

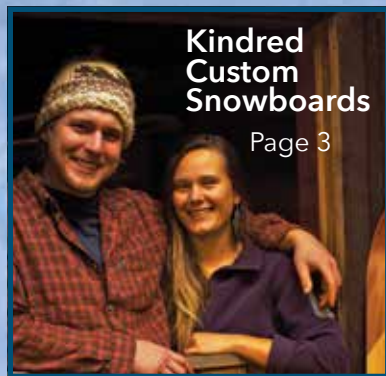
# The MOUNT WASHINGTON Marmot



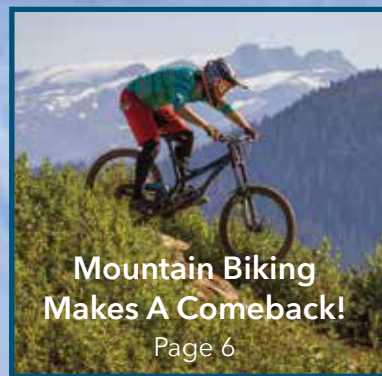
**New for 2016/17...**  
Expanded Grooming Fleet, Dining,  
Retail Service Expansion & More!



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**Kindred Custom Snowboards**  
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**Mountain Biking  
Makes A Comeback!**  
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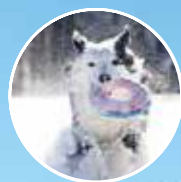


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## In Profile: Resort Expansion

Pacific Group Resorts Inc. is celebrating its first anniversary of ownership at Mount Washington Alpine Resort with an early announcement that \$2 million has been invested in the Resort in time for winter opening.

From the reopening of the Mountain Bike Park to the development of the new Eagle View Bistro and partnership with Rossignol in the new Outdoor Elements Retail Store, all signs are pointing toward expansion at the Vancouver Island Resort.

"These are exciting times," says Mount Washington General Manager Peter Gibson. "When you consider where we were a year ago to where we are now, it's only an example of where we're going to be two years from now."

The Resort has hired a new Sales Manager to market banquets and conferences at the Resort (see page 16), and the Management Team is working on expanding summer programs at Mount Washington (PGRI has strong summer programs at its three American resorts, Wisp, Wintergreen and Ragged).



Eagle View Bistro is located at the front of the Alpine Lodge where the retail shop was located. Large windows give guests a bright, spectacular view of the alpine runs.

This past summer was a strong one for Mount Washington, says Don Sharpe, Director of Business Operations. "Summer was strong. We're definitely looking at putting more in for summer... and development of product off the top of the mountain," he added.

## Snowcat Fleet Expansion

The Resort purchased three new snow cats to improve grooming. The Resort also announced that the first of three new winchcats from a sister resort has arrived, and two more brand new Bison and Bison X groomers from Prinoth are on their way. The additions will bring the total groomer fleet to eight. George Trousdell, Director Mountain Operations stated "Our snowcat operators are excited to get into the new machines. They know that with better equipment we can get more runs groomed on a more consistent basis."

"The winch cat allows us to get to areas that are harder to reach," Sharpe added. "We're hoping it will allow us to get terrain groomed that we don't groom all the time. It also allows us to have a backup groomer for Nordic. "It's probably the biggest thing we purchased for this winter," Sharpe said. "It will make a difference to everybody."

## Eagle View Bistro

New for 2016/17 Eagle View Bistro offers visitors to the Resort a second dining option. Taking over the former space of the Altitude Retail Shop the Restaurant seats 60 - 70 guests and will feature an outdoor deck in the spring and summer and will help improve service on busy weekends and holidays.

"We're very excited about the new Restaurant," says Tim Defert, Resort Director of Hospitality. "Eagle View Bistro is a Bakery and Bistro with a Cappuccino Bar. The finishings are much higher end than we've been used to in the past. It's going to be a very comfortable space, very bright and inviting."

The contractor opened up the front of the Restaurant with larger windows that show the mile-high view up the mountain. Both the interior and exterior feature wood, and the exterior will have a deck overlooking Easy Acres for the spring. Eagle View now gives people two options for evening dining, between the Bistro and Ted's Bar & Grill in the Alpine Lodge.

Mount Washington's famous sticky buns will be available at Eagle View, as well soups, sandwiches and light lunches. They also offer bistro-style dinners, serving local craft beer and wine.

"It's offering a new and better product for us." Resort Director of Business Operations Don Sharpe said.

## Outdoor Elements with a touch of France...

Outdoor Elements also signals an exciting change at Mount Washington. Outdoor Elements will feature Rossignol products in a larger, more innovative ski shop. Along with the traditional ski and snowboard gear from Rossignol and other suppliers, the General Store has been integrated into the new location as a small, French-themed market. The Petit Market will sell grocery items as well as beer and wine.



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Photos submitted



## Kindred Snowboards Hand made Original Works of Art

Two alpine enthusiasts in Merville are carving a niche for themselves with their custom wooden snowboard business.

Angie Farquharson and Evan Fair are the talent behind Kindred Snowboards, a small custom marquetry snowboard business they run out of a shop located behind their home. Kindred's snowboards can be found around the world.

Farquharson was Special Events Coordinator for four years at Mount Washington Alpine Resort at the same time Fair was working there. Four years ago, wanting a change of scenery, the couple left their Resort jobs and travelled across Canada for 10 months in a camper, trying to decide on someplace to live.

They returned to the Island for a visit and were leaving a friend's house in Campbell River "and Evan expressed curiosity

on how a snowboard was built."

Fair has been snowboarding for 16 years, and is a coach with VI Riders. Farquharson, on the other hand, had only been snowboarding for three years after an instructor friend taught her the skill.

"Other than my experience at Mount Washington, I didn't grow up skiing and snowboarding," she said "I grew up in Ontario. I had been going up Mount Washington my whole life in the summertime to see my grandparents."

After figuring out what it would take to build a snowboard, Farquharson and Fair parked their camper at a friend's place and set about figuring out how to go from concept to product. *Continued on page 20.*

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Photo Neil Havers



## Mount Washington Partners with Rossignol

To round out the retail experience, Mount Washington and Rossignol will present a new Rossignol Demo Centre near the base of the Eagle Chairlift.

Don Sharpe said the design of the Centre is reminiscent of a high-end new car showroom where guests will be able to learn about the technology behind skis, boards and boots.

To put all that new knowledge to use, a fleet of 30 demo skis and 10 demo boards will be available so guests will have the opportunity to take the gear out for a test drive. If they like it, they can go back to Outdoor Elements to buy it.

Boot fitting and repair services for all types of gear will also be offered in the Rossignol Demo Centre.

### Rossignol Experience Centres

In conjunction with expanded retail and demo programs at Mount Wash-

ington, the Resort is introducing two Rossignol Experience Centres - one in the Alpine Lodge, home of the alpine ski school and rental fleet, and the other at Raven Lodge, which is the centre of Nordic activities.

In addition to explanatory graphics and displays, both the Alpine and Nordic rental shops will receive an influx of new equipment, including more than 500 new pairs of skis, 100 new snowboards and 500 new pairs of boots.

Smaller improvements include a new point of sale software system to meet new standards for customer information security and a new logo, which was introduced as part of this year's season pass ad campaign.

Photo Neil Havers



## Snowmaking in the Forecast

Mount Washington Alpine Resort continues to expand its snowmaking plan for the 2016-17 season.

Resort crews installed water infrastructure in Easy Acres last fall before placing more snow guns in the area as they continue to test the technology.

"We're still playing with it," said Don Sharpe, Director of Business Operations and Marketing. "This year we're starting to [cover] our beginners' terrain."

The Resort tested a few snow guns last year to see how they would behave, and the new locations are an extension of that work.

Resort Director of Operations George Trousdeil has been studying proposals from three snowmaking equipment manufacturers and developing plans.

"There are a number of options, and since we are committed to designing and installing a state-of-the-art system which achieves maximum production and energy efficiency in this particularly difficult climate, we want to make sure we put the right snow guns in the right places," Trousdeil said.

**"For this season we will continue our test by installing new equipment, which will be enough to cover the tubing hill area and our basic beginner terrain."**

Mount Washington is testing both 'fan' and 'wand' technologies.

The underground work and prep for installation of these new snowmaking machines is going at a furious pace," explained Peter Gibson, Resort General Manager "While October was an incredibly tough month to work outside due to the weather, our crews are working hard to get things finished in time for opening."

**"We will learn a lot from this new technology, and we will be able to expand on the overall system next summer."**

"Wind, humidity and terrain all make a difference," Sharpe said when talking about how snow is made. Snow guns use a mix of compressed air and water to make snow. "We want to make sure we have the right equipment doing the right work for us."

Peter Gibson, Resort General Manager, saw snow guns in action during a trip to Park City, Utah, last summer. "It was 98 degrees Fahrenheit out, so they weren't making snow," he said, but the Snow Logic wands were impressive to watch.

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## Tourism



### Change is coming this winter, focusing on 'COMMUNITY'.

**"Membership in the organization will no longer be linked to a rent charge of \$250 per freehold land title," says Tourism Mount Washington Manager Rod Raycroft.**

"The freehold charge was considered their membership in the Association," he said. At the Oct. 7, 2016 Annual General Meeting the Membership voted to allow members to remove their rent charge if they wished to.

Property owners have to fill out forms from the Land Titles and Survey Authority, available online and through the mail, before Feb. 28, which is when the invoices will go out for the \$250 charge for 2017.

"As a result (of the vote), the Board has to go through a bit of soul-searching on how it will move forward in the future," Raycroft said. The Board has discussed open membership at a basic level, but what that will look like remains to be seen.

"The sense is to get a community development going so people feel empowered by it rather than forced into it."

**"In the past the membership money was used for destination marketing. However, there has been discussion over the past year to create more of a community focused group," he explained.**

"The Board, not only this year but in 2015 talked about the need to start

doing more community development rather than destination marketing."

Under the new organization Tourism Mount Washington will get a Regional District MRDT tax similar to a room tax from renters. "That gives us \$20,000 to \$30,000 to go toward marketing... and help generate overnight stays."

Tourism Mount Washington has a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with the new ownership group at Mount Washington to pool resources to help market people's properties.

They also have an MOU with the Marmot and Mile High Accommodations. "These are two entities that provide real value to the people who have properties up there and rent them out," Raycroft said.

Raycroft joined Tourism Mount Washington less than a year ago as Manager, and after helping guide property owners through a brief transition period, was due to wrap up his role with the organization on December 9.

Prior to his end date, he focused on setting up Tourism Mount Washington "so it can be seamlessly cost effective and efficient moving forward, and relevant to those people who are renting out properties," he said.

"There's no one solution that fits all. What we can do is set up the best plan so the Association helps those people get exposure in local markets on the Island and Vancouver, and possibly Edmonton and Calgary."

Someone from the Board of Directors will be designated to answer questions after Raycroft leaves.

*For more information on changes and the new fee structure, e-mail [manager@tourismmountwashington.com](mailto:manager@tourismmountwashington.com).*

## Fire Protection... Property Owners Vote In Favor.

**Property owners at Mount Washington Alpine Resort have voted in favour of establishing a fire protection service at Mount Washington. A Referendum held September 17 yielded a 102-19 vote in favour of the service.**

All that was needed for the Referendum to pass was a simple majority (50% plus one), explained James Bast, Manager of Fire Services for the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD).

There were approximately 300 eligible voters in the Mount Washington Resort Community, according to CVRD Chief Electoral Officer James Warren; turnout for the referendum was 40 per cent.

Bast wasted no time in implementing the next steps in the process: he built a proposed budget for the Service, which has to be approved by the CVRD Board by March 2017.

He also started negotiating with neighbouring Fire Departments on their willingness to send a crew up to the Resort in the event of a fire: he needs to choose one Department with which to sign a service agreement, he explained.

The proposed budget, completed after the Marmot went to press, takes into account potential contract costs with a fire department, constructing a storage building and all the fire fighting equipment necessary for a functional fire service.

"Once the budget is approved we can work towards concrete pieces that make this a functional fire service delivery," he said.

Property owners will see a levy on their



Photo: Neil Havers

property taxes beginning in 2017 that will pay for the fire service.

**If everything goes according to plan, adds Bast, Mount Washington could see fire service in place by late 2017. "If everything goes right we should have a building equipped and a fire service with a department by late fall 2017."**

Bast acknowledged the mountain-specific help he had in creating this plan, and said having a direct voice from stakeholders was vital to the fire protection service proposal passing so convincingly.

"One of the key pieces to this was the Steering Group - the Steering Group was absolutely invaluable for going through this process," Bast said. "They brought forward a local perspective I would never have had. I truly appreciate it. What we've got now [Fire Protection Service Plan] was born on the mountain."

*For more information on the fire services process at Mount Washington Alpine Resort, go online to [comoxvalleyrd.ca](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca) and follow the links to Mount Washington Fire Services.*

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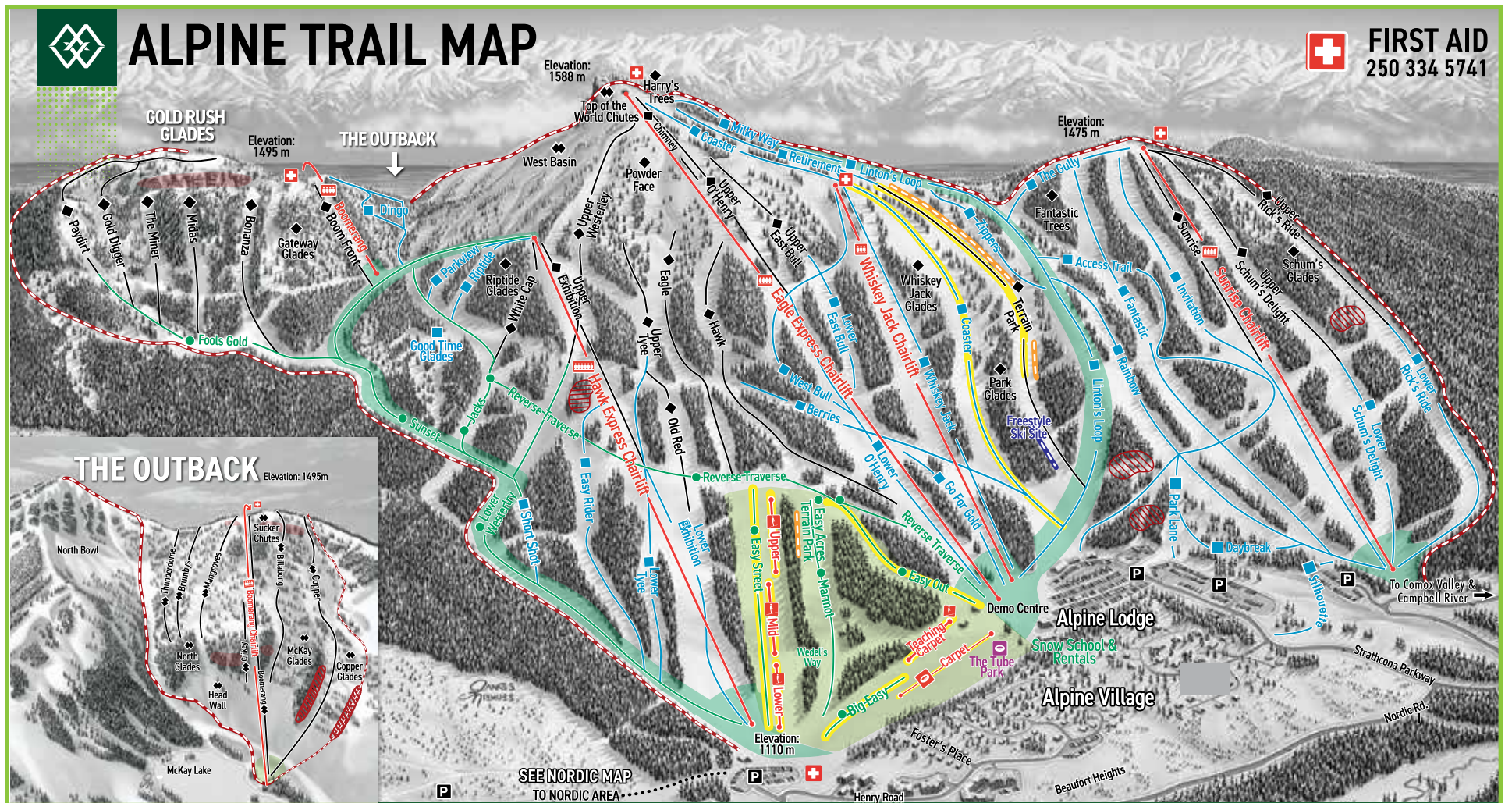




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# Summer 2016

## Mountain Biking Makes It's Mark Again!

The Mountain Bike Park at Mount Washington Alpine Resort was a re-sounding success for the summer of 2016.

“We ended up the season with better than expected ridership and better than expected Season’s Pass sales,” said Don Sharpe, Resort Director of Business Services and Marketing. “We’re pretty excited with bikes as a way of going into the future.”

The Park opened July 15 after a three-year absence and closed daily operations on September 5. Good weather meant the Park was open for three more weekends in September.

“Our whole goal this year was to have trails developed with the mantra, ‘fast, flowy and fun’.”

Mountain Bike Supervisor Mike Manara set up the Park this year, hiring local riders to develop the trails.



Photo courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort

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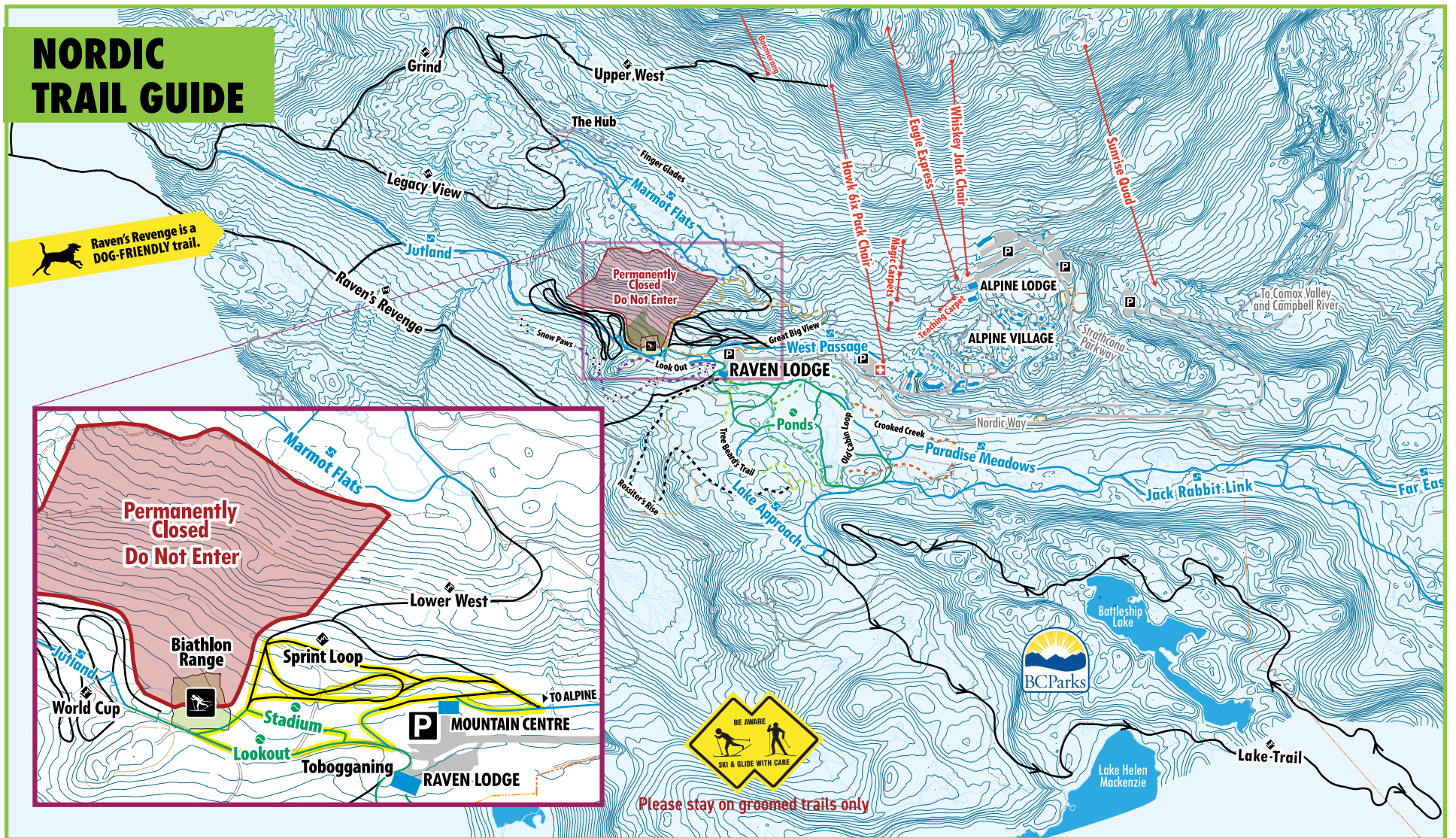
The Green Trail was the most popular, Sharpe said. “Our Green Trail was well ridden and became almost iconic.”

A second trail, called Highway 19, opened shortly after Green Trail. Manara and bike park staff just kept adding trails as they were able to. “We followed Mother Nature up the mountain,” Sharpe said.

With the hard work of the trail builders, though, they were only four days off their projection for opening. “It was a lot of hard work. We started on the trails the first week of June and we made it into a seven-day-a-week operation.”

Mountain bikers had access to the summit as the hangers were still installed on the Hawk Chairlift. “That helped a lot,” he said.

Continued on page 20



## In Profile Pacific Group Resorts Inc.

Mount Washington Alpine Resort is one of four Resorts that Pacific Group Resorts Inc. owns, and the first to geographically echo the “Pacific” in the Company’s name.

The others are Wisp Resort in Maryland, Wintergreen Resort in Virginia’s Blue Ridge Mountains, and Ragged, located about

160 kilometres (98 miles) from downtown Boston. While they are all unique, they have some common threads, such as snowmaking and year-round business.

Mount Washington General Manager Peter Gibson has been to Wisp Resort, which offers 172 acres of varied terrain,

including 14 acres of new beginner terrain. Wisp ([www.wispresort.com](http://www.wispresort.com)) fits perfectly within the Pacific Group Resorts’ model due to its proximity to Washington, DC, Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Morgantown, according to its website.

“It’s a Resort in transition, like we are,” Gibson said. “Some old stuff and some new stuff; and they’re progressing forward. They refocused their beginners’

terrain two years ago,” Gibson explained. “They’re very big in the wedding business like we are.”

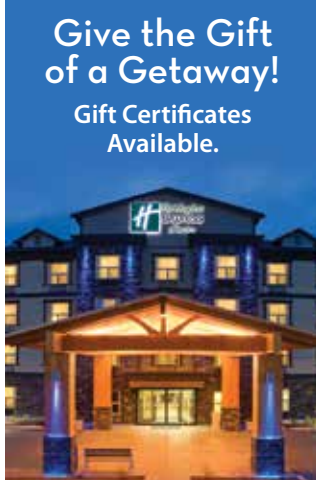
Wisp, Wintergreen and Ragged all boast something that Gibson hopes will come to Mount Washington, too. “All three of those operations have bigger summer than winters,” he said. “All three of them have very strong summer programs.

“That’s the direction we’re going. We started with the Bike Park last summer and there’s more to come.”

*Continued on page 20*



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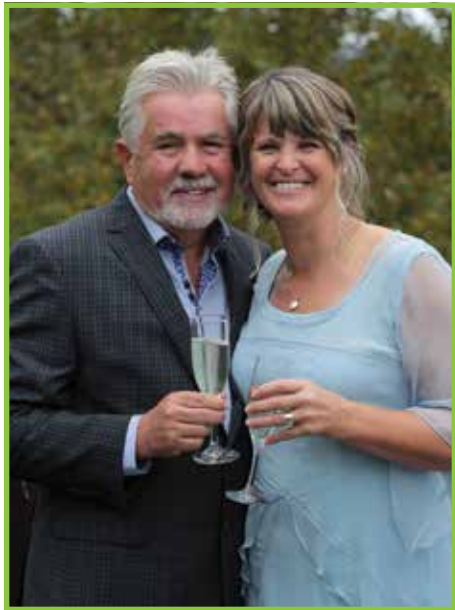
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# NEWS in Brief

Encompassing people, places and happenings at Mount Washington.



## IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL...

The skiing community is truly a small world, as Mount Washington Alpine Resort General Manager Peter Gibson discovered.

Back in the late 1980s, Gibson spent four years travelling to Tasmania during the off-season, working for another ski resort. One year, the Resort's owner bought some ski school uniforms from a place in Colorado. "He told me they had come from Steamboat Resort," Gibson said.

When Gibson visited with Vern Greco, President and CEO of Pacific Group Resorts Inc., he learned that Greco had been President of Steamboat in 1989. He asked if Greco recalled selling uniforms to a place near Australia.

"He said he sent them to a remote place so they wouldn't have to see them again. Then I produced a photo of me standing in front of the whole Ski School - wearing the uniforms!"

## WEDDING BELLS RANG

Congratulations go out to the Marmot's own Neil Havers, who married his sweetheart Lynne last fall.

The couple married on the deck of their home overlooking the Puntledge River and held a reception for family and friends at the Native Sons Hall on Cliffe Avenue in Courtenay.

Neil and Lynne have known each other for three years and are long-time residents of the Comox Valley. Lynne is a registered nurse with Home and Community Care.

"It was a total setup," Neil says of how they met. "A curling club friend of mine who was a good friend of Lynne's said 'Lynne, I think there's this guy you should meet.'

"We went for a walk at the Courtenay Airpark and the rest is history," he said.

Both of them share a love of the outdoors, and their interests complement each other: "She's always had a love for mountain biking and I'm more trail riding, and she's learned to develop an addiction to golf."

## MOUNTAIN CENTRE BOOKED FOR 2016/17

The past year has been a busy one for Bridget Orsetti, Manager at the Vancouver Island Mountain Centre at Mount Washington. Orsetti took over the Manager's position in the fall of 2015.

"It's been a huge learning curve and lots of work," she said. "Now I'm settling in and feel I have a handle on things."

The year was so successful that Orsetti said VIMC is already fully booked for winter 2016-17, and that's a great sign. "They had a lot to recover financially after the previous two winters," she said. "The



Bridget Orsetti, Manager  
Vancouver Island Mountain Centre

Board is sighing in relief because we're coming along."

The Facility remains popular with quilting and yoga groups, who appreciate the spacious great room and sweeping views of Strathcona Park. One of the highlights for Orsetti was hosting a group of international students who came to the Comox Valley to study at North Island College.

"They landed in Canada and the next day came up. There were 60 of them and they had never seen snow. We put them in snowshoes and built snow caves.

"While they were waiting for the bus to return, they put on some music and we had this big Bollywood dance," Orsetti recalls.

She also learned something new with all the school groups that visited the centre: "kids on the Island don't see snow," she said. "I would have all these grand things planned and they would get off the bus



and start channeling around in the snow. All they wanted to do was play in the snow," she said.

Orsetti is working on a new Program she will launch in January that will be "a little bit like The Amazing Race" but feature skills and challenges based on school curriculum. Next June or July she intends to host a couple of all-girl mountain bike clinics, and has applied for a grant to run the clinics.

Photo: Susie Quinn



## TALL TREES OR LIFT TOWERS?

Ski lift towers for the Eagle Express and the Hawk Chair have been repainted green.

"It's a really dark forest green, almost a black green," says Don Sharpe, Director of Business Operations at Mount Washington. "They look amazing. They blend into the environment and don't stand out," he added.

The towers were re-painted in the new colour as part of a re-branding at Mount Washington - they debuted a new logo and colour this summer.

"We have such tall evergreen trees the towers look just like tall trees," he said.

The Whiskey Jack and Sunrise Quad towers are due for new paint next summer, and the Boomerang will come after that, Sharpe said.

## ENGINEERING - NO. SNOWBOARDS - YES!

Evan Fair of Kindred Custom Snowboards once applied to engineering school "before he decided to be a ski bum," says his partner, Angie Farquharson. She and Fair worked at Mount Washington Alpine Resort for a number of years before starting their own custom snowboard manufacturing shop. *See feature on page 3.*

Speaking of Kindred Custom Snowboards, they partnered with First Nations youth artist Carver Everson of Comox to create a custom topsheet in a west coast aboriginal design.

Angie Farquharson of Kindred, who looks after creative for the company, liked Everson's contemporary style.

Everson's first design has been used for a wood marquetry topsheet for a custom snowboard going to someone in Fort McMurray who lost his original Kindred board in the big forest fire last summer, Farquharson said.

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## FAT BIKING AT MOUNT WASHINGTON?

Fat biking, or snow biking, is a growing trend in Canada, especially in places covered in snow much of the year. Mount Washington tried it out last spring, and it could become a regular activity at the Resort, if the conditions are right.

"It's a possibility we will look at in the new year," said Don Sharpe, Resort Director of Business Operations and Marketing.

"We need a harder surface. The snow was a little soft. It was a lot of fun and we may be looking at doing it again."

## MOUNTAIN BIKES FOR SALE...

If you liked renting a Rocky Mountain-brand mountain bike at Mount Washington's new Bike Park this summer, you're in luck: the Resort is selling all the bikes they bought at the beginning of the summer, so they can make room for new rentals next year.

"That will be our goal, is to buy the bikes for the summer and replace them all through the course of the winter," Sharpe said.

## FREESTYLE CLUB MEMBERS & ALUMNI WIN BIG

Mei Pond, a Mount Washington Freestyle Ski Club alumnus now on the Provincial Mogul Team, won Gold in the Moguls U18 Category on her home hill last April when Mount Washington and the MWFSC hosted the BC Freestyle Championships.

Current MWFSC members who hit the provincial podium that weekend included Super Youth Catrina Krejci (U14) Slopestyle Bronze; Monique Vinnedge (U10) Big Air Gold; Angus Heys (U8) Big Air Bronze; and for the Timber Tour, Brandon Playford (U18) Gold in Slopestyle; Todd Heard (U18) Gold in Big Air and Bronze in Moguls; and Sarah Rocque (U16) Gold in Big Air and Silver in Slopestyle.

## TALLON NOBLE OFF TO WORLD JUNIOR TRIALS

Strathcona Nordics' Tallon Noble will head to the World Junior Trials in Soldier Hollow, Utah in early January. Soldier Hollow was the site for the 2002 Winter Olympic Cross Country Events.

Noble began cross country skiing with the Jackrabbit Program at the age of five, according to his Strathcona Nordics' bio. Now 17 years old and in Grade 12, he has five years of racing under his belt with the Strathcona Nordics Junior Race Team, and was also recruited to the BC Ski Team in 2014.

Passionate about Nordic Skiing, Noble is completely committed to his training plan. His results are proof: BC Winter Games Medalist, multiple Provincial BC Cup Medalist and overall Aggregate Age Group Winner 2013 – 2016, Western Canadian



Tallon Noble in competition

Championship Medalist and eighth overall Aggregate at the National Championships, 2015 and 2016.

Noble's present goals are podium finishes at Western Canadians in January at Whistler Olympic Park, and Ski Nationals in March 2017, in Canmore AB.

He will represent BC at the Junior World Trials, in Utah, USA, in January 2017, and although among the youngest competitors, feels ready to go and is excited by this amazing opportunity.

Grateful to his coach Andrea Stapff, and the hard working Board Members of the Strathcona Nordics Ski Club who support him, Noble is ready for the next step: international Racing.

## STRATHCONA NORDICS SKI HAIG GLACIER

Tallon Noble, Matthew Salmon and Ross Lamont from the Strathcona Nordics all went to Haig Glacier for a Summer Camp in 2016. They flew in a helicopter and skied on the glacier during the camp.



## MOUNT WASHINGTON REBRANDS FOR 2016

Mount Washington Alpine Resort has introduced a new logo and new branding colours. The new logo features a stylized "M" atop a "W", and the look reminds one of skis.

"It's a little bit modern, a little bit retro," says Sharpe. "It's a green focus. We started using it on things like Season's Passes this year. It will take a bit of time for a full changeover," perhaps a year, he added.

"It represents that there's a new feeling, a new look, a new energy and new investment."

## THE 6ixPak IS BACK!

Mount Washington Alpine Resort, along with Thrifty Foods, announced the return of the popular six-pack of lift passes known as the 6ixPak. Thrifty Foods is the exclusive off-mountain sales location for the purchase of the six-pack of lift tickets.

The 6ixPak includes six direct-to-lift tickets in a pre-packed bundle that can be used any day of the season.

They can be used by one individual, or they can be shared among family and friends.

## The View From Here

### We welcome the Pacific Group to Mount Washington.

This is the third ownership group that has been part of our Resort's history.

When the Resort first opened the main attractions that the first ownership did was bring hydro, water and flush toilets to skiing on Vancouver Island!

Yes... when the mountain was about to open, tours were conducted in the Alpine Lodge to show toilets that actually flushed! I was on one of those tours and I found it AMAZING!!!

The second ownership group paved the way for future development by changing the access road from a private muddy access road, to a paved road from bottom to top. They also brought in drive in and ski out properties. They also built Raven Lodge which anchors the Nordic skiing and snowshoeing. They also built or replaced four chairlifts.

We are now into our second year with the Pacific Group and I know they are



Rick Gibson has owned property on Mount Washington since 1980 and has been selling Real Estate on Mount Washington as a Royal LePage Realtor since 1989.

going to bring their mark to our Resort. I know that they are going to build on what has been done to date and also take the Resort to heights not imagined before. One only has to look at what they have done in their other Resorts to see what they have in mind for Vancouver Island.

**Are you excited?  
I certainly am!**





# Ski Clubs

## ON MOUNT WASHINGTON



### MOUNT WASHINGTON SKI CLUB

**Mount Washington Ski Club creates all-mountain skiers**

Last season was a huge shot in the arm for skiing on Vancouver Island: new ownership at Mount Washington Alpine Resort and great snow equaled a rebirth of skiing at the Resort. “The energy was also felt in the Mt Washington Ski Club,” Head Coach John Trimmer said. “Our Programs had solid numbers and our competitive athletes had some great results.”

The Club had a low key off-season, only running one on-snow camp in the summer and another in the fall. This was deliberate, Trimmer said, as it allowed Ski Club kids to participate in other activities and sports. “We are huge believers in the need for multi-sport involvement in children,” he said. “Strong physical literacy gives them the foundations to enjoy sport for a lifetime.”

Fall was full of e-mails and calls from people asking about the Club’s Programs. Trimmer said he spent a lot of time explaining that the Club offers myriad programs for all levels of skiers.

“One of the biggest misconceptions that I hear from people is that the Club is all about racing,” he said. “While there is no doubt that we are a Race Club, our main focus at all levels is to create great skiers, in all terrain and snow conditions. A great skier is one who is balanced and athletic on their skis, someone who has the ability to turn wherever and whenever they want, or need to,” he added.

Coaches use gates and other turning aids in all their programs as tools to help create solid fundamentals, accelerate skill development and increase fun. “Skiing is a lifelong sport and learning strong fundamentals will allow kids to be safe and have fun for a lifetime,” Trimmer added.

For more info on the Club’s Programs, go online to [www.mtwashingtonskiclub.com](http://www.mtwashingtonskiclub.com) or call 250-897-6058.

### MOUNT WASHINGTON FREESTYLE CLUB

**Freestyle Club carves out niche on Mount Washington**

The Mount Washington Freestyle Ski Club is Vancouver Island’s only Ski Program focusing on Moguls, Slopestyle and big mountain skills. “In a team environment kids will learn turn carving, jumping, rails and mogul skiing in one of the Province’s best all-round Ski Programs available for all levels of Freestyle Skiing,” says MWFSC President Roy Krejci.

“Our Club offers competitive, development and beginning freestyle Programs. (We) provide a fun, safe skiing experience for competent skiers six years old and up. Certified training in all freestyle disciplines will give skiers a well-rounded set of skills.”

The Freestyle Club hosted the Provincial Timber Tour and BC Freestyle Championships last spring, where more than 120 skiers from around the Province competed in the third and final of a series of Provincial Freestyle Events. The Club had just six weeks to prepare for the Provincials, as they were originally slated to take place at a different Resort.

“It couldn’t have happened without the support of the crew from Mount Washington Alpine Resort, the parents, the volunteers from other hills, and the mountain staff,” MWFSC president Roy Krejci said.

For more info on the MWFSC, check them out online at [www.mwfreestyle.com](http://www.mwfreestyle.com).

### VI RIDERS

**VI Riders Season kicks off Jan. 7**

The VI Riders Freestyle Snowboard Training Club’s season kicks off on Jan. 7, 2017. Coaches Bryn Lucas, Evan Fair and Andrew Kondrat offer a combined 55 years’ experience in snowboarding with the club, which helps its participants hone their technical snowboarding skills and promote personal development too. While there is a competitive stream to the Club, competing is not mandatory for Club participants.

For more information, go online to [www.viriders.ca](http://www.viriders.ca).





## STRATHCONA NORDICS

**It's all about 'camp' for the Strathcona Nordics!**

The Strathcona Nordics' season traditionally starts in May, long after Mount Washington Alpine Resort has closed for the snow season. This year the Nordics spent a lot of time camping at the beginning of their season - training camp, that is.

They started with a Spring Snow Camp at Mount Washington at the beginning of May, along with skiers from the Lower Mainland. Skiers were actually able to ski on 10 kilometres of maintained trails during the Camp, following a good snow season.

In July, 12 athletes participated in an Interprovincial, Multi-Club Camp in Kaslo, BC. Three athletes (all BC Ski Team or BC Development Squad) went to Haig Glacier Ski Camp in Kananaskis, AB.

The Nordics held a Summer Exchange Camp with Team Hardwood from Barrie, ON, organized through Experiences Canada for eight days. The Nordics' Junior Team will travel to Ontario in February 2017 for the second part of the exchange.

The Nordics held a fall Teck Regional Camp for 55 athletes and coaches at Miracle Beach Provincial Park in mid-September. Besides camping and campfires, athletes participated in training sessions and team building games like a roller skating time trial, roller skiing technique session, strength and agility training, forest and beach running - and the younger athletes' favourite game, Bone Collector, a version of tag.

Strathcona Nordic Ski Club Head Coach Andrea Stapff noted that it was exciting to see so many young, eager faces at the Camp. "The high participation numbers and keen attitude that the skiers had... is a good sign that a fun season is not too far ahead."

CCBC Para Nordic Head Coach Jessica Heyes brought three Para Nordic Team athletes from the Mainland to train for the weekend as well.

"Camps like this build buzz for our sport, and we're looking forward to growing participation numbers again this season," said Dudley Coulter, Athlete Development Coordinator at Cross Country BC.

The racing season started Nov. 27 in Callaghan, Whistler Olympic Park. Other events Nordic athletes will attend this season include the BC Champs in Kamloops, BC Midget

Camps in Kelowna, Western Canadian Champs in Callaghan, Eastern Canadian Champs (with Team Hardwood exchange) in Gatineau, ON and the Ski Nationals in Canmore, AB in March. Home events include December Camp Dec. 27-30, Coast Cup Race March 4-5 and the VI Loppet on April 1. The Strathcona Nordics recreational programs begin Jan. 10-11, 2017. Deadline to register is Dec. 31, 2016, but Swift cautions programs usually fill up early.

For more information on the club, go online to [www.strathconanordics.com](http://www.strathconanordics.com).

## VANCOUVER ISLAND ADAPTIVE SNOWSPORTS

**Snowfest brings out the best in snowboarders**

In 2007, Julia Tait had her first taste of adaptive snowsports at a winter festival at Mount Washington Alpine Resort known as Snowfest. She was 11 years old. Snowfest is an annual event put on by the Vancouver Island Society for Adaptive Snowsports (VISAS). The free event allows differently-abled participants to experience four consecutive days of snowsports instruction, including lift tickets, rentals and two banquets.

Tait attended her first festival on a pair of downhill skis. It was physically challenging for her to keep her legs close together and "it was suggested that I might try to snowboard," she says. She hasn't looked back since. "I love snowboarding," she said. "People are often surprised that I can snowboard and they think it's cool."

Learning to snowboard has been a process for Tait, who has had her fair share of challenges. "I have a rare syndrome that affects my upper body and arms and I am legally blind and hearing impaired," she said. "I need assistance with my bindings, getting up and seeing on the slope."

Sometimes she is fearful of new things or changes, and she said VISAS Coaches understand. "They are very good at letting me go at my own pace - even when I want to go fast," she said. Tait has already purchased a season's pass at Mount Washington for 2016-17 so she can get out on the slopes and snowboard as much as possible. Her goals for the upcoming season are to try some more jumping and spend more time on the Eagle and Sunrise Chairlifts. "The trained instructors are key to me being able to snowboard," she affirmed. "They are knowledgeable, energetic, enthusiastic and fun."

The 2017 Winter Snowsports Festival runs Jan. 8 - 12, 2017 at Mount Washington. Applications are now being received. [www.visasweb.ca/Learntoskifestival.htm](http://www.visasweb.ca/Learntoskifestival.htm)

As well as Snowfest, VISAS provides lessons seven days a week during the winter. Total costs for students are kept to a minimum to allow people of diverse abilities and varied incomes to experience sliding on snow.

The club also hosts the annual Herb Bradley Challenge fundraiser (Sunday, March 12, 2017) as well as the Soldier On National Ski Week from Jan. 29-Feb. 4, 2017.

For more information, check out the VISAS website at [www.visasweb.ca](http://www.visasweb.ca) or call Peter at 416-363-4972.



## VI BIATHLON CLUB

**Biathlon: Where Skiing and Shooting Intersects!**

The Vancouver Island Biathlon Club is looking forward to a solid season ahead of them, thanks to increased participation from parents, spokesperson Christoph Dettling said. "We will be offering not only the usual two Programs; Bears and Masters, but also a new Program: the Competitive Youth Program."

For the first two Programs, no previous experience is necessary, although prior skiing experience is helpful, Dettling said. "While Biathlon consists of skiing and shooting, it is quite unlike these activities separately. That is, all out skiing does not demand of the athlete to suddenly slow down one's pace and mindset as when coming into the range to shoot.

"In the same vein, marksmen do not have to worry about having to shoot with a pulse of 160 beats per minute. Thus, I would define the sport of biathlon as that intersecting point between skiing and shooting."

VI Biathlon Coaches encourage participants to look to the Strathcona Nordics' skiing Programs for extra practice. "We have specifically scheduled our Programs so that folks looking to get in some skiing practice too won't have to worry about schedule conflicts."

As with other Clubs at Mount Washington, VI Biathlon offers both competitive and non-competitive streams. Athletes have the opportunity to attend BC Cup Races, but they aren't mandatory, says Dettling.

The Club will offer two fun races at the range on Mount Washington so athletes can test their newly-minted skills.

"Parents may be worried about their children handling firearms," Dettling said. "Marksmanship isn't about violence. Rather, it's about developing a calm mind, awareness of your body and the ability to perform under pressure. These are skills that biathletes will be able to use for the rest of their lives."

Complete descriptions of all the Club's Programs as well as registration information can be found at [www.vibiathlon.ca/programs](http://www.vibiathlon.ca/programs).

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## Audio footprints may yet prove Sasquatch existence.

Comparing spectrograms is an easy scientific method to prove or disprove the source of recorded howlings.

John Bidernagel, a retired professional biologist, has been studying Sasquatch since 1963 and has written two books on the subject. He continues to create videos (available for viewing on YouTube) chronicling his findings and those of other biologists and cryptozoologists who have collected information on sasquatch sightings around the world.

Aside from archiving his extensive collection of sasquatch artifacts, Bindernagel has also been busy analyzing findings from a sighting in Alert Bay on Cormorant Island last summer. He returned to the Island in September and October of this year to talk to residents again, and explore the heavily forested area.

Another resident came forward with a better audio recording of unexplained howlings, and Bindernagel has had them converted to a spectrogram.



Audio recordings show link to Sasquatch from Norway House to Alert Bay.

There was another recording that came out of Norway House, northern Manitoba, that had a similar spectrogram pattern as the one in Alert Bay, and it was even clearer than the Alert Bay sample.

These spectrograms allowed him to compare the visual “map” of the sounds with other spectrograms of known sounds on

record at the Macaulay Library of Sounds from Cornell University in New York.

Critics speculated the howlings were really a bellowing moose, or a growling bear. Bindernagel has been able to rule out several of the guesses, including black bear, based on spectrogram technology.

Comparing spectrograms is an easy scientific method to prove or disprove the source of the howlings, and Bindernagel said it frustrates him generally that more of his former scientific colleagues will not even entertain the idea.

“We have good prints, all sorts of tree damage, but there’s no link to all of that,” he said of all the sasquatch evidence gathered throughout the years.

“But now there’s another form of evidence being documented (audio recordings), if we can attract the relevant specialists to examine the material.”

**Could a Sasquatch whose footprints Comox Valley biologist John Bindernagel discovered in 1988 near Mount Washington Alpine Resort be the same Sasquatch whose footprints were discovered in Sayward in 1993? Bindernagel thinks it might be.**

Bindernagel discovered a footprint he attributes to Sasquatch in October, 1988 while chaperoning a school hike at Lake Helen Mackenzie in Strathcona Provincial Park.

The group was walking along a trail when one of the students pointed out five tracks in a muddy spot. It took Bindernagel and his wife three days to return to the spot with plaster to cast the prints, and by then all but one was obliterated.

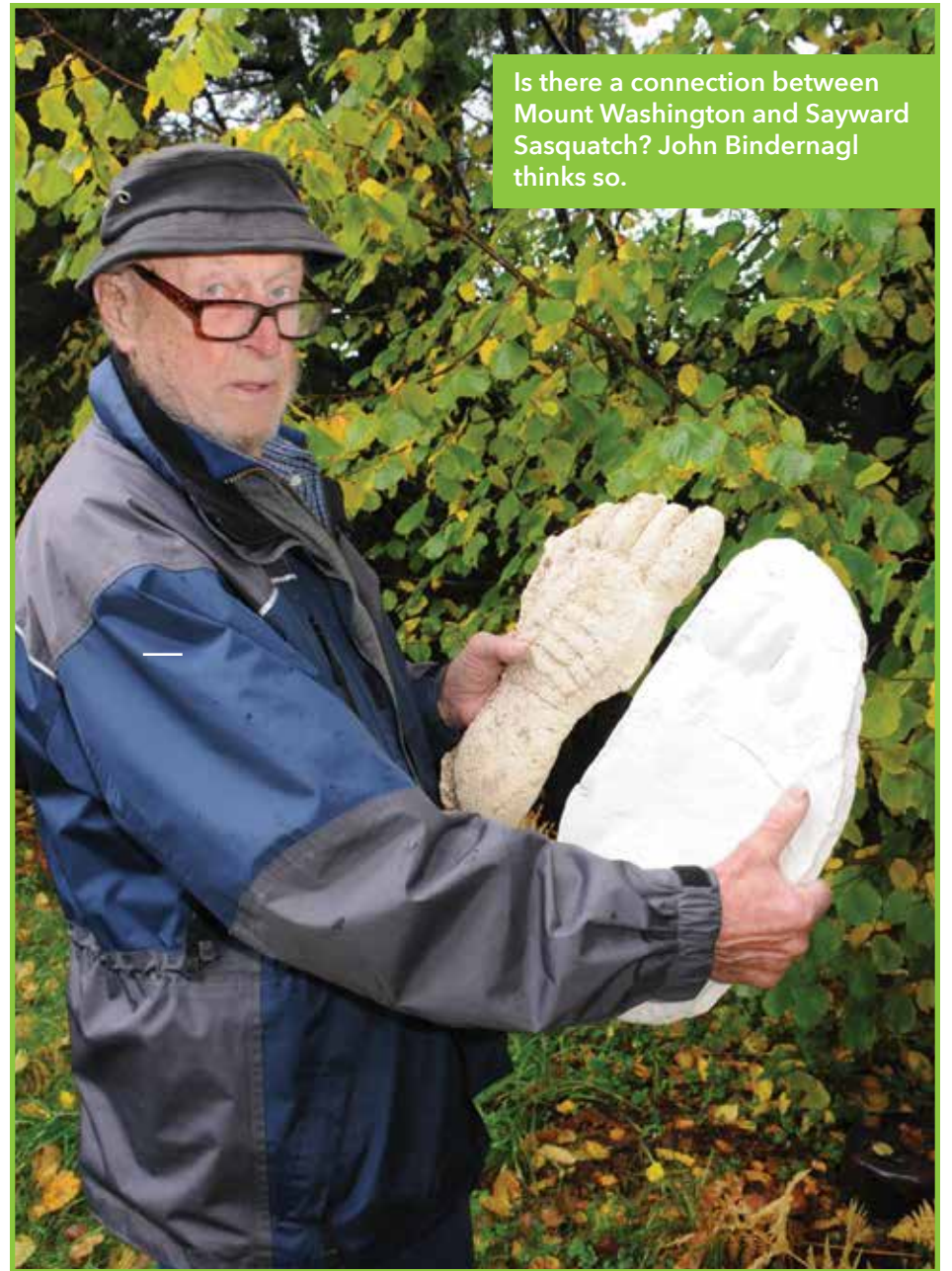


Photo: Susie Quinn

Earlier this year he bought three original casts of footprints from someone in Campbell River who took his casts from prints near Sayward.

“He puts scientists to shame with the recording he did,” Bindernagel said of the Campbell River man, whose name he declined to share. “There are photographs with measurements where they were found.”

Bindernagel’s Lake Helen Mackenzie cast is 15 inches long and one-third longer than a normal human footprint. The step was about 40 inches, he recalled in a 2002 Marmot Newspaper interview, much longer than a human step.

When the Strathcona cast is placed beside the Sayward cast, they look quite similar, Bindernagel pointed out. Both prints have similar toe structure, size and shape.

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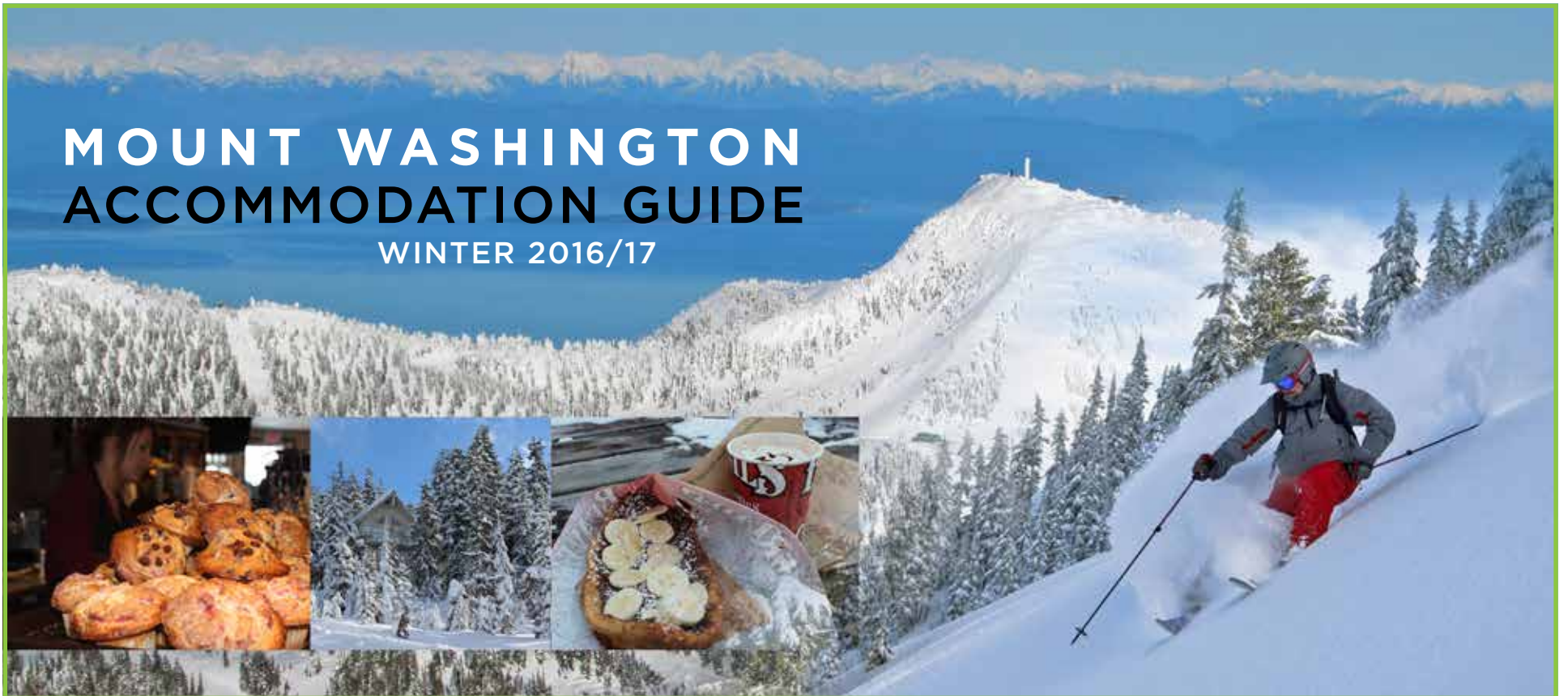
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Photos courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort & Neil Havers



# MOUNT WASHINGTON ACCOMMODATION GUIDE WINTER 2016/17



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# MOUNT WASHINGTON ALPINE VILLAGE MAP

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## New Faces in Hospitality

The Hospitality Division at Mount Washington Alpine Resort will see some new faces this winter,” says Tim Defert, Director of Sales and Hospitality Operations.

Robyn Heron joins the Team as a Group Sales Manager, a new position for the Resort.

There are also some changes coming up

in the kitchen, says Defert. “A new chef and sous chef will be joining us to lead the kitchen brigade this winter. Expect some changes to the Food and Beverage Program over the course of the winter,” he added.

Heron’s job, says Defert, will be to concentrate on conference and trade show business. “We are going to aggressively sell to outside sales to bring in more business,” he said.

Heron moved from North Vancouver to the Comox Valley in November, living on the mountain for the first few weeks before finding a more permanent home in Comox.

She has worked in the tourism hospitality industry at Whistler, in the Okanagan and spent 13 years in Banff before returning to the Lower Mainland. Her forte is group sales in hotels.

“That’s what the Resort was looking for, was to build their group business for conferences and weddings - building on the momentum of weddings,” says Heron.

She said she didn’t choose Mount Washington for this job: Mount Washington chose her. “I was looking to make a move out of Vancouver. It was too much of a squeeze. I was looking for a change, for more community,” she said.

“I was hoping to find a community that was more affordable to live in and still have aspects I wanted.”

She came to Mount Washington for an interview “and fell in love with the community.”

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Heron spent 13 years working in Banff before moving to North Vancouver, where she was living and working before coming to Mount Washington. Her forte is group sales in hotels. "There's a lot of versatile, flexible meeting space people don't realize," says Heron of Mount Washington.

All the equipment in the rental area, for example, is on rollers and during the off-season can be moved out of the way. "That whole space downstairs for the rentals could be a huge space for a trade show," she said.

There are meeting rooms available on the Whiskey Jack floor, and even Raven Lodge can be used if available. "Groups can come for meetings then go for a hike, do some team building," she said.

"Our big selling feature up here is it's so unique for the Island. It is alpine to ocean. Clients can take over the Resort in the summer if they want. You're a mile high, you've got amazing views."

The Resort is central to myriad recreational activities for the end of the workshop day, like golfing, kayaking, even surfing on the West Coast, Heron said.

"There's just so few locations you can do that, and it's all right here. Our No. 1 thing is our location."

Photos: Neil Havers

## Mount Washington Eyes Convention Market



Photo: Susie Quinn

**"Mount Washington Alpine Resort is a gem when it comes to location for conferences, but the potential is untapped," says Robyn Heron, Sales Manager at the Resort.**

Heron joined the Resort team in October, and her newly created position signals a new direction for Mount Washington, says Tim Defert, Resort Director of Hospitality.

The new ownership group, Pacific Group Resorts Inc. wants to develop Mount Washington into a four-season destination, and the conference and banquet business

can help fill in the shoulder season gaps.

**"The owners are keen for us to do that, to build more events in the off-season," Heron said. "To have activities up here and give people a reason to come up."**

Re-opening the Mountain Bike Park was a first step toward increasing summer activities; popular Festivals like Tapped and the Alpine Wine Festival bring people up the mountain, and the courtyard between the two lodges is an ideal location for a tent for music festivals.

All these things combined will help Mount Washington build a reputation as more of a destination as time goes on, Heron said. "Our motto so far is anything's possible."

The Resort does a booming wedding business in the summer, its main venue being Raven Lodge on the edge of Strathcona Provincial Park. They are booked back to back to back during summer months, catering around 30 events a year, and have developed a couple of venues for hosting ceremonies outdoors with the sweeping vistas of Strathcona Park in the background.

Last year the Resort hosted 710 competitors with the MOMAR Cumberland Race, proving they have the facilities

and infrastructure in place to handle large business, Defert said. "The groups we do get right now we do very well with. We have enough experienced people to pull off any large or small banquet, conference or trade show.

"We're going to be looking at all of our locations to keep improving our products and services," Defert said. "This is just the very start."

The missing piece was having someone like Heron in place, dedicated to group sales, he added. "We're anticipating large growth."




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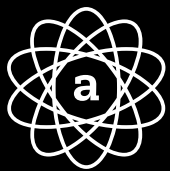
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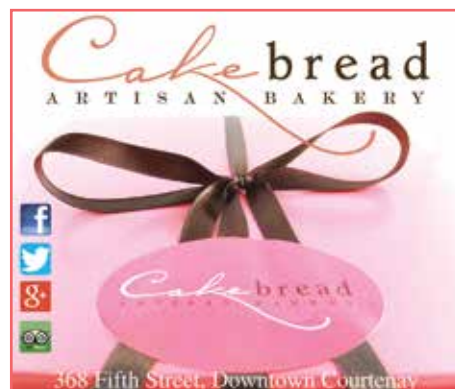
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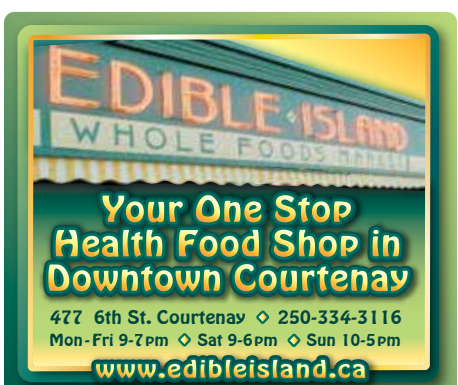
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## Pacific Group

*continued from page 7.*

### Resort 'Training Camp' in Park City, Utah

Park City, Utah is a mecca for mountain resorts, and it has served as an inspiration for Mount Washington Alpine Resort's Management Team over the past year.

Pacific Group Resorts Inc. has a close relationship with Park City Mountain Resort: PGRI President and CEO Vern Greco once managed the Resort, and they maintain a relationship with premier touring company White Pine Tours.

**Last year Gibson took two trips to Park City at the behest of the new owners, and Bike Park, Manager Mike Manara also travelled to Park City to check out mountain bike operations last spring.**

Park City is a 35-minute drive from Salt Lake City, and sits at an elevation of 7,000 feet above sea level. Its mountains are part of the Wasatch Mountains of Utah.

The City built up around a silver mine in the 1880s, and didn't transform into a ski destination until the first ski lift was installed in 1946, according to the Park City Chamber of Commerce.

Gibson and a couple of other managers visited Park City Mountain Resort, The Canyons, Deer Valley, Alta, Snowbird and Solitude resorts on one whirlwind tour.

"What we did by focusing on those areas is looked at their summer operations," he said.



*Hand made in the Comox Valley, Kindred Custom Snowboards are sold around the world.*

## Kindred Snowboards

*continued from page 3.*

They saw a snowboard press for sale on craigslist.com, went to Vancouver to talk to the man selling it, and bought it on the spot.

"It came with enough materials to build maybe 10 boards; top sheets, cores, resin. It came with enough materials for us to practice," said Farquharson. "It was a lot of focused, obsessive practice."

They rode their final product and labeled it a success. "We thought, if we can make one awesome snowboard, maybe we can make more."

They decided not to move off the Island, and established their business in the Comox Valley. "We decided this is where our snow community is," Farquharson said.

For the first couple of years they both kept other jobs in addition to developing Kindred Snowboards. Now, they have enough work to keep them busy full time, while leaving space for volunteering, and of course, for getting up the mountain for some snowboarding enjoyment.

Kindred's boards are unique because of the custom-made wood marquetry topsheets. Farquharson liaises with each customer to determine what they're looking for, and translates their vision into artwork.

Intricate work is hand-cut, while they also use a CNC router to cut larger pieces. She uses different types of wood depending on colour and grain direction.

"A lot of the work is informed by the natural beauty around us," she explained. "That's my comfort zone."

She's not afraid to step out of that zone, though, and proves it with a recent project featuring stylized skulls with detail work.

The couple splits the workload when building a board: Fair does component construction, working on the technical specs and operating the press, as well as finishing work and resin spraying. Farquharson can step in at any step, and Fair can also create topsheet artwork.

**Since the boards are custom made, Kindred works with one customer at a time. The process can take anywhere from four weeks to four months to create a custom board depending on the time of year and how communicative the customer is. They do a lot of custom wedding boards for brides and grooms.**

They have four models of skis, snowboards and split boards, all named for local significance: Ramblers, Black Creek, Tsolum, and the split tail snowboard shape is the Cumberland Gap.

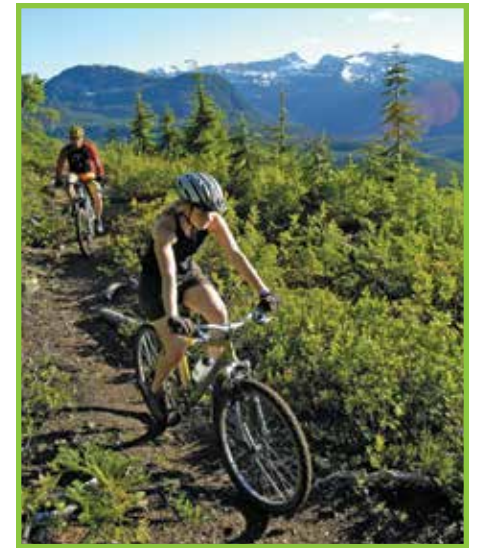
Kindred also creates a limited edition run every year with one design created for the four different types of boards. They press between 25 and 50 boards of different sizes and shapes, and sell them in retail stores in Courtenay, Nanaimo and Smithers.

The company is slowly growing, and Fair built a new snowboard press in November. Farquharson envisions them hiring another person someday to help with the workload.

"We've always talked about measured growth. Every part of our work is centred around integrity; we want to be careful we never let go of that part," she said.

**DID YOU KNOW:** *Angie Farquharson has always been artistic. She used to paint on the backs of cardboard takeout lids, the ones with silver on one side and plain white cardboard on the other. "My Mom has stacks of them," she says.*

Photo courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort



## Summer 2016

*continued from page 6.*

They worked with Rocky Mountain Bikes to bring rental bikes to the Resort, giving people the opportunity to ride a high-end bike if they didn't have one.

The demographic using the Bike Park was interesting, too. "We had a lot more families than we expected," Sharpe said. "It was awesome seeing moms coming with their kids. It was quite a mix of people. It wasn't just guys going out that were full on adrenaline junkies."

While the Bike Park was a major focus for the summer, the Resort also bought a new bungee trampoline - this one a quad jumper - to replace the previous bungee. The Eurobunge Trampoline Quad Jump allows up to four people to jump about 10 metres in the air and perform acrobatic tumbles and tricks, all the while safely attached to the trampoline.

Summertime Events like Tapped and the Alpine Wine Festival were as popular as ever, selling out early, Sharpe said. The Wine Festival has brought hundreds of wine-lovers to the Resort for more than 10 years.

Chairlift rides were strong as people chose to hike around the Resort's mile-high summit. It's an area that has potential for development, and is one area Sharpe said could figure in increased summer activities in the future.

The Resort's new owners are committed to creating a solid multi-season entity at Mount Washington, developing summer "as an enhanced experience for people," he said.

NEWS, ACCOMMODATIONS & REAL ESTATE

## The MOUNT WASHINGTON Marmot

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

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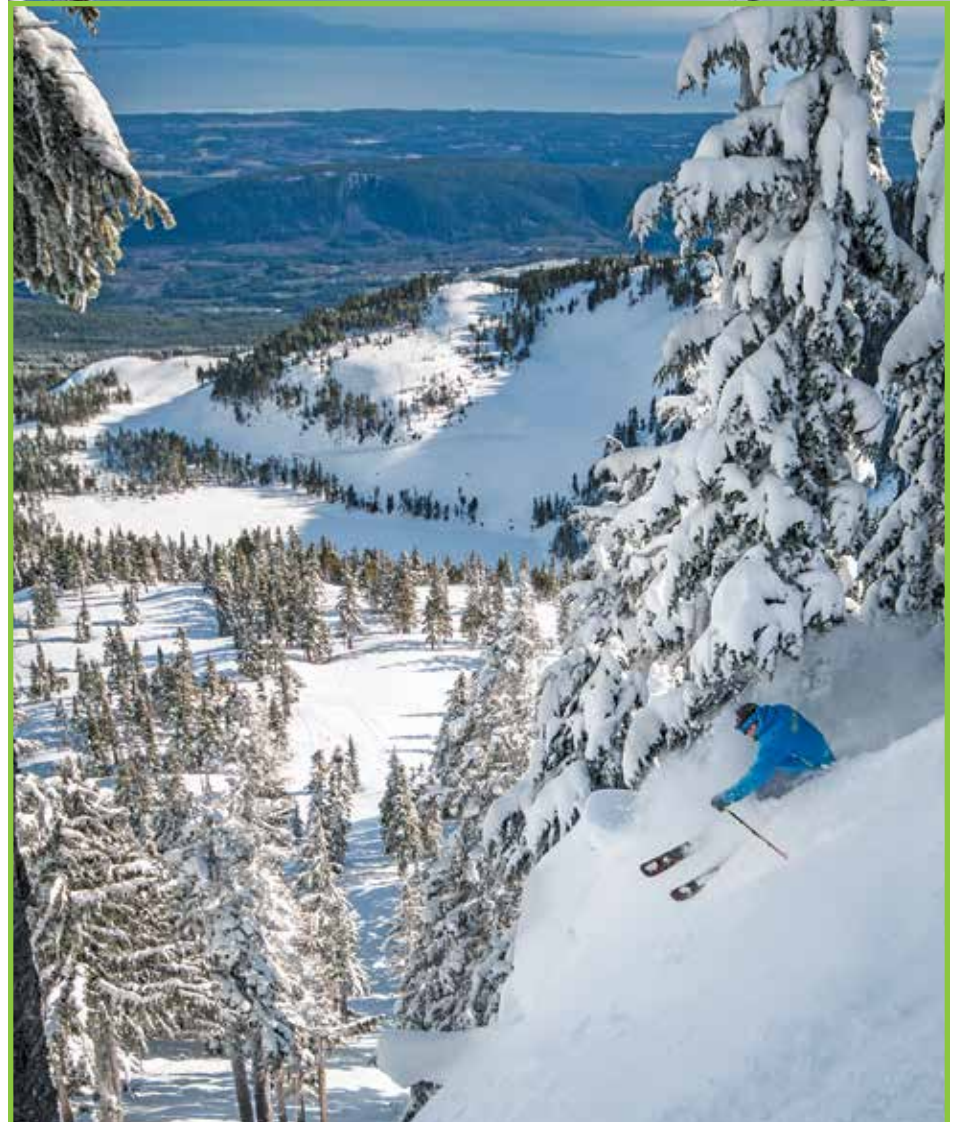
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## Section 8 In Profile

Tobin Leopkey grew up on Vancouver Island skiing at Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

And even though the owner of Section 8 Snowsport Institute has skied the Austrian Alps, Whistler Blackcomb and other places, his heart belongs to Mount Washington.

Section 8 Snowsport Institute offers a Snowsport Leadership Training (SLT) Program that typically draws 20 students per year. Leopkey has lived at Whistler and explored other Resorts, but set his sights on Mount Washington once the Boomerang Chairlift was built and the Double Black Diamond Outback terrain opened.

Mount Washington was a more affordable option for a new small business, which allows Leopkey to offer a more comprehensive leadership course at competitive rates as well as an “off the beaten path” experience.

Business has been challenging in the past few years due to lack of snow and early closures at Mount Washington. However, Leopkey got creative in dealing with things like weather that were out of his control.

“We had to do a lot of juggling,” he said. “We managed to stall for a few weeks by moving the first aid course, winter camping and avalanche safety curriculum earlier in the program, as well as throwing in extra curricular activities and road trips.

“Both years we ended up having to move our entire group of about 20 people to another Resort for most of the season...it was pretty devastating for a small company like ours, forcing us into some pretty heavy debt.”

Reluctant to leave the Island mountain he loves so much, Leopkey found ways to adapt: smaller instructor training programs, and now developing shorter camps for recreational skiers like a series of three, four-day “Science Friction” Ski Improve-

ment Camps, another Camp called Shred-Med that he will run for a skiing medical conference, and the first-ever Snow Ninja Camp to be held in Japan at the end of February.

Section 8 offered two SLT courses last year at Mount Washington and Revelstoke, seeing what it would be like to operate at a different Resort. The eastern B.C. City wasn't set up well for a season-long program, Leopkey said—not like Mount Washington.

“I'm always amazed at how popular the Okanagan resorts are with overseas visitors,” he said. “They don't have big mountains or amazing views but they've somehow managed to position themselves in the destination market. I think [Mount Washington] has got so much more going for it.

“The skiing is just as good as any of those Resorts if not better, and the natural beauty of this place competes highly with any destination in the world.”

Leopkey is excited about the new ownership at Mount Washington, and says he expects good things will happen now that Pacific Group Resorts has taken over.

“I really want to stick around for a while and see what the future holds for this place,” he said.

“I've always thought Mount Washington has had so much potential. It's such a unique place to ski in the world and I'm hoping the new ownership will help it reach that potential—and in turn make it a more attractive option for our potential students.

“We really don't want to go anywhere else.”

Leopkey and Section 8 aren't the only ones feeling the vibe at Mount Washington. Robyn Heron, who is the new Group Sales Manager, said she has been networking in the Comox Valley and further afield, in Nanaimo and Victoria, and the buzz is real.

“People are excited hearing there's movement, and everything's going forward,” she said.

“It's an exciting time. Even though the owners have been here for a year, people up here feel a lot of excitement.”

Winter camping, part of the Ski Leadership Training program.

Photo: Michael Naylor



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Photo: Adam Taylor

# Mount Washington to play important role in Strathcona Marmot recovery efforts.

The news this past spring out of Strathcona Provincial Park wasn't what the Vancouver Island Marmot recovery crew was hoping for.

At least 36 marmots in the region had died since the previous year, disappointing news for the recovery of this iconic and unique, but also critically endangered, species. Yet those closest to the recovery effort continue to be optimistic, and they say Mount Washington Alpine Resort is an important part of why they have a positive

outlook on the future of their favorite species.

"Obviously, it wasn't what we were hoping to find," says Cheyney Jackson, a biologist who has been working on marmot recovery for over 10 years.

Jackson leads field work for the Marmot Recovery Foundation, and she was on the

front lines of the monitoring that revealed the sharp decline. "At first, you think maybe some of the marmots are just still in hibernation. It is disheartening as you go out again, only to discover that these marmots have indeed died."

The deaths were a result of a combination of activity by predators and a poor year for overwinter survival following a severe drought the fall before.

"You always know that predators are

going to eat a number of marmots. That's part of nature," says Jackson, "but the poor overwinter survival was a surprise."

But after putting in another summer of field work, and looking at the data she and her field crew gathered, Jackson's optimism returned.

"Despite these challenges it is still important to maintain a proper perspective, even when you're working so closely with these animals," says Malcolm McAdie, wildlife veterinarian for the recovery project for almost 20 years.

*"You care for each of them and know most of them by name. It can be hard when you hear bad news. But when you look at where we are today, and some of the challenges we've faced over the years, you begin to realize that this is part of the process of recovery, and that we are on the right track. Our ultimate goal is to build the wild population to the point where it is resilient enough to withstand periods of increased predation pressure or poor weather without our help."*

By the late 1990s, marmots had disappeared from the many of the Island's mountains, and by 2003 fewer than 30 marmots remained in the wild, including 10 at Mount Washington. That same year, the first captive bred marmots were released.

Initially efforts focused on the more southern population of marmots in the

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Photo: Adam Taylor



Five marmots were released to Mount Washington in the summer of 2016 where they will spend their first winter on the ski hill before being moved into Strathcona Park.

Nanaimo Lakes region and the colony at Mount Washington. "Outside of Mount Washington, marmots had been completely extirpated from the Strathcona region," explains McAdie, "so we made the decision to support the remnants of the southern population and Mount Washington first and try to get these into better shape before turning our attention towards Strathcona."

**Even though the primary focus was in the south, Mount Washington Alpine Resort has been a key player in the recovery effort. In addition to housing a purpose-built facility to support the breeding and release of marmots, the wild marmot colony on the ski hill continued to thrive.**

And in the south, the marmot recovery was going well, with the population growing to eight times its 2003 size in less than 10 years.

At least, that's how it seems in hindsight. As McAdie recalls, things felt a little different at the time. "We had the same kinds of setbacks in the Nanaimo Lakes during those years that we had in Strathcona this year," recalls McAdie.

"Looking back, it's easy to forget the hard times, when marmots didn't make it through hibernation, or when predation pressure was higher than usual. There were, and still are, challenges and recovery in the south isn't complete either. Working with a critically endangered species, you have to accept that it's going to be a bumpy road. The important thing is to look at the trend line."

By 2008, the Nanaimo Lakes colonies were in better shape and attention began to turn to recovering the marmots in Strathcona Provincial Park.

"Recovering the Strathcona population was always a goal for us," says Jackson. "It is historical marmot habitat, it's almost all protected as parkland. In the long-run, we think it might be the best Vancouver Island

Marmot habitat there is."

But the short-term, the team knew there would be challenges. "The problem was that outside of Mount Washington, there were no marmots left at all. Marmots are social animals, and with no survivors on the landscape, we knew it would be harder to re-introduce marmots successfully."

The team looked for ways to help the marmots cope in harsher conditions, and their eyes quickly turned to Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

**"The ski hill has always been exceptionally good for the marmots. We suspect that having people around helps keep away predators," says Jackson.**

In fact, by 2011, reproduction on the ski hill was so strong that the team began to think about moving some of the offspring into Strathcona Park.

"When marmots are two or three years old, many naturally move away from their birth colony and search for a new colony to join. We decided to save them some time and effort, and started flying these 'teenagers' out by helicopter with the captive-bred marmots."

The combination of moving wild-born marmots and supplementing with captive-bred marmots resulted in significant growth in the Strathcona population.

From zero marmots, the population grew to as high as 84. Then came news of the setback this past spring. "I have to remind myself that this happens when you're working with endangered species. It's happened before, and honestly, it'll probably happen again," says Cheyney.

"The population is still recovering, but even with this setback, it's still heading in the right direction."

The positive impact of the work put into the Strathcona colonies was observed this summer when field crew spotted pups-of-the-year. Despite the challenges of the past year, marmots in Strathcona Park were still

breeding and producing litters of healthy pups.

The whole recovery crew had been hoping for just this evidence that the marmots were still recovering in their historic home. Mount Washington will continue to play an important role in the marmots' recovery.

The team is now trialing 'pre-conditioning', where captive-bred marmots are released to Mount Washington for one winter, to teach them about life in the wild, before moving them into the Park.

But they are cognizant of not over-taxing the Mount Washington colony itself. "This colony's been a lifeline for us in Strathcona. We don't want to jeopardize that," says Jackson.

### What You Can Do:

- If you are on the ski hill with your pets, please keep them on leashes. Dogs in particular will chase marmots, depriving them of important feeding time.

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Photo: Jared Hobbs



## The Vancouver Island Marmot

(*Marmota vancouverensis*) is one of the largest members of the squirrel family (about the size of a large house cat). Other members of the Sciuridae family include chipmunks, squirrels and woodchucks.

Vancouver Island marmots are easy to recognize by their rich chocolate brown fur with contrasting white patches on their nose, chin, forehead and chest.

**HABITAT** Vancouver Island marmots live neither in the forest nor on the rocky mountaintops. They live in small patches of south and west-facing sub-alpine and alpine meadows (usually above 1000 meters), where occasional winter avalanches and snow creep prevent trees from taking root. These meadows are the first to become clear of snow and produce the early grasses and sedges the marmots rely upon when they emerge from hibernation.

There they find the forage they need, deep soil for digging (hibernation burrows need to be deep enough to reach below the frost line) and large boulders to provide convenient lookout spots to watch for predators. Boulders also help marmots regulate their internal body temperature; you will often see them stretched out on them in the early mornings and evenings, and are a predictable and necessary feature of marmot habitat.

Underground burrows provide shelter from the elements and protection from predators. Typically 30-45 cms across, burrows range in size and purpose. Small, simple burrows may be used for a quick escape from a

predator and larger more complex burrows are used for hibernation and birthing and may have numerous passages and exits. One excavated hibernation burrow measured five meters in length with the sleeping chamber located one meter underground.

predator and larger more complex burrows are used for hibernation and birthing and may have numerous passages and exits. One excavated hibernation burrow measured five meters in length with the sleeping chamber located one meter underground.

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In the Comox Valley



**MOUNT WASHINGTON**

# MileHigh Properties FOR SALE

INFORMATION CURRENT AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2016



### Quarter Interest Opportunity!

One quarter interest in a 2 bedroom sunny exposure condo in the heart of the village. Many recent upgrades have been made to the building. Use it one week per month and not worry about a large purchase price **\$37,500**



### Meticulously Maintained!

Family owned and meticulously maintained 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom condo in the Alpine Village. Enjoy sunny sunset views from the balcony of this bright, well laid out suite. Easy access to skiing and parking. The building is in great shape and has a live-in caretaker. **\$137,500**



### Skier Friendly Floor Plan!

3 level townhome all decked out and ready to sell. Located 200 feet from parking with easy ski out access to the slopes. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths & sauna. Very private location with the forest as your backdrop. Thoughtful skier, thought-out floor plan. Property comes complete with most furnishings. **\$149,900**

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Looking for a Mount Washington Building Site?  
Ask About Freehold Ownership!

### Foundation & Plans Included!

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. **\$199,900**

### Prime Location Duplex Lot!

The only duplex lot available on Mount Washington in the Alpine Village! 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**



**LOTS FOR SALE!**  
*Building Sites Available.*



640 Arrowsmith Ridge .....	\$94,999
690 Arrowsmith Ridge .....	\$62,500
700 Arrowsmith Ridge .....	\$94,500
879 Cruikshank Ridge.....	\$99,900
919 Cruikshank Ridge.....	\$117,900

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# BEAR LODGE

at Mount Washington

### Features Include:

- Slopeside Location
- Fully Furnished, 6 appliances
- Rainscreen Technology
- Live-in Caretaker
- Underbuilding Parking
- Common Hot Tub
- 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom, some w/Lock-offs

210	2 Bdrm exquisitely furnished Lockoff	<b>\$319,900</b>
304	3 Bdrm 1013 Sq Ft Corner Lockoff	<b>\$374,900</b> No GST!
315	1 Bdrm	<b>\$219,900</b>



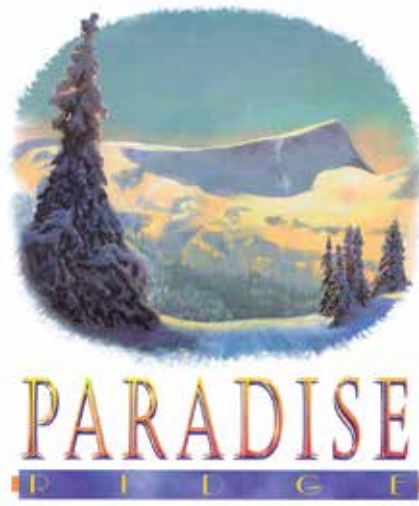
# DEER LODGE

AT MT. WASHINGTON

### Features Include:

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

103	3 Bedroom, Deluxe Suite	<b>\$349,900</b>
	<b>FREEHOLD</b>	
105	2 Bedroom, Luxury Slopeside	<b>\$264,900</b>
107	1 Bedroom, Slopeside	<b>\$164,900</b>
	<b>FREEHOLD</b>	
212	3 Bedroom	<b>\$299,900</b>
	<b>FREEHOLD</b> No GST	
303	3 Bedroom, Awesome Views	<b>\$294,900</b>
	<b>FREEHOLD</b>	
415	1 Bedroom, Top Floor	<b>\$209,900</b>
	<b>FREEHOLD</b>	



### Features Include:

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

109	4 Bedroom 1299 Sq Ft Corner Park View	<b>\$292,500</b>
	<b>FREEHOLD</b>	
111	3 Bedroom facing Strathcona Park	<b>\$249,900</b>
	<b>FREEHOLD</b>	
113	2 Bedroom facing Strathcona Park	<b>\$182,500</b>
	<b>FREEHOLD</b>	
209	4 Bedroom facing Strathcona Park	<b>\$292,500</b>
	Gorgeous park views	
402	3 Bedroom facing ski runs	<b>\$234,900</b>
	<b>FREEHOLD</b>	
502	3 Bedroom Top Floor	<b>\$199,900</b>
	Facing ski runs	
503	3 Bedroom Top Floor	<b>\$189,900</b>
	Facing ski runs	



# 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

309	Top floor, facing ski runs	<b>\$104,900</b>
-----	----------------------------	------------------



### Features Include:

- Elevator Access
- Above and Underground Parking
- Propane Fireplaces • Furnished units
- Spectacular Views of Strath. Park and runs
- Ski Storage Room off the Lobby with separate lockers for renters

111	3 Bedroom slopeside view	<b>\$220,000</b>
	<b>FREEHOLD</b>	
117	3 Bedroom facing ski runs,	<b>\$224,900</b>
	<b>FREEHOLD</b>	
306	3 Bedroom facing ski runs	<b>\$239,900</b>
	<b>FREEHOLD</b>	



### Close To Alpine Lodge!

Townhouse style condo located very close to the Day Lodge. Corner unit, sunny, nicely furnished and clean. Balcony runs along 2 upstairs bedrooms and provides mountain views. Ski in and out from the door! Sunset views and easy access.

**\$159,900**



### Mountainside at Mount Washington

Drive into garage and up elevator to your mountain home. Ski-in ski-out from the Hawk chair, magic carpets, quick access to Nordic area and Park. Well maintained building with low strata fees. Common area includes hot tub and sauna. The home itself has new linoleum, carpet, kitchen counters and an enclosed balcony. There might be other one bedrooms less expensive but this has added value.

**\$124,900**



### Sunset & Mountain Views

Spacious, well kept townhome within a few minutes stroll of the alpine lodge. Three bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and sauna. The inside is well cared for with a huge space in the lower floor for sleeping or ????. Outside patio to take in the sunsets and mountain views. Ski in and out access to the slopes. Fantastic location and great value.

**\$184,900**



### Pride of Ownership!

Pride of ownership 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 lifts. Basement area could be further developed.

**\$189,900**



### Nestled in the Village!

Freehold 3 bedroom townhome close to the Alpine Lodge. Corner suite for added privacy! Very open plan with 3 bedrooms up. Home has been lovingly cared for with new windows and upgrades. suite comes with all furnishings and is ready to go!

**\$199,900**

**FREEHOLD**







# MOUNT WASHINGTON PROPERTIES FOR SALE

## CHALETS • CONDOMINIUMS • TOWNHOUSES • BUILDING LOTS



### Bathed in Sunshine!

Freehold Duplex building site located on the 'Benchlands' overlooking Strathcona Park. Strathcona Park is at your front door and Mount Washington Alpine resort is at your back door! Build your mountain retreat and be bathed in southwest sunshine all day on your front deck. Larger lot than most and not part of a strata. There are very few lots like this!

**\$199,900**



### 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.

**Unit 7** 1968 Sq. Ft. 4 Bedroom **\$372,500**

**Unit 11** 2282 Sq. Ft. 4 Bedroom **\$398,800**



### Close to the Alpine Lodge!

With easy access to skiing and parking, this townhouse has everything to offer your family. 3 levels finished with an additional basement area. Very nicely cared for with sauna, loads of storage, ski tak area, large sunny deck and very quiet. Building is Freehold.

**\$244,900**



### A Rare Opportunity!

Rarely do suites in Creekside House hit the open market. Immaculately maintained 3 bedroom suite available. Quality plus building built by the same builder of Raven Lodge. Creekside is located immediately adjacent to the loading area of the Hawk Chairlift, 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 **\$339,900**

Sunny slopeside **FREEHOLD**



### Welcome to our Cabin!

The perfect smaller mountain home that is not set up to sleep 30! Very open bright design that is easy access to skiing in winter and the park in summer. Southern exposure off either of the two sun drenched decks. Vaulted ceilings and well thought out floor plan. A bathroom on each level, sauna in basement, loads of storage - just the perfect family retreat. And it is Freehold!

**\$324,900**



### FREEHOLD Duplex!

Two for the price of one! Located in the Alpine Village a few minutes stroll from parking and easy access to the slopes. The upper suite offers 3 bedrooms and sleeps 11 while the lower suite sleeps 7. Or open the adjoining door and share the whole space with your friends and family! This is a semi-detached chalet and the location is very quiet. Keep one suite for yourself and rent the other out!

Basement area also for storage. **\$374,900**

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### Nestled in the Trees!

"Doug's Chalet" 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. Main area includes a towering floor to ceiling brick fireplace and vaulted ceilings. A cozy kitchen complements the living area. Sleeps 6 comfortably. A sauna and jetted tubs round out the upper suite. Spacious downstairs self-contained two bedroom suite. There is an area where a hot tub could be installed.

**\$549,900**

INFORMATION CURRENT AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2017



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**Perched on a Knoll!**

This Alpine Village chalet is perfectly set up for a large family or those wanting a great rental property. Easy access to parking, ski in and out. Three distinct living areas; a lower 2 bedroom sunny owner's suite, main floor 5 bedroom suite with huge entertainment friendly kitchen and living area and an upper bachelor suite. Meticulously maintained with new hardiplank siding on the exterior. Loads of storage, well thought out design. Wood fireplace in the upper main suite and electric fireplace in the owners suite.

**\$674,900**



**Georgous Family Retreat!**

Located just off the Village run you will discover this gorgeous family retreat on Mount Washington. Easy access to the slopes and parking. The home has been carefully designed to offer great family accommodation plus two separate owners suites. Many thoughtful features which add many benefits; from the wood fireplace in the open living area to the ec room downstairs with a ping pong table and sauna, this one has it all. The home is connected via wifi so you can turn the heat up on the way up to the mountain.

**\$689,900**



**Mountain Log Home**

Located at the foot of Fosters Place slopeside you will discover this mountain log home. Situated on the lot to take in western sunset views into Strathcona Park from the three decks, two with hot tubs. The main suite has 4 bedrooms and entertainment styled kitchen and living areas. Down below is a spacious one bedroom suite.

**\$788,888**

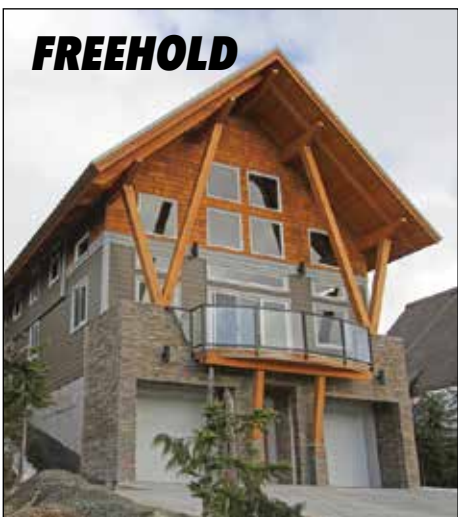


**FREEHOLD**

**2700 Sq. Ft. of Luxury!**

Never before has a home of this style and quality been available on the 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.

**\$799,900**



**FREEHOLD**

**On Arrowsmith Ridge!**

Thought out design with 6 bedrooms. Two of the bedrooms have their own ensuites while 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. Main floor offers a large deck with BBQ. Sauna, loads of storage, two garages, heated drive way, huge laundry area and more. If you have been looking for the ideal property for a larger family, or for joint family ownership, this is the one!

**\$1,050,000**



**Come Home to the Marmot Home!**

Custom built mountain home with sweeping sunset views into Strathcona Park. Lived in full time by its owners this has all the extras you would expect in a custom built home. Almost 4,000 square feet this three bedroom home has everything from concrete wall construction, heated drive way, gourmet kitchen, in floor heat, lots and lots of storage and a view that goes on forever. Two decks plus an outdoor patio. If you are seeking an exclusive family retreat on Mount Washington come home to the Marmot Home.

**\$1,000,000**

**RECENT REAL ESTATE SALES ON MOUNT WASHINGTON**

October 21, 2014 - November 19, 2016

DATE SOLD	LOCATION	BDRMS	LIST PRICE	LISTED BY	SOLD BY
November 19, 2016	3 - Parkview Place	3	\$305,000	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
November 17, 2016	308 - Blueberry Hill	3	\$229,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other
November 10, 2016	202 - Blueberry Hill	3	\$239,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
November 4, 2016	208 - Ptarmigan Ridge	1	\$94,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
November 3, 2016	1020 - Cruikshank Ridge	2	\$289,288	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
October 17, 2016	1030 - Strata Way	5	\$319,000	Other	ROYAL LEPAGE
September 27, 2016	305 - Ptarmigan Ridge	1	\$99,500	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
August 18, 2016	110 - Bear Lodge	2	\$224,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
July 28, 2016	971 - Strata Way	5	\$339,900	Other	Other
July 23, 2016	930 - Cruikshank Canyon	Lot	\$68,000	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
May 25, 2016	978 - Clinton Wood Court	4	\$369,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
May 16, 2016	105 - Blueberry Hill	2	\$189,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
May 9, 2016	1195 - Alexandra Avenue	6	\$499,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other
April 26, 2016	889 - Jutland Terrace	4	\$329,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
April 12, 2016	5-691 - Castle Crag Crescent	2	\$114,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
March 25, 2016	9-709 - Castle Crag Crescent	2	\$114,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
February 1, 2016	869 - Cruikshank Ridge	Lot	\$58,500	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
January 31, 2016	Lot 10 - Nordic Road	Lot	\$119,000	Other	ROYAL LEPAGE
January 27, 2016	216 - Blueberry Hill	2	\$179,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other
January 24, 2016	202 - Bear Lodge	2	\$222,900	Other	Other
January 23, 2016	1066 - Meadow Lane	3	\$264,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
January 22, 2016	211 - Paradise Ridge	3	\$159,000	Other	Other
January 20, 2016	4 - Wildwood	3	\$424,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
January 15, 2016	301 - 695 Castle Crag Crescent	2	\$129,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
January 11, 2016	403 - Paradise Ridge	3	\$164,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
January 10, 2016	8 - 736 - Albert Edward Place	3	\$199,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
January 4, 2016	4 - 737 - Albert Edward Place	3	\$114,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
January 3, 2016	1190 - Alexandra Avenue	4	\$269,999	Other	Other
January 2, 2016	201 - 788 - Castle Crag Crescent	2	\$127,500	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
December 8, 2015	1217 - Fosters Place	6	\$469,000	Other	Other
December 7, 2015	408 - Bear Lodge	1	\$149,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other
December 6, 2015	403 - Bear Lodge	3	\$299,000	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
November 30, 2015	305 - Bear Lodge	2	\$234,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
November 20, 2015	435 - eaufort Heights	3	\$259,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
November 20, 2015	470 - Beaufort Heights	3	\$244,900	Other	Other
November 12, 2015	305 - Deer Lodge	2	\$199,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
November 10, 2015	306 - Deer Lodge	2	\$149,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
October 14, 2015	214 - Blueberry Hill	2	\$189,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
February 11, 2015	209 - Deer Lodge	2	\$154,900	Other	Other
January 31, 2015	506 - Paradise Ridge	3	\$179,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
December 27, 2014	407 - Paradise Ridge	2	\$199,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
December 13, 2014	302 - Blueberry Hill	3	\$269,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
November 21, 2014	402 - Mountainside Lodge	2	\$159,000	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
October 21, 2014	4 - Snowbird	3	\$149,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE





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terrain parks or explore 55 kilometres of Olympic quality trails. You'll find ski slopes and trails for beginners, thrill-seekers and families; and snowshoe access to Strathcona Park, British Columbia's oldest Provincial Park.

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