Mount Washington Alpine Resort had an explosive season - literally - in a record snow year. The Resort used more explosives for avalanche control than any other year to date, Resort Director of Public Relations Brent Curtain said.

The snow was so deep around Christmas time - nearly four metres fell in about a week - that maintenance crews had to rescue a cat.

No, not the furry, purry four-legged kind; the snow grooming machine. The cat was buried. So were several other Resort vehicles in the maintenance yard.



Another victim of the snow that also needed a hand digging out was the **Marmot Recovery Centre**. They needed to ask for help plowing around some of the natural marmot dens and feeders found at the Resort.

...

Bear Lodge has a new caretaker. **Paul Heggeler**, who has had experience at Big White Alpine Resort, is working up there now.

...



Henk and Hennie van Doorn of Amersfoort, Netherlands

PHOTO BY SUSAN QUINN

Henk and Hennie van Doorn put Mount Washington Alpine Resort on their maps in June. The couple, from Amersfoort, Netherlands, was on a one-month holiday to western Canada when they stopped by Mount Washington on June 4.

The van Doorns decided six years ago that they wanted to see the world. They started with Thailand and have since visited Indonesia, China, Tibet, the United States, and now Canada.

Henk said he first read about Mount Washington in a Guide Book. The couple enjoyed seeing all the snow still piled up on the higher elevations of Strathcona Parkway, and in front of the Alpine Lodge.

...



PHOTO BY SUSAN QUINN

Love was in the air for a Victoria couple that got married at the Resort last winter. And a pair of Mount Washington Alpine Resort employees were asked to help them with the ceremony.

Mike and Naomi Mousseau exchanged vows on a snowy day in the forest behind the Bradley Centre. Standing up as witnesses for the joyful couple were **Amanda Ridgway and Jeanette Kangas** from the Resort marketing team. The Resort helped the couple

celebrate with some free tickets for skiing -and chocolate.

...

Andrea Lee of Black Creek (shown left) won her first bronze medal of the Canada Winter Games in February in the 10-kilometre Classic Mass Start cross-country skiing event. The Strathcona Nordic Ski Club member now trains at the National Development Team Training Centre in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Her coach, **Dave Battison**, coached the B.C. Nordic team at the national winter games in Halifax, NS.

...

Carle Brenneman of Comox reached the podium at the 2011 Canada-Snowboard Nationals and Junior National Championships in Lake Louise, Alberta in April. Brenneman, a BC Team rider, finished in second place behind World Cup champion Dominique Maltais. Provincial team member **Jade Critchlow** (Kelowna) finished the race in third.

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PHOTO BY SUSAN QUINN

Scott paints for VIMSEC

Comox Valley artist Brian Scott is throwing his support behind the Vancouver Island Mountain Sport and Education Centre (VIMSEC) in a colourful way: through his paintings.

Scott has created a series of oil paintings of winter and skiing scenes, based on his own experiences, and will sell them as prints and an art book collection called "Skiing on Vancouver Island" to raise funds for the ongoing operation of the Centre.

"I first started skiing here in 1961 with (Mount Washington Alpine Resort President) Peter Gibson. Herb Bradley taught me how to ski," Scott said of the late Comox Valley snow sport icon, for who the Bradley Centre is named.

Scott and Gibson joined Bradley's group, the Fanny Dunkers Ski Club, at a time when ski passes were just \$20 a year, Scott said. His mother allowed him to skip church on Sundays so he could travel with the Fanny Dunkers to ski, hike or backpack the backcountry between Forbidden Plateau and Mount Washington, depending on the season. *Continued on page 10*

Chris Dennis: In Profile

When it comes to Mount Washington Alpine Resort, the Dennis family of Royston gets around. You name it, one of the Dennises has likely done it - from cashier to KidZone, liftie to retail, call centre operator to heavy-duty mechanic apprentice.

Adam, now 29, is in his third year of an apprenticeship for heavy duty mechanic at the Resort. Adam began working at Mount Washington as a parking lot attendant, then lift operator (liftie).

He has worked with the summer trail

crew and as a lift supervisor. He is enjoying his apprenticeship with the maintenance crew.

Erin, 27, worked in the General Store and was a summer lift operator. In 2010, the Olympic year, she worked at the central reservations call centre.

Nicole, 25, spent a season working as a cashier in KidZone when she was in Grade 10, but has since moved on.

At the centre of this family of alpine enthusiasts is mother Chris Dennis, the retail supervisor at Altitude Sports.

Continued on page 10

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Photo: Tony Radzinski, courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort

New Terrain and Packages for Beginner Mountain Bikers

Have you always wanted to give mountain biking a try at Mount Washington Alpine Resort, but thought the course or the bike park were too difficult?

With the opening of brand new beginners' terrain this summer, you can no longer use that as an excuse.

Mount Washington Alpine Resort has opened its new Green Line trail for novice mountain bikers. Trail work was completed last summer, and the trail has officially opened for the summer season. "We want to encourage more people to come up here and learn to mountain bike," Mountain Bike Manager Mike Manara said.

"It's a part of a trail network that we haven't necessarily had in the past. There were sections of the trail that people could take down the mountain... this is a dedicated, easy line to get people down

the mountain.

"It captures the market that thought the mountain was too challenging."

The Green Line goes from the top of the Hawk chairlift right to the bottom, swings to the west basin and drops between the Hawk and Reverse Traverse run. It's all machine made, with smooth corners and no jumps. "It's just a really fun line down the mountain," he said.

The new terrain has also opened up new programming and rental opportunities for mountain bike enthusiasts, he added. The Resort has added a Learn to Ride program that has an all-day lift pass, lesson and rental. There is also a family option available.

A new Ride On package allows first-time mountain bikers to enjoy the mountain at a discounted rate; one, two-hour lessons coupled with two-hour rentals, as well as two follow-up days.

Continued on page 27

NEW RESORT STAFF

Amanda Ridgway

Amanda Ridgway has completed her first full winter with Mount Washington Alpine Resort, and what a winter it was to be the Resort's Outdoor Events Co-ordinator.

"I moved to the Island because I wanted to keep riding my bike through the winter," she said.

Originally from Brisbane, Queensland, Ridgway makes no apologies for her warm-weather pursuits. "I'm very much a summer girl, being from Australia," she said.

"Like many Australians, I came for the winter and stay for the summer," she added.

Ridgway became a permanent resident of Canada a few years ago and is currently studying to take her citizenship test.

Ridgway now switches hats to full-time salesperson until the fall, when she will again throw herself into outdoor winter events.

Ridgway represents the Resort on Tourism BC's mountain bike marketing committee, which promotes B.C. as a world leader in mountain biking. "It's an amazing opportunity for me," she said.

In her spare time, Ridgway works as a mountain bike instructor with the Trek Dirt Series, which travels western Canada and the United States teaching women to ride mountain bikes.

She also continues to write a lifestyle column for a publication in Fernie.

Jeanette Kangas

Another new face at the Resort is Jeanette Kangas, the in-house graphic designer. Based in Courtenay, Kangas is a



Amanda Ridgway enjoying a ride through the Cumberlnad Forest Trail.

self-taught artist with a diploma in Professional Photography and Desktop Publishing.

When she is not creating graphic art, Kangas enjoys painting with acrylics, according to her personal website. (See below) www.winkabilities.com

Her inspirations come from the outdoors: anything alpine to ocean. "Now with my first season behind me in this position (Resort graphic artist), I felt it was really about discovery; getting to know and creating a feel for the mountain's image," Kangas said.

"With that said, I am still excited about the plethora of potential using visual means of building and establishing a playful and strong impression for the Resort."



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Photo: Tony Radomi, courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort

Mount Washington Special Events

While there are always activities going on at the Resort during the day - Mile High chairlift, mini-golf, Bungy-Trampoline, hiking - Mount Washington is known for its special events. And this year's lineup will not disappoint.

The annual **Beer Festival** will see some changes this year. "It's not just a beer fest anymore," Resort Director of Business Services Don Sharpe said. Enter **Suds and Scotch**, a new version of the festival that will include some fine scotch from various suppliers. The event takes place July 8 at Raven Lodge. Admission will still be \$25; festival goers can then purchase tickets to redeem for samples from the different vendors. The barbecue and live music will still take place. "It's something fun and different," Sharpe said. "We believe you have to add new elements to events to make them more exciting."

The **Alpine Food Festival** is also undergoing a facelift, and will be combined with the popular **Wine Festival** to create a

two-night event Friday, Aug. 26 and Saturday, Aug. 27. The **Wine and Food Festival** will see the traditional wine festival run on Friday, with a gala dinner Saturday combining the best of both worlds with a chef and a sommelier.

As far as sporting events go, Resort staff are excited that the **Bearclaw Invitational** slopestyle mountain bike race is back. "It's probably the single biggest event held on the mountain, summer or winter," Resort Director of Public Relations Brent Curtain said. "On a good weather day we can count on 5,000 people coming up to watch."

Darren Berrecloth staged the first Bearclaw in 2006, and more than 1,000 people came to watch. The crowds continued to grow, even with some bad weather in 2008.

The Bearclaw took a break for a few years, but the hype is growing. The event kicks off Aug. 4 with practice and the Lucky downhill and wraps up with the big event Aug. 6 from noon to 4 p.m., with a big air competition afterwards.

Continued on page 10



Photo: Tony Radomi

Winter Wrap Up

2010 / 2011

The snow started falling early at and didn't stop until it smashed many records.

And that translated into a successful winter season for the Resort, said Director of Public Relations Brent Curtain.

"The words La Nina, and last year being a very strong snow year helped to push Season's Pass sales and 6Pak sales," he said. The "snow" visits were in the Top 5 of the Resort's history, Curtain said.

Some of that was attributed to all the extra media coverage, and some of it was word of mouth, he said.

"We got front page of the Globe and Mail, we were on the national news with Peter Mansbridge. It did spread internationally, but a lot of the mainstream (media) covered us more than anything."

"National media attention would have been seen by 20 million eyes in Canada," he said. A national media tracking company estimated the exposure gave the Resort the advertising equivalent of \$700,000 just from Christmas alone.

And in a post-Olympic year, virtually none of that attention had to do with the successful 2010 Winter Olympics staged at Whistler and Vancouver.

The Resort saw the biggest continuous snowfall over the Christmas holiday, and their records were often lumped in with international coverage of people stuck at Kennedy International Airport in New York - also because of heavy snowfall, Curtain said.

A lot of people came up just to look at all the snow, he added. "On top of the holiday rush of people coming up here, we had people coming up just to see how much snow fell."

Although it was a big snow year, there were a lot of big powder days - not a lot of so-called "bluebird" days, or clear skies, that draw the fair-weather skiers and boarders.

"We saw moderate growth in night skiing, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing," Curtain said.

While they saw solid numbers in local visitors, the number of international visitors dropped off.



Photo: Neil Hawers

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Tourism



Tourism Mount Washington has spent the past year moving from strength to strength. And Manager Sarah Nicholson predicts the trend to continue in the foreseeable future.

"We always said it would be a five-year plan and we're just coming into our fourth year," she said. "I'd say we're on target."

The association saw 4.2 per cent growth in site visitors over last year, which is encouraging, she said. They are also looking at between 240 and 270 members signed up this year. "We can look forward to more growth in our membership, particularly due to people now seeing what we're doing."

"It just underlines the total support from the mountain's point of view as to our mandate and impact we're having on the mountain, that they recognize the benefit."

Tourism Mount Washington has re-established the Thanksgiving Owners' Barbecue, which last year raised funds for the volunteer ski patrol. They have also been actively involved in bringing CNN to the mountain to cover events such as the Soldier On Festival and the work the Adaptive Snow Sports Program does.

Vince Schullely featured Mount Washington in a BC Ride Guide article in an Australian magazine, and Tourism Mount Washington's accommodations were also featured on the Slopestyle

television series that ran on CHEK News over eight consecutive weeks.

Nicholson hosted five freelance journalists from New York, Oregon, Calgary and Vancouver in the Comox Valley as part of an Alpine to Surf media familiarization trip sponsored by Tourism Assn. of Vancouver Island

Tourism Mount Washington has also partnered with Comox Airport in a "fly-drive" package in Alberta. It's all about maximizing the Association's budget creatively, to give the Resort as much exposure as possible, she said.

Earlier this year Tourism Mount Washington saw the return of Ghana's "Snow Leopard", skier Kwame Nkrumah-Acheampong, to Mount Washington Alpine Resort in January, to talk about twinning the Resort with his own Senkwa Mamfe Alpine Ski Resort.

Kwame is building a sand-based ski resort in Sub-Saharan West Africa, which will simulate the same skill set that North American skiers hone on snowy slopes.

Nicholson was also invited to represent the Resort community during the launch of the Ghana Ski Slope Project in the African country. Nicholson brought with her a videotaped greeting from Resort President Peter Gibson as well as a gift from Chief Ernie Hardy from the Komoks First Nation to present to His Royal Highness The Paramount Chief of the Mamfe Traditional Area in Ghana.

For a minimum investment, it's a huge international networking opportunity," she said, and it brought an international media focus to Mount Washington "which we wouldn't have been able to get to keep Mount Washington at the forefront of major media houses."



PHOTO BY SUSAN QUINN

Mountain Sports Centre takes advantage of Tribune Bay Outdoor Centre Experience

The Vancouver Island Mountain Sport Society has hired Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre to operate the new Sport and Education Centre being built on Mount Washington.

"We have 3,000 kids who come through our centre every year. It was kind of a natural fit," said Gord Campbell, Administrator at Tribune Bay for the last 22 years.

The 8,000-square-foot facility will feature an athlete training centre, dorm-style accommodation and cooking facilities, meeting and video rooms, space for a sport science lab, equipment storage, training facilities and fitness equipment. The hope is that sports teams and other groups will use the facility for training, conferences and retreats.

Campbell will take care of administration for the Vancouver Island Mountain Sport

and Education Centre. He has been a director with VIMSS for nearly three years, and has experience in operating a mountain facility: he used to run the old Nordic lodge and cross-country ski operation.

A manager has also been hired, Andrew Scherck, to look after things when the building opens. There will be opportunity to bring in additional staff as need allows.

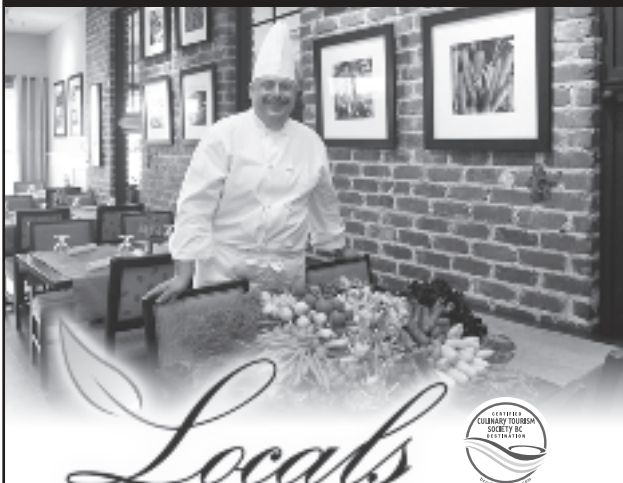
The other benefit of having Tribune Bay look after operation of the centre is it will allow the Hornby Island-based staff to move from seasonal to full-time jobs. Right now the outdoor education centre runs from April to October. Campbell hopes staff can move straight from Hornby to Mount Washington and pick up seamlessly.

"With our history of school groups we know it's a perfect opportunity to do educational programming up there," he said.

Continued on page 27

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Photo courtesy International Yeti Snowcave Research Council

Savvy Sasquatch Learn From Mentoring Marmots

A record snow year has meant the Mount Washington sasquatch is coming out of hibernation a little later this year..

And some interesting evidence of their existence has come to light as the snow melts. It looks as though the Sasquatch has adopted some of the Vancouver Island marmots' techniques for tunneling to their food sources.

One cryptozoologist, said she has received three calls from visitors to the Resort who came across snow caves - two of them with tunnels visible from the back. And claw or finger marks were found scraped into the hard-packed snow of two of the caves.

"These marks were too large to be made from human fingers and too blunt to have been made from marmots' teeth," she said in an e-mail to The Marmot Newspaper.

One tourist who flew into Victoria for his annual Christmas trip was rumoured to have incurred extra costs to shampoo his rental car after unearthing it in a big snowdrift.

The car was permeated with a gamey odour, and the man reportedly had to drive the entire way back to Victoria with all the car windows open.

Sources say some coarse brown hair snagged in the broken door lock proves that a sasquatch took refuge in his vehicle for at least a night or two. Those who helped the man dig out his car said there was a void in the snow beside the rear driver's side door that could not be explained - however, it looked as if someone dug out the door just enough to be able to open it and climb in.

Other sources that have traversed some of the more remote alpine runs since the Resort closed to skiing have said they saw tunnel entrances that came out at large trees, just big enough in diameter for a seven-foot hominid to hug and climb.

So when you're touring Mount Washington this summer as the snow melts, you need to ask yourself: was it really a tree well, or was it a sasquatch den?

Thanks to these Visitor InfoCentres for distributing The Marmot

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Saanich Peninsula	250-656-0525		www.spcoc.org

Freehold Proven Popular

Mount Washington Alpine Resort is preparing to offer a second phase of freehold ownership sometime in the fall of 2011.

This comes after an overwhelming response to the first offering, which closed Dec. 23, 2010. The Resort initiated freehold ownership proceedings last fall after coming to the realization it was necessary for ongoing growth and sustainability.

"Developers are far more inclined to build on freehold land than leasehold property," freehold sales consultant Anya Macleod said, "and future real estate offerings by Mount Washington Ski Resort will be on this basis."

The initial phase was to be offered to the first 100 property owners who signed up, or until the end of one year - whichever came first.

The 100 spots filled in four days, Macleod said, catching the Resort by surprise. "We had no way of gauging what sort of response we would get," she said.

Another 100 spots were opened for the initial offering, and things finally had to close on December 23, 2010.

After an expected amount of attrition, the Resort estimates 30 per cent of its property will be converted to freehold by the end of the summer, she said.

There are two reasons compelling people to switch to freehold ownership, she said.

The practical reason is the way financial institutions view freehold compared to leasehold: they are stricter about lending for sub-leased property, she explained. Leaseholds are viewed as depreciating assets and thus poor investments.

The second reason is more emotional: providing a solid family legacy through home ownership as opposed to leasing property. There is no guarantee the lease will be renewed.

Macleod said plans were still undecided as to how the second phase would be offered - although the popular choice is to keep it open for a certain period of time.

The Resort will also get information out earlier, so the offering will not happen in the middle of the Christmas holiday season this time, she added.

Proceeds from the freehold conversion will be directly invested in ongoing improvements of Resort infrastructure, Macleod said.

"It's part of the Resort's long-term commitment to remaining competitive and economically sustainable in the years to come."



Photo: Neil Havers

Winter Snowfall Buries Records

If "La Nina" were the words of wisdom to follow as Mount Washington Alpine Resort entered the 2010-2011 winter season, "snow" was the ultimate understatement.

The Resort had a record-breaking snow year, with a total accumulation of more than 1,840 centimetres, which surpassed the previous record of 1,835 cm in the 1998-99 season.

They had the deepest start in Resort history, with a mid-mountain base of 480 centimetres in December.

The old record fell in April when a significant weather system dumped more than 40 centimetres of new snow on the slopes. That gave the mountain a 500 cm mid-mountain base.

"The snow started early. It came at its heaviest in December," Resort Director of Public Relations Brent Curtain said.

Snow removal crews were well prepared for a record snow season - but not for the deluge they received over Christmas. From Dec. 20-29, nearly four metres of snow fell. At its peak the snow fell at a rate of 1.5 metres in 12 hours (from 8 p.m. Dec. 23 to 9 a.m. Dec. 24).

"As a result the alpine village and Resort were essentially buried," Curtain said. No one could have been prepared for such big numbers.

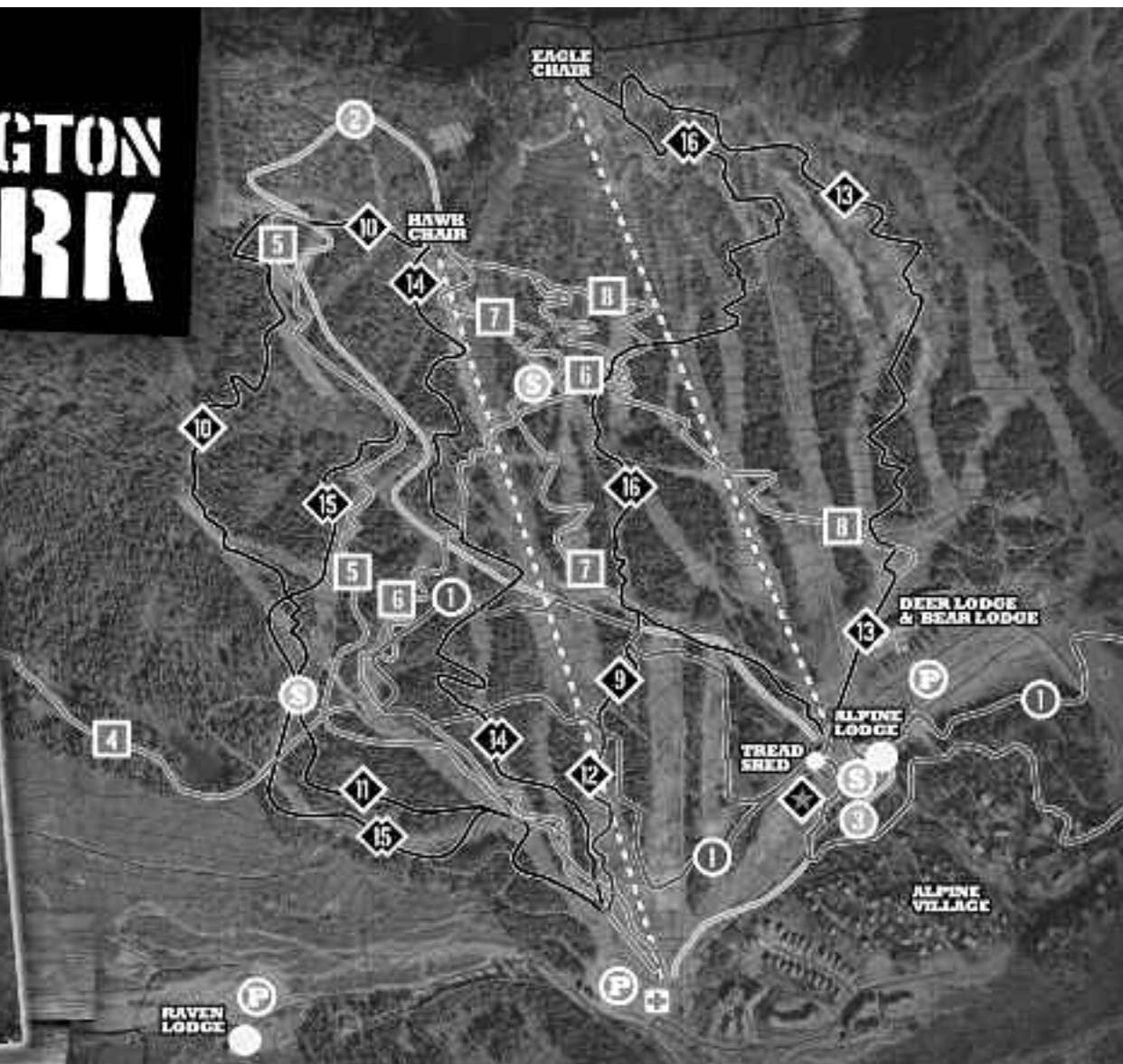
"There were some challenges a couple of days before Christmas when we had three metres in four days.

"It was certainly a full-time job for our snow removal crew but I think they did a great job."

Crews had to lease more equipment to help them deal with the snow: an articulating dump truck and another loader. They were used to truck the snow off the mountain.

Continued on page 27

MOUNT WASHINGTON BIKE★PARK



Mount Washington Ski Clubs Shine in 2011

The alpine sports clubs based at Mount Washington Alpine Resort had great winter seasons and are looking forward to busy off-season activities.

The Alpine Ski Club hosted three successful races on Mount Washington: an under-16 event in January, a Nancy Greene Race in February and K1 (11-12) Provincials in March.

"The Club loves hosting events at home and inviting the Province to see our amazing Resort," Head Coach John Trimmer said. "It's also nice to have the home field advantage."

The Club really made the most of its home field advantage, especially in the K1 Provincials, where young racers like Logan Frame, Kole Harle and Maja Nyman of Campbell River, Keegan McCooney of Courtenay, Liam Gilchrist of Nanaimo and Robbie Yelland of Victoria pulled in an impressive haul of medals and Top 10 finishes.

"We would like to extend a huge thank you to Mount Washington Resort and all the groomers, lefties, patrol, and of course mountain managers for all their help with our events and day-to-day operations,"

Trimmer said.

Mathieu Leduc of Comox and Chelsea Adam of Nanaimo both stood on the podium at Federation International Ski (FIS) events this season - tough events to excel at, as athletes are competing against BC, Alberta and the United States. Leduc won the Apex Downhill and placed second in the Apex Super G, and was considering an opportunity to train with the national Ski Cross team over the summer.

The VI Riders stomped the podium at some of their home events this year.

Doug Liseth dominated the Boarder Cross event in March in the 14- to 17-year-old age category, with teammates Ryan Wallace-Terry and Zach Allen in second and third, respectively.

Joseph Bergvinson finished second in the 13 and under category, while the VI girls claimed the podium in the 12 to 17 category with Lauren McColl, Isabella Beharrell and

Aiva Noringseth finishing first, second and third, respectively.

The Big Air competition also saw a sea of the club's distinctive green hoodies on the podium. Kyle Smith, Matt Shaw and Ryan Wallace-Terry finished first, second and third and VI girls Sydney Bey and Sydney Moore finished first and second in the competitive 14- to 17-year-old category. Joseph Bergvinson finished first in the 13 and under category.

"We are super impressed with the level of riding and skills that the athletes are demonstrating this year," team spokesperson Kelsa Donald said.

"They are focused, training hard and making incredible progress this year. It has been great to see the Club gel together, and with the support of coaches, parents and athletes we are having a banner year."

The Freestyle Club will hold a mogul camp in July at Whistler/Blackcomb, where BC Freestyle maintains a mogul lane on

Horseman Glacier. Summer training provides training in conditions that allow for accelerated skill development, according to the BC Freestyle website.

The Club will also have a water ramp camp at the Blackcomb Water Ramp Facility in August. The camp helps athletes perfect their jumping skills and work on fundamental air skills in a safe environment.

Athletes must qualify any inverted manoeuvre at the water ramp before it can be qualified on snow and used in competition.

Peter Stubbs had an unbelievable season with the Mount Washington Freestyle Club last winter. He has been selected to join the BC freestyle high performance mogul team for the 2011-2012 season.

Stubbs just finished his fourth year competing in freestyle skiing while training with the Freestyle Club's competitive team.

Stubbs, 16, started his first 10-day training camp with the BC High Performance team in May. He will progress with a glacier mogul training camp in July and a water ramp camp in August at Whistler/Blackcomb, then an early ski season on-snow camp in November at Apex Mountain Resort in Penticton.

Continued on page 28



VI Riders' team member Kyle Smith makes a grab during the Big Air Competition at Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

CHILL OUT UP HERE THIS SUMMER

YOUR Island Mountain!

SOAR ABOVE THE MOUNTAIN with chairlift ride! Boarding the high-speed Eagle Express chairlift is easy because it automatically slows down at the loading areas. The ride lasts for 15 minutes, allowing you plenty of time to take in the awe-inspiring views of the Pacific Ocean, Coast Mountains and Vancouver Island! Once at the top you can choose to ride the chair back down or follow one of the hiking trails back to the lodge.

VIEW POINT
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HIKING LEGEND

- 1 **MEMORY LANE** - 0.7 km - This short trail has a series of benches to honour the lives of staff, family and friends.
- 2 **TOP OF THE WORLD** - 1.0 km - Enjoy this spectacular sea to sky panorama from the peak of the mountain. This trail is a "must do!"
- 3 **LINTON'S TRAIL** - 2.1 km - Following the famous sootie, Linton's Trail provides great awe-inspiring views of Strathcona Park and Mt. Albert Edwards.
- 4 **SEAVIEW** - 1.3 km - What was once a bike trail has now become one of the more formidable hikes on the mountain.
- 5 **GIVER** - 1.1 km - It's steep up and steep down, the most challenging way to get to the peak!
- 6 **WEST SUMMIT RIDGE** - 4.3 km - This trail winds through West Basin and then peaks at little Mount Washington before descending through alpine meadows.

ALPINE STATS

Summit Elevation:
1588m (5215 feet)

Vertical Rise:
505m (1657 feet)

Summer Lifts:
Eagle Express, Hawk 6IX Pak (mountain bikers only)

Tread Shed:
Mountain Bikes and Gear Rentals, Sales, Parts and Bike Service

Alpine Lodge:
Fat Teddy's Grill, Altitude Sport and Gift and General Store

Raven Lodge:
Strathcona Provincial Park Trailhead

Mountain Bike Responsibility Code

Mountain biking involves the risk of injury. Common sense and caution can reduce the risk. For your safety and the safety of others, please adhere to this code.

- 1 Ride in control and within your ability level.
You must be able to avoid other people or objects.
- 2 Stay off the lifts and trails and out of the Bike Park if your ability is impaired by drugs, alcohol or fatigue.
- 3 Wear a helmet. It is mandatory. Other protective equipment is strongly recommended.
- 4 Inspect your bike or have it checked by a qualified bike mechanic before you ride.
- 5 Be sure you have the physical dexterity, ability and knowledge to safely load, ride and unload lifts. Ask the Lift Attendant for assistance if you need it.
- 6 Be aware of changing conditions on trails and features. Inspect features before use and throughout the day.
- 7 Stay on marked trails. Ride only in the direction indicated by trail markers. Obey all signs and warnings. Do not cut switchbacks. Keep off closed areas.
- 8 Avoid riders ahead of you. They have the right of way.
- 9 Look uphill and yield to other riders when entering a trail or starting downhill.
- 10 Do not stop where you obstruct a trail or are not visible from above.
- 11 If you are involved in or witness a collision or accident, you must identify yourself to the Bike Patrol or a staff member.
- 12 Do not feed, provoke or approach wildlife.

Know the Code • Be Safety Conscious • It is Your Responsibility
Park privileges will be removed for breach of code.



ALPINE STATS

Summit Elevation:
1588m (5215 feet)

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Summer Lifts:
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Alpine Lodge:
Fat Teddy's Grill, Altitude Sport and Gift and General Store

Raven Lodge:
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www.getwest.ca



Tower One safely dismantled, waiting for pickup.

Photo: George Trousdell

Bye Bye Green Chair

continued from page 1

They will be staggered, but generally run up the middle of the run, creating a number of teaching pods.

"The key here is we want to develop this whole concept of snow play. The idea is to get people to come up and play in the snow, and find out it's not intimidating," Gibson said.

The Green Zone plan has been in discussions for a couple of years, he said. "We've always known at some point we would have to upgrade the beginner experience. Now the time has come."

The new Magic Carpets won't affect overall lift operations, Resort Director of

Maintenance and Operations George Trousdell said.

"It will be almost the same. The chair takes a few more people to operate and the carpets take a few less. But because there are so many, it works out the same. "It will definitely improve the beginner experience," Trousdell said. "That old double chair is old technology and a bit of a white-knuckle ride for beginners."

The four carpets, said Gibson, will run at 80 per cent of the speed the old Green Chair did, but because they will run constantly they will be more efficient. The chairlift used to stop and start all the time, and on busy days it took a long time to get to the top of the Green Face.



Photo by Susan Quinn

Scott Paints for VIMSEC

continued from page 3

Now, he is a cross-country skier who enjoys hitting the trails near Raven Lodge. Scott said he also appreciates the business that comes his way from people who visit the Resort and buy his artwork.

Scott spent the past six months creating 40 oil paintings of various scenes from his skiing childhood. The first painting in the book depicts Mount Becher Lodge, which holds warm childhood memories for

many people who skied the area before Mount Washington Alpine Resort was built in 1978-79.

People would hike up to the lodge near the summit of Mt. Becher in the southeast corner of Strathcona Provincial Park, wearing skis covered with skins for traction then remove the skins to ski. They would stay at the lodge.

The lodge is gone now, and Scott had to make a trip to the historical archives at the Courtenay and District Museum for photos. "But I still remember it from when I was a kid."

Other paintings in his series include a scene from the trail on the way to Mount Albert Edward; the old Forbidden Plateau Lodge, which burned down a decade ago; the new VIMSEC; Moat Lake in Strathcona Provincial Park; and the old forest service cabins, which have since been torn down.

Scott hopes to raise \$50,000 for VIMSEC over the next few years, and said if the first 1,000 prints and 1,000 books sell out, he will consider printing another 1,000 of each.

Several of the original paintings have already been sold, he said. Scott's prints and art books will be available at Mount Washington Alpine Resort once the lodge is dedicated, hopefully sometime in September, he said.

Scott is also looking for more locations willing to carry his prints and art books with the understanding that they are supposed to raise funds for the Mountain Sport and Education Centre.

Chris Dennis

continued from page 3

When the family moved to the Comox Valley from southern Alberta 17 years ago, Dennis helped her sister make wedding dresses. She owned a coffee shop in Fanny Bay for a few years, then worked at Bryan's clothing store in Driftwood Mall before that store fell victim to the recession.

Her friend, Koya Hansen, was already working at the Resort in 2001 when Dennis joined her at the KidZone. When a maternity leave replacement job opened in the store, Dennis applied and was hired. When the woman returned a year later, the Resort kept Dennis on staff "and the rest is kind of history."

She loves working with all the young people who are employed at the Resort during the winter and summer seasons.

"I get to meet so many amazing young people," she says. "There are a few that stand out through the years, and they come back" to visit.



Chris Dennis, organizes a section of summer clothing in advance of Altitude Sports opening.

Photo by Susan Quinn

One young man worked for her for a couple of years, then returned to the Resort to get married. Another young couple, now working on building projects in Cuba, checks in with her every once in awhile too.

The real beauty of her job, says Dennis, is she has three distinct roles: a summer job, operating a gift shop (Altitude's summer

face) and selling lift tickets to families; an autumn job, receiving stock and merchandising; and a winter job "selling all the stuff we received," she says.

"I love the change," she says. "There are not too many jobs you can have where you can have three different changes. And they're complete changes," she says.

Dennis is always ahead of everyone else by at least one season. Every second year she goes to Denver, Colo. for a rep clothing show; she goes to a B.C. rep show in Vancouver on the other years.

"I'm making appointments now to go see the summer line (for 2012)," she says. When she's not working up the mountain, Dennis loves to garden at the home she shares with her sister and brother-in-law in Royston. She has recently taken up quilting, too, and likes to spend time with Toby, a young West Highland terrier.

And, true to form, Dennis is already looking ahead - to the birth of her first grandchild in September, to daughter Erin, now living in Cold Lake, Alta. And she already knows what colours to buy.

Mount Washington Special Events

continued from page 5

The mountain bike community will also be stoked at a few more events, including the **BC Cup Provincials** Aug. 13-14. Last year this event drew 250 downhill and 75 cross-country riders - the best in B.C. They'll compete on the Monster Mile, a course that's guaranteed to be gnarly, technical and steep.

See Jane Jump, a women's mountain bike festival, is scheduled for Aug. 20-21, wrapping up three premier weekends of mountain biking.

The Resort will be open daily until Labour Day, when the chairlift will operate on weekends only until the third week in September.





BC Parks Strathcona Provincial Park

Forbidden Plateau & Paradise Meadows



Strathcona Park Wilderness Centre

Photo: Krista Kaptein

The Strathcona Park Wilderness Centre at the Paradise Meadows trailhead has a Coordinator on site every weekend during the summer. Information on trail conditions and hiking destinations is available to park visitors. The Centre is open 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays, and holiday Mondays, from the beginning of July to mid-September. Volunteers also staff the Centre on occasional weekdays.

SPWC Rental Space The Centre is available for day rentals. The lower level is ideal for presentations, workshops, or school groups, with meeting space for up to 30 people, a small kitchen, and accessible washroom. Reduced rates are offered for non-profit groups or schools – check the SWI website for info www.strathconapark.org

The Centennial Trail into Paradise Meadows from the Wilderness Centre parking area is completely wheelchair accessible. With gentle grades, this 2 km. trail is also suitable for seniors and families with strollers. The trail connects into the extensive trail system leading to Battleship Lake, Lake Helen Mackenzie, and beyond.

2011 MAP & TRAIL GUIDE

Strathcona Wilderness Institute offers Weekend Programs & Hikes

See page 22 for details, To help with the Institute's operational costs, a donation of \$5 to \$10 is suggested for the programs.

Want to enjoy the mountain flowers and plants at your own pace? Strathcona Wilderness Institute has placed native plant markers at numerous locations along the Centennial boardwalk. Or, visit the Wilderness Centre for a brochure to help you on your self-guided plant identification walk.

Strathcona Wilderness Institute is continuing the weekend information service at Buttle Lake in Strathcona Provincial Park. See page 13 for details.

Volunteers are always welcome to help at either the Wilderness Centre or the Information Hut. A good knowledge of Strathcona Park and its trails is essential.

The Strathcona Park Wilderness Centre at Paradise Meadows fulfills the vision of Strathcona Wilderness Institute: to create, with community partners, a Centre for programs and information on Strathcona Park. Assistance and donations, whether financial or in-kind, are always welcome, to help with the ongoing operations and programs of Strathcona Wilderness Institute.



Photo: Krista Kaptein

If you would like to help support the goals of SWI in any way, please visit the website at www.strathconapark.org.

Or contact the SPWC 2011 Summer Coordinator, Krista at 250-650-4304 or coordinator@strathconapark.org

BC Parks Map & Trail Guide courtesy of Rick Gibson

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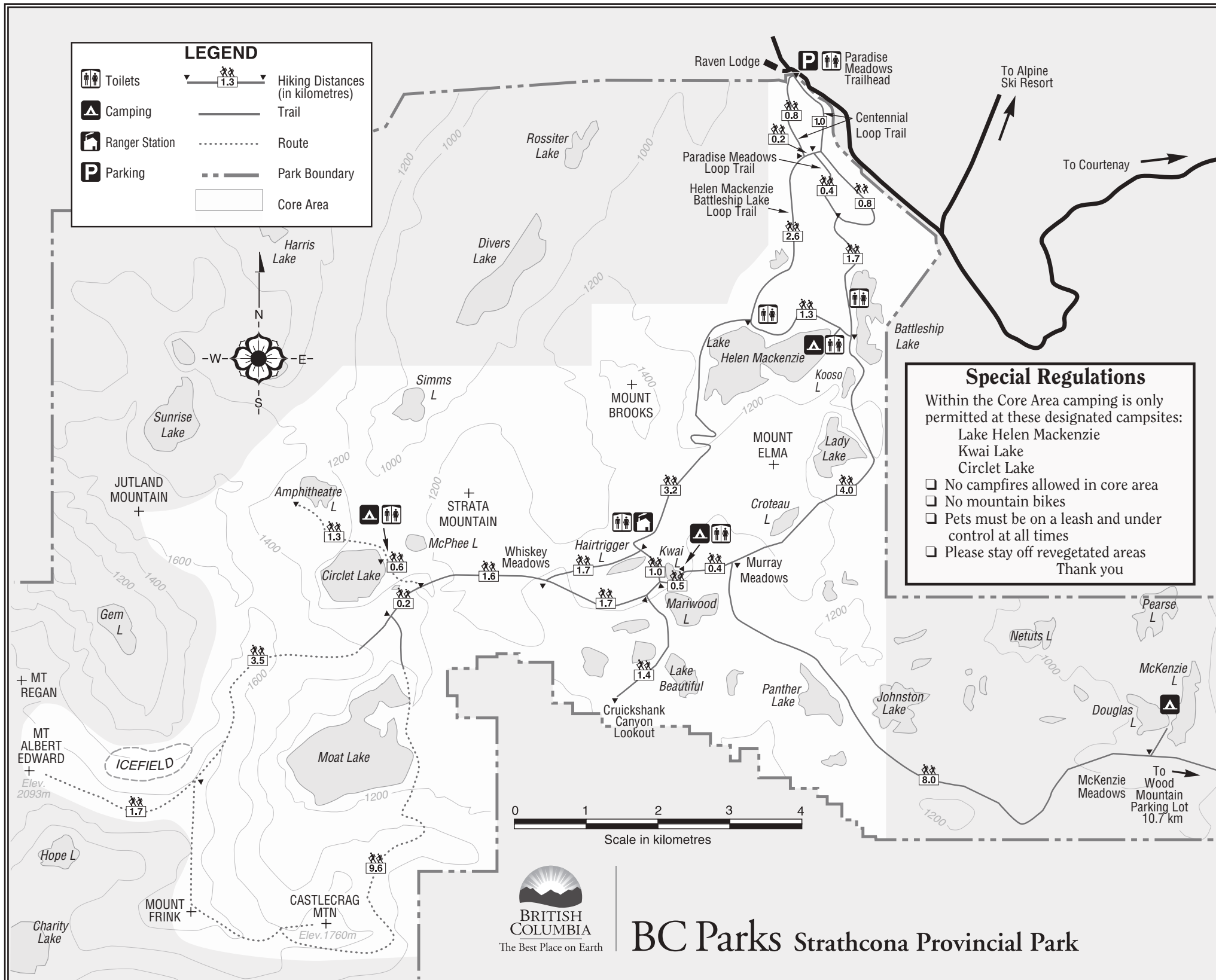
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Forbidden Plateau Paradise Meadows

In Case of Emergency...

- Contact Park Facility Operator in the area. Location of Park Facility Operators may 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 Park Facility Operators or go online to www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/strath

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 Circler Lake

Mt. Albert Edward 2093m
 Elevation gain: 935m • Distance: 6.5 km
 Suggested time to summit: 5 hours
 Follow signs towards Albert Edward from Circler 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 1760m

Elevation gain: 620m • 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 Mountain. 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 Auger-point Trail. This trail descends steeply for 1400 m before arriving on the 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, Circler 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.

Cache your food! BC Parks has installed new metal food caches at Lake Helen Mackenzie, Kwai Lake and Circler Lake campsites.



Hike along boardwalk along side high alpine wetlands and lakes with Mount Washington ever present in the background. Be sure to wear suitable footwear and bring your own water along.

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 camp-

grounds. 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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Opportunities continue to grow each season with Adaptive Snowsports on Mount Washington

The Vancouver Island Society for Adaptive Snowsports (VISAS) wrapped up its 23rd season, providing snowsport instruction to those with physical and mental disabilities. Apart from the incredible amount of snowfall on Mount Washington this winter, our major highlights included the annual Learn to Ski Festival held in early January. A record number of new students signed up for this year's five day event - for a total number of 37 students and 61 instructors. Students came from all over the island and the mainland to share in a mountain experience, and learn to alpine or nordic ski, and snowboard. No matter the physical or mental challenges they had, everyone was able to participate at their level of ability. Another highlight was the 4th annual Veteran's Festival.

Seventeen wounded, injured and ill veterans from the Canadian and Australian armed forces skied, boarded, and conquered the slopes at Mount Washington during the week-long event. "I had an amazing time. And the capabilities of your program amaze me!" said CF veteran Jen Suitor. "Last week was the experience of a lifetime."

The second Sunday in February is the Herb Bradley Coca-Cola Classic (HBCCC), VISAS's annual fundraiser. Teams of four head down a slalom course to race against their own guestimated time. It's a day filled with fun activities thanks to the strong support of team participation, our sponsors and the community. The 23rd HBCC raised over \$14,000 to go towards new adaptive equipment and VISAS's instructional program.

From December to the beginning of April - seven days a week, over 417 students were involved the instructional adaptive snowsports program. And thanks to the commitment of Peter Gibson and his team at Mount Washington, along with our 80 volunteer instructors, makes VISAS one of the most acclaimed adaptive programs in North America.

To find out how to get involved visit: www.visasweb.ca and join us online at our VISAS Facebook and Flickr pages.



The VISAS program has grown in the last 16 years to a strong and dedicated team of over 75 volunteers/instructors, and through the generous support from Peter Gibson, General Manager and his team at Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

Buttle Lake

BC Parks Strathcona Provincial Park



Spectacular Buttle Lake with Mount Myra showing in the background.

Strathcona Provincial Park Buttle Lake 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 Provincial Park, and one of our largest.

Maps, trail updates, visitor service details and more! Available every weekend from June 17 to September 18, 2011.

Visit us at the Park Information Hut:
300 m. south of Highway 28 at the Buttle Lake bridge turn-off to Gold River, at the Park Headquarters. Watch for the signs!

HOURS OF OPERATION
June 17 to September 18, 2011

Fri: 3pm ~ 8pm **Sat:** 10am ~ 6pm
Sun: 10am ~ 5pm **Mon:** 10am ~ 4pm
(holidays only)

*In poor weather, or if there are few visitors,
the closing times may be earlier.*

Hours of operation will be posted at:

- All campgrounds • At the 'Elk Portal'
- Trail head information kiosks
- Various locations in Gold River
- Some Island Visitor Centres
- SWI website at www.strathconapark.org

Gerry Roberts ~ Volunteer Operator

2011 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.

Please Note: All tributaries to Buttle Lake are closed to angling.

There are interesting trails to explore from less strenuous and 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.env.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 the website at www.discovercamping.ca.

*To book Driftwood Bay Group
Campground call 250-474-1336
or fax 250-478-0376.*

BC Parks Map & Trail Guide courtesy of Rick Gibson

Ph: 250-334-3124 (24 hours)
Direct: 250-338-1723



Photo: Krista Kaptein



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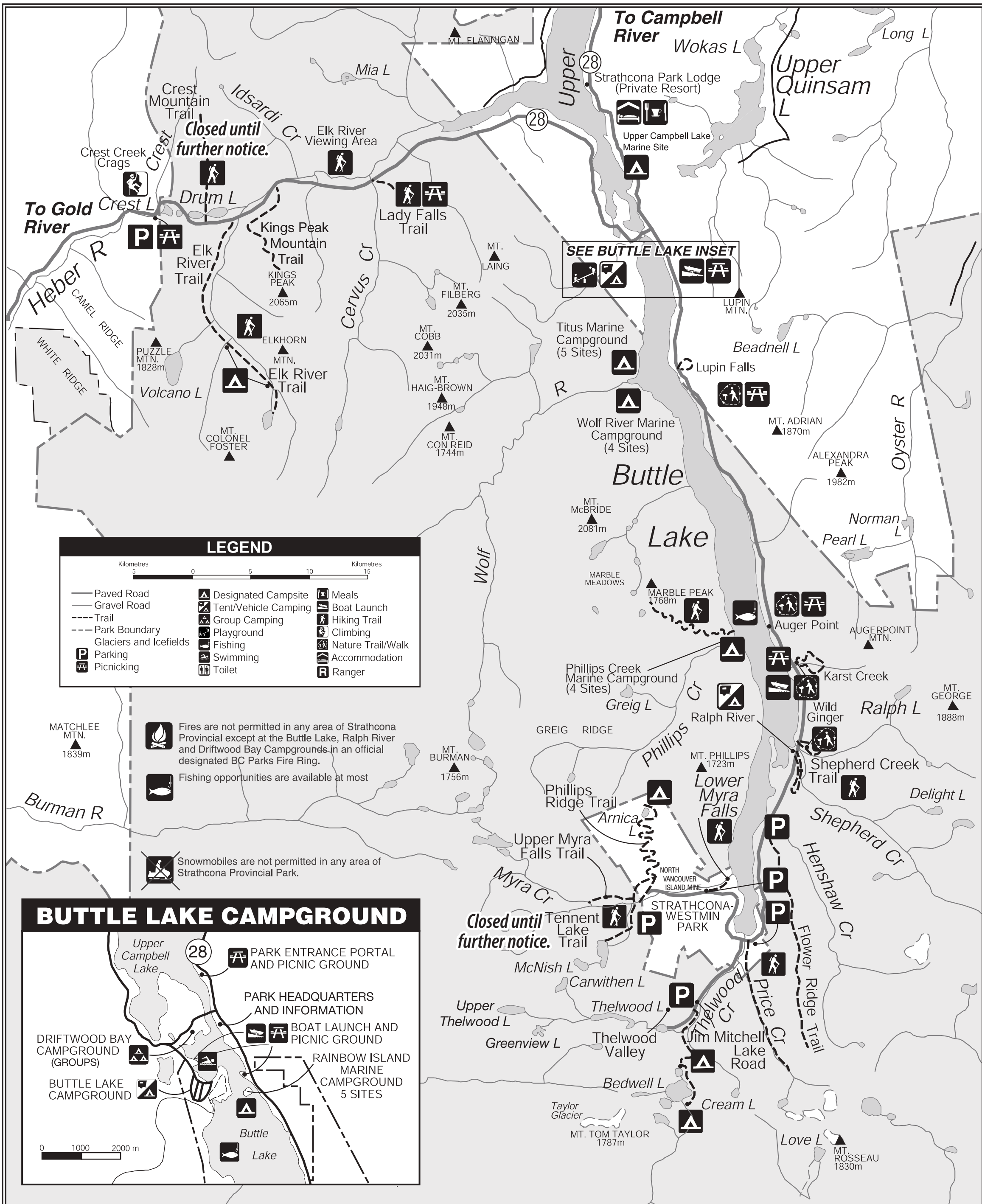
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BUTTLE LAKE CORRIDOR

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.

BC Parks Strathcona Provincial Park





Accommodations & Events

July 1 • Thrifty Foods Family Fun Day

Head up the mountain to celebrate Canada Day with some fun games for the kids!

July 1 • Clean Out the Shed Sale

Tread Shed and Altitude offer great savings on everything left in stock.

July 3 • Passholders BBQ

Time to get together and share tall tales of the winter that was and enjoy the BBQ!



July 8 • Suds & Scotch Festival If you like beer or Scotch - Mount Washington Suds & Scotch Festival is the place for you! Suds & Scotch is a tasting experience offering guests a chance to sample spirits and interact with experts to learn more about the beverages they offer. Entertainment will be provided by the Tina Jones Band.

July 16 • Dreaming of Vancouver Island

(10:30 am) Join us for Bedtime Stories, this presentation is happening at the outdoor amphitheatre at the Paradise Meadows trailhead.

July 16-17 • Roots Rocky

Reggae The Rocky Mountain team brings pro riders and the latest bike to demo. Get free swag and high fives from the best riders on the planet!

July 17 • Island Series

Jump Camp #1 Ride our dirt jump park and throw down for fame and glory....or at least for bragging rights! Continues Aug. 28 & Sept. 4.



July 18-22 • Learn To Ride Week Discounted packages available throughout the week.

July 23 • Gut Buster Sprint to the Summit

Ascent Test your mettle, and reach a goal, by running up our challenging Give'r Trail, straight to the summit of Mount Washington!



Aug 4 • Lucky Thursdays DH Race Series

Calling all locals!! This is the ultimate fun DH race series sponsored by Island favourites Lucky Lager and Dodge City Cycles. For \$5 you get your race registration, a very Lucky beverage, and some great door prizes, for our awesome sponsors! Continues Aug. 11, 18 & 25.

Aug 5-6 • Bearclaw Invitational

This event will attract the best freeriders in the world. The newly built Bearclaw Invitational course (in the Bike Park) will be permanent.

Aug 13-14 • BC Cup Provincial

Finals The BC Cup invites the province's best DH and XC racers to Mount Washington.

Aug 20 & 21 • See Jane Jump

Darcy Turenne hosts North America's premier Women's Mountain Bike Festival on her home turf!



Bearclaw Invitational

Aug 26-27 • Wine & Food Festival

Sample a wide selection of wines, ciders and gourmet food from Vancouver Island and beyond. Tasty food samples, live music, and stunning views will be available for all in attendance to enjoy.

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PLEASE NOTE: The above info is current as of June 15/11. These privately owned chalets and condominiums are rented out by their owners and have their own features and contacts as listed above.

Advertise in The Marmot FOR ADVERTISING SALES IN THE ACCOMMODATION GUIDE OR THE MARMOT Please contact WENDY WOODLEY 250-897-3678 or wendy@themarmot.ca

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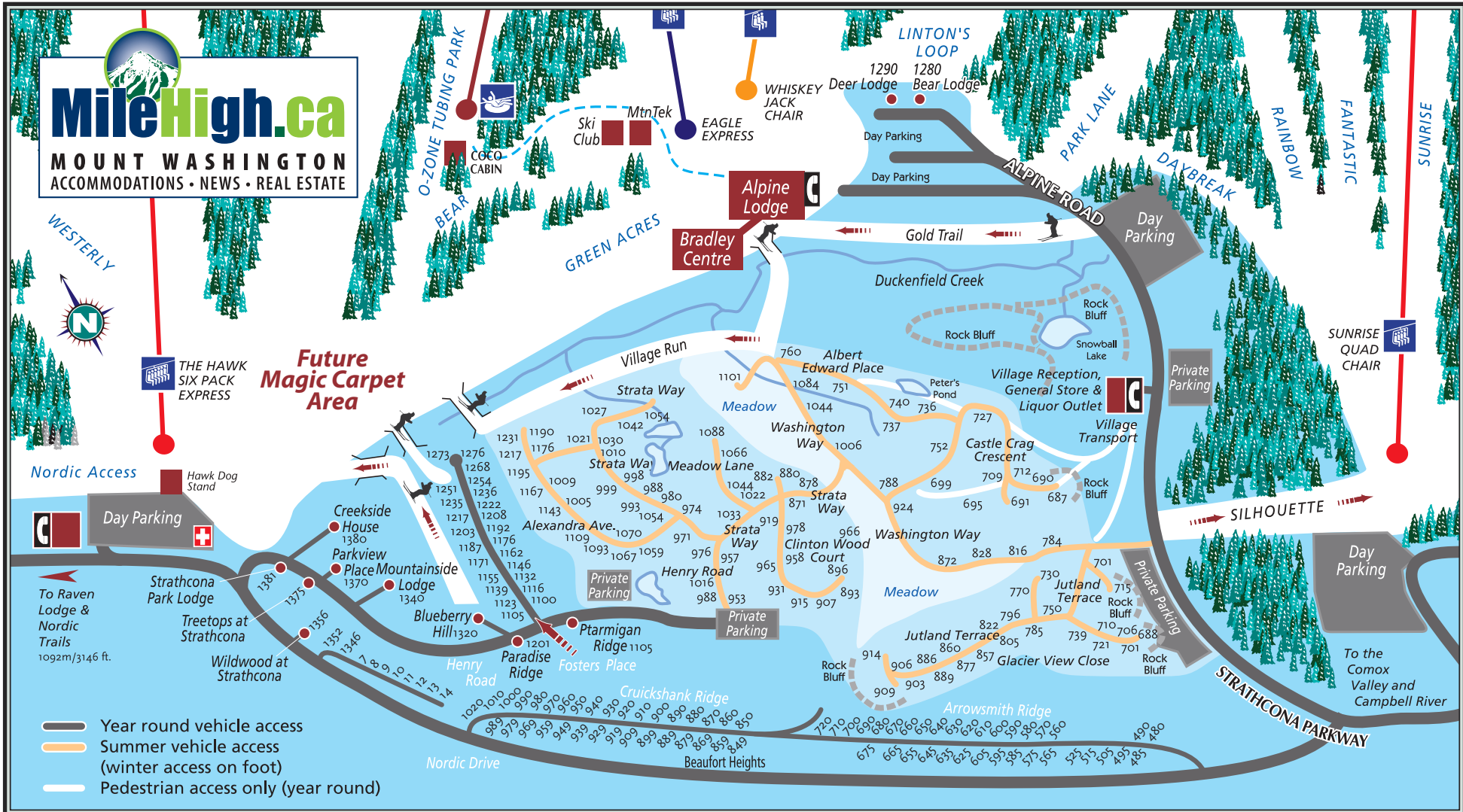
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BUTTLE LAKE CORRIDOR TRAIL AND CAMPGROUND INFORMATION

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. Fires are not permitted in Strathcona Park except in an authorized BC Parks steel fire ring. 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. Use caution on trails and be aware of snow, fallen trees and other natural hazards.

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 250-650-4304 (e-mail: info@strathconapark.org). 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 June 17 through to September 18, 2011.

The **FRIENDS OF STRATHCONA** is a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect, preserve and promote Strathcona Provincial Park. friendsofstrathcona@gmail.com
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

Trail conditions: www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/strath/



Buttle Lake

Photo: Neil Havers

ELK RIVER TRAIL (2-3)

Length: 11 km. Suggested time: **12 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)

Closed until further notice

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 North Vancouver Island mine. Observe old growth forest, a waterfall, and alpine meadows. Designated camping area.

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 1 ~ 1 1/2 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. Use caution due to winter storm damage.

TENNENT LAKE (3)

Closed until further notice

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 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 out cropping and a sub-alpine environment with excellent hiking and views. Camp in designated areas at Baby Bedwell and Bedwell Lakes. Be aware of bears. Due to storm damage two wheel drive access is difficult and motor homes are not recommended.

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.



Indian Pipe near Buttle Lake

Photo: Krisia Kaptein

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 1.3 km. It is no longer a loop walk due to the bridge being out. 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. Trail not maintained and may prove difficult for inexperienced hikers. Trail-head 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 May 15 to September 30th.
- Picnic tables, fire rings, water pumps and pit toilets.
- Fee: \$16.00 per party per night, \$8.00 for extra vehicles.
- B.C Senior Citizens \$8.00 per couple per night (shoulder season only).
- Firewood for sale by the PFO.
- 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 May 15 to September 30th.
- Picnic tables, fire rings, water pumps and pit toilets.
- Fee: \$16.00 per party/night. \$8.00 for extra vehicles.
- B.C Senior Citizens \$8.00 per couple per night (shoulder season only).
- Firewood for sale by the PFO.
- 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

CREST LAKE PICNIC AREA

- Shaded picnic area, day use only.
- Picnic tables and pit toilet, close to the lake.
- Access left off Highway 28 heading West.
- Short distance from Crest Mountain Trailhead.

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: \$16.00 per party per night. \$8.00 for extra vehicles.
- Firewood for sale by the PFO.
- Fee for non profit youth and school groups \$50.00 per night.
- Tel. 250-474-1336 to book the campground.

BACKCOUNTRY & MARINE CAMPING FEE

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



The Marmot
MILE HIGH NEWS ON MOUNT WASHINGTON

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

If you are looking for more information, wish to advertise, or want to submit information in future issues please refer to these contacts:

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 Printed in Canada

To read past issues of The Marmot go to
www.milehigh.ca



Strathcona Wilderness Institute at Paradise Meadows



Photo: Krista Kaptein

Discover the many natural features of Strathcona Park!

Join us on weekends through the summer, for a series of programs presented by the Strathcona Wilderness Institute, a non-profit charity.

Special Note for persons with mobility issues:

Paradise Meadows Centennial Loop Trail is wheelchair accessible!

To assist SWI with operational costs, donations for all programs are greatly appreciated (\$5 to \$10 is suggested).

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Nature Walks & Talks | Two to three hour nature walks & talks on nature themes. |
| Level 1 Hikes | Two to four hour guided hikes for all ages. |
| Level 2 Hikes | Five to seven hour guided hikes for intermediate hikers. |
| Level 3 Hikes | Eight to ten hour guided hikes for fit hikers. |
| Centennial Events | Special guest presentations for Strathcona Park's 100th year. |

No pets please on all nature walks and hikes, unless otherwise noted.

All programs start at the Strathcona Park Wilderness Centre at Paradise Meadows.

The Centre is located at the BC Parks parking lot at the Paradise Meadows trailhead, next to Mount Washington's Raven Lodge. To get there: follow Inland Island Highway heading north from Courtenay or south from Campbell River; take Exit 130: Strathcona Parkway. Follow the paved road and signs to Raven Lodge where you'll find ample parking. Remember to dress for the weather and wear proper footwear. Bring water, snack or lunch, sunscreen, and bug spray. If you are setting out on your own expedition, visit the Strathcona Park Wilderness Centre for trail information or to obtain maps or books.

The Wilderness Centre will be open from July 1 to September 11

(9 am - 4 pm Saturdays, Sundays, holiday Mondays, and many weekdays) Dates may be extended depending on volunteers. Check the blog strathconapark.blogspot.com for the most up-to-date information.



Photo: Krista Kaptein

2011 Programs

Please remember to prepare for all weather conditions and to tread lightly in the park.

Monday July 4, 1 pm: Centennial Event Ecological Reserve Warden Day: Presentation on Comox Lake Bluffs Ecological Reserve with volunteer warden & botanist Helen Robinson. Pre-register: coordinator@strathconapark.org or 250-650-4304

Sunday July 10, 1 pm: Nature Walk; Spring Flora & Fauna Early plants & birds of Paradise Meadows with expert naturalist Betty Brooks.

Saturday July 16, 10:30 am: Centennial Event Parks Day; Seeds & Salt Theatre Company Entertaining historical theatre for all ages. Cake and refreshments at noon, community displays all day.

3 pm: Mice, Marmots & Mammoths Strathcona Park Mammals by Dave Nagorsen of Mammalia Biological Consulting. Pre-register: coordinator@strathconapark.org or 250-650-4304

Sunday July 17, 1 pm: Centennial Event Alpine Ecology & the VI White-tailed Ptarmigan: by Kathy Martin of the Centre for Applied Alpine Studies at UBC. Pre-register: coordinator@strathconapark.org or 250-650-4304

Sunday July 24, 1 pm: Nature Walk; Ethnobotany Interesting and useful plants of Paradise Meadows with local ethnobotanist Gwyn Sproule.

Saturday July 30, 10 am: (Level 1 Hike) Lake Helen Mackenzie 4 hour hike with Mandy Vaughan of the Comox Valley Naturalists Society. Dogs on leash OK.

Sunday July 31, 1pm: Centennial Event Plants & Fungi with a Fun-Guy by Andy MacKinnon, Research Ecologist & co-author, "Plants of Coastal BC". Pre-register: coordinator@strathconapark.org or 250-650-4304

Monday August 1, 10 am: (Level 1 Hike) Battleship Lake 3 hour hike with Kate Pierce of the Comox District Mountaineering Club.

Saturday August 6, 9 am: (Level 2 Hike) Mt. Elma 7 hour hike with Heather and Rolf Kellerhals of the Comox Valley Naturalists Society. Moderately strenuous, some off-trail bushwhacking. Pre-register: coordinator@strathconapark.org or 250-650-4304



Photo: Krista Kaptein

Sunday August 7, 9 am: Nature Walk; Insects Identify and explore sub-alpine ecology with naturalist Tyler Johns.

Sunday August 7, 1 pm: Nature Talk & Walk "The Four Storey Forest" Explore the working of an individual tree and the collective energy of the forest with forester and author Harold Macy.

Saturday August 13, 9 am: (Level 2 Hike) Croteau Lake 6 hour hike with Robin & Jennifer Harrison of the Comox Valley Naturalists Society.

Sunday August 14, 1 pm: Nature Walk Mid-Summer Flowers Experience the beauty of a sub-alpine meadow with bilingual (German/English) botanist Fred Constabel.

Sunday August 21, 1 pm: Nature Walk Sub-Alpine Birds & Insects Explore Paradise Ponds with birder and entomologist Terry Thormin.

Sunday August 21: Centennial Event Family Fun Day for Every Body An Accessible Wilderness Day. More details www.awsociety.org

Saturday August 27, 9 am: (Level 3 Hike) Mt. Allan Brooks 8 hour hike with Steve and Marlene Smith of the Strathcona Wilderness Institute. Moderately strenuous, off-trail bushwhacking. Dogs on leash OK. Pre-register: coordinator@strathconapark.org or 250-650-4304

Sunday, September 28, 10 am: Art & Nature Talk; and Walk 'Great Photo-Ops in Paradise Meadows Look for interesting subjects & compositions (no camera needed) with nature photographer Chris Carter.

Sunday, August 28, 1 pm: Centennial Event Strathcona Park History Stories of Strathcona Park with Lindsay Elms of the Strathcona Wilderness Institute.

Saturday September 3, 8 am: (Level 3 Hike) Amphitheatre Lake and Sid's Cabin 10 hour hike with William Wright of the Comox District Mountaineering Club. 25 km, 1000 m. elevation gain. Strenuous, some off-trail terrain. Pre-register: coordinator@strathconapark.org or 250-650-4304

Sunday September 4, 1 pm: Art & Nature Talk and Walk - 'Image Hunting With Pencils & Brushes' Bring the media of your choice for an excursion into the meadows with watercolour artist Clive Powsey.

Monday September 5, 10 am: (Level 1 Hike) Lake Helen Mackenzie 4 hour hike with Mandy Vaughan of the Comox Valley Naturalists Society. Dogs on leash OK.

For more Wilderness Centre program details contact the Summer Coordinator at coordinator@strathconapark.org

For the most up-to-date program schedule visit the blog strathconapark.blogspot.com

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Unidentified Lying Objects?

You may be aware of some odd-looking objects that landed on the slopes of Mount Washington this spring. But those strange PVC pipe concoctions that look like instruments left behind by the Blue Man Group are actually marmot feeders. Really? Yes, really.

The Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery Foundation is testing to see if supplemental feeding of Vancouver Island marmots during years of extreme weather conditions, like this year, will improve breeding results.

The marmot colony at Mount Washington is currently 30-40 marmots strong and 3-4 litters of marmot pups were expected to be born there this year. But spring weather conditions have generally been so poor with close to record snow levels and lingering cold temperatures, it will likely negatively impact breeding.

"It's shaping up to be a repeat of last year when we had zero breeding at the Mount Washington colony," said Don Doyle, Chair of the Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery Team.

Scientific literature has shown a correlation between good food conditions and reproductive success. So a decision was made to provide supplemental food for the marmots, where possible, because the late snow pack was limiting their natural forage.

Plastic piping filled with high fiber leaf biscuits were set up on Mount Washington and Green Mountain, two wild colony sites still accessible to Foundation crew in spite of the current snow conditions. And the marmots are taking to them like hot cakes!

"The biscuit tubes may look crude but a lot of thought was put into them. They had to move with the melting snow and



still provide continual access to the marmots and keep the food dry," said Doyle.

Generally marmot habitat is remote and steep, and unstable snow conditions contribute to periodic avalanches that keep the meadows clear of encroaching saplings and brush. This maintains the habitat but makes access to the colony sites too dangerous for crew while there is heavy snow on the ground. So even if the feeding results are positive, it may be technically impossible or impractical to set up feeding stations at other colony sites.

"Mount Washington provides a unique opportunity", said Don. "Not only is access maintained by the ski resort, predation is also deterred by the continuous human presence there. So we didn't have to worry much about the feeders attracting

predators."

"We'd love to test more sites but the terrain is just too challenging. Even if we said damn the costs and lowered feeders to the sites by helicopter they would either slide or be blown right off the mountain. Not to mention the marmot colony bowls are often too dangerous to even fly into at this time of year".

The Vancouver Island marmot is one of Canada's most endangered species. Thanks to a robust captive breeding and release program the population is steadily regaining strength after near extinction in the wild in 2003.

If you would like to help the Vancouver Island marmot be restored to their habitat in the wild on Vancouver Island please adopt a marmot at www.marmots.org

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

When you Adopt-a-Marmot you'll receive:

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

For more info go to www.marmots.org/adopt.htm

Adopt a Marmot

This is a great way to help this endangered species as well as an opportunity for you to learn more about these interesting creatures

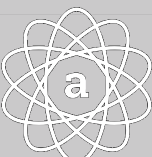


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The **COMOX VALLEY** is a decidedly eclectic mix of urban and rural, known holiday destinations and hidden gems all within a thirty minute drive.

With access to snow and year round golfing, fishing, mountain biking, hiking and water sports, the Comox Valley sets the stage for non-stop play. And when it's time to relax the spas and beaches are waiting to pamper you.

The Comox Valley is an agricultural and culinary hot spot combining more than 445 farms and dozens of restaurants and food producers. An entire day can be spent finding local food for a family feast. Make sure to visit the year-round weekly Farmers Market.

With rich soil, dry summers and mild weather, the growing industry is producing crisp whites, mellow reds and some of the best fruit wines anywhere. As well, mead, cider, beer, vodka and whiskey are grown and produced here.

Got a Day?

Comox Valley Growers Guide
Sights, Tastes and Traditions Tour



- While driving through this warm region surrounding Courtenay and Comox, discover smaller farms and specialized nurseries.
- Along the way fill your grocery bag with local wine, award winning cheeses, and artisan chocolates.
- Be sure to visit the Comox Valley Farms' Market (Saturdays year-round plus Wednesdays in the summer) – a must stop for meats, seafood, organic fruit and veggies.

www.discovercomoxvalley.com

ANCO MOTEL ~ 67 rooms, cable TV, DVD rentals, coin laundry and in-room coffee/tea, Conference room. Non-smoking and smoking units, kitchenettes and high speed Internet access rooms available. Close to restaurants, shopping, golf, fishing, hiking and only 30 minutes to Mount Washington Alpine Resort. www.ancomotelbc.com or email ancocourtenay@shaw.ca
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ATLAS CAFE is a global experience with a world of choices in the heart of downtown Courtenay. ATLAS serves fresh and innovative cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Diners will appreciate the warm and inviting vibe, as it is a great place to meet the locals. We feature fresh desserts, espressos, fresh juices, kids menu and nightly specials. Take out menu available.

AVENUE BISTRO located in Comox, is the sister restaurant of Atlas Cafe. Chef Aaron and his team create delicious cuisine that is

locally sourced, internationally inspired in a refreshing setting to compliment the laid back vibrancy of the Comox Valley and the bounty it offers. Thursday is Pizza & Pasta night. Great Kids menu. Also serving Weekend Breakfast. Visit our website at www.avenuebistro.ca for all our menus and daily specials.

BILLY D'S PUB & BISTRO, located on 5th Street, in vibrant downtown Courtenay, offers you a traditional pub fee with a Comox Valley flair. Delicious homemade food prepared fresh daily makes for a great experience. Greeted with a welcoming smile when you walk in the door, BILLY D'S defines the ultimate pub experience.

BISQUE RESTAURANT For those who have already found it, the charm of BISQUE comes as no surprise. The fast paced lunch changes to a relaxing evening out. Just steps away from the Best Western and Old House Hotel & Spa, our fresh west coast menu in-



Photo: Neil Havers

cludes local seafood, lamb, house made fresh pasta, AAA steaks and a nightly fresh sheet. Fully licensed 250-334-8564

BRIAN SCOTT An avid cross country skier on Mount Washington since 1980, translates his experience into vibrant, expressionist oil paintings. View his current showing at Raven Lodge and Deer Lodge, Mount Washington or drop by his Gallery in Black Creek. Ph. 250-337-1941
www.brianscottfineart.com

COMOX AIR FORCE MUSEUM An amazing collection of West Coast military aviation artifacts, and memorabilia, plus a Heritage Air Park with 11 aircraft, awaits you. Visitors praise the collection which covers a period from WW1 to current times. A well stocked Gift Shop and a large aviation reference library are also part of the attraction

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www.comoxairforcemuseum.ca



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Got Two Days?

Day One...

- Head up to Mount Washington and take a beginners lesson in downhill mountain biking
- Head down to the local market to pick up food for a picnic lunch and a cool-down dip in the ocean
- Catch a show at one of several live music venues in the Comox Valley

Day Two...

- Grab a map and climb the hills of Cumberland by foot or bike
- At low tide, walk the beach from Goose Spit to Kye Bay, exploring the tidal pools while enjoying the views and water fowl along the way



Photo: Neil Havers

Fresh locally grown organic produce, beef and fowl, dairy products, baked goods, cut flowers, essential oils and more are available at the Farmers' Market

supplies, groceries, pharmacy and other general stores. Stop and enjoy the view of the Comox Wharf, the Beaufort Mountains and the Seaside. www.comoxmall.ca

RECREATION: Better choices ~ Better Future. Discover the many features of the Comox Valley sports and aquatic centres. The facilities offer a wave pool, lap pool, steam room, sauna, hot tub, wellness centre and arenas. For more information visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

Discover one of the most unique and vibrant downtowns on Vancouver Island! Just a 30 minute drive from Mount Washington, **DOWNTOWN COURTENAY** offers an eclectic mix of locally owned shops and services. From cutting-edge fashion to outdoor adventure gear, imported delicacies to the freshest local foods, home décor treasures to fossil discovery tours, **DOWNTOWN**

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Located in the Heart of Downtown Courtenay, **EDIBLE ISLAND WHOLE FOODS MARKET** provides nutrition-conscious shoppers a complete and extensive selection of organic whole foods, produce, local breads, baked goods and meats, all the groceries, household cleaning options, plus quality supplements and fabulous body care alternatives ~ "Simply put . . . we bring you the best!"

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LA CABANA DE MARCOS Authentic Mexican Restaurant ~3-468 29th Street, open every day, breakfast, lunch & dinner, including Taco Bar & Burritos. Large groups are welcome, call 250-703-2639 for reservations. We are fully licensed, and host **LIVE MUSIC** frequently and now offer Catering. Visit us, & feel like you are in Mexico! Muchas Gracias.

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Continued on page 26

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Shop & Dine

continued from page 25

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TITA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT Gourmet Mexican cuisine inspired by the freshest local produce and seafood. Incredible margaritas made with fresh fruit from TITA'S own garden. Warm and friendly service. Gorgeous

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Comox Valley Farms & Vineyards

The Comox Valley is an agricultural and culinary hotspot combining more than 445 farms and dozens of restaurants and food producers.

Experiencing the mélange is as easy as pulling up a chair at a restaurant, as savouring a pairing of local wines with award winning cheese, or as adventurous as picking a pint full of berries at an organic u-pick.

Local award winning wineries offer tours, tastings and an opportunity to purchase wines that are not readily available.

In addition to orchards, nurseries, dairy, berry and vegetable farms, the valley also has growers who specialize in organic meat, poultry and produce, as well as ex-

otic delicacies such as emu, wasabi, soy, wild mushrooms, fallow deer venison and award winning cheese.

From May through October, visit the Comox Valley Farmers' Market to shop for fresh, organic and specialty products. Perch on a bale of hay, sip a delicious cup of coffee, nibble on some home-baked goodies, and enjoy live entertainment.

In addition to selling at the Market, many local farms sell direct to the public. "Growers Guides" can be found at the local visitor information centres.

Visit one of the local petting farms and have a chance to tour through the farm and see all forms of animals. Hand feed baby chicks, ducks, sheep and friendly goats. Something everyone will enjoy!

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Mountain Sport Centre

continued from page 6

The needs of mountain-based teams will be taken into account first then the facility will open up to other groups for retreats.

While Tribune Bay is contracted with BC Parks to provide youth-oriented programming, that restriction is non-existent with the Mountain Sports and Education Centre. Campbell hopes to adapt a lot of the programming for adults as well as families.

The Centre will open Thanksgiving weekend with a grand opening tour. Crews worked on the building throughout the winter, and it is nearly at the lock-up stage.

The partnership is symbiotic, said Don Sharpe, Resort Director of Business Services, especially since Tribune Bay works with schools and children, much like the Resort does.

Record Snowfall

continued from page 7

"We had nowhere else to push the snow," Trousdell said. "There was a lot of transferring the snow from lots 2 and 3 down and over the edge of Lot 4."

In some areas of the mountain, grooming machines and shovelers worked overtime to keep the chairlifts above the snow line. "The snow pack is so high in some areas that we've roped off access underneath the chairlifts as a precaution," Patrol Director Jesse Percival said at one point.

Under the Boomerang chairlift, in the double black diamond Outback, groomers were shoveling by hand in a few places because skis and snowboards were dragging in the snow. "We don't machine groom other than one access in and out because of the difficult terrain," Trousdell said.

From a snow perspective, Resort Director of Business Services Don Sharpe

The Centre has also undergone a slight name change, to the Vancouver Island Mountain Sport and Education Centre.

"It was never just about sports," said Sharpe, who is one of the people who has worked hard to bring the Centre to the mountain.

"The synergy between the Sports Centre and the mountain is going to be great," Resort President Peter Gibson said.

Especially because of its location across the parking lot from Raven Lodge; even the wood beam construction echoes the architecture of the Nordic lodge. "It's going to be a great post-Olympic legacy," Gibson added.

Mount Washington is one of the few mountain resorts in B.C. that can boast such a legacy, and he credits the hard work of the VIMSS board for securing funding and moving the project forward.

"It's going to be a great addition to the mountain."

said it was a "great year". But it presented challenges. "It created other challenges by the cost of snow removal and having to work around the snow - whether it was parking or around the lifts," Sharpe said. "It created challenges for us, but it put us top of mind for people wondering where to go skiing and snowboarding."

The record snow year meant extending the regular season into late April, and skiing on Father's Day - June 19. And the huge amount of snow also spelled a later opening for the Resort than usual: about 10 days later, as staff waited for the snow to melt.

Mike Manara, Resort Mountain Biking Manager, said the end of the season is spent much like the beginning: watching the snow. The only difference is trail crews in June are waiting for the snow to go away. "As quickly as the snow comes here, it also tends to go fast," he said.

Ski Clubs Shine *continued from page 8*

Eight Vancouver Island athletes who compete in mountain sports were awarded travel grants in December by the Vancouver Island Mountain Sport Society (VIMSS) to assist them with training and competition expenses.

Athletes receiving travel grants were: Ariel Becherer, Nordic ski, Black Creek; Kole Harle, alpine ski, Campbell River; Sheridan Meckert, Nordic ski, Comox; Michael Ravensbergen, Nordic ski, Courtenay; Darcy Sharpe, snowboard, Comox; Alex Stapft, Nordic ski, Campbell River; Peter Stubbs, freestyle ski, Courtenay; and Jamie Wastenays, Nordic ski, Campbell River.

The society has raised more than \$75,000 since 2003 to help emerging amateur athletes who compete in mountain sports like alpine, Nordic and freestyle skiing, snowboarding, adaptive snow sports, biathlon and mountain biking.

VI Riders' team member Sydney Moore of Comox on the podium during the BCSA Provincial Slopestyle Competition at Mount Seymour in early February 2011. Moore places second for the weekend.



Photo: Kelsa Donald, VI Riders

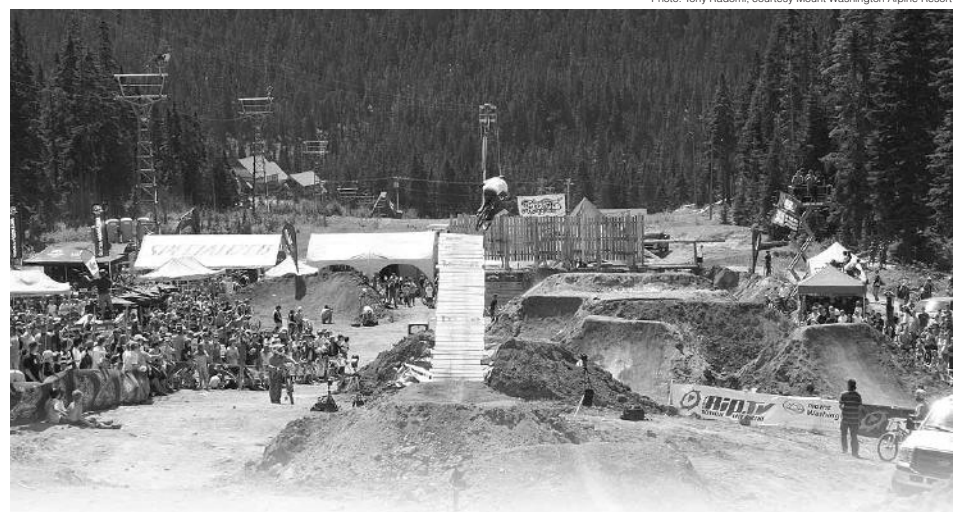


Photo: Tony Radomi, courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort

New Mountain Bike Terrain

continued from page 4

A Dirt Pak (much like the 6Pak) is available in three-ticket packages and are available at Thrifty Foods outlets on Vancouver Island.

There is also a new price category for youth 13-18 years (children are 12 and under). And because the bike park is compact and riders can get several laps completed in a short period, there are now two-hour lift and rental packages available.

Manara hopes this will expand an already popular mountain biking season that typically sees 10,000 visits to the bike park every year.

BIKE EVENTS FOR 2011



The mountain bike community is stoked for a stellar lineup of events, beginning with the Bearclaw Invitational slopestyle event making its return August 4-6.

"It's huge for us," Manara said. "That event is the marquee event of the bike park. It really helped to put us on the map."

Organizer Darren Berrecloth created a good flavour for the event and focuses on the riders as well as spectators - and the event can draw as many as 5,000 people to watch.

"In my 10 years I don't think I've seen as many people out for any single event," Manara said.

"That type of event is the exposure we need to get more people riding up here." It will draw the world's best free riders, from Spain, Europe, BC and the United States.

The Bearclaw includes practice and the Lucky Downhill on Thursday, Aug. 4, qualifying on Friday, Aug. 5 and the main event on Saturday, Aug. 6 from noon to 4 p.m. A big air competition will run off the jump following the slopestyle events.

The BC Cup Finals on August 13-14 will likely max out at 250 downhill and 75 cross-country riders, Manara said. This downhill event will take place on the Monster Mile, touted as one of the most challenging routes on the BC Cup circuit.

The citizen class usually draws local riders from Duncan, Port Alberni, Nanaimo, Cumberland and Campbell River, and the Resort offers a reduced entry fee to encourage Island-based riders to participate. The cross-country event runs Saturday, Aug. 13 and the downhill Sunday, Aug. 14.



See Jane Jump on August 20-21 is a women's Mountain Bike Festival put on by pro Darcy Turenne, rounds out three solid weekends of mountain biking.

The festival aims to bring women riders of all skill levels together for a weekend of riding, coaching, eating, drinking, and relaxing.

The goal of the event is to provide a fun, non-threatening environment that encourages beginner riders to progress their skills, and pro riders to strut their stuff on some of the most fun trails that Vancouver Island offers, including slopestyle features built specifically for the event.

All participants will have access to professional coaching, free bike set-up and maintenance tips from Norco bikes, and walk away with prizes from our amazing sponsors as well as a DVD of professionally shot images from the event.

Photo: Tony Radomi, courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort





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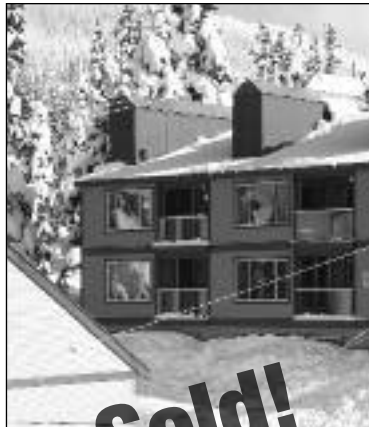
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Photo: Neil Havers

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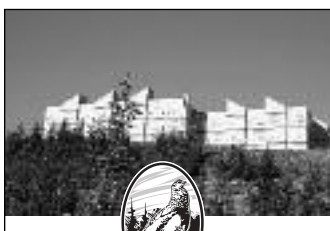
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- 201** 2 Bdrm 884 Sq Ft Viewside **\$234,900**
- 202** 2 Bdrm 879 Sq Ft Viewside **\$234,900**
- 208** 1 Bdrm 629 Sq Ft Slopeside **\$184,000**
- 210** 2 Bdrm 891 Sq Ft Slopeside **\$244,900**
- 212** 3 Bdrm 1013 Sq Ft Corner **\$324,900**
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- 302** Top floor Corner Suite facing Strathcona Park **\$134,900**
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- 101** 3 bedroom, corner suite **\$349,900**
- 301** Top Floor, 3 bedroom sunny slopeside **\$374,900**
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Features Include:

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- Ski Storage Room off Lobby
- Convenient Location to Amenities
- Mountain / Strathcona Park Views

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- 211** 3 Bedroom facing Strath. Park and ski runs **\$239,900**
- 506** 3 Bedroom Penthouse facing Strathcona Park and ski runs **\$199,900**



DEER LODGE

AT MT. WASHINGTON

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- Fully Furnished
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- Underground Parking
- Hot Tub
- Caretaker

- 201** 2 Bedroom Lock-off facing Strathcona Park **\$184,900**
- 207** 2 Bedroom facing ski runs **\$199,900**
- 313** 2 Bedroom Lock-off facing Strathcona Park **\$219,900**



Mountainside Lodge

A snowballs throw from the green chair! Two bedroom 2nd floor condo with underground parking. Lock off one of the bedrooms to make a separate rental suite while you stay in the rest. Common area includes sauna, hot tub, and locked storage. **\$214,900**



Close to Alpine Lodge!

Spacious, well-kept townhome within a few minutes stroll of the Alpine Lodge. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and sauna. The inside is well cared for with a huge space in the lower floor for sleeping or recreating. Enjoy the outside patio, taking in the sunsets and mountain views. Ski-in and out access to the slopes. Fantastic location and great value. **\$229,900**



Vaulted Ceilings!

West Coast designer townhome located close to the Alpine Lodge of Mount Washington. Offering 3 bedrooms, two bathrooms and sauna. Vaulted ceilings in the living room and gourmet kitchen with corian countertops. Ample storage and easy access round out this great package. Mount Washington offers incredible snow, and affordable real estate prices. **\$239,900**



Chairlift Friendly!

Located at the loading station of the Hawk and Green chairlift is this luxury 3 bedroom townhome with a double garage. The finishing is exquisite with a view of the ski runs. Loads of storage and plenty of space. Parkview Place offers a great location with easy access to the Alpine and Nordic skiing. Close to Strathcona Park. **\$384,900**

784 Washington Way



2 Choices...

A Bright Buy!

Very unique and bright corner suite in Snowbird. 3 bedroom townhome with loads of natural light and extra windows. Very quiet location in the building and easy access to parking and skiing. 2 bathrooms, sauna, electric fireplace, open living area. **\$169,900**

South Facing Townhome

with easy access to parking and skiing. Basement undeveloped for additional usage. 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Propane fireplace for the cool winter nights. Quiet location and great building! **\$259,900**



The epitome of a ski chalet!

Your own log cabin perched high on a ridge with the most incredible views of Strathcona Park you can find. The mountain home is separated into a lower 2 bedroom suite and the main upper 3 bedroom suite. The living area has a cathedral ceiling and an open wood burning fireplace. Many many special features such as stained glass, hand carved mantel and very cozy touches. This has been a very popular rental with strong repeat business. If you are looking for a true mountain hideaway, yet with easy access to Mount Washington, look no further. **\$399,900**



Sunset Views of Strathcona Park!

A very unique property in the Alpine Village. Only 14 years old, this spectacular property is perched to take in the sunset views of Strathcona Park, yet virtually ski in and out and close to parking. 14 foot ceilings, open plans, 2 separate owner suites plus self-contained suite in the basement. Sauna, loads of storage and more.

\$640,000



Entertaining Friendly!

Nestled on the side of an open meadow in the heart of the Alpine Village of Mount Washington. You can ski in and out to the runs from this 2425 square foot chalet. 4 bedrooms plus spacious living areas and an open entertainment styled kitchen round out the package. Strategically located close to parking so access is also a breeze. This is a spectacular property at an unbelievable price.

\$499,900



Perched on a Ridge!

3 bedroom executive townhome with stunning spectacular views of Strathcona Park. The Master suite encompasses the entire top floor and the Living room is vaulted almost up the roof of the entire building. Common area includes, hot tub on it's own private deck and sauna. What more to say than "WOW!"

Suite B **\$439,900**

Suite C **\$448,000**



Once in a Lifetime!

Once in a while a unique property becomes available. This legal duplex on Mt Washington has it all. What you get is two legal titles and the two units share a common area. Within the common area is

a third suite! Each side has 2 bedrooms and spacious plans. The common area which includes a large family room, sauna, kitchen, bathroom & bedroom. Ideal for 2 or more families with spectacular views. Buy the package and then sell one of the off, or keep the other. WOW - this one has many options!

CALL

Big Red Chalet

Big Red Chalet, located within Mt. Washington Alpine Resort, is a brand new chalet available for sale. This family ready property has the capacity to sleep 12 to 16 people and have two complete suites available either together or separate. The drive-in location, heated driveway with double car garage and parking for six vehicles is convenient and rare to find. With beautiful mountain views and all the comforts of home, Big Red is the ideal destination. There are five bedrooms in total (2 in upper suite and 3 in main suite) and two bathrooms. Large deck on the main suite and smaller in the upper. Built for snow, this chalet is perched on the upper side of the road with encompassing views into the park. The driveway is heated, so ice will not build up. A lot of thought went into the design and this is the ideal property for someone wanting either a larger mountain home or a smaller one with a rental suite. Big Red Chalet, located within Mt. Washington Alpine Resort, is a brand new chalet available for sale. This family ready property has the capacity to sleep 12 to 16 people and have two complete suites available either together or separate. The drive-in location, heated driveway with double car garage and parking for six vehicles is convenient and rare to find. With beautiful mountain views and all the comforts of home, Big Red is the ideal destination. There are five bedrooms in total (2 in upper suite and 3 in main suite) and two bathrooms. Large deck on the main suite and smaller in the upper. Built for snow, this chalet is perched on the upper side of the road with encompassing views into the park. The driveway is heated, so ice will not build up. A lot of thought went into the design and this is the ideal property for someone wanting either a larger mountain home or a smaller one with a rental suite.

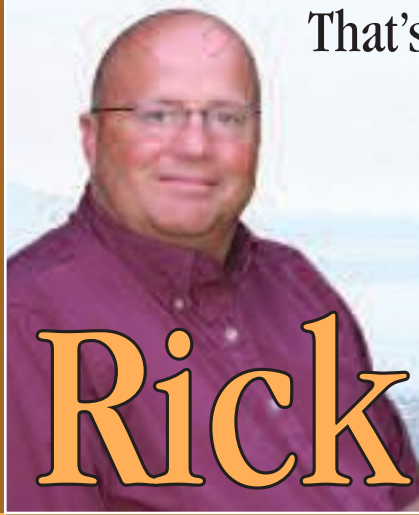
\$599,900

For over 20 years Rick Gibson has sold close to 90% of all real estate on Mount Washington.

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- The Royal LePage website receives over 800,000 visits per month.
- The Mount Washington Real Estate Channel shows your property 24/7.
- The Marmot newspaper boasts an annual circulation of 80,000 copies.

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Rick Gibson

In a word... Stunning!

Located on the upper side of Fosters Place on Mount Washington is this STUNNING mountain chalet. 4+ bedrooms and a HUGE living area! This mountain home boasts a beautifully appointed interior finished to the highest of standards. Ski in and out access and close to Strathcona Park for nordic skiing in winter and summer hiking. Golf courses, beaches, international airport all just 30 minutes away. **\$549,900**



A Sought After Property...

in a sought after location! Lovingly maintained by its owners "Chalet 43" offers a 4 bedroom main suite on the upper two floors and a self contained two bedroom suite on the lower floor. The main suite is open in design with many recent upgrades from the ground up including flooring, doors and plumbing. Very well thought out design, offering fantastic accommodation and a floor plan "that works!" Two bathrooms, one with a gorgeous jetted tub. The lower 2 bedroom suite is spacious and cozy with 2 bedrooms and large living/kitchen area. A shared sauna and ample storage rounds out the package. Chalet 43 is located close to parking yet EASY access to the slopes. Tucked into the sidehills, it is close to everything yet sitting on the large deck you are hidden in the woods. **\$635,900**



2700 Square Feet of Luxury!

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

The Best of the Best!

Log home for sale on Fosters Place. Over 3,000 sqft of luxury in this 3 level home at bottom of cul-de-sac. A snowballs throw from ski runs. Lower floor could easily be converted to additional accommodation. Large deck, gourmet kitchen, cathedral ceiling in living room, etc. If you have seen the rest & want the best - this is it! Views from the large deck over the Park. This is one of only a few properties on Mount Washington that are drive in and ski out and unobstructed views. **\$950,000**



Contact: **Rick Gibson, Royal LePage in the Comox Valley** Ph: 250-334-3124 (24 hrs) Direct: 250-338-1723 www.rickgibson.ca **MileHigh.ca**

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**COMING
FALL 2011!!**

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

In Fall 2011, property leaseholders at Mount Washington will once again be given a choice: lease or buy?

With each passing year, a lease depreciates in value. By contrast, fee simple property tends to appreciate over time. The choice is yours.

*Starting in Fall 2011, a second opportunity to purchase freehold interest at Mount Washington will be presented for a **limited time only**.*

In our 2010 introductory offer, fully a third of Mount Washington leaseholders chose to convert to freehold and secure the future of their real estate investment. Isn't it time you appreciated the value of your own recreational property?

FREEHOLD SALES CONSULTANT

Anya Macleod

e: info@mountwashingtonfreehold.ca

t: **(250) 702-5564**

www.mountwashingtonfreehold.ca

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