

# The Mt. Washington Marmot



## WHAT'S UP ON VANCOUVER ISLAND'S MILE HIGH RESORT

**Mt. Washington's newest lodge, which will be the base for the ski resort's west side expansion, now stands sentinel over the snowy alpine meadows at the mouth of Paradise Meadows.**

Built just to lock-up stage this summer, the lodge will feature a stunning wood and natural stone exterior when completed, next summer, Mt. Washington General Manager Peter Gibson said. The deck opens up to show the expansive Strathcona Park, with Mt. Albert Edward in the starring role.

"Our goal is to be up and running later in the summer," he said. "We're looking at putting in a pathway that will connect the base area with the new lodge."

The new lodge will be a nordic centre in the winter; "but it's also the start of the west base," Gibson said. "It will be a multi-sea-



The west side's new lodge, currently at the lock-up stage, is scheduled for completion next summer.

## New Lodge defines the "New Look" for development on Mt. Washington

sonal, multi-functional facility which will have a separate identity than the main lodge. It will have separate programs ... there will be a blending of downhill and cross-country skiing, once a new chairlift is built."

The new lodge is a departure for Mt. Washington in terms of design, Gibson said. "The previous buildings we built are bunkers, built to withhold snow loads. While this structure is being designed to snow load code, it fits in with the natural surroundings."

The sturdy exterior beams were milled on site. The stone work for both the exterior and interior will be done next spring, using local stone. "There's lots of planning

to be done in terms of engineering and interior design," Gibson said.

The interior hasn't been developed, yet. Bydzine interior designers from Campbell River will be working on the new lodge, Gibson said. The same company designed the interior of both Fireweeds and Fat Teddy's Bar and Grill.

"Inside, when you look up, the sky light is magnificent," Gibson said. "It's been called cathedral-like. When you walk in you get a feeling of height."

The first view visitors to the new lodge will have is a breathtaking panorama of Mt. Albert Edward, through bay windows that rise in a towering peak, echoing the majestic mountains of Strathcona Park.

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## New Village Plan Focuses on Village Core and Summer Growth

**Cohesiveness. It's a word that's been bandied about Mt. Washington Resort for many months, as the management team works on both an improved village concept and expansion of 600 acres to the west.**

The village plan, assembled by TREC International Inc. consultants, has everybody excited at possibilities for the future. Mt. Washington General Manager Peter Gibson is the first to acknowledge that a similar plan was unveiled with much fanfare — and little progress to show for it — a couple of years ago. This time is different.

"It's not like we've done anything new or different ... we've just put things into place. A year ago the plan really didn't define the village core," Gibson says. "It didn't define us into summer and winter."

"We're the only alpine all-season, all-used destination resort combining both alpine and coastal recreation experiences in one place in North America," he said.

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## Marmot Breeding Centre crucial for species long term survival

**Construction on a Marmot Breeding Centre at Mt. Washington was slated to begin in October, to provide a new home for a captive breeding program for the endangered animals.**

And the need has never been so urgent, says Tony Barrett of the Marmot Recovery Foundation.

"We put 43 animals to bed a year ago (December). Only 25 came up," Barrett said. "Seventeen animals died over the winter last year." Just 50 marmots were counted in June on the entire Island, including several from a colony on Mt. Washington.

"We've never been more tense," Barrett said. "The anxiety was palpable, because it's extinction that is happening before our very eyes."

Crews already laid the foundation and walls for the building but, as no official announcement had been made about construction, Barrett declined to discuss the project. He said he preferred to wait until the foundation makes its big splash in the coming months. The building is located within sight of the summit of the Eagle Express quad chairlift, where the Mt. Washington marmot colony lives.

This past spring about 12 marmots were known to inhabit Mt. Washington, including four new pups. Not very encouraging numbers.

But volunteers are optimistic about the captive breeding program; last spring, eight marmot pups were born in captivity at the Calgary Zoo, and roughly the same amount



*Vancouver Island Marmots make their home at Mt. Washington.*

in a similar program at the Toronto Zoo. Zookeepers excitedly listened to squeaks coming from a nesting box last spring, and waited several weeks before the mother marmot debuted her offspring.

Two years ago the program looked less hopeful, Barrett said. At that time, the Marmot Recovery Foundation was wondering if captive breeding was a viable alternative to help save the rapidly dwindling species.

***Despite the losses, there is light at the end of the tunnel. "This is the first time in 20 years that the population hasn't declined, but has held level," Barrett said. "Maybe it's a watershed year for us."***

The new breeding centre will have 20 marmot enclosures, each capable of maintaining a breeding pair or family group. They will have access to both indoor and outdoor areas; inside, they will be provided with marmot "cage furniture": nest boxes, tunnels, perches and other structures that give them a chance to chew and climb, just like they were in the wild.

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## The View From Here

**Rick Gibson**

I'm looking forward to 2001. It's been a while since I saw the movie but I'm looking forward to it anyway. I even looked forward to 1984 but nothing untoward happened that year either. Oh sure we had the real-life Big Brother, cause let's face it, "a rose by any other name...". I had more hair and was many pounds lighter. I've come a long way since then. I'm sure most of you have to.

Mt. Washington has also come a long way since 1984. We are now a year-round alpine destination offering the best of all seasons. People now come to Mt. Washington for more than just the phenomenal snow.

My family and I decided that we'd check out some other mountains this summer. We started off in a motorhome (named Bob), and headed east. Our plan was to stop at Sun Peaks and then head out toward Calgary to visit Julia's sister and any other ski resorts along the way to check out their summer activities.

The thing is, sometimes the best intentions go awry. Or maybe I should say, the best laid plans get all messed up when you see the Rockies for the first time. WOW! So much for ski resorts.

Bob seemed to have a mind of his own. Yes, we made it to Calgary but we kept looking out toward those mountains. It's as if they were calling to us. Now we understand "the call of the Rockies".



I'm sure you can guess what had happened. When we left Calgary it was our intention to pass through Drumheller (where we'd already been before) and then head north to Jasper to begin a quick trek down the Icefields Parkway and then back to check out those ski resorts in the Okanagan we missed. Ha! Ha! Ha! It's those best laid plans going awry again. We missed Drumheller and sped like demons north toward Jasper. If we really put the pedal to the metal we could make it all the way in one day!

Turns out that was a wise thing to do. You see, we'd checked the camping book and found a nice little spot in Pine Lake where we could stay after visiting Drumheller. So, when we scrapped the plans for Drumheller we also scrapped our plans for Pine Lake.

*continued on page 7*



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## New Village Plan

continued from page 1

"What we're trying to do is not build a bunch more condos, but build a village core with activities, retail and dining options," he said.

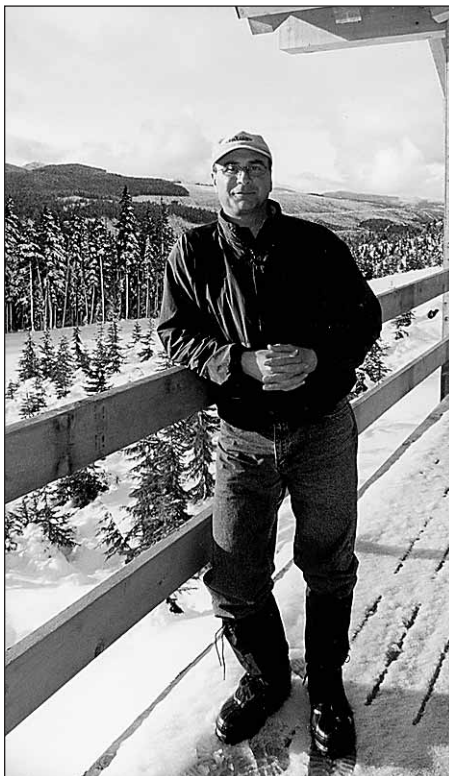
TREC examined several family alpine destination resorts in North America that had characteristics similar to Mt. Washington. Their report finds that most resorts positioned their village as a hub of activities both on and off the mountain.

Within the next 10 years the community at Mt. Washington could consist of vacation homes, residential condos, expanded recreational venues, a variety of restaurants, retail shops and a myriad of other entertainment and educational amenities. TREC advises keeping the resort at a small-scale setting — not another Whistler — to allow people to congregate and get to know one's neighbors.

The core components of the village concept would be condos, a resort hotel, time share units and commercial retail. This village would be developed in the vicinity of the existing Deer Lodge.

**Expansion and real estate will go hand in hand with this new plan, Gibson says. The resort has plans to build a new base on the west side, with the new lodge as its major feature. Eventually, there will be more territory for nordic skiing, new intermediate downhill runs and chairlifts.**

"When somebody wants to buy a site, that's when it starts," he says. The cash infusion from development opportunities will be used for expansion plans. This also ensures that both property and amenities



*Mt. Washington General Manager Peter Gibson overlooking the spectacular view from the deck of the "yet unnamed" new Lodge.*

grow at the same rate, and in an orderly fashion.

"It's a very unique situation we have here," CEO George Stuart said during a VIP tour of the mountain's facilities in October. Last winter the resort drew 325,000 skier visits, with another 150,000 estimated for summer visits.

Although Stuart doesn't suggest Mt. Washington will ever draw the two million visitors that Whistler sees each season, "we want to balance our two seasons."

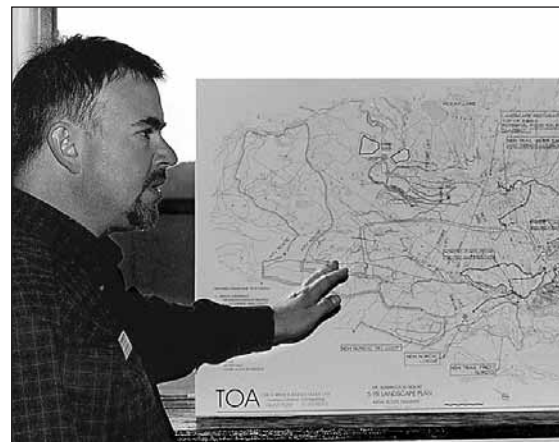
An on-site survey done by TREC last February and March showed that almost half of the people interviewed said they were interested in owning real estate at the mountain in the future. Gibson is heartened by the fact that 240 people have expressed definite interest in purchasing

real estate on the mountain.

The majority (87 per cent) of existing owners are in favor of an expansion in activities and amenities, according to the TREC report. The 13 per cent who were not in favor of any development said they feared the mountain would turn into another Whistler.

The report predicts that new owners would likely be second home investors or second home users (the latter looking for vacation property as opposed to an investment). If everything goes according to plan, the village could increase by more than 400 units by 2011 — with the bulk of expansion happening between 2007 and 2011.

TREC also indicated that the mountain could support a 57-unit hotel as early as 2001, provided an operator and developer could be found.



*Director of Operations, Jay Oddlielson is overseeing the expansion plans for the resort.*

Mt. Washington's rezoning application was first received by the Comox-Strathcona Regional District on May 7, 1997 and advanced to first and second reading before amendments were requested. The plan then stagnated at second reading until March 27, 2000, when regional board members gave the nod - to a vastly different plan - to proceed to public hearing.

The first part of the public process occurred in April, when a couple of dozen people showed up for an information meeting on the mountain. More open houses in early October, this time in Courtenay and Victoria, have provided resort management with more public input.

Director of operations Jay Oddlielson, who is overseeing expansion plans for the mountain, has been making presentations to various government bodies and other organizations in the Comox Valley, to get the word out about the proposed local area plan.

"We want to grow beyond 750 units," which is what the old land use contract called for, Oddlielson said.

Mt. Washington is presently at 550 units, with 3,500 beds. The mountain has agreed to stay at the 750-unit cap until the Local Area Plan is developed, at which time they would want the restrictive covenant removed.

Oddlielson has also put together a comprehensive real estate package for those interested in developing property on the mountain.

A public hearing on Mt. Washington's plans for the future will be held in early February, 2001.

### Did you know ...

- That Mt. Washington was the first planned ski area in B.C. Blackcomb was the second.
- That, in its first two or three years of operation, Mt. Washington actually outgrew Blackcomb.
- Since opening 21 years ago, Mt. Washington has recorded over five million skier visits.
- Conde Noste travel magazine voted Vancouver Island the number one non-tropical island destination in the world in 1999.

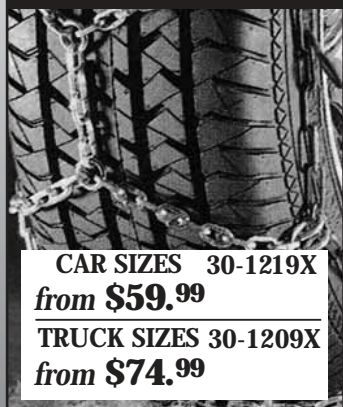


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New Director of Resort Services focuses on people services at Mt. Washington.

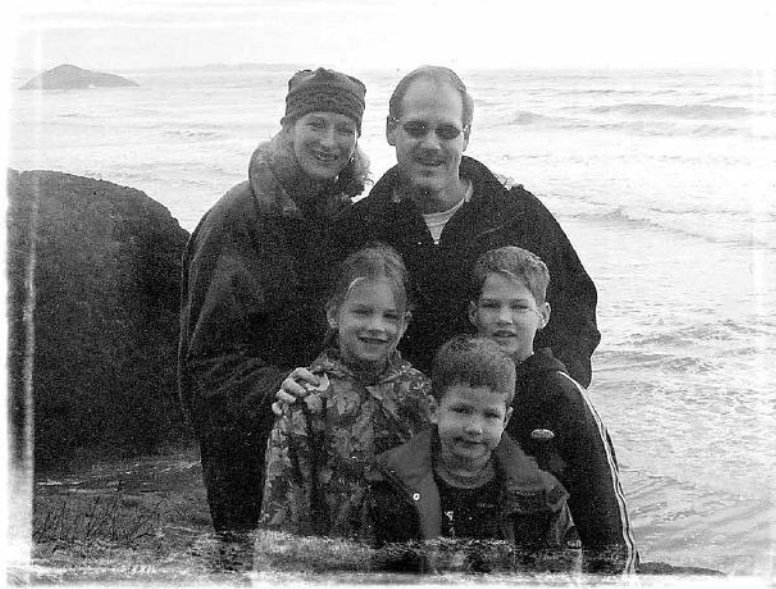
**Don Sharpe rattles off his list of responsibilities at Mt. Washington like a shopping list: snow school, rentals, Kidz Zone, nordic, retail, food and beverage, marketing - and on, and on.**

But the new Director of Resort Services takes it all in stride. Sharpe was hired this summer to take over from Peter Gibson, who was formally named General Manager after spending a year doing both jobs.

Sharpe comes to the mountain from the prairies, where he ran the business end of the Calgary Zoo for almost five years. Prior to that he was the district manager for three high-volume restaurants, and also spent six years as general manager for Mother Tucker's restaurants across Canada.

Sharpe heard about the job opening at Mt. Washington via the Internet. He flew out in August for an interview "and it worked out."

The Winnipeg native is not afraid to juggle his new responsibilities, as he was looking for just such a challenge. "It's an amazing environment. I don't just do one thing, I do a myriad of things ... my major role is to manage existing winter programs, develop new ones and build the summer trade." And the move has given his family the opportunity to live near the ocean. "We can take the kids to the coast and flip rocks for three or four hours at a time, exploring,"



*Don Sharp and family enjoy their move to the Comox Valley. In fact, the kids think they are on a permanent holiday!*

Sharpe said. "My son says it's just like we're on vacation all the time now."

Sharpe moved his family to the Comox Valley in early September, in time for school. His sons - 10-year-old Douglas and four-and-a-half-year-old Darcy - and daughter Cassandra, 8, are already active in the community. Cassie is involved in Chimo gymnastics, while the boys are playing hockey. Sharpe's wife, Chantal, still commutes several times a month to her job with West Jet in Calgary, where she is a flight attendant.

Moving from the Calgary Zoo to a ski resort is not a big jump, Sharpe asserts. The product may be different - from animals to snow - but the methods are the same: food and beverage services, admissions (lift tickets), season's passes, special events.

"It's all about people. We've got a bunch of experts doing their thing and it's all

about managing the process, and increasing the lines of communication.

"The similarities as you're in an outdoor environment and (visitors) are here to have a fun day. It's all about how you make that experience worth their while," he says.

While at the zoo Sharpe was responsible for such major events as Boo at the Zoo, a 10-night series geared to kids aged 10 and under that drew 30,000 the last year he was there, and Wild Lights. For that event, a million lights lit up the zoo for the month of December as people enjoyed such winter activities as crafts for kids, fire pits and a snow zone play area.

"I'm hoping to use a lot of those ideas to generate events up here - to get away from the one-day events and spread them across a few days," he said.

Sharpe admits he's had big shoes to fill in replacing Gibson, who has been a fix-

ture at the resort for more than 20 years. "He says I'm living with his ghost," Sharpe says, chuckling. "It's (transition) been pretty good. People still call him and then he calls me and we go from there."

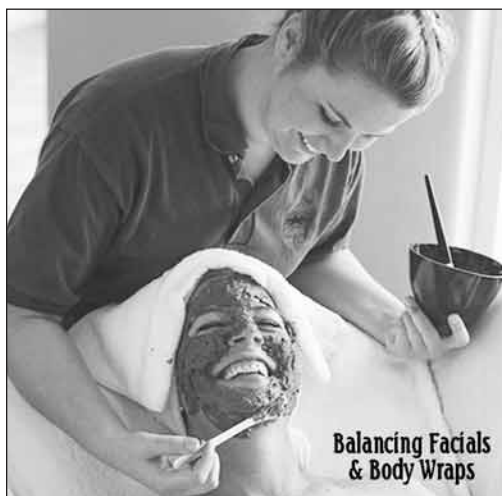
Sharpe has already developed some goals in his new role. "We're a great winter resort, now we need to become a great year-round resort ... the zoo did a million people a year, so we've got to grow to that. "Another thing I think we can factor on is doing more catering, banquets and such. It's an untapped area ... that we can load up on in the shoulder season," he said.

The ski season has barely begun and Sharpe is already looking to next summer, when he hopes to put some of his new ideas into play. He'd like to see some evening chairlift rides, where people ride the Eagle Express to the summit to watch the sunset over Strathcona Park. And he's looking at ways to utilize the new courtyard between the main lodge and the Bradley Centre.

"We want to develop more children's activities like a playground, or overnight or day camps in the Kidz Zone area," he adds. Then there's disc golf, a driving range into the area where the O-Zone tubing park is, and more trails.

"We've already booked a weekend for a 'mountain luau'," he said. "There's a lot of little things we can do to take it up to the next step, and that's where my whole focus has been."

While he's spent the past five months learning the ropes and getting ready for opening day, Sharpe has also eagerly awaited the ski season. "I'm not a great skier, but I'm going to do it a lot. My kids are all excited about it, and Chantal wants to get into nordic skiing. And I think it would be cool to do more snowboarding."



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## Disabled Skiing Program a Huge Success on Mt. Washington

**Jackie Crabseth first skied with Herb Bradley and the Vancouver Island Skiing for the Disabled Society 20 years ago. The Campbell River ski racer, now 31, had been skiing since she was seven years old, and competes in downhill, slalom and Super G races.**

"I love skiing with him, he's fun," says Crabseth, who has Down Syndrome. Crabseth is one of thousands of athletes with disabilities who have skied with Bradley, whose reputation in the Comox Valley is legendary. Bradley founded the VISDS more than 30 years ago, while director of the ski school at Forbidden Plateau.

Bradley, now in his early '80s, single-handedly took on the task of making skiing a recreational reality for the disabled on Vancouver Island.

"We were teaching on the Plateau long before Mt. Washington opened up," Bradley explains. He went to Banff and took some instructor training with Gerry Johnson, on teaching people with disabilities how to ski.

"I've worked in recreation all my life. I'd come across people with one arm or one leg, or mentally disabled while I was teaching gymnastics, diving; I just accepted them as they are."

Bradley found teaching the disabled was "interesting and exciting", and soon his



*The secret to the success of the Disabled Skiing Program is its team of dedicated volunteers.*

enthusiasm spread.

In July 1992 the VISDS gained official society status. "We got to the stage where we had so many people, we had to form a society. It was too difficult to operate on an ad hoc basis," Bradley said

Today the VISDS has about 300 members, and 80 volunteer instructors. "We had 487 students last year. We get quite a few students who aren't members," Bradley explained. "We'll be about the same for this year." Every kind of disability possible is represented, from mental health issues to Down Syndrome, paraplegia to double amputees.

*continued on page 22*

## Alfredo Yabut's recipe for Success...

**Food service at Mt. Washington took on a new look in a variety of ways, when the 2000-01 ski season got underway.**

Just starting on his second year as Director of Food and Beverage Services, Alfredo Yabut spent part of his summer overseeing renovations to the cafeteria that are designed to streamline service "with a strong emphasis on speed," he says.

The new kitchen is modeled after both fast food outlets and BC Ferries, with both hot serve and fast serve areas. New equipment and a new configuration should help eliminate the long lineups that skiers previously faced, Yabut says.

"Where we experienced lineups last year, we feel confident you won't see that this year."

The kitchen has been turned into a sort of assembly line, and Yabut purchased two new deep fryers "because before, people were always waiting for fries." With a total of five deep fryers, the waits should be eliminated. Some of the "fast food" items being offered include soup and chili.

The cafeteria also has a new message board set up by the window, so people needing to meet up with each other can leave a message. The board replaces a little-used cork board that was previously posted.

The cafeteria isn't the only place that Yabut concentrated on when re-examining food service at Mt. Washington. Fireweeds and Fat Teddy's will also be emphasizing speed in service this winter, he said.

New this year is the Mountain Wok, a



*Alfredo Yabut, re-examining food services at Mt. Washington.*

Chinese food outlet in the former Marmot Lounge. Yabut and some of his staff examined mall food court formats before coming up with a modified design for this new food outlet.

"We surveyed people and the staff like it because there's variety," says Yabut. Mountain Wok offers a total of 12 items on rotation. "for a staff of 600 who eat here every day, it's a nice little change up."

Mountain Wok also offers take-out for people staying in the chalets and other mountain accommodation, a first for Mt. Washington.

At O-Zone Tubing Park a new service, O-Zone BBQ, will provide hot dogs and hot chocolate as well as marshmallows for people wanting to roast them in the bonfire pit.

There is a real emphasis on after-hours food services this year: Fireweeds and Fat Teddy's are both open after skiing is long finished, and of course the catering service, too.

*continued on page 23*

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## 16,000 Visitors Increases Summer Visits By 11%

***Mt. Washington Resort solidified its reputation as a year-round destination with a successful summer season.***

Summer visits increased by 11 per cent over 1999, with approximately 16,000 people riding the chairlift, Marketing Manager Karen Bonell said.

"We had a great summer," she said. "We have a lot of people who come up here but don't take the chairlift. Typically, that would be double; so we would be looking at 30,000 people up here this summer."

Several summer festivals padded that total. There was the Crab Fest, the Beer Fest, the Wine Fest and Eaglefest. The Crab Fest was a small affair, more like a dinner feature. The first annual Beer Fest was a hit, with 220 people coming out to sample product from major breweries as well as micro-breweries.

The second annual Wine Fest drew 150 people and was another success. Eaglefest was the second annual music event, this year starring (among others) I Mother Earth, Cheap Trick and Wide Mouth Mason. This year the weather did not co-operate, and the resort took a bath. "Primarily it was very successful, but with the huge outlay in set-up costs it proved to be cost-prohibitive. We go from a staff of 75 to a staff of over 200 for one day. It's difficult to do that: you need 3,000 people to even break even," Bonell explained.

In terms of accommodation, the village was full during Eagle Fest – all the rooms available through the central reservation system were taken. And the event drew

people from as far away as New York.

"You won't see a third Eagle Fest as a one-day, five-big-band-name event. But you will see music here – just in a different forum."

The mountain will continue to pursue "destination festivals" as a way to offer something different from the myriad festivals in the Comox Valley that compete for local residents' time.

"With the summer festivals, the idea is to have more reasons to come up here in the summertime. A lot of people are travelling around and the festivals up here give them something else to see," Bonell said.

Mountain biking really caught on this summer, enough that a retail enterprise – Wheelies – was well established throughout the warm months. "We're going to be expanding our mountain bike trails from the top as well as we want to lay some trails down for intermediate (cyclists)," Bonell said. *continued on page 23*

## New Trailhead Earmarked For Paradise Meadows

***Visitors to Paradise Meadows could soon enter Strathcona Provincial Park via a new trailhead – one with adequate parking, a distinct identity and a guarantee that the first look visitors have of the park will no longer be an old outhouse, but the breathtaking scenery so prevalent in the park.***

For the past four years a public advisory committee, facilitated by BC Parks, has met to discuss building a visitors' centre to greet hikers, skiers and walkers as they enter Strathcona Park through Paradise Meadows. "We're looking for a distinct, stand-alone trailhead that invites people into the park," says Ron Quilter, operations

officer for BC Parks in Miracle Beach.

"We know we need parking, we know we need a better trailhead, we know we need better access. We're going through a process to determine whether it's the right thing for the park," he adds. *(An article printed in the Comox Valley Record in early November incorrectly stated that moving the trailhead was a foregone conclusion. That is not the case, Quilter asserted).*

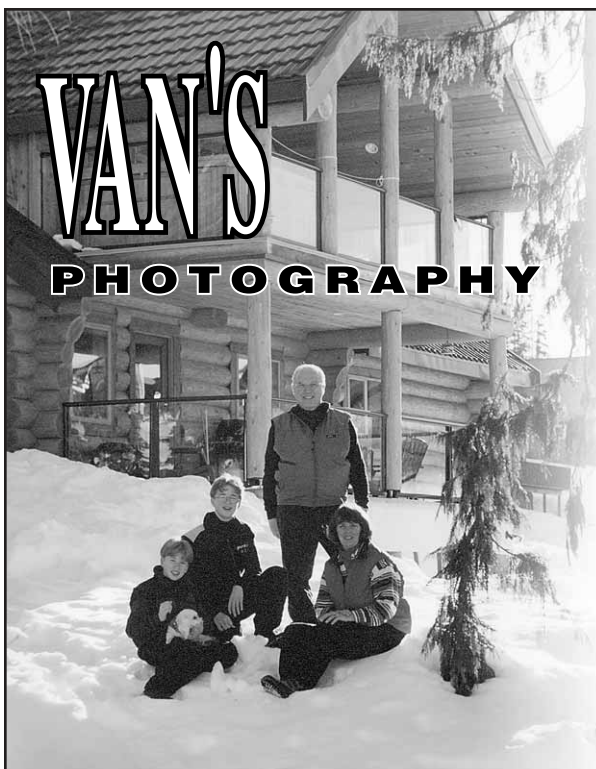
Parks has hired Lanarc Consulting to complete a site plan and impact assessment in order to review options for a suitable location for the trailhead. In the past the Paradise Meadows Visitors' Centre committee had reached a consensus to assess a site near the new Mt. Washington lodge, to the west of the existing entrance to Paradise Meadows, "and thought it was a good one," Quilter said. "But it's not our only option."

The impact assessment will examine impact to vegetation, wildlife, drainage, etc. in three different spots near the new lodge; these areas each join up with existing trails. Once Parks receives the results from the study, staff will review it before sharing it with the committee, "then we'll proceed from there," he said.

All the field work for the impact assessment was done in the fall, and Quilter was hoping to receive the results by the new year. *continued on page 23*



*Chair lift rides, mountain biking, attractive accommodation packages and, of course, spectacular views all contribute to the success of summer growth on Mt. Washington.*



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**The View From Here**

*continued from page 2*

So, here we are driving north at the speed of sound and these clouds start rolling in... grey and foreboding clouds... swirling clouds, really swirling clouds. Clouds that swirl so much that Julia says, "Rick, I think that's a tornado starting!" To which I replied with a jab to her side and a quick glance back at the kids, "No, I don't think so, that's just rain."

To which the children in the back chimed in, "How come it's hail-ing?"

Bob kept his pace driving us steadily in the opposite direction of the storm while I squinted toward the furious sky, knowing that the wicked witch of the east was out there somewhere on her broomstick.

Bob spent the night tucked away in a private campsite outside Hinton at the Folding Chair campground while the tornado that devastated Pine Lake wreaked it's havoc. It wasn't until the following day we received about four phone calls on our cell phones from worried family and friends that we understood the danger we could have faced had we not changed our plans. Thank God for the call of the Rockies!

Okay so it took us an entire week to drive the Icefields Parkway from Jasper to Banff and to see all the amazing sights along the way. If you have never taken this road at a slow crawl and stopped along the way in as many

places as you can, you ARE missing something. Trust us. It was an experience that enlightened and inspired us and we will do it again many more times.

We learned something in the Rockies. They have lots of snow, even in July. So does Mt. Washington... some years. We learned that our local ski resort is actually nicer in the summer than most of the other ski resorts around. Our Nordic experience is second to none. Our Alpine setting is one of a kind boasting both a mountain setting and an ocean backdrop. As corny as it sounds, where else in the world can you snow-play in the morning and go sailing or fishing in the ocean in the afternoon? We're not the Rockies, but we certainly come a close second.

Yes, I'm looking forward to 2001. The real estate market is picking up momentum on Mt. Washington with over 16 sales in the past 12 months. This is a drastic improvement over the previous four years. As our economy continues to improve, the mountain market will follow suit. There are still a few really hot deals available but once these are gone, they're gone.

Mt. Washington's expansion plans are going to enhance your mountain delights and I look forward to serving your real estate needs on the mountain and in the valley throughout 2001 and beyond!

**Your Ocean To Alpine Realtor  
Rick Gibson**



**Resort Named After An Admiral, Not A President!**

*Canadians name mountains after Prime Ministers, why not me?*

**People are forever mistaking the namesake of Mt. Washington for the famous American president.**

But the mountain – home to one of western Canada's premier alpine resorts – was actually named for Royal British Naval officer Rear Admiral John Washington.

In 1864, Captain Richards of the Royal British Navy was aboard the steam sloop

HMCS Plumper, nearing the end of a four-year mission to survey Vancouver Island. Richards named the summit "Mount Washington" after a man he said had "exceptional energy and commitment."

John Washington was born in 1800 and first entered the navy as a volunteer at the age of 12. While serving on the Sybille many years later, he learned about hydrography – the science of surveying and mapping seas, lakes and rivers for navigation. Washington had an extensive and distinguished naval career. He was appointed Hydrographer of the Royal Navy in 1855 and died in Havre, Switzerland on Sept. 16, 1863.

Although Washington never physically visited the Comox Valley, Capt. Richards made sure that, before returning to England, this tireless man's work wouldn't go unnoticed.

*More information on Mt. Washington can be found at the resort's interpretive centre in the summer.*

**Volunteer Fire Fighting Society Being Planned**

Mt. Washington Alpine Resort is currently assisting the Deputy Fire Commissioner in his endeavor to establish a Volunteer Fire Fighting Society. The Resort will be aiding the Commissioner with any communication and coordination needs he may have as well as helping with some equipment requirements.

The first major step the Resort will be taking is to place fire-fighting equipment in the village. This equipment will be placed on an adjustable platform to permit movement with the snowpack and will make firefighting far more accessible than it has ever been in the past. "We want to continue to work together with the people in the village to ensure their safety and help to protect their property," comments the Resort's Utilities Supervisor, Jim McKerr.

A list will be located at the Guest Services Desk for anyone interested in becoming a part of the volunteer Fire Fighting Society.

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# MT. WASHINGTON SPECIAL EVENTS • 2000/01

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

### Vancouver Island Alpine Championships

(Jan. 7 & 28, Feb. 18, March 18)  
This adult race series will give you the chance to put your abilities to the test. All race dates will finish with a Coors Light Après and on March 18th prizes will be awarded.

### I am Canadian Club

Every Wednesday Starting December 15 – Excluding Dec. 29)  
Rise and shine with breakfast in the Alpine Lodge at 8:30 am, enjoy fresh tracks with a 90-minute clinic and then retire back to Fat Teddys for a cool Molson Canadian.

**Women's Day Escape** (Every Tuesday Starting December 14 – Exc. Dec. 28)  
Your escape begins with a fun lesson from 10am to noon followed by a delicious lunch in Fireweed's Restaurant and an optional afternoon lesson from 1pm to 3pm. An apres social will conclude each month with prizes from the Eagle 97.3 FM and wine sampling from Jackson Triggs Vintners.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### December

- 22 **Christmas Carolers on the Mountain** (11:30 am – 2:30 pm)  
23 **Tree Trimming Party** Complete with apple cider and Christmas cookies for everyone.  
25 **Watch for Santa on the slopes!**

26 **Annual Coca-Cola Torchlight Parade and Fireworks Festival**  
29 **Ozone Snowtubing and Bonfire**  
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

30 **Snowman Building Contest**  
Judging at 2:00 pm

31 **New Year's Eve Parties**  
Reserve your tickets for one of the many parties on the Mountain!

### January

13 **Showtime Challenge**  
All skiers and boarders are welcome to vie for prizes by giving the crowd the best show possible. Judging will be based on trick, height and style.

15-19 **Coors Light Winter Festival**  
Special price midweek lift tickets  
Special price midweek rentals

20 **Coors Light Costume Party**  
Fat Teddys. 8:00 pm – 1:00 am  
Hundreds of dollars in prizes to be won for best costumes!

21 **Atlas Snowshoe Romp**  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Fun and prizes for the whole family. If you haven't been on snowshoes before Atlas Snowshoe Company will be on site to show you how easy and fun it is.

22-26 **Rossignol National Ski/Board Week**  
Free Midweek Lessons for beginners, intermediates and expert skiers and boarders.

27 **Rossignol Race Clinic**  
Think your race technique needs some work? Well here is your chance to ask the experts for free!

27 **Helly Hansen Cross Country Sprint**  
28 **Burger King Adventure Race**  
Fun activities for the whole family.

### February

3 **Fat Teddys Beach Party**  
Aloha! Back by popular demand this night is filled with crazy games and tons of prizes. A great way to catch some sun fever in the winter.

4 **Annual Coca-Cola Classic**  
Fundraiser for the Disabled – Register your team to be part of this great fundraiser for the Disabled Skiing Assoc.

10 **Sno Tek Demo Days**

10/11 **Big Kids Snowboard Camp** (19+)

14 **Singles Day Match and Win**  
Find your perfect match and win a prize then join everyone for an apres in Fat Teddy's Bar & Grill.

17 **Youth Super Cross** An event for all snowboarders 13 and under who think they have what it takes to battle their way through a boardercross race.

24 **Poweraide Skier Cross** For all you skiers who wanted to participate in the boardercross race last year - here is your chance. This event will be fast paced and extremely competitive.

### March

3 **Sprite Super Cross Qualifying Day** (Boarders 14+) Boarders will test their abilities against the terrain and fellow competitors for a spot in the finals.

4 **Sprite Super Cross Finals** (Boarders 14+) If you've made it this far you are one of the best. This day will be a crowd pleaser as the adrenalin meter will be off the chart.

5 - 11 **Evian Women's Week**  
Special Women's Day Escape  
Programs every day followed by an

Après with prizes and wine sampling.  
17 **Dairyland GreenZone Fun Run**  
Explore the green trails for a chance to win prizes.

23 **Barq's Snowtubing Festival** Crazy games and prizes for the whole family.

24 **Dairyland Halfpipe Competition**  
Skiers and Boarders welcome.

25 **Old Dutch Family Fun Day**  
A Family fun race where everyone wins! Followed by entertainment for children of all ages.

31 **Sno Tek Ski / Snowboard Challenge**  
Now this is wild! Ski and Board on two courses and your combined time will reveal your skill level, equipment rent is included.

### April

7 **Overwaitea Foods Dummy Downhill** A family favorite. Build your dummy and watch it fly down the mountain. Prizes will be awarded to the top three dummies.

8 **Barq's Slush Cup** You may see some fairly strange sights but one thing we can guarantee is this will not be a boring day. The weather may be getting warmer but the pit of water is extremely cold.

13/14 **Season Pass Appreciation BBQ's**  
Members, join us for burgers and Chef's goulash!

15 **Hershey's Easter Egg Hunt**  
There is no such thing as too much candy! Mt. Washington and Hershey invite all children to a quick hunt for candy, chocolate and prizes.

29 **Realty World Snow to Surf Race**

**For up-to-date info:**  
[www.mtwashington.bc.ca](http://www.mtwashington.bc.ca)

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# MT WASHINGTON™

## ALPINE RESORT

# ACCOMMODATION GUIDE

### ~Winter 2000/01~

### Getting There...

Mt. Washington is a three hour drive north of Victoria, or a short plane ride from Vancouver to Comox via scheduled Air Lines.

The Mt. Washington Ski Bus Company provides daily scheduled bus service, as well as Friday night departures from Victoria, Duncan, Nanaimo and Courtenay. *For more information, visit their website at [www.skibus.ca](http://www.skibus.ca) or see their ad on page 14 for local phone numbers.*

Smith Transportation also offers scheduled bus service from Duncan, Ladysmith, Nanaimo, Parksville, Qualicum and Port Alberni. *For more information see their ad on page 14 for local phone numbers.*

### What To Rent...

Whether it's a condo you're looking for a townhome, bed and breakfast, drive-in, ski out or a chalet in the heart of the Alpine Village that can sleep all 11 of your friends and you, Mt. Washington has it. There are several on-hill booking agents:

**Alpine Accommodations**  
(1-888-837-4663)

**Mt. Washington Accommodations**  
1-800-699-6499

**Paradise Ridge Accommodations**  
1-877-287-9491

**Peak Accommodations**  
1-866-826-PEAK (7325)

**Mt. Washington  
Central Reservations**  
Victoria: (250) 213-3375  
Vancouver: (604) 619-0550  
Comox Valley: 338-1386  
Other areas: Toll-free 1-888-231-1499

Most places have a key pick-up service on the hill -- just ask. Services within the rentals range from laundry to key drop-off and 24-hour, on-hill fix-it support.

### Are you thinking about travelling to Mt. Washington for the first time?

Here are some tips to help you along the way.



### Alpine, New & Mt. Washington Village

Confused about references to the "Alpine Village" and the "New Area"? The original Mt. Washington Alpine Village consists of chalets of varying sizes and a couple of B&Bs. Governed by Strata 799, the village is pedestrian-friendly and strictly adheres to the rule "no cars on the roads in the winter". The silence at night, snow glistening off tree branches dipping along the snow-swollen roads, coupled with the lack of vehicles, gives the Alpine Village a certain charm. The New Area is Henry Road and Foster's Place; the condo units are built up the winding Henry Road, which starts at the bottom of the Green Chair, close to the Nordic Lodge, while Foster's Place is reserved mainly for family dwellings.

Mt. Washington Village is the wave of the future for the year-round resort. Featuring the 59 hotel-style condo suites at Deer Lodge. This is also where Mt. Washington plans to develop their commercial village centre.

### Parking...

Condos such as Paradise Ridge, Blueberry Hill and Creekside on Henry Road offer either underbuilding or covered parking. However, chalets in the Village are only reachable on foot or by snowcat -- vehicles must be parked in designated areas.

The snowcat runs from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily throughout the winter. Stop in at the Village Market on the Strathcona Parkway, just before you reach the first parking lot, to book a ride.

### Après Ski:

Try **Fat Teddy's Bar & Grill** or **Fireweeds Restaurant** to tame your hunger pangs, or during the day the new **Mountain Wok**. The Wok offers Chinese food to eat-in or take-out.

### Provisions...

The Mt. Washington Village Market is open seven days a week in the winter season. Visitors to the resort can pick up the essentials as well as rent videos. There is also an on-site licenced liquor outlet.

The main lodge at Mt. Washington is located at the end of the first parking lot. The Bradley Centre, which houses the Ski School, Kidz Zone and Express Rentals, is tucked in behind the lodge, and is accessible by a covered walkway. There are five chairlifts at the mountain -- from green for novice, blue and black diamond for the more difficult runs -- as well as a handle tow at the beginner's area and a specialized tow for Ozone Park, a tubing park.

### Details, Details...

*Did we mention Mt. Washington gets some of the best snow in Canada?*

**The five-year average snowfall is 900 centimeters (30 feet), while the record, set in 1998/99, was 2,200 cm (over 70 feet)! The annual attendance at Mt. Washington is over 300,000.** With the new Eagle Express lift recently installed, the mountain will be able to handle 10,400 skiers per hour capacity. **The grooming fleet is made up of nine Snowcats** including two winch cats. They each crawl their way up almost 1600 metres (5,300 feet) of ski face just to groom. **There are more than 40 kilometers of track-set and skating trails** of varying skill levels in Paradise Meadows.

**Rick Gibson**  
250-334-3124  
(24 hours)



  
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## Once people get up to Mt. Washington, where do they stay?

*Rental agencies handle accommodations at Mt. Washington, as well as a host of private rentals. And judging from what the rental companies had to say, people are flocking to the mountain Mecca in droves – both in the summer and winter.*

*Here is a round-up of some of the agencies:*

### Alpine Accommodations

Alpine Accommodations was the first on-hill booking agent, and is the longest-running rental management company, says Craig Munro, who bought the company in 1992. Although summer wasn't spectacular as far as bookings, Munro wasn't unhappy with business.

"I certainly was impressed with the efforts the mountain is making in terms of special weekends. That in itself was a real plus" because it generated interest in the resort itself, he said. But it came up short in securing overnight accommodation for his company.

"I'm optimistic the next few summers we'll see improvement, because the mountain is doing some good things."

Alpine Accommodations is marketing tour packages via its Internet Web site: Munro has put together personalized golf,

romance, hiking and mountain packages. "We try to design our packages specifically to each client's needs or desires," he says. "We're looking to develop any kind of ideas or joint ventures with adventure tourism groups in the Comox Valley."

Alpine offers a wide variety of units, from large, private chalets to large and small town homes and one-bedroom condo suites. He manages units in every major building and through the Alpine Village.

Munro is predicting this winter will be his strongest ever, judging from early season bookings. He noticed a trend towards early-December bookings for school holidays, and estimated he would be in full swing by the time more snow had fallen.

To reach Alpine Accommodations, phone 703-9636 in the Comox Valley, toll-free at 1-888-837-HOME or visit the Web site at [www.alpinechalets.com](http://www.alpinechalets.com).

### Peak Accommodations

The winter booking season is looking optimistic for a new rental management company at Mt. Washington.

Peak Accommodations, run by Pam de Boer, began operations in time for the winter season. Peak handles privately owned condo and chalet unit rentals, and also puts together booking packages for visitors.

de Boer, a full-time resident on the mountain, is no stranger to the rental management business, having worked with a different company in the past. She decided to go it on her own "because the timing was right and I needed to create a job for myself," she says.

de Boer has put a twist to the traditional duties of a rental management company: she will assemble special packages for clients, such as romance packages for two, or corporate packages.

"There are people that don't want to go to the main lodge and the crowds, they want to be here and be by themselves," she says. "A romance package can be everything from booking accommodation to catering in-house for people who don't feel like going out for something to eat."

Units under de Boer's care are all privately owned and located all over Mt. Washington. "I can do a condo for two people, up to a chalet for 10 people," she said.

Peak Accommodations offers on-mountain check-in and key drop-off, full housekeeping and full linen services. de Boer will have a staff of six taking care of housekeeping – people who have worked with her previously (condo owners who rent on their own are welcome to build into the housekeeping service, too).

"The phone is ringing," she says. "For Christmas, we're pretty much booked for three solid weeks. Not only are bookings coming in, but new owners are signing on, as well."

To reach Peak Accommodations phone Pam de Boer at 897-3851 or toll-free at 1-866-826-PEAK (7325).

### Paradise Ridge

#### Luxury Mountain Accommodation

Brenda Ravenstein fell into the property management business four years ago when she bought a unit at Paradise Ridge and put it in the rental pool. Not satisfied with the way her unit was managed, Ravenstein decided to rent it out on her own; she also picked up four of her neighbors', taking care of five units in that first year. The next year, she had 20. "I turned my own suite into my office and managed the units from there," she says. Last June, Ravenstein put in a bid for the property management contract at Deer Lodge, and won.

*continued on page 14*

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In the Comox Valley: 703-9636

email: [chalets@island.net](mailto:chalets@island.net) web: [www.alpinechalets.com](http://www.alpinechalets.com)

Welcome Home  
To Paradise!

# Alpine Accommodations



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# MT. WASHINGTON ACCOMMODATIONS

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## "Wanted: one new home for the Comox Valley Biathlon Club"

Space must be suitable to put a 950-square-foot, two-storey cabin and a 50-metre-by-70-metre shooting range. Must relocate by next June."

The Comox Valley Nordics biathlon club is looking for new accommodations now that Mt. Washington has built its newest lodge across the road from the shooting range, and intends to develop ski terrain where biathletes presently compete. "We're sort of in the way right now," says the biathlon club's Oskar Valdal. "We'll be moved before June of next year. So we'll be in the same spot for this year."

The club is looking at several sites further to the west, towards the Lookout and close to the boundary with TimberWest. They will try and avoid going into TimberWest's property, says Valdal.

"Mt. Washington has been very helpful. When the time comes (to move), they will help us; they're getting a piece of land that we've worked on, that we've cleared."

The biathlon club, which boasts 25 to 30 members, has been at the same site since 1994. Volunteers erected the two-storey cabin in January 1995, in time to host the 1995 B.C. Winter Games. This past summer the biathlon range was certified, which means the club can now rent out the range for army and air cadets who compete in their own biathlon events.

"We're just waiting for the certification papers," Valdal said. "These people (cadets) will be using the range as a group once it's certified. That's going to put a heavier load on us."

Once the range is relocated, it will likely have to be re-certified, he added. "That won't be a big deal, though, because we know what we're doing."

## A Mile High and Wheelchair Accessible

*For the first time ever, Mt. Washington's "mile high" reputation became wheelchair accessible.*

During the summer, one chair from the Eagle Express chairlift was modified to take wheelchairs to the summit, so disabled visitors could enjoy the panoramic views from Denman and Hornby Islands to Campbell River, and around to Mt. Albert Edward and Paradise Meadows.

"We had a group come up specifically because they knew they could use it," marketing director Karen Bonell said. "We had a lot of people coming up and using the chair."

Mountain maintenance staff came up with the modified design, which allows a wheelchair to be secured to one of the Eagle Express's detachable chair mechanisms. "They just ride the chair right around (without disembarking), because they're in their wheelchair," Bonell explained. "It frees them ... but gives them something safe."

Staff also trained in evacuation procedures with the adapted chair.

Plans are in the works to adapt another chair for the Eagle Express next summer, so there will be two wheelchair accessible ways to get to the top of the mountain.

## So Much To Do, On or Off the Slopes!

There's more to "snow play" at Mt. Washington than just **skiing or boarding** on the resort's 50 runs, glades and – on those special days – cruising through the powder.

Ride the awesome **O-Zone Snow Tubing Park**, open 1 - 9 p.m. Day tubing is fun, but you have to try it at night, under the lights, stars and moon! Enjoy a cup of hot chocolate beside the bonfire, next to the log cabin at the park.

There is also a night-lit **toboggan** run behind the alpine lodge, so bring your Crazy Carpets or toboggans and indulge in some free fun for kids of all ages.

Mt. Washington has some of the best nordic skiing trails in Western Canada: over 40 kilometres are track-set for **classic cross country skiing or skating**. These trails are partially located in B.C.'s oldest provincial park, Strathcona Provincial Park. Telemarking on the groomed runs or those just as Mother Nature created is a great feeling, and a sight to behold for those not

courageous enough to try it.

**Snowshoeing** on the mountain's four designated trails is an adventure, or just snowshoe as a fun method of transportation around the beautiful, snow-covered Alpine Village.

If snowshoeing isn't for you, why not take a **Cat Trax Taxi** ride, or a **walk** on a star-lit night in the Alpine Village?

When was the last time you built a **snow fort**, had a **snowball fight** with your friends and threw yourself in the powder to make a **snow angel**?

When you have played yourself out, check out Fat Teddy's Bar & Grill for **après ski** beside the fireplace, then dinner in Fireweed's Restaurant.

**Cooking dinner** with friends and family in your cozy mountain retreat, enjoying a roaring fire, maybe sipping some wine and a vigorous game of Headbands can be a satisfying end to a perfect day playing in the snow.

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is a locally owned and operated Cablevision system offering over 30 channels of digital broadcast signals to the owners of property and visitors to Mt. Washington.

2 Knowledge Network	13 TSN	27 CBUT
3 CBC North	16 YTV	28 CHCH
4 Mt. Washington Real Estate	17 WGN	29 CBC Eastern CBMT
5 ABC KOMO	18 A&E	30 Access
6 CBS KSTW	19 CNN	31 PBS
7 KVOS	20 CBC Newsworld	32 CMT
8 ITV	21 WTBS	33 Headline News
9 NBC KING	22 Family Channel	34 A&E
10 Mt. Washington Community Channel	23 CKVU	35 Discovery
11 FOX	24 CHEK TV	36 CBC Newsworld
12 BCTV	25 Much Music	
	26 WSBK	

Please tune in to Channel 10, Mt. Washington's Community Channel for updates.

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## Accommodations

continued from page 10

So she now wears two hats: she has the majority of the rental units in Deer Lodge in addition to her 20 at Paradise Ridge. Having her parents stay in her suite and take check-ins when she isn't available, has been a real boon, and the housekeeping company that comes in, owned by Judy Peters of Campbell River, takes one more worry off Ravenstein's hands.

Summer was busy at Paradise Ridge, especially since Ravenstein signed on with a couple of time-share companies that book weekly visits for their members. "Paradise Ridge is just like a resort, with the pool and everything," she says.

Winter started out with solid bookings through the Christmas season, and no sign of letting up, she said.

To reach Ravenstein at Paradise Ridge rentals, phone 897-3161 in the Comox Valley, toll-free at 1-877-287-9491 or visit the Web site at [www.paradiseridge.bc.ca](http://www.paradiseridge.bc.ca).

## Deer Lodge

Summer at Deer Lodge was hectic – something that surprised Ravenstein, considering she only took over management in mid-June, and then with nary a record left from the previous company.

"We were way busier than we expected to be for just taking over," she said.

The lodge saw a lot of overnight dinner packages and train packages from Victoria. Mt. Washington's commitment to increase summer activities "makes a big difference for drawing people," she said.

Ravenstein is joined by "right-hand person" Dawn Wort, front desk manager Charmaine Cymbala and 20 other staff members who work in housekeeping and the front desk.

After a hectic opening weekend, Deer Lodge was preparing to open Snow Capps -- a cappuccino bar and gift shop in the lobby.

Reservations show no sign of declining over the winter season, Ravenstein said. Deer Lodge was completely booked for the Christmas season and she was hoping that, with a lot more snow, the pace would not slow down.

Because of the change in management at Deer Lodge, the reservation numbers have changed.

To book a reservation, phone 334-3700 in the Comox Valley, toll-free at 1-888-969-3322 or visit the Web site at [www.deerlodgebc.com](http://www.deerlodgebc.com).

## Mt. Washington Accommodations

Linda Young of Mt. Washington Accommodations has been managing properties all over Mt. Washington since the mid-90s. She offers a range of accommodation, from one-bedroom condos to chalets that will fit 10 or more. She manages privately owned properties from the Alpine Village to major developments like Creekside, The Chalet, Paradise Ridge and Blueberry Hill.

To book with Mt. Washington Accommodations, phone (250) 370-1642 in Victoria, toll-free at 1-800-699-6499 or visit the comprehensive Web site at [www.memory-bankinc.com/mtwash\\_bc.html](http://www.memory-bankinc.com/mtwash_bc.html).

## Snow Hosts

**The next time you go to Mt. Washington to ski, don't be surprised if someone comes up and greets you with a smile and a "Hi, welcome to Mt. Washington!" The Snow Hosts are on the loose again this winter.**

The Snow Host program has been ongoing at Mt. Washington for several years. Made up entirely of volunteers, the Snow Hosts' primary job is to provide resort information and to meet and greet visitors.

"I think it's really important that there's somebody not focused on their individual task – like selling you a ticket or a burger – who is just there to say hello and welcome," says marketing manager Karen Bonell.

Snow Hosts also help out with special events as well as marketing research. "I have a very strong belief in market research – always asking how we're doing, and asking the customers what they think," Bonell said. "I believe in listening to the customer."

The hosts also help gather information for demographic profiles "to help us understand who are skiers are," she said.

Volunteers work seven days a week as Snow Hosts, with a mix of older, retired men and women taking on the weekday shifts, making way for the younger volunteers who have other jobs throughout the week. Snow Hosts – about a dozen of them this season -- wear special jackets that say "Resort Info" on the back. They can usually be found near the ticket kiosk in front of the main lodge.

Most other ski hills in Canada have similar programs, although Mt. Washington's has been tailor-made for its own operations. "We look for friendly, hospitable people who love to ski or snowboard," Bonell said.

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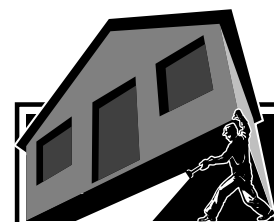
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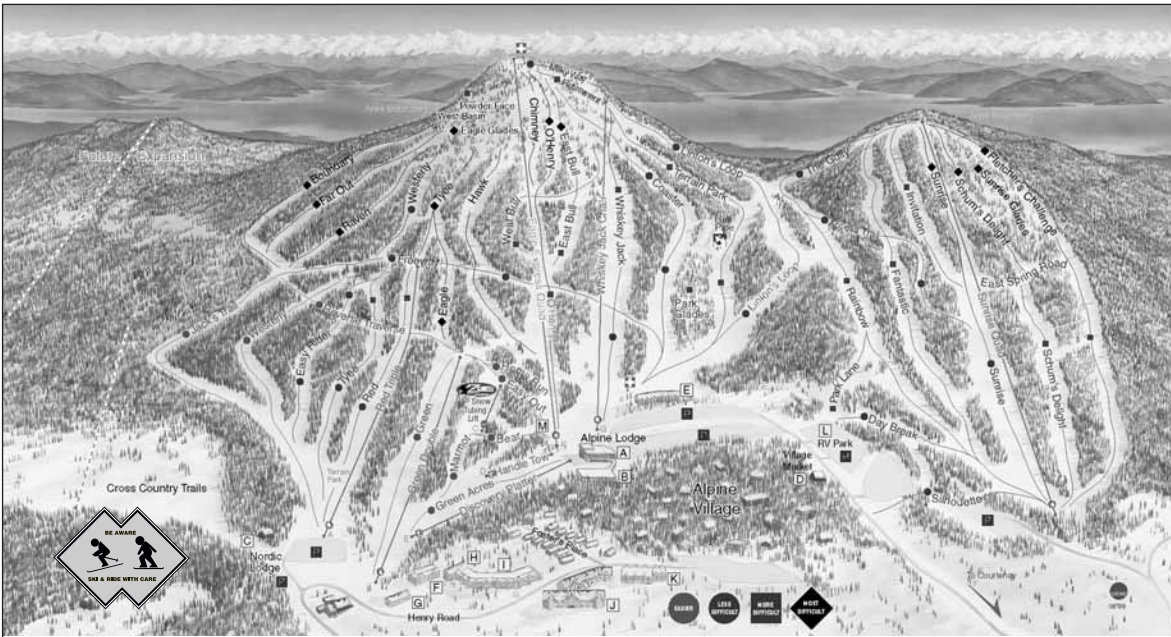
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 Comox Valley: 338-1386 • Other Areas: 1-888-231-1499  
 Fax 338-7295  
 E-Mail: [reservations@mtwashington.bc.ca](mailto:reservations@mtwashington.bc.ca)

## MT.WASHINGTON REAL ESTATE ENQUIRIES

Rick Gibson (250) 334-3124  
 e-mail: [info@rickgibson.ca](mailto:info@rickgibson.ca) • [www.rickgibson.ca](http://www.rickgibson.ca)

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### ACCOMMODATIONS

#### ALPINE VILLAGE

E Deer Lodge F Creekside House G Parkview Place H The Chalet At Mt.Washington

I Blueberry Hill J Paradise Ridge K Ptarmigan Ridge L RV PARK

M SNOTEK DEMO CENTRE

### FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVICES

#### Alpine Lodge

- Fireweed's Restaurant
- Fat Teddy's Bar & Grill
- Alpine Cafeteria
- The Mountain Wok

#### Cross Country Lodge

- Licensed Nordic Café

### RETAIL SERVICES

- Altitude Sport & Gift
- Nordic Lodge Retail Shop
- Village Market, Liquor Outlet, Video Rentals & Cat Trax Taxi
- Licensed Day Care and Kidz Club facilities
- Sno-Tek Demo, Rentals & Repair Centre

### A ALPINE LODGE

- Alpine Cafeteria
- Fat Teddy's Bar & Grill
- Altitude Sport & Gift
- Fireweed's Restaurant
- The Mountain Wok
- Season Pass and Group Sales

### B BRADLEY CENTRE

- Express Rentals and Repairs
- Snow School • Kids Zone
- Licensed Day Care

### Snow Reports...

- Comox Valley 338-1515  
 Campbell River (250) 203-1635  
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 Port Alberni (250) 720-6505

### Ever Considered A Mountain Portrait?

Take Mt.Washington home. Come to the mountain to ski, snow-board, or just relax and get away from it all. Now you can relive the experience with a portrait by Van's Photography. Van is recognized for his ability to connect people with nature, whether it's a family, couple or an individual. "The great scenery combined with having fun outside adds up to beautiful portraits," says Jerry Van. *To discuss the possibilities and to book an appointment call Van's Photography at 250-338-5666.*



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**SPECIAL DEMOS ON THE HILL:** at 1) The Meadows B&B (1375 Henry Rd) January 4-7; and 2) Fat Teddy's in The Alpine Lodge March 5-9

# 2000/2001 Mt. Washington Accommodation GUIDE

**MT WASHINGTON**  
ALPINE RESORT

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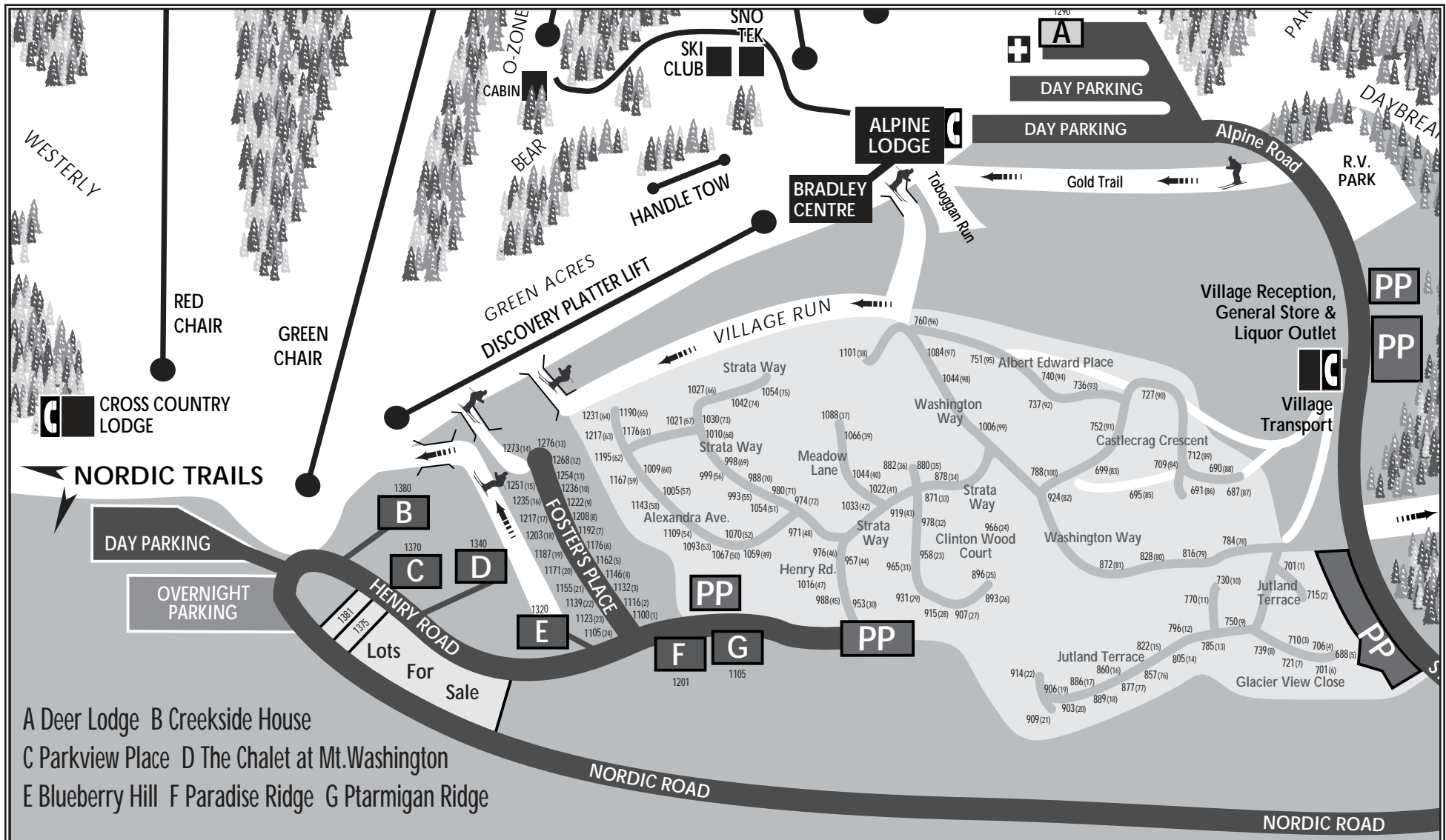
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RV Park ..... 334-5703

Security (after hours) . . . 897-2205  
Ski Patrol ..... 334-5741  
Village Market ..... 334-5745

For up-to-date Snow Reports see page  
15 or go to [www.mtwashington.bc.ca](http://www.mtwashington.bc.ca)

# Alpine Village at Mt. Washington



A Deer Lodge B Creekside House  
C Parkview Place D The Chalet at Mt. Washington  
E Blueberry Hill F Paradise Ridge G Ptarmigan Ridge

**P** Day Parking **PP** Private Parking

**O** Overnight Parking

--- Winter access by Snowcat or walking only

... Winter access on foot or skis only

■ Vehicle accessible year round

(All roads are vehicle accessible in the summer)

### Lift Tickets Available Daily From:

- Alpine Lodge Kiosk • Cross Country Lodge.
- Sunrise Quad (Weekends and holidays)

Midweek access to purchase tickets via the Green Chair  
(1 ride) or the Sunrise Quad (1 ride).

**P PRIVATE PARKING** ~ Alpine Village Strata 799 • Dogs must be kept on leashes, please pick up after them.

### Mt. Washington Hours of Operation

Alpine Lifts: 9:00 AM ~ 3:30 PM

Ozone Snow Tubing: 1:00 PM ~ 9:00 PM

Tobogganing: 9:00 AM ~ 1:00 AM

# MT. WASHINGTON PROPERTIES *For Sale*



## PARADISE RIDGE

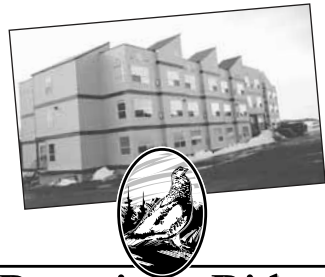
### Features Include:

- Outdoor Swimming Pool, Sauna & Hot Tub • Elevator Access • Drive To Access with Underground Parking • Propane Fireplaces • Ski Storage Room off Lobby • Kitchens with 4 Appliances • Full Size Washer & Dryer in each unit • Convenient Location to all Amenities • Mountain & Strathcona Park Views

- #304, 2 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Mt. Washington. \$159,900
- #306, 3 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Strathcona Park. \$169,900
- #212, 3 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Strathcona Park. \$179,900
- #402, 3 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Mt. Washington. \$199,900
- #406, 3 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Mt. Washington. \$199,999
- #209, 4 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Strathcona Park. **SOLD!** \$209,900
- #314, 4 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Strathcona Park. **SOLD!** \$229,900

### Single Family Building Site!

Two of the few remaining single family building sites on Mt. Washington.  
\$109,900 ~ \$119,900



### Ptarmigan Ridge

#### Features Include:

- One Bedroom Apartments located on paved Henry Road
- Apartments are Furnished
- Drive To Access • Propane Fireplaces • Self-contained Kitchens • Ski Storage Lockers off Lobby • Breathtaking Mountain Views • Convenient Location to Ski Lifts and Strathcona Prov. Park.

- #212, 1 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Strathcona Park. \$89,900
- #205, 1 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Mt. Washington. \$89,900
- #301, 1 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Mt. Washington. \$94,500
- #206, 1 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Strathcona Park. \$99,000
- #309, 1 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Mt. Washington. \$99,000
- #308, 1 bedroom Penthouse facing Strathcona Park. \$105,900
- #302, 1 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Strathcona Park. \$97,500
- #112, 1 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Strathcona Park. \$109,900
- #204, 1 bedroom, fully furnished, facing Strathcona Park. \$119,900



#### Recently refurbished and re-carpeted

This 2 bedroom suite can be purchased for below 100k. This is a must see!  
\$84,900



#### It's the top of the world!

Top floor two bedroom apartment centrally located in Mt. Washington's Alpine Village. Two decks; one for morning sun and the other for afternoon and evening sunsets. Easy access to slopes and parking. Real wood-burning fireplace and comes with most furnishings.  
\$89,900



#### 2 Units Available

in this great building. All the apartments are immaculate with great views and exposure. Each offer two bedrooms and west coast spacious designs. Fully furnished and ready to go these homes are awaiting your inspection!  
From \$99,900



#### 2 Units Available

in this great maintained building in the Mt. Washington Village. The apartments offer two bedrooms, saunas, and covered decks. The building has wide hallways. lots of storage and has seasonal live in caretaker.  
\$99,900-\$114,000



#### Townhouse Style Condo Units

Three bedroom townhouses in Mt. Washington Village. This popular design offers a family a lot of space at an affordable price. Close to the day lodge for easy access.  
\$99,900- \$125,000



#### Large and Spacious

townhome within a few minutes stroll from the Alpine Lodge. The inside has been recently redecorated with new furniture, carpets & paint. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sauna & spacious open kitchen. Outside patio to capture the sunsets and mountain views. Easy access to skiing and to amenities. Great location and well priced!  
\$105,900



#### A snowball's throw from the Alpine Lodge!

Corner, bright townhome with 3 spacious bedrooms, ski-in & out with easy access. Townhome is rarely rented and pride of ownership is evident. Storage in crawl space and more. Contingency fund is approximately \$10,000 and newer roof.  
\$117,500



#### 5 minute stroll from the Alpine Lodge!

Ski in and out from this 3 bedroom townhouse. New roof in 1998 and some interior redecorating. Views of the mountains and sunsets. This property offers a phenomenal location at a phenomenal price. \$117,500



#### Close To Day Lodge

Three bedroom townhouse, very private corner unit with well thought out plan. Living room, kitchen, dining on the main floor with bedrooms up. Two bathrooms and a sauna. Furnished, ready to go. Basement can be developed. \$119,900



#### 3 bedroom townhouse in a great location!

Corner unit with loads of natural light. Features include Jacuzzi tub plus a woodstove and ample storage. Watch the sunsets and enjoy easy access to the slopes. Enjoy the hot tub on the outside deck. Great property at a great price!  
\$119,900



### Features Include:

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

#115, 2 bedroom on the 2nd floor, facing Mt. Washington. \$169,900

#209, 3 bedroom on the 2nd floor, facing Strathcona Park. \$174,900

#216, 2 bedroom on the 2nd floor, facing Strathcona Park. \$179,900

#212, 2 bedroom on the 2nd floor, facing Strathcona Park. \$184,900

#213, 2 bedroom on the 2nd floor, facing Mt. Washington. \$184,900

#305, 2 bedroom on the top floor, facing Strathcona Park. \$187,500

#303, 2 bedroom on the top floor, facing Strathcona Park. \$187,500

#309, 3 bedroom on the third floor, facing Mt. Washington. \$205,000

#210, 3 bedroom on the 2nd floor, facing Strathcona Park. \$209,000

#302, 3 bedroom townhouse, facing Strathcona Park. \$245,000



### Overlooking Strathcona Park

One bedroom condo with partial basement! Executive style condo on Mt. Washington with easy access to Alpine and Nordic skiing. Condo has loads of windows Offering natural light. Large sun-drenched deck, 1 bedroom, private entrance and partial basement (other bedrooms?). This is a price opportunity to not miss!

\$124,900



### Plenty of Upgrades

Mt Washington 3 bedroom townhome with plenty of upgrades. Newer carpets and in immaculate condition. Easy access to all amenities and very quiet location. Lower deck has hot tub. There is storage in the unfinished basement. Pride of ownership is evident. This one is a must see! Newer roof and building. Very well maintained. \$145,000



### Snowbird

Affordable, spacious, with easy access to village parking lot, Sunrise Quad and general store. Popular townhouse floor plan with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sauna and open kitchen/living/dining area. This unit is completely furnished. Ideal floor plan for families.

\$124,900~ \$137,500



### Perched on a Ridge

to view the sunsets, park and the stars! 4 bedroom chalet in the Alpine Village. Chalet has been rarely rented and pride of ownership is evident. Lower floor could easily be remodelled to accommodate an in-law suite. Sit in the hottub and enjoy the views of the mountains, glacier and sunsets.

\$199,900



### DEER LODGE

#### Features Include:

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- Ski to and from your door
- Underground parking

#314 Village side Third floor, 2 bedroom lock-off \$179,900

#207 Slope side Second floor, 2 bedroom lock-off \$179,900

#206 Slope side Second floor, 2 bedroom \$179,900

#410 Slope side Penthouse, 2 bedroom lock-off \$184,900

#405 Slope side Penthouse, 2 bedroom lock-off \$189,900

#411 Slope side Penthouse, 3 bedroom lock-off \$211,900



Contact: Rick Gibson

Ph: 250-334-3124 (24 hrs) Cell: 250-334-7503 [www.rickgibson.ca](http://www.rickgibson.ca)



### Charming A-Frame Style Chalet

Located near the store and parking for easy access. Well cared for with recent renovations. Open concept layout makes for warm cozy quarters with a woodstove and covered decks. Smaller chalets are a rarity on Mt. Washington so don't miss out on this opportunity! \$179,900



### Alpine Village Serenity

Nestled in the serene Alpine Village, this beautifully decorated & spotlessly clean townhome features a black & brass faced propane fireplace; bright white wide open kitchen and a spacious finished attic. Surrounded by mature trees with a Wonderful Mountain View, plus ski in & out access; it is excellent value. \$214,900

## The Truth About Disclosure (In other words being honest)

I recently had a conversation with a woman in the Alpine Lodge. She wanted to know if I had her brother's condo on the mountain listed for sale. I explained to her that I did not have the property listed. She expressed surprise at this and commented, "Why not? You sell everything up here!" I shrugged and casually mentioned that there was no obvious reason to me why he had chosen one realtor over another. I am not able to answer for the actions of other people. The conversation turned to the "leaky condo" syndrome so prominent in the lower mainland. It was then I pointed out to her that independent inspections are commonplace and something I highly recommend to buyers. She questioned me further about this and I explained that when I sold anything either on the mountain or in town, it would always be subject to an independent inspection or that the buyer would waive their right to that inspection in writing. Her response was swift and sure, "Well, I can see why my brother didn't choose you!....When I go to sell, I will sell it myself, that way I don't have to disclose ANYTHING!"

I need to say something about this. While the old adage of Caveat Emptor or Buyer Beware seems to be something that certain individuals hang onto as a means to deceive other people, it is NOT something I subscribe to. Real Estate Law requires that we tell the truth, plain and simple. It's called Disclosure. It's called being Honest. It's called having Integrity. I won't lie for anyone. If I know there is something wrong with any property, I feel it is the buyer's right to know the truth. Deceiving the buyer leads to certain problems. Call them inconveniences, call them difficulties, call them lawsuits. Whatever name they fall under, they are unpleasant.

My suggestion to anyone who has it in mind to ask me to lie for them, is to find another Realtor. For the rest of the honest people on this earth who own property on Mt Washington or throughout the Comox Valley and who are interested in selling, please call me. I would love to be YOUR Realtor.

**Rick Gibson, Preferred Agent for Mt. Washington**

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505-5th Street, Courtenay Corner of 5th & Fitzgerald







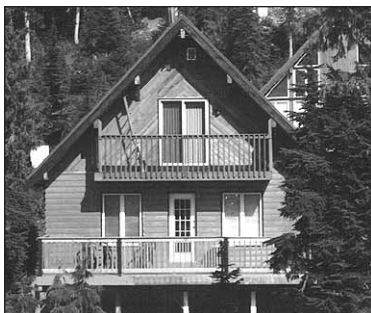
**Located on the Village Run**

You can ski to and from this chalet. Immaculate & bright with 3 bedrooms upstairs, hot tub area & 2 spacious outdoor decks to watch the sunset over the island mountains. The lower area could easily be finished and used for many uses. **\$249,500**



**Sun & Sunsets**

Your own chalet in the Alpine Village of Mt. Washington. Easy access in and ski to the lifts. This unit is very cozy with a large deck to take in the afternoon sun & evening sunsets. Basement is undeveloped but could be used for additional accommodation. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths and a sauna. **\$269,900**



**Recreational Home, Make An Offer!**

on Foster's Place. Drive in and ski out from this cozy retreat, with proven design. Hardwood floors and many upgrades, insulated floors and basement finished with an extra kitchen and bathroom. This home is owner built with many thoughtful features. Come and explore this cute and cozy chalet, you won't be disappointed. **\$249,900**



**#7 Fosters Place**

Drive In and Ski Out from this 3 year old chalet on Fosters Place. Designed with 3 levels, the basement is undeveloped, waiting for your imagination. Open living area features superb views. **\$294,900**



**Side by side duplex**

Once in a while a unique property comes available. Each side has 2 bedrooms and spacious plans. There is also a common area which includes a large family room, sauna, kitchen, bathroom & bedroom. Ideal for 2 or more families, spectacular views. **\$299,900**



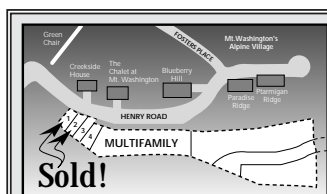
**This one's a keeper!**

Located in a very private area of the Alpine Village with easy access in and to the slopes in this 3-4 bedroom immaculate chalet. Extras include a gourmet kitchen, wood-burning fireplace with wood, elevator, hot tub, decks, and a security system. Owner's have never rented this property and pride of ownership is evident. **\$259,500**



**Incredible Views**

Designed by Dave MacSween Design & Construction of Comox much thought has gone into this 3 bedroom unit. Located on the edge of Strathcona Provincial Park with the ski lifts across the street. Please call for details and specs. **\$224,900**



**Building Sites Available NOW!**

Choice building sites ranging in size to accommodate from a duplex to an 8plex located between Henry Road and the Nordic Road. The sites offer easy access to the Green and Red Chairs. The Nordic Centre is only a minute away. The sites offer drive to access and are perched to view the mountain and take in the sunsets. Mt. Washington Resort has established architectural guidelines to ensure everyone's investment is safe and that all plans fit in with the overall future plans of the resort.

**Build for \$40,000 \$80,000 per unit!**



**If you are seeking a special property...**

This one is it! Exceptionally maintained chalet close to parking with views of ocean & mountains. Upper 2 levels offer 4 bdrms & sleeps comfortably 2 families. Lower level offers a self-contained suite. Both share storage & sauna. Property is a proven profit generator and has an excellent rental history. **\$349,900**



**Over 3000 sq. ft. of luxury**

in this 3 level log home located at the end of the cul-de-sac. The lifts are approx. 200 feet away making ski access a breeze! Dream gourmet kitchen, cathedral ceiling in living, dining area and on and on. Lower floor could easily be converted to additional accommodation and large outside deck is ideal for the sunsets. If you have seen the rest, come and see the best! **\$450,000**



**This is what you've been waiting for!**

Chalet on Fosters Place with 3 bedrooms up and a self-contained 2 bedroom suite below. ALSO an unfinished basement for further development. 2 rock fireplaces, sauna, 2 sets of complete appliances, ski-in & out access. Drive right to your door. Professionally finished with a well designed floor plan. **\$329,900**



**All the Extras are Here!**

From insulated concrete walls to the superb finishing, you will discover everything is here for the discriminating buyer. 2 large (12x28) decks and a smaller deck upstairs. Spacious kitchen & living areas. 5+ bedrooms and 4 bathrooms. If this is not enough, there is also covered parking for 2 vehicles. **\$389,900**



**Mt. Washington Real Estate Channel**

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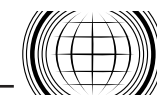
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- I specialize in strata corporation management.



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**Steven Royer**



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REALTY WORLD Coast Country Realty

**The Mt. Washington Marmot**

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Sales: Wendy Woodley Ph. 250-897-3678

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*"There's so much down here," says Derek Newnes, president of the Downtown Courtenay Business Improvement Association (DCBIA). "I think we've got a lot to offer our tourists. We've got lots of unique businesses offering everything from food to stuffed zebras. We've got a new museum and the refurbished Sid Williams Theatre, and we've got art galleries. Those add something special to the shopping experience."*

"The area has a unique flare to it, while at the same time it continues to maintain that small-town, quaint feel which appeals to both locals and visitors," says Newnes. "We've got the best of both worlds. We've got the selection on things, but we still have that small-town feeling -- it's friendly and people enjoy walking downtown."

Newnes, who owns Searle's Shoes in the downtown core, says he likes the friendly atmosphere pervading downtown Courtenay. "Everybody seems to be happy and outgoing. I came from the big city, where everybody's in a rush all the time. Courtenay's downtown is a little more laid back and ideal for people to poke around, ask questions and have a good time."

Downtown Courtenay offers a delicious diversity of shopping, eating, browsing and playing. Here's a small selection of the products and services available :

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**Tulio's Casita** offers fine dining with a busy, eclectic décor and a Mediterranean flavor. Family owned and operated, Tulio's has been serving the Comox Valley for 26 years. Stop in and enjoy their specialties: steak, seafood, schnitzel and lamb. Ask for your hosts, Peter and Teresa.

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**The whole Comox Valley - not only the downtown core -- is rich with shopping, eating and services for everyone's needs.**

At **Monte Christo**, right on the Courtenay River, the owners invite visitors and local skiers alike to come out and try their weekly specials, prepared by their new chef. They also have lunch specials that are created fresh every day by Monte Christo's outstanding daytime staff.

For all your collision, glass and towing needs, phone the professionals at **Georgia Straight Collision**. People will find that Georgia Straight has all the latest in equipment and technology. They offer damage-free towing and lifetime warranty on all repairs. They also have courtesy cars when available.

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## New Lodge

*continued from page 1*

The resort has been talking with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways about access to the new lodge, and has agreed to bring the road up to sub-grade status. The gravel road that stretches from the old nordic lodge to the new one – about half a kilometre -- will be widened, straightened and brought to pre-paving standard.

The resort is working with BC Parks on a number of issues regarding the new lodge and development, Gibson said. "We have an obligation to work together. Over the last several years we've impacted greatly on Strathcona Park and we have a responsibility to lessen that impact. So we're working together with Parks on ways and means to protect the park," he said.

One such way will be from the educational aspect. The mountain is looking at creating an interpretive centre at the new lodge, to educate visitors on the park's sensitive eco-system.

During the construction process, the contractor preserved the natural vegetation as much as possible on three of the four sides. That means very little reclamation next spring, Gibson explained. Once the snow is gone, crews will go back to areas that have been logged off and clean it up. "I think our staff, in spending the next few years 'cleaning and greening', will set an example," he said.

## Marmot Recovery

*continued from page 2*

"Building a facility on Mt. Washington allows us to maintain captive marmots on a normal seasonal cycle and to expose them to natural temperatures, light conditions and food," captive breeding specialist Dr. Malcolm McAdie wrote in an issue of The Marmot Recovery Foundation's newsletter, The Marmoteer.

"Thanks to the proximity of the ski hill, building a facility on Mt. Washington provides us with the road access and power that we will need to take care of the captive marmots throughout the year – even hibernating marmots will require monitoring and care during the winter."

Designing the facility has required the integration of engineering, animal husbandry and marmot biology, McAdie said. The building had to be designed to withstand heavy snow loads while at the same time supporting the delicate physiological demands of hibernating marmots.

Although the building will not be open to the public, foundation members are hoping to be able to offer viewing and host education programs. Until then, they will collectively cross their fingers that the species will not die out.

**"We're a long way from recovering the species," Barrett said, "but we have a plan, we're acting upon it and it's beginning to show it's worth it."**



## Disabled Skiing

*continued from page 5*

Sitskiing -- for quadraplegics, paraplegics, people with cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis -- is probably the most popular for the VISDS. The society has 10 sitskis and more on the way.

The disabled ski program draws kids from all over Canada, but mostly Vancouver Island.



## Heart of the Society

**Bradley stresses the volunteer aspect of the instructors' program. "The whole organization is volunteer. We don't have any paid help at all," he says.**

Instructors are dedicated to teaching kids and adults alike how to ski, all on their own time. One instructor spent 72 days last winter up Mt. Washington, teaching. "That's dedication," Bradley said. (Bradley and other instructors spent several weekends this fall training new instructors for the program. "We turned away 25 people this year because we couldn't take all of those who

volunteered," he said.)

Bradley pauses when asked what he gets out of teaching people with disabilities how to ski. "I get a million dollars a year," he says, laughing. Then he turns serious.

"Unless you actually go out with a person with a disability and see them walking, teach them how to ski and see what it does for them, you can't really understand. All the instructors accept the challenge well and they work at it."

Sometimes those challenges aren't simple: one skier who had suffered brain damage was with them for many years. "He really took to skiing. He battled with it for four or five years, and we battled with him for four or five years. But finally, he can ski by himself."

To see the success that the disabled skiing program has enjoyed over the years, one only has to listen to an athlete like Jackie Crabseth, and how excited she gets when talking about skiing. "I meet different people and I want to race more," she says. "My favorite is slalom, it's much faster."

Crabseth has skied all over Canada, including Mont Tremblay in Ontario and Silverstar in Vernon. She won a gold medal at a B.C. Games event in Quesnel, for which she is most proud.

Gord Tuck is perhaps the most famous of VISDS alumni. Tuck lost his leg in a logging accident in 1991. A skier since he was seven, Tuck joined VISDS to learn to ski with modified equipment. His efforts paid off: in 1995 he won two silver medals in the Canada Winter Games and was named AirBC athlete of the year. At the 2000 World Championships in Switzerland, he was a downhill silver medallist.

*continued on page 23*

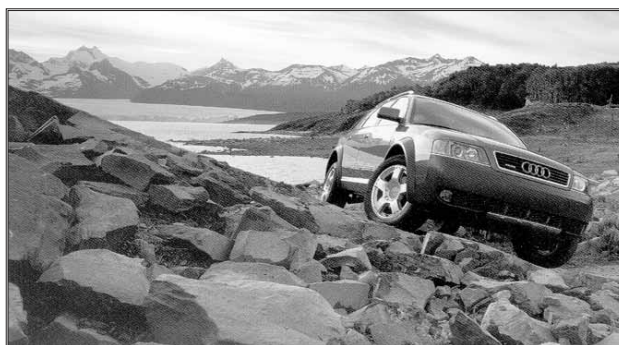
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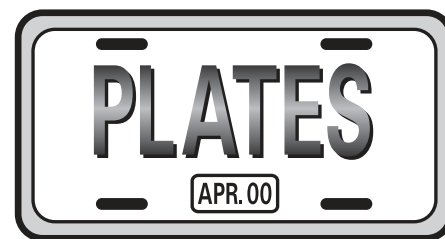
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### Disabled Skiing

*continued from page 23*

"We taught Gordie to ski when he was a little boy," Bradley recalls fondly. "He's a great skier. Now he's on the national team and travels all over the world, skiing and racing."

### High profile for VISDS

The Vancouver Island Skiing for the Disabled Society will have a high profile at Mt.Washington this winter, as they get set to host a number of events.

The accent will be on ability from Jan. 7-12 when the VISDS presents a Ski Novice Orientation Workshop (SNOW) and Ski Improvement Program (SKIMP) at their annual Winter Ski Festival. The SNOW program is mainly for new skiers, while

SKIMP is for experienced skiers who want to improve their skills.

The Winter Ski Festival offers four days of learning to ski, including use of ski lifts, equipment and any specialized equipment required. For more information, phone Don at (250) 339-0632 or Neill at (250) 338-7129.

On Feb. 4, 2001, the society hosts the Coca Cola Classic Race. This is the society's main fundraiser: last year they raised \$11,000 to purchase equipment.

The race is also an opportunity for people to see the athletes in action. Each three-person sponsor team will be provided with a person with a disability for each team. Teams get lift tickets, an event T-shirt, free lunch and chances at lots of prizes. Team entry is \$250. Phone Dick at (250) 334-2278 for more information.

The society will host the B.C. Disabled Ski Championships Feb. 24-25, and the Island championships March 17-18, 2001. For more information about the Vancouver Island Skiing for the Disabled Society, phone Herb Bradley at (250) 334-3868.

### Summer Visits

*continued from page 6*

The resort hosted one mountain bike event, with about 100 participants.

Ron Knatt set up a successful trail riding enterprise in the former RV Park, and many people took advantage of horse rides around Mt.Washington. And an arts and crafts fair was held every weekend, with local artisans coming up every Sunday.

"Even though the summer weather was cooler this year, we still had a record summer," Bonell said. "This is the highest number of people we've seen up here."

### Alfredo Yabut

*continued from page 5*

One would think that juggling six different food outlets would be a daunting task for Yabut, but he says otherwise. "I love it," says the Ucluelet-born man who managed the restaurant at April Point Lodge and the Wickannish before coming to Mt. Washington. "The environment is challenging, but the team is very tight, so I get lots of support from every department.

"I've always worked at outlets where staff was readily accessible. One you bring it up to a mountain, all the constance I was used to is gone," he says. One can't take

anything for granted while working in a mountain resort environment, he adds. For example, if a staff member falls ill, it's a 40-minute commute for a replacement to come up.

In the summer, Yabut says his biggest challenge is running full food and beverage services without the same infrastructure. In the winter he has 130 to 150 people working in the six food outlets, but that's not the case in the summer.

"When you're dealing with two seasons, you're looking forward to the next season when the first one is ending."

### Trail Head

*continued from page 6*

Quilter dispelled one rumor that had visitors being forced to go through Mt.Washington's new facility before entering the park. "The perception is that commercial interest is dictating what's happening in the park, and that's clearly not the case.

"If the trail eventually moves to a new location, we would have one trailhead, but it definitely won't go through Mt.Washington's building," Quilter said. "It might be in the vicinity of the building, but it would be a separate entity."

Part of the proposed trail might have to go part of Mt.Washington's land, but Quilter doesn't perceive that to be a problem as long as a pre-arranged agreement can be worked out. Neither does Peter Gibson, general manager at Mt.Washington Resort.

"We've been working very closely with Parks for the last year," Gibson said. "We understand the sensitivity of everything we do is critical at all times. We want to make sure everything we do is put through the public process."

## Canucks Share Snow with the Regionally Deprived

QUEBEC CITY, Canada

The Canadians have decided to share their abundance of snow with those less geographically fortunate. Approximately 295 tons of Canadian snow are being shipped this week to the Caribbean island of Puerto Rico to let children build snowmen at the capital city of San Juan's annual Christmas party. Local organizer Luis Guzman told reporters he was excited about bringing the "white gold" from northern Quebec to his island of four million people, where temperatures are currently around 90 degrees. According to Guzman, the party is being held from December 15 to January 7 in a refrigerated warehouse near San Juan port and more than 300,000 children are expected to show.

Courtesy of Bizarre News  
(www.bizarrenews.com)



*Al Wedel's Interpretive Tours were popular in the summer of 2000.*



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