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CHAIRLIFT RIDES TO A  
MILE ABOVE SEA LEVEL



# high on summer

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



Photo: Courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort

## O-Zone Tube Park Expands to a New Location

The new Ozone Tube Park will be larger, with five lanes, and the lift will be a covered Magic Carpet.

After nearly two decades of serving visitors who wanted to do some snow sliding near the Alpine Lodge, the Ozone will be relocated to just behind the Learning Centre (the Bradley Building), Mount Washington Alpine Resort Director of Business Operations and Marketing Don Sharpe said. "That's going to be the next exciting thing for the wintertime," he said.

"You stand up next to the tubes on the Carpet on your way up," Sharpe explained. "You get off at the top and tube down, then

get back on the Carpet again." This will bring to five the number of covered Magic Carpets at the Resort.

"The original tube park no longer has the capacity for all the people that want to use it," Sharpe said. "Lineups are long and the lift is getting old and tired. The next lift will be brand new and will be more comfortable for people lining up," he added.

The vertical pitch will be steeper at the beginning with a longer runout, which will eliminate the need for hay bales at the end. "It's more in line with what today's tube parks are like," Sharpe said.

The new Ozone will still be lit at night, will have music playing in the background and will continue to have a family atmosphere.

Continued on page 7

[rickgibson.ca](http://rickgibson.ca)

ROYAL LEPAGE In the Comox Valley

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Photo: Courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort

## Will there ever be a better time to buy?

Consumers maintain optimism regarding Canadian recreational property market, according to Royal LePage survey.

TORONTO, MAY 16, 2013 - According to a new survey released today by Royal LePage, interest rates factor hugely into the decisions of Canadian households when it comes to purchasing a recreational property.



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The survey, which polled Canadians across the country who either currently own or intend to purchase a recreational property within the next five years, found that most (82 per cent) Canadians say interest rates will influence their decision to purchase a recreational property - and a majority (58 per cent) feel added urgency to buy a recreational property while interest rates are low.

"Despite financial and economic uncertainty, or perhaps because of it, we have found that the enduring value of recreational properties is widely recognized by Canadians," said Phil Soper, president and chief executive of Royal

## News In Brief

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

...

**'Summer Camp' took on a whole new meaning** for Mount Washington Alpine Resort Director of Public Relations Brent Curtain this year.

Curtain and Webmaster Darcy Friesen attended the fourth annual Social Media Camp in May at the Victoria Conference Centre.

This is the second year that Curtain and Friesen have attended the camp, which attracts everyone from online gurus to business people, small business owners and non-profit operators, all learning how to make their online platforms successful.

Attending the camp is a good way to keep up with trends and social media



LePage Real Estate Services.

"The recreational property market has remained remarkably stable and resilient."

According to the survey, the majority of current recreational property owners plan to keep their properties long-term, with 60 per cent stating that they are

somewhat or very unlikely to sell their property upon retirement.

"Canadians have long valued the ability to escape the city to spend time with friends and family," said Soper.

"A place to get away from the pressures of daily life seems to be more attractive now than ever."

methods, Curtain said.

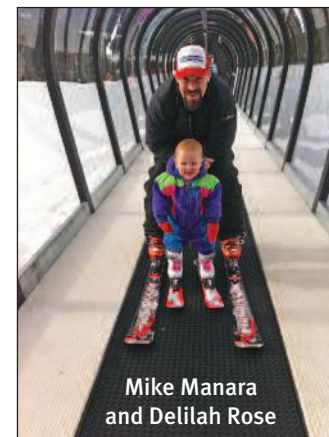
*(You can read more about the Resort's success with social media elsewhere in this edition of the Marmot.)*

...

**And speaking of social media...** one of the Resort's bloggers, triathlete Gillian Clayton, also has a blog dedicated to her triathlon training at [rundriven.blogspot.ca](http://rundriven.blogspot.ca).

Clayton, who grew up downhill skiing at Mount Washington, wrote this past winter about her love for Nordic skiing as aerobic conditioning.

She has a special project on the go for this summer; a new addition to her family. She's due on the same day as the Subaru Ironman Canada competition. Now, how's that for timing?



Mike Manara and Delilah Rose

Photo: Susie Quinn

...

**Visitors were able to get around Mount Washington Alpine Resort in style this winter.** Ambassador Shuttle Services from Courtenay provided a shuttle that did the rounds from Deer and Bear Lodges all the way around to Raven Lodge and back, on a regular daily schedule. The service ensured guests could access all corners of the Resort.

Tourism Mount Washington was instrumental in bringing this service to the Resort last season.

"It was a really nice service we hope to be repeating this coming year," Tourism Mount Washington Manager Sarah Nicholson said.

*Continued on page 23*



SEASON PASSES ON SALE IN AUGUST!  
[www.mountwashington.ca](http://www.mountwashington.ca)



Photo: Susie Quinn

## In Profile: Dale Logan

Dale Logan has been a fixture at Mount Washington Alpine Resort for 13 years. He has spent the past two years as the Resort's Risk Manager.

"People may recognize me from being out on the lifts as a lifty, helping guests load and unload every chair we have on the hill. Then more recently as the Lift Operations Supervisor," he says.

So, what exactly does a Risk Manager do? Risk management is the identification, assessment and prioritization of risk, says Logan.

"There is risk in everything that everybody does all the time. Skiing operations are no different," he explains.

"Dealing with outdoor recreation such as we do, there can be all kinds (of risk)," he says. "Probably one of the easiest ones for our snow sliding guests to see and hear is the avalanche control that our Patrol

Department does on a continual basis to manage the risk of an in-bounds avalanche."

The loud booms that visitors hear in the early morning following a night of significant snowfall are the Patrol Members using explosives to trigger avalanches and reduce the risk of these avalanches being triggered naturally by a skier or snowboarder, Logan says.

Although Logan is the Resort's Risk Manager, he says he is just one of many people who manage risk at the Resort.

"I feel it is everybody's responsibility to manage the risk to themselves and our guests in whatever areas they work or play in," he says. "My position helps others focus on the things that need to be done to accomplish this."

Logan loves his job, particularly because of where it's located.

*Continued on page 7*



Photo: Courtesy Mount Washington

## Summer 2013 Preview

Mount Washington has a lot of fun on tap this summer, from a new festival called 'Tapped' to Mile High Adventures on the scenic chairlift.

"We're going to be focusing on scenic chair rides and hiking," Director of Business Services and Marketing Don Sharpe said.

The Mile High Chairlift still offers awesome panoramic views of Georgia Strait, the Comox Valley and Strathcona Provincial Park, and it's still reasonably priced, he added.

There are hiking trails visitors can take to walk back down to the Alpine Lodge, and there will be some geocaching events at the Resort this year.

Once visitors get to the top of the chairlift they can plot out their own inukshuks in preparation for the **Inukshuk Building Contest** on Aug. 2 - 3. The contest ran

successfully last year, Sharpe said.

Inukshuk, the singular of inuksuit, means "in the likeness of a human" in the Inuit language. Inukshuks are monuments made of stones that are used by the Inuit in Canada's north for communication and survival. The traditional meaning of the inukshuk is "someone was here".

Inukshuks were made famous in British Columbia during the 2010 Winter Olympics, which used the inukshuk for its emblem.

**Tapped, slated for July 12 at Raven Lodge, replaces Suds and Scotch.** "It will be more food related," Sharpe said. The Beer Festival will include a beer seminar hosted by Cascadia Liquor Courtenay General Manager Jeff Lucas, tastings, live music and a pig roast in the middle of the courtyard.

*Continued on page 7*

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### HIKING LEGEND



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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 GIV'ER - 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.

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## Podium of Life assists an avid skier to compete, in Adaptive Sports AND able-bodied skiing.



Mel Pemble competes in the 2013 Whistler Cup

**When Mel Pemble announced two years ago that she wanted to be a competitive ski racer, her mother Rachel wasn't sure how to react.**

They were sitting in their home in England when Mel made her announcement. The notion surprised Rachel for a couple of reasons. Mel had suffered a skiing accident and spent quite a time recovering from it. She is also afflicted with mild cerebral palsy, so her right side is slower than her left.

"I've never stopped her aspirations in doing anything, really," Rachel said from the family's home in Victoria.

Within a couple of days, Mel had found a school in Canada where she could take classes in the morning and ski in the afternoon: Podium of Life at Mount Washington Alpine Resort, run by Shane and Corey Harle of Campbell River.

"When I found (the school) on the Internet I thought it was really cool," says Mel.

Mel learned to ski in France during a holiday. However, in 2007 she had an

accident and badly twisted one of her knees.

She re-learned the sport during a family Christmas holiday to Mount Washington Alpine Resort in 2010. It was there that ski instructor Dave Brown fueled her passion for the sport.

"He was really good in taking little steps," says Mel. It wasn't until the Pemples returned to England that she decided she'd like to take up ski racing.

Mel has attended Podium of Life for two years now. "We threw ourselves into the first (year)," says Rachel. "We lived on the mountain for the whole season. Mel's physical development snowballed."

"I like it because it's a great opportunity to do what I actually enjoy, while I go to school," says Mel. "I really love skiing so to have that in your curriculum..."

That first year she skied with the Vancouver Island Society for Adaptive Snowsports program at Mount Washington, and won a Gold Medal in her first race, a giant slalom at Mount Washington, as well as a Bronze. A month later she won two Bronze medals at a provincial competition at Cypress Mountain in Vancouver.

Last season her goal was to make the able-bodied ski team. With Podium of Life she was able to do more race training, and she also skied with the adaptive snowsports team again.

**Mel made the Provincial Team for able-bodied skiing as well. She won several medals with the Adaptive Snowsports Team, and was invited to compete with the able-bodied team at the Whistler Cup.**

*Continued on page 6*

## Cruise aboard the MV Uchuck III

*a coastal passenger and freight vessel that provides numerous services to ports-of-call in Nootka, Esperanza and Kyuquot Sound.*



Passengers visiting Friendly Cove

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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.

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## Social Media, a whole new language for Mount Washington.



Mount Washington Weekly Update, January 4, 2013  
by Mount Washington Alpine Resort • 5 months ago • 1,224 views  
Mount Washington Alpine Resort Weekly Update: Find out about this weeks promos, events, and snow report info.

HD

**OMG. Here's a video update; see our YouTube channel; catch us on Twitter; new blog post; thanks for posting to Instagram.**

While the Resort has had an active website for many years, and has a presence on Facebook and Twitter, the marketing department ramped it up in a major way this past winter.

The age-old dilemma with social media is whether you use your media to deliver a sales pitch, or whether you use it to engage with people who are interested in your product, Resort Director of Public Relations Brent Curtain explained.

Sometimes people don't want the sales pitch, they want to engage in a digital "conversation" with you. That's the approach Curtain, Webmaster Darcy Friesen and the rest of the Marketing and Public Relations Department at Mount Washington has taken.

This was the first year the Marketing Department put together weekly video updates on conditions and activities at the Resort. "We were pleasantly surprised by the views," Curtain said. Between 1,500 and 2,000 view every week "brought us well over 22,000 views throughout the winter," he said. "And that's just the weekly updates alone."

He plans to keep up the momentum this summer. "We're looking at creating more video content going through next winter," he added.

Building a visual picture was critical for the Resort - everyone wants to see the big powder, happy faces and beautiful blue bird days - so in addition to the video updates they signed on with Instagram. Visitors were encouraged to post photos to the Resort's Instagram channel, and photos of the week were published.

The Resort's website also featured five bloggers writing about different aspects of life at Mount Washington. Canadian triathlete Gillian Clayton wrote about the Nordic side of the Resort and how cross-country skiing is good off-season aerobic training. Miguel Strother is an accomplished travel writer who came to Mount Washington on assignment in 2007 and decided it was where he wanted to be. Eugene Chung was the Snow Tubing Supervisor as well as a ski patroller, writing about his exploits on the runs and giving people an inside view of the ski patrol. Sterling Todd Keys, already an accomplished writer and photographer, was also a member of the Pro Ski Patrol. He wrote about all things patrol and weather.

Sheila Rivers is a graphic designer and

mother of a toddler, and her posts dealt a lot with family-oriented items at the Resort. Erik Clevering, from the Netherlands, was determined to go from zero to ski hero in one season, and blog about his experiences. He made some interesting videos, including one about selling his precious snowboard in favour of some downhill skis to answer another challenge. The demographics for most social media is younger —perhaps 15 to 35 years — but Curtain said their Facebook site likes "were all over the board." Although it's nearly impossible to correlate steady click-throughs and views into hard dollars earned, the exposure perspective is invaluable, Curtain said. "Now we have some numbers to work with going forward."



### QUICK FACT:

*Podium of Life Snowsports Academy student, Erin Sketchley, continued her education while traveling abroad once school finished at Mount Washington. She is completing Grade 8 while traveling Southeast Asia.*

### Podium of Life

*continued from page 5*

"I was overwhelmed with it at one point," says Rachel. But she backed off of her own fears to allow Mel to pursue her dream.

"I've had my heart in my mouth all season," says Rachel. "She's skiing way better than anyone in our family now. She's got determination, she's got speed... she wants to go to the Olympics in 2018."

Mel has also worked hard at her academic subjects at Podium of Life, through the eBlend program. Prior to attending the academy she didn't like math, but she was challenged at Podium of Life to achieve some goals in that subject and she finished the entire math curriculum in four months.

Although Mel has completed her season with Podium of Life and has returned to school at Selkirk Montessori in Victoria, she plans on returning to the snowsports academy at Mount Washington next winter. And she has the full support of her parents, too. "I wish I'd have been allowed to follow my dream at her age," Rachel said.

**The Pemples are not unique in their confidence in Podium of Life. Aryn Smith-Avendano's son enrolled in the academy earlier this spring. "The impact that the teacher, Shane Harle, has had on my son is amazing," she said.**

"My son actually feels engaged in school and doesn't see it as a burden to learn. He spends the morning doing his academics and then spends the afternoon working on his leadership and personal development through skiing. In one week my son can actually see the potential that he has and feels that it is attainable. That is worth more than anything for a parent to see the light in their child's eyes."



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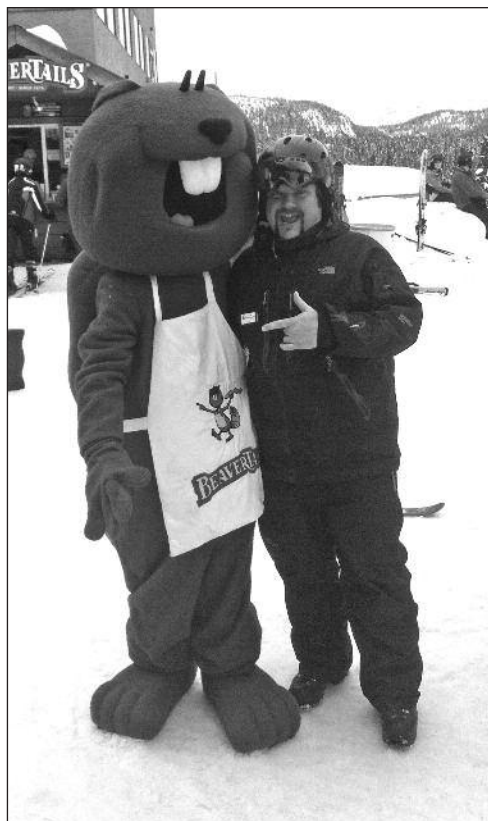

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**In Profile:  
Dale Logan**

*continued from page 3*

“Mount Washington is one of the most spectacular places I have been,” he says. “The views, the natural environment are unreal in the summer or winter.”

Logan has taken many risk management courses from Selkirk College and the Canada West Ski Area Association over his years in lift operations and with the Resort’s WorkSafe BC Occupational Health and Safety committee. He says they prepared him for his job as Risk Manager.

“My experiences being the Lift Ops Supervisor and being exposed to so much that goes on at our operation outside really helped prepare me for what I am doing now,” he says.

“I was attending Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo working toward a B.A. in Physical Education. One of the credit courses they offered was skiing at Mount Washington. It was a no brainer, credit for skiing! I’ve since become a snowboarder.”

Away from the mountain, Logan enjoys everything the Comox Valley has to offer - everything from boating to barbecuing. “I really enjoy the snow and the sun and I use the time in the middle to get ready for one of those two,” he says.

**Summer Preview**

*continued from page 3*

**The Alpine Wine and Food Festival** is slated for Aug. 9-10 at Raven Lodge. This year’s festival includes a wine tour of three local wineries on the Saturday prior to the wine pairing dinner back at Raven Lodge in the evening.

Raven Lodge will be a busy place this summer with a full slate of weddings.

**The Resort plays host to Mud, Sweat and Tears Adventure Race** on Aug. 17. The event promises to draw hundreds to participate and watch people crawling, climbing, swimming and dragging themselves through seven different extreme adventure stations, in five-kilometre, 10 km and monster style.

**The Bearclaw Invitational Slopestyle** bike event returns Aug. 23-24.



**O-Zone On The Move**

*continued from page 1*

Moving the Tubing Park is considered Phase 2 of Easy Acres. Some of the groundwork for moving the tube park was done last year, when Easy Acres was reconfigured and the original Magic Carpets were installed.

The old tubing park will be converted into a new ski run, Sharpe said. The move will divert foot traffic so tubers aren’t crossing any ski runs.

“At just under \$1 million, this is the first major investment the Resort has undertaken in two years,” Sharpe said. “I think it’s going to be a really good move.”

**Thanks to these Visitor Centres for distributing The Marmot**

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# Tourism



**mount  
Washington**

## Tourism Mount Washington has leveraged destination marketing dollars in a big way this year...

By partnering with Mount Washington Alpine Resort, they were able to participate in both Tourism BC's Destination Marketing Program as well as the Canada West Ski Areas Association's marketing programs.

This enabled both Tourism Mount Washington and the Resort to participate in large marketing programs such as the Global TV daily snow report and a poster program aboard BC Ferries, among others.

The Association also ramped up its use of social media, much like the Resort did, and it has proven effective. In late winter - early spring they participated in Tourism Vancouver Island's "Go Vancouver Island" campaign, targeting the Alberta market. This included television coverage and Tourism Vancouver Island-focused video clips. "We're getting a really positive response to that as far as destination awareness," Nicholson said.

"These partnerships and burgeoning numbers of visitors from Alberta, Ontario and the United Kingdom are proof that the investment Tourism Mount Washington has made is paying off," Nicholson added. "None of these things happen overnight."

Another benefit the Resort saw this year was an increase in the number of nights of stays. More people stayed for three nights or more than they have over the past couple of winters, she said.

Nicholson and the Board continued with plans to increase internal marketing by putting out a twice-monthly newsletter, **Community Peaks**, to keep members apprised of activities. They also sent out regular information bulletins to hotel concierges in the Comox Valley and Campbell River to let them know what was happening throughout the Resort's season.

At the most recent Homeowners' BBQ, members passed the hat to raise funds for the Mount Washington Volunteer Ski Patrol. Board Chairman Tobin Leopkey presented a cheque to the patrol for just under \$1,000 at the end of the season.

Membership has held steady for Tourism Mount Washington, with 443 members at last count prior to the Marmot's press time. Nicholson is negotiating with various businesses for benefit packages, hoping to add tangible benefits to membership.

"We're still hoping to grow," Nicholson said. "We're still hoping the Resort community will recognize the benefits and importance of a resort association in building a vibrant community."



## Winter 2012-13 In Review

### The Resort opened early again, for the fourth season in a row.

Snow fell in normal amounts at Mount Washington Alpine Resort this winter, and the sun shone brightly on a successful season of sliding on snow. "It ended up being an average snowfall year for us," Director of Public Relations Brent Curtain said. Twelve metres of snow fell between November and April, "including six metres in December that set us up for winter. It's one of the strongest starts I've ever seen."

The number of sunshine days doubled to 70 this year - twice as many as the Resort has seen in the past two winters, Curtain said. "The majority of our skiers are fair weather skiers. There's our powder skiers who like the big storm cycles, but as far as broad-based appeal, the weather this year? You couldn't beat it."

Visitor numbers were up overall. "People were doing different things when they came up," Director of Business Operations and Marketing Don Sharpe said. "We didn't necessarily see all the alpine (skiing) visitors; people were snowshoeing and cross-country skiing."

The Resort saw good growth in its cross-country products, especially snowshoeing, he added. They added some new activities like Winter Wonderland and Family Day.

The lack of new snow in March saw numbers soften, but stellar spring skiing in May brought out the "bluebird" skiers. "We had some spring skiing in May with temperatures reaching 20 degrees Celsius," Sharpe said.

Family Day, the new statutory holiday for British Columbia, "was a big success," Sharpe said, with 6,000 people coming out each day. The Resort had the second busiest day on the Sunday before the holiday Monday, making it one of the top five days of the season.

"Family Day brought in Christmas numbers," Curtain said. "We'd never normally see those numbers in February. It was huge for us and step forward."

The Snow School enjoyed a very successful winter as well with one of its new programs, Rookie Year, Director of Snow School and Rental Operations Mike Manara said. "It's probably one of the most successful programs we've ever introduced," Manara said.

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# BC Parks Strathcona Provincial Park

# Forbidden Plateau & Paradise Meadows



Strathcona Park Wilderness Centre and Amphitheatre  
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](http://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.

## 2013 MAP & TRAIL GUIDE

Strathcona Wilderness Institute offers Weekend Programs & Hikes

See page 20 for details, To help with the Institute's operational costs, a donation of \$5 to \$10 is suggested.

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 11 for details.

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

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



Photo: Krista Kaptein

If you would like to help support the goals of SWI in any way, please visit the website at [www.strathconapark.org](http://www.strathconapark.org),

Or contact the SPWC Summer Coordinator at 250-650-4304 or [coordinator@strathconapark.org](mailto:coordinator@strathconapark.org)

### BC Parks Map & Trail Guide courtesy of Rick Gibson

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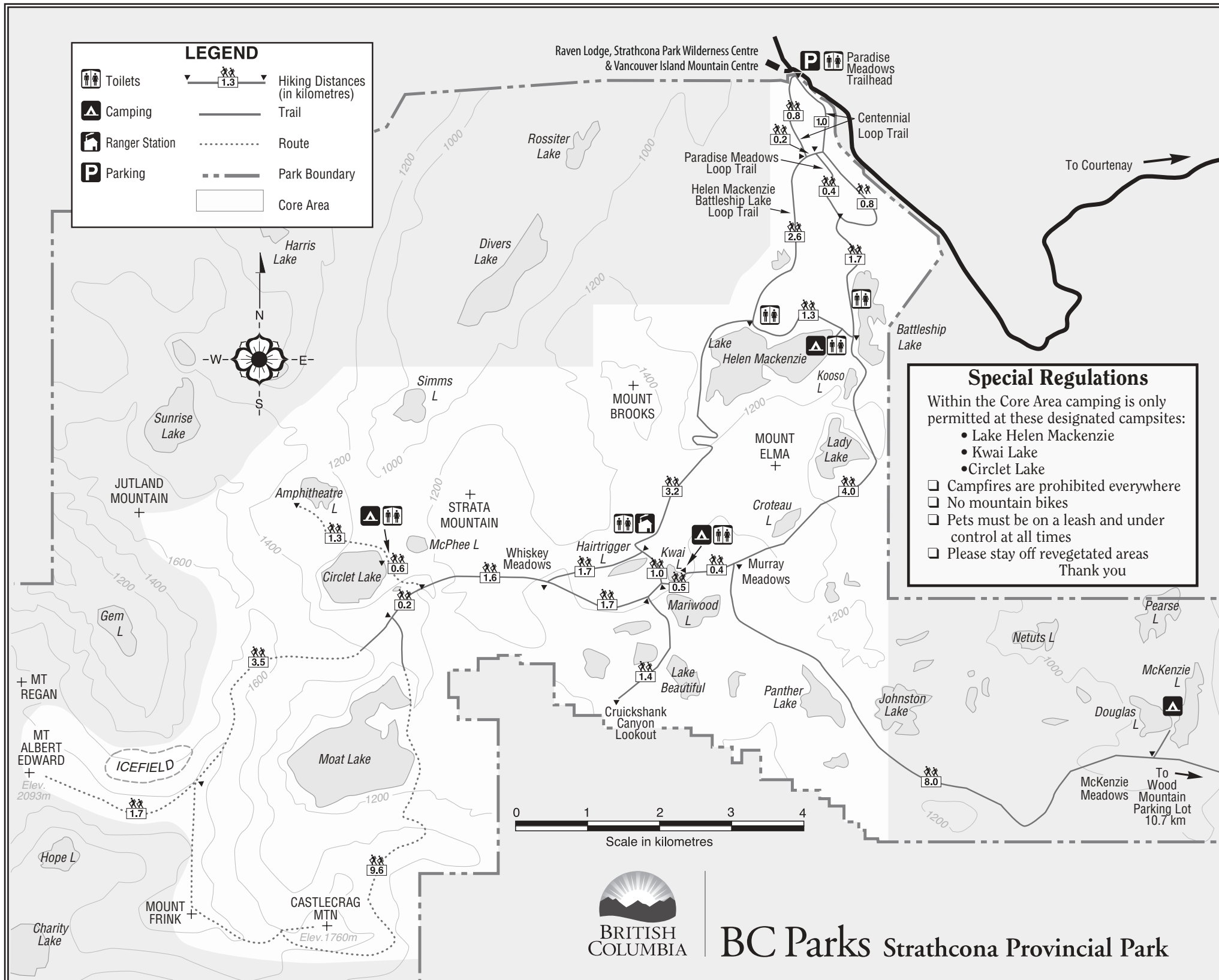
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**Special Regulations**  
 Within the Core Area camping is only permitted at these designated campsites:  
 • Lake Helen Mackenzie  
 • Kwai Lake  
 • Circler Lake  
 Campfires are prohibited everywhere  
 No mountain bikes  
 Pets must be on a leash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

BRITISH COLUMBIA BC Parks Strathcona Provincial Park

## 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](http://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.**

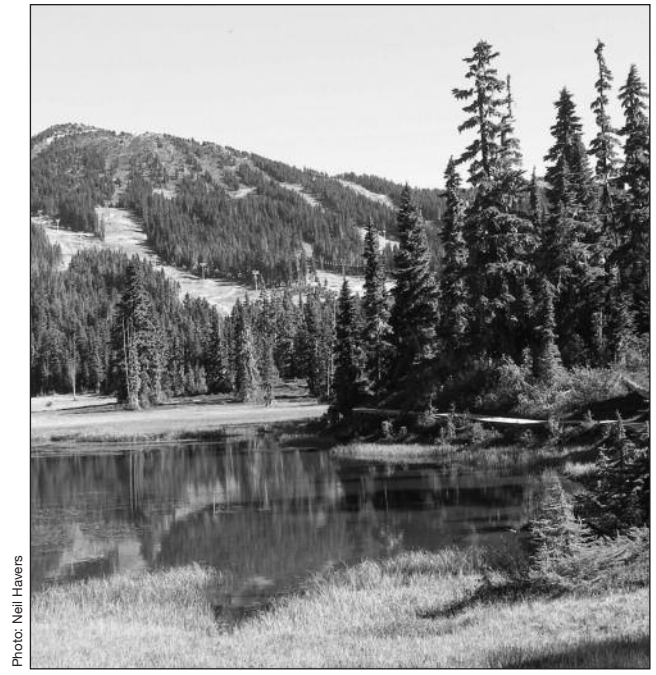
**Hiking Trails** - Please stay on designated trails, stay off revegetated areas and avoid taking short cuts.

**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.

**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.



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.

**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.

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

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

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



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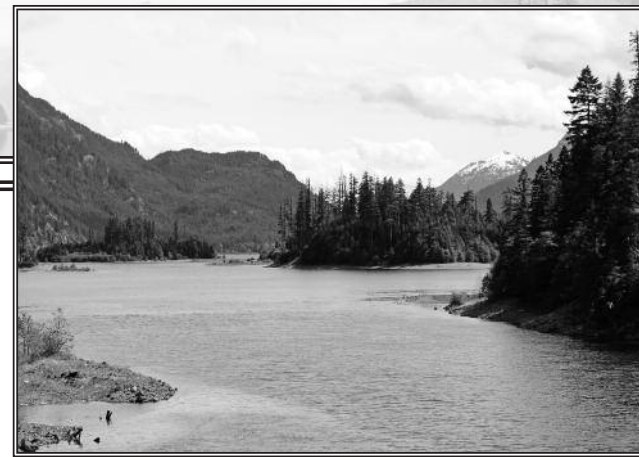
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# Buttle Lake

## BC Parks Strathcona Provincial Park



View of Buttle Lake (near the entrance to the Provincial Campsite) from the bridge crossing Highway 28 heading to Gold River.

Photo: Neil Havers

### Strathcona Provincial Park Buttle Lake Information Hut

*Run voluntarily by the  
Strathcona Wilderness Institute*

*Do you have questions about  
Strathcona Park and its fascinating  
plants, wildlife or history?*

*Are you interested in taking an  
easy day hike or exploring some  
of the challenging back country?*

Strathcona Wilderness Institute is pleased to provide all visitors with a wide range of information about BC's oldest Provincial Park, and one of our largest.

**Maps, trail updates, visitor service details and more! Available every weekend from June 14 to September 15, 2013.**

**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](http://www.strathconapark.org)

Gerry Roberts ~ Volunteer Operator

## 2013 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](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks).

Come to the campgrounds at anytime as there are almost always sites available on a first come-first serve basis at both major campgrounds. If you would like to make a reservation at Buttle Lake Campground call Discover Camping at 1-800-689-9025, or link up to the website at [www.discovercamping.ca](http://www.discovercamping.ca).

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

**BC Parks Map & Trail Guide  
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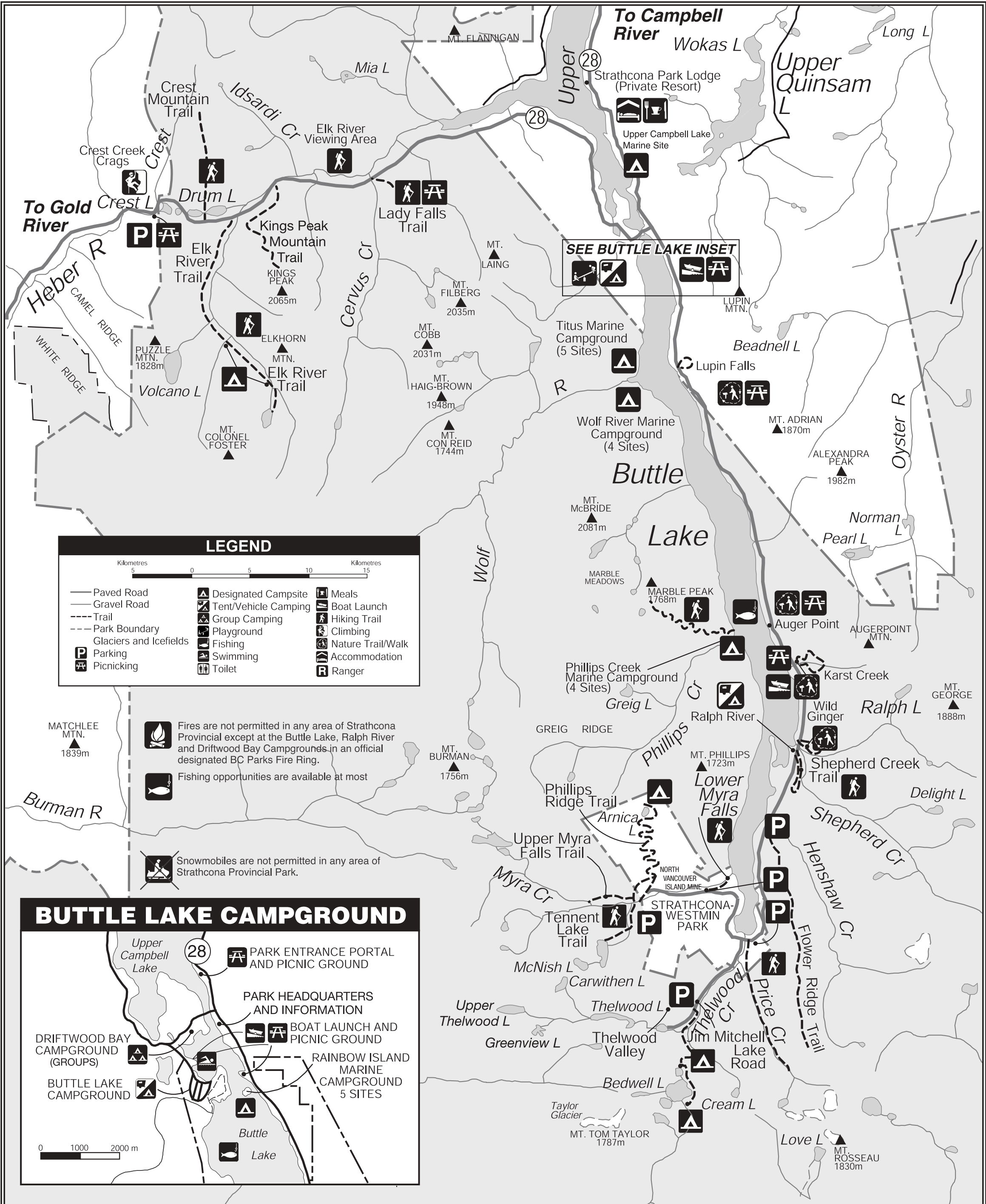
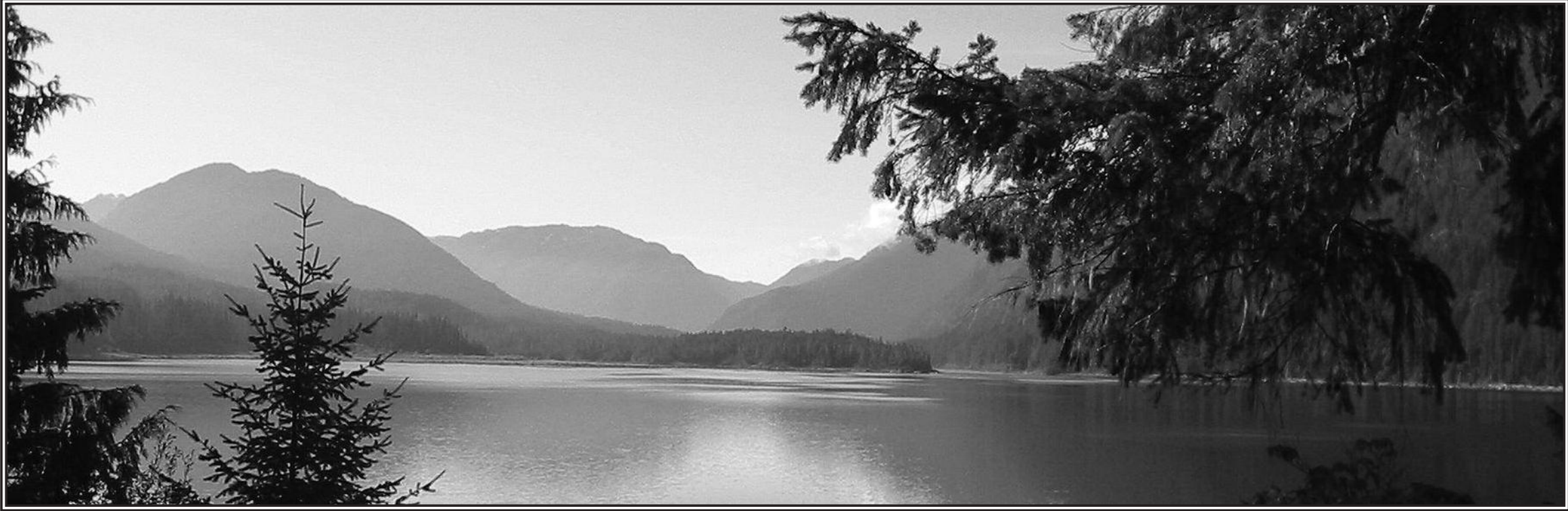
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# BUTTLE LAKE CORRIDOR

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

2013 Summer  
Rental Listings  
& Village Map

## Recent Sasquatch research points to Marmot Guardianship

**Evidence has come to light that the recovering Vancouver Island Marmot population at Mount Washington has had a helping hand this year - a large, furry hand this year.**

The evidence was discovered late last fall, just as the first snowdrifts were piling up at the Resort. Rhodesian crypto-zoologist Khodu Modumo, who was visiting a North Island Post-Secondary Institution for a workshop, spent his free weekend roaming the high alpine areas of Mount Washington Alpine Resort, looking for rare plants to photograph, when he heard a strange whistling sound followed by a trio of three grunts.

Modumo said he recognized the high-pitched whistling as the call of a marmot, thanks to a display at the Vancouver Island Visitors' Centre.

However, he was puzzled by the grunting noises. He continued walking just below the ridge near the Outback when he spied a curious sight: a family of three marmots was gathered at the mouth of their burrow, and 20 feet to the west, partially hidden in the tree line, was a large, man-sized creature covered in tan-coloured hair.

"The marmots were facing the trees, ya, and it appeared they were communicating something to the creature," Modumo said. "He looked almost like an army sentry, guarding the burrow. I tried to take a picture, ya, but the light was too harsh and the creature - what do you call it here, sasquatch? It was completely in shadow."

As the wind shifted, Modumo related, the marmots sniffed the air and must have caught his scent because they disappeared down the Marmot hole very quickly. When Modumo looked to the tree line the creature was gone too.

Modumo, told the Marmot at first he thought he had hallucinated, but when he walked toward the site there were tufts of hair scattered around the mouth of the burrow. He took a handful to examine later.

Modumo was granted permission to bring some of the hairs back to his brother's African laboratory for DNA testing. He said the results could take a few months, and didn't anticipate having a definitive answer until after the Marmot went to press for the summer edition.

"This is exciting, ya," Modumo said. "Our South African cryptids are nasty creatures; my colleagues will be amazed



to think a Canadian cryptid is actually helping guard a lesser species."

The discovery was equally exciting for a supporter of the Vancouver Island marmot recovery team; where biologists always thought sasquatch was one of the four largest predators of the marmot behind cougars, wolves and golden eagles.

"Boy, I guess we were really wrong," said one biologist who was too embarrassed to give her name.



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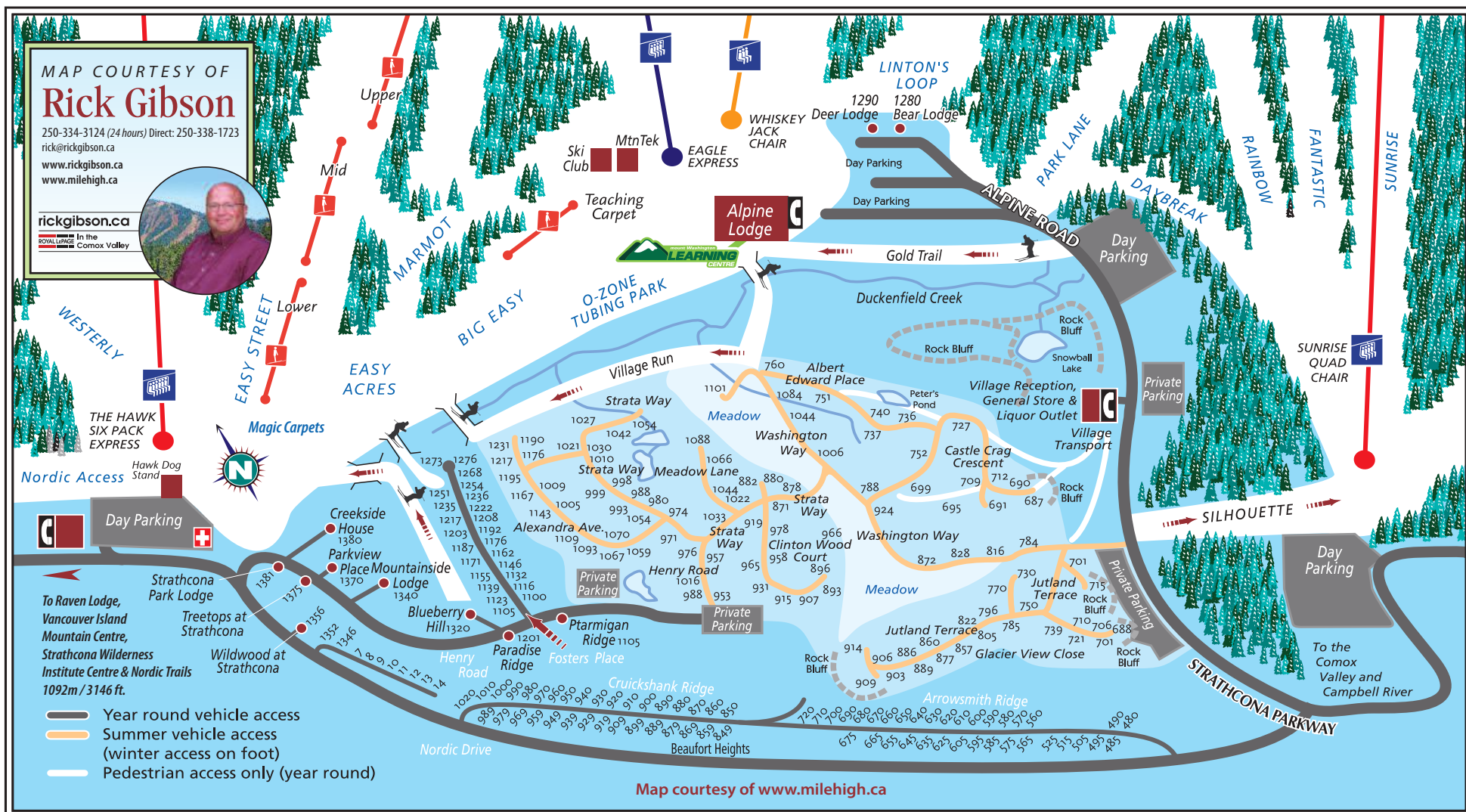


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## Banner Winter for Vancouver Island Mountain Centre's First Winter of Operation



Groups such as Strathcona Nordics and the Freestyle Snowboard Team have used the facilities for meetings and Nordic races.

"Aside from outside user groups, Mount Washington user groups have discovered this gem near Raven Lodge and are putting it to good use," VIMC Manager Andrew Scherck said. "The first winter was challenging for us because we didn't know how we would fit in," he said. "A lot more people understand what's in our building."

One strategy that helped spread the word about the facility was holding a health and safety meeting at VIMC for Mount Washington Alpine Resort employees. The centre has also done some promotions with the staff for using the Fitness Centre.

One change that made a difference was Mount Washington Alpine Resort allowing the VIMC to take in smaller groups, Scherck said. Last year groups were limited to 20 or more people; this year, they were allowed to book groups of 10 or more.

From December 2012 until April 2013, there were 39 groups representing 814 people booked into VIMC, translating into

72 overnights. "We have experienced a 29 per cent increase in outdoor adventure programming in just five months compared to 11 months last year," Scherck said.

**Their busiest weekend saw a group booked upstairs, the Biathlon Club's AGM upstairs and a Nordic coaching clinic downstairs. "We probably had 100 people in the building for three different purposes," Scherck said.**

The cross-section of groups booking into VIMC is surprising, he said. For instance, there are four quilting groups from the Comox Valley, Campbell River and mid-Island, a writers-in-progress group from Qualicum Beach, a family reunion returning for a third time, and even a birthday party for a six-year-old.

The Centre has also booked its first wedding party, and hopes this will be a trend in the future, Scherck said. The party will stay at the VIMC and hold the wedding across the parking lot at Raven Lodge.

The Centre has accepted New Year's bookings, but at press time didn't have any Christmas bookings.

"We have had groups from 24 different communities visit us from around the

Island, Province, Country and World," Scherck said.

The Fitness Centre at VIMC saw 442 visits this past winter, compared to 95 between Dec. 2011 and Nov. 2012.

Other services available at the Centre include a massage therapist who rents one of the rooms (and also teaches yoga classes), a pingpong table, satellite TV and a DVD player, for coaching sessions or group downtime. Canadian Tire donated a large propane barbecue suitable to feed 40 people; it's available for groups to use.

The VIMC earned a ViaSport grant in the winter to put on a biathlon program, and has also been given a grant to run some orienteering programs in the summer.

In the winter they partnered with the biathlon club and ran four programs: one for a Scout group from Southern Vancouver Island, another for Podium of Life students and two more for smaller groups.

Scherck said they hope to create a permanent orienteering course near the Centre this summer and run a number of programs with the second grant. Mount Washington Alpine Resort Nordic Manager Marc Lyster would like the course to be available year round, so people can do some orienteering on snowshoes, Scherck added.





## Strathcona Wilderness Institute at Paradise Meadows



Photo: Krista Kaplein

### 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).

<b>Nature Walks &amp; Talks</b>	Two to three hour nature walks & talks on nature themes.
<b>Level 1 Hikes</b>	Two to four hour guided hikes for all ages.
<b>Level 2 Hikes</b>	Five to seven hour guided hikes for intermediate hikers.
<b>Level 3 Hikes</b>	Eight to ten hour guided hikes for fit hikers.

*No pets please on Strathcona Wilderness Institute guided 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 website [www.strathconapark.org](http://www.strathconapark.org) for the most up-to-date information.*

Day Hike on the Boardwalk Trail to Battleship Lake



Photos: Krista Kaplein

## Walks, Talks & Hikes

### 2013 Summer Programs at Paradise Meadows

*Please remember to prepare for all weather conditions and to tread lightly in the park.  
No pets please on SWI guided nature walks and hikes unless otherwise noted.*

**Saturdays starting June 15, 1 pm: Nature Walk: Paradise Meadows Informal Interpretive Walk** around the boardwalk.

**Saturday & Sunday - June 15 & 16 Strathcona Park Bird Search** Participate in the annual bird search in Paradise Meadows, Forbidden Plateau and Buttle Lake. *Pre-register: coordinator@strathconapark.org or 250-650-4304*

**Saturday - July 6, 10am: Level 1 Hike: Lake Helen Mackenzie:** 4 hour hike with Denise Allard of the Comox District Mountaineering Club.

**Sunday - July 7, 10:30am: Nature Walk; Spring Flora & Fauna** Early plants and birds of Paradise Meadows with expert naturalist Jocie Ingram.

**Saturday - July 13, 9am - Level 2 Hike: Croteau Lake** 6 hour nature and history hike with Krista Kaptein of the Wilderness Centre.

**Sunday - July 14, 1 pm: Geocaching Walk** Learn about geocaching with Allen Wells of the Comox District Mountaineering Club. *Pre-register: coordinator@strathconapark.org or 250-650-4304*

**Sunday - July 21, 1pm: Nature Talk & Walk: Ethnobotany in Paradise Meadows** Introduction to some of our native plants by retired Professor of Archaeology, Alison Maingon.

**Saturday - July 27, 9am: Level 2 Hike: 7 Lakes Loop** 7 hour hike with Julian Brooks. *Pre-register: coordinator@strathconapark.org or 250-650-4304*

**Sunday - July 28, 1pm: Nature Talk: Marvellous Marmots** Presentation by Alana Buchanan of the Marmot Recovery Centre at Mount Washington.

**Tuesday - July 30, 1pm: Nature Walk: Plants of Paradise Meadows** Identify plants and flowers with Helen Robinson of Comox Valley Nature.

**Saturday - August 3, 9am: Level 2 Hike: Divers Lake** 5 hour hike with Heather and Rolf Kellerhals of Comox Valley Nature.

**Sunday - August 4, 1pm: Nature Talk Vancouver Island White-tailed Ptarmigan** Presentation by Dr. Kathy Martin of the Centre for Applied Alpine Studies at UBC.

Taking a break for lunch at Lake Helen Mackenzie



**Monday - August 5, 10am: (Level 1 Hike) Lake Helen Mackenzie** 4 hour hike with Mandy Vaughan of Comox Valley Nature. Dogs on leash OK.

**Saturday - August 10, 8am: Level 3 Hike: Lake Beautiful** 9 hour hike with Marie Maccagno of the Comox District Mountaineering Club. *Pre-register: coordinator@strathconapark.org or 250-650-4304*

**Sunday - August 11, 1pm: (Level 1 Hike) Nature Walk: Lichen/Meadow Tour** Nature walk & talk for all ages with Registered Professional Forester Margaret Symon.

**Saturday August 17, 1 pm: Nature Talk: What Happened to the Tsolum"** Presentation by Jack Minard of the Tsolum River Restoration Society.

**Sunday - August 18, 8am: Level 3 Hike: Johnston & Panther Lakes** 9 hour hike with Julian Brooks. Moderately strenuous, age 16 and over. *Pre-register: coordinator@strathconapark.org or 250-650-4304*

**Sunday - August 18, 1pm: Nature Talk: Owls & Whiskey Jacks** Presentation by Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society.

**Saturday - August 24, 8am: Level 3 Hike: Lake Beautiful** 9 hr. hike with Julianna Wells of the Comox District Mountaineering Club. *Pre-register: coordinator@strathconapark.org or 250-650-4304*

**Saturday - August 31, 9am: Level 2 Hike: Divers Lake** 5 hour hike with Steve and Marlene Smith of Strathcona Wilderness Institute. Dogs on leash OK.

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

**Saturday - September 28, 8am: Level 3 Hike** 10 hour hike with Tim Penney of the Comox District Mountaineering Club. Strenuous. *Pre-register: coordinator@strathconapark.org or 250-650-4304*

*For more Wilderness Centre program details contact the Summer Coordinator at [coordinator@strathconapark.org](mailto:coordinator@strathconapark.org)*

*For the most up-to-date program and staffing schedule visit the website [www.strathconapark.org](http://www.strathconapark.org)*

# Mosaic's Grand Adventure

Hello. My name is MOSAIC. I think you might have heard of my family before because, between you and me, we're almost as famous as the Kardashians.

And while you won't find ME at any of the popular urban spas, you will find me at Mount Washington - one of our oldest colonies. All because of a national Recovery Strategy to save my species from near extinction and restore us to our natural habitat. That's important because we're not only uniquely Canadian we're also one of the most endangered mammals in the world.

Leading me to my story. I was born off-island, as part of a captive breeding program, on May 4, 2010. The following year I was moved to the Tony Barrett Mount Washington Marmot Recovery Centre for quarantine and to make sure I was in tip-top shape before I was released to the wild colony there.

The plan was I would overwinter at the colony with my siblings Stella, Horizon, Starbuck and Bertie (as well as other captive-born yearlings), where we would be supplementally fed and monitored to help us survive our first winter hibernation in the wild. This "pre-conditioning" period is a new release strategy to see if our survival can be improved when we're relocated to our historical colony sites next door, in Strathcona Park.

But freedom is intoxicating and I had other plans. Sometime later that fall or thereafter, I decided to head for parts unknown. The sun on my face, the wind in my hair, I dispersed. But unlike Erik, who was the first documented marmot to disperse from Mt Washington and actually locate a potential mate at Sunshine Lake in Strathcona Park after a measly 8 km trek, I headed due east.



Photos: C Jackson

*Mosaic, Henshaw (shown above) and other Vancouver Island Marmots need your support to ensure their successful recovery.*

And that's the last anyone heard of me... until this spring when the marmot crew received an intriguing phone call. It seems two very nice people in a small town called Merville (near Black River) called to report they were pretty sure they'd spotted a Vancouver Island marmot under their deck. So the crew went to investigate.

Merville is 10-15 kms east of Mount Washington as the crow flies, and the crew had been unable to locate my transmitter signal for two years, so no one knows how far I trekked. You can imagine their surprise when they read my tag number and found out who I am. I tell you, it was the royal treatment the whole way - after

he caught me of course because, as I said, freedom is intoxicating.

So after I lured Chris (who's not exactly a small guy) into the crawl space under the house with me, we were able to negotiate amicable terms and I happily surrendered my freedom. You know why?

After another short stay at the Marmot Recovery Centre, Chris promised he'd hook me up with a cute five year-old captive-born female he knows of named MIA. She's been waiting for the right male to show up and survive long enough to set



*Crystal Reid with Susan the marmot*

up house with her since her release at Castle Crag in Strathcona Park in 2010. Sounds like my kind of gal. And I think I'm just the right guy.

**If you would like to help make sure Mosaic, Mia and the other Vancouver Island marmots get the help they need to become reestablished in their natural habitat on Vancouver Island, please visit the marmot website and make a donation today at [www.marmots.org](http://www.marmots.org) or use the mail-in coupon provided in this paper.**



## 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](http://www.marmots.org/adopt.htm)

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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](http://www.avenuebistro.ca) for all our menus and daily specials.

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Downtown Courtenay



## News In Brief

continued from page 2

...

**The Marmot sends "get well" wishes** to Tourism Mount Washington Manager Sarah Nicholson, who suffered a knee injury late in the season. Despite being immobile in a knee brace, Nicholson along with administrative assistant Kristy Pedersen have managed to keep things running smoothly for the Resort Association.



Avalon Wasteney's

Photo: Larry Reynolds

...

### Nordic Champions Return

Two members of the Strathcona Nordic Ski Club returned from the Sea to Sky Nordic Festival in Whistler with National Championship titles.

Andrea Lee, a member of the Nordics training at the National Development Centre in Thunder Bay, Ont., won two Gold Medals in team sprints and the five-kilometre skate.

Avalon Wasteney's, a member of the BC Team, won Bronze in the Juvenile Classic sprints. She competed in a tough, 75-racer category. Wasteney's had arguably the largest cheering section of any racer at the Nationals, according to the Nordics' website.

Several other members of the Strathcona Nordic Ski Club have also earned spots on Provincial Teams this year: Alec Stapff and Morgan Meckert (BC Development team), and Tallon Noble and Ross Lamon (BC Talent Squad).

...

**The Strathcona Nordics came up with a unique fundraiser in May...** Drive-thru fertilizer sales. Members of the Devo and Junior Racing teams spent a Saturday bagging the nutrient-rich "Skyrocket" fertilizer, then sold it at Mariner Square in Campbell River. They even offered a drive-thru service for drivers who didn't want to get out of their cars.

...

**Gibson awarded the Jim Marshall Award** Mount Washington Alpine Resort President Peter Gibson has been awarded the 2013 Jim Marshall Award by the Canada West Ski Areas Association.

Gibson is the 34th recipient of the award, which was presented by Dave Gibson (no relation), President and CEO of Marmot Basin Ski Resort.

The award is a personal gift from Rab and Olive Marshall from a trust in memory of Jim Marshall, who did not live long enough to give back to recreational skiing the joy he experienced in the sport.

The recipient is recognized for his skills and dedication to his chosen profession and has made a meaningful contribution to the sport of recreational skiing.

"In winning this prestigious award, Peter joins a list of highly respected leaders from the Western Canadian ski industry," CWSAA President and CEO David Lynn said in congratulating Gibson on his outstanding career achievements.

Gibson has pursued a career in the ski industry since graduating from the University of BC. He joined the team at Mount Washington in 1977 while it was still in development, running a chainsaw and acting as first aid attendant.

He became Director of Skiing in 1979, Guest Services Manager in 1989, Resort Services Director in 1994, General Manager in 1999 and President in 2001.

Gibson has been a CWSAA board member for 11 years and currently serves as Past Board Chair.



Teal Harle

Photo: Podium of Life

...

**Teal Harle of Campbell River, and a student at Podium of Life, has been invited to train with the BC mogul and BC slopestyle teams.** Since mid-April, Harle trained five to six days a week at Whistler with the BC teams. Podium of Life relocated to Whistler in April for a trial once Mount Washington Alpine Resort was closed for the season.



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### Heart of the Village!

2 bedroom condo in the Alpine Village of Mount Washington. Well cared for unit with upgrades. 2 bathrooms and loads of storage. The building is in very good condition with a live in caretaker. Located in the heart of the Village with easy access to slopes and parking.  
 #108 - \$135,900 • #301 - \$135,000



### Corner Unit with Natural Light!

A few minutes walk from the Alpine Lodge you will find this hidden treasure. On two levels plus storage in a basement this 3 bedroom townhome is well worth a look. This corner unit offers plenty of natural light plus the exposure from the two outside decks facing Southwest, letting in ample sunshine and sunsets.  
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### Skier Friendly Floor Plan!

3 level townhouse all decked out and ready to sell. 3 Bedrooms, 2 baths and a sauna. Easy access to parking and skiing. Very private location. Thoughtful skier friendly floor plan.  
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Photo: Neil Havers

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Facing Strathcona Park



### Pride of Ownership

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.

**\$199,900**



### 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

- 216** 2 Bedrooms facing Strathcona Park **\$178,300**  
*FREEHOLD*
- 308** 3 Bedroom, facing ski runs **\$239,900**  
*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.

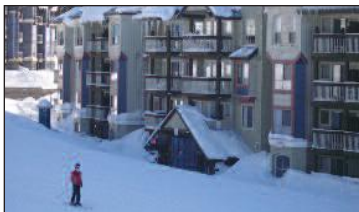
- 301** Top Floor, 3 bedroom Sunny slopeside **\$374,900**  
*FREEHOLD*

# PARADISE RIDGE

### Features Include:

- Swimming Pool, Sauna & Hot Tub
- Underground Parking
- Convenient Location to Amenities
- Mountain / Strathcona Park Views

- 113** 2 Bedroom facing Strathcona Park **\$159,900**  
*FREEHOLD*
- 214** 4 Bedroom, spacious park view Suite **\$199,900**
- 306** 3 Bedroom, facing ski runs **\$175,000**  
*FREEHOLD*
- 308** 3 Bedroom top floor facing ski runs **\$184,900**  
*FREEHOLD*
- 407** 2 Bedroom *FREEHOLD* **\$219,900**  
facing ski runs and Strathcona Park
- 501** 3 Bedroom Penthouse suite **\$264,900**  
*FREEHOLD*
- 506** 3 Bedroom Penthouse facing Strathcona Park and ski runs **\$199,900**



# DEER LODGE

AT MT. WASHINGTON

### Features Include:

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

- 103** 3 Bedroom, deluxe suite **\$289,900**  
*FREEHOLD*
- 110** 2 Bedroom, larger than most **\$234,900**  
*FREEHOLD*
- 210** 2 Bedroom lockoff, slopeside **\$184,900**  
*FREEHOLD*
- 212** 3 Bedroom corner suite (no GST) **\$294,900**  
*FREEHOLD*
- 305** 2 Bedroom lockoff, slopeside **\$205,000**  
*FREEHOLD*
- 313** 2 Bedroom Lock-off facing Strathcona Park **\$189,900**  
*FREEHOLD*
- 408** 1 Bedroom top floor, slopeside **\$134,900**



### FREEHOLD!!!

Closest to the Alpine Lodge! 3 bedroom townhome in tip top shape! Ski in and Out from this two level home. 3 bedrooms, two bathrooms and plenty of storage. Bright sunny exposure and a location hard to beat! **\$149,900**



### Two Bedroom Freehold Condo

This top floor alpine village home has been updated with a gourmet kitchen including pine cabinetry, slate backsplash, hardwood floor, bar, jenn-air grill, new appliances, new carpet, wood-trimmed windows and river rock fireplace. Quiet with two decks you have sweeping views in almost all directions. Loads of storage, 2 bathrooms, sauna and much much more.

#201 - \$149,999  
#301 - \$199,900



### Mountainside at Mount Washington

Top Floor two bedroom lockoff suite with views West into Strathcona Park for sunset views. Easy access to Hawk Chairlift in winter and Strathcona Park. Under building parking, shared hot tub and storage. Top floor corner for peace and quiet. Use the whole property as a two bedroom or it locks off as a one bedroom suite and a studio suite. **\$184,900**



### 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! **\$169,900**

### The Numbers Work! Franchise Opportunity.

Here is your opportunity to purchase a money making business on Mount Washington with potential to grow on or off the Mountain. **Beavertails Canada** has been delighting pastry lovers with their unique products since 1978! A Canadian culinary icon, they operate shops in Canada's premiere recreational and tourist locations. Innovation is continual as they imagine increasingly tasty ways for their franchisees to expand on their success. They are currently on an expansion drive to develop across Canada. **\$224,900**



### 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.

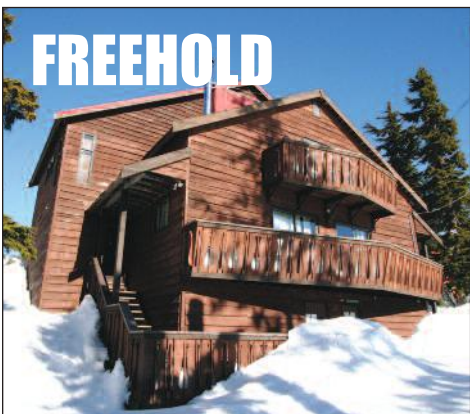
Three Bedroom **\$369,900**  
Four Bedroom Freehold **\$399,500**



### 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 **\$399,900**



### Once in a Lifetime!

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.

**\$398,800**



### 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 roughed-in for hot tub. Loads of storage and 3 decks! Skylights, vaulted ceilings in main area and 10 ft ceilings down. Wow!

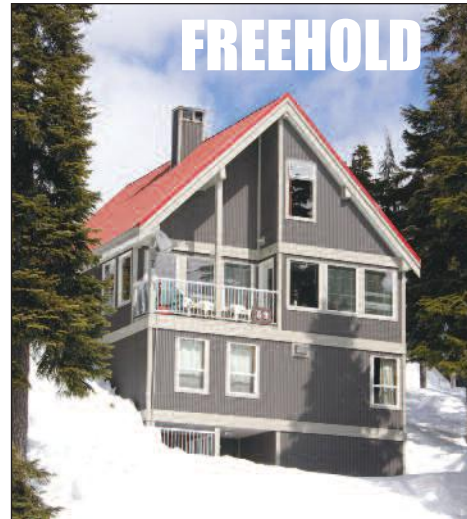
This is a must see! **\$424,900**



### The Ultimate Ski Chalet!

Your own log cabin perched high on a ridge with incredible views of Strathcona Park. The mountain home is separated into a lower 2 bedroom suite and the main upper 3 bedroom suite. The living area has a cathedral ceiling and an open wood burning fireplace. Many special features such as stained glass, hand carved mantel and very cozy touches. This has been a very popular rental with strong repeat business.

**\$449,900**



### 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.

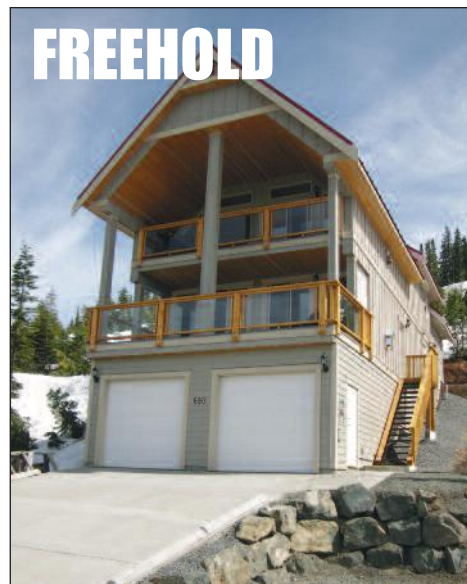
**\$499,900**



### 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. Sleeps 6 comfortably. A sauna and jetted tubs round out the upper suite. Downstairs is a spacious self contained two bedroom suite. There is an area where a hot tub could be installed.

**\$549,900**



### Big Red Chalet

Brand new chalet available for sale. This family ready property can sleep 12 - 16; 2 complete suites available, together or separate. Drive-in location, heated driveway with double car garage and parking for six vehicles is rare to find. With beautiful mountain views and all the comforts of home, Big Red is the ideal destination. Five bedrooms (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.

**\$599,900**



**rickgibson.ca**

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**FREEHOLD**

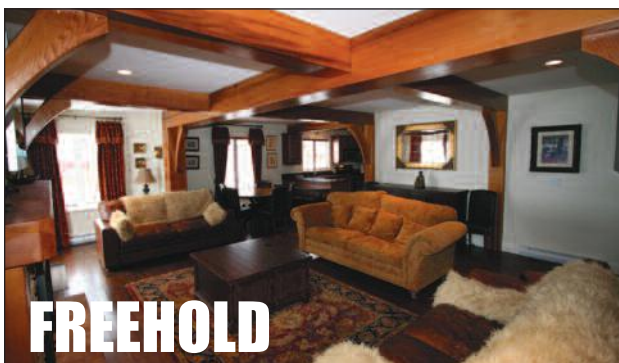
**Perched on a Knoll...**

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. **\$674,900**



**One of Mount Washington's Finest!**

Located at the end of Fosters Place, this truly ski in and ski out Freehold chalet is situated to take in the morning and afternoon sun yet less than 100 feet away from the slopes. The mountain home was custom built with insulated concrete walls with R50 insulation. Inside are two propane fireplaces, HRV system, Low E windows throughout, 4 bathrooms, central vacuum, 2 hot water tanks, private concrete patios (both wired for hot tubs). The home has been split into two areas, the main part with 4 bedrooms and the owners suite with 2 bedrooms. Plus, the over height basement (11 foot ceilings) is ideal for getting out of the winter weather or workshop or ? In the main area, take advantage of the spectacular views of the Beaufort Mountain Range and the vistas of Strathcona Park from the expansive outdoor patio, or put a hot tub on the upstairs deck located privately off the master bedroom. **\$849,900**



**FREEHOLD**

**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**



**FREEHOLD**

**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. **\$799,900**



**Perched on Arrowsmith Ridge!**

Built with thought and planning. Perched on Arrowsmith Ridge is the custom building mountain. Perched out design with 6 bedrooms. Two of the bedrooms have their own ensuites whilst the others are designed as family suites. Each family suite has two bedrooms and a shared bathroom. Open living area with grand gourmet kitchen and huge cathedral ceilings. The main floor offers a large deck with BBQ to take in the afternoon sun. Sauna, loads of storage, two separate garages, heated drive way, huge laundry area and the list goes on and on. If you have been looking for the idea property for a larger family, or the idea property for joint family ownership, this is the one! **\$1,050,000**

**Royal LePage** is the proven leader in Real Estate Listing and Sales performance on **Mount Washington**.

RECENT REAL ESTATE SALES* ON MOUNT WASHINGTON						*Source: Vancouver Island Real Estate Board					
Location	Unit #	Bdrms	List Price	List	Sell	Location	Unit #	Bdrms	List Price	List	Sell
Bear Lodge	214		\$192,500	🏠	🏠	1236 Fosters Place		6	\$585,000	🏠	🏠
Deer Lodge	207	2	\$149,900	🏠	🏠	Creekside	101	3	\$199,900	🏠	🏠
Blueberry Hill	303	2	\$189,900	🏠	🏠	Ptarmigan Ridge	302	1	\$134,900	🏠	🏠
Ptarmigan Ridge	304	1	\$114,000	🏠	🏠	Deer Lodge	212	3	\$249,900	🏠	🏠
695 Castle Craig	203	2	\$127,900	🏠	🏠	Snowbird	7	3	\$164,900	🏠	🏠
Blueberry Hill	108	3	\$159,900	🏠	🏠	Ptarmigan Ridge	305	1	\$127,500	🏠	🏠
Creekside	201	3	\$224,900	🏠	🏠	Blueberry Hill	201	3	\$224,995	🏠	🏠
Bear Lodge	208	1	\$149,900	🏠	🏠	969 Beaufort Heights			\$99,900	🏠	🏠
Bear Lodge	310	2	\$219,900	🏠	🏠	959 Beaufort Heights			\$99,900	🏠	🏠
Bear Lodge	210	2	\$214,900	🏠	🏠	691 Castle Craig	12	2	\$139,900	🏠	🏠
Bear Lodge	105	2	\$219,900	🏠	🏠	Paradise Ridge	302	3	\$149,900	🏠	🏠
Bear Lodge	201	2	\$189,900	🏠	🏠	Blueberry Hill	103	2	\$176,500	🏠	🏠
Deer Lodge	201	2	\$144,900	🏠	🏠	Bear Lodge	413	2	\$249,900	🏠	🏠
Ptarmigan Ridge	204	1	\$122,900	🏠	🏠	Creekside	303	2	\$179,900	🏠	🏠
931-B Clinton Wood		3	\$439,900	🏠	🏠	Bear Lodge	301	2	\$149,900	🏠	🏠





If not for the breathtaking views of the Georgia Strait or the backyard access to Mt. Washington, certainly the attraction to the Comox Valley would be found in living the island's most dynamic lifestyle. The regions vibrant agriculture, distinguishing wineries & exceptionally diversified terrain creates for one of Canada's premiere lifestyles.

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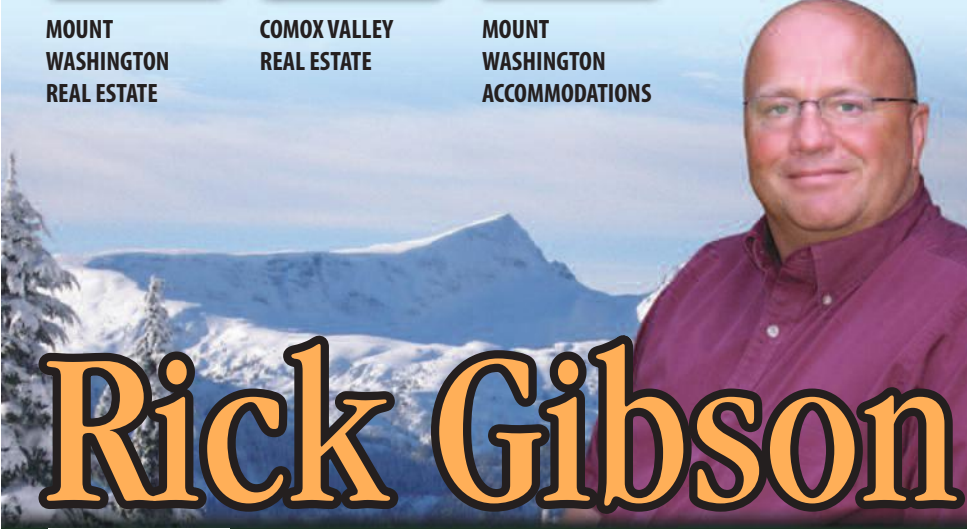
**Couverdon**

# Sit Back, Relax & Scan...

Considering purchasing property on Mount Washington or in the Comox Valley? Enjoyed your visit to Mount Washington and considering booking an overnight stay? Everything you need is just a scan away, courtesy of Rick Gibson.



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