Peter Gibson ~ 30 Years on Mount Washington

Marmot Released in Strathcona Provincial Park

2008 Mount Washington Special Events

B1

2007 Mount Washington Accommodation Guide

B2

Volume 18, #1 milehigh.ca

MILE HIGH NEWS ON MOUNT WASHINGTON



Marketing Mount Washington... A Bright Future Ahead!

Photo: Neil Havers

After years of careful planning, Mount Washington has its own Resort Association. The Association, doing business as Tourism Mount Washington, will promote, facilitate and encourage the development, maintenance and operation of Mount Washington Alpine Resort and association members.

The woman in charge of Tourism Mount Washington is Sarah Nicholson, an experienced marketing strategist based in the Comox Valley. Nicholson was running her own marketing consultancy business when the new job came up at Mount Washington.

Her first two months on the job were spent researching similar resort associations and liaising with other organizations that already exist at Mount Washington.

Although it seems like Tourism Mount

Washington is starting from the beginning, "we're following a tried and true model," she added. The purpose behind Tourism Mount Washington will be to co-ordinate the common interests of all property owners, businesses and stakeholders and to promote their "all-season" alpine resort, Nicholson said. "This alone is a key benefit to...stakeholders who operate on small budgets and who lack the time, resource and expertise to effectively market their products to their full potential."

Win Win Partnership for Vancouver Island Mountain Sport Society

The Vancouver Island Mountain Sport Society has signed an historic partnership with PacificSport that VIMSS Chair Rick Morson hopes will result in a Regional Sports Centre at Mount Washington.

"I think it's really important for securing the funding and sponsorship for building the Sports Centre," Morson said of partnering with PacificSport.

The partnership is the second phase of the Mountain Sports Centre development, Morson said. The first phase was completed earlier this year when portions of the Biathlon and Nordic trails were outfitted with lights. The most important objective now will be raising the funds necessary to build the centre, he said.

The Mountain Sports Centre will cost approximately \$1.5 million to complete, Morson said. *continued on page 10*





Published for your convenience by **RICK GIBSON** of Royal LePage in the Comox Valley • www.rickgibson.ca • rick@rickgibson.ca If you are looking for more information, wish to advertise, or to submit information for future issues please contact us at 250-334-3124.

News In Brief

Encompassing people, places and happenings at Mount Washington.

The Whiskey Jack Cafeteria received an \$80,000 conference-ready makeover.

New stunts, rails and fun boxes have been added to the Stomping Ground Terrain Park for the 2007-08 season.

Extensive new glades have been created on the front side of the mountain, adjacent to the Hawk 6 Pack Chair.

Mount Washington will host the **B.C.** Freestyle Skiing Championships, March 27-30, 2008.

Mount Washington Alpine Resort and **Invest Comox Valley** have teamed up

to bolster the Resort's labour force. Invest Comox Valley has helped the Resort develop a strategy to attract skilled workers to the region.

For example, says Invest Comox Valley's Marketing and Communications Manager Lara Greasley, ski instructors are available for immigration attraction status. This is just one phase of a larger labour force strategy being developed for



the Valley.

Olympic skier Allison Forsyth, who grew up skiing at Mount Washington, continues to struggle with her recovery after blowing out her knee in a practice run for the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy.

Forsyth participated in Alpine Canada's spring camp in Whistler in June, and it looked like all systems go. Then, five days before the start of the 2007-08 World Cup season, her knee flared up, forcing her to miss the 2008 season.

"It's been hard, a harsh thing to deal with," Forsyth said from her Calgary home. Forsyth, who has been told by surgeons they are concerned about her ability to function in everyday life with the current state of her knee. She will meet with a specialist in Ontario to discuss a procedure known as an osteotomy.

Forsyth is not just battling injury, she is also helping in the battle against breast cancer. She has launched her own website, www.pinkhelmet.ca, to raise awareness about inflammatory breast cancer, which her mother died of last April.

The plan to save the Vancouver Island Marmot from extinction received a \$133,000 boost from the Province in October. The money will go towards captive breeding programs spearheaded by the Marmot Recovery Foundation.

Our Sasquatch and Marmot are now **Olympic Mascots**. The Sasquatch will be known as "Quatchi", and the Marmot's name is "Mukmuk". We're pleased the world will now enjoy them as we do.

Elusive Sasquatch Caught on Film!

For the first time ever, Sasquatch has been captured on film by a faithful Marmot reader.

The shot, which the reader has willingly shared with The Marmot, is the clearest shot our editorial staff has ever seen.

The witness, who asked to remain nameless, said he "heard a weird barking sound" before the Sasquatch broke out of the trees. The witness had participated in a Sasquatch calling course held last year by the Search for Sasquatch Society, which is why he recognized the sound. Besides footprints, naturalists have never found any proof of Sasquatch at Mount Washington.

In other Sasquatch news, a documentarian in Alberta claims he has discovered a "Bigfoot domicile" or "sylvanic". In a CanWest News Service article, Todd Standing said he originally began studying Bigfoot to debunk the creature as a myth, but instead has become a believer.

Standing has not publicly revealed where he studied the Sasquatches, saying he is afraid other humans will hunt them down. Standing is collecting signatures for a petition he intends to introduce at the House of Commons in Ottawa. He wants the Federal Government to vote on specie protection for bigfoot.



Hair samples from the trees within the vicinity of this sighting have been sent away for DNA analysis. Unfortunately results were inconclusive.

THE INSIDE SCOOP

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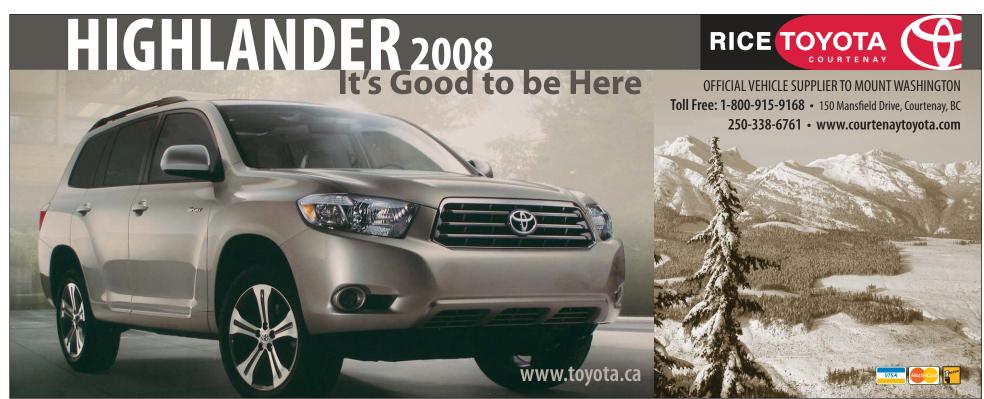
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Peter Gibson In Profile...

Peter Gibson grew up a hockey player in Cranbrook, BC.

When his family was considering a move to the Comox Valley in 1960, where his father, a doctor, was offered a job as the Director of the Upper Island Health Unit, the wiry centre discovered to his chagrin that there was no hockey program.

Then, a prophetic event happened: he and his mother were looking at a house on a pre-move trip. "I went into the bedroom and (the son) had a trophy case in his bedroom. He had the Wells Gray Trophy he won at Forbidden Plateau,"

Gibson related. "I got quite excited about skiing," he said. "I had an ambition to get that trophy. Four years later it was back up on that shelf. And it stayed on that shelf for three years."

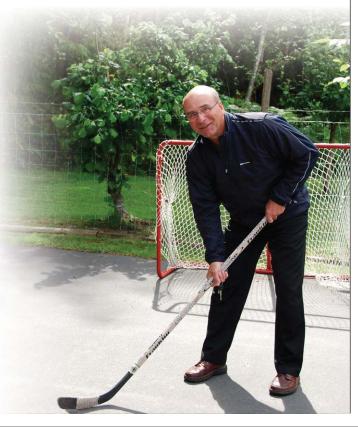
Decades later, as Gibson sits by a snow-brushed window talking about his early days of skiing and his downhill and slalom racing reign, his passion is undiminished.

Gibson is the President of Mount Washington Alpine Resort, having worked his way through a variety of jobs, from trail crew before the mountain opened in December 1979 to

Director of Skiing in 1979, Guest Services Manager in 1989, Resort Services Director in 1994, General Manager in 1999 and his present title since 2001. He also spent four off-seasons teaching in Tasmania. But he really began his career with the late Herb Bradley's Fanny Dunkers.

Gibson was president of the club when he was 15 and 16 years old, and ran meetings at the Courtenay Recreational Association. "It was a great leadership program," he says. "Being around Herb Bradley, he was a pretty big inspiration to all of us that he taught."

"As a boy he took to skiing like a duck



30 Years on Mount Washington

This 20th century photograph shows Peter Gibson with one of his many ski school classes. Allison Forsyth, who later went on to be an Olympic Champion, was part of this group.



to water," Bradley wrote about Gibson in 1990. "Peter is an extremely hard worker and dedicated to the sport of skiing. It is his life."

Last year he challenged his staff to see who would get out on the runs the most often. Officially, he finished second with 119. Unofficially, he says since he skied in other places for two more days, he won. It's the thrill factor that drives him to strap on the shape skis, even though he also must wear braces on both knees now.

"It's a combination of fresh air, the views, the thrill of going fast – also the technical part of it," he says. "It's like driving a race car on country roads. It's the same thing."

He keeps his teaching certificate current (Canadian Ski Coaches Federation Level 4 teaching and Level 3 skiing, and Professional Ski Instructors of America Level 3), even though the only "students" he has right now are his daughter Mallory, 13, and son Connor, 11.

Teaching methods have changed since he first took his certification course with Mike and Ann Hadney when he was 18. "I feel I'm still getting better," he says. "The learning never ends."

Gibson's passion for the sport extends beyond the boundaries of Mount Washington Resort. He chairs the B.C. and Yukon zone of the Canada West Ski Areas Association, overseeing 47 resorts. He would like to chair the entire organization, after a couple of terms in this position. Gibson also sits on three boards: Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery Foundation, Comox Valley Community Foundation and the Mount Washington Board of Directors.

Letters of recommendation from his peers speak to the respect that Gibson receives for his efforts. Jimmie Spencer, President and CEO of the Canada West Ski Areas Association, says "I have always found him extremely pleasant and cooperative to deal with." "Peter has impressed me in a number of ways," writes John Gow, who was President of Silver Star Mountain Resort in 1990.

"He demonstrates a very sound overall knowledge of our industry, as well as a clear understanding of specific resort operations. He has shown a real commitment to Mount Washington's growth and development as a first-class regional destination ski resort."

Not bad for a man born in Malaysia who never saw snow until he was five years old.





A New Vision for Development

Chris Le Fevre is better known for his urban developments in Victoria like The RailYards and the Leiser Building, or resorts such as Middle Beach Lodge, Weigh West Marine Resort or 1431 Beach Club at Cox Bay in Tofino on Vancouver Island's West Coast. He is bringing a new vision to Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

Now, he has left the beach for the alpine meadows and snow glades of Mount Washington Alpine Resort. Le Fevre is a joint venture partner with the Resort in the development of its lands. Beaufort Heights Alpine Homes is the first phase of Le Fevre's development vision. Crews have spent the past two summer seasons servicing an area along Nordic Road in preparation for building, including the removal and moving of tonnes of rockwork.

The next phase in Le Fevre's development plan is Pacific Ridge, comprising 12 ski-in, ski-out townhouses. An access culde-sac has already been built off the parking lot for the Alpine Lodge; the first

phase of this development is currently before the Comox-Strathcona Regional District.

Other phases include mountain estates, townhomes and mixed-use lots – perhaps even retail – in a village setting, above the Alpine Lodge.

Le Fevre cautions that Mount Washington is not a place to over-build, rather an area in which to progressively build out, while paying attention to the marketplace. "The master plan is one thing, careful, progressive and not precipitous growth is another," he said. "Retail development at Mount Washington I see as a progression from those retail businesses currently run by the mountain," Le Fevre said.

Retail needs to be "cautiously advanced," he said, any third-party retailers will need to piggyback on the existing energy at the Resort. "Perhaps the most significant progression in this regard will be not total retail but a free-standing commercial food and beverage establishment."

Le Fevre's development plans have been well received by the board of directors at Mount Washington. "The move to bring Chris on as a joint venture partner has been very positive," Mount Washington Alpine Resort President Peter Gibson

Le Fevre is under no illusion that Mount Washington must be the next Whistler. Rather, the Resort "should be recognized as a wonderful mountain environment primarily for families on Vancouver Island," he said.

In the next decade he envisions more alpine cabins – "just like Whistler in the early days" - some skiin, ski-out family townMountains Of Spectacular Specials Daily! **Dynamite Food & Yummy Bevys!**



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"A place to lunch, a place to reflect and truly enjoy the splendor of the very unique mountaintop," he said. "This summit building does not need to be grand, but it should be there as an iconic place for people to meet at any time of the year." A skier himself, "I don't think I could be excited about working on the mountain if I didn't," he says, Le Fevre recognizes that Mount Washington has a solid future as a recreational habitat.

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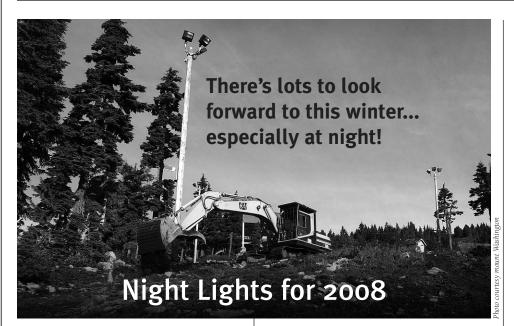
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The unusually cold summer that Mount Washington Alpine Resort experienced this year could spell success for the winter. "The last time we had a summer this cold was 2001. It was a good, cold winter," says Karen Bonell, Resort Director of Marketing.

The Resort saw its first dusting of snow on Sept. 29, and it snowed four more times in October, leaving everyone with a positive feeling for the 2007-2008 season.

The big deal for Mount Washington this year will be its night life. New lighting has been installed at the Stomping Ground Terrain Park and Coaster (off the Whiskey Jack Chair). The new lights mean the Resort now has a complete cross-section of lit areas: the original Green Zone for beginners, the Coaster for intermediate skiers and the Stomping Ground Terrain Park for experts. Night skiing will be open Thursday to Saturday from 4:30-9 p.m. Experience the night life every night during Christmas Breaks and both weeks of the March Spring Break. The Resort is also selling a night

season pass for \$179.

Resort President Peter Gibson is revved for night skiing, too. He intends to make the most of the after-hours opportunity by skiing with his kids, Connor, 11, and Mallory, 13. Night skiing will also allow staff members to get out on the slopes after work. "You get caught up in the job and you don't get out as much," he said. "The night skiing...will get the staff out after shifts."

But staff be warned: if you get a chance, so does Gibson. And he's out to break his record of times skied in a season. "I challenged all my staff last year that I would be the most at the end of the season," Gibson said.

Along with night skiing comes other forms of night life, such as night rentals and Snow School, and night noshing at Marmots, Fat Teddy's and Fireweeds (which had a facelift in the summer, especially at the Starbucks counter). "You have a really good, full range of products that will be used that much more," Bonell said.

Summer 2007 In Review...

Summer was a time of highs and lows in 2007.

"Summertime was good. It certainly wasn't banner because of the weather," said Karen Bonell, Resort Director of Marketing. "We barely got the outdoor patio set up because of the weather...it just wasn't pleasant enough." Chairlift rides were down last summer because of the inclement weather, she said. "People want nice weather when they take that activity. With our cool, rainy, downright cold summer we saw quite a downturn in people taking (the chairlift)."

Mountain bikers, however, didn't seem to care about the weather: they came to the Resort in droves, Bonell said. Mountain bike business was up more than 25 per cent, and constant weather lows caused rain and cloud on a lot of weekends.

The fact that the Resort hosted several prestigious mountain bike events didn't hurt, either. For the first time ever, Mount Washington hosted a national Canada Cup Race. More than 500 riders participated – these are the competitors who are selected to go to the worlds.

The second annual Bearclaw Invitational was bigger and better than the previous year. Four thousand spectators came out for the only nice weekend in August, and some important big magazine media exposure showed up, too. "That event gives us all sorts of international media we could never get on our own," she said.



For the first time in years there was no horseback riding at Mount Washington, as the contractor backed out at the last minute. However, "everything else worked out," she said.

continued on page 9



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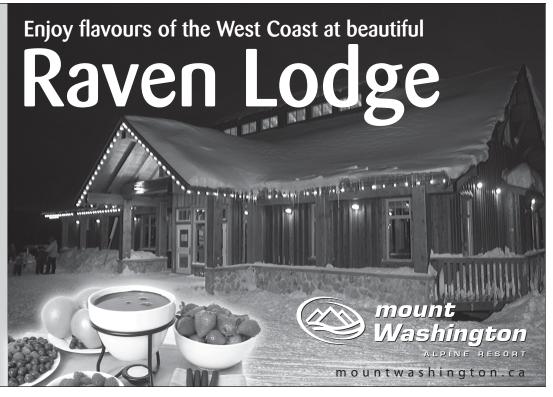
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The Gallery Shop at the COMOX VALLEY ART GALLERY is celebrating their 33rd annual Christmas Craft Fair from November 17 to December 29. Come in and browse through a wide variety of arts and crafts all year round.

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comedy, music and kids shows. December brings out holiday music like Christmas with Randy "Elvis" Friskie on Dec. 8, Cantiamo Chamber Ensemble performing Repeat the Sounding Joy on Dec. 9, the Nutcracker Dec. 14-15 and Snow White at the Sid, presented by Courtenay Little Theatre, Dec. 26-Jan. 5. ABBAMania rings in the New Year Jan. 15 with limited seating. Put on your safety goggles and move back four rows on Jan. 18 when Mad Chad Taylor - the Evil Knievel of comedy - brings his juggling chainsaw act to town. Or take in the multimedia portrait of one of B.C.'s most famous artists in Mascall Dance - Traces of Emily Carr on Jan. 31. In February, popular talk show host Dini Petty hits the Sid stage (Feb. 8) with a "broad" view of her life. March is all about music, as Angele Dubeau & La Pieta, Pavlo and Sarah Hagen (with Comox Valley Youth Music Centre) all perform. The Celtic Tenors (April 27) and Atlantic Ballet - Phantom of the Opera (April

29), an original interpretation inspired by Gaston Leroux's 1910 novel, are featured in April. For more information on these and other performances, go online to

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Hollywood has its Walk of Fame, Toronto lays claim to Canada's Walk of Fame, and now the Comox Valley has its Walk of Achievement on 5th Street in Courtenay.

"It's really taken off," says Dave Durrant of the Walk of Achievement committee. "We've had all kinds of interesting nominations and so many terrific people that we had no idea were from the Valley." The Walk of Achievement was created to recognize outstanding achievement in individuals from the Comox Valley who have excelled in their field. "It's to inspire Comox Valley youth to believe in themselves and to explore the limitless possibilities the world has to offer," Durrant said.

The first inductee was broadcasting legend Red Robinson, who was born in Comox and spent the first six years of his life in Fanny Bay before going on to interview such historic music stars as Elvis Presley and the Beatles. Robinson's plaque was unveiled in December 2006.

The second candidate for the Walk of Achievement is Dr. Fred Leung, PhD, FCA, CD, who was inducted in November. Leung is a nationally-recognized clinical biochemist and Professor Emeritus at the University of Western Ontario. "We think he absolutely fits the purpose of the walk, to a T," Durrant said.

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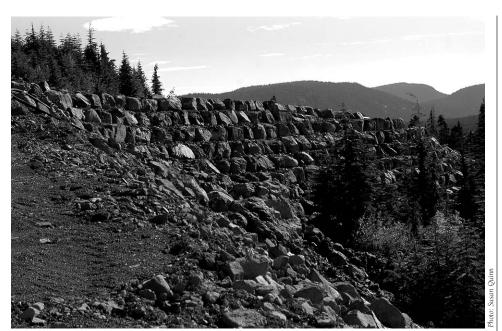
Feeling romantic? Visit **THE ROMANCE SHOP** on Cliffe Avenue, near 5th St. This upscale Adult Boutique is where lovers and romantics of all ages shop. Celebrating 10 years of











Summer In Review

continued from page 5

Raven Lodge was booked every weekend for weddings, sometimes for two weddings in a weekend, and is already booked heavily for the 2008 season.

In fact, the Wine Festival had to be moved out of Raven Lodge this year to make way for more wedding dates. Both the Wine and Beer Festivals will be booked on Friday nights next year to make sure they can happen at Raven. "It's a huge business to be in there because it fills up June, July, September and October," Bonell said.

Outside the doors of Raven Lodge, the new trailhead into Paradise Meadows was a busy place. "There was a really good buzz over the new trail," said Andrea Blaseckie, who managed the information hut for the summer. Blaseckie is an interpreter and director with the Strathcona Wilderness Institute. "The numbers were up significantly from last year," she said. "It was over 1,000 more visitors to the hut."

One of the features at Beaufort Heights is a rock wall that has been constructed using material from elsewhere on the building site.

Blaseckie said a couple of visitors in electric wheelchairs tried the trail and "they loved it." Other visitors who walked with canes or who were less mobile said how happy they were that they could access the sub-alpine.

The new trailhead is now graced with a carved stone sign. Other new features last summer included a kiosk with map of the Park and a small amphitheatre for education groups or for visitors to simply sit and enjoy the view.

Back at the Alpine Lodge, \$800,000 worth of repair and maintenance was done through the summer and into the fall. "Keeping up with all the equipment and facilities is a huge expense," Bonell said. "We do that from the day we close to the day we open. It's on going. We have a 30-year-old plant here so we're constantly keeping up."



Washington...WILDWOOD luxury three bedroom town homes overlooking Strathcona Park. Impressive views with a southern exposure!! The workmanship is incredible and the "designer feel" is new for Mount Washington. The vaulted ceiling, hardwood floors and drive in and out access make these a buy you won't want to pass up. Great value at \$399,900.

The Views of Forbidden Plateau" is a community inspired by nature!! Nestled in the foothills of Forbidden Plateau Mountain you'll find the serenity of a country retreat, with the advantage of close proximity to the City of Courtenay & the recreational assets of Mt. Washington and Forbidden Plateau. Outstanding views combined with peaceful surroundings, these new 5 acre parcels are truly impressive & a place you will want to call home-priced from \$395,000.

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Some new features at the entrance to Paradise Meadows include signage and maps of the Meadows and Strathcona Park, as well as a small amphitheatre where visitors can sit and enjoy the view or take part in an educational talk by interpreters from the Strathcona Wilderness Institute.





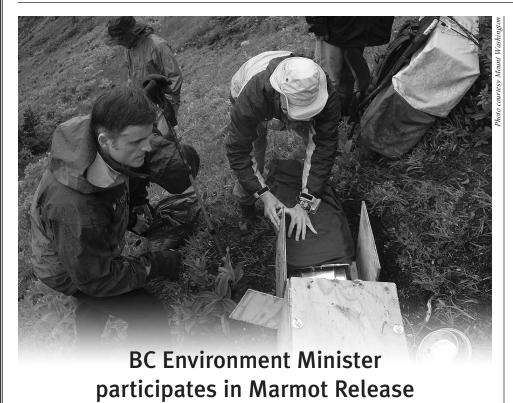
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Vancouver Island marmots were reintroduced to the sub-alpine bowls of Strathcona Provincial Park where they have not been recorded in twenty years.

Preparations for the release of two groups of marmots were made at the Tony Barrett Mount Washington Marmot Recovery Centre on Mount Washington. The Marmot Recovery Foundation (MRF), in partnership with the B.C. Ministry of Environment and BC Hydro, hopes to re-establish a self-sustaining colony of Vancouver Island marmots in the historic park.

Environment Minister Barry Penner participated in the historic release although weather conditions made it touch and go for a while. "This is an important part of the effort to restore Vancouver Island marmots to their rightful habitat," said Penner. "I commend everyone involved in the project and I look forward to the day when one of Canada's most endangered mammals is back up to a sustainable population in the wild."

Strathcona Provincial Park is the largest area of protected marmot habitat on Vancouver Island and has been identified as a key area for the recovery of the species. Scientists are hopeful that survival in the park will be better there than in the southern ranges where predation continues to challenge survival of the wild population.

"It remains unclear why the Vancouver Island marmot disappeared from this area decades ago," said MRF Executive Director Viki Jackson. "The habitat remains largely untouched and there are plenty of sub-alpine bowls with suitable vegetation for the marmots to eat. Released animals will be closely monitored to help us understand what may have gone wrong in the past."

The ultimate goal of the recovery program is to have 400-600 animals surviving in three populations on Vancouver Island. The captive breeding program continues to do well with 60 pups born at our partner facilities at the Calgary and Toronto zoos, Mountain View Conservation & Breeding Centre and the Mount Washington Marmot Recovery Centre in 2007 but the numbers in the wild remain a challenge with an estimated 85-95 animals.

"The Vancouver Island marmot remains one of the rarest animals in the world but it's encouraging when you

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Vancouver Island Mountain Sport Society

continued from page 1

The VIMSS has applied for \$700,000 in matching grants from the North Island Coastal Economic Trust. Their application has already passed phase one and Morson hopes to hear by the end of the year whether they were successful in the next phase.

PacificSport exists to develop elite athletes in their quest for excellence in eight member sports. The Nanaimo-based centre is connected to a network of eight sports centres across B.C. The Vancouver Island Mountain Sports Centre would be the ninth. "We think development of facilities like the VIMSS is critical," said Gord Sleivert, Vice-president of Sport Performance at Pacific Sport.

"There's a whole number of levels on which we think this is beneficial for us," Sleivert said. "One of the reasons we entered into the partnership is to make sure we can help promote the benefits of what they want to achieve...and in doing

so make sure there is another facility on Vancouver Island."

PacificSport has 1,000 athletes registered with it services, and many of the high-calibre athletes that train at Mount Washington are already members.

"Mount Washington is a world-class destination for biathlon and other cross-country skiing events," Sleivert said. "Having a facility on the mountain that provides ancillary training (such as an exercise room) is only going to be beneficial having national teams coming and training in the region. "That's another reason we wanted to partner and make this happen."

Sleivert said it is conceivable that the VIMSS could facilitate more than just winter sports. PacificSport already has a national mountain bike training centre in Victoria, but could see hosting mountain bike training camps at Mount Washington in the summer.

remember that the entire wild population was less than 30 animals in 2003", Jackson said. "Since that time we've increased the wild population and built up a robust captive population of around 160 marmots in addition to the 85-90 in the wild. It's still very few animals when you consider other endangered species, like China's Giant panda, number in the thousands".

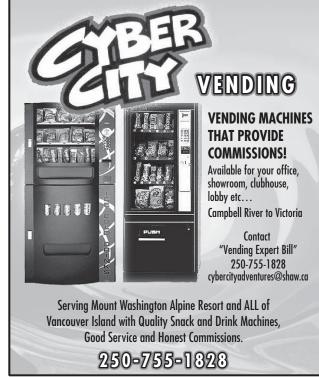
"With only 3 litters born in the wild last year – and released animals participating in 2 of those litters it's easy to see the survival and success of the wild population depends on the introduction of these new animals". Of the three litters born in the wild in 2007 one litter was to wild parents, one litter was to a wild male and

captive-born female and one litter was to captive-born parents.

The Marmot Recovery Program is a unique partnership between the BC Government, landowners, Island Timberlands, TimberWest and Mount Washington Alpine Resort, the Toronto and Calgary Zoos, Mountain View Conservation & Breeding Centre, the Tony Barrett Mount Washington Marmot Recovery Centre and over 10,000 members of the public who have contributed to the Marmot Recovery Foundation, a charitable organization.

For more information or to make a donation to help save Canada's endangered Vancouver Island Marmot visit www.marmots.org







continued from page 1

"The talking started years ago that really you need somebody on the mountain that brings in all of the stakeholders - there's lots of people that have a stake in Mount Washington and its operations," Resort Director of Marketing Karen Bonell said. What a tourism destination marketing organization does is bring in everybody's opinion on what direction the Resort should go and how it should go about it, Bonell said. Most resorts have a tourism association, she said, using Sun Peaks as an example.

Although Bonell has sat on the Comox Valley Tourism board and seen what that destination marketing organization has done, she said it wasn't appropriate for Mount Washington. "That's really specific to the Comox Valley. We really are between the Comox Valley and Campbell River. We're not tied to one or the other. We see it in many, many ways where we're on our own."

Membership will be voluntary for the majority of homeowners already on the mountain. For newer developments, like Deer and Bear Lodge and Beaufort Heights, membership is mandatory. Fees will be determined on a sliding scale, based on homeowners and sub-lease holders. There are also other categories of membership set up for others. Fees will not be split per unit or number of buildings, but per home or sub-lease. "We worked on fees very carefully to make sure they were fair while we build up the Association and get it off the ground," Nicholson said. The Association's budget

will come from membership fees. She estimates the startup budget will be around \$140,000.

In return, stakeholders will become part of a collaborated marketing strategy designed to encourage multi-night, midweek stays and destination stays, which Nicholson is developing. Stakeholders will also gain a forum where they can communicate their thoughts on the direction Resort development is taking, and they will have a voice and a vote on who they want to represent their interests in Mount Washington the Association. Right now, the Board has been appointed. In the future, elections will take place.

Both Nicholson and Bonell said the stakeholders have reacted positively to the Resort Association. "There's a lot of support," Nicholson said. "It's something that's been necessary for a long time. A lot of people have been looking for it."

"The whole idea here is it can't be just Mount Washington Resort as we grow," Bonell said. "It has to be a bigger entity. We have no stake in accommodation up here (for example). As we grow we can expect a lot more commercial businesses up here. They will be part of the Resort Association. "This is young; it will take awhile," Bonell said. "It's not something that is going to happen overnight."

Nocturnal Nordics?

The 2007-08 ski season will be a quiet one for the Strathcona Nordics compared to last year, when the club played a big role in hosting the **International Paralympic Committee** World Cup.

"This is a much quieter year for us on the mountain competition-wise," Len Apedaile said. "We aren't hosting any major competitions." The club will oversee some B.C. Winter Games trials at the end of December, the usual Coast Cup race in early March and the VI Loppet, the last on the Provincial and National calendars, at the end of March. Also in March, some of the Club's officials will go to the Callaghan Valley near Whistler and work at the Canadian Nationals.

The big news for the Nordics is the installation of lighting in the Stadium and Biathlon areas as well as some of the new racing trails - and the sprint loop - created for the IPC World Cup. Down the road, if there is enough interest, the Nordics may look at running a full night program. "It's going to be great for us," coach Dave Battison said. "In the past we've had to ski with our headlamps on. It's hard to do tech because you can't see them. The biggest thing is we're just going to be able to see each other."

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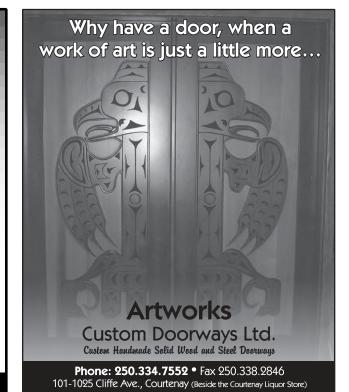
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Snow clearing business for sale on Mount Washington. Full service business that has contracts on many of the residential large and small buildings. Established with clientele and all equipment. Seller will train new owner. Information packages available only to serious qualified buyers. \$99,900



Top Floor View!

Top floor 2 bedroom suite with sunset views and views of the slopes! Located in the village with easy ski out access and close to parking. Suite is clean, tidy and shows well. Building is well maintained with newer siding. Nice open floor plan and very quiet top floor corner suite. \$244,500



Watch the sun set!

Third floor one bedroom sunny suite in Bear Lodge. Watch the sun set over the Beaufort Mountains in Strathcona Park. Spacious plan with open living area and entertainment style kitchen. Bear Lodge offers rain screen technology and a slopeside location that is hard to beat. \$252,900



A Bright Buy!

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

\$267,500

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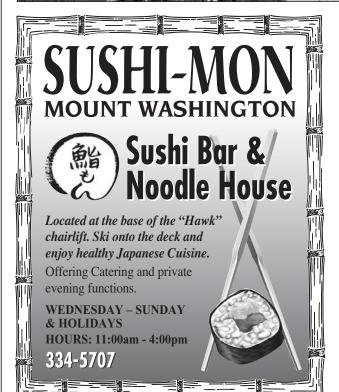
Closest to Hawk Chair!

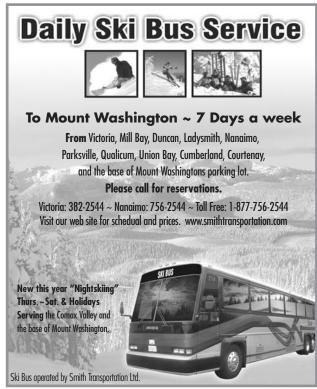
Large building site located on the Benchlands overlooking Strathcona Park, (8,460 sq ft). Easy access to skiing and Strathcona Park. There are few building areas left on the mountain and this one is the closest to Hawk Chair.

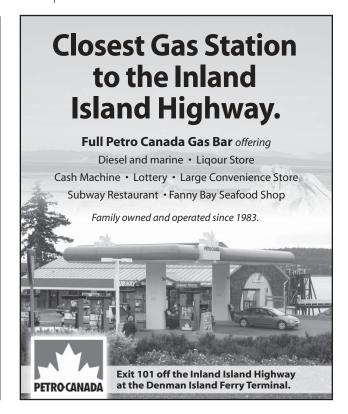
\$249,900

Foundation & Plans Included!

One of the few remaining chalet lots in the Alpine Village of Mount Washington. Price includes plan for an impressive chalet. The foundation has been completed. Spectacular location with easy access to parking and ski in and out location. \$389,900









Features Include:

- One Bedroom Apartments located on 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 Provincial Park

303 Top floor, facing the slopes \$172,500 304 Top floor, facing Strath. Park \$177,500 **307** Top floor, facing the slopes \$177,500



Lots for Resale!

Building sites available at Beaufort Heights. You will find these lots in the Phase 1 development. ACT FAST on these!

(No GST) \$129,900

Lot #3

\$124,900
\$124,900
(No GST) \$114,900
\$115,000



Great Location!

South facing townhome located in the Alpine Village with easy access to slopes and parking. Pride of ownership is evident in this 3 bedroom mountain home. 2 bathrooms, sauna, plenty of storage and built-in vacuum. And!!! It is only 12 years old! This is a great family suite and ready for your and your family to \$279,900 enjoy



Features Include:

- Drive to Access with Under Building Parking
- Elevator Access
- Fully Furnished
- Propane Fireplace
- Sauna & Hot Tub
- 200 feet from the loading area of the Green Chair
- Easy access to Nordic trails
- Ski Storage areas

401 Top Floor 3 Bedroom Lockoff \$299,900



Many Upgrades!

3 bedroom townhome location in the Alpine Village of Mt Washington. Many upgrades have been done and the suite is in immaculate condition. Lower deck has hot tub. Building is very well maintained and easy access to parking and skiing. \$274,900



Creekside House

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

02	Ground Floor, 3 bedroom	\$324,900
801	Top Floor, 3 bedroom	
	facing the ski slopes	\$449,900

303 Top Floor, 2 bedroom \$349,900 facing the ski slopes



Features Include:

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

	2 bedroom, Strath. Park views	
106	2 bedroom, SOLD! i runs	\$262,50

118 2 bedroom and spa room, view of of ski runs and Strathcona Park \$299,900 \$274,900

208 3 bedroom, view of ski runs **209** 3 bedroom, Strath. Park views \$274,900

216 3 bedroom, Strath. Park views \$279,900

303 Top floor, 3 bedroom views of Strathcona Park \$299,900



Living Area Redone!

The living area is spectacular! Completely redone living area with custom cabinets and flooring. Downstairs 3 bedrooms and sauna. 2 bathrooms, 2 balconies and quiet location, close to skiing and parking.



Spacious Townhome Living!

Over 1900 square feet of townhome living! Easy access to both slopes and parking and loads of natural light in this spacious mountain home. 4 plus bedrooms and incredible living area with vaulted ceilings. Plenty of storage too! Building envelope has been



Features Include:

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

111 3 Bedroom facing Strath. Park \$274,900 **209** 4 Bedroom facing Strath. Park \$349,900

213 2 Bedroon SOLD! ath. Park \$249,900 **405** 3 Bedroom facing slopes \$249,900

506 3 Bedroom Penthouse facing

\$264,900 Strath. Park and ski runs



Family Wanted!

Affordability is the key with this inexpensive chalet located in the Alpine Village of Mount Washington. Very unique design with lots of vaulted ceilings and open cozy plan. Three small bedrooms and very solidly built. The living area is designed to have the Mount Washington rock chimney offer warmth. Hot tub room, loads of storage and more!

\$374.900



A-Frame Style Chalet!

Charming chalet in the heart of the Alpine Village, close to parking and easy access to slopes. Open concept layout makes for warm and cozy quarters with woodstove, jetted tub, covered deck and newer basement. This is a great deal on a chalet at a condo price! \$425,000



Features Include:

- Slopeside Location
- Fully Furnished
- Hot Tub
- Front Desk Service
- Caretaker
- 15 Year Envelope Warranty
- Underground Parking

108 2 Bedroom facing slopes \$247,500

202 2 Becker SOLD! up Stratt SOLD! up

207 2 Bedroom facing slopes \$279,900

409 Top floor,

2 Bedroom facing slopes

\$289,900

\$249,900



Awesome Location...

with views of the slopes. Easy access to skiing and parking. Perched on the side of a large meadow meaning very quiet location. Set up by skiers for skiers. Open living area and three good sized bedrooms. two bathrooms and plenty of storage. \$474,900



Perched on a Ridge

3 bedroom executive townhome with stunning spectacular views of Strathcona Park. The Master suite encompasses the entire top floor and the Living room is vaulted almost up the roof of the entire building. Common area includes, hot tub on it's own private deck and sauna. What more to say than "WOW!" \$499,900





Just Move In!

Perched on a ridge looking through the trees into Strathcona Park is this 4-5 bedroom mountain home. Lovingly maintained by its original owners, this home has been designed with functionality and beauty. Spectacular open living area with loads of light. Plenty of storage and extremely well maintained. \$499,900



Finish Your Own Log Home!

All the hard work has been done! Log home for sale in spectacular location on Mount Washington adjacent to Strathcona Park. Home will be sold at the lock-up stage. Pick your finishing styles and move in for next season. Easy access to slopes in winter and \$499,900 Strathcona Park.



Ocean View!

You can see the ocean from this chalet located in the Alpine Village of Mount Washington. On 3 levels, the lower level is a self contained suite whilst the upper 2 floors have spacious rooms and an open plan. Sauna on the main floor with huge living area. Close to parking and loads of \$525,000 morning sun!



Remarkable Location!

You will discover the Frozen Frog. Separated into two suites, this single family home has all the space you will need. Rent out part or all. Beautiful southwest views out towards Strathcona Park. Easy access to skiing and parking. Three bedrooms up and twodown. Two woodburning fireplaces, updated kitchen and more!

\$525,000

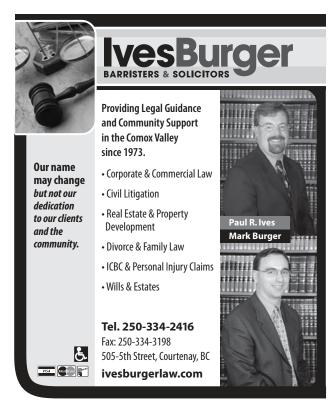
Near New Village Core!

A SPECTACULAR MOUNTAIN home with truly ski in and ski out access, a few minutes stroll from the Alpine Lodge. This is absolutely the closet chalet to the proposed village core. Many options for this property from family living to incredible rental opportunities. Very well cared for with cathedral ceilings and low maintenance. This is a unique property in a second to none location.





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

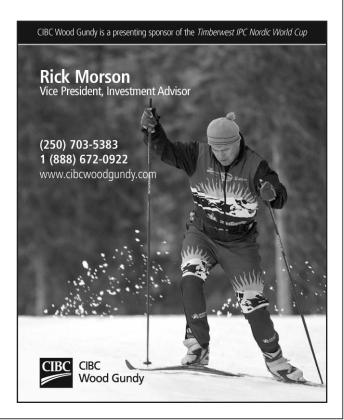




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In a word... Stunning!

Located on the upper side of Fosters Place on Mount Washington is this STUNNING mountain chalet. 4+ bedrooms and a HUGE living area! This mountain home boasts a beautifully appointed interior finished to the highest of standards. Ski in and out access and close to Strathcona Park for nordic skiing in winter and summer hiking. Golf courses, beaches, interna-\$699,900 tional airport all just30 minutes away.



Builder's Own Home!

Located in Nordic Heights adjacent to Strathcona Park! Interior finished with loads of wood and windows to take advantage of light and to create a cozy warm feel. Easy access to ski slopes just out the back. Where else can you purchase a gorgeous home in an alpine setting! Three large bedrooms, open living area, large sauna, loads of storage & inviting architecture. Enjoy "The Strathcona Mountain House".



2 Separate Owner Suites!

A very unique property in the Alpine Village. Only 14 years old, this spectacular property is perched to take in the sunset views of Strathcona Park, yet virtually ski in and out and close to parking. 14 foot ceilings, open plans, 2 separate owner suites plus self-contained suite in the basement. Sauna, loads of storage and more. \$850,000



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

















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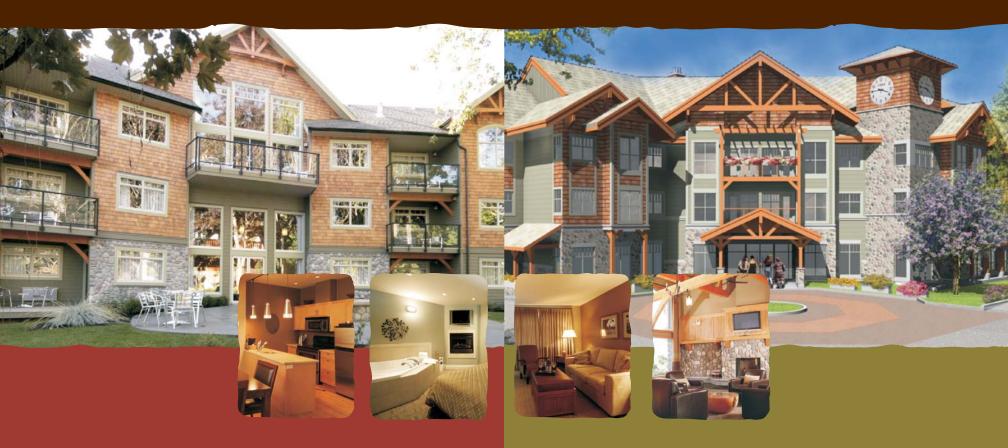
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2007/08 SPECIAL EVENTS

Dec 13 Night Skiing Begins (conditions permitting) Check out the newly lit intermediate terrain and the Stomping Ground terrain park off Whiskey Jack chair.

Dec 14 Ride Coaster for the Cure

This is a First Annual Event put on by the Mount Washington Volunteer Ski Patrol. Gather donations to ride our newly lit run, Coaster, all day and night in support of the BC Cancer Foundation.

Dec 15 Annual Rock the Food Bank Benefit

Join us for this annual "Rock-stravaganza" supporting area food banks, just in time for Christmas. Admission is by donation of non-perishable food or toys.

Dec 23 Carols by Candlelight

An evening of song and good cheer! Follow the candlelit trail from the Alpine Lodge to the Ozone.

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service

A multi-denominational service celebrating Christ's birthday.

Decr 26 Coca Cola Torchlight Parade & Fireworks Display

Come on out with the whole family to take in this FREE light show spectacular! It starts with a breathtaking torchlight parade, followed by an incredible fireworks show!



Dec 31 New Years Eve Celebrations

Raven Fondue Dinner & Dance

Enjoy a three course gourmet fondue, followed by a late night snack, party favors, and a midnight champagne toast. Dance and request your favourite hits following dinner with live DJ and special effects.

Fat Teddy's Rocks! Live classic and Top 40

rock by "Acid Wish" featuring members of Canadian pop/rock icons The Odds. Price includes late night snack at 9:00pm, champagne toast at midnight, party favors and live band plus automated DJ.

Magical Family Countdown

Held in the Whiskey Jack Banquet Room, this party is ideal for families and especially for kids 12 & under. The doors open at 6:00 with a buffet dinner at 6:30 including kids activities & play area until the magic begins.

New Year's Dinner at Fireweed's Family Restaurant Reservations recommended at 334-5706. A casual atmosphere with dinner service from 5 to 10 pm, featuring a special New Years Eve Roast Beef Dinner Buffet.

Ozone Bonfire Special Lift accessed tube rides at 5 PM including hot chocolate, a bonfire and a 9:00 countdown.

Jan 7 - 11 Kokanee Winter Festival

Celebrate Kokanee Winter Festival with half-price midweek full-day lift tickets and Nordic trail passes.

Jan 11 Kokanee Day for Dudes #1 Alright Fellas, this one's just for you. One Friday a month, get your lift pass, an afternoon All-Mountain Lesson, and a great apres for only \$59 and only \$29 for Season Passholders. Apres includes entertainment, prizes, and of course, Kokanee beer!

Additional dates: Feb. 2, March 14 & April 4

Jan 12 - 13 Avy Awareness Weekend

Silent auction to raise funds for the Canadian Avalanche Association.

Jan 14 - 18

Rossignol National Ski/Board Week

Free beginner ski or snowboard lessons!

Jan 18 Fanta Fridays! Come session your favourite hit in the terrain park under the NEW lights!! Get in on the action with prize giveaways by the Fanta Riders, rail jams with coaching, local DJ entertainment and shred time under the stars!

Additional dates: Feb 15 & Mar 7

Jan 19 The Yeti Adventure Snowshoe Race

If this Nordic Snowshoe Race doesn't take your breath away, the scenery will! For more info stomp over to www.theyeti.ca.

Jan 26 The Brick Rail Jam

Skiers and boarders... Come on out and show off your jibbing skills on a series of rails and boxes, and win great prizes while you're at it! Round 1 for the "King of the Hill" Series!

Jan 26 Aussie Day From the Land Down Under? FREE Alpine lift passes and Nordic trail passes for all Aussies.

Apres festivities in Fat Teddy's.

January 28

Kokanee Hospitality Cup If you work in the Hospitality Industry, this is a deal you won't want to pass up!

Events continued on B7









Strathcona Nordics Youth Show Promise

The Strathcona Nordics are keeping their eye on a pair of prospects as Olympic fever slowly draws to a pitch.

"We've got a couple of kids on our team right now who are quite good," Nordics' Head Coach Dave Battison said. "They're quite young."

Andrea Lee and Stephen Morson are both working with Provincial Cross-Country ski teams right now – Lee with the B.C. Provincial Team and Morson with the B.C. Development Team. Both athletes started in the Jack Rabbits Program when they were younger; Battison has been coaching them for the past four years.

Morson was the Western Canadian Sprint Champion last year. Lee competed in the Canada Winter Games and medaled in the National Championships.

They are just two of 11 athletes on the Junior Team and quite a few Masters Racers who are quite good within the Province: Masters like Rob Trainor, Rick

Members of the Strathcona Nordics gather for a team phot. prior to a practice in Paradise Meadows at Mount Washington last winter.

Morson and Brian Stamp, who have placed in the top three in their Divisions.

Of the club's high-performance racers, Sarah Peters is in Victoria going to Med School and concentrating on dryland training: she ran the Victoria Marathon in the fall, finishing Third in her category.

Kit Richmond, who has already competed in World Cup Events, is in the United States on a full scholarship in Colorado. In 2006 he won the NCAA Distance Championship in cross-country skiing. He also represented Canada in two World Cups at Silver Star and Canmore in 2005.

As the older racers grow up and move away, the Nordics have only to look to their development racers to see the future: the eight to 11-year-olds. There are 15 of them right now, says Battison. "We're teaching them to race."

Olympics Update

As the 2010 Winter Olympic Games creep closer, the Comox Valley's Spirit of B.C. Community Committee continues to attract international teams to Mount Washington Alpine Resort's world-class facilities. The Committee's mandate is to attract such teams to train in the Region.

The Swedish National Team has indicated they want to use Mount Washington's Nordic Facilities in 2010, said Len Apedaile of the Strathcona Nordics. Apedaile was the Project Manager in the bid to bring the International Paralympic Committee's World Cup Race to the Resort last winter. He is also a member of the Spirit Committee.

The Swedes were at Mount Washington last fall to scope out the terrain. "They hoped to come with the team this summer but they changed coaches so held off," Apedaile said. "The new coaches are coming in January to see how it looks in the wintertime."

The Norwegian Biathlon Team visited in late October, he added. They were already committed to training at Silver Star this year.

"With our exposure to the teams during the IPC Event, on the IPC side there's good potential during 2010 when the Olympics are going on that we could see a number of Paralympic teams coming here and acclimatizing," Apedaile said.

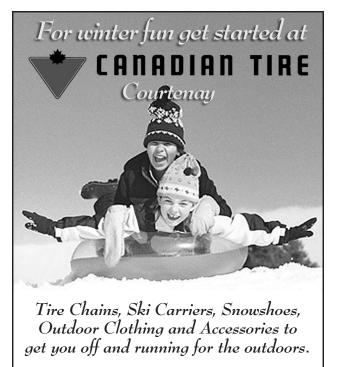
The Stadium and Biathlon areas near Raven Lodge have just been installed with lighting, as well as two kilometres of trails (and the sprint loop). The lights were installed as part of the Vancouver Island Mountain Sports Society's legacy from the World Cup. "Having the lights up there is going to make a big difference," Apedaile said. "It's interesting because the general layout and finishing turn into our stadium, there's a lot of similarities to the course in Callaghan Valley"

In addition to attracting international teams to Raven Lodge, Community Committee Chair Susan Kelsey is also pursuing the 2010 Torch Relay to ensure the Comox Valley is one of the stops on the tour. The Olympic Torch last came through the Valley in 1988, on its way to the Winter Olympic Games in Calgary.









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The 2010 Winter Olympic Games aren't just a dream for the Comox Valley Spirit of B.C. Community Committee. There are racers with the Mount Washington Ski Club whose dreams are tinted gold, silver and bronze, too.

Allison Forsyth is perhaps the Club's most famous Olympic racer, but there are other names that could one day be household names, says head coach John Trimmer. "Mathieu Leduc is probably one of our best. He skis all events," said Trimmer.

Leduc is training with the Provincial Ski Team, which is a steppingstone for the National Team. "We're hoping he's not coming back with us this season, that he stays with the Provincial Team," Trimmer said. Leduc went to Chile in the summer and also trained at Farnham Glacier near Invermere, where all training runs are accessed by snow cat (it's a favourite location for the National Team). "Mathieu's a great all-around racer and the potential for the future is really good with him." Leduc skis the slalom, giant slalom, super G, super giant slalom and downhill events.

Mathieu Leduc racing at Panorama Ridge last winter. Leduc, a member of the Mount Washington Ski Club, has been training with the national ski team.

While Leduc was concentrating on Canada's National Team, Trimmer was thinking globally earlier in the fall. He took a team of eight athletes to Salzburg, Austria for some training and culture. Burke Grisold, Todd Adams, Sam Wright, Kelsey Francisty, Chelsea Adam, Amanda Bertig, Alexandra Hastings and Zara Mackey all spent two weeks training at Kitzstein Horn Glacier.

"It's an awesome experience; it's a mix of culture and skiing," Trimmer said. This was the second annual trip to Austria for the Mount Washington Ski Club. The team members stayed at the Austrian Ski Academy at 2,600 metres, mingling with some of the best young racers from around the world.

"They're all quite good and they're all quite keen," Trimmer said of the skiers. "That's what it takes at a younger age is a desire to improve and take those events in. We hope to see (the athletes) in many national events this year."

The ski club will host a Coast National Slalom and Giant Slalom event Jan. 12-13, 2008. The zone event will see clubs from Whistler, Seymour, Cypress and Grouse come to Mount Washington.

Trimmer said his club has some athletes at the K2 and J1 levels that could qualify for national events this year. There are 25 currently competing in the elite levels, and 50-75 skiers in the Nancy Greene program. "It's not just about the competitive levels," he said. "All our levels take time to teach the skills – it's a sport (athletes) can enjoy for a lifetime."

For more information on any of these programs, please call Program Director John Trimmer at 250-897-6058 or go online to www.mountwashington.bcalpine.com.

Coach John Trimmer accompanied eight members of the Mount Washington Ski Club to the Austrian Ski Academy at Kitzstein Horn Glacier, near Salzburg alast summer.





Learn to fly with Vancouver Island Riders

The VI Riders started in the winter of 2006 and is looking forward to another year of fabulous riding.

The Club is looking for new members. The VI Riders Club provides snowboarding instruction with certified coaches for beginners, intermediate and expert youth at Mount Washington Alpine Resort. The VI Riders accepts youth members age 12 and up. Training sessions take place in a safe, fun, low-pressure environment. Members may also have the chance to compete in several events throughout the season.

The VI Riders hosted an open house in October, inviting King of the Hill Cavin

Donald to meet potential new members. Donald, from Campbell River, dominated the mountain in 2006/07. For his efforts he earned a season pass for the 2007/08 winter season

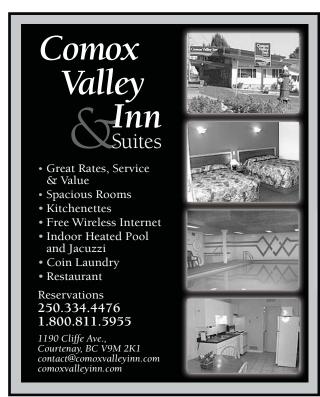
For more information, go online to viriders.org.

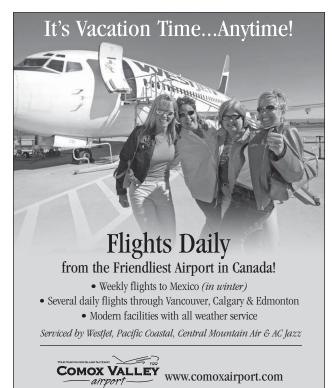




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· The above information is current as of November 20, 2007

Tom Howe

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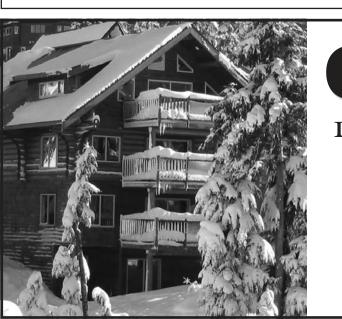
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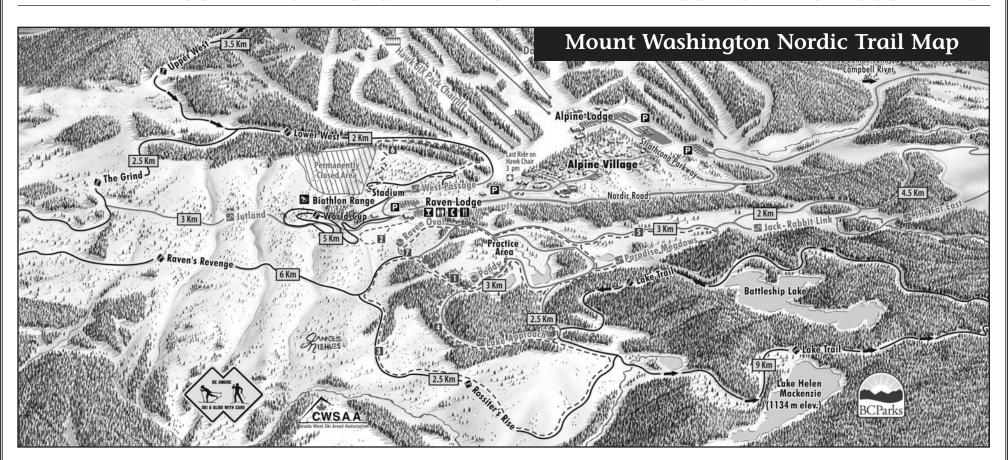
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Events continued from B1

Feb 3 20th Annual Herb Bradley Coca Cola Classic This fundraiser for Vancouver Island Society for Adaptive Snowsports is open to all public and attracts both skiers and boarders.

Feb 9 - 10 Valhalla Pure Freeheel FestivalCome out and celebrate all things free-heel.
Free the heel, free your mind!

Feb 17 Ski for MS Fundraiser Do you want to help people affected by Multiple Sclerosis? Do you want a free day skiing or snowboarding at Mount Washington? Then this day could be for you!

Feb 23 Full Throttle Slopestyle Competition Skiers on Saturday compete

on a number of different jumps, hits and

features down the Slopestyle course, showing off style, technique and flow.

Feb 24 Full Throttle Slopestyle Competition Boarders on Sunday compete on a number of different jumps, hits and features down the Slopestyle course, showing off style, technique and flow.

Feb 29 - Mar 2 The Ski Cuts & Board Shorts Film Festival Ladies and gentlemen, the event that you've all been waiting for: An on mountain guerrilla-style amateur film festival!

March 3 - 7 CIBC Wood Gundy Women's Week Women's Day Escape Packages on special all week!

March 8 Helly Hansen Showtime Challenge! Open to all ages. Riders and skiers throw down some killer tricks at this great competition.

March 15 OSB After Dark Invitational

It's gonna be a party! Awesome beats, Okanagan Springs Beer Garden, BBQ, and outrageous entertainment get you amped to catch Whistler and the Island's Best Freestylers performing an array of death defying airs.

OSB After Dark Wrap Up Party Annual post event wrap up party with live entertainment and drink specials. It's going to be a party!

March 17- 26 Spring SnoJam/Dairyland Daze Some great Spring SnoJam events to spice up your family's Spring Break, including the Old Dutch Obstacle Race, Beaver Tails tail eating contest, Barq's Snowtube Fest, and the Dairyland Poker Run!

March 27 - 30 2008 Canda Post B.C. Freestyle Championships

March 29 Night Skiing Ends

April 5 Save-on-Foods Dummy Downhill Build a Dummy Skier or Boarder, send it over a big jump. Prizes for best dummies and wipeouts.

April 6 Last Day of Winter Operations

April 6 Barq's Slush Cup

April 20 Royal LePage Snow to Surf Race

Come on up and see one of the most incredible team races on the planet!

For up-to-date info on all of Mount Washington's events go to www.milehigh.ca



