



VANCOUVER ISLAND'S ALPINE PLAYGROUND STAY, PLAY, HIKE or BIKE on MOUNT WASHINGTON



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



Photo: Neil Havers

Mountain Centre Open For Local Business

Vancouver Island Mountain Centre Manager Andrew Scherck is breathing a little easier these days following a busy winter.

The Mountain Centre opened officially on Feb. 22, and since then more than 30 groups have stayed overnight at the facility, located across from Raven Lodge at Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

"We were full every weekend," Andrew said. Mount Washington based racing clubs used the centre for meetings and training, a military group held an avalanche course and snowshoed to Mt. Albert Edward from their base at the Mountain Centre, and a host of

other groups also booked the facility - even a father-son group of 17 from Victoria, and a 60th birthday party for the summer.

"We were very pleased for our first year of operation. I think we did really well," administrator Gord Campbell said. "We met our goals in the winter months. We know we're going to have a very strong winter season next year, just based on opening this year and meeting our goals."

One unexpected challenge didn't come from operating a new building or integrating new programs, he said. The job action by teachers in British Columbia meant the number of school trips were down significantly, at both Mount

Washington Alpine Resort and Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre, a partner with the Vimc.

"That was the piece we were bringing from Tribune Bay, was the whole educational school aspect," Campbell said.

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Real Estate sales at Mount Washington Alpine Resort have modestly increased in the past year, giving hope that the poor market is behind us.

In 2010 and the early part of 2011, nobody was looking at real estate on the mountain. Over the past 12 months, however, sales have picked up. In several instances owners have received multiple offers on their properties.

The typical buyers' profile is that of young families, and since the goal is to purchase so the kids can grow up on the mountain, the time is right to get into the market.

The signs of improvement are positive, but the million-dollar question is when will we know we're truly on an upswing?

People that are purchasing think that the market is at the bottom and that prices can only go in one direction, which is up.

Every buyer that has purchased in the past 18 months feels 100% confident that their purchases will do nothing but appreciate in value.

One caution to sellers: even though buyers seem to be showing increased signs of confidence, it is the deals that they are looking to buy. If you're not offering the best deal out there, it is still going to be difficult to sell.

But to all the buyers out there, prices are low and interest rates are low. What are you waiting for?

News In Brief

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

...

Mount Washington Alpine Resort has been named Business of the Year at the 2011 Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Community Awards. The Resort was among six nominees vying for the Award.

Two \$3-million projects were completed at the Resort last year, which contributed to the Award. The Resort built its new Easy Acres beginners' area with four covered Magic Carpet people movers. The Vancouver Island Mountain Sports Society also completed the Vancouver Island Mountain Centre, also a \$3-million project, which has had a successful first winter of operation.

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"The fact that you get recognized for doing the things that you do is a real pleasure," Resort Director of Business Operations Don Sharpe told the local media.

...

Resort President Peter Gibson has finished his term as Chairman of the Board of the Canada West Ski Areas Assn.

Gibson will serve two years as Past-Chairman, and that will conclude his 12-year association with the Board. Gibson started off as a Director, then chaired the B.C. and Yukon Zone for four years before ascending to the Chairman's position.

...

Mount Washington may be home to the Tony Barrett Mount Washington Marmot



Breeding Center, but this winter Henry Road was home to the Marten Breeding Center.

Rumour has it that one home midway up Henry Road had a pair of martens nesting under the stairs. With such a snowy season, there's no telling what was going on under those stairs, since martens don't technically hibernate.

...

Mount Washington honoured its longtime employees with a service awards banquet in February at the Florence Filberg Centre in Courtenay. This year, the Resort also honoured longtime volunteers, including the Volunteer Ski Patrol.

"Historically, we used to do a recognition barbecue at the end of the season," Resort President Peter Gibson said. Events have also been held downstairs at the Black Fin Pub in Comox.

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16 years Experience on Mount Washington

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Photo: John Scarth
Photo: Courtesy Mount Washington



Sharpe Looks Sharp!

When Darcy Sharpe of Courtenay strapped on his snowboard for the first run of the 2011-12 season he had no idea that a few short months later he would be travelling the world on his accomplishments.

"It was kind of surprising, but I knew what I wanted in general coming into the season," Sharpe said.

Sharpe spent a lot of time on the road last season, finishing second and winning best trick at the Seymour Canadian Shield and placing well at the Canadian Open in Calgary. He finished sixth at the LG FIS World Cup in Stoneham, Que., and also participated in the World Cup Big Air site built on a jump between highways near Old Quebec City. Nearly 10,000 people were on hand to watch that event.

At the Canadian championships in March he placed Second in Slopestyle. His best event of the year, however, was the World Juniors in Sierra Nevada, Spain, where Sharpe finished Second.

Another Mount Washington alumni and fellow Canadian Junior Slopestyle team member, David Kinskofer, also made it to the semi-finals at the same event.

Sharpe, 16, has been snowboarding since he was five years old, learning to ride at Mount Washington Alpine Resort. He was a member of the VI Riders Snowboard Club for a few years, and has received funding in the past from the Vancouver Island Mountain Sports Society to assist with his travel costs.

Continued on page 10

In Profile: Chef James

The next time you enjoy a meal at Mount Washington Alpine Resort, say a silent thanks to James Loisel. *(shown right)*

Loiselle has worked at the Resort for nine years, the past eight as Executive Chef. He is the brain behind the food at the Resort cafeteria, Fat Teddy's Bar and Grill, Fresh Restaurant and the pizzeria, where pizza dough is made from scratch. Loiselle's first job was as production chef, when Kevin Wallace lured him to the Resort from a restaurant in Courtenay.

"I said I would give it a try. I liked the atmosphere and the people; I've been here ever since," says Loiselle.

When he started at the Resort, Loiselle prepared soups, stews and sauces. He was part of the move to bring fresh food to the Resort.

"We started making everything homemade," he says. "That's what my objective was, to make more fresh products."

These days he works with dietitians to offer gluten-free soups and gravies (he uses rice flour instead of wheat), caters to other special diets and uses local produce as often as possible.

A hint of European influence can be found in the menu selections; Loiselle comes by that honestly. Trained at North Island College, he also apprenticed under several European chefs, including Chef Ferdinand Bogner at the original Old House Restaurant. He has worked at several restaurants in the Comox Valley, like the Kingfisher Oceanside Inn, Coast Westerly Hotel and the Heritage Restaurant. He also spent some time at the Chateau Lake Louise in Alberta, gaining valuable hands-on training.

Continued on page 10

Wake Up! TO ALPINE ADVENTURE



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Photo: Courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort

Local Area Plan Addresses Key Issues facing the Village

Mount Washington Alpine Resort is working with the Comox Valley Regional District to come up with an Integrated Resort Community Plan (IRCP).

A Report was released April 10, but at the Marmot's deadline, had not been brought before the Regional Board yet.

The purpose of the Report, prepared by CTQ Consultants Ltd. of Kelowna, is to build on the current Mount Washington Local Area Plan, as part of the CVRD's larger Regional Growth Strategy. Mount Washington has been recognized as a "new settlement node".

Public input was solicited through an online survey between Jan. 19 and Feb. 18, 2012. Consultants also visited the Resort Jan. 20-21 with a display explaining the process. A total of 119 completed surveys were received, with roughly half (48.7%) being from property owners.

Comox Valley residents (34.2%) were the next largest number of respondents.

The biggest issue raised throughout the consultation process was the lack of fire protection at the Resort, as well as the lack of other public services such as police and ambulance. Respondents felt the lack of fire protection is an issue affecting future development.

Snow management was the second most important issue to respondents, broken down into two categories: removal and storage, and sanding and runoff. Respondents expressed the desire for co-ordination of snow removal, which they feel is important given the way snow falls fast and heavily during the winter months.

A corresponding concern was the lack of parking, especially when snow storage compromises parking space; even in the shoulder seasons, when large piles are left to melt naturally.

Continued on page 27

Tourism Mount Washington Doubles Its Membership

Tourism Mount Washington has doubled its membership in one year, propelling the destination marketing arm of Mount Washington Alpine Resort on the right path, says Manager Sarah Nicholson.

"We started the 2012-13 membership year with approximately 435 members," she said. That represents about two-thirds of the community. "It's positive to see more people wanting to step up and take an active role," she said.

The increase in membership has allowed Nicholson to take on an administrative assistant. Kristy Pedersen started April 15, also the day Tourism Mount Washington moved into a new office at #205-841 Cliffe Avenue, in downtown Courtenay (opposite Courtenay City Hall).

"Much of our business is done with other tourism bodies and other partners. The office will be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Members are welcome to visit by appointment.

With the new membership year in full swing, Nicholson said the organization is turning its focus towards internal marketing initiatives.

When Tourism Mount Washington started four and a half years ago, its focus was on external marketing activities as well as getting to know its members. Pedersen is revamping the TMW website and there is also a Facebook page.

Nicholson attended the London Ski Show prior to the winter season, and it paid off with a visit from two British



Kristy Pedersen is the new administrative assistant with Tourism Mount Washington.

Tourism



journalists, writing for the Telegraph, Skier and Snowboarder Magazine, the Independent and Scotland on Sunday.

For the summer, Tourism Mount Washington has partnered with Tourism Vancouver Island with the Go Vancouver Island campaign, targeting the Alberta market. There has also been a 10-week campaign on Global TV Alberta as well as an online component targeting viewers 35 years and older.

"This is a big investment for us," the target is to reach 80% of Albertans 35 and over, Nicholson said. *Continued on page 10*

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Summer Preview



After a brief break to wait for the snow to melt, staff members at Mount Washington Alpine Resort are ready for the summer season.

And they're content to build on the successful events that attracted people to the Resort last summer.

"We just want to see where things are going," says Resort President Peter Gibson.

The Mile High Chairlift is ready to take visitors and locals alike to Mount Washington's summit. Disc golf, mini golf and the bungee trampoline await the adventurous and competitive alike.

The **Suds and Scotch Festival** returns on July 13 to Raven Lodge; the event features beer, scotch and live music from Canadian extreme violinist Kytami (formerly of Delhi 2 Dublin).

The **Alpine Wine and Food Festival** returns Aug. 24-25; Friday features a wine and food tasting at Raven Lodge, and Saturday features a wine pairing dinner. Shuttles are available to and from the event for ticket holders.

The **Alpine Inukshuk Building Contest** is a new event planned for July 28-29 at the summit. Take the chairlift to the top, build your own Inukshuk and enter to win a prize for the best rock creation.

While the Resort was slated to open for the summer season on June 29, the Bike Park won't open until July 28, a couple of weeks later than originally anticipated.

The Resort decided to let nature take its course to melt the near-record snowpack, and elected to go with a shorter summer mountain biking season with good quality trails, Gibson said.

"For us the focus is with the Bike Park - maintaining and buffing out the trails that already exist," Resort Director of Public Relations Brent Curtain said. There will be a good mix for beginners through to experts, Curtain added.

There is a price freeze for the bike park this summer, and some prices will be reduced due to the shortened season.

While the mountain biking event schedule is pared down compared to last summer, there is still reason for riders to be stoked: the **Bearclaw Invitational** returns to Mount Washington Aug. 3-4, and the BC Cup Provincials are back Aug. 24-26.

The Bearclaw Slopestyle Event gets worldwide attention since it draws competitors from the Freeride Mountain Bike World Tour, Curtain said. It also draws thousands of spectators over the B.C. Day long weekend.

Event organizer Darren Berrecloth built the slopestyle course through the trees last year, leaving a permanent legacy. "What's really rad is that this Bearclaw Invitational course will be permanent, so no more building and then tearing it down each fall," Berrecloth wrote on his event website.

"It was one of the most unique slopestyle courses ever built," Curtain said.

Photo: Courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort



Winter Wrap Up

Mount Washington Alpine Resort enjoyed its fourth deepest snowfall in history in 2011-12, but that wasn't the whole story for the Resort's winter.

The snow season began with some changes to the beginners' area, leveled out and renamed Easy Acres. Out went the Green Chairlift and in went four covered Magic Carpet people movers.

The **Magic Carpets** were a hit with families, Resort Director of Public Relations Brent Curtain said. "The feedback from beginners and families was very strong," he added, for both the rejuvenated beginners' terrain and the carpets.

Curtain, whose son is three years old, discovered from experience how beneficial the Magic Carpets are for families with young children. "It was so much easier getting him onto a Magic Carpet vs. going up the old Green Chair."

Resort President Peter Gibson called the carpets a success, saying he, too, has heard

positive feedback from families. Gibson rode the carpets frequently last winter to gauge public opinion.

While the carpets did not cut down on manpower - lift operators were necessary at the top and bottom of each Magic Carpet - they did minimize the number of stops and starts that beginners used to experience in loading and unloading from the Green Chair.

The carpets allowed instructors to move skiers around more smoothly, and make better use of the training area, Gibson added. While there was a learning curve at the beginning of the season, by closing day "they were pros."

Having the covers over the carpets gave skiers and snowboarders a brief break from the weather on inclement days too. Gibson was particularly impressed with the covered carpets in March, when the Resort had a lot of snow in a short period of time.

Continued on page 27

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Ski Clubs don't melt away with the snow, nor does their passion for sliding!

The snow is melting, the winter season is over: how do these athletes fuel their passion for sliding on snow during the summer?

Mount Washington Alpine Resort is home to several sporting groups, offering lessons and competition in everything from skiing to snowboarding, biathlon to Nordic skiing, freestyle to slopestyle.



Logan Frame of Campbell River skis in a slalom event at Grouse Mountain.

The **Mount Washington Ski Club** took a breather at the end of the winter season, but began ramping up the summer/fall season again in June with some goal-setting initiatives.

"Goal setting becomes more and more important as athletes progress in the program, and we have started to outline the physical, technical/ tactical and result-based goals for next season," coach John Trimmer said.

Once the skiers set their goals, coaching staff helps them decide how those goals can be achieved.

With the younger athletes and their parents, the Ski Club encourages multi-sport involvement. Coaches introduce them to Long Term Athlete Development.

The Club also conducts physical testing in the summer and fall, which gives athletes, parents and coaches a snapshot of current fitness levels and insight into the developmental stages each athlete is currently in, Trimmer said.

"We will provide individual fitness support through the summer to our older athletes as well as a four-day fitness/ team building camp on Hornby Island at the Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre." The Ski Club will hold a 10-day snow training camp at Mt. Hood in August, Trimmer said. "Mount Hood is an amazing area and provides great on-snow training in the summer," he said.

"Kids are ski racers because they love to ski and compete, so on-snow training in the States in the summer is awesome fuel for the fire."

At the **Mount Washington Freestyle Club**, members have also taken a breather. Sue Walker was elected President at the Club's spring Annual General Meeting. Simon and Gina Stubbs, who have served as Co-Presidents for several years, saw the Club host a successful B.C. Freestyle Championships event in March.

The **Strathcona Nordics Ski Club's** training season began in May with the annual snow camp in which more than 60



Kole Harle from Campbell River and Liam Gilchrist of Nanaimo compete at the CanAm Western Canada/USA Championships at Panorama Resort in Invermere, BC.

club members participated. "Since we race in the winter, what we do for training during the summer is paramount to our success during the winter," president Len Apedaile said.

"We will continue to have weekly training sessions for our development, junior and masters teams and will be running a series of weekend club excursions and dryland training activities throughout the summer."

Some of those sessions include working at the Vanier Track on core, balance and

running exercises; a weekly plyometrics session at Seal Bay Provincial Park, where participants do exercises that emulate cross-country ski motions; endurance runs every Sunday for two to three hours; and roller ski sessions on Saturdays.

"In addition to fitness and technique, these sessions foster a good team relationship," communications director Barbara Kelly said. "Team members continue to come out and work hard at each session because they have a lot of fun as a group."




The **Vancouver Island Biathlon Club** is examining the idea of running a series of summer mountain bike biathlon races at Mount Washington.

"Alternate manifestations of biathlon involving bikes or running have been quite popular elsewhere, and we thought it would be great to offer folks on and off the Island the opportunity to try something new," said Christoph Dettling, a Biathlon Club board member.


Because of the deep snow base, the Club has tentatively planned two races: one for August and one for September. They would roughly follow the guidelines for summer biathlon, as set out by the International Biathlon Union.

Continued on page 27






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Photo: Susie Quinn

Vancouver Island Visitor Centre Open for Business



The centre, located on the Comox Valley Parkway just off the exit from Highway 19, held its official opening with a community gathering and gala on April 28.

The Visitor Centre brings together two different Tourism Information Centres that were located in Cumberland and Courtenay into a central location. "It's an absolutely amazing building," Cumberland Mayor Leslie Baird said during the grand opening.

Inside the circular, red cedar-walled exhibit hall, displays give visitors a hands-on feel for the activities available in the Comox Valley. "When you go through the building it achieves its mission in providing a warm space for the Visitors' Centre," project manager Blair Pettis said. There is a detachable quad chair from the Eagle Chairlift at Mount Washington Alpine Resort, where visitors can sit and have their photo taken against a backdrop of an alpine scene. "It's definitely a great photo opp for visitors coming into our region," says Resort Director of Public Relations Brent Curtain.

"It's probably one of the first times we've had a chair placed in an exhibit like that off-mountain. We thought it was a great idea and were happy to help them put it together."

There is also a "marmot den", where kids can climb into the den and pop their head through a "marmot hole" for a cute photo. Other displays include a mountain bike on a boardwalk complete with real trees, a kayak, a killer whale spyhopping through acrylic water, and a trivia area where people can lift displays of seafood to reveal fun facts. An interactive digital map takes up the centre of the room.

Another iconic symbol, a red and white Tutor jet traditionally flown by the Canadian Snowbirds air demonstration squadron, has been mounted on a steel pedestal outside the visitor centre. The jet, on loan from Canadian Forces Base Comox, heralds the presence of the Air Force base in the Comox Valley.

There is a gift shop, conference room, several racks full of tourism information for the Comox Valley, Vancouver Island and beyond and a large, welcoming information desk. Visitor Centre manager Kelly Barnie, supervisor Karen Wright and their staff are able to put together an entire trip itinerary and book events and accommodation for visitors right at the centre.

Tom Grant, a member of the Comox Valley Economic Development Commission who is also a councillor with the Town of Comox, says the seaside town - the farthest Comox Valley community from the highway - is not the forgotten cousin when it comes to the visitors' centre. "It's something that's kind of been missing," he said.

Continued on page 27



Photo courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort



Accenting Your Abilities with Vancouver Island's Society for Adaptive Snowsports

Do you know someone with a physical or mental disability, or who's been injured or has an age-related condition and still wants to keep active?

Over the last 24 years the Vancouver Island Society for Adaptive Snowsports (VISAS) at Mount Washington Alpine Resort has instructed 1000s in adaptive alpine, and Nordic skiing, and snowboarding, providing many with new opportunities and introducing them to the thrill of mountain sports.

During the ski season VISAS's 80 volunteer CADS certified instructors are on the mountain seven days a week leading snowsports festivals, ski improvement and race programs, the Veteran's Learn to Ski/Snowsport Camp, and the Herb Bradley Pepsi Challenge Fundraiser.

If you are interested in becoming an instructor and getting involved with a dynamic group of dedicated volunteers, or want to learn more about joining the adaptive snowsports program visit our website at www.visasweb.ca <<http://www.visasweb.ca>> and check out our Facebook page.



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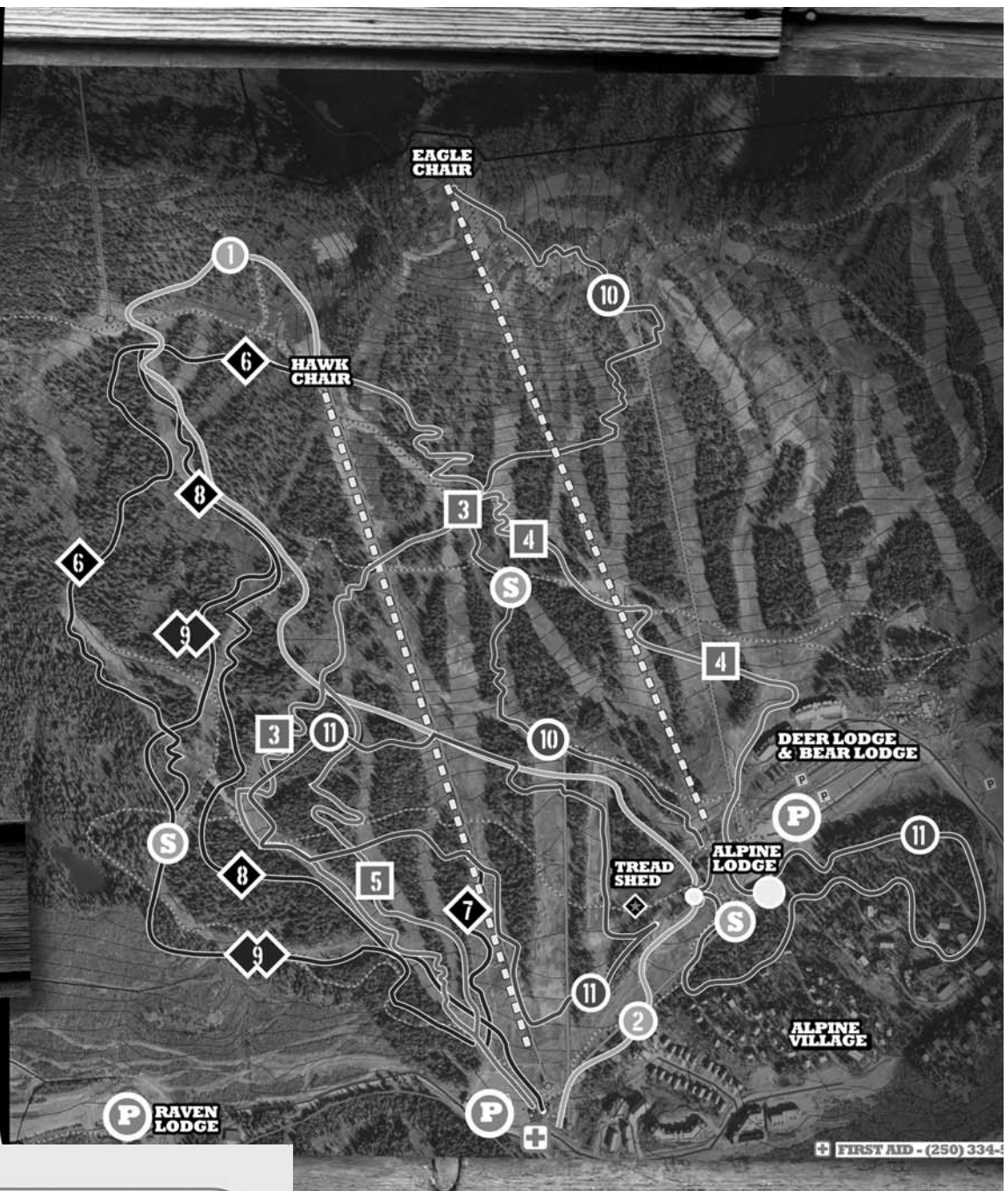
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- LODGE/RETAIL**

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 revoked for breach of this code.

News In Brief

continued from page 2

This year, the Resort's human resources committee decided to invite spouses, include volunteers and move to the larger venue.

Gibson said it was especially important that the Volunteer Ski Patrol members be recognized as employees at the mountain. "It was very well received. It was just a fun night," he added.

...
Mel Pemble, a racer with the Vancouver Island Society for Adaptive Snowsports, earned a bronze medal at the B.C. Para Alpine Provincial Championships on Cypress Mountain, March 3-4. She won her medal in a challenging slalom.

Continued on page 10



Mount Washington employees recognized for 30 years of service.



Members of the Volunteer Ski Patrol recognized for 25 years of service.

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- 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 ski run, 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.

SOAR ABOVE THE MOUNTAIN

with a chairlift ride! Boarding the highspeed 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.

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- SERVICE ROAD**
- LODGE/RETAIL**
- PARKING**
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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)

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

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Relax and enjoy the beautiful scenery of Vancouver Island's rugged West Coast as you tour its inlets with Get West Adventure Cruises aboard the MV Uchuck III, a 136-foot passenger and freight vessel providing service through historic Nootka, Esperanza, and Kyuquot Sounds.

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Take advantage of the Uchuck's route to wet launch your kayak or be dropped off at the Nootka trailhead for a four to five day hiking trip along Vancouver Island's most remote and pristine coastal trail – without the long waitlist of the famed West Coast Trail.



Or maybe you're more interested in the rich history of the Uchuck III, a converted minesweeper from WW2, and the local villages it frequents.

A day trip to spectacular Friendly Cove, better known as the birthplace of British Columbia, is a must to see on everybody's travel list. If you desire a longer voyage try the two day adventure trip to Kyuquot. Here the M.V. Uchuck III goes about delivering cargo to isolated marine out posts.

Located at its homeport in Gold River, the M.V. Uchuck III is your ticket to the West Coast. Their friendly crew and staff will make your visit a memorable one.

Toll Free: 1-877-824-8253
www.getwest.ca

Mountain Centre

continued from page 1

With public schools not booking trips this year, the VIMC turned to private and international programs as well as colleges and universities. Camosun College from Victoria stayed at VIMC three times, and Vancouver Island University booked the Centre on four occasions. Navigate, formerly North Island Distance Education School (NIDES), held a retreat there in May as well.

Twenty members of the Canadian National Freestyle Snowboard Team spent six days training at Mount Washington in April. While they spent long days on the hill honing their flips, spins and grabs, they also took advantage of the flexibility of the Mountain Centre by holding morning and evening yoga and stretching sessions. The team also used the fitness centre for evening cool-downs, as well as meeting rooms and lounge space for socializing and team bonding.

"The benefits of cross training are enormous and it's great that we can now offer those options to groups staying with us," Scherck said.

The Mountain Centre hosted its first international team in March, a volleyball team from Japan, whose visit was orchestrated by a former Mount Washington snowboard instructor now living in Japan.

Outside groups are discovering that the Mountain Centre is an ideal venue, now it's up to Campbell and Scherck to get the word out locally. "It's really the community centre up here on the mountain," Campbell said.

"It's getting people to understand we're here."



Members of a group visiting the Vancouver Island Mountain Centre take a ropes course during Intro to Winter Skills, one of the educational programs offered at the new centre.



A group visiting the Vancouver Island Mountain Centre participates in a team building exercise in an Intro to Winter Skills course.

Mountain Centre Hosts Celebration for Local Athletes

More than 100 people gathered at the Vancouver Island Mountain Centre on April 21 to groove the night away while helping raise funds for local mountain sports athletes.

The event, hosted by the Vancouver Island Mountain Sports Society in its new building, generated \$8,000, which will go towards athlete bursaries for the upcoming year to help pay for travel and training expenses.

Our Island alpine community has a real opportunity to have a number of athletes competing at the Olympics in 2014 in Sochi, Russia," said VIMSS vice-chairman Don Sharpe. "The caliber of our young people has risen substantially in the last five years. We are looking forward to helping our emerging athletes to reach their dreams."

Tourism Mount Washington

continued from page 4

Other partnerships, such as with Comox Valley Airport and BC Ferries, to offer printed material on their racks, are also in the works. A poster campaign with QR codes that ran on routes between Nanaimo and Vancouver as well as at shopping malls in Victoria were well received, Nicholson said.

"Our messaging to our potential visitors in summer is while it's high season on Vancouver Island, it's actually low season on Mount Washington, so there are some great deals to be had."



Darcy Sharpe (left) with coach Joe McAdoo.

Photo: Andrew Mitchell

Darcy Sharpe

continued from page 3

Sharpe is now based out of Whistler, riding with the Whistler Academy Snowboard Club under coach Joe McAdoo.

Sharpe wrapped up his winter season with a win at the 5Star TTR Shred Show Big Hip Event in Whistler, beating Antoine Truchon for the \$15,000 top spot.

Having such a solid season has opened doors for Sharpe to compete at more national events like world cups, he said. He's partial to the TTR World Snowboard Tour (he's ranked 84th), though, because snowboarders run it. "They know what we want; they supply what we want and what we need," he said.

Someday, says Sharpe, he would like to arrange similar events. But for now, he is content to keep active in the sport as he trains for the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia.

Sharpe will be back on the board in July, attending the Camp of Champions in Whistler and then heading to New Zealand in August.

James Loiselle

continued from page 3

Loiselle has remained true to his roots: he has established a fresh first philosophy in the Resort's eateries, and he still creates the soups, stews and sauces.

His creamy, fire-roasted tomato soup and chicken chipotle chowder are both big hits in the cafeteria. He likes them for their unique flavour profiles.

"I'm a hands-on kind of Chef," he admits. "I'm not a good office Chef."

He thrives on the kitchen pressure cooker, starting his day at 7 a.m. "If it's busy, I stay there until it's not busy," he says. This could mean an eight-hour day or a 12-hour day.

During the busy times, he is available seven days a week. In peak season he is responsible for 40 to 60 staff, from prep cooks to dishwashers. During the shoulder seasons he has a core staff of six to eight employees.

"My staff are very loyal to me," he says proudly. "I've had the same core staff going

on six years now - which is unheard of." Loiselle began his cooking career in the kitchen at Courtenay's Courtyard in the Barn - washing dishes. His sister was working there but was headed off to college; her employer asked if she knew anyone who might be able to take over for her, and she recommended James.

"Within six months I was cooking in the open air kitchen with Austrian Chef Fritz Meier, who had come from Vancouver to open the restaurant. That's where I started with the European (cooking)," says Loiselle.

When Loiselle is finished in the kitchen for the day, he heads into his home workshop to unwind with his wood lathe. "I do a lot of crafts on my lathe, like turning wood bowls," he says.

"I really love working with wood, because when you're finished it's still there. It's not like a hamburger; that's the thing I like about it."



Members of the Volunteer Ski Patrol recognized for 25 years of service.

News In Brief

continued from page 8

The Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School Girls' Snowboard Team won their second BC School Sports Provincial Banner with a successful showing at the 2012 championships Feb. 27-29 at Whistler Blackcomb. Alexa Hornstein, a Grade 11 student at Isfeld, placed first in the GS - beating 53 other female competitors as well as all 87 of the male competitors.

Stewart Walker from Mount Washington earned a gold medal in single moguls at the BC Winter Games in Vernon last Feb., competing with the Zone 6 team.

•••

Mei Pond from Nanaimo earned two bronze medals at the Junior Nationals in Quebec, also in February, in both slopestyle and single moguls.

•••



North Island College NIC's new Exercise and Wellness certificate program makes the most of the area's ocean and mountains, the nearby Comox Valley Aquatic Centre and NIC classrooms.

Continued on page 26



BRITISH COLUMBIA
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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 am - 4 pm) Saturdays, Sundays and holiday Mondays; from the end of June to early October. Volunteers also staff the Centre on many 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.

2012 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.



Thimbleberry
Photo: Gerry Roberts

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 Summer Coordinator at 250-650-4304 or coordinator@strathconapark.org

BC Parks Map & Trail Guide courtesy of Rick Gibson

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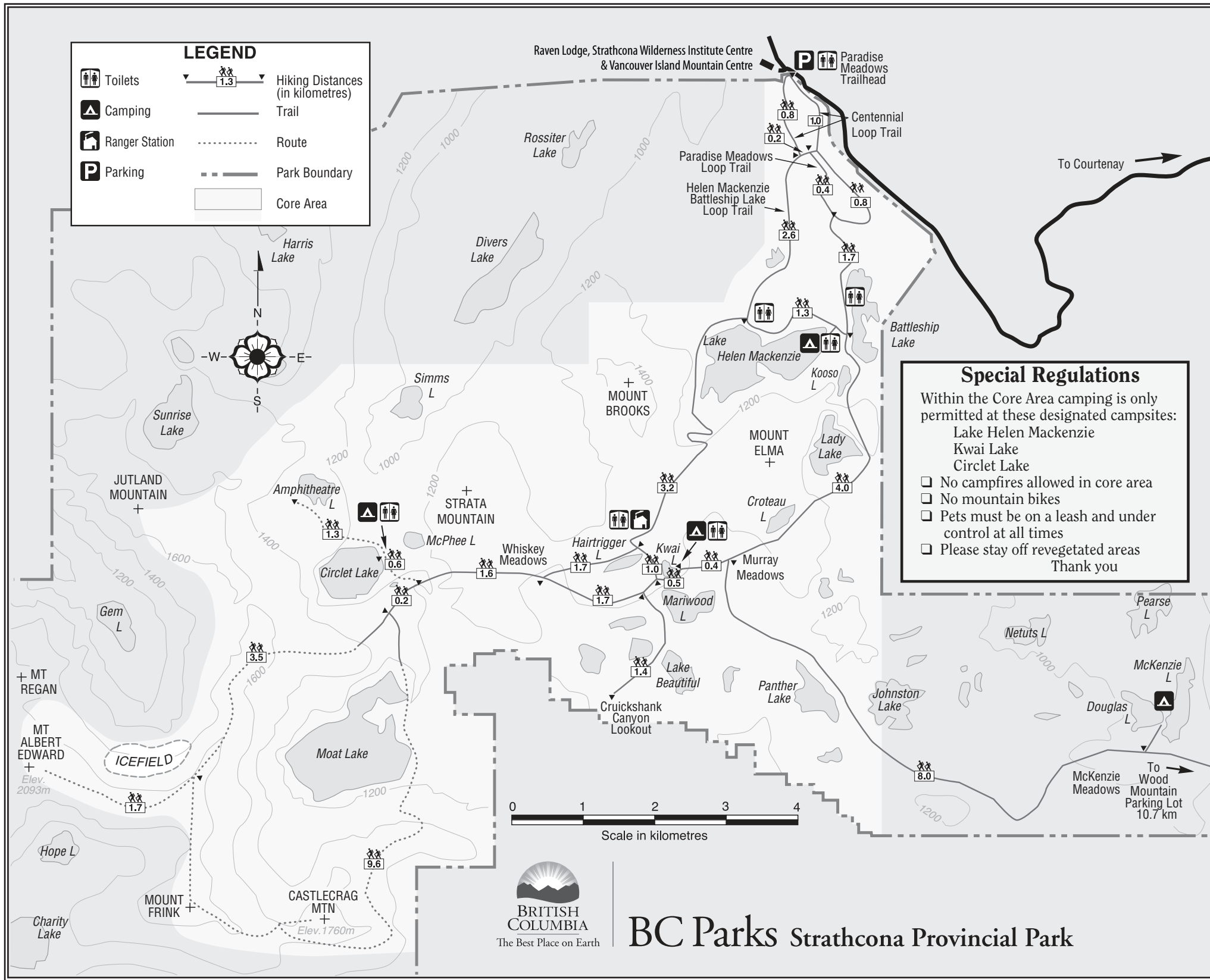
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Forbidden Plateau Paradise Meadows

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 the 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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Buttle Lake

BC Parks Strathcona Provincial Park



Photo: Gerry Roberts

Strathcona Provincial Park Buttle Lake Information Hut

Run voluntarily by the
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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 15 to September 16, 2012.

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 15 to September 16, 2012

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

2012 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.

Buttle Lake north from Auger Point.

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

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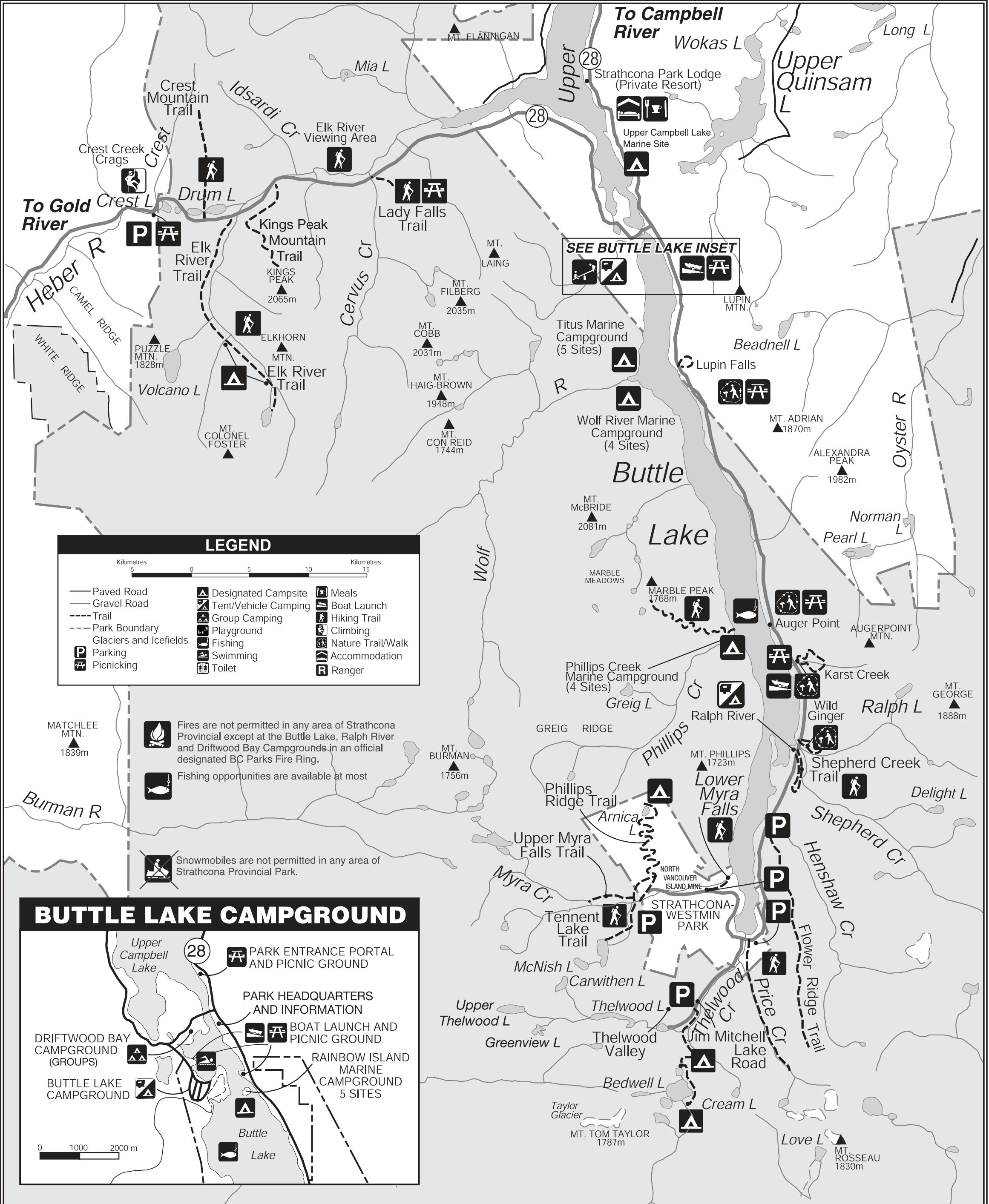
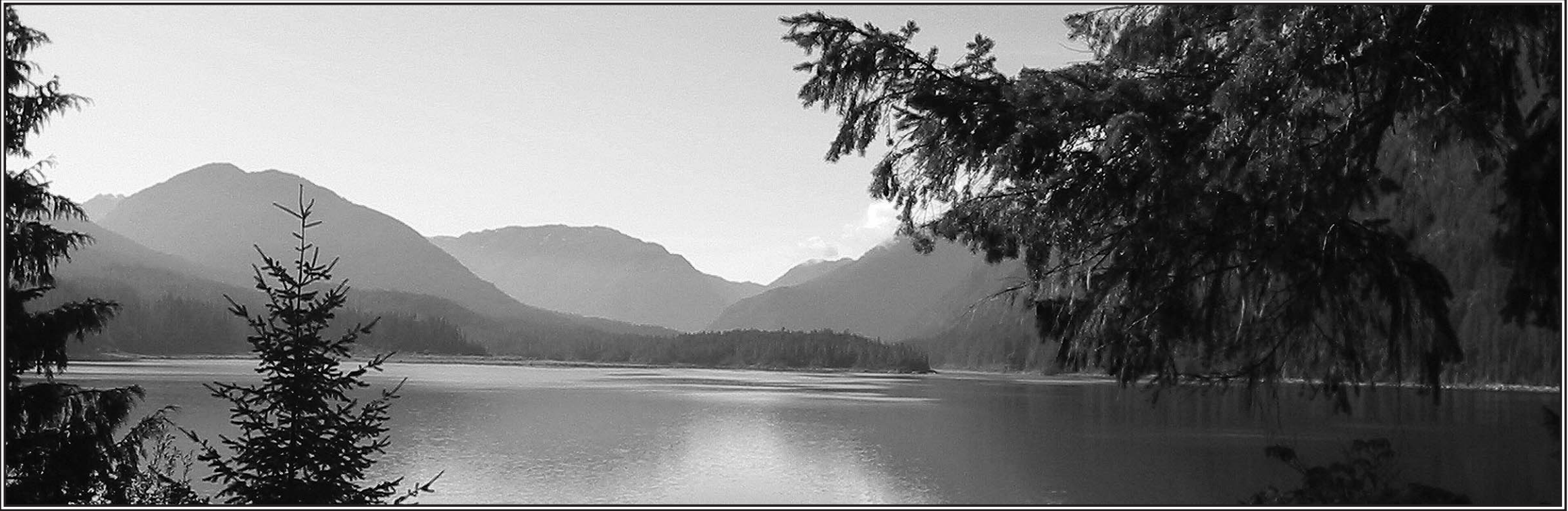
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BUTTLE LAKE CORRIDOR

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 • Canada Day Family Fun

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



July 13 • Suds & Scotch Festival

If you like beer or Scotch - Mount Washington Suds & Scotch is the place for you to be on Friday July 13th, 2012! 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. The event runs from 6 pm to 9 pm at the beautiful Raven Lodge with live entertainment from violinist extremist Kytami and a delicious BBQ dinner.



July 28 • Bike Park Opening Day

The Mount Washington Bike Park opens for

summer, with trails for all abilities, rentals and lessons from the pros.

July 28-29 • Inukshuk Building Contest

Enjoy the Mile High Scenic Chairlift ride on the Eagle chairlift to the summit of Mount Washington (1588 m elevation), build your own inukshuk and enter to win a getaway for two at Middle Beach Lodge in Tofino.



Aug 2 • Lucky Thursdays DH Race Series

Every Thursday for the month of August the Mount Washington Bike Park and Dodge City Cycles bring you the Lucky Thursday DH race series. Each week a new trail is picked by the DCC and Mount Washington Crew! Riders pick their category and receive a free beverage ticket and a chance to win draw prizes each week.



Aug 3-4 • Bearclaw Invitational

One of the world's top mountain bike slopestyle events. The Bearclaw Invitational

will be the most progressive slopestyle event of the year, featuring some of the best riders from around the world.

Aug 24-26 • BC Provincial Championships

Mount Washington and Cycling BC have teamed up again this year to bring awesome DH and XC races to Vancouver Island. Both races will be MC'd by pro rider and all around great guy, Brett Tippey!



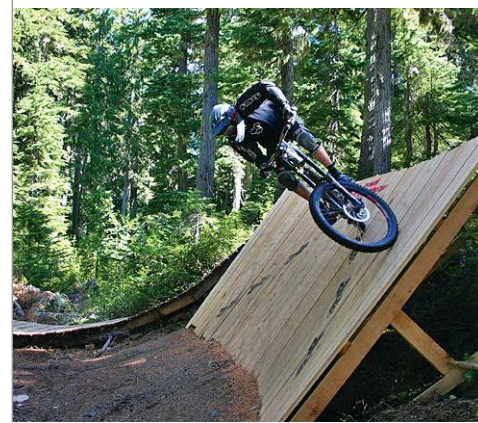
Aug 25-26 • Alpine Wine & Food Festival

The weekend kicks off with a wine festival at the Raven Lodge featuring wine samples from various vineyards, appetizers, a silent auction, live entertainment and a BBQ. The events continue with cooking demonstrations and a wine pairing dinner at the Alpine Resort on Saturday, August 26. The dinner will highlight local

food in a 5-6 course meal with wine pairing and presentation by a professional sommelier. Don't miss this unique opportunity to indulge in great wine and food while celebrating summer with a view!

Sept 1-2 • Fall Freak Out

Come up to the Bike Park and Freak Out... over bikes, jumps, downhill races, prizes and more!!



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



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GAS N GO

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 15 through to September 16, 2012.

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/

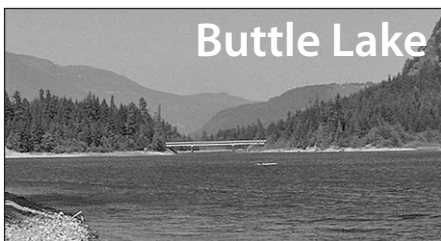


Photo: Neil Havers

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)

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)

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.



Buttle Lake Park Info Hut

Photo: Gerry Roberts

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.

Note: Some reservations can now be made for Ralph River Campsites

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: Please contact BC Parks for camping fees. Zsana Tulcsik, Park Ranger zsana.tulcsik@gov.bc.ca
- Firewood for sale by the PFO.
- Tel. 250-474-1336 to book the campground.

BACKCOUNTRY & MARINE CAMPING FEE

- \$10.00 per night per adults, \$5.00 per child
- Please check with Parks*



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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To read past issues of The Marmot go to

www.milehigh.ca



Strathcona Wilderness Institute at Paradise Meadows



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.

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 late June to early October

(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.

Taking a break for lunch at Lake Helen MacKenzie



2012 Summer Programs on Mount Washington

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

Sunday - July 8, 10 am: Strathcona Park Bird Search Participate in the annual bird search in Paradise Meadows. Pre-register: 250-650-4304 or coordinator@strathconapark.org

Sunday - July 15, 1 pm: Nature Walk; Spring Flora & Fauna Early plants and birds of Paradise Meadows with expert naturalist Betty Brooks.

Saturday - July 21, 9 am - 4 pm: Parks Day Noon: Cake & refreshments. **1-3 pm** Painting with Brian Buckrell. **All day:** Community displays.

Sunday - July 22, 1 pm: Nature Walk Lichen it! Explore lichens around the meadows with Registered Professional Forester Margaret Symon.

Sunday - July 29, 10 am: (Level 1 Hike) Lake Helen Mackenzie 4 hour hike with Mandy Vaughan of Comox Valley Nature. Dogs on leash OK.

Saturday - August 4, 9 am: (Level 3 Hike) Mt. Allan Brooks 8 hour hike with Heather and Rolf Kellerhals of the Comox Valley Naturalists Society. Moderately strenuous. Pre-register: 250-650-4304 or coordinator@strathconapark.org

Sunday - August 5, 1 pm: Nature Walk: Ethnobiology in Paradise Meadows An introduction to some uses of our native plants by retired Prof. of Archaeology Alison Maingon.

Saturday - August 11, 9 am: (Level 2 Hike) Croteau Lake & Ball Lake Lookout 6 hour hike with Tim Penney of the Comox District Mountaineering Club. Pre-register: 250-650-4304 or coordinator@strathconapark.org

Sunday - August 12, 1 pm: Nature Talk - Marvellous Marmots: Fun, Fact & Fiction Presentation by Alana Buchanan of the Marmot Recovery Centre at Mount Washington.

Saturday - August 18, 9 am: (Level 2 Hike) Croteau Lake 6 hour hike with Robin

and Jennifer Harrison of Comox Valley Nature. Pre-register: 250-650-4304 or coordinator@strathconapark.org

Sunday - August 19, 1 pm: Nature Walk Limnology of Paradise Meadows Pond life with biologist Loys Maingon.

Saturday - August 25, 9 am: (Level 2 Hike) Mt. Elma 7 hour hike with Steve and Marlene Smith of Strathcona Wilderness Institute. Moderately strenuous. Dogs on leash OK. Pre-register: coordinator@strathconapark.org or 250-650-4304

Sunday - August 26, 1 pm: Photo Walk Take a stroll around Paradise Meadows with photographer Chris Carter and share his vision of photo opportunities and compositions.

Saturday - September 1, 8 am: (Level 3 Hike) Johnston & Panther Lakes 9 hour hike with Julian Brooks. Age 16 and over. Pre-register: 250-650-4304 or coordinator@strathconapark.org

Sunday - September 2, 10 am: (Level 1 Hike) Lake Helen Mackenzie 4 hour hike with Mandy Vaughan of Comox Valley Nature. Dogs on leash OK.

Saturday - September 8, 8 am: (Level 3 Hike) Moat Lake 10 hour hike with William Wright of the Comox District Mountaineering Club. 25 km, 1000 m. elevation gain. Strenuous. Pre-register: coordinator@strathconapark.org or 250-650-4304

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



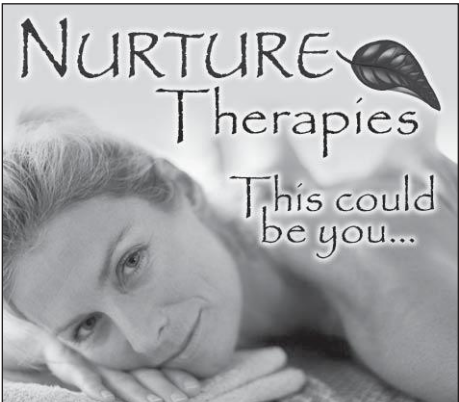
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Successful Marmot Recovery

Her small body lay on the snow rigid with cold. She had survived seven long months in hibernation, and dug through several meters of snow to emerge from her burrow before her energy ran out.

Weak and emaciated, she emerged into a world of white. Unable to find the food and warmth she needed to recover from her long hibernation, she lay perfectly still.

Her name is Wascana. She is one of a very rare and endangered species of marmot found only in Canada. And mercifully for this little marmot, her luck didn't run out along with her strength that day. Levon Young, a Mount Washington Electrician, spotted Wascana and noticed she wasn't moving. Knowing just how special this little marmot is, he notified the marmot crew, who were on the mountain for avalanche safety training that day.

Wascana is a Vancouver Island Marmot. A species that evolved over thousands of years to survive the deprivation a long hibernation demands, allowing them to fill a unique niche in their alpine habitat where extreme conditions are standard fare.

From October to April, when their alpine habitat becomes "uninhabitable," the marmots go to sleep. A sleep so deep their heartbeat slows to just 3 or 4 beats per minute. This process of "shutting down" allows the marmots to preserve their energy, stored as fat gained during the summer months, and avoid the worst of the alpine weather. Even then, a wild marmot will lose up to one-third of their body mass before spring arrives.

And Wascana is not a wild-born marmot. She is captive-born, and part of a national breeding program producing healthy, Vancouver Island Marmots for



Malcolm McAdie checking Wascana over for signs of life.

reintroduction to the wild to recover the endangered population. And, while the release of captive-born marmots has successfully increased the Vancouver Island population from a low of less than 30 marmots in the wild in 2003 to between 320-370 in the wild today, the prolonged cold springs of the last few years have taken a huge toll on the "inexperienced" captive-born marmots during their first hibernation in the wild.

Malcolm McAdie, a wildlife veterinarian for the Marmot Recovery Foundation, raced to the scene to see if Wascana could be revived. On first examination, he thought he was too late to save her. Then he noticed an almost imperceptible movement.

Carefully wrapping her in an emergency blanket, he rushed Wascana to the Mount Washington Marmot Recovery Centre, administered fluids, and slowly raised her body temperature. And just when it looked like her chances were lost,

Wascana revived, and began eating on her own.

Wascana is just one small marmot. But her story helps illustrate some of the hurdles to overcome when recovering a species from the brink of extinction. All species develop their own unique set of characteristics that allow them to adapt and endure in their specific environments. Replicating those characteristics is next to impossible, making recoveries complex, expensive and challenging. The lesson to be learned from this indomitable little marmot; is to cherish and protect our species and their habitats before they become critically endangered, because the way back home - can be a long and arduous one.

If you would like to help Wascana and other Vancouver Island marmots be restored to their natural habitat on Vancouver Island, please visit the marmot website and make a donation today at www.marmots.org or use the mail-in coupon provided in this paper.

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Marmot Recovery Foundation www.marmots.org
 Box 2332, Station A, Nanaimo, B.C., Canada V9R 6X6 Fax: 250-753-8070



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

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

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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.



Photo: Tom Davies

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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.

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Festivals Happen Here!

Check out these 2012 Festivals and Events.

- Vancouver Island MusicFest • July 6-8
 - Local Colours Festival • July 20-21
 - Downtown Courtenay Market Day • July 21
 - Hornby Festival • August 2-11
 - Filberg Festival • August 3-6, 2012
 - Comox Nautical Days • August 4-6
 - Big Time Out • August 18-19
 - Comox Valley Fall Fair • August 24-26
- See page 15 for events on Mount Washington.

Filberg Festival




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Located outside the entrance to CFB Comox
Ryan Road at Military Row, Comox
Open Tuesday-Sunday, 10 am-4 pm



Ph/Fax: (250) 339-8162
www.comoxairforcemuseum.ca

Photo: Neil Havers

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.

COMOX CENTRE MALL is conveniently located in the heart of Comox. Enjoy everything from eateries, fashion, gifts, beauty 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

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. With over 240 boutiques, cafes and restaurants, spas and services of all kinds, **DOWNTOWN COURTENAY** has something for everyone, all in one walkable location. With a fabulous museum and theatre, art galleries, parks, and more, and it's easy to see why **DOWNTOWN COURTENAY** is one of the most charming downtowns on Vancouver Island.

Located in the Heart of Downtown Courtenay, **EDIBLE ISLAND WHOLE FOODS MARKET** provides nutrition-conscious shoppers a complete and extensive selection of or-



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

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GLACIER GREENS GOLF CLUB invites you to discover the unbeatable value and friendly service that have made it one of the finest courses in the Comox Valley. GLACIER GREENS offers excellent facilities, including a covered range and grass tees, a full service Pro Shop, a fully licensed restaurant with meeting and banquet facilities, and a beautiful outdoor patio overlooking the 18th green and don't forget the BEST HOME COOKING in the Valley. For great golf, spectacular views and fabulous food ~ swing by GLACIER GREENS, located on Knight Road, just past the Comox Valley Airport. www.glaciergreens.com

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THE RIDING FOOL HOSTEL is a Tourism B.C. Approved heritage property in historic downtown Cumberland. We offer private rooms and dorm style accommodation, full kitchen, BBQ, large common area, and free pool table, gear storage, free wireless internet. "Best hostel on Vancouver Island" Lonely Planet B.C.

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Continued on page 26



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Shop & Dine

continued from page 25

SHAR-ON'S LADIES WEAR at 438 on 5th Street in Courtenay is always ready to outfit you in the latest of fashions and lingerie for all sizes. We start at size 8 to 24, 1X-3X. There is the newest of fashions for ladies of all ages and sizes and the staff is more than willing to help you accessorize to get a beautiful outfit and to be able to turn your basic outfit into a whole weekend of different looks by alternation with jackets, skirts, pants and jeans. If it is a hot tub night we have a great selection of bathing suits in stock. Come in and make your weekend a special one.

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THE WAVERLY ~ Rustic charm, fast friendly service. The closest pub to the base of the mountain, for quantity and quality you can't beat THE WAVERLY'S food. Check out our super entertainment! Downtown Cumberland.

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WHISTLE STOP PUB serves the best pub food in the Valley. Ocean view dining, two patios, Valleys best draft selection, plus friendly, knowledgeable staff. Live music every weekend. Our LIQUOR STORE offers all beer & spirits at, or below, government liquor store prices.

Thanks to these Visitor Centres for distributing The Marmot

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Campbell River	1-877-286-5705 or 250-287-4636	www.visitorcentre.ca
Comox Valley	1-855-400-2882 or 250-400-2882	www.discovercomoxvalley.com
Cumberland	1-866-301-INFO or 250-336-8313	www.cumberlandbc.org
Duncan-Cowichan	1-888-303-3337 or 250-746-4636	www.duncancc.bc.ca
Gold River	1-250-283-2418	www.goldriver.ca
Nanaimo	1-800-663-7337 or 250-756-0106	www.tourismnanaimo.com
Parksville	250-248-3613	www.parkvillechamber.com
Saanich Penninsula	250-656-0525	www.spcoc.org
Qualicum Beach	250-752-9532	www.qualicum.bc.ca

News In Brief

continued from page 8

It combines first-year university transfer classes in English, biology, and physiology with lifetime sports activities, allowing students to gain fitness knowledge while they earn transfer credit toward health-related degrees.

Students taking this new certificate can complete one year in the Comox Valley then guarantee a spot in Camosun College's two-year Exercise and Wellness diploma program, or transfer into

education, recreation and health-related programs at Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo and beyond.

••• **Podium of Life Academy** intends to offer a water ramp camp in Whistler and a surf camp in Tofino later this summer. "There is so much adventure here on Vancouver Island and I like to offer opportunities for students to experience some of these," owner and instructor Shane Harle said.

Podium of Life is already taking registration for next year, and they have added a snowboarding component to the academy for the first time.

••• **Wendy Woodley** is having a birthday this November 5. Can't tell you how old that makes her, but with the birthday will bring her retirement from the Marmot.

Wendy has been the ad sales force behind the Mount Washington publication since 1998 and she will be fondly missed. Wendy is continuing her role looking after the accommodation section.

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Winter Wrap Up



Winter Wrapup

continued from page 5

"The engineering held up and we know they can withstand any type of snow," he said.

Lifties had to dig things out at some points, and the Snow-Cats were needed to push the snow off the sides of the carpets to allow the snow to slide off the top.

Others in the ski industry have also taken notice. The National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) Journal April/May issue featured a Magic Carpet on its cover, the same model that Mount Washington installed last fall. The cover article talked about ways resorts are bringing in new learners, and stated that demand for these types of conveyors continues to grow.

Although Mount Seymour on the Lower Mainland installed one covered carpet, industry personnel have looked to Mount Washington's experience for advice. Whistler will cover its Magic Carpets for next winter, based on a visit to Mount Washington "and looking at what we did here," Gibson said.

The carpets will undergo some minor adjustments in the off-season; one will be shortened and one will be lengthened. Overall, though, Resort staff was happy with the general placement of its carpets, he said.

On a lighter note, the Resort had a huge response on its Facebook page to a post that made one of the carpets look like a huge igloo, because it was buried. "The only thing you could see (of the carpets) from the Hawk Chairlift was part of the opening," Curtain said. "The whole thing

was buried."

The snow began falling early, meaning the Resort was able to open in November, a couple of weeks ahead of schedule. However, the heavy snowfall didn't arrive until the third week of January, which affected Christmas numbers, Gibson said. The Resort did see some strong numbers from its Discovery Skiing and Snowboarding lessons, despite an industry-wide stagnation. "We were able to buck that trend," Curtain said.

Enough snow was still on the ground that the Resort was able to open for Father's Day weekend in June for the third year in a row.

Retail sales were down over last season, but Gibson said the Resort has a number of plans underway to address that trend next winter.

"Like the rest of the mountain resort industry, there was a decline in visits, but not as bad as in the United States," he said. "They had a poor winter."

Only two regions in North America saw increases in visits this year, those being British Columbia (up 1.2%) and Alberta (up 2%). Atlantic Canada saw a 14% decrease in visits, followed by Quebec (down 11%), Ontario (down 10%) and the prairies (down 3.2%).

Job action by B.C. teachers meant the cancellation of school skiing programs last winter, and that was a province-wide concern, Gibson said.

"It's interesting times. There are challenges out there and we're doing all sorts of proactive things to deal with those challenges," he said. "We're looking forward to a great year next year."

Ski Clubs

continued from page 6

"Depending on a number of factors, such as number of athletes, fitness level and age, we would then set up different categories in order to make the races as fun and fair as possible," Dettling said.

In the future, the Club would like to hold summer training camps at Mount Washington, focusing on physical conditioning.

Anyone interested in the summer mountain bike biathlon races can contact the club at vibiathlonclub@gmail.com or go online to <http://vancouverislandbiathlonclub.wordpress.com>.



Mount Washington Freestyle Club competitors and parents rebuild the moguls course and terrain park the day before the BC Provincial Freestyle Championships in March, after a heavy snowfall buried the course overnight.

Magic Carpets Become Sasquatch Super Highway?



Local Area Plan

continued from page 4

Parking issues extended to residential areas, where non-resort visitor parking is almost non-existent during the winter, as well as the desire for a larger parking area at the base of Strathcona Parkway.

Other concerns included environmental impact of runoff, lack of community-based parks and recreation opportunities and amenities for people who live at Mount Washington, lack of design guidelines for development and the need for a cohesive village centre. Many survey participants noted the present commercial area could use better connectivity to existing residential areas.

A summary of CTQ Consultants' report as well as other information on the survey process is available online at www.mount-washingtonirpc.ca.

The Sasquatch at Mount Washington Alpine Resort are bucking a cryptozoological trend, and it has frustrated even the most seasoned field biologists.

Evidence is emerging that sasquatches normally travel in familial packs, and in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies, they were found to follow the same paths as big game. In B.C.'s Interior and the northern coastal mountains, it is rumoured they travel along deer paths.

At Mount Washington this past season, they travelled by Magic Carpet. By mid-March, when the snow kept falling, the covered carpets were dubbed the "Magic Igloos" because of the way the snow would surround the people movers. The eerie blue glow from the bottom of the snow captivated riders, but it also illuminated another problem. "One of our groomers got the fright of his life when he pushed away a pile of snow and saw that big, hairy face slap against the inside of the top carpet," a Resort staff member said on the condition of anonymity.

Readers will remember the record-breaking winter of 2010, when cars buried in heavy snowfall were discovered to have had large, hairy visitors use them for refuge by using a series of snow tunnels connecting each vehicle.

An evidence analyst brought in by an unnamed Resort patron said she is puzzled as to why this seems to have happened again during a large snowfall. "We don't know whether the record-setting snowfall is affecting their habitat, or whether the behaviour they are exhibiting is an anomaly," she said. "It's almost like they're playing with us."

Visitor Centre

continued from page 7

The Comox Business in Action group is developing a strategy to use the visitors' centre to promote Comox effectively, rather than being left out.

"You'll notice we're quite well represented in the racks," he said.

Did You Know...

The Vancouver Island Visitor Centre captured the Judge's Choice Award for best overall entry as well as the Excellence Award for the Institutional category at the fifth annual Vancouver Island Real Estate Board Commercial Building Awards in Parksville, April 12.



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#207 ~ \$212,000



South Facing Townhouse

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!

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Pride of ownership is evident and all the upgrades are done! New kitchen, new flooring, new bathrooms. Bright corner suite with views west into Strathcona Park. Easy access to parking and ski out to lifts. Basement area could be further developed.

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One of the few remaining chalet lots in the Alpine Village. Price includes plan for an impressive chalet and the completed foundation. Spectacular location with easy access to parking and ski in and out access. \$349,900

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The only duplex lot available on Mount Washington! Prime location and still owned by its original owners this jewel is waiting for you. Many opportunities as you could build both, sell one and keep the other side. \$325,000

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640 Arrowsmith Ridge	\$99,000
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- Slopeside Location
- Fully Furnished, 6 appliances
- Rainscreen Technology
- Live-in Caretaker
- Underbuilding Parking
- Common Hot Tub
- 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom some with Lock-offs

- 102 2 Bdrm 882 Sq Ft Viewside **\$189,900**
- 105 2 Bdrm 893 Sq Ft Slopeside **\$240,900**
- 201 2 Bdrm 884 Sq Ft Viewside **\$189,900**
- 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 **\$344,900**
- 301 2 Bdrm 880 Sq Ft Viewside **\$162,500**
- 310 2 Bdrm 882 Sq Ft Slopeside **\$244,900**
- 315 1 Bdrm 625 Sq Ft Viewside **\$184,900**
- 411 3 Bdrm 1013 Sq Ft Corner **\$399,900**
Top Floor



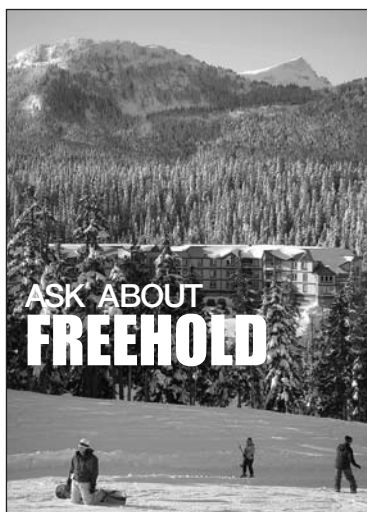
Ptarmigan Ridge

Features Include:

- Furnished Apartments
- Drive To Access
- Propane Fireplaces
- Self-contained Kitchens
- Ski Storage Lockers off Lobby
- Breathtaking Mountain Views
- Convenient Location to Ski Lifts and Strathcona Provincial Park.

ONE BEDROOM APARTMENTS

- 104 Facing Strathcona Park **\$107,500**
- 106 Facing Strathcona Park **\$99,900**
- 210 Facing Strathcona Park **\$129,900**
- 212 Facing Strathcona Park **\$129,900**
- 309 Top floor, facing ski runs **\$129,900**



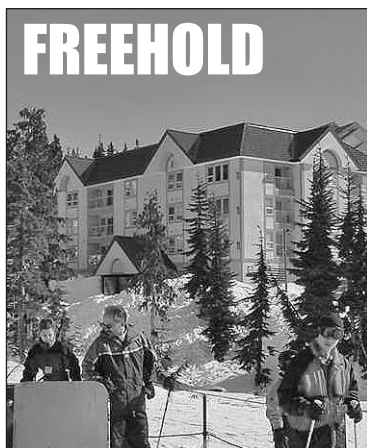
ASK ABOUT
FREEHOLD



Features Include:

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

- 108 3 Bedroom, facing ski runs **\$209,900**
- 216 2 Bedrooms **\$178,300**
facing Strathcona Park
- 303 Top Floor (921 sq. ft.) **\$189,900**
2 Bedroom, facing Strathcona Park



FREEHOLD

Creekside House

Rarely do suites in Creekside House hit the open market. One owner, immaculately maintained 3 bedroom suite available. Quality plus building built by the same builder of Raven Lodge. Creekside is located immediately adjacent to Easy Acres so is about as ski in and out friendly as you can get. Easy access to Nordic and Strathcona Park.

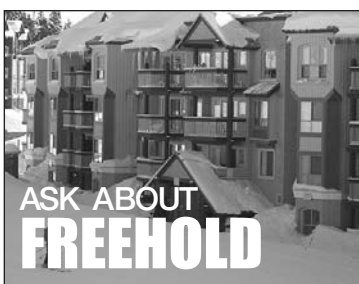
- 301 Top Floor, 3 bedroom sunny slopeside **\$374,900**

PARADISE RIDGE

Features Include:

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

- 111 Freehold - 3 Bedroom **\$249,900**
facing Strathcona Park
- 211 3 Bedroom facing Strath. Park **\$199,900**
and ski runs
- 407 Freehold - 2 Bedroom **\$219,900**
facing ski runs and Strathcona Park
- 506 3 Bedroom Penthouse facing **\$199,900**
Strathcona Park and ski runs



ASK ABOUT
FREEHOLD

DEER LODGE

AT MT. WASHINGTON

Features Include:

- Slopeside Location
- Fully Furnished
- Front Desk Service
- Underground Parking
- Hot Tub
- Caretaker

- 110 2 Bedroom, larger than most **\$234,900**
- 201 2 Bedroom facing Strath. Park **\$162,500**
- 207 2 Bedroom facing ski runs **\$179,900**
- 313 2 Bedroom Lock-off **\$219,900**
facing Strathcona Park



Chairlift Friendly!

Located at the loading station of the Hawk 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.

- Three Bedroom **\$384,900**
- Four Bedroom Freehold **\$445,900**



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**



Stunning Mountain Chalet

Located on the Upper Side of Fosters Place on Mt Washington is this stunning mountain chalet. 4+ bedrooms and a HUGE living area! The mountain home boasts a beautifully appointed interior, finished to the highest of standards. Ski in & out access and close to Strathcona Park for

Nordic skiing in winter and summer hiking. Golf courses, beaches, international airport are all 30 minutes away. **\$449,900**



FREEHOLD

Three Decks!

Looking for something different? Your front door opens onto Strathcona Park while your back door opens onto Hawk chairlift. 3 bedrooms plus lofts with above average finishing including maple flooring, tile in bathrooms, fir doors, wood blinds and more. Sauna and rough-in for hot tub. Loads of storage and 3 decks!!

Skylights, vaulted ceilings in main area & 10 ft ceilings down. Wow!! This is a must see. **\$449,900**



FREEHOLD

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 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. **\$489,900**

FREEHOLD**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**FREEHOLD****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 C **\$448,000****FREEHOLD****Once in a Lifetime!**

Once in a while a unique property becomes available. This legal duplex on Mount 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!

PLEASE CALL**Nestled in the Trees!**

Nestled in the trees in the heart of the Alpine Village is "Doug's Chalet". This mountain home is lovingly maintained by the original family that built it. The home is surrounded by trees yet you can ski in and out to the lifts. The main area includes a towering floor to ceiling brick fireplace and vaulted ceilings. A very cozy kitchen complements the living area. The home sleeps 6 comfortably. A sauna and jetted tubs round out the upper suite. Downstairs is a spacious self contained two bedroom suite. The home is well cared for and has an area where a hot tub could be installed.

\$549,900**FREEHOLD****FREEHOLD****Big Red Chalet**

Big Red Chalet, located within Mount 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

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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 a 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**



Large Family Chalet

Are you looking for that large family chalet on Mount Washington? You will get the sun all day from the gorgeous mountain home. Well built, 3 floors with 5 bedrooms and other sleeping areas. There is a cozy woodstove and fireplace for warming up. After a long day on the slopes enjoy the hot tub and sauna. The games room comes with shuffleboard, foosball and a projection TV. There is about 1000 sq. ft. of basement that could be further developed. Year round recreational area. New windows and metal siding. Converted to freehold. **\$649,900**



Perched on a Knoll...

to take in sunset views of Strathcona Park. This chalet in Mount Washington's Alpine Village is perfectly set up for the large family or the family wanting a great rental property with one of the nicest owner's suite available. Easy access to parking and virtually ski in and out to the ski lifts. The mountain home has three distinct living areas, a lower two bedroom owner's suite that is sunny and bright, and main floor 5 bedroom main suite with huge entertainment friendly kitchen and living area and an upper bachelor suite. The whole property is meticulously maintained with new hardiplank siding on the exterior. Loads of storage inside and very well thought out design. Wood fireplace in the upper main suite and electric fireplace in the owners suite. **\$699,900**

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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**

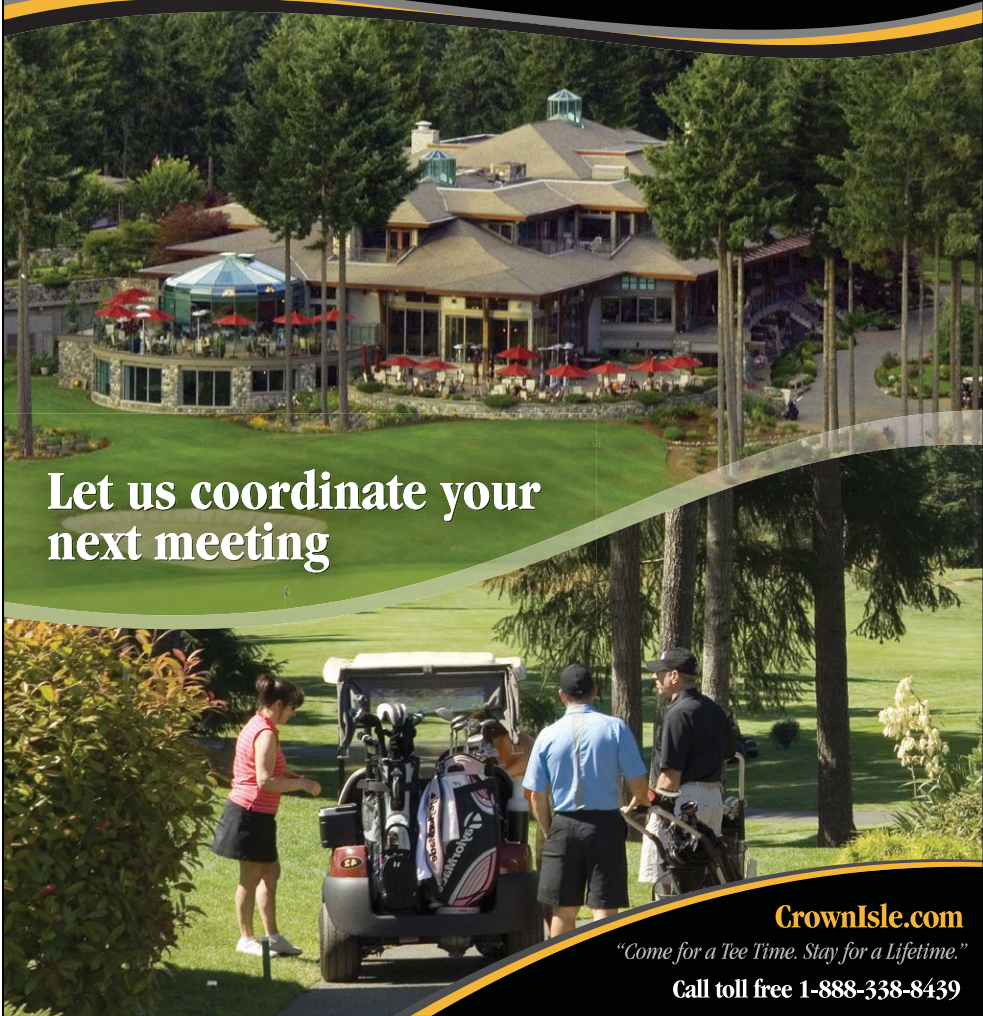


The Best of the Best!

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 Strathcona Park. This is one of only a few properties on Mount Washington that are drive in and ski out and unobstructed views. **\$950,000**



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* For complete details, please contact a Couverdon sales representative. The Developer reserves the right to make modifications and changes to the information contained herein. Photos and maps are representational and are not accurate. Prices are subject to change. E.&O.E.

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