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ACCOMMODATIONS & EVENTS GUIDE - REAL ESTATE & MORE

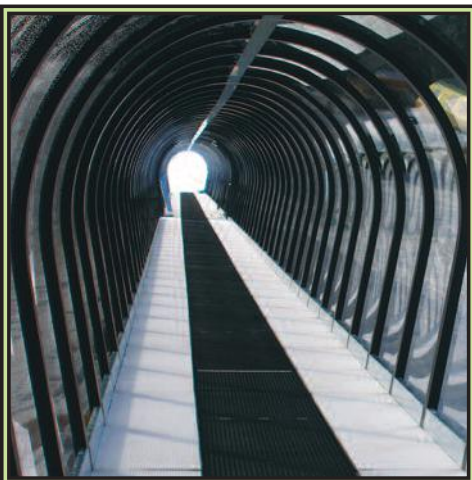


Photo: Neil Havers

Take a Ride on the Magic Carpet over Easy Acres!

The Resort has invested \$3 million into redeveloping its entire learning area, now renamed Easy Acres.

Crews spent the summer leveling out the beginners' ski area by at least 10 feet, widening runs and installing new equipment designed to make it easier for people to enjoy the snow this season.

Gone is the old Green Chairlift, the handle tow and platter lift. In their stead are four new Magic Carpets - canopied conveyor belts that move skiers and

snowboarders from one place to another with more ease than the chairlift ever could. Three carpets have been installed in the area where the Green Chair used to be. The fourth is the "teaching" carpet, located where the handle tow used to be.

"Easy Acres is a complete transformation of what used to be known as our Green Zone," Resort Director of Public Relations Brent Curtain said.

Aside from removing the old lifts, runs have been widened, terrain has been

re-graded and made smoother and runs have been renamed to Easy Street and The Big Easy. Some of the existing names, like Easy Out and Marmot, still exist.

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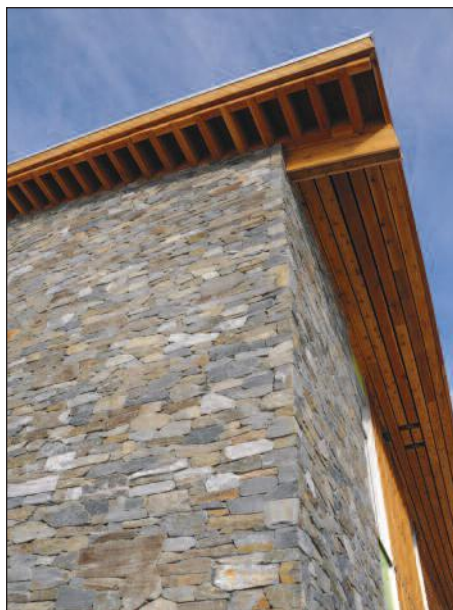
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 MOUNT WASHINGTON • COMOX VALLEY • VANCOUVER ISLAND • BRITISH COLUMBIA • CANADA

After months of construction under some of the most challenging conditions a record snowfall can deliver, the Vancouver Island Mountain Centre is open.

The wood, glass and stone building perches on a small hill overlooking Raven Lodge and the trailhead to Paradise Meadows, the newest structure in the burgeoning Nordic area of Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

The Vancouver Island Mountain Sport Society (VIMSS) has worked since 2008 to fund, design and build the Mountain Centre, and now has teamed with the Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre to offer unique programming.

VIMSS President Rick Morson envisions the Centre as a community centre for the Resort community, as well as a centre that can accommodate sports teams.



The stunning rock wall is a showpiece for the exterior of the VIMC. Photo by Susie Quinn

Future Looks Bright for the new Mountain Centre



Photo: Neil Havers

The Vancouver Island Mountain Centre features spectacular views of Strathcona Park.

An air of excitement surrounded the building earlier this fall as the carpets were laid, beds constructed and furniture moved in, said administrator Gord Campbell, from the Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre. "People are very excited."

The first floor of the building boasts a reception desk tucked behind a gas fireplace and towering glass lobby, ringed by the second floor foyer. A fitness centre was slated to open in late December and memberships as well as drop-in rates are available.

There are beds to sleep 40 in a series of dorm rooms, washrooms with fully accessible showers, and an elevator as well as stairs for second-floor access. The dual kitchen can handle two groups at a time and there is ample meeting space upstairs too.

Onsite manager Andrew Scherck hosted many impromptu tours of the building as curious residents and visitors stopped by, interested in the building's progress.

The first booking was a coaching clinic for the B.C. Aboriginal Snowboard Team. More bookings were coming in by the day as the opening ceremonies approached, including school groups and a possible yoga retreat.

The facility has had erka lot of support from both the public and business community. Members of the Coastal Community Credit Union had a team-building exercise in September, assembling cabinets in the dual kitchens. The Rotary club is trying to organize a Vancouver Island-wide event at the Mountain Centre, as well as donations of appliances for the kitchens.

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Two-storey-high wall of windows fronting the lobby. Photo by Susie Quinn

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Ready for a Magic Carpet Ride?

Magic Carpets originated in Denver, Colo., more than 20 years ago, when Rocky Mountain Conveyor & Equipment (now Magic Carpets Lifts Inc.) saw the shortcomings of rope and handle tow lifts, and decided to do something about it.



They launched the first Magic Carpet lift in 1990 and in 1994 the "beginner's ski lift" won the Colorado's Most Innovative New Products competition. Since then, Magic Carpet ski lifts have been installed in eight countries over four continents. The company's website notes that 90 per cent have been placed in North America.

The Magic Carpets act like human-sized conveyor belts, transporting skiers from one area of a ski hill to another on a slow moving belt. Similar technology is already in use as people movers in airports across North America.

Magic Carpets are made of modular, galvanized steel frames and installed on top of existing terrain. Those at Mount Washington have been built onto a sturdy concrete base on top of dirt berms, to

account for snow accumulation. The "carpets" are capable of moving three to four times more people per hour than a handle tow, and are completely accessible. At Mount Washington, they will have the capacity to move 2,000 people per hour, Resort President Peter Gibson said.

The speed and ease were more attractive than the Green Chairlift, which had outlived its usefulness, he said.

The Magic Carpets will run at 80 per cent of the capacity of the Green Chair, "but when you take into account the number of stops and starts the Green Chair had, it will be a net gain.

"More time will be spent sliding down in lessons as opposed to riding up."

Mount Washington will have the first covered Magic Carpets in Canada. The clear fiberglass canopies will protect the conveyors from snowfall yet still allow riders to enjoy the view outside.

The covers were a must, Gibson said, because of the unique snow conditions - and record accumulation - at Mount Washington.

Gibson admits he wasn't always a fan of the Magic Carpets, until he sent two Resort mechanics to Colorado last January to check out covered Carpets in operation. "The Magic Carpets started to make sense for us," he said.

Photo courtesy Mount Washington Resort

The Blairs IN PROFILE

The mountain life suits Lana and Mark Blair, fulltime residents at Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

The couple owns Grizzly Alpine Services, which has the transportation contract in the Alpine Village, and Lana is also the representative for Strata 799.

The Blairs were living and working in Powell River when they bought their condo in the Alpine Village in 1989. "We were weekend warriors then," Lana said.

Their two children grew up skiing at the Resort. "It was just such an adventure," she said. "The kids loved it."

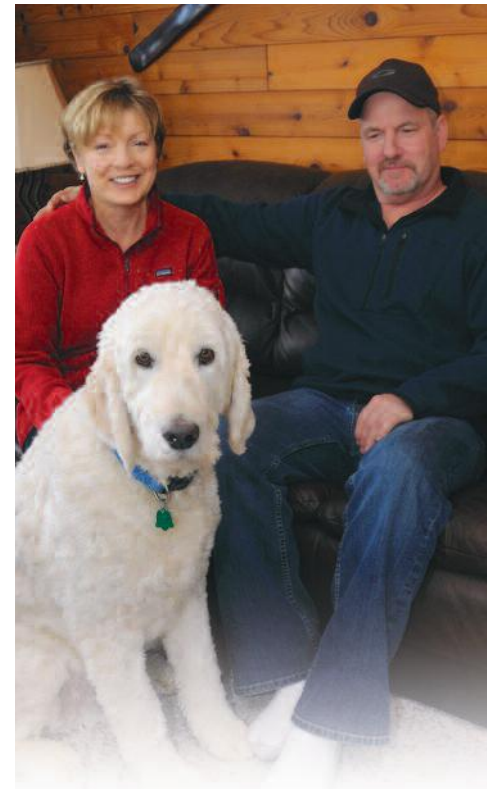
Lana grew up in a skiing family in Vernon. She was working with Safeway when she was asked if she would transfer, and she said she would go anywhere as long as there was a ski hill nearby.

When a position was offered to her in Powell River, she looked at a map of the area and saw a symbol for "ski hill." It wasn't until she had already relocated that she realized the ski hill was actually on Vancouver Island, a 90-minute ferry ride and one-hour drive away.

The Blairs moved permanently to Mount Washington four years ago, and are entering their fifth winter at the Resort. They both ski - "Not as much as we'd like to anymore," says Mark - and Lana also enjoys snowboarding. She has also coached with Vancouver Island Adaptive Snowsports at the Resort.

The couple decided to move for the lifestyle, but a paid position came up with the strata and Lana applied and received the job.

She looks after the strata's common



*Lana and Mark Blair in their condo in the Alpine Village, along with their pooch, Riley.
Photo: Susie Quinn*

property in the village: parking lots, lighting, roads, gardens. She hires parking lot attendants in the winter and deals with maintenance issues as well.

They both operate Grizzly Alpine Services, and are entering their fourth year with that endeavour. They have the transportation contract for the village; they own two quads, freight toboggans on tracks and a six-seater Polaris Ranger for passengers. (A different company has the snow-clearing contract at the Alpine Village.)

Grizzly Alpine Services provides year-round residential care for absentee owners as well as private garbage pickup.

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Photo: Neil Havers

Summer was all about the snow at Mount Washington Alpine Resort this year. No, that's not a typo: there was enough snow left over from a record-setting year that for the first time ever, the Resort was open for summer skiing in July.

"We had two weekends of skiing when we were supposed to have summer operations," Director of Public Relations Brent Curtain said. "On Canada Day we had skiers on the mountain."

The Resort opened for two days of skiing on June 18-19 and again July 1-3. Skiing in July was a first for Resort President Peter Gibson. "It was a combination of the amount of snow and a cold, late spring," he said.

While the late snow was great for skiers, it was a step back for Bike Park Operators, who had to delay opening. The first day of summer operations was

supposed to be July 1, but opening was delayed by a number of weeks as staffers waited for the first signs of dirt to appear.

"We knew we had a deep snow pack and that we would be looking at delaying opening," Curtain said. "Once the snow melted we had to rebuild a lot of features in the Bike Park that were crushed by snow."

The Bike Park never was fully operational, running solely off the Hawk Chairlift instead of both the Hawk and the Eagle Express. As a result, ticket prices were discounted.

However, once the snow finally did melt the Park enjoyed strong visits in August and September, Curtain added.

The snow played havoc with a jam-packed mountain biking schedule, but there were a couple of gems buried in the snow and dirt.

The much-touted Green Line Trail was to open from top to bottom for the first time, but it was muddier than normal. "Once it did dry out it was amazing to see the transformation for people learning to mountain bike," Curtain said.

The BC Cup Downhill couldn't run its usual course from the top of the Monster Mile, so it was rerouted from the Hawk Chairlift. Racers loved the new course, so the Resort will re-evaluate next year's route.

"Potentially, it's an option for us if we were to mix it up," Curtain said. "It's too early to tell if it's going to be a permanent move."

Mountain biking is a big focus for the Resort, and this year was no different.

The Bearclaw Invitational was the biggest event of the season, drawing close to 3,000 people to watch the action. Organizer Darren Berrecloth built a permanent course for the slope style event that was in the trees to the right of the old Green Zone.

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Photo courtesy, Mount Washington Alpine Resort

Breaking the Trend

In a time when many tourism-based entities are stagnating in a soft economy Mount Washington Alpine Resort is bucking the trend, says Sarah Nicholson, Manager of Tourism Mount Washington.

Tourism Mount Washington has seen its membership jump to 300 members and is still growing. And just as importantly, room revenues have seen a healthy increase, she said. "Year over year we saw a 5.5 per cent increase (in 2010), which is great," she said.

The increased membership is allowing Tourism Mount Washington to benefit from a community moving in the same direction "and getting representation from the whole community with regards to where they would like to see us going," she said. "We're beginning to get a membership of the majority of the resort community."

An increase in membership coupled with higher room revenues means there


are more dollars available for marketing Mount Washington. Nicholson is also cultivating partnerships to stretch those dollars even further.

She partnered with the Comox Airport for a summer "Go Vancouver Island" campaign in Alberta that promoted the airport (YQQ) as the main gateway to the region, including Mount Washington. Feedback has so far been positive, she said. The promotion, coupled with Google ads, drew traffic to the website.

"We've really upped our marketing activity in line with the additional revenues we're getting in with the additional hotel room tax," she said.

The joint campaign with the airport is just one of several partnerships she is building with businesses in the Comox Valley. Tourism Mount Washington will also partner with Mount Washington Alpine Resort on certain events this year.

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All proceeds from the sale of Brian Scott's new book "Skiing on the Island" will be donated to the new Vancouver Island Youth Sports Center. Available at all retail outlets on Mount Washington. Signed First Edition \$25.



Photo: Neil Havers

While Easy Acres and the Magic Carpets are undoubtedly the biggest news for winter at Mount Washington Alpine Resort, some other changes are afoot this season.

Night skiing has been expanded to include Sunday nights, Public Relations Director Brent Curtain said. So the lights will be on from Thursday to Sunday for regular night skiing, and every night during holidays.

Skiers who like to zip around the trees will also have more opportunities to do that. Goldrush Glades has been expanded to include two new trails, dubbed Midas and The Miner. The new tree terrain is at the front side of Little Washington Peak, accessed by the Boomerang chairlift.



Photo courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort

Could this be the year of sequels at Mount Washington Alpine Resort?

Accuweather.com is reporting that winter will be cold across Western Canada - quite possibly one of the top three coldest in 20 years. And we have a second La Nina year in a row to thank for it.

La Nina is a phenomenon that occurs when sea surface temperatures across the equatorial central and eastern Pacific are below normal. The phenomenon often produces extreme cold outbreaks across Western Canada during the winter due to the influence it has on the jet stream.

"Strong La Ninas can lead to wet winters along the West Coast, but I am predicting a moderate La Nina this winter," AccuWeather expert Senior Meteorologist Brett Anderson said.

A La Nina last winter produced record-breaking snow dumps at Mount Washington in 2010-11, and Director of Public Relations Brent Curtain, for one, is look-

ing forward to Round Two.

"We welcome a strong snow season," Curtain said before the white stuff began to fall in late October. "We're a little bit scared because last year we blew our snow removal budget out of the water."

By the end of December 2010 the Resort had seen as much snow as it usually sees in five months.

Over the Christmas holiday staff saw two metres of snow fall in 36 hours, and in the course of two weeks nearly five metres fell.

"If there's one place that knows how to deal with a lot of snow, it's Mount Washington," Curtain said.

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Mount Washington Alpine Resort had 18 million visitors in 2010... to its website, that is. Resort President Peter Gibson said that's a 15 per cent increase in online traffic.

CIBC Wood Gundy has donated \$3,000 to the Learn to Ski program at Mount Washington Alpine Resort. The company, led by Rick Morson, a competitive skier himself, has put 800 Grade 4-5 students per year through the cross-country ski program, Morson said.

Comox Valley's Andrea Lee is on the National Development Centre cross-country team for the second year in a row, competing in the senior women (under-23). She is in her second year studying biology at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ont. Lee's goal is to race the World Cup circuit, competing for Canada in Europe.

Crews have done a lot of renovation work at Paradise Ridge over the summer, in most of the common areas. The pool is now operational again, too.

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Photo Bombing Sasquatch

These bad boys aren't camera shy!

Three European tourists got the shock of their lives when they downloaded their digital cameras last summer following a visit to Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

What they thought were vacation photos of family members posed in front of pretty alpine scenery revealed pictures of a Vancouver Island sasquatch. In one of the photos, taken just below the summit of the Mile High Chairlift, a sasquatch can be seen peering around the side of a large tree trunk.

In another, snapped on Father's Day during the Resort's first record-breaking summer skiing event, two sasquatches (one significantly larger than the other) can be seen ducking into the treeline alongside the Eagle Express. *Continued on page 21*



Photo courtesy, Mount Washington Alpine Resort

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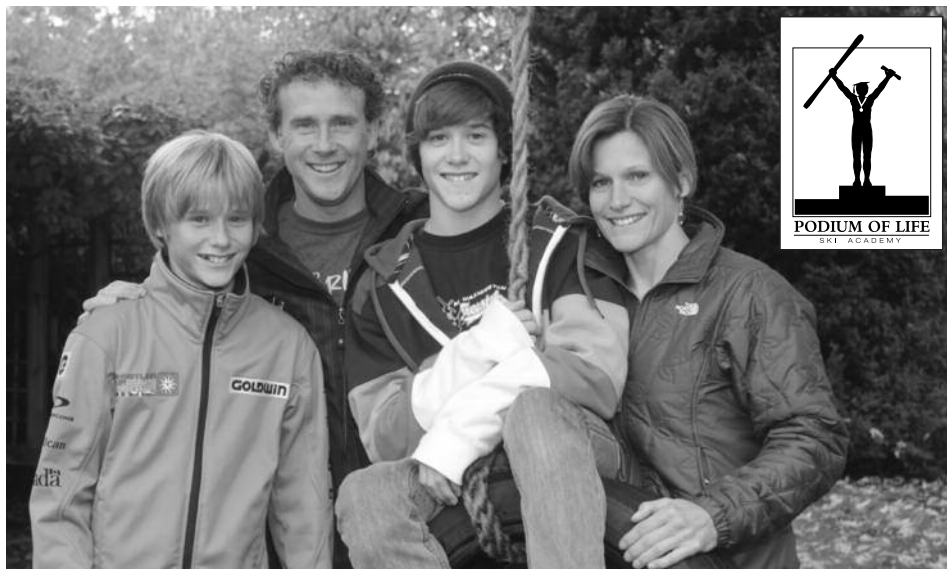


Photo: Susie Quinn

Podium of Life... A Way of Life.

How many skiers have said they would have loved to spend their school days skiing on the slopes instead of being stuck in the classroom in town all winter?

Shane and Corey Harle and their sons Teal, 15, and Kole, 14, are living that dream at Mount Washington Alpine Resort. And they would like to share the experience with other school-aged kids.

The Harles operate Podium of Life Ski Academy, which is preparing for its second year of operation at Mount Washington.

Last year they started with five full-time students and over the season welcomed a total of 23 for various periods

of time. Close to a dozen had already committed for the upcoming season as the Marmot went to press.

No one should have any illusions that these kids are spending all their time free skiing and not learning. Students are up the mountain from Monday through Thursday, going to school in the mornings and taking ski instruction in the afternoons.

The academy runs from Dec. 5 to April 5, when students return to their respective public or private schools in their own communities.

Students each have their own laptop

Shane Harle and his wife Corey run Podium of Life (left) and Teal (15), right, are two of their full-time students.

computer and they use a distance education program through School District No. 72 in Campbell River. They work at their own pace, with one-on-one instruction in the Marmot's Den at the Mount Washington Alpine Lodge, and guest speakers are also part of the program.

Shane Harle works as a teacher in the Campbell River School District, and both he and Corey have a lot of racing and coaching experience from local to international levels.

The Harles run a structured ski program that is accomplished as a group. "We ride the lifts together, we stay together as a group for the most part," says Corey. "We're not up there to babysit kids to go free skiing. We're up there to pass on as much knowledge to make them as best (skiers) as possible."

The Harles subscribe to author Malcolm Gladwell's insistence that it takes 10,000 hours of deliberate practice to become an expert in any field. They concentrate on the basics, believing that they are the building blocks to fine-tuning bigger freestyle moves. The way the school days are structured also gives students an extra three hours of ski instruction per week that they would not get if they were only skiing on the weekends.

Successes were measured in a variety of

ways. Some students were ahead of their classes when they returned to their respective schools after the end of the academy in April. Others saw improvement on the slopes, in the form of placements to Provincial or National racing teams, medals at competitions, or in the case of one student, going from only skiing on manmade snow as a beginner to conquering double black diamond runs and completing a 360 over a jump.

"It was more fun because the school went way faster at your own pace," said Kole Harle. "It wasn't the whole class learning with you, it was you by yourself learning. Then you got to ski."

Teal Harle liked the smaller class sizes, and said the personal on-snow instruction helped his skiing. "I improved so much even though I had an injury for pretty much all year," he said. "At the end of the year I went in the Rail Jam (at Mount Washington) and won."

The Harles live an adventurous life as a family, so the ski academy was not too far a stretch for them. They have done two different teacher exchanges in Australia, they are passionate snow sports enthusiasts and they have also learned to surf.

"Corey said she would love to live on the mountain. We have two extremely talented ski boys that are passionate with skiing," Shane said. "It's giving back. It's providing this wonderful opportunity for kids," he added.

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Golfers can take advantage of the mild weather with several area courses remaining open all year. Or book a night at one several spas and resorts offering Ski and Stay Packages. Pass the long winter nights with a variety of culture and entertainment, film festivals and performances happening throughout the Valley.

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BRIAN SCOTT an avid cross country skier on Mount Washington since 1980, translates his experience into vibrant, expressionist oil paintings. View his current showing at Raven Lodge and Deer Lodge, Mount Washington or drop by his Gallery in Black Creek. 250-337-1941 www.brianscottfineart.com

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Continued on page 10

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Continued from page 9

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Mount Washington Freestyle Club

Gina and Simon Stubbs are back as Co-Presidents for another term with the Mount Washington Freestyle Club.

They have hired a new Head Coach this year, Jamie Tanner, who has been promoted after spending three years with the Club.

Tanner comes from deep roots in freestyle skiing, being a former member of the Canadian National Freestyle Ski

Team. "It's very positive for the Club," Simon Stubbs said.

Tanner has helped initiate a new program with the Club, called Park and Slopestyle. Those are the two disciplines being accepted into the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, so there has been increased emphasis on both the Half-Pipe and Slopestyle.

"For the Club to do this, it's a no-brainer," Stubbs said. "Mount Washington's park is one of the top parks in western Canada so this works really, really well." The Club will continue to offer the same



Freestyle Mogul Course on Mount Washington.
Photo: Mount Washington Freestyle Club

freestyle programs like mogul skiing and all-round skiing.

The Club, along with the Resort, will host the BC Freestyle Championships at the end of March. At least 130 athletes will compete in moguls, dual moguls and slopestyle for the three-day event.



Peter Stubbs nails a "Truck Driver" over Large Marge in the Stomping Ground.
Photo: Paula Moore

"Holding the BC Championships on our new freestyle site is going to be huge for us," Stubbs said.

The Club has graduated three athletes to BC teams recently: Max Heard of Duncan went to the Mogul Team two years ago and is now on the Park and Pipe A-team for BC. Donnie Ottosen made the Park and Pipe Development Team, and Peter Stubbs made the BC Freestyle High-Performance Mogul Team.

continued on page 17

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Dec 18 Telemark Early Season Refresher
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Dec 23 Carols by Candlelight Join Tourism Mount Washington and a group of carolers for a whole evening of song and good cheer! There will be hot chocolate, cookies, and rumour has it that Santa will be here for those last minute Christmas wishes!

Dec 26 Pepsi Fireworks & Torchlight Parade
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Dec 26-30 Kids Holiday Ski and Snowboard Camp Camps are designed to help your child improve their skiing or snowboarding skills, guided mileage and have some fun rip'n around the mountain.

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Advertisement for John and Sue's property, featuring a photo of a cabin and contact information (250-335-0350).

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Advertisement for MountainSide Lodge, showing interior photos and contact details (Suzi: 250-923-9231).

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Advertisement for a family home at Foster's Place, including photos and contact info (AI: 250-724-4183).

Panorama in Paradise

Advertisement for Panorama in Paradise, featuring scenic photos and contact info (1.250.890.0924).

PLEASE NOTE:

- List of notes regarding information currency, property ownership, and parking arrangements.

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Mount Washington Phone Directory

Phone directory listing services like Altitude Sport & Gift, Ambulance, Catering, etc. with phone numbers.

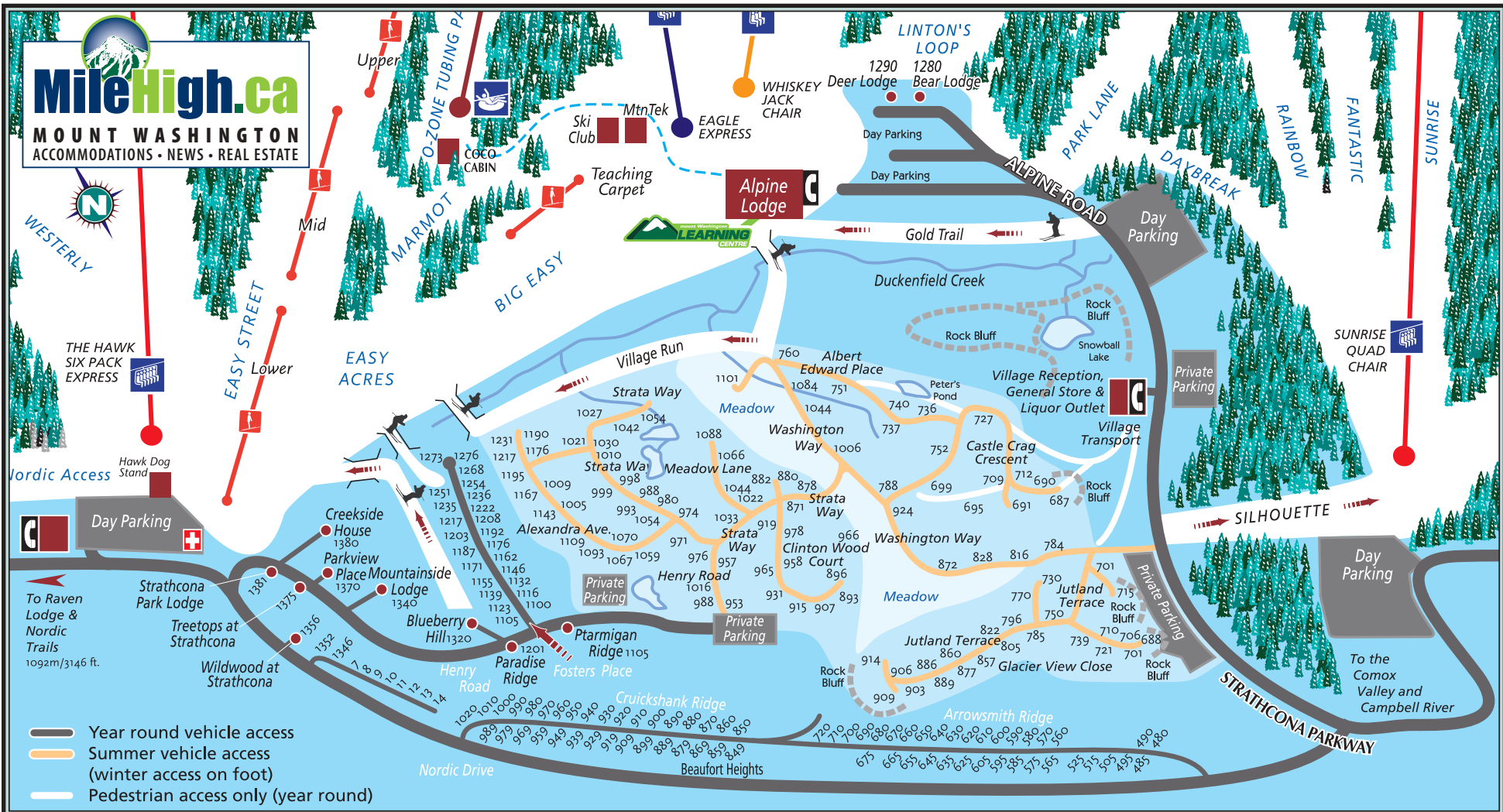
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Snow Sport Clubs

Continued from Page 12

Vancouver Island Biathlon Club

Summer was a mix of good and not-so-good for the VI Biathlon Club.

On the one hand, the Club's hut has been completely sided and stained and is ready for the upcoming season.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the Club's target frames. They sustained a lot of damage due to heavy snowfall last winter, Club President Pat Douglas said.

Lack of funding and a late start to the summer season means the Club won't be able to fix all the targets until next spring.

But it doesn't mean the end of the winter season, Douglas said. "We'll do what we need to do and we'll make enough targets functional so we can use them this year," she added.

The Club held two fundraising events in the summer, setting up laser rifles at both Canadian Tire and Driftwood Mall for people to try. Both events were popular with adults, and Douglas hopes that will translate to more members or volunteers.

Douglas, who took over from Past-President Joe Bajan last year, is organizing a coaching clinic for the pre-season. She is also looking for officials to help at various events this season, such as the Cadet Zones and B.C. Winter Games trials on Jan. 8, 2012, and the Cadet Provincial Competition on Feb. 4.

Four biathletes will be chosen from Vancouver Island to attend the B.C. Winter Games.

The Biathlon Club will also host the Cadet Provincials this year, which will see 84 athletes from around the Province compete at Mount Washington Alpine



The Vancouver Island Biathlon Club's hut has been re-sided and stained in preparation for the 2011-12 season. Photo courtesy the club's blog.

Resort. The top 12 from this Event will attend the Nat. Championships in 2012.

Mount Washington Ski Club

The Mount Washington Ski Club had a good spring and summer of training, taking advantage of the late season snow to conduct two camps after the Resort closed.

"There was just too much snow on the ground to pass up opportunities for high quality training here at home," Head Coach John Trimmer said.

"We also did an eight-day on-snow camp at the end of August at Mount Hood, Ore. This camp never ceases to amaze me and once again the weather was perfect and we had great freezes at night. That equaled awesome snow for training."



Peter Stubbs "Nose Grab" over Large Marge in the Stopping Ground. Photo: Simon Stubbs

Mathieu Leduc has been training with the Canadian skier cross team this summer and also attended a camp located in Switzerland.

Trimmer said the Club is hopeful he will be selected to join the team (selections were done after the Marmot went to press), but if not Leduc will focus on the NorAm circuit in both skier cross and alpine.

The Ski Club will host several races on the hill this season: the Teck K1 (11-12) zone race, Jan. 13-15; Club Nancy Greene Toy Race Feb. 18; Rio Tinto Alcan Nancy Greene Race March 3-4; Club Skier Cross and Slalom Event April 7-8.

"The Teck Zone Finals April 14-15 is our biggest race of the season," Trimmer said. "This is the Coast Zone Final so we will have all the racers from all the teams on the Coast join us for the last event of the season."

Vancouver Island Riders

Vancouver Island Riders Snowboard Club is busy preparing for another amazing year on Mount Washington.

With a number of their former athletes now competing Provincially and Nationally, the riders are looking to fill the development and competitive squads to keep the Club moving in a positive direction

"We have some incredibly gifted athletes on this island and the VI Club and coaches are excited to watch our alumni and competitive athletes move on to new challenges and higher level competition," Club President Kelsa Donald said.

The Club has recently created a strong female development and competitive program, which is setting a new standard for emerging female freestyle snowboarding athletes on the mountain.

"With the announcement by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to include the immensely popular spectator sport of freestyle snowboarding in the 2014 Olympics, there has been quite a buzz in the air," Donald said.

continued on page 20



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Jesse Percival... Happy at the Helm of Mount Washington's Pro Patrol

Jesse Percival looks at ease in his small office in the First Aid Building, tucked into a corner of the parking lot below the Hawk Chairlift. The dispatch radio crackles sporadically, and today is a quiet pre-season day for Percival, Patrol Director of the Mount Washington Ski Patrol.

It isn't always this way. Once the winter season begins at the Resort, he will be busy from before sunrise to dusk and sometimes beyond.

The Pro Patrol is comprised of 30 full-time paid members, and augmented by a Volunteer Ski Patrol. A central dispatch oversees the entire Patrol.

The Pro Patrollers have varied backgrounds, from primary care paramedics to professional mountain guides. They are all excellent skiers, and in shifts of 12 to 15 provide first aid and safety coverage seven days a week, from opening until closing.

Patrol duties include avalanche fore-

casting and a "Safe Slope" program, with members designated to enforce and educate visitors about the Alpine Responsibility Code and educate people about the slow skiing areas.

Patrollers also maintain signage at the Resort - making sure boundaries are well marked and signs are visible. "We do a lot of shoveling. There's not a whole lot of glory," Percival said.

The Patrol has the final say as to whether terrain can open or must remain closed due to safety issues. "Once we get the terrain open, then we head off to work," he said. "When there's a big snowfall here we've got a mountain of work to do."

A typical new snow day begins at 5:20 a.m. when the avalanche forecaster looks at weather forecasts, updates the snowfall numbers and the website. Then he decides whether avalanche control measures are necessary.

The avalanche control team starts work at 6:30 a.m. after a snow safety meeting, riding snowmobiles to the top of the mountain and preparing explosive shots. "Typically, new snow causes avalanches here on the coast," said Percival, who is a member of the Canadian Avalanche Association.

Over time, the avalanche control team has developed an intricate guarding system that allows them to open terrain quicker in the west basin while keeping workers and skiers safe at the same time.

The patrollers raise or lower tower pads, clear signage and make sure it's all in place. They clear cornices from all the Resort's structures, mark hazards and monitor the runs by skiing or walking them from top to bottom. They do all this while carrying up to 25 pounds of equipment.

At 8 a.m. the patrol team leader holds another safety meeting, this time involving whatever volunteer patrollers are on shift for the day. "There's a lot of safety meetings, which we need to have," Percival said.

At the end of the day patrollers sweep each run to make sure no skiers or snowboarders are left, then meet at the First Aid Station for an end-of-day debriefing. Then the safety meeting for the night shift begins.

When Percival took over the Pro Patrol five years ago, he worked hard to integrate the volunteers in the training program so everyone has the same standard of training.

While the Pro Patrollers are required to have certain certifications (delivered through third parties like the Provincial Emergency Program, for example), the volunteers may sit in on the training and will always have the opportunity to practice the skill set they learn.

Anywhere from five to 25 volunteer patrollers work on the hill on a typical day. "They are our partners in mountain safety," he said.

All the Patrollers are also part of the customer service base at the Resort as well. Percival has been a patroller for 18 years, and has known since he was nine years old that someday he would work in the ski industry.

The work is demanding, and patrollers have to love the outdoors and keep themselves fit. "We work hard and I'm proud of the work we do. We're not looking for a hero badge. We do the job, day in and day out."

Ronald St. Pierre CCC

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Special Events

Continued from Page 13

Dec 31 New Years Eve Celebration

New Years at the Ozone includes tube races, prizes and an early countdown for the kids. And for the adults, there will be a New Years Eve party in Fat Teddy's Bar & Grill with live entertainment, intermission DJ & a champagne toast at midnight. Our annual Dairyland Family Event will be held in the Whiskey Jack Conference Room at the Alpine Lodge featuring interactive games, crafts, activities, roaming entertainment, midway style foods, displays, science experiments and a Fire & Ice show by the award winning Mad Science Group.

Jan 9 - 13 Kokanee Winterfest

Celebrate Kokanee Winter Festival with half-price midweek full-day lift tickets and Nordic trail passes. Plus, keep your eyes peeled for the Sasquatch and you may get some free shwag courtesy of Kokanee! Kokanee specials in Fat Teddy's all week.

Jan 14 Kokanee Days for Dudes

Mount Washington and Kokanee have teamed up to provide you guys with a great day of riding with the pros on and off piste, talking about gear, trying the latest and greatest equipment and of course... free beer! The day includes a lift ticket, ridding from 1-3pm and aprés in Fat Teddy's. *Additional dates: Feb. 11 & April 8*

Jan 16 - 20 Rossignol Ski and Board Week

Learning to ride is easier than ever by offering this great deal in conjunction with our new Easy Acres learning area. Our four new magic carpets can be found on our new runs, Easy Street and The Big Easy. Snow sliding at Easy Acres will be straight-forward, gently-sloped, simple, and most important, FUN!

Jan 20 Dragon Rail Jam Get in on the Friday night action as we run chill, jam-style sessions on your favorite hits and rails in the terrain park. Score wicked prizes from Dragon, 32 and Nitro during this FREE event. *Continued on page 20*



A company at Mount Washington has been teaching ski and snowboard instructors how to teach for the past four years.

This past summer, they took their show on the road to Austria for a week, and their program keeps growing.

Tobin Leopkey founded Section 8 Snowsport Institute four years ago after realizing the instructors he was teaching at another facility were one-dimensional: good instructors of the basics, but not well-rounded skiers themselves.

Leopkey grew up skiing the steep and deep tree lines at Mount Washington but has been found teaching and participating in outdoor pursuits in various corners of the globe. He earned his Level 1 ski instructor certification at Mount Washington in 1992 at 16 years old before moving to the Lower Mainland to pursue higher levels.

He has instructed in New Zealand, the Canadian Rockies, tried outdoor education in various parts of the globe. Finally unable to ward off the allure of Vancouver Island, Leopkey and his wife, Kana, moved back to the Comox Valley to start Section 8.

While Leopkey is Head Coach of the

skiing component, he needed someone who could teach the snowboarders. That's when Mike Bray entered the picture. Bray is the Technical Director for Snowboarding at Mount Washington's Snow School as well as co-owner and director of Section 8. He is a Level IV instructor and Level III Examiner with the CASI too.

Section 8 offers two programs: a four-week basic level, and a 12-week snowsport leadership training program that will see students work towards certification such as Avalanche Safety Training 1, CSIA Level 1 and Level 2 instructors (CASI Level 1 and 2 for snowboarding), CSIA and CASI terrain park modules and wilderness first aid.

Leopkey and Bray also concentrate on all-mountain ski and snowboarding improvement, including winter survival skills out-trip, map and compass navigation, alpine race training, steeps and freeride skills and tactics, glacier travel and rope rescue. The group always takes a backcountry trip to Mt. Cain, a smaller ski hill also on Vancouver Island.

Programs start in January, when the snow pack is more reliable. Students spend five or six days a week working on

an intensive syllabus. But, all work and no play can be grueling, so Leopkey and Bray have worked some fun into the program, like dodge ball, golf, surfing, bungee jumping and even a trip to Vancouver to watch a National Hockey League game.

Leopkey is happy with the way the program has progressed over the years, and says he's always streamlining the logistics. He particularly likes teaching at Mount Washington. There is "reliable snow and massive amounts of it is great for marketing," he said. "There's great terrain and quieter runs throughout the week."

In his first year of operation, Leopkey had two clients. The next, he jumped from two to 21. "It was a quick learning curve, that's for sure," he said.

The program has slowly grown, and this past summer Section 8 ran a program in Austria for a week. Leopkey would like to bring similar high performance clinics to other places like Chile or New Zealand in the summer, which is their winter.

He has also been approached by other mountain resorts about bringing his program to them, so he's pondering opening another school elsewhere. But he's not quite ready for that. Yet.



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Brad Hoffman with student Tanya Prior,
Vancouver Island Adaptive Sports

Vancouver Island Riders

Continued from Page 18

"This is the domain our athletes have been training in for the past five years and this is very exciting news for the snowboard community."

Vancouver Island Society For Adaptive Sports

The Vancouver Island Society for Adaptive Snowsports (VISAS) will hold its Learn to Ski Winter Sports Festival from Jan. 8-12 at Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

"Anyone with a disability is welcome to attend," said Bob Hodgson, Co-Chair of the Festival.

"It's a great opportunity to get involve and receive four consecutive days of ski/boarding instruction from our nationally certified instructors."

VISAS provides free instruction, lift passes, equipment, two banquets, daily transportation from Courtenay "and a good time," he said.

In its 19th year, VISAS's volunteer instructors are getting ready for another exciting year on the mountain. More than 80 VISAS ski and snowboarding instructors volunteer their time seven days a week to provide those with a physical or mental disability a chance to learn to downhill ski, snowboard or cross-country ski, and at very little cost.



For more information on the festival or on VISAS, please visit the website at www.visas-web.ca, search VISAS on Facebook and Flickr, or call Hodgson at 250-339-6833.

Strathcona Nordics

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has named Strathcona Nordics' President Len Apedaile a finalist for the Exemplary Paralympic Games Official Award.

According to the Club's website, the nomination noted in part, "As the sport manager for the Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee for Nordic Skiing, Apedaile acted in a critical role to maintain successful operations of the event both prior to and during the Games."

The Nordics held a successful Annual General Meeting and equipment swap at Comox Rec Centre last fall. The new board of directors was also elected.

Len Apedaile remains President. Other members include Alison Stocks, Vice-President; Jae Yon Jones, Treasurer; Andrea Stapff, Secretary; Georgina Price, Membership Director; Larry and Shannon Reynolds, Sponsorship and Fundraising Co-Directors; Barb Kelly, Director of Communications; Alix Wilson, Chair, Skill Development and Director; Berend Henckel, Chair, Athlete Development and Director and Doug Herchmer, Chair, Coach Development and Director.

The Marmot

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www.milehigh.ca



Special Events

Continued from Page 19

January 22 Ski for MS This fun competition will be held on the Hawk run and is open to all abilities as participants can choose which route to take down the mountain.

January 25 Aussie Day Mount Washington loves Aussies! And we are showing it by providing FREE lift tickets for you today. Please show your passport to confirm aussiness.

January 28 Kokanee Old School GS Race Dig in that closet and find those one-pieces, tight ski pants, jeans and straight skis. Bounce over to Fat Teddy's for the bombdigity costume after party. The Kokanee Old School Retro Party will get ya rockin with fly jams and hip prizes for the bossiest costume and choicest hair.

Feb 4 "The Odds" with Special Guests The Odds return to Fat Teddy's for one night only.

Feb 11 Beach Party With "The Steadies" Explosive, dance oriented, and loaded with rock, groove, funk & reggae influences, The Steadies pick up every crowd and drop them off at their favorite beach!

February 13 Herb Bradley Pepsi Challenge This fundraiser for Vancouver Island Society for Adaptive Snowsports is open to all skiers and boarders.

February 18 "Big River" A Tribute To Johnny Cash David James & Big River bring the full experience to Fat Ted's. Make no mistake... The Man in Black is Back!

February 25 Pepsi Big Air Competition Freestyle skiers and snowboards hit a massive jump and show off their skills in this judged big air competition. This years jump will be built on the slope just above Alpine Lodge for prime spectator viewing.

March 3 Islander Lager Afterdark Invitational (7:30 pm) The biggest and best party of the season hosts some of the best sponsored skiers and snowboarders as they tear apart the signature showtime booter and 1/4 pipe. DJ's will be mixing beats in the Islander Lager beer garden keeping spectators pumped as freestylers throw down massive airs and compete for best trick.

April 14 Thrifty Foods Dummy Downhill Get creative and build a dummy skier or boarder to launch off the big jump!

April 15 Crush Slush Cup Participants straightline it over a small ramp or down a run in and over the giant custom slush pit between the Alpine Lodge and Mnt Tek.

April 29 Royal Lepage Snow to Surf Race Relay teams alpine & nordic ski, run, mountain bike, road cycle, kayak and canoe from the top of Mount Washington to Comox Marina.

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For more up-to-date info on all of Mount Washington events go to

www.milehigh.ca

Thanks to these Visitor InfoCentres for distributing The Marmot

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Parksville	250-248-3613	www.parkvillechamber.com
Qualicum Beach	250-752-9532	www.qualicum.bc.ca



Mountain Centre accommodation facilities include a series of dorm rooms that can sleep 40, washrooms with fully accessible showers, a dual kitchen and meeting spaces. Photo by Neil Havers

Mountain Centre

Continued from Page 2

Individuals and businesses have stepped up to sponsor parts of the building, like Rick Gibson, who has sponsored the lower lobby, Central Builders, Brian Findlay and family who have sponsored the main room and Coastal Community Credit Union, to name a few.

"We couldn't have done it without our sponsors and supporters, and Mount Washington Alpine Resort has certainly been our big supporter," Campbell said.

Morson also credited the funders who believed in the centre from the start: Rick Gibson ("He provided funding to us when it was just a dream"), Coast Sustainable Trust, North Island Economic Trust, Western Economic Development Corporation and lenders Coastal Community Credit Union. He also thanked MPs John Duncan and Don McRae, Comox Valley Regional District Director Edwin Grieves and Chief Administrative Officer Debra Oakman, Comox Mayor Paul Ives and Resort Director Brian Stamp for their guidance and support, and architect Jim Alders

and contractor Alan Fletcher of AFC Construction.

The facility fits in well with other services offered at Mount Washington, in that it caters to large groups and offers hostel-style accommodation.

The outdoor education programs don't compete with Mount Washington Alpine Resort programs either, Scherck said.

The Mountain Centre has rental space for company meetings, but could just as easily host a retreat - providing accommodation as well as workshop space.

There are also some smaller offices suitable for rental, and a treatment room that Morson hopes a massage therapist or physiotherapist might like to book on a seasonal or long-term basis.

There are also some smaller offices suitable for rental, and a treatment room that Morson hopes a massage therapist or physiotherapist might like to book on a seasonal or long-term basis.

For more information or to book the Centre, please go online to: www.vimountaincentre.com, e-mail info@vimountaincentre.com or call 250-331-9355.



Photo: Sistic Quinn

The Blairs

Continued from Page 3

With both jobs, Lana loves the people she deals with. "You've got to have good people skills for both jobs, for sure," she said.

The Blairs' refuge after hours is their condo. Located on the top floor of a building in the heart of the village, it was part of the initial development at the Resort. As a result, the Blairs don't have vehicle access to their building after Nov. 15 until the snow clears.

"That's part of the attraction of living in the village," says Lana. "It's not for everyone."

The corner windows in their living room overlook a sea of green trees - and in the middle of winter, of white snowy beauty.

While their children live elsewhere and aren't able to come and visit often, the Blairs keep company with Riley, their Labrador-Standard poodle cross dog. The colour of fresh powder and just as soft, Riley is laid back while a guest visits, but jumps at the chance to take a brief ride in the family 4x4.

Lana is a self-confessed snow person, but Mark admits he loves it up there too. "When we moved up here we thought, 'what are we going to do in the rainy season,'" he said. "But it doesn't really rain up here. And there's always lots to do."

News In Brief

Continued from Page 5

Members of the Strathcona Nordics really know their cross-country stuff.

On October 30, more than 15 team members (including Devos, Juniors and Masters) entered the Perseverance Trail Run in Cumberland.

The Devo team continued its traditional domination of the three-kilometre men's event, with 11-year-old Matthew Salmon coming in first. He demolished the second place runner - Devo coach Berend Henckel - by more than 15 seconds.

Junior racer Jessica Reynolds placed first in her category. In the 10 Km event, Junior racer Michael Ravensburgen finished first in the 19-and-under category with a time of 57:10.

People 75 years and older who plan to purchase a season's pass from Mount Washington Alpine Resort this winter are in for a surprise:

they won't have to pay for their pass. It's called the Super Senior, and all you have to do is call the season's pass office at the Resort or fill out an online form.

"If you're 75 and you're skiing, you have earned your skiing for free," Resort Director of Public Relations Brent Curtain said.

There was nothing wrong with the Green Chair

except it had outlived its usefulness, Gibson said. When it was disassembled some parts went to Mt. Sutton in Quebec. Some of the chairs from the Green Chair have been saved and patrons will be able to sit in them in Fresh at the Alpine Lodge.

The other two original chairs from Mount Washington were recycled in similar ways: the old Blue Chair went to Mt. Baldy and the old Red Chair went to Mt. Timothy.

The Whiskey Jack Chair is still going strong at the Resort, however, all 158 slatted chairs have been replaced with padded seats so they are warmer and more comfortable for night skiers.

Summer in Review

Continued from Page 4

Although Berrecloth took a three-year break between Bearclaw events at Mount Washington, he has committed to putting on a race in 2012, Curtain said.

The See Jane Jump women's mountain bike festival was another sold out hit. Darcy Turenne, who grew up in the Comox Valley, brought in some of the world's best female mountain bike riders to put on clinics.

Overall, summer was a positive season for the Resort, Curtain said. Visitation was strong in August and September, when the weather warmed up.

The Food and Wine Festival and the new Suds and Scotch Fest were both well attended and will return next year.

Photo Bombing Sasquatch

Continued from Page 6

One of them is turned back towards the camera, and it doesn't take much imagination to think the creature is looking right at the camera. "It seems Sasquatch has taken up the new trend of photobombing," one of the tourists said through a translator.

Photobombing, according to Urban Dictionary, is the process of dropping into a photo unexpectedly, or someone hopping into a picture right before it is taken - often without the subject's knowledge.

While others laughingly call it "the fine art of ruining other people's photographs", the tourists were actually delighted. Not many people have proof that sasquatch exists on Mount Washington, but they can tell their friends that they do.

A Swiss cryptozoologist who looked at the photos is puzzled by the sasquatches' behaviour. "They are not usually that bold," he told The Marmot.



Photo courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort

Endangered Marmots respond to Coldest Spring in 74 Years with a Boon of Pups!

Extreme cold, and snow lingering well into the summer months, had the Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery Team worried about pups. "We were concerned the results would be similar to last year when no pups were born at the Mount Washington colony," said Recovery Team Chair, Don Doyle.

With the marmots facing similar conditions this spring, the Team wanted to see if improving the spring condition of the adults, through supplemental feeding, would increase the number of successful pups weaned.

Only two colonies were accessible for testing, Mount Washington and Green Mountain. Feeders were placed near the hibernaculums as soon as the marmots emerged from hibernation and were monitored and filled as needed.

It's impossible to say how many of the pups born were a result of the feeders, but observations at both sites point to a positive influence worth additional research. Almost half (thirty-one) of the total sixty-eight pups born in the wild were born at the two colonies with feeders.

At the Mount Washington colony, 5 litters (totaling 17 pups) were born instead of the

3-4 litters that were expected under normal conditions. One litter was born to an 11-year old female (a very mature age for a wild marmot to have pups) and another 9-year old female produced her first litter ever!

The Green Mountain colony showed similar promise. This colony, located in the Nanaimo Lakes region of Vancouver Island, had consistently numbered less than 10 marmots. This year, multiple litters totaling 10-14 pups were observed, plus the adults – effectively doubling the colony.

While relying on supplemental feeding to increase productivity may not be practical or desirable for the long-term survival of the species, it does have practical applications if it proves to be beneficial. Additional pups can be trans-located to fledgling colonies to help them become established and the colony will also naturally disperse marmots, strengthening sur-



Two newly released marmots in Strathcona Park. Photo by Jared Hobbs courtesy of Marmot Recovery Foundation.



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For more info go to www.marmots.org/adopt.htm



The marmot's natural forage in early spring is lichen taken from rocks and trees. Photo by Jared Hobbs courtesy of Marmot Recovery Foundation.

rounding colonies and developing new ones.

This fall two groups of captive born marmots were released at Mount Washington to see if supplemental feeding will reduce the first year vulnerability of captive born marmots to hibernation related mortality. The next step will be to see if the survivors, preconditioned at the Mount Washington colony, have better survival than newly released marmots once they are trans-located to other colony sites.

While it may be too early for concrete conclusions, the initial observations and potential long-term applications for supplemental feeding are promising.

So, expect to see feeders on the slopes of Mount Washington again next spring. And if you're really lucky, you may even catch sight of our uniquely Canadian marmot chomping down a hearty meal.

The Vancouver Island marmot is one of Canada's most endangered species. Thanks to a robust captive breeding and release program the population is steadily regaining strength after near extinction in the wild in 2003.

If you would like to help the Vancouver Island marmot be restored to their habitat in the wild on Vancouver Island please adopt a marmot at www.marmots.org

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The Murray family gives the Magic Carpet the thumbs up.

Easy Acres

Continued from Page 1

“The experience for beginners is going to change drastically for people learning to ski and snowboard,” Curtain said.

The Resort has also invested \$160,000 upgrading the rental inventory. New revolutionary “auto-turn” skis for beginners that make turning much easier were tested last year, and the inventory expanded this season.

The Bradley Building, which is connected to the back of Alpine Lodge by a covered walkway, is being re-branded as the Mount Washington Learning Centre. People can book their lessons and rent their snow gear there; the kids programs are run out of this building, as well as the Snow School.

For Mount Washington President Peter Gibson, who has been on the mountain since the trails were first cut for the resort in the late 1970s, the Resort has come full

circle.

“You know, when I saw the towers going in 33 years ago (for the Green Chair) I was really excited,” he said. Now he’s equally excited to see the Magic Carpets ready for use.

The evolution of the Resort began with the beginners’ area and through the years increased terrain and improved equipment until the double black diamond Boomerang Chairlift in the Outback. Now it’s back to the beginning.

“It’s kind of interesting when you look at it,” Gibson said. “It started with the Blue Chair to a high-speed four, then the Red Chair to a high-speed six, then the high and sort of sexy (double black diamond) stuff.”

The ski industry itself has hit a plateau of growth as people have progressed through the levels, and now it’s time to again cater to the people who have thought about getting into the sport but haven’t tried it yet, Gibson said. “We’ve

got to entice them to get up here.”

The Green Chair wasn’t the most positive experience for first-time skiers. It was steep getting off the chairlift and there used to be a lot of stops and starts as lift technicians had to help people get off the chair.

For beginners “simply being in the air can be intimidating as well,” Gibson said.

With the three separate carpets at different elevations, students can choose to go up all three levels and ski down from the top or get off at the first or second carpets and ski down one level at a time.

The other advantage of having four carpets instead of having everyone concentrated in one area is the Resort can spread people out over the four lifts, separating different skill levels as well as skiers and snowboarders.

With the old handle tow in the learning area, beginners did a lot of walking up and down the hill for the first half hour. “Now they will be on a lift immediately,” Gibson said.

Ultimately, the Resort would like to see an increase in its Discover programs, and more people up the mountain experiencing snow play for the first time. A new Learn to Turn program allows visitors to pay for three lessons plus lift ticket, rental and a bonus lift ticket for April.

For 32 years the Resort never really used the beginners’ area to its fullest potential because it was steep in spots. Now that the area has been leveled out “it’s going to be completely beginner friendly,” Gibson said.

“It will be one of the largest beginners’ areas in North America.”

...

So what happens with the Green Chair?

See News in Brief

Tourism Mount Washington

Continued from Page 4

All this is helping Tourism Mount Washington transition from four years of internal growth strategies to a new focus: the consumer.

Last year’s record snow pack meant Nicholson’s booth at the London Ski Show was popular, as people wanted to know more about the Resort that had the most snow of all last year. “We went through more literature in the first three days of the five-day show than we did last year,” she said.

She had to copy some of her literature because she ran out of trail maps and brochures.

Nicholson also attended a ski show in Calgary, Alta. for the first time with the intent of spreading the word about Mount Washington and increasing room revenues. She saw a lot of interest at the Calgary show for the Island Resort. “It’s an eye opener how few recognize how easy it is to get to us,” she said. Many didn’t realize that there are daily flights to Comox either.

Nicholson has organized a presence on BC Ferries between Nanaimo and Vancouver, and spent a day in November with a booth at The Bay Centre in Victoria.

Nicholson is also using social media to spread the word. Two contests incorporating QR codes on rack cards are also being run: one is a snowfall prediction contest, with a summer holiday as a prize. The second is a “where in the world is Mount Washington and why is it unique” contest, with a winter holiday as a prize. There is also a link to the second contest on the website. “Communication is going to be a main focus,” Nicholson said.

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Pride of Ownership

Pride of ownership is evident and all the upgrades are done! New kitchen, new flooring, new bathrooms. Bright corner suite with views west into Strathcona Park. Easy access to parking and ski out to lifts. Basement area could be further developed. \$224,900

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930 Cruikshank Ridge	\$95,000
959 Cruikshank Ridge	\$114,900
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Photo: Neil Havers

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- 201 2 Bdrm 884 Sq Ft Viewside \$189,900
- 202 2 Bdrm 879 Sq Ft Viewside \$234,900
- 208 1 Bdrm 629 Sq Ft Slopeside \$184,000
- 210 2 Bdrm 891 Sq Ft Slopeside \$244,900
- 212 3 Bdrm 1013 Sq Ft Corner \$324,900
- 214 2 Bdrm 899 Sq Ft Viewside \$224,900
- 310 2 Bdrm 882 Sq Ft Slopeside \$244,900
- 411 3 Bdrm 1013 Sq Ft Corner Top Floor \$399,900



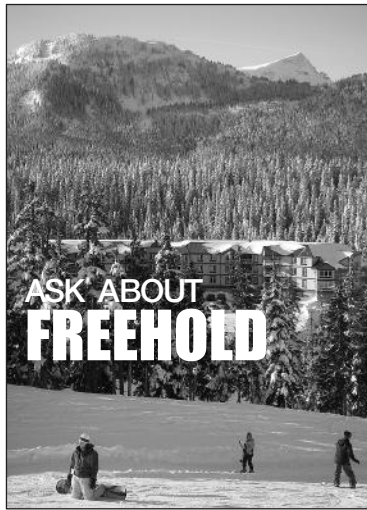
Ptarmigan Ridge

Features Include:

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

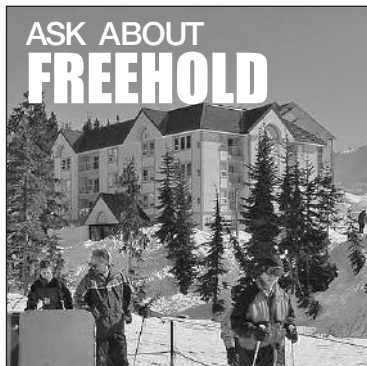
ONE BEDROOM APARTMENTS

- 104 Facing Strathcona Park \$119,900
- 210 Facing Strathcona Park \$134,900
- 305 Top floor facing ski runs \$127,500



Features Include:

- Elevator Access
 - Spectacular Views of Strathcona Park and the Ski Runs
 - Above & Underground Parking
 - Propane Fireplaces
 - Furnished units ready to go
 - Ski Storage Room off the Lobby with separate lockers for renters
- 201 3 Bdrm, views of ski runs and Strathcona Park \$214,900
 - 303 Top Floor (921 sq. ft.) \$189,900
2 Bedroom, facing Strathcona Park



Creekside House

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

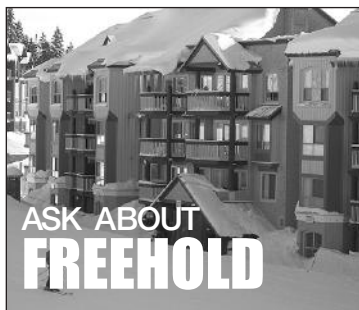
- 101 3 bedroom, corner suite \$224,900
- 301 Top Floor, 3 bedroom sunny slopeside \$374,900
- 303 Top Floor, 2 bedroom facing ski runs \$179,900

PARADISE RIDGE

Features Include:

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

- 110 2 Bedroom facing Strath. Park \$224,900
- 211 3 Bedroom facing Strath. Park and ski runs \$239,900
- 305 3 Bedroom facing ski runs \$189,900
- 506 3 Bedroom Penthouse facing Strathcona Park and ski runs \$199,900



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 - 313 2 Bedroom Lock-off facing Strathcona Park \$219,900



Chairlift Friendly!

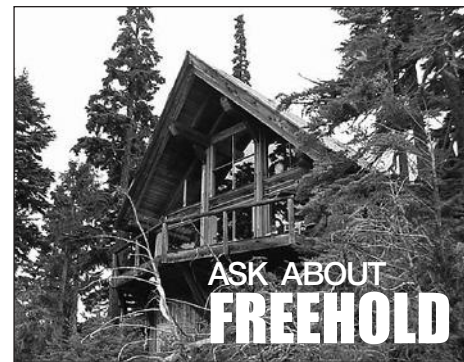
Located at the loading station of the Hawk chairlift is this luxury 3 bedroom townhome with a double garage. The finishing is exquisite with a view of the ski runs. Loads of storage and plenty of space. Parkview Place offers a great location with easy access to the Alpine and Nordic skiing. Close to Strathcona Park.

\$384,900



Vaulted Ceilings!

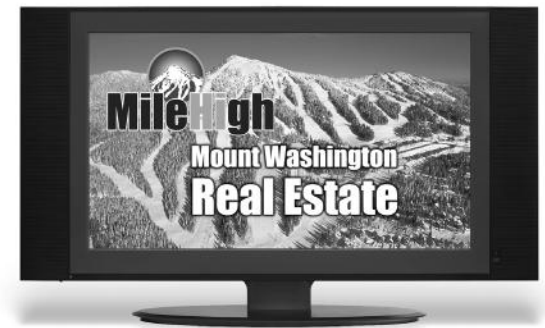
West Coast designer townhome located close to the Alpine Lodge of Mount Washington. Offering 3 bedrooms, two bathrooms and sauna. Vaulted ceilings in the living room and gourmet kitchen with corian countertops. Ample storage and easy access round out this great package. Mount Washington offers incredible snow, and affordable real estate prices. \$239,900



The epitome of a ski chalet!

Your own log cabin perched high on a ridge with the most incredible views of Strathcona Park you can find. The mountain home is separated into a lower 2 bedroom suite and the main upper 3 bedroom suite.

The living area has a cathedral ceiling and an open wood burning fireplace. Many many special features such as stained glass, hand carved mantel and very cozy touches. This has been a very popular rental with strong repeat business. If you are looking for a true mountain hideaway, yet with easy access to Mount Washington, look no further. \$399,900



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FREEHOLD**Sunset Views of Strathcona Park!**

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

\$640,000**Nestled in the Trees!**

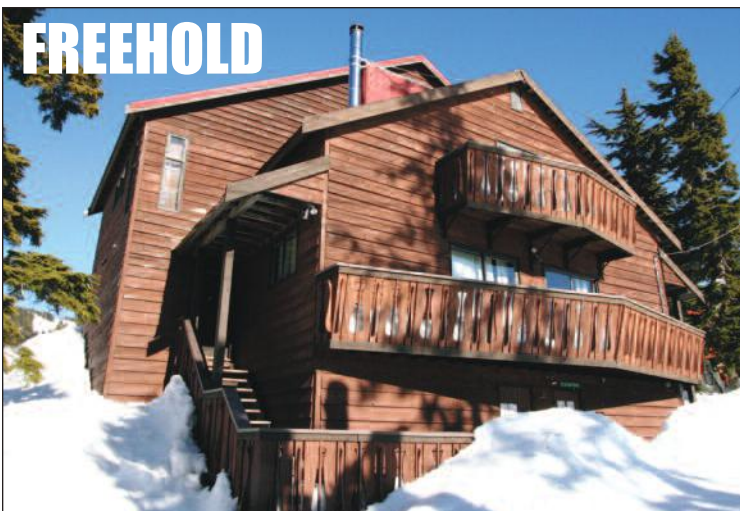
Nestled in the trees in the heart of the Alpine Village is "Doug's Chalet". This mountain home is lovingly maintained by the original family that built it. The home is surrounded by trees yet you can ski in and out to the lifts. The main area includes a towering floor to ceiling brick fireplace and vaulted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

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

Big Red Chalet, located within Mount Washington Alpine Resort, is a brand new chalet available for sale. This family ready property has the capacity to sleep 12 to 16 people and have two complete suites available either together or separate. The drive-in location, heated driveway with double car garage and parking for six vehicles is convenient and rare to find. With beautiful mountain views and all the comforts of home, Big Red is the ideal destination. There are five bedrooms in total (2 in upper suite and 3 in main suite) and two bathrooms. Large deck on the main suite and smaller in the upper. Built for snow, this chalet is perched on the upper side of the road with encompassing views into the park. The driveway is heated, so ice will not build up. A lot of thought went into the design and this is the ideal property for someone wanting either a larger mountain home or a smaller one with a rental suite.

\$599,900**FREEHOLD****FREEHOLD****Perched on a Ridge!**

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

Suite B **\$439,900** Suite C **\$448,000****FREEHOLD****Once in a Lifetime!**

Once in a while a unique property becomes available. This legal duplex on Mount Washington has it all. What you get is two legal titles and the two units share a common area. Within the common area is a third suite! Each side has 2 bedrooms and spacious plans. The common area which includes a large family room, sauna, kitchen, bathroom & bedroom. Ideal for 2 or more families with spectacular views. Buy the package and then sell one of the off, or keep the other. WOW - this one has many options!

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Perched on a Knoll...

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

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A Sought After Property...

in a sought after location! Lovingly maintained by its owners "Chalet 43" offers a 4 bedroom main suite on the upper two floors and a self contained two bedroom suite on the lower floor. The main suite is open in design with many recent upgrades from the ground up including flooring, doors and plumbing. Very well thought out design, offering fantastic accommodation and a floor plan "that works!" Two bathrooms, one with a gorgeous jetted tub. The lower 2 bedroom suite is spacious and cozy with 2 bedrooms and large living/kitchen area. A shared sauna and ample storage rounds out the package. Chalet 43 is located close to parking yet EASY access to the slopes. Tucked into the sidehills, it is close to everything yet sitting on the large deck you are hidden in the woods. **\$635,900**



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The Best of the Best!

Log home for sale on Fosters Place. Over 3,000 sqft of luxury in this 3 level home at bottom of cul-de-sac. A snowballs throw from ski runs. Lower floor could easily be converted to additional accommodation. Large deck, gourmet kitchen, cathedral ceiling in living room, etc. If you have seen the rest & want the best - this is it! Views from the large deck over Strathcona Park. This is one of only a few properties on Mount Washington that are drive in and ski out and unobstructed views. **\$950,000**



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



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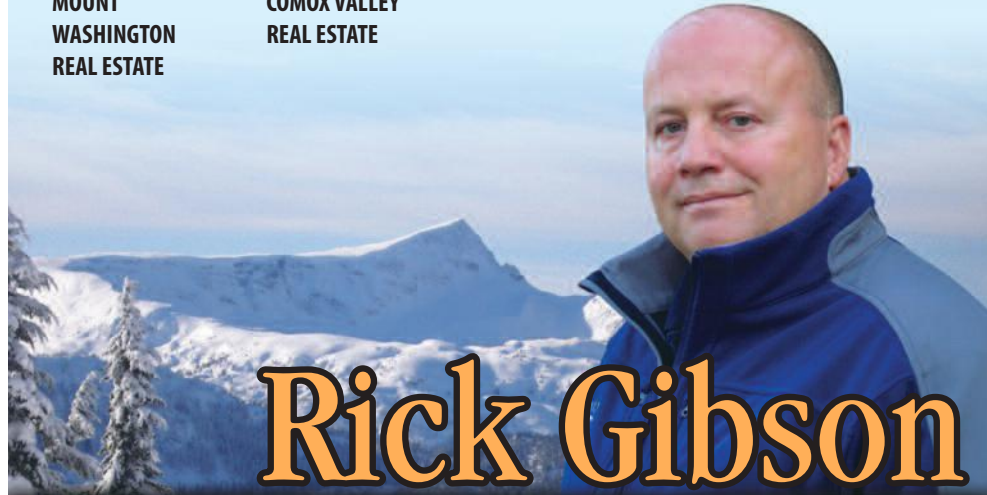
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